

The Editor's Page

Letters

Message From the Grand Sire Archon

57th Grand Boulé

Features

Mind Over Matter

Forum

Grand Boulé Social Action

On the Social Action Front

New Member Boulé

The New Archons

Kudos and Commendations

Family Circle

The Member Boulés

The Regional Boulés

In Memoriam

The Editor's Page





Archon Khephra Burns

Reflections on My Flight From San Diego

No Step

The carpet of white clouds beneath me spread out to the horizon under the morning sun with sharp shafts of light piercing through after ricocheting up from the water below. The silver and blue cowling of the right engine out my window was stenciled with “NO STEP” in white block letters, a caution I recall from my childhood growing up on Compton Airport. There, a WWII-era AT-6 or P-47 would occasionally taxi up and tie down on the line in front of my father’s hanger. As a kid, I could climb up on the wing, marvel at the controls and sometimes sit in the cockpit and dream. I could also read and knew what “NO STEP” meant. Sheet metal was strong but thin and could be compromised by undue weight on unsupported surfaces. And the “doped” Ceconite wings and fuselage of a Staggerwing Beach or Stearman, like the blue and yellow trainer now hanging in the National Museum of African American History and Culture, could be punctured or torn. Knowing where not to tread was essential to moving around airplanes safely. Knowing where not to tread was once a sixth sense inherited by African Americans from the generations of survivors who preceded us.

There were three Black hangers at the west end of the airport – B&A Air Service (started by Tuskegee Airmen Rusty Burns and Paul Anderson in 1954), Rusty’s Flying Service, es-

tablished a year later in 1955, and, next door, Floyd's Flying Service, started by Booker Floyd around 1959–60. Our end of the airport was a haven. In the 50's and early 60's there were still some down the line that weren't particularly happy with us being there.

The Icarus tale of ancient Greek myth, intended as a caution to brash youth, was for this kid a romance of do-or-die adventure, enamored as I was with my father and the Black fighter pilots of WWII, who came to be known in 1970 as the Tuskegee Airmen. They exuded Icarian bravado. The kind that calls out the sun with a pair of waxfeather wings and a water pistol. Their motto was "live in fame or go down in flames." My dad was just 18 when the U.S. Army turned him loose in a P-47 and then a P-51. From all accounts, he was a Simone Biles–level gymnast in an airplane, performing maneuvers he was prohibited from ever attempting in those air- craft. Such is the daring of youth in a black leather flight jacket, black leather gloves turned down at the wrists and a white silk scarf trailing in the wind.

Tuskegee Airmen in the Los Angeles area would drop by to hangout and reminisce, tell lies and tales that were true but would have sounded like lies to the unknowing and incredulous. I remember the late Archons Paul Lehman of Xi Boulé and Lincoln Rags-

dale ("Rags") from Gamma Mu – still young in their 30's and down for adventure, even as their Icarian impulses began to temper with their responsibility for young, growing families. They had won the war. Truman had desegregated the armed services. Compton Airport had allowed three Black men to set up businesses. In a democracy at least, halfhearted as it was for Black folk in the 50's and 60's, there was room to push back, to take freedom where you could find it. For Rusty, that was in the air – teach- ing others and flying as a stunt pilot in regional air- shows, movies and TV commercials.

But it didn't have to be that way. History often looks in retrospect like an inevitable unfolding of events. America, it was thought, had made the world safe for democracy once and for all, and Black people, including Archons like Roscoe Brown, Lee Archer, Paul Lehman and Lincoln Ragsdale, and others like my father, had been part of that effort, despite their ill treatment by America and despite the fact that tens of thousands of white Americans, including a presidential candidate and members of the House and Senate, had publicly pushed the U.S. to join the war on the side of the Nazis – a strain of American populism that has survived to this day and has reared its ugly head again in the MAGA movement. And it is stronger now than it was then. Today, the would-be fascists number in the tens of millions. And they vote with a passion.

Americans don't know their own history (much less anyone else's) and generally don't want to know. Many are concerned solely with what is current and popular and, quite frankly, frivolous. Some Black youth are enamored with Trump "because he's gangster." Would that they could speak to the tens of thousands of Afro-Deutsch who were either sent

to the concentration camps outright (ahead of the Jews) or forcibly sterilized first. This flirtation with a would-be dictator is a NO STEP; not a place to tread.

MAGA is what happens to a society when it fails to educate its people. And ignorance is only blissful for the ignorant and painful for the rest of us. An Archon I know boasted recently that he's never read an article in *The Boulé Journal*. I was curious about what books he might have read but, frankly, was afraid to ask. There's cause enough for concern about the future without confirmation that even Archons don't read. Elections are coming, and elections have consequences. Let's work to get out the vote.

Letters to the Editor

Praise for Grand Grapter Khephra Burns

Thank you for your masterpiece, "Ode to Archousai," in *The Boulé Journal*, Volume 87, Number 4, winter 2023. Your personification, classical allusions (Homer, Odysseus, Orpheus, Eurydice, Aristophanes and Socrates), concrete imagery and lucid linguistically sophisticated language made your poem powerful and rich and celebratory. Your words' robust spirit, great nobility and sweet lyricism brought joy to our angelic Archousai.

Archon Leonard A. Slade, Jr.
Beta Psi Boulé



Kudos and Thanks for Grand Grammateus Samuel Bacote

Thanks to Grand Grammateus Samuel Bacote for his support and participation in the Gamma Xi Boulé induction ceremony in Sarasota, Florida, on November 16, 2023. It was a great and historic ceremony, where eighteen new Archons were inducted into Gamma Xi Boulé and Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity. We had a packed house for this historic occasion and we were all blessed to have Grand Grammateus Bacote present. His remarks at the dinner were enlightening and well received.

We are already indoctrinating the new Archons and Archousai into Gamma Xi and our Journey To Success social action programs with great enthusiasm. With continued assistance and guidance from Grand Grammateus Bacote and the Grand Boulé, we believe that Gamma Xi is well positioned for continuing success in the future.

Sire Archon Carl Battle
Gamma Xi Boulé

Message From the Grand Sire Archon



A Year to Celebrate Our History and a Reminder That Archons Continue to Make a Substantial Difference



By Grand Sire Archon Antoine M. Garibaldi

As we celebrate Sigma Pi Phi's 120th anniversary in May, it is the perfect time to reflect on our Fraternity's history and also envision our future. When our founders Henry McKee Minton and fellow physicians Edwin Howard and Algernon Jackson and dentist Richard Warrick, Jr., met in Philadelphia on May 15, 1904, to discuss the possibility of establishing a fraternity, their primary purpose was to assemble "*Black men possessing similar academic and professional attributes*." And as Past Grand Sire Archon Rodney J. Reed reminds us, Archon Minton believed that:

> *"Such men would be selected not only for their educational attainment and occupational accomplishments, but also for cultural compatibility, congeniality and the potential for good fellowship … and it was important that these men possess a demonstrated commitment to community service and leadership."*

With the addition of physicians Eugene T. Hinson and Robert J. Abele, Archon Minton and his five co- founders quickly transformed their bold idea into a reality. Twelve decades later, thousands of Archons, individually and collectively, have made an extraordinary impact on their respective professions, the nation and the world. Some such as Epsilon's 98-year-old Archon Horace G. Dawson, former Ambassador to Botswana, who has mentored dozens of foreign service officers over his illustrious career in the State Department and at

Howard University. Likewise, Tau Boulé's late Archon Louis Stokes left a legacy and a myriad of federal educational and financial support programs for students pursuing health professions programs over his thirty years as a congressman and House Education and Labor Committee chair. Archons Dawson and Stokes achieved their goals quietly and modestly with very little, if any, attention drawn to themselves or Sigma Pi Phi. Conversely, two Archons whose work began in civil rights,

Alpha Beta's 93-year-old Archon L. Douglas Wilder, Virginia's and the nation's first Black elected governor, and Epsilon's late Archon Vernon Jordan, who led the National Urban League for a decade and also expanded corporate board and executive opportunities for African Americans, had much more public roles and were shining examples of steward leadership. The exemplary contributions of these four Archons over the last half century remind us that our work is not yet finished because most of the issues of equality and inclusiveness they advocated and fought for are back on the docket in 2024.

When we remember that Sigma Pi Phi was founded because Black men were prohibited from joining professional organizations and fraternities, our founders were proactive and not acquiescent. And their impact has been incalculable. We must use our founders' courageous example and commit to making a significant difference in all of our professions and communities because the proverbial doors and glass ceilings that opened slowly sixty years ago have narrowed significantly. It will take a combination of individual and collective leadership by and from all of us to revive the societal change that Archons of the 1900's and the last two decades provoked and hastened. Many of their contributions to the enhancement of equality and justice are chronicled in our history books; but you will be even more impressed by how actively involved they were in Sigma Pi Phi. Therefore, I encourage you during this 120th anniversary year to set aside some time to read one or more of our histories written by five Sigma Pi Phi Grand Historians: Archons Carrington L. Davis, Charles H. Wesley, Hobart S. Jarrett, William H. Harris and Rodney J. Reed. As you read the five informative and inspirational volumes, you will learn about many Archons who broke down barriers and paved the way for us to have professional opportunities unavailable to Black men in 1904.

57th Grand Boulé CELEBRATING 120 YEARS

OF

SIGMA PI PHI FRATERNITY:
Soaring to new heights

MANCHESTER GRAND HYATT
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
ALPHA PI, HOST BOULÉ

JUNE 14–17, 2024

GRAND BOULÉ

SAN DIEGO • 57th • 2024

Letter from the Grand Sire Archon



GRAND BOULÉ SAN DIEGO 57th 2024

Dear Archons and Archousai,

I am looking forward to welcoming many of you at the Manchester Grand Hyatt in San Diego for the 57th Grand Boulé on June 14-17. The anticipated interest for this Grand Boulé was confirmed quickly in mid-February when registration was temporarily closed after only six days with approximately 2,000 guests! Fortunately, Archon Bennett Gaines, our new Executive Director, was able to secure a few hundred more rooms to accommodate a waitlist of that size. If these registration numbers hold steady, this could be the largest Grand Boulé ever. I want to thank the Archons and Archousai of Alpha Pi Boulé for their extraordinary assistance and cooperation with the Office of the Grand Boulé over the last several years so that this could be a successful Grand Boulé.

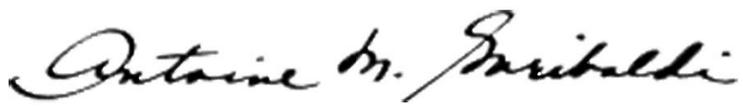
The theme of the 57th Grand Boulé is ***Celebrating 120 Years of Sigma Pi Phi: Soaring to New Heights***. During this 120th anniversary of the founding of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, the festivities will begin with a welcome reception on the U.S.S. *Midway*, where we will honor the contributions of

Archons and Archousai who are veterans and also those currently serving in the military. There will be nationally recognized speakers at the opening session and Memorial Service; and three content-rich sessions organized by the committees on Public Policy, Health and Wellness, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Post-Secondary Education Access. Archousai will have their biennium luncheon with a prominent speaker, special focused sessions and a program and book signing by a *New York Times* bestselling author. The Biennial Grand Boulé History Exhibit will feature untold stories of our Archousai, along with an inaugural release and screening of a new video that documents the history of Sigma Pi Phi.

Highly-acclaimed musical artists Smokey Robinson and KEM will be the featured entertainers for the Boulé Foundation Gala and the Grand Boulé Dinner Dance, respectively. Additionally, 150 young professionals between the ages of 22 and 34 will participate in our Young Adult Career Symposium (YACS). Other activities on the agenda include Boulé After Dark, a curated art exhibit, a wine tasting, a night out in San Diego, golf, tennis, and pickleball tournaments. And please add Alpha Pi Boulé Day on June 18 to your schedule if you have not already done so.

Archousa Carol and I look forward to renewing our long-time friendships with many of you and also meeting some of you for the first time. Stay well and have a wonderful spring!

Fraternally and sincerely,



Antoine M. Garibaldi
Grand Sire Archon

Letter from the 57th Grand Boulé Host Committee

Dear fellow Archons, Archousai and guests,

Alpha Pi Boulé is delighted to welcome you to "America's Finest City" – San Diego, California. When was the last time the Grand Boulé has been to our wonderful city? (Answer: never.) We are overjoyed with enthusiasm to be your hosts and we eagerly anticipate your arrival for the 57th Grand Boulé.

It is my great pleasure and distinct privilege to serve as the chairman for the host member boulé. The Archons and Archousai of Alpha Pi in San Diego have worked very hard to make this a memorable Grand Boulé along with the Office of the Grand Boulé and the Grand Sire Archon.

The Office of the Grand Boulé has assembled an impressive array of world-class speakers, highly relevant and topical Grand Boulé forums and content-rich programs, and an excellent entertainment schedule throughout the entire event.

We will experience a joyous atmosphere while we get to know the best of one another. The Grand Boulé will highlight the culture, cuisine, weather and flavor of San Diego. Each of you will be our honored guest, and we are confident that you will conclude, like so many others have that San Diego is truly "America's Finest City."

Fraternally,

Archon Harold Tuck, Alpha Pi Boulé
Chair, 57th Grand Boulé Host Committee

ALPHA PI BOULÉ

Letter from the Boulé Foundation Gala Chairman



Greetings Archons and Archousai,

We hope you will join us for an "Evening with Smokey Robinson" to benefit the Boulé Foundation on Sunday, June 16, 2024, during the 57th Grand Boulé in San Diego. On behalf of my fellow Boulé Foundation trustees Archons James Lockhart, Irving Matthews and Loren Douglass, who serve with me to plan the Boulé Foundation Gala, we welcome you to San Diego. We are thrilled to present Smokey Robinson, as we know he will perform a memorable concert, which will be one of the highlights of the 57th Grand Boulé.

All proceeds from this evening will benefit the Boulé Foundation. The Foundation trustees remain committed to our mission to provide resources to build a generation of citizens who will face the challenges of leading the African American community. We are helping to nurture and support our young people and ensure a bright future for them. With assets now exceeding $33 million, the Boulé Foundation is able to make a substantial impact in our communities through the awarding of scholarships and grants. Last year, the Foundation awarded almost $2 million to more than two dozen students and three dozen organizations.

At the 56th Grand Boulé in Nassau we netted the largest contribution in Boulé Foundation history with a net income of more than $860,000. Please help us exceed this in San Diego. That is why we need your support in purchasing sponsor tables and individual tickets. Keep in mind this is the only fundraising event for the Boulé Foundation, and it is only held

every two years. A portion of your contribution will be tax deductible, and you can also earn Legacy Award credit. I know many of you use this as an opportunity to "go to the next level" in the Legacy Award program.

We are planning a wonderful evening. You don't want to miss this!

See you in San Diego.

Wesley A. Coleman

Past Grand Sire Archon Wesley A. Coleman
Chairman, Boulé Foundation Gala

Schedule at a Glance

(Subject to Change)

Thursday, June 13, 2024

Welcome Services
4:00–8:00 p.m.

Friday, June 14, 2024

Golf Tournament
8:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Tennis/Pickleball Tournament
8:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Welcome Services
9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Archousai Event I
2:00–3:30 p.m.

Archousai Lounge
3:00–5:00 p.m.

Archousai Event II
3:30–5:00 p.m.

Welcome Reception, U.S.S. *Midway*
6:30–9:30 p.m.

Boulé After Dark
9:30–11:30 p.m.







Saturday, June 15, 2024

Welcome Services
7:00 a.m.–Noon

Opening Ceremony
8:30–11:00 a.m.

History Exhibit
10:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Archousai Luncheon
11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Manford Byrd Luncheon
11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Archousai Event I
1:00–2:30 p.m.

Business Meeting I
1:30–4:30 p.m.

Welcome Services
2:00–5:00 p.m.

Archousai Event II
2:30–4:00 p.m.

Archousai Lounge
3:00–5:00 p.m.

Cultural Night Out in San Diego
6:00–10:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 16, 2024

Memorial Service
9:00–11:15 a.m.

Grand Boulé Photo
11:30 a.m.–Noon

Grand Boulé Brunch
1:00–3:00 p.m.

Grand History Exhibit
1:00–5:00 p.m.

Archousai Lounge
2:00–5:00 p.m.

Content Rich Programs I–V
3:30–5:00 p.m.

Boulé Foundation Reception & Gala
7:15–11:00 p.m.

Boulé After Dark
11:00 p.m.–1:00 a.m.







Monday, June 17, 2024

Business Meeting II
9:00 a.m.–Noon

Archousai Forum
10:30 a.m.–Noon

History Exhibit
11:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Archousai Lounge
1:00–4:00 p.m.

Content Rich Sessions I-IV
2:30–5:00 p.m.

Grand Boulé Reception & Dinner Dance
7:00–11:00 p.m.

Boulé After Dark
10:00 p.m.–Midnight





Empowering Future Leaders: the 8th Young Adult Career Symposium at the 57th Grand Boulé



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

As we stand on the cusp of the 57th Grand Boulé of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, a beacon of empowerment awaits us – the 8th Young Adult Career Symposium (YACS), taking place at the iconic Manchester Grand Hyatt in San Diego on June 13–17, 2024. I extend a heartfelt invitation to each Archon and Archousa to inspire and support the next generation of Black leaders by registering to serve as a mentor of a young adult at the symposium and making a generous contribution to the 8th YACS through the Office of the Grand Boulé.

A Legacy of Empowerment: the YACS Narrative

Founded in 2008 during the 49th Grand Boulé under the visionary leadership of Past Grand Sire Archon Cornell Leverette Moore, the YACS has blossomed into a transformative platform. With a mission centered on networking, education and mentorship, the YACS has become a beacon of hope and opportunity for young adults, ages 22–34, who are the children and grandchildren of Archons and Archousai, seeking to carve out their path to success. Over the years, the symposium has welcomed more than 1,000 participants, each leaving with invaluable insights and connections to fuel their journey forward.

Mission and Benefits: Cultivating Leaders for Tomorrow

The YACS is dedicated to cultivating leaders who will shape our community's future. Through its three pillars of networking, education and mentorship, the symposium provides a robust foundation for young adults to thrive in their chosen fields while fostering meaningful connections with peers and seasoned professionals alike.

Overview of the 8th YACS

This year's symposium promises to be a transformative experience for all participants, offering a rich array of workshops and panel discussions:

• Networking and Mentorship: "Building Bridges" – Mastering the Art of Alumni and Professional Networking

• Personal Branding: "Developing Your Personal Brand and Boosting Your Career"

• Industry Insights: "Black Professionals in Emerging and Global Industries"

• Career Strategies: "Career Ascension" – Success at Every Stage

• Mental Health Focus: "We Gon' Be Alright" – Navigating Black Mental Health in the Workplace

• Financial Empowerment: "Building Black Prosperity" – Strategies for Financial Empowerment and Generational Wealth

• Relationship Realities: "Love's Evolution" – Navigating Relationship Realities in a Diverse and Digital Era.

Grand Boulé Entertainment



Boulé Foundation Reception & Gala
Sunday, June 16, 2024
7:15–11:00 p.m.

Smokey Robinson

The Boulé Foundation Gala will present *An Evening with Smokey Robinson* on Sunday, June 16, 2024. Acclaimed singer-songwriter Smokey Robinson's career spans over four decades of hits. Throughout his music career, Robinson has accumulated more than 4,000 songs to his credit and continues to thrill sold-out audiences worldwide with his high tenor voice, impeccable timing, and profound sense of lyric and style. This will surely be an unforgettable evening filled with smooth grooves, fellowship and philanthropy for a good cause.



Grand Boulé Reception & Dinner Dance
Monday, June 17, 2024
7:00–11:00 p.m.

KEM

KEM will perform at the Grand Boulé Dinner Dance on Monday, June 17, 2024. For all of his life, KEM has been driven by music and the emotions involved in bringing it to life. That passion stems from the days he spent as a child playing the old piano at his grandfather's church. For KEM, there's always been a deep and very intimate connection to music, which has evolved throughout his personal life experiences. Today, the internationally renowned R&B singer/songwriter has to his credit: one Platinum-selling album (KEM: ALBUM II); two Gold-selling albums (KEMISTRY; INTIMACY); three GRAMMY nominations; five #1 hit singles ("Love Calls," "I Can't Stop Loving You," "Why Would You Stay," "It's You" and "Nobody"), along with several sold-out national tours and international shows.

Features

The Boulé and Blacks in Tennis: The Enduring Legacy of the American Tennis Association



Students and instructors at Florida A&M University, Tallahassee, 1915

By Archon Marcel Henry, Delta Upsilon Boulé

From Humble Beginnings to Lasting Impact

The story of tennis in the United States is intricately woven with the struggle for racial equality. While the lawn tennis craze swept the nation in the late 19th century, Black players faced exclusion from mainstream competitions. This exclusion did not stop Blacks from enjoying the sport. Archons, Archousai and other members of the Black elite enjoyed the sport in their own tennis clubs and created a national organization for the development of the sport, which paved the way for the careers of Althea Gibson, Archon Arthur Ashe and some of today's Black tennis talent through its junior development programs.

A Legacy of Resilience: The Monumental City Tennis Club

The Monumental City Tennis Club, known today as the Baltimore Tennis Club, was established around 1895 and boasts a rich history that stretches over a century. It stands as

a testament to the perseverance of Black tennis players in the face of racial segregation. Founded during a time of racial barriers, the club emerged alongside other Black tennis clubs along the East Coast. These clubs, including the Monumental City Tennis Club, organized and participated in invitational and interstate tournaments starting around 1898.

Recognizing the limitations faced by Black players in accessing courts, the club envisioned building its own facility in the suburbs in 1909. Although this plan never materialized, it highlighted the club's dedication to providing a dedicated space for Black athletes. In early November 1916, Archon Ralph V. Cook of the Monumental Tennis Club and Archon Dwight O.W. Holmes of the Association Tennis Club (now known as the Mall Tennis Club) of Washington, D.C., gathered other tennis leaders in the area to discuss ways and means for a national organization. The result was the formulation of the American Tennis Association (ATA) on November 30, 1916, in Washington, D.C. Archon Henry Stanton McCard became president and Archon Cook became secretary. All three Archons were charter members of Gamma Boulé in Baltimore. The ATA became the national body for Black tennis clubs, mirroring the United States Lawn Tennis Association in a segregated nation.

The Baltimore club proudly hosted the first-ever ATA National Championships in 1917 at Baltimore's Druid Hill Park. This marked the beginning of a long legacy; the courts of the Baltimore Tennis Club have witnessed the talents of legendary



Archon Henry Stanton McCard



Don Budge, 1938

Black players such as Leslie Allen, Archon Arthur Ashe, Althea Gibson and Rodney Harmon. The club hosted the National Championships again in 1924, further solidifying its position as a center for Black tennis excellence.

Beyond competitive events, the club's commitment to social justice is noteworthy. In 1948 members staged a courageous demonstration at Druid Hill Park for the right of Black people to access all public tennis courts. Despite facing arrest, threats and harassment, their efforts ultimately led to the desegregation of public courts in Baltimore.

Harlem's Cosmopolitan Club: Beyond the Matches

The heart and soul of the Cosmopolitan Tennis Club in New York wasn't just the competitive players. Members, the vast majority of whom, both men and women, were recreational players who enjoyed the game for fun and fitness. These individuals formed the backbone of the club, serving as officers and representatives to the ATA, and managing finances, facilities and yearly programs.

While prominent figures like Rhoda Smith (a competitive player turned recreational player), James S. Watson (early member and avid player), Lester Granger (former competitor and coach) and Neville C. Whiteman (club president and cardiologist) graced the club's courts, it wasn't solely for the elites or high society. As Billy Davis, a former member and active player in the 1940's and 50's, recalled, the membership

mainly comprised “the black bourgeoisie, the middle-class, civil servants, teachers, police, nurses.”

One of the club’s most significant undertakings was hosting the week-long New York State Open. This event attracted hundreds of fans and nearly 200 players, including juniors and veterans, from across the country for singles, doubles and mixed doubles matches. Since corporate sponsors were nonexistent then, more than sixty volunteer committees, primarily staffed by Cosmopolitans, handled everything from housing and transportation to grounds keeping, trophies and communication. Members also volunteered as officials, umpires, referees, linesmen and ball boys, making the event run smoothly.

However, the organization wasn’t solely focused on functionality. The planning meetings, often held in members’ homes with refreshments, fostered a sense of community and camaraderie. Players and visitors stayed in local hotels, YMCAs and even with club members themselves, leading to impromptu gatherings and social events. Barbara M. Watson, a sister of one of the junior players, fondly remembers “the informal parties (in the clubhouse) for the visiting competitors, complete with refreshments and

dancing to jukebox renditions of the popular music of the day.”

The evenings after matches were filled with social gatherings at the clubhouse, and Harlem’s vibrant nightlife offered further entertainment options. Thousands attended the final matches, and the week culminated in a grand finale featuring an awards ceremony, speeches, a banquet and dancing. “It was all very social, more so than the athletics,” 99-year-old Hazel Allen, a former member, reminisced.

The Cosmopolitan Club served as a social hub, frequently mentioned in “Sports News and Gossip,” “Social Snapshots” and “Club Chats” columns in the Black press. The club even made the “Men’s Fashion” section of The New York Age in 1938, with columnist Wally Warner highlighting the diverse and stylish attire worn by both spectators and players.

A Match Beyond the Scoreboard: Don Budge, Jimmie McDaniel and a Glimpse of Change

Black players excelled within the ATA, but opportunities to compete against white players at the highest level were virtually nonexistent. Then, in 1940, a Harlem exhibition match sent ripples through the segregated tennis world. Don Budge, the reigning Wimbledon and U.S. Open champion, faced off against Jimmie McDaniel, a rising star in the ATA.

McDaniel, a 24-year-old self-taught player, honed his skills on the Harlem public courts. Budge, on the other hand, was 25 and already considered one of the greatest of all time. The match, held at the historic Cosmopolitan Tennis Club, attended by more than 2,000 people, was more than just a display of athletic prowess, it symbolized a potential crack in the racial barriers that dominated the sport.

While the final score – a decisive 6-1, 6-2 victory for Budge – reflected the immense gap in experience and competition level, the true significance of the match lay elsewhere. Newspapers, including the *Amsterdam News*, a prominent Black publication, hailed the event as a "milestone match." For the Black community in Harlem, it was a chance to see one of their own on the court with a tennis legend.

McDaniel himself, despite the lopsided result, later recalled the significance of the occasion. He acknowledged Budge's dominance but noted the impact on the Black community: "The stands were packed. People were even hanging out the windows." Budge was generous in his appraisal of McDaniel's effort, emphasizing his potential, not his performance. "Jimmie is a very good player," Budge said. "I'd say he ranked with the first ten of our players. And with some more practice against players like me, maybe he could someday beat all of them."

The match, however, was a fleeting moment of integration. World War II loomed, and the focus shifted. It wouldn't be until a decade later that Althea Gibson, mentored by figures like Alston "Gee" Gaines, a Harlem teaching pro, would break the color barrier at the U.S. Open, paving the way for a more inclusive future in tennis.

Despite its brevity, the Budge–McDaniel match left a mark. It highlighted the exceptional talent within the Black tennis community and planted a seed of hope for future opportunities. The match also showcased the dedication of clubs



Althea Gibson, 1958



Archon Arthur Ashe, 1975

like the Cosmopolitan Tennis Club, which provided a haven for Black players to develop their skills and build a strong tennis culture.

Impact

The ATA's success in nurturing talent can be attributed in large part to Robert Walter Johnson. A medical doctor by profession and a 2009 International Tennis Hall of Fame inductee, Johnson pioneered the concept of the tennis academy through his backyard court program. He not only helped to hone the skills of young players like Althea Gibson and Archon Arthur Ashe, Jr., but also instilled in them the values of sportsmanship and resilience, preparing them to navigate the challenges of a segregated society.

Johnson envisioned breaking down barriers beyond just the tennis court. He aspired to see a Black player win the National Interscholastic Championships, an all-white high school tournament held in the segregated South. His relentless pursuit of this goal culminated in Archon Ashe's victory, a significant step towards dismantling racial barriers in the sport.

A Champion Forged: The College and Professional Career of Arthur Ashe

Arthur Ashe's talent was undeniable. In 1960 alone, he captured two major titles within the ATA – the Boys 18 and Under Singles and the Men's Singles championship. He fur-

ther cemented his dominance by winning the U.S. National Indoor Junior Men's Singles title. These victories solidified his position as the top African American male tennis player in the country.

Seeking to escape the limitations of segregation in Richmond, Archon Ashe relocated to St. Louis for his senior year of high school. This move proved pivotal. St. Louis offered a more open training environment, allowing him to hone his skills year-round with elite players. He could now access both outdoor courts at Washington University and indoor facilities at the 138th Infantry Armory. Additionally, the move facilitated his education, as he lived with Coach Richard Hudlin and played high school tennis for Charles Sumner High School.

Colleges across the country began to take notice of Ashe's talent and he ultimately landed a full scholarship at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). He wasn't just a talented recruit, he was the first Black tennis player on the team. Facing initial skepticism, Ashe silenced doubters with his powerful serve and relentless work ethic. He quickly became a star, leading UCLA to three consecutive NCAA team championships from 1964 to 1966.

More importantly, Archon Ashe became the first Black player to win the NCAA singles championship in 1965. This victory transcended the realm of sports; it was a symbolic triumph, demonstrating the potential for excellence regardless of race. Ashe's college career was marked by both individual brilliance and team success, solidifying his reputation as a rising star.

Breaking Barriers: A Professional Pioneer

After graduating in 1966, Archon Ashe turned professional, entering a world still grappling with racial segregation. He faced challenges on and off the court. Early tournaments often included segregated locker rooms and limited hotel accommodations. Yet, he persevered, using his platform to advocate for social justice.

His success spoke volumes. In 1968 Ashe achieved a historic feat – he became the first Black player to win the U.S. Open. This victory, along with his Davis Cup wins with the U.S. team in 1968, 1969 and 1970, paved the way for future generations of Black players.

Archon Ashe's dominance wasn't limited to the U.S. Open. In 1970 he triumphed at the Australian Open, marking another first for a Black player in a Grand Slam event. These victories earned Ashe international recognition and opened doors for Black athletes in tennis and beyond.

The ATA today

Today, the ATA has more than 4,700 life members and has had more than 95,000 tournament participants in its local and nationally sanctioned tournaments. Many of the ATA juniors come from underserved communities. Its programs give players the opportunity to play tennis and acquire skills that



The ATA Junior Development Program

will have an impact on their future. The ATA has taken the necessary steps to invest in junior achievement through mutually beneficial relationships with corporations, philanthropic organizations and individual supporters. Tournaments draw a large group of older adults over the age of 70. Tennis offers older adults the opportunity to maintain their physical strength, emotional stability and mental awareness. It's a lifelong sport. Each year, the ATA national tournament draws more than five hundred 55-and-over players from all over the U.S.

The ATA's Junior Development Program continues to empower young Black players, fostering the careers of individuals like Zina Garrison, Lori McNeil, Frances Tiafoe and Coco Gauff. Today, the ATA National Championships, with more than 800 participants ranging from 8 to 80, serve as a vibrant reflection of the organization's commitment to providing opportunities across generations. The importance of the ATA extends beyond the realm of sports. As Katrina Adams, past president of the United States Tennis Association, aptly stated, "We have to remember where our history has come from," highlighting the organization's role in preserving the legacy of Black achievement during a time of social turmoil.

Black tennis thrives today, with young stars like Coco Gauff, currently ranked number 3 in the world, leading the charge. The presence of Black players across various rankings is a testament to the impact of organizations like the ATA. In recent years, the ATA has sought to develop stronger partnerships with HBCU coaches to increase collegiate competition for underserved youth as well as educate the community on opportunities at HBCUs. According to the most recent NCAA statistics on student-athlete graduation/ success rates, collegiate tennis players have some of the highest graduation rates of all collegiate sports, providing a gateway for future success beyond tennis.

As we celebrate the achievements of Black athletes on the court, it is crucial to acknowledge the unwavering spirit of the ATA and its significant contribution to shaping the landscape



The 2023 ATA National Championships Men's 55 and Over winners Ken Myers and Larry Scheper and finalists Archon Marcel Henry and Delvin Grant

of tennis in the United States. We owe a debt of gratitude to the vision of Archons McCard, Wright and Cook and other pioneers who, against all odds, built a platform for excellence and paved the way for future generations to reach their full potential.

Extending Our Reach Through Strategic Coalitions: A Strategy for Boulé Advancement



Grand Sire Archon–Elect Loren R. Douglass

By Grand Sire Archon–Elect Loren R. Douglass

This past year, 2023, has turned out to be an inflection point for Black and brown people. Unfortunately, recent events across all corners of our society have transpired that fit an all-too-familiar historical narrative that undermines the hard-earned optimism about Black and brown social and economic progress. Not since the hostile opposition to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 have we seen such a clear and comprehensive challenge to the policies and advancements that undergird the Black middle class. The simultaneous attack on education, corporate diversity, minority business ownership and related efforts is a troubling flashback, at least in part, to the methodical dismantling of Black progress that occurred post-Reconstruction.

The U.S. Supreme Court's striking down of affirmative action in college admissions is having a chilling effect in other areas key to Black progress. As the legislative branch of the federal government is mired in generational gridlock, and the integrity of the highest court is now being called into question due to partisanship and questions of ethical transparency, the executive branch has never been more critical to the advancement of the Black middle class. While vigorous exercise of our voting rights is always a great idea, we must develop and invest in other complementary strategies that amplify our various efforts in advancing Black socioeconomic and global interests.

Given the full and complete turnabout in attitudes toward government guarantees of access to the full benefits of our citizenship, it is time to develop and deploy creative new strategies that leverage the Boulé's deep bench of talent and expertise and the networks to which it has access.

In my winter 2018 *Boulé Journal* article, "Globalizing the Boulé and Why It Matters," I referred to the SCAN paradigm, a framework that I developed to crystallize those relationship elements most important to advancing the Boulé. Building cooperative arrangements like a strategic coalition allows us to share resources, knowledge or capabilities without having to recreate them on our own. This is particularly beneficial when the coalition partners involved have complementary strengths. Forming strategic

coalitions with organizations and institutions with domain expertise, resources and relationships allows the Boulé to activate and operate efficient networks that help us deliver more impact through complex initiatives and over longer timeframes. Thoughtful coalition building can strengthen the Boulé in the following areas:

• Skills: By promoting resource accretion (such as expertise, experience, frameworks)

• Credibility: By building alliances that provide a seat at the table of the global agenda and a counterbalance to tribalism and exclusionary agendas

• Assets and Access: By securing access to a broader inventory of ideas, approaches and channels to possible bidirectional investment

• Networks: By enhancing collective action through access to broader networks and promoting relationship development and social connections (social and cultural capital).

As we push to greater heights, the Boulé will need to extend its reach into economic and political ecosystems and power networks where we neither have meaningful presence nor influence. Through strategic coalitions with other organizations, we can grow our resources and expand our reach quickly and without adding significant costs to operations, labor or infrastructure. By pooling our resources, we can achieve more together than we could achieve individually. Additionally, coalitions help us expand our networks into new professional and industry sectors over greater geographical areas than previously practical. For instance, leveraging our London member boulé (Epsilon Xi) gives us access to European banking relationships not easily accessible and leverageable from the United States, thus expanding our reach beyond the U.S. banking sector.

Deciding which organizations to form coalitions with should be done with due diligence and intentionality. Careful contemplation of potential coalition partner's empirical attributes and how they intersect with and amplify our own attributes should be clearly discerned and understood. At a bare minimum, a qualified coalition partner must share our inter-

ests, values and priorities. Such alignment makes it much easier to forge an efficient working relationship capable of smooth execution, no matter the complexity of the joint mission. Besides mission compatibility, the coalition partner should share our goals with equal commitment and dedication; otherwise, the relationship will not lead to mutual benefit. Writing a concise joint statement of the coalition's mission and objectives will aid in building alignment between the partners. Understanding "what's in it for them" is key to understanding a coalition partner's motivations for entering and staying in the coalition.

When assessing the potential partner's capabilities, it is also important to determine the following:

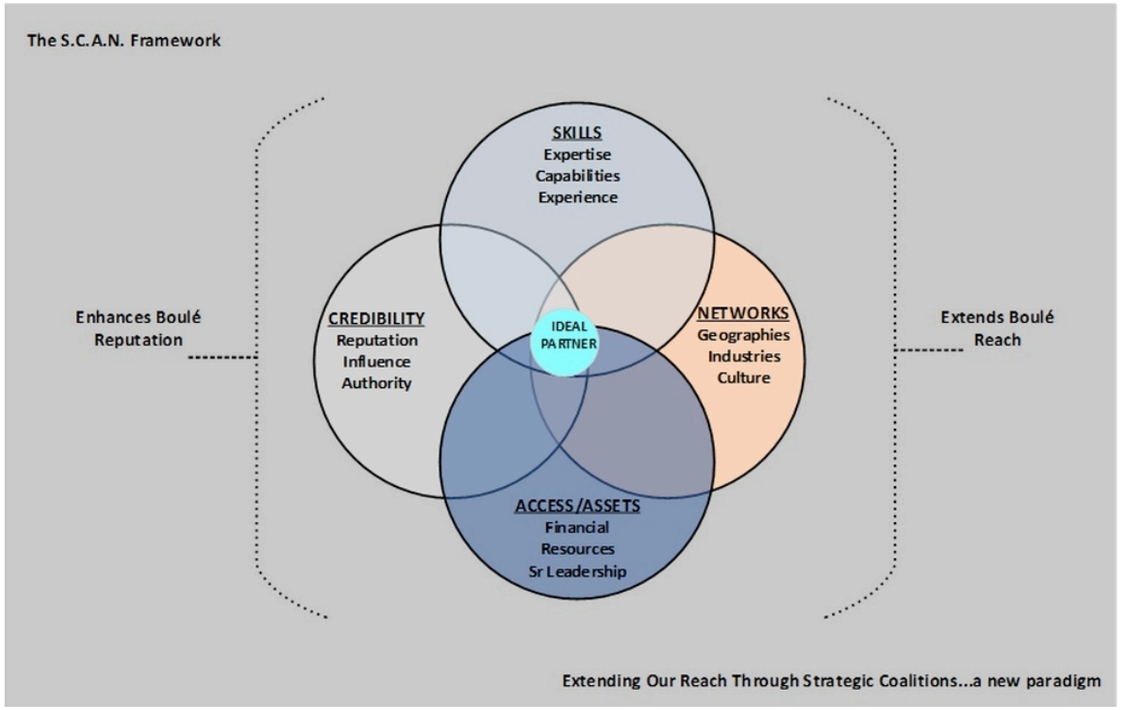
- Expertise, networks and capabilities that amplify Boulé strengths
- Reputation and geographic reach that extends our own
- Financial capacity and resources to be dedicated to the coalition
- Boulé access to senior leaderships and other key decision makers
- Culture of innovation and collaboration and other compatibility factors.

Understanding the above will ease joint planning and execution of coalition activities. Should the coalition relationship be mostly transactional (that is, "one-off" projects), it is still important to understand the above as the dynamics will likely be the same.

When selecting a coalition partner, we should have a tangible idea of our desired outcome and the metrics that we intend to affect. Doing so will lead to the necessary core competencies and resources that the partner needs to have as it is evaluated. Additionally, we will have a measurable idea of what success looks like. With a clear joint statement of objectives and goals, the coalition enters into an intentional agreement with specific targets, timeframes, roles and responsibilities, and evaluation tollgates. The Boulé expands its knowledge and influence through strategic use of the coalition's collective strengths on consequential matters such as the plight of young Black men and boys or Boulé economic empowerment. The collaborative experiences created through the coalition will lead the Boulé to refined approaches and practices as we pursue initiatives requiring considerable time and investment to execute successfully.

These applied advancements to the Fraternity will transform the Boulé into a nimble "learning organization" of enhanced capabilities with vastly increased influence, credibility and authority. We can maintain our traditional Boulé values of modesty and discretion by deploying disciplined and consistent messaging strategies designed to maintain our behind-the-scenes posture while also controlling the narrative.

Currently the Boulé has what could be considered strategic coalitions with several organizations through memoranda of understanding negotiated and signed in Past Grand Sire Archon Wes Coleman's administration. Likewise, we have experi-



Framework for selecting qualified partners

ence with these types of relationships. We have memoranda of understanding with such organizations as the National Urban League and the NAACP, with which we've had a long history of collaboration.

Because of the pandemic, we have had limited opportunity to fully explore the complementary advantages of these relationships; however, we will revisit these relationships and accelerate their development. While doing so, we will explore ways to institutionalize our ability to conceive, organize and deploy other strategic coalitions with entities that share our values and objectives without regards to any other criteria but a mutual commitment to a set of objectives. These vehicles should be able to respond to Boulé priorities that require resource investments and medium-to-long time frames for successful execution. Although such a vehicle should be managed and governed by Archons, its funding can come from institutions, corporations and foundations along with individual Archon donors who believe in its mission.

The Boulé Foundation is an outstanding example of the genius of the Boulé's coalescing around an idea with an enduring legacy for generations to come. This proposed evolution of the Fraternity would be a major step toward Black self-determination through the intentional leadership of the Archons of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity. As we contemplate our future as the premier crucible of Black leadership, we should mobilize, modernize and energize our myriad gifts in service of our Archons and Archousai, our families and our communities, through such a bold gesture.

Perhaps the time has come to institutionalize and deploy the genius of the Boulé in unprecedented ways and unleash the tremendous inventory of intellectual and relationship capital stored within the ranks of our proud and distinguished 120-year-old organization. So, to that notion, let the innovation begin!

Mind Over Matter



‘No Likes!’



By Archousa Vanzetta Penn McPherson

A person who cannot utter a paragraph without saying like is not literate.

This poor little four-letter element of the English lexicon has been mightily abused and is now languishing permanently in linguistic ICU. Its fate is worse than the other occupants’, because the probabilities of both death and recovery are low. Instead, it is consigned to a corner where visits exacerbate rather than ameliorate its condition.

Like has always been grammatically unique. Depending upon its proper use, it has been postured as several different parts of speech. For example, in its nominative form, like indicates desirability. As a verb, like expresses a preference. When used as an adjective, it is a useful comparator. The prepositional like signals similarity, while the conjunctive like helps us understand that one thing is exemplary of another. But when like enters the clinic’s adverb ward, language goes awry. For the past twenty or so years, the adverbial like has morphed from propriety (expressing probability or approximation) to a wild, random omnipresence.

Especially among children and young adults, like has seemingly become necessary to every verbal expression. It makes an appearance in informal and formal speech, flitting about in sentences with no real function. In the fashion of another undesirable element of the lexicon – the four-letter one

that begins with an "f" – the usefulness of like is limited to its very utterance. Fortunately (for the time being), like is static, unlike the "f" word, which is now conjugated and has its own tenses, present and past participles and gerunds!

Across America, parents implore their children to eliminate like. In my family, the admonition has become classic: "No likes!" Alternately, we count the number of likes in a sentence or story and recite its totality to children. So far, it is a Sysyphean task, primarily because our single-sourced effort to combat like is no match for its multi-sourced influencers: peers, social media, radio, television and movies. Even public radio stations – the electronic harbor of serious thought and "All Things Considered" – have become transient domiciles for like.

It is likely (pardon the pun) that random like is often the result of (1) increased use and acceptance of ungrammatical English, (2) peer imitation, (3) the yen for relevance and "fitting in" and (4) habit. People, including children and young adults, want to act, look, talk and sound the same way as their peers, especially those whom they aim to impress. In the case of African Americans, there remains a vestigial, self-defeating avoidance – whether conscious or subliminal – of a presence that bespeaks imagined whiteness. Since speech is an immediate and accessible indication of personage, speech is on the first floor of the laboratory of human judgment. Countless older Blacks understand the accusation of "talking proper," and countless young Blacks understand the regrettably off-putting impact of grammatical English.

Now for the curious aspects of *like*.

Like does not appear in texts or emails. (I suppose that it is also absent in penned communications, but pen-on-paper has become so rare that the statistical value of that absence is probably nil.) Is it just harder to text or type *like*? Is it too time-consuming? Is (or isn't) the absence of *like* from texts and emails solid evidence of the uselessness of *like*? Is it possible that sentences – themselves awaiting entry to the ICU (but that's another rant) – written without *like* say the same thing, with the same meaning and consequences as an utterance replete with *like*? Are the faithful users of *random like* even aware that they say it but don't write it?

Maybe "*like* users" are more conscious of English in writing. However, that is unlikely, because in writing, they coin abbreviations, passionately indulge acronyms and initialism, omit punctuation and capitals, abhor sentences and revel in emojis. The absence of *random like* in writings is at least a sign that it is more trendy as an utterance than as a writ.

In the end, the cure for *random like* may be found only in the personal discernment and discipline of its addicts, that is, the kind of discernment and discipline that posit *random like* as coding – acceptable in one venue (school cafeteria), unacceptable in others (class presentation) and lethal in still others (speeches and lectures). But absent the intentionality that

strategizes the use of *random like*, spoken English will remain symptomatic, struggling to survive in a sea of spiked red *likes* floating around like COVID viruses.

Like in the meantime, the language is like prostrate in like an indefinite coma.

Forum

Our Grammatei Set the Bar



Created by Kirubel Y.

By Archon Samuel Bacote III, Grand Grammateus

I have been honored to serve as a Grand Officer and in fact relished my time as Grand Grammateus– Executive Secretary of our fraternity for more than a decade. Since bifurcation of the role at the 56th Grand Boulé in the Bahamas two years ago, I have reflected on the challenges brought on by the separation, notwithstanding my unwavering support for the Fraternity's decision. My mind wanders into that space where I ponder the worth to us and value of this significant governance change. With emphasis, did we create a stronger brotherhood for Archons and a more perfect organizational structure for the Fraternity? Or are we still trying to get there from where we were two years ago?

Further, in this new role, the Grand Grammateus is chiefly regarded, among other things, as the servant-leader and guardian of certain esoteric aspects of our culture. However, all Archons must share in this responsibility. There's not a single Archon, even one elected as the Grand Grammateus, no matter how well respected, who can fulfill all that's needed to keep us united in common practice and in compliance with our protocols. We must all take ownership in perpetuating our culture and illustrious brand so that the things that separate us from the uninitiated keep us bonded to one another.

However, in those two years since the Bahamas, I must candidly admit that I think we are losing some of our luster as we encounter scattered evidence of dips in compliance with our protocols. It's a slowly creeping decay that's growing. I am reminded of an exchange I had last year with another Grand Officer who shared that he, too, has observed Archons out of compliance with our dress standards. Not to step on toes, but lest we forget our oath, we must adhere to our protocols, and if caught outside the bounds, one of two things is likely going on: Either we're not checking, or we're not holding ourselves accountable. Both are insidious. This display is not "an example of the higher type of manhood"; it has been especially challenging in these postpandemic times, because even though we aim for excellence in all we do, we have our foibles.

Other Archons and sometimes Archousai ask me why I reference the comments of Archon Carrington Davis, our first Grand Grapter, on the subject of congeniality during my remarks at Boulé gatherings. At times like these when, in unity, we are trying to bring about things that seem best for all, we need to hold on to words and wisdom that represent the best of our commitment to aspects of our culture, like our new governance structure or our raison d'être. Yet we must ever remain gentlemen while forging this new organizational path lest we lose our soul. This is not to suggest that congeniality is the alpha and omega of traits expected of Archons.

Though not intended to apply exclusively to the role of the Grammateus, the letters of the Greek word itself create an acronym that sets the bar for all of us:

G – Gentleman: An Archon exemplifies a certain superior standard of conduct, adherence to the highest fraternal mores, and "self-respect and intellectual refinement which manifest themselves in unrestrained yet delicate manners."

R – Role model: An Archon's behavior, example or success is emulated by others, including newer Archons and those still learning our protocols and culture and maturing in all things Boulé. Role models possess qualities that we would like to have and have affected us in ways that make us want to be better people.

A – Action-oriented: An Archon performs work with energy and drive; he values planning but will take quick, decisive action when an opportunity presents itself.

M – Masterful: An Archon shows supreme mastery or skill by his actions; he is a consummate talent or artist. As such, he never stops learning and developing his abilities to be better.

M – Measured: His actions are marked by rhythm and restraint and a careful consideration of all matters before him without bias.

A – Analytical: An Archon uses tested tools, techniques and logic to aid him in arriving at the truth of a given situation to maximize the best outcomes.

T – Tempered: An Archon possesses an equanimity of mind and emotion that defines his composure, no matter how extreme the circumstances.

E – Excellence-oriented: He combines the vision and curiosity of a dreamer with the practical engineering of a builder; he is goal-directed, looking forward with anticipation to the attainment of measurable outcomes.

U – Ultimately accepting: He appreciates that others may have views different from but just as valid as his own. He practices the Golden Rule, seeking to treat others the way he would like to be treated, aspiring to master the Platinum Rule and treat others the way they would like to be treated.

S – Superior leader: He vests agency in others; he considers who the appropriate participants are in each situation and accurately identifies those who will bring ownership and pride to addressing issues effectively. He sees others as equals regardless of their role in the Fraternity and exercises a high degree of empathy and authenticity. He has the emotional maturity to tolerate ambiguity until the right answer emerges. He is psychologically prepared for work by continually thinking about, planning and modifying his plans based on the outcomes that are generated, and bringing a high level of pride to every situation.

There you have it. Every Grammateus sets the bar for himself and all other Archons. He is needed to help us all embrace our young governance structure and ensure it matches up with the vision behind our decision in 2022, for we all, ultimately, must embrace our unifying, tried and proven protocols.

> 'Every Archon needs to value our protocols; it's "the knitting" that holds us together. We must know and hold each other accountable to them in a kind and caring, fraternal way. Without our adherence to protocols, we surely run the risk of destroying the Boulé as the great organization we know it to be.'

~ Archon Kelly Holloway, Northeast Region Grammateus

Demystifying General AI and Large Language Models



Archon Spencer Disher

By Archon Spencer Disher (with a little help from AI Language Models), Beta Delta Boulé

Artificial Intelligence (AI), an ever-present whisper in the symphony of our daily lives, is a whisper no longer. For many years AI was orchestrating the comfort of your environment, adjusting your home's temperature with precision, taking cues from your presence and the subtle dance of external and internal elements. As you skimmed through your messages, news feeds and emails, it was the unseen AI maestro conducting a symphony of data, predicting your needs and tailoring your digital experience with uncanny accuracy. As you went about your day, AI had grown as the silent partner in your decisions – what you eat, what you watch, where you spend your money, even nudging you towards certain political perspectives. The latest development in this journey is the emergence of AI-powered chatbots and Large Language Models (LLMs), which can converse with us, offering advice, information and even companionship. This advancement prompts us to reflect on a profound question: In an era increasingly shaped by AI, *how do we distinguish between the influence of technology and our own autonomy*?

Grand Sire Archon Antoine Garibaldi's theme for this biennium is "*Strengthening Our Future, While Honoring Our History*." I have had the opportunity to share with various Archons some of my observations on using generative AI and possible uses within their personal and business lives, and

without fail, those Archons have started to incorporate generative AI into their work. With what I think will be as important a tool as the internet, I see the importance of generative AI in strengthening our future and will share within this article what generative AI is and what its implications – both positive and dangerous – are for us as Archons and within our community.

So, why all the recent headlines about AI? We have been hearing about artificial intelligence for a while, but now we have these LLMs, powerful tools that can generate natural language responses to user queries. Bard, which is now Gemini (developed by Google); Bing, which is now Copilot (developed by Microsoft); and ChatGPT3 and ChatGPT4 (developed by OpenAI) are all examples of the recently introduced general AI LLMs (GenAI), which are powerful tools that can understand and respond to human language. They are trained on vast datasets containing a wide array of text sources, such as books, articles and websites, allowing them to learn language patterns, grammar and context. These models use techniques from natural language processing (NLP) and machine learning to analyze and predict text sequences. Beneath the shroud of technical jargon lies a powerful technology with the potential to revolutionize how we interact with information and language that is akin to a librarian with superhuman abilities, able to not only navigate the labyrinthine stacks but also grasp the nuanced meaning within each page. This unparalleled access to knowledge allows it to perform a myriad of tasks, including:

Answering complex questions: GenAIs can delve into the depths of human knowledge, offering insightful and comprehensive responses to even the most intricate queries. Think of them as experts on call, readily available to unravel the mysteries of the universe or shed light on the latest scientific breakthroughs. To illustrate, here is an example of a prompt that I used with ChatGPT 4 and the response:

Me: *In 200 words or less, explain at least three challenges for African Americans in increasing their percentage of homeownership in America and possible solutions to the challenges.*

ChatGPT: *The challenges faced by African Americans in increasing their percentage of homeownership in America are multifaceted, with historical and contemporary factors playing a role. Here are three significant challenges and potential solutions:*

Historical and Systemic Discrimination: African Americans have faced systemic barriers in housing, notably through practices like redlining and discriminatory lending policies. These practices have hindered their ability to acquire property and build wealth over generations. Solution: Implementing policies that address these historical injustices is crucial. This could include providing grants or favorable mortgage terms to first-time African American homebuyers and enforcing strict anti-discrimination laws in lending and real estate.

Wealth and Income Disparity: There is a significant wealth and income gap between African Americans and their white counterparts, partly due to historic discrimination. This gap affects their ability to afford down payments and secure favorable mortgage terms. Solution: Economic policies that focus on reducing income inequality, such as improved access to high-quality education and job opportunities, can help. Financial literacy programs specifically tailored for African American communities could also play a role in bridging this gap.

Credit Score Disparities: African Americans often have lower credit scores compared to other groups, which affects their mortgage eligibility and rates. This disparity is partly due to systemic factors and a lack of access to credit-building opportunities. Solution: Credit reform initiatives that consider alternative credit data (like rent and utility payments) could help in assessing the creditworthiness of potential homeowners. Additionally, programs that educate and assist in credit building within African American communities could be beneficial.

These challenges are deeply intertwined with broader issues of racial inequality and require comprehensive, long-term strategies to address effectively.

I could have asked ChatGPT the question with many other criteria, such as asking it to provide statistics, write a much more detailed and in-depth response, or provide more challenges that African Americans have in homeownership. I will caution you later that this could lead to false or misleading information.

Crafting compelling text formats: From crafting persuasive essays to composing captivating poems, GenAIs can assist with many writing endeavors. They act as tireless collaborators, generating drafts, suggesting revisions and polishing prose to a level that many college educators would find to be acceptable.

Bridging the language barrier: Gone are the days of communication being hindered by language differences. GenAIs can translate between languages with remarkable accuracy and fluency, fostering understanding and connection across cultures.

Other tasks that GenAIs can perform include summarizing complex text information, generating computer code, scripts, stories, poems and musical pieces. You can also have it analyze and process large datasets. Copilot and Gemini now allow you to create pictures, as demonstrated later in this article.

So, how might you, an Archon, dip your toe into this new tool and explore its potential? Let me start by saying that GenAI and Chatbots are still very much under development and are by no means perfect. When using them to provide information or data they can make errors in their response. Here is an example using Microsoft's Bing:



Fortune 500 corporation board room generated by copilot

Me: *I am going to be meeting with the leadership of an organization called Sigma Pi Phi, tell me in 200 words or less what this organization is about and who are its leaders.*

Bing: *Sigma Pi Phi, also known as the Boulé, is the oldest fraternity for African American professionals, founded in 1904 by six eminent men in Philadelphia[1] [2]. The fraternity aims to enhance and support the careers and social relationships of its members, as well as to provide leadership and assistance to the black community[2]. Sigma Pi Phi has about 5,000 members in 139 chapters across the United States and the Caribbean[1]. Some of its notable members include W. E. B. Du Bois, Martin Luther King Jr., Ralph Bunche, Andrew Young, Eric Holder, and Arthur Ashe[1]. The current leaders of Sigma Pi Phi are Grand Sire Archon Rodney J. Reed, Grand Sire Archon-Elect Dwayne Murray, Grand Grammateus James E. Scott, Grand Thesauristes William R. King, Grand Rhetoricos John W. Thompson Jr., and Grand Historian Robert L. Harris Jr.[3]. Sigma Pi Phi is a private and discreet organization that avoids self-promotion and publicity[2]. (Word count: 148). Source: Conversation with Bing, 12/10/2023 (1) Sigma Pi Phi - Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sigma_Pi_Phi. (2) Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, The Boulé: A Brief Overview (1904 - Blackpast. https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/sigma-pi-phi-fraternity-the-boule-a-brief-overview-1904/. (3) Fact Check: Is There a Black Secret Society Of Elites Called ... - Moguldom. https://moguldom.com/311983/fact-check-is-there-a-black-secret-society-of-elites-called-the-boule/. (4) Leadership - Sigma Pi Fraternity. https://sigmapi.org/fraternity/ leadership/. (5) en.wikipedia.org. https://en.wikipedia. org/wiki/Sigma_Pi_Phi.*

Here you see, or at least I hope you quickly see, how it made the mistake of who our officers are currently. In sharing

this article with our Grand Grapter he notes also the errors in footnoting, where the footnote numerals should appear following rather than preceding the sentence periods and footnotes 4 and 5 are not annotated in the response.

Every Archon Should Give It a Try

If you are new to GenAIs, here is a possible example that you can try. Here we will put it to use for a specific task that makes use of the creative aspects of GenAIs. If you go to www.bing.com and click on "COPILOT" you will be presented with a prompt to "Ask me anything." Prompts are how you phrase your question and are the keys to the best responses. There are thousands of articles on prompting and there are even individuals or "Prompt Engineers" that have been hired just to extract the best responses from GenAI.

Here is a potential prompt for you to try with your own inputs in the [brackets]: "*Plan a vacation for me with the following criteria: it should be within a [number-] hour plane ride from my home airport in [City and State], it should include access to [input something like ocean, golf, tennis, theme park, etc.], have a [number-] star resort and temperatures of between 75 and 85 degrees during the month of [month]. It should also include one Michelin 3-star restaurant.*"

Depending on your input, you should get at least one if not more options to consider. You can continue by asking additional questions as if you are having a conversation, e.g. "tell me the best months to visit."

It's not all good

While GenAI language models are very powerful and useful, they also have some limitations and challenges. They are not always accurate, reliable or ethical. They may make mistakes, repeat themselves or say things that are inappropriate or harmful. Many of you have probably heard of some of these issues in the news such as Bing telling a reporter he should divorce his wife or the case where a New York lawyer, Steven Schwartz, used ChatGPT to supplement his legal research and submitted a brief that contained six bogus cases. According to a study done by Stanford University researchers, GenAI LLMs produce made up facts (these are called hallucinations) between 69 percent and 88 percent of the time when asked about a legal matter.

GenAIs can perpetuate and amplify existing societal and racial bias, leading to discriminatory responses in areas like hiring, criminal justice and healthcare.

Specific challenges

1. Biased Data: GenAIs are trained on data generated by humans, which inevitably reflects existing societal biases. This inherent bias can manifest in the model's outputs, leading to unfair and discriminatory outcomes. For example, a GenAI trained on job applications might favor candidates with traditionally white-sounding names, perpetuating inequalities in

the workforce. On the preceding page is an example where I asked Copilot to generate a picture of what it would look like in a Fortune 500 corporation board room. Note that no one looks like they could be Black.

2. Algorithmic Amplification: GenAIs can amplify existing biases through complex algorithms. This can lead to increasingly discriminatory outcomes as the model iterates and learns from its own biased outputs. The model may begin to associate certain demographics with specific negative traits, further reinforcing harmful stereotypes.

3. Lack of Transparency and "Explainability:" Many GenAIs are complex and opaque, making it difficult to understand how they arrive at their outputs. This lack of transparency makes it challenging to identify and address bias within the model, hindering efforts to ensure fairness and accountability.

4. Ethical Concerns: Biased GenAIs can raise serious ethical concerns. Their outputs can be used to discriminate against individuals or groups based on race or other sensitive characteristics, leading to real-world harm. Additionally, the use of biased GenAIs erodes public trust in AI and raises questions about the technology's ethical implications. An example of this is demonstrated in a peer-reviewed research piece summarized by Abeba Birhan. In it, he discusses the disproportionate impact of false identification in facial recognition AI algorithms on communities of color.

5. Difficulty in Mitigating Bias: Mitigating bias in GenAIs is a complex and ongoing challenge. While various techniques are being explored, such as debiasing training data and using fairness metrics, there is no single solution that works in all cases.

In addition to the inherent challenges within the models, operating these generative GenAI LLMs demands substantial resources, including extensive data, significant energy consumption and considerable financial investment.

What can be done?

As we delve deeper into the world of generative AI and LLMs, the question remains: Can we truly balance the power and potential with the ethical and societal challenges they present? Addressing the challenges posed by generative AI and Large Language Models requires a multifaceted approach that acknowledges the complexity of these issues. Firstly, enhancing the transparency of these models is paramount; this means not only making the workings of the AI more accessible to users but also ensuring that the data sources and decision-making processes are open to scrutiny. Continuous education and awareness efforts are necessary to demystify AI technologies for the general public and to empower users with the knowledge to navigate and influence the AI landscape. A knowledgeable public can put pressure on Congress and in turn regulators to assist with addressing these issues. Equally or most important is the engagement of a wider community in

the AI development process, including those who are often underrepresented in technology – "us."

Resources:

Abeba Birhane, "The unseen Black faces of AI algorithms," *Nature*, October 27, 2022.
Matthew Dahl, Varun Magesh, Mirac Suzgun, Daniel E. Ho, "Hallucinating Law: Legal Mistakes with Large Language Models are Pervasive," Stanford University Law, Regulation, and Policy, January 11, 2024.
Ross Gruetzemacher, "The Power of Natural Language Processing," *Harvard Business Review*, April 19, 2022.

Founding Archon of XI Boulé Recognized After 100 Years



By Archon George Fatheree, Xi Boulé

An extraordinary Black civil rights pioneer a century ago, Archon Willis O. Tyler, one of the founding members of Xi Boulé, Los Angeles, was honored with a street dedication in downtown Los Angeles on September 25, 2023. The battles he won leave a legacy for Angelenos and the country today. His law office stood at the intersection of Second and Spring streets, the heart of the city's civic life, and on the eve of the Boulé's Pacific Regional Boulé celebration and the anniversary of Xi's founding one hundred years earlier, members of Xi Boulé proudly renamed that location Willis O. Tyler Square.

Born in 1880 in Bloomington, Indiana, Archon Tyler was orphaned at a young age and raised by his aunt (likely a conductor in the underground railroad). At 16, he enrolled at Indiana University, and two years later he enlisted in the Indiana Colored Volunteer Infantry to fight in the Spanish-American War.

A gifted orator who won statewide prizes at Indiana University, he graduated in 1907 from Harvard Law School,

where he received the highest honors ever given to an African American student. He moved to Los Angeles, became a civil rights attorney and worked closely with the NAACP, litigating dozens of cases to secure, protect and improve the rights of African Americans in this city.

He represented the early African American entrepreneurs Willa and Charles Bruce in their effort to prevent their popular and successful seaside resort – Bruce's Beach – from being taken via eminent domain. Though he was not successful in preventing the taking of the property, his legal brilliance in that era of brutal discrimination helped change California law in many ways. He was a genius and a trailblazer well before he arrived in Los Angeles in the early twentieth century.

Perhaps Archon Tyler's most important case involved his representation of Homer Garrott, an African American police officer (and brother of fellow Xi Boulé founding Archon Alva Garrott). Garrott had purchased a home for his family in South Los Angeles. A racially restrictive covenant prohibited the property from being sold to any person of "African, Chinese or Japanese descent," and when the title company discovered that Garrott was the owner, it sued him to forfeit the property without compensation.

In court, Archon Tyler argued that the racially restrictive covenant violated the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution, but the court ruled that the amendment restricted only what state and local governments could do, not private citizens. Archon Tyler was undeterred. In a stroke of legal brilliance, he argued that the racially restrictive covenant must be ruled invalid because it violated the rights of the white property owner to sell his or her property as he or she saw fit. In 1919, the appeals court agreed with Tyler, allowing the Garrotts to remain in their family home.



The Garrott case was decided almost three decades before the U.S. Supreme Court outlawed racially restrictive covenants in 1948 in *Shelley* v. *Kraemer*.

For more than a century, Archon Tyler's pioneering deeds went unrecognized. He never tasted the fruits that bloomed from the seeds he planted; he never felt the cool shade of the tree that grew from those seeds. Now, at least, his role in L.A. history – though too long ignored – will get the recognition it has long deserved.

Mayor Jerry L. Demings: Revolutionizing Affordable Housing



By Archon Jude H. Wilson, Grapter, Beta Xi Boulé

Affordable housing is one of our country's greatest challenges. Securing affordable housing poses multifaceted issues for individuals and families, creating barriers that extend beyond mere financial constraints. This crisis disproportionately affects African Americans. The most recent data available from the 2022 Home Mortgage Disclosure Act found the Black homeownership rate was 45 percent in 2022, nearly 30 percent lower than that for white households, showing a wider gap than fifty years ago. The report also determined that the Black–white wealth gap is so large that the 400 wealthiest Americans control the same amount of wealth as the 48 million Black people who are living in the United States. Central Florida's Beta Xi Boulé Archon Jerry L. Demings is facing this dilemma head on.

Currently serving his second term as the leader of Orange County, this mayor has set forth an ambitious vision to transform the county into what he affectionately calls the modern-day Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow. Actively supporting equal opportunities and endeavors to ensure that everyone in the community has a voice, Archon Demings fosters an environment where diverse perspectives unite to tackle complex challenges. "Good policy benefits everyone but there needs to be diversity in the boardroom where decisions are being made so that the unique problems of those typically underserved are addressed," he said.



In a compelling state of the county address, Archon Demings outlined his steadfast commitment to ushering in a new era of progress and unity through innovation, collaboration and inclusiveness. He envisions a transformed Orange County that stands resilient in the face of challenges and celebrates the diversity that defines its strength. As part of this new era, Archon Demings has stepped up with an inspiring initiative, Housing for All, to address the affordable housing crisis in Orlando. This visionary plan, spanning over a decade, aims to tackle the challenges head-on and provide much-needed relief to those in the community struggling to find affordable housing.

The Housing for All initiative is a comprehensive action plan that leaves no stone unturned. Archon Demings understands the importance of removing regulatory barriers that hinder progress and impede the creation of affordable housing options. But this plan goes beyond just breaking down barriers. It also focuses on creating new financial resources to ad-

dress the housing crisis. By investing in innovative funding mechanisms, the mayor is paving the way for sustainable solutions that will benefit future generations.

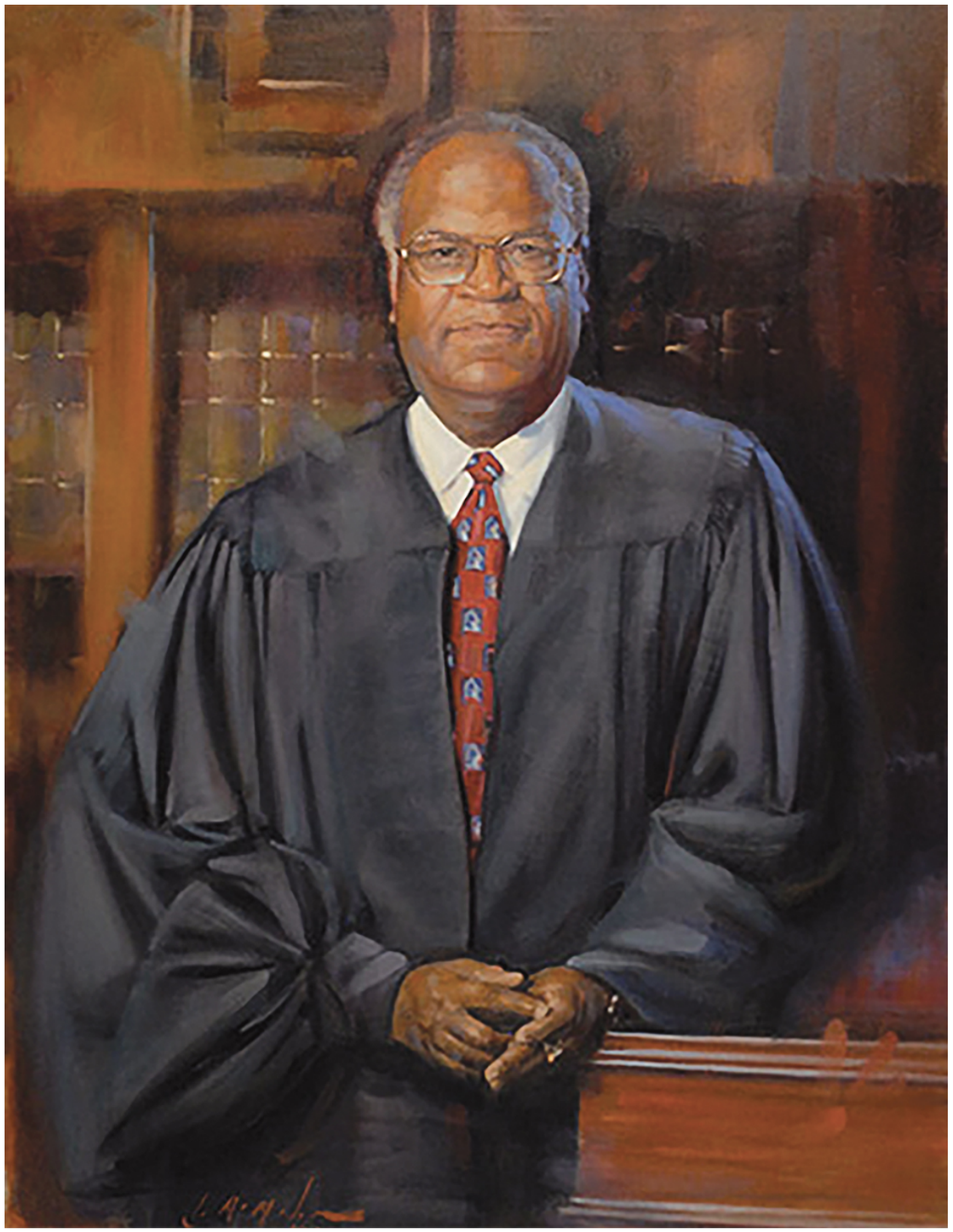
Targeting areas of access and opportunity is another crucial aspect of his initiative. Identifying neighborhoods and communities in need, the Housing for All plan ensures that everyone has equal access to safe and affordable housing.

What makes this initiative truly remarkable is its unwavering dedication to involving and engaging both the community and industry stakeholders. Archon Demings brought together resources from the federal government, the state, the county and corporate partners to achieve his vision. The project has benefited from $41 million in federal grants, $28 million from the State Housing Initiative Program, $160 million from a local housing trust fund and twenty acres of land donated by Universal Orlando.

The first project, Catchlight Crossing, will be a mixed-use affordable-housing initiative opening in 2026. The community will have a pedestrian-oriented design for 1,000 affordable and mixed-income housing units. Catchlight Crossing will include medical offices, a transportation center, and programs at the University of Central Florida and Bezos Academy, a preschool founded by former Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos. The school's goal is to nurture every child's potential to become a creative leader and thinker and a lifelong learner by increasing access to early childhood education in under-resourced communities.

Archon Demings recognizes that true transformation can only be achieved through collaboration and open dialogue. By including residents, advocates, developers and other important stakeholders in the decision-making process, he is ensuring that every perspective is valued and that voices that would not normally be heard have a seat at the decision-making table. This level of inclusivity guarantees that lasting change is made that benefits everyone involved. Archon Demings is guiding the community toward a better tomorrow that embraces inclusivity for all.

From the Bench



Archon Curtis L. Collier

By Archon Curtis L. Collier, Gamma Pi Boulé

Archon Curtis L. Collier is U.S. district judge and chair of the Eastern District of Tennessee Civics and Outreach Committee. Carrie Brown Stefaniak, past president of the Chattanooga Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, and Erienne Reniajal Lewis, law clerks to Archon Collier, assisted in the preparation of this article.

The Constitution and Federal Courts Protect Minority Rights

Immediately after the Framers in Philadelphia had drafted the Constitution, Benjamin Franklin was quoted as responding to the question "Well, doctor, what have we got, a republic or a monarchy?" with the answer, "A republic, if you can keep it." It is interesting that neither the questioner nor Franklin mentioned a democracy. We can surmise that neither of them thought a democracy was a realistic option. It is also worthy of note that the word "democracy" is not used in the Declaration of Independence or the Constitution, whereas the Constitution guarantees "a Republican Form of Government" to each state (U.S. Const. art. IV, § 4).

The very definition of democracy is that the people rule. To put it in starker terms, it means the majority rule. But a system where majority viewpoints would always prevail was not what the Framers sought to create. In fact, what they had in mind was something very different from the simple majority-rule system. As Franklin said, the Framers created a republic.

A Feature, Not a Bug

We often refer to our form of government as a democratic republic. While we have some features of a democracy, we are far from a pure democracy. The primary difference between a pure democracy and the system established by the Constitution is the protection of minority rights. In a pure democracy, the majority always get their way. If a person has an unpopular view about political, religious, social or civil matters, that person will always be outvoted by the majority; the minority simply cannot count on any protections. Only those rights the majority deem appropriate will be respected or protected under the law.

The Constitution strives to strike a delicate balance between efficient decision making, naked majority rule and honoring minority views. Just as pure majority rule would be unfair to the minority, giving the minority a veto over every action would prevent many things from ever being decided or done. This obviously would be unworkable. So although the Constitution strives to take minority rights into account, the government must still be able to function even when there is not unanimous consensus on an issue. The delicate balance between majority and minority rights is thus a feature of our governmental system, not a bug.

The Constitution Protects Minority Viewpoints and Rights

The Framers of the Constitution were very mindful of the majority-rule feature of a pure democracy and how this could lead to oppression of minority views and rights. Several provisions in the Constitution are designed to protect minority viewpoints and rights, of whatever nature. To minimize the power of majorities in large states, the Framers created an electoral college to select the president. Additionally, the Framers allocated two senators to each state, regardless of population size, to provide balance between the views of the more populous and less populous states.

The Bill of Rights provides protection for those espousing unpopular minority views by explicitly protecting the freedoms of speech, religion and the press. Individuals espousing popular political, religious, social or civil views would need no protection since their views would be in line with the majority. It offers protection for the minority of citizens who would be suspected of or charged with crimes through the Fourth and Fifth Amendments, including limitations on searches, the right to indictment by a grand jury, the right not to testify against oneself and the guaranty of due process of law in any prosecution.

The Fourteenth Amendment protects citizens from violations of due process of law and ensures equal protection under the law. In addition, the Thirteenth, Fifteenth, Nineteenth and Twenty-Sixth Amendments were adopted to provide explicit protections to racial, gender and age-based minorities. These amendments reinforce the Constitution's ability to se-

cure a functioning republic while still protecting the rights of citizens when they fall into a minority segment of the population.

The Federal Courts Protect Minority Viewpoints and Rights

Whether the views or rights involved are of a political, religious or civil nature, the federal courts are frequently called upon to protect and vindicate those minority rights. This is one of the most important functions of the federal courts. Every year the federal courts hear and decide cases involving the right to free speech brought by litigants alleging that their freedom of speech, generally unpopular speech, has been abridged. Every year those courts decide cases with allegations that the litigants' rights to the free exercise of their religious beliefs have been infringed, or that they have been treated unequally because of race, religion or gender. And every year there are many cases filed by criminal defendants alleging violations of rights protected by the Constitution.

The courts must decide these cases even in the face of popular sentiment against the litigants or the causes they espouse. They must be faithful to the law and the Constitution, not majority opinion or sentiment. This is the role of the courts within our particular democratic republic.

Grand Boulé Social Action



Black Intelligentsia and Social Action: A Dynamic Duo for Building Wealth in the Community



Archon Carl Carter, Sire Archon Matthew Thornton III, Archon Paul Griffin, Sire Archon–Elect Robert Cox and Archon Melvin Burgess II

By Archon Paul Griffin, Alpha Epsilon Boulé

"The foremost enemy of the Negro intelligentsia of the past has been – and in a large sense remains – isolation." Lorraine Vivian Hansberry shared these words in a speech delivered to the American Society of African Culture's First Conference of Negro Writers. The playwright and advocate for change authored *A Raisin in the Sun*, becoming the first Black woman to have a show produced on Broadway, the first Black American to win the Drama Desk Award, and the first Black playwright and youngest American to receive the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best American Play (1959). During her short lifetime of thirty-four years, she was committed to using her literary platform to share how America's creed of capitalism had conditioned some Blacks to abandon the village and pursue success alone – absent the guidance of others.

We must contemplate the challenges faced by the African American community, in concert with our shared obligation to lift others. Many have said that the most significant challenge for African Americans is not the battle against racist ideals and prejudice practices, but instead is a war of the mind. If that hypothesis is accurate, the decision of Sigma Pi Phi to adopt social action and work collectively to impact the community and improve the options for African Americans is likely one of the Fraternity's most important decisions.

In his book *Success Runs in Our Race*, George C. Fraser states, "Intellectual capital is nothing more than any empty concept if there is no method for sharing it." He further asserts that "personal achievement is that which is accomplished by the individual using his or her unique gifts and talents. Excellence is the reinvestment of one's unique gifts or personal achievements back into the community to better the human condition within the community." Additionally, he con-

tends that “true excellence comes only when you use your talents and gifts to benefit others to a greater extent than when you employ those talents for your own personal benefit.” We already know that mentorship offers students advice, guidance, inspiration and a tangible path to success by exposing them directly to accomplished professionals who have triumphed over challenges and achieved excellence in their chosen fields. In the pursuit of these, mentorship emerges as an enduring force that has the potential to reshape the trajectory of lives.

In November 2020 the Parity Project was launched during the pandemic under the auspices of the Grand Social Action Committee. Archons and Archousai learned about this initiative through Zoom sessions and *Boulé Journal* articles; in one-on-one conversations with members of the Grand Social Action Committee; and through regional social action teams, the staff of Base 11 and Archons with strong desires to help young people interested in STEM education. Mentoring youths has been a focus of member boulés for decades, with great success. Many of the member boulé mentees and scholars have pursued careers in prestigious occupations – in medicine, technology, business, engineering and entrepreneurship. Moving them along a path to parity in creating wealth is a major component of the Parity Project.

The impact of mentoring can be profound and life-changing. Memphis’s Delta Boulé is demonstrating great success in implementing aspects of the Parity Project. In September 2023 a Parity Project STEM Summit was convened under the administration of Sire Archon Matthew Thornton III. The community partners associated with this initiative included administrators from the Shelby County Schools, the Greater Memphis Chamber and Base 11. The students in attendance spoke with the leaders and representatives from STEM-related companies regarding the career opportunities available within their respective organizations.

Additionally, the company representatives discussed how their industries are changing and described the impact of those changes on careers. Delta Boulé’s ongoing efforts are led by their social action committee chair, Archon Melvin Burgess II. It is noteworthy that the Greater Memphis Chamber (GMC) was named as a finalist for its submission of a Recompete Pilot Program in collaboration with Delta Boulé, Base 11 and Sigma Pi Phi (through the Parity Project). If the GMC is selected as the recipient, the grant will be funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration.

The Recompete Program targets the hardest hit and most economically distressed areas in the country, where prime-age (25 to 54) employment is significantly lower than the national average, with the goal of reducing the gap through flexible, locally driven investments.

This initiative is part of President Biden’s Investing in America agenda, which was authorized by the CHIPS and Science Act. The CHIPS and Science Act, passed in 2022, com-



Archon Melvin Burgess II and Archon Paul Griffin

bines two bipartisan bills: the Endless Frontier Act, designed to boost investment in domestic high-tech research, and the CHIPS for America Act, designed to bring semiconductor manufacturing back to the United States. By partnering with local communities and leveraging public-private partnerships, many opportunities become available to create pathways to success through education, mentorship and workforce development programs. This grant has the potential to bring thousands of STEM training opportunities and jobs to the Memphis area. If successful, tens of millions of dollars in economic growth could result from this grant. We look forward to learning the outcome of the grant application process.

Reflecting on the past, we see that the year 1968 was a watershed moment in American history and Black America's ongoing fight for equality. In April of that year, Archon Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated in Memphis and riots broke out in cities around the country. Rising against this tragedy, the Fair Housing Act of 1968 was signed into law, outlawing housing discrimination. Tommie Smith and John Carlos raised their fists in a Black power salute as they received their medals at the 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico City. Archon Arthur Ashe became the first African American to win the U.S. Open Singles Tennis Championship, and Shirley Chisholm became the first African American woman elected to the House of Representatives. That same year, the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders delivered a report to President Lyndon Johnson that examined the causes of civil unrest in African American communities. The report named white racism as leading to pervasive discrimination in employment, education and housing as the culprits.

The economic challenges faced by African Americans have been well documented. Wealth disparities are interconnected with other disparities in education, income and health and with other injustices. While African Americans are in many ways better off than we were in 1968, we are still disadvantaged in several areas. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, African Americans today are much better educated than they were in 1968 but still lag whites in overall educational attainment. More than 90 percent of African Americans ages 25 to 29 have graduated from high school,

compared with just more than half in 1968 – which means they've nearly closed the gap with white high school graduation rates. They are also more than twice as likely to have a college degree as in 1968 but are still half as likely as young whites to have a college degree. The substantial progress in educational attainment of African Americans has been accompanied by significant absolute improvements in wages, incomes, wealth and health since 1968. Data published by Statista Research reveal that in 2022 Black workers still made only 82.5 cents on every dollar earned by white workers, that African Americans are 2.5 times as likely to be in poverty as whites, and that the median white family has almost ten times as much wealth as the median Black family.

With respect to homeownership, unemployment and incarceration, America has failed to deliver any progress for Blacks over the last five decades. In these areas, circumstances either failed to improve relative to whites or worsened. In 2022, the Black homeownership rate was just over 45 percent compared to 74.5 percent among whites. And the rate of African Americans imprisoned or jailed almost tripled between 1968 and 2016. It's no surprise that people of color – who face much greater rates of poverty – are dramatically overrepresented in the nation's prisons and jails. These racial disparities are particularly stark for African Americans who make up nearly 40 percent of the incarcerated population despite representing only 13.4 percent of U.S. population, according to the 2020 census. So the question is, When do we break the cycle?

In the late 1970's, Archons dreamed of having a foundation. The decision to establish a foundation in 1980 has proven to be another strategic action that had a positive impact on social action and thereby the youth of our community. Today the Boulé Foundation has a corpus of more than $32 million. Last year, it provided grants and awards of more than $1.7 million to the community initiatives of member boulés and other nonprofit organizations. As Boulé Foundation cofounders, Archons Robert V. Franklin, Harvey C. Russell and Andrew Lee turned those dreams into a reality. Dreams are powerful. Archon King inspirationally said, "I have a dream…."

As a people, African Americans must never stop dreaming of that promised land, whatever it might be and whenever it can be achieved. We can do it. We are achievers!

Many African American entrepreneurs have a limited path to build wealth because of unequal access to resources and financial instability. Let us be not only informed but also inspired. Booker T. Washington said, "No people ever got upon its feet and obtained the respect and confidence of the world which did not lay its foundations in successful business enterprise."

Some within our community have turned away and allowed tough circumstances to destroy their hopes, while others kept on dreaming and achieved. William James, American philosopher and psychologist, sums it up: "A man may not achieve everything he has dreamed, but he will never achieve



Archon Tyrone Burroughs, Sire Archon–Elect Robert Cox, Sire Archon Matthew Thornton III, Archon Paul Griffin, Archon Melvin Burgess II, Archon Jesse Westbrook and Archon Carl Carter.

anything great without having dreamed it first." We dream of parity. We dream of creating wealth within the community. And we can unite behind a commitment to help build a future that brings opportunities for parity and success. During a speech at the Golden Anniversary of the National Urban League in 1960, Archon King said, "We must constantly stimulate our youth to rise above the stagnant level of mediocrity and seek to achieve excellence in their various fields of endeavor."

In 1967 he cautioned, "We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history, there is such a thing as being too late. This is no time for apathy or complacency. This is a time for vigorous and positive action." The theme of Archon King's speech could be lifted from the pages of history and serve today as a call to action for Black America.

The Parity Project is a national, unifying call to action. We know what is at stake, and the stakes are high. To achieve parity, we must occupy more seats on corporate boards. We must prepare our young people to pursue career opportunities in fields such as capital markets – private equity, venture capital. We must inspire them to secure degrees in STEM. We must inspire them also to become entrepreneurs in STEM-related areas. These are building blocks to personal and generational wealth. The future will be brighter if we climb those blocks together. We have the intelligentsia to make things happen.

Let us continue the journey and bring forth our collective, concerted will to reshape the lives of generations to come. Let us be assured that our involvement knows no bounds and that opportunities are boundless for those we support. In the book *Think and Grow Rich: A Black Choice*, authored by Dennis Kimbro and Napoleon Hill, I read this: "In everyone's life there comes a time of ultimate challenge – a time when all resources are tested. A time when life itself

seems unfair. A time when our faith, our values, our patience, our compassion, our ability to persist, are all pushed to the limit and beyond." I believe that the time is now! Visit parityproject.com to learn more about what we are doing and how your member boulé can get involved.

On the Social Action Front

Delta Boulé Kicks off Fall With Clothing Drive, First Annual STEM Summit



Archon Tyrone Burroughs, Sire Archon–Elect Robert Cox, Sire Archon Matthew Thornton III, Archon Paul Griffin, Archon Melvin Burgess II, Archon Jesse Westbrook and Archon Carl Carter.

Memphis's Delta Boulé's social action outreach committee kicked off the fall season with two major activities. On August 31, 2023, Delta Archons gathered at LeMoyne-Owen College in Memphis for their Back-to-School Clothing Drive and Mixer benefiting students there. The event was held at the college's student center. Archons brought a variety of new and gently used clothing ideal for college students, with an emphasis on professional apparel for work-study assignments, job interviews and internships. They also presented students with more than $2,000 in gift cards for additional clothing and supplies.

The gathering was an opportunity for Archons to get to meet aspiring students at the historically Black college, founded in nineteenth century Memphis several miles from where it is currently located. Archon Melvin Burgess, social action committee chair, was pleased with the turnout, saying,



Back-to-School Clothing Drive and Mixer at LeMoyne-Owen College in Memphis

"Any time we Archons can improve the lives of the up-and-coming generation of young African Americans, we increase their chances for success and sharpen their tools to build greater wealth in Black families."

Then, on September 23, the committee hosted its first annual STEM Summit at the historic National Civil Rights Museum in downtown Memphis. Archon Russell T. Wigginton is president of the museum. The summit's theme was "School to STEM Pipeline: Producing a Path to Parity." The focus of the summit was to connect community partners, stakeholders, STEM educators and professionals to innovative STEM ideas and programs that benefit minority students and early-career professionals.

The summit featured Archon Paul Griffin, president of the Boulé Parity Project. Archon Griffin is vice president of strategy and urban initiatives with Amplify Education based in Brooklyn. Angela Whitlow, deputy superintendent of the Memphis City and Shelby County Schools, was keynote speaker.

Summit panelists addressed academic obstacles minority students face and the educational requirements for success in STEM degrees. The mechanics of using STEM careers, private equity and venture capital, and philanthropy as a blueprint for creating a sustainable STEM infrastructure was a panel topic. The importance of STEM education for African Americans in today's world was explored and the foundations of creating a thriving STEM ecosystem in underserved communities was among other topics.

The wide range of leaders and participants at the summit included Aaron L. Robinson, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering at the University of Memphis; internal medicine physician Marcia Bowden; attorney Lee Rankin, president and founder of the Lee Rankin Group; Rychetta Watkins of the Memphis Music Initiative, Grantmaking and Partnership; Dana Pointer, CEO of Preserver Partners; Jeremy Simpson, CEO of Systems Technologies; Audrey Willis, CodeCrew cofounder; and Christina Rosenthal, 516 Foundation.



Panelists: attorney Lee Rankin, president and founder of the Lee Rankin Group; Rychetta Watkins of the Memphis Music Initiative, Grantmaking and Partnership; Dana Pointer, CEO of Preserver Partners; and Jeremy Simpson, CEO of Systems Technologies.

Memphis CBS affiliate WREG-TV personality Kontji Anthony was the moderator.

"It is no secret that many well-paying, evolving and future careers are in STEM-related areas. We can't afford to miss this opportunity to be at the table in all capacities," said Archon Burgess.

Archon Ronald A. Walter / Grapter, Delta Boulé

Beta Delta Foundation Hosts Jazz and Comedy Fundraiser



On September 14, 2023, the Chambers-McCain Foundation of Charlotte, North Carolina's Beta Delta Boulé held its 3rd Annual Jazz and Comedy Fundraising Event at the Ritz Carlton in Charlotte. Archons, Archousai and guests came together for a wonderful evening of good food, musical performance by the Niki Haris Quartet featuring Christian Tamburr, and comedy featuring Hank Denson. Funds raised from the event will go to support the foundation's scholarship program and the boulé's social action initiatives, according to Archon Robert Keene, board chair of the foundation.

Since its founding in 2018, the foundation has awarded more than $90,000 in scholarship monies to outstanding African American high school seniors from the greater Charlotte community. Funds also support such social action programs as a mentoring program at the Male's Place, a community organization supporting young African American males, and a program where young men can shadow Archons at their places of business.

Archon Sidney W. Levy
Grapter, Beta Delta Boulé

Beta Delta Jazz and Comedy Fundraiser Gallery

OPEN









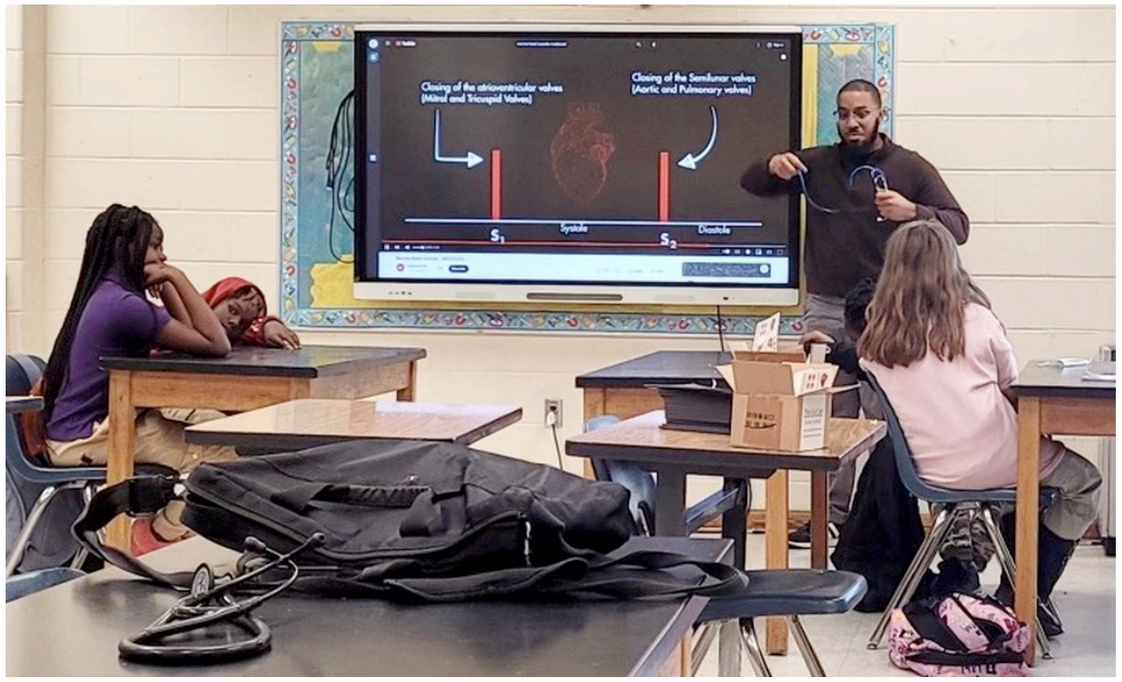
Beta Lambda Boulé Develops Hypertension Education Project



Archon Thomas H. Scott, Jr., and participants

In autumn 2023 Hampton–Norfolk, Virginia's Beta Lambda Boulé's social action committee, in collaboration with Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS) and Ruffner Elementary School in Norfolk, developed and implemented a hypertension education project. The project engages fifth grade students enrolled in the Ruffner Elementary School's Compass Academy and educates them about hypertension and how to measure blood pressure. The Compass Academy is a citywide program for grades 3 through 8 with a focus on career and college exploration and pathways.

According to the American Heart Association, "the prevalence of high blood pressure among Black people in the United States is among the highest in the world. About 55 percent of Black adults have high blood pressure, also known as hypertension or HBP. Black people also have disproportionately high rates of more severe HBP, and it develops earlier in life." The student body at the schools served by Norfolk City public schools is 57.7 percent Black. Archon Thomas H. Scott, Jr.; the Beta Lambda social action committee; Mekbib Gemeda, vice president for diversity and inclusion at EVMS; and the administration of Ruffner Elementary School envisioned



Ruffner Elementary students receiving instruction

the project as a means to educate fifth graders, who in turn could educate and check the blood pressures of family members in an effort to manage and prevent the silent killers of hypertension and stroke.

Archon Scott, a retired physician who serves on the EVMS admissions committee and mentors medical students from EVMS, served as the Beta Lambda social action committee's lead on the project. Beta Lambda supported the project by funding blood-pressure machines and stethoscopes for the student participants who successfully complete the program. The Hypertension Education Project was designed as follows:

1. Goals - At the conclusion of a series of collaborative sessions facilitated by EVMS medical students, fifth grader Compass scholars at Ruffner will be able to:

a. Demonstrate and explain the function of the human heart.

b. Explain the function of the heart valves.

c. Perform accurate blood-pressure checks on anonymous volunteers (medical students).

d. Measure and record blood pressure for anonymous participants over a nine-week period.

e. Demonstrate with parents and guardians and present during a graduation ceremony at the end of the initiative in January 2024.

2. Project Details

a. Timeline: Two consecutive nine-week periods, a total of two sessions per year.

b. Meeting frequency: Biweekly after-school sessions starting at 3:00 P.M. at the Compass Academy campus.

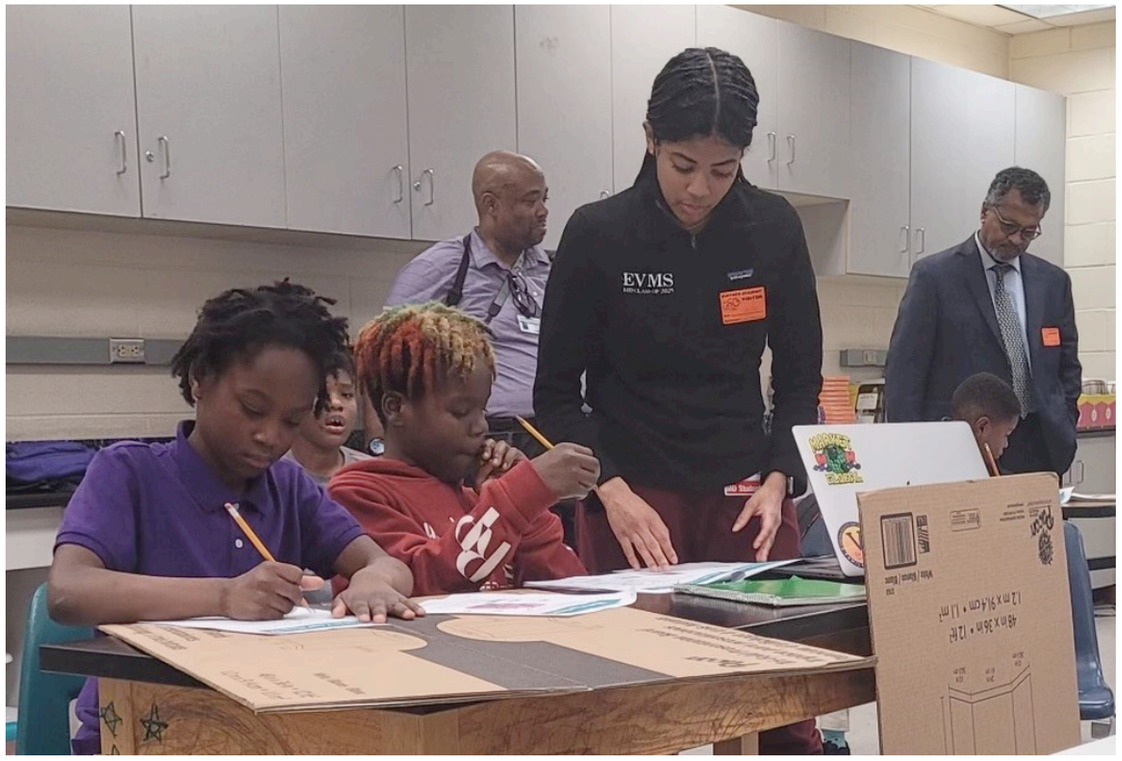
c. Student audience: Fifth grade students enrolled at the Compass Academy at Ruffner. (Each participating group should have between fifteen and twenty students.)

3. Medical Student Responsibilities

a. Research and develop an age-appropriate, interactive lesson on the function of the human heart and blood pressure.

b. Develop a lesson on how to measure blood pressure and use digital blood-pressure machines.

c. Teach students how to use a stethoscope. (Students use and keep their stethoscopes.)



Medical students providing education

The inaugural program concluded in January 2024.

Archon Steven D. Bond
Grapter, Beta Lambda Boulé

d. Teach students to measure and record blood pressure over the period of the program.

e. Attend biweekly after-school sessions at Ruffner Elementary.

f. Attend final event with the students and their families in January 2024.

4. Material

a. Lesson plans and materials (developed by EVMS medical students).

b. Blood-pressure machines (provided by the Beta Lambda social action committee).

c. Stethoscopes (provided by the Beta Lambda social action committee).

Beta Nu Education Foundation Holds Golf Tournament to Support Youth Program



Archons Kevin Jennings (left) and Jeffery Eskridge (right) congratulate the winners: Richard Jons, Evan and Ethan Goldsborough, and Archon Clarence Goldsborough of Beta Mu.

The Beta Nu Education Foundation (BNEF) of Beta Nu Boulé, Northern Virginia, sponsored its inaugural golf tournament on September 25, 2023, at Old Hickory Golf Club in Woodbridge. The foundation, which was established in 1985, provides educational opportunities, support and assistance to deserving students in the region.

The event attracted more than sixty-five golfers, including Archons and Archousai from six nearby member boulés. After teeing off at 8:30 a.m. on a beautiful day, they challenged one another over the 7,190-yard, par 72 championship course. The winning team – led by Archon Clarence Goldsborough of Beta Mu Boulé, Prince Georges County, Maryland, with his two sons Evan and Ethan, and guest Richard Jons – scorched the best-ball tournament with a score of 55 (17 under par). The winners were celebrated during an awards ceremony and a delicious lunch.

The foundation's first-ever golf fundraiser generated $200,000. All proceeds will support its Young Scholars Pro-



gram, an award-winning social action program dedicated to mentoring junior and senior high school students and providing college scholarships to students who complete the high school mentoring phase.

The tournament was conceived by BNEF chairman Archon Jeffery Eskridge and an ad hoc golf committee, consisting of Archons Les Smith, Kevin Jennings, Bob Hymes, Greg Hutchings and Earl Stafford, Jr., who also organized the day's events. Special kudos go out to the many contributors, notably Archon Warren Thompson of Thompson Hospitality Services, LLC, and Archon Victor Hoskins, who were platinum level sponsors.

Expected to become an annual event, this year's fundraiser was a noteworthy accomplishment, standing as a testament to the power of Beta Nu's collective efforts to help save lives, shape futures and create a legacy of excellence and empowerment for young men in the community.

Archon Benjamin A. Dinkins
Grapter, Beta Nu Boulé

Beta Xi Boulé Golf Classic Breaks Fundraising Record



In a dazzling display of camaraderie, skill and philanthropy, the 6th Annual Dr. David Robinson Golf Classic, hosted on December 11, 2023, at the prestigious Isleworth Golf & Country Club, is a testament to the power of community and mentorship. The event, presented by Central Florida's Beta Xi Boulé for the benefit of Young Black Men of Excellence (YBME), not only celebrated the spirit of golf but also aimed at fostering the development of future leaders through education and scholarships.

The program was founded in 2014 with the goal of nurturing young Black men to become extraordinary leaders by providing them with essential leadership training and activities. It instills values such as perseverance, integrity and resilience in its members, creating an environment where young men can embrace their individuality while nurturing the skills needed to excel in academia and beyond.

The YBME program is based in the knowledge that true success is determined by academic achievements and character development. The four-year program promotes and encourages growth through community involvement, cultural enrichment and service projects, pairing students with mentors who epitomize excellence themselves. These community leaders play a vital role in shaping the future leaders of our schools and communities and offer valuable opportunities for these young men to make a meaningful impact in their communities.

This year's tournament reached unprecedented heights, breaking records and achieving a remarkable milestone. The organizers of this year's annual golf tournament announced a staggering increase in funds raised – from approximately $100,000 last year to an astounding $370,000 this year. This significant leap in financial support is a testament to the enduring commitment and dedication of the community to in-

vest in the education and future leadership of young African American men.

All proceeds from this year's Dr. David Robinson Golf Classic will fund scholarships for graduates of the YBME program, ensuring that financial barriers do not impede the pursuit of knowledge and success. The average scholarship granted per student stands at $20,000, providing young Black men the opportunity to thrive in their pursuit of higher education. This year's exemplary success has not only opened doors for the sixteen scholars currently eligible but has also paved the way for upcoming program graduates and ensured the funding of future scholarships.

This year's outstanding success would not have been possible without the support of our community of sponsors and donors. Through these partnerships, we were able to secure vital resources and host an event where success was not only possible but inevitable. The collaboration with Nexus Marketing, combined with the prestigious Isleworth Golf & Country Club, played a crucial role in elevating the golf classic to new heights, bringing together a wealth of expertise, resources and innovative ideas that helped create a seamless and memorable experience for all participants. We extend special recognition to the key individuals whose tireless efforts and commitment made this year's tournament a resounding success: Sire Archon Michael Meares, recognized for his visionary leadership and guidance; Archon Rawn Williams, golf committee cochair; Archon Ron Oats, fundraising chair; Archon Arthur Lee, golf committee cochair and social action committee chair; and Badger, the presenting sponsor. Their contributions were instrumental in securing sponsorships, coordinating the event, and ensuring its overall success.

As we reflect on this year's achievements, let us remember that success is rarely achieved alone. It takes the collective effort of passionate individuals who believe in a common goal. We are immensely grateful for the support from Nexus Marketing, Isleworth Golf & Country Club, sponsors, donors, volunteers – everyone who played a part in making this tournament an extraordinary triumph.

The financial triumph of this year's tournament will have a lasting impact on the YBME program. This success will enable the establishment of an endowment, ensuring sustained scholarship funding well into the future. Let this be an inspiration for future endeavors – when we come together in collaboration and dedication with a shared vision, there are no limits to what we can achieve.

Next year's tournament will be held on December 6. All Archons and Archousai are invited to experience the splendor of Isleworth Golf & Country Club and support the scholarship fund for YBME.

Archon Jude H. Wilson
Grapter, Beta Xi Boulé

Beta Xi Fundraising Gallery

OPEN





Beta Sigma Boulé Continues Support for a Better Chance



Immediate Past Sire Archon Michael Weekes; Tim Cardillo, general manager of Balise Lexus; Archon Stefan Bradley; and Sire Archon Fred George

On October 14, 2023, Archons from Beta Sigma Boulé in Springfield, Massachusetts, continued their support of Amherst's A Better Chance (ABC) at its 51st Annual Fall Foliage and Cider Run. The 5k run/ walk to benefit ABC began at the Amherst Town Common and concluded on the campus of Amherst College. Archons Stefan Bradley, Michael Weekes and David Williams serve on the ABC board. Amherst ABC is a comprehensive residential program that helps prepare young scholars of color for successful acceptance and matriculation in colleges and universities. The organization has been opening the door to better educational opportunities for more than fifty years.

Archon Jeffrey L. Johnson
Grapter, Beta Sigma Boulé

Gamma Iota Foundation Holds Fourth Annual Umoja Karamu Celebration



Agogos Lomax Campbell, Grammateus Joel Frater, Archon David Cowens, Sire Archon Shaun Nelms, and Archons Matt Augustine, Bradley Turner and Emerson Fullwood

November 18, 2023, marked the fourth year of Rochester, New York's Gamma Iota Boulé Foundation, Inc.'s impactful organization of local Umoja Karamu festivities. Originating in 1971, Umoja Karamu, meaning "unity feast" in Swahili, serves as a cultural holiday fostering new meaning and solidarity within the Black family. Over the years, the foundation has distributed more than 1,300 Umoja Karamu Black Cultural Unity Boxes, each containing emblematic foods symbolizing unity, strength, struggle and liberation.

Grounded in principles of cultural literacy, capacity building and community service, this initiative has engaged more than twenty-five local organizations in packing and distributing these vital provisions, accompanied by literature enriching understanding and appreciation for this cultural celebration. The unity dinner, valued at approximately $40, authentically celebrates the legacies of people of African descent.

Gamma Omicron Spearheads Inaugural Scholarship Event



Gamma Omicron Sire Archon Kevin Scott with Dunamis Premium Spirits founder Victor Young

On Friday, October 13, 2023, Tampa Bay, Florida's Gamma Omicron Boulé, in conjunction with the Gamma Omicron Educational Services Foundation, held its inaugural Boulé After Dark: Havana Nights Fundraiser at the Tampa Garden Club. This bourbon-, wine- and cigar-tasting event featured live musical performances, unique food pairings from Baley Family Catering, and onsite representatives from Uncle Nearest, Dunamis Premium Spirits and Gaspar's Liquors. Close to one hundred attendees enjoyed the hand-rolled cigars and rare raffle items that assisted the foundation in raising money for several university scholarships for area youths.

During the tasting, the foundation also received a $27,000 grant from the AT&T Foundation to assist with its scholarship efforts. Cochairmen Archons Edwin Narain and Isaac McKinney spearheaded the event and are already planning next year's follow-up, which will be another grand affair.

Archon Lawrence W. Hamilton
Grapter, Gamma Omicron Boulé

Gamma Omicron Boulé Supports Onyx Ski & Sports Club of Tampa Bay



Archon Willie Felton

The Tampa, Florida–based Onyx Ski & Sports Club of Tampa Bay celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary golf tournament in October 2023, with the winning women's foursome consisting of Tampa Bay's Gamma Omicron Boulé Archousai Odessa Banks, Joyce Thornton and Lisa Hamilton and Kendra Messana, daughter of Archousa Banks and Archon George Banks. The Onyx Ski & Sports Club sponsors ski trips for minority youths from the Tampa Bay community, including some originally from the Congo, to the northeastern United States. Part of the funding for these activities is provided by the annual golf tournament.

In 2000 Archon Willie Felton and Archousa Suzanne Felton were invited by Archons George Banks and Cedric Thornton and their Archousai to the Black Ski Summit at Copper Mountain, Colorado. The Feltons had not skied before, and while Archousa Felton preferred the fireplace and warm drinks, Archon Felton took to the slopes in a big way: On his first day he stayed out so long that his Archon hosts were about to call for the St. Bernards and ski patrol.

All ended well, and Archon Felton later joined the Onyx Ski & Sports Club, serving as treasurer, vice president and eventually president of this esteemed African American organization. He promoted the club's program to attract minority youths to the sport of skiing. Archon Felton's favorite trip included a recent trip to New York State, where, after the ski trip, the young people visited Harlem and mid-town Manhat-

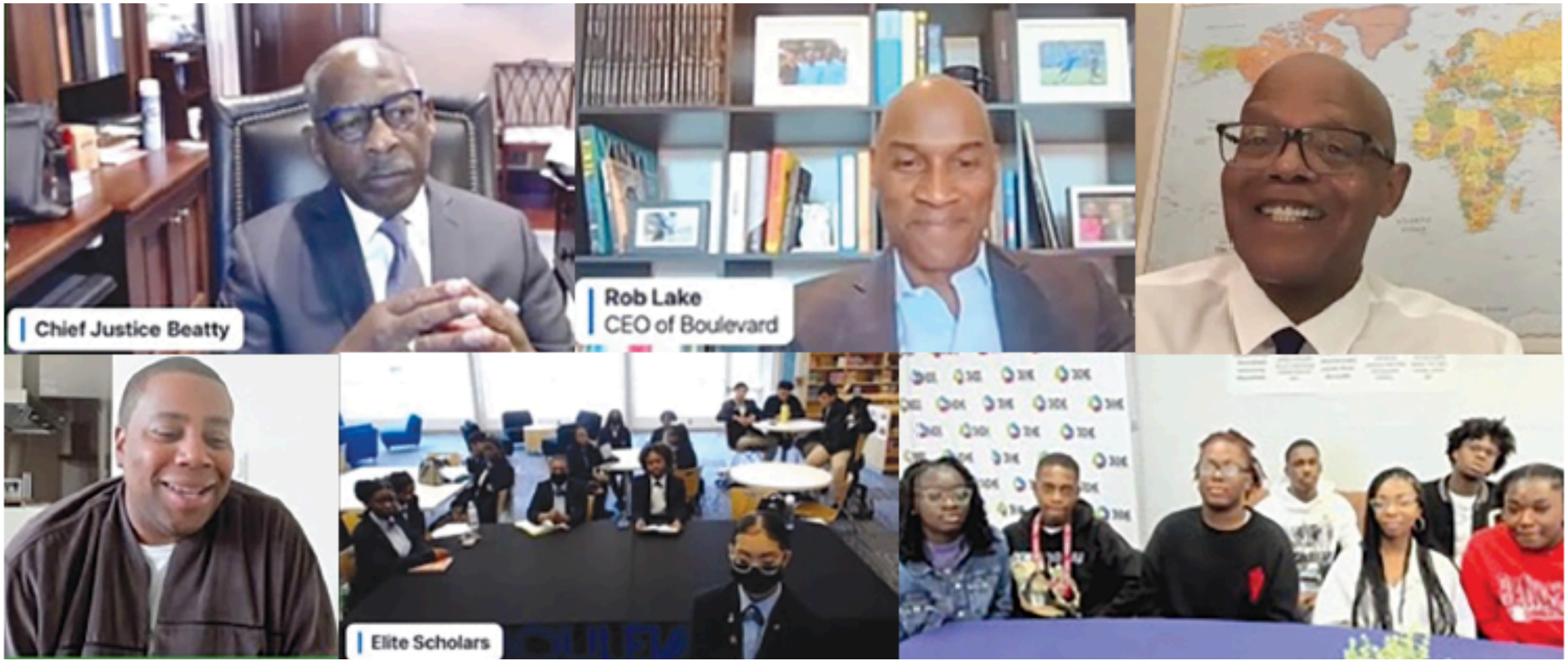


Archousai Joyce Thornton, Lisa Hamilton and Odessa Banks, and Kendra Banks-Messana, daughter of Archousa Banks and Archon George Banks

tan. In 2024 there are plans to take more than thirty students to the “Winter for Kids” ski event in New Jersey.

Archon Lawrence W. Hamilton
Grapter, Gamma Omicron Boulé

Delta Beta Boulé and Boulevard Launch Virtual Mentoring Initiative



Top row: Archon Don Beatty, Rob Lake, Archon Brent Clinkscale. Bottom row: Kenan Thompson and student participants.

In 2019 the social action committee of Greenville, South Carolina's Delta Beta Boulé began a strategic virtual mentoring initiative with Boulevard (formerly the Five Network), an organization that promotes mentoring high school students throughout the nation. Chaired by Archon Brent Clinkscale, the committee supported individual Delta Beta Archons in mentoring students through the Boulevard virtual mentoring app, communicating with them on a weekly basis and in-person Zoom mentoring sessions once a month. The initiative recently has included VIP Zoom mentoring sessions conducted through career-focused interviews of individual Archons with hundreds of high school students. Through this initiative Delta Beta positively affects thousands of diverse high school students throughout the nation.

As an expansion of the Delta Beta Boulé–Boulevard Mentoring Initiative, Delta Beta has formed a pilot program with

Boulevard and the University of South Carolina Upstate Spartanburg (USC Upstate). This mentoring initiative will focus on scholars – primarily African American males – at USC Upstate with a 3.0 or higher GPA. Pursuant to this program, the president of USC Upstate selected twenty-eight students to participate in the initiative, emphasizing networking, leadership, resilience, ambition, high achievement, career planning and career success. The students will also participate in VIP mentoring sessions with Delta Beta Archons and receive career mentoring advice from individual Archons, who will emphasize their own professional career path experiences, challenges and successes.

The students are linked to a global network of diverse Boulevard scholars from different universities nationally and worldwide. Through the global launch of the Delta Beta Boulé–Boulevard Upstate Scholars, which occurred on October 19, 2023, the students were connected with scholars at schools as diverse as Middlebury, Ramapo College of New Jersey, New York University and Howard. They also connected with a group of international scholars from Nigeria, Abu Dhabi, Taipei, The Netherlands, Buenos Aires and Romania.

Archons Sheldon Early, Cory Patterson, Clint Thompson, Max Allen, Alex Kinlaw, Ken Cummings, Michael Allen, Kenneth Robinson and Brent Clinkscale have all participated as mentors through the Boulevard virtual mentoring app. Archons Don Beatty, Kinlaw and Clinkscale have participated in the VIP Zoom career sessions through which they interacted with hundreds of high school students nationwide. Archons Kevin Bryant (insurance executive), Sheldon Early (private aerospace executive), Kevin Williams (dentist) and Michael Allen (architect) are scheduled for the first quarter of 2024 to participate in the VIP Zoom mentoring sessions along with the Upstate Scholars and a group of global scholars. The VIP sessions are conducted live, but they are recorded for continued use in the mentoring initiative.

The Delta Beta Boulé social action committee works closely with the Rob Lake, the CEO of Boulevard, and with Bennie L. Harris, the chancellor of USC Upstate, on this transformative and important initiative.

Archon Kenneth L. Robinson
Grapter, Delta Beta Boulé

Delta Gamma Boulé Awards Two Scholarships



JaNayan Manning



Kristan Howard

Delta Gamma Boulé in Tyler, Texas, presents scholarships each year to two outstanding high school seniors in the Tyler Independent School District. The scholarships are based on outstanding scholastic and community achievements. This year JaNayan Manning and Kristan Howard each received $1,000 for the 2024–25 academic year. Archon Jessie Rider, scholarship committee chair, and Archon Leroy Francis presented the scholarships to JaNayan and Kristan on June 24, 2023, during Delta Gamma's annual barbeque.

JaNayan Manning, a 2023 graduate of Tyler Legacy High School with a 3.72 GPA, was a vital voice for the AVID Program, serving as an academic coach for freshman study groups. As president and founder, he orchestrated the AVID Ambassadors on campus. He attends Sam Houston State University in Huntsville and plans to major in business management.

Kristan Howard is also a 2023 graduate of Tyler High School and has a 3.5 GPA. She was on A/B honor roll throughout her high school career. Among her extracurricular activities, she was first chair baritone player for three consecutive years and color guard captain for four years. Kristan attends the University of Texas at Arlington, where her intended major is sociology.

Archon Gregory O. Littlefield
Grapter, Delta Gamma Boulé

Delta Pi Boulé Creates HBCU Scholarship Fund



Archon Marcus Paul and Amuhelang Mbizo



Archon David Williams and Jamyla Feagin

On November 25, 2023, Delta Pi Boulé of Pensacola, Florida, created a scholarship fund for area high school seniors deciding to matriculate at HBCUs. The inaugural recipients were seniors Jamyla Feagin of West Florida High School, attending Jackson State University, and Amuhelang Mbizo of Pensacola High School, attending Alabama State University. Archon David Williams, Escambia County District 5 school board member, and Archon Marcus Paul presented Feagin and Mbizo each with a check of $1,500.

Archon Wilmoth H. Baker III
Grapter, Delta Pi Boulé

Epsilon Delta Boulé Presents Annual Health Careers Program



On December 11, 2023, as one of a series of STEM projects and to fulfill a strategic objective to expose students to a variety of career opportunities, Williamsburg, Virginia's Epsilon Delta Boulé presented its annual program about surgical careers to local high school students. This was the fourteenth school year of the Epsilon Delta Boulé Health Careers Program, and Archons and Archousai of Epsilon Delta served as organizers, leaders, advisers and sponsors of the program.

Epsilon Delta has partnered with the York County and Williamsburg-James City County school districts and Sentara Williamsburg Regional Medical Center to expose students to a wide range of careers in health care. On a monthly basis, it meets with the students at the Sentara Williamsburg Regional Medical Center. The program combines lectures, demonstrations, hands-on activities and tours encompassing specific health-care fields. Presentations are offered on surgery, nursing, dentistry, neuroscience, cardiology, EMT, medical technology, clinical laboratory services, dermatology, radiology, physical therapy, ophthalmology, respiratory care, biomedical engineering, pediatrics, pharmacy, sports medicine, infectious disease and quality control. Included in the discussions about each health-care field is a focus on the required duties, work environment, work schedules, educational qualifications, job prospects, licenses, certifications, registrations and average income.

The students are also educated about important personal qualities – detail orientation, manual dexterity, personal integrity, physical stamina and good stress-management skills – required for a given career. This year Sire Archon–Elect Carl Gibson, Archon Mark W. Clark (social action committee chair), Archousa Ethlyn Gibson and Archousa Jennifer Hughes planned and supervised the program. For the December event the students were taken to the surgical operating suite and rotated through several stations, including a suturing station for a demonstration and practice suturing.

Then they visited the da Vinci robotic surgery room, where they learned about laparoscopic surgery using robotic equipment. They participated in a simulated surgery during which they viewed a screen and practiced extracting objects



The Epsilon Delta Boulé Health Careers Program is very popular within the community and school system. This year, forty-seven students were enrolled. Our students have a history of pursuing majors and careers in medicine, nursing, physical therapy, pharmacy, medical technology, medical imaging, public health, dental hygiene and neuroscience. The program fulfills the mission and vision of the Grand and Southeast Regional Boulés, and the strategic goals and objectives of Epsilon Delta Boulé.

Archon Rondall W. James
Grapter, Epsilon Delta Boulé

(candy) from the abdomen of a model patient. There were demonstrations on endotracheal intubation. The students also, rather realistically, were able to practice performing a colonoscopy using a watermelon and a patient model. The students were very grateful for the learning experience.

Epsilon Zeta Boulé Makes a an Impact in Loudoun County



The vision of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity underscores the Fraternity's commitment to serving as a preeminent organization for Black men of achievement. It encourages Archons to become informed about and take action on community concerns and support initiatives benefiting Black youths, families and communities. Loudoun County, Virginia's Epsilon Zeta Boulé embraces and takes this vision to heart, and its 15th Annual Thanksgiving Day of Service in November 2023 exemplified the commitment to ensuring that 400 needy families received a large turkey and a $35 gift card for side items to complete their full Thanksgiving meal. In conjunction with the Day of Service event, Epsilon Zeta Boulé also proudly introduced its First Annual Winter Coat Drive.

The choice of Sugarland Elementary and Leesburg Elementary schools as distribution points for the meals was deliberate. More than 50 percent of the children attending each school qualified for the Loudoun County free lunch program, which serves children from families with incomes at or below the poverty level.

In addition to the core group of Archousai, family, scholars and friends, Epsilon Zeta Boulé was honored to be joined by eleven employees, family members and friends from Sallie Mae. Established in 2022 with a scholarship grant, this partnership has provided opportunities for African American males with exemplary GPAs to pursue higher education over the past two years. The 2021 Grand Boulé Scholar, Desmond Harris, and John Champe High School student Spencer Acquah, nominee for the 2023 Boulé Scholarship, also participated in the Thanksgiving Day of Service. Their involvement underscored the commitment to nurturing future leaders and scholars.

The newly launched Winter Coat Drive is aimed at significantly improving the lives of homeless and at-risk youths, with Mobile Hope, a dedicated organization, as the beneficiary. The spirit of giving and community support has always been at the core of Epsilon Zeta Boulé's mission. This year the member boulé expanded its philanthropic efforts to address the pressing issue of homelessness among young people, particularly during the harsh winter months. Homelessness can

be especially challenging for the young who lack the necessary resources and support networks.

The success of the coat drive was a testament to the unity and compassion of the Epsilon Zeta community. One hundred and forty-six coats for this noble cause were generously provided by Archons, Archousai, sponsors, former scholars, friends, family members and dedicated supporters. It was heartwarming to witness such a collective effort supporting the most vulnerable members of our community.

Mobile Hope, the chosen recipient of the coats, is an organization that has as its mission to provide essential resources and support to homeless and at-risk young people in our region. Their work is instrumental in ensuring that these young individuals receive the help they need to overcome the challenges of homelessness. The impact of a warm winter coat goes beyond its physical warmth; it warms hearts and changes lives. A quality coat can be a lifeline for these young people facing the harsh realities of life on the streets. It provides protection from the elements, a sense of dignity, and the knowledge that they are not alone and that their community cares.

The First Annual Winter Coat Drive symbolizes Epsilon Zeta's commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of those who need it most. It exemplifies dedication to serving the community during the holidays and throughout the year. As we look back on this inaugural effort, we are reminded of the words in the 2018–24 Strategic Plan of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, which envisions the Fraternity as a force for positive change. Epsilon Zeta Boulé embodies this vision by actively engaging with and responding to the needs of its community.

The coat drive is a testament to the enduring spirit of compassion and service that defines Epsilon Zeta Boulé. It reflects the commitment of Archons, Archousai, sponsors, former scholars, friends, family and supporters to make a lasting impact on the lives of homeless and at-risk youths. Sire Archon Mark More captured the moment best when he said, "We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who contributed to this noble cause. Your generosity has warmed hearts, changed lives and strengthened the bonds of our community. As Epsilon Zeta Boulé strives for excellence and service, we look forward to the positive changes and brighter futures our collective efforts will bring to those in need."

Epsilon Zeta Boulé expresses profound gratitude to all volunteers, supporters and those who selflessly devote their time and resources to help others in need. The 15th Annual Thanksgiving Day of Service was another huge success and exemplifies the enduring spirit of community, compassion and commitment that defines the boulé's mission to make a positive difference in Loudoun County.

Archon Robert S. Ferrell
Grapter, Epsilon Zeta Boulé

Epsilon Zeta Service in Loudoun County Gallery

OPEN





Epsilon Zeta Foundation Joins AACA for Empowerment



Check presentation to the African American Community Alliance recipient, Epsilon Zeta Boulé Foundation

Loudoun County, Virginia's Epsilon Zeta Boulé Foundation, a long-standing beacon of service in the county, is proud to announce a significant enhancement to its community-service initiatives, thanks to the African American Community Alliance (AACA). On December 14, 2023, at the Douglas Community Center in Leesburg, the AACA, recently bolstered by a $250,000 grant from the Claude Moore Charitable Foundation, embarked on a mission to uplift and empower African American families through an alliance of eighteen nonprofit organizations, including the Epsilon Zeta Boulé Foundation.

This partnership brings together a collective of powerful organizations dedicated to fostering equitable outcomes for African Americans. The Epsilon Zeta Boulé Foundation, with its rich history of mentorship and community service, aligns perfectly with AACA's vision, driving forward a shared mission of transformation and support within the community. The synergistic alliance has already borne fruit, with the foundation's being awarded a grant of $14,230 by the AACA to propel its signature Day of Service project, which now provides full Thanksgiving meals to more than 400 families in the Loudon County area. This grant will enable the foundation to extend its outreach and enhance its service projects, particularly focusing on underrepresented, underserved and at-risk children. This demographic lies at the heart of both organizations' missions.

The AACA's strategic and generous disbursement from the Claude Moore Charitable Foundation underscores a significant commitment to sustainable programs that deliver real impact. The Epsilon Zeta Boulé Foundation, through the Day of Service project and other initiatives, is set to play a pivotal role in translating this commitment into tangible actions that resonate within the community. Furthermore, the leadership team of the AACA, comprising members from its constituent organizations, exemplifies the strength and diversity of this alliance. The board of directors, featuring leaders like the foundation's Archon Patrick Brown, embodies a unifying leadership ethos, guiding the alliance toward achieving its goals.

As we celebrate this momentous support, the Epsilon Zeta Boulé Foundation extends its gratitude to all volunteers and supporters. Their devotion enables us to forge ahead, ensuring that initiatives like the Thanksgiving Day of Service continue to be a staple of community support and engagement. The collaboration between the foundation and the AACA represents more than a mere partnership; it is a powerful convergence of shared values and aspirations. Together we stand on the cusp of a new chapter where service, empowerment and community are at the forefront, heralding a brighter future. Together we are stronger, and together we will make a difference.

Archon Robert S. Ferrell
Grapter, Epsilon Zeta Boulé

Epsilon Lambda Boulé and PGA Jr. League Golf Program Celebrate



For the seventh consecutive year, Epsilon Lambda Boulé of Palm Beach, Martin and St. Lucie Counties, Florida, collaborated with PGA professionals at the newly expanded Sandhill Crane Golf Club in Palm Beach Gardens to host the Palm Beach and Treasure Coast Junior Golf Team. The 2023 team had thirteen participants, ages 5 to 15, who learned and practiced the essentials of the golf game. The six weekly sessions, which began in October 2023, were supported by Epsilon Lambda Archons and Archousai and the players' families and culminated in a medal ceremony, celebratory dinner and golf-themed desserts. Many of the returning children and their parents are eagerly awaiting our 2024 session.

Archon Gregory L. Williams
Grapter, Epsilon Lambda Boulé

Epsilon Omicron Participates in PGA Jr. League Program



On Saturdays and Sundays for six weeks from September through November 2023, North Houston, Texas's Epsilon Omicron Boulé conducted its fourth annual PGA Jr. League golf program. This year's program included sixty-three children ages 7 to 17. This collaboration between Sigma Pi Phi and the PGA of America, led by Archon Patrick Oldacre, was held at Kingwood Golf Advantage School (the Clubs of Kingwood) and concluded with an awards ceremony on November 12. The mission of this outreach is to introduce as many of our children as possible to the game of golf while sharing the principles and lessons that come along with it. More important, it serves as a great mentoring opportunity that has a huge impact on the lives of our youths.

The PGA Jr. League is the flagship youth pillar program of PGA REACH, with the goal of making the program accessible to all interested kids in the United States and around the world. The league is recreational and developmental in nature and works with PGA sections and local youth organizations across the country to offer an alternative social golf format. This unique approach highlights team play versus individual competition and serves as a feeder system to transition young



competition portion of the program. This program provides a fun, social and inclusive opportunity for boys and girls to learn and enjoy the game of golf under the direction of PGA and LPGA professionals.

Archon Eric T. Adams
Grapter, Epsilon Omicron Boulé

golfers to existing junior golf programs. It is a game-changing opportunity for boys and girls to learn and play golf.

The PGA of America and Sigma Pi Phi partnered to launch the Sigma Pi Phi–PGA Jr. League program with the aim of encouraging long-term mentor-to-mentee relationships and adding more diversity in junior golf. Through the six-week program, Sigma Pi Phi members and PGA professionals across seven U.S. cities (cohorts) will partner to introduce and/or mature the golf knowledge of participants from all socioeconomic backgrounds.

Funded by PGA REACH, the charitable arm of the PGA of America, participants are provided with numbered jerseys and utilize PGA Jr. League team format during the skills-

Epsilon Omicron Boulé Hosts Taminagiving Event



On November 17, 2023, North Houston's Epsilon Omicron Boulé's social action committee organized TaminaGiving, a Thanksgiving event held at the community center for nearby Tamina residents in need. Archons and Archousai volunteered by serving meals and donating desserts. The partnership with Tamina is consistent with the goals of the Epsilon Omicron Educational Foundation (EOEF): to provide charitable, educational and public service that support the goals and aims of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity. The EOEF has provided ongoing support over the years through donations, COVID-19 relief, and the Something Special for Seniors, Community Day of Service and Holiday Gift Giving events.

Tamina is one of the few remaining emancipation communities in the United States and is considered the oldest freedmen's town in Texas. The founding of Tamina can be traced back to 1871, when freed slaves in the area helped construct the Houston and Great Northern Railroad. The town became known as Tamina in 1897, when the name was submitted for the building of the community's first post office. Tamina Community Center was launched in August of 1998 as a nonprofit organization by the state of Texas. Located in the historic Tamina community of Montgomery County, the center's mission is to provide children, their parents and the entire community with access to valuable educational and health resources and other services.

Archon Eric T. Adams
Grapter, Epsilon Omicron Boulé

New Member Boulé

Zeta Zeta Boulé Is Chartered in Syracuse, New York



Front row, Gamma Iota: Archon David Cowens, membership council member; Grammateus Joel Frater; Sire Archon–Elect Jarrett K. Felton; Sire Archon Shaun Nelms; Agogos Lomax Campbell; Rhetoricos Glen Jeter; and Archon Emerson Fullwood, membership council member. Back row, Zeta Zeta: Archons Keith A. Alford and Walter James Hails, Jr., both membership council members; Sire Archon Derrick L. Murry; Rhetoricos Frankie B. Quarles; Archon Reginald H. White, membership council member; Agogos George A. Kilpatrick, Jr.; Archon Timothy C. Penix, membership council member; Grapter Bertram L. Lawson II; Archon Bruce L. Greene; Grammateus Robert L. Harris, Jr.; and Thesauristes Vincent E. Long.

By Sire Archon–Elect Jarrett K. Felton, Gamma Iota Boulé

The setting apart of Syracuse, New York's Zeta Zeta Boulé was held on December 6, 2023, at the Cobblestone Creek Golf Country Club. Zeta Zeta inducted eleven Archons into the Boulé at the ceremony and Archon Walter James Hails, Jr., transferred into the new boulé from Gamma Delta after the chartering. Gamma Iota Boulé of Rochester, New York, played an integral role in the chartering of Zeta Zeta Boulé and was honored to host Grand Sire Archon Antoine M. Garibaldi (Iota) and Grand Grammateus Samuel Bacote III (Kappa), who officiated at the chartering and induction. They

were joined by the following visiting Archons: Grand Sire Archon–Elect Loren R. Douglass (Zeta); Northeast expansion-team members Archons Archie Elam (Delta Nu), Martin Ferro (Epsilon Phi) and Todd Pilot (Epsilon); Northeast Regional Sire Archon David C. Tapscott (Epsilon Zeta); Northeast Regional Sire Archon–Elect Greg Walker (Beta Zeta); Past Western Regional Sire Archon Jesse J. Tyson (Epsilon Omicron); Past Northeast Regional Sire Archon Ronal E. Butler (Beta Nu); Alpha Kappa Sire Archon Stephen Clifford; Gamma Sire Archon–Elect Trent Williams; and Past Grand Sire Archon Gregory J. Vincent (Gamma Gamma).

This strategic expansion demonstrates Sigma Pi Phi's commitment to extending its reach and influence in the region, from Buffalo to New York City, thereby fostering synergistic opportunities and a united pursuit of its core principles. Zeta Zeta Boulé's charter officers are Sire Archon Derrick L. Murry, Grammateus Robert L. Harris, Jr., Thesauristes Vincent E. Long, Grapter Bertram L. Lawson II, Rhetoricos Frankie B. Quarles and Agogos George A. Kilpatrick, Jr. Committed to ensuring Zeta Zeta's success, Gamma Iota plans to hold joint meetings with Zeta Zeta for 2024 and 2025 in the spirit of upholding the values of the founding members and together promoting a strong fraternal bond, intellectual growth, financial prosperity and service to marginalized communities. The full list of Zeta Zeta's charter Archons follows.

Archon Keith A. Alford is dean of the University at Buffalo School of Social Work. He was previously a professor at Syracuse University's School of Social Work and the university's first chief diversity and inclusion officer. Archon Alford is a member of the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education, the Council on Social Work Education and the National Association of Social Workers. He has sat on boards and advisory committees for a number of organizations, including InterFaith Works of Central New York and AccessCNY, an agency serving the disability community.

Originally from Columbia, South Carolina, Archon Alford is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. He obtained a B.A. in history and sociology from Coker University and his M.S.W. and a Ph.D. in social work, with a specialization in family therapy, from the Ohio State University. He also has an honorary doctor of letters degree from Coker University.

Archon Daryll C. Dykes is an orthopedic surgeon at SUNY Upstate Medical University Hospital, where he specializes in adult and pediatric spine surgery. He is also a professor of public health and preventive medicine at SUNY Upstate Medical University, as well as SUNY Upstate's chief diversity officer and a member of the dean's executive committee at SUNY Upstate's College of Medicine. Selected in 2015 for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Fellowship, Archon Dykes is a diplomate of the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery and a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, the American Orthopaedic Association and the American College of Legal Medicine.

Archon Dykes was born in Syracuse and is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. He obtained an associate degree in mathematics and science from SUNY Onondaga Community College; a B.S. in biology from Syracuse University; his Ph.D. in biochemistry and molecular biology and his M.D. from SUNY Upstate; and a J.D. from William Mitchell College of Law, now the Mitchell Hamline School of Law. Archon Dykes completed his residency in orthopedic surgery at the University of Minnesota and fellowships in spine and trauma surgery at Twin Cities Spine Center and Hennepin County Medical Center.

Archon Bruce L. Greene is an associate professor of orthopedic surgery at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School. He has also served as a clinical assistant professor in the Rochester Institute of Technology's physician assistant program; clinical director of Cornell University's postbaccalaureate program in the Division of Nutritional Sciences, as well as team physician for men's and women's basketball at Cornell; director of physical therapy at Cayuga Medical Center; and an associate professor of exercise physiology at Ithaca College. As an orthopedic surgeon at the Guthrie Clinic, he received the Donald Guthrie Distinguished Provider Award for clinical excellence.

A native of New York City, Archon Greene obtained a B.S. in biology from Yale University, an M.D. from the Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and an M.H.A. from King's College. He completed two years of a general-surgery residency and then served his U.S. Public Health Service obligation in Newark, New Jersey. Archon Greene went on to complete a residency in orthopedic surgery and a sports medicine fellowship at Rutgers University before opening a private practice in Ithaca.

Archon Robert L. Harris, Jr., is a professor emeritus at Cornell University, where he was director of the Africana Studies and Research Center, vice provost for diversity and faculty development, special assistant to the provost, and a member of the president's cabinet. He was co–primary investigator with the provost of a $3.3 million grant from the National Science Foundation to advance women as faculty members in STEM fields and received the Cook Award for his commitment to women's issues at Cornell. Archon Harris has sat on a number of boards and commissions and has been a consultant for numerous historical projects.

A member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Archon Harris has been integral to recording the fraternity's history and received the Award of Merit, the fraternity's highest recognition. He was also awarded the Carter Godwin Woodson Scholars Medallion for distinguished research, writing and activism from the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. Archon Harris is originally from Chicago and earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in history, with honors, from Roosevelt University and his Ph.D. in history from Northwestern University.

Archon George A. Kilpatrick, Jr., is the president and CEO of Kilpatrick Media and Marketing. He has earned



Front row: Zeta Zeta Archons Walter James Hails, Jr., and Frankie B. Quarles; Grand Grammateus Samuel Bacote III; Grand Sire Archon Antoine M. Garibaldi; Grand Sire Archon–Elect Loren R. Douglass; Past Grand Sire Archon Gregory J. Vincent; and Zeta Zeta Archons George A. Kilpatrick, Jr., Bertram L. Lawson II and Robert L. Harris, Jr. Back row: Zeta Zeta Archons Keith A. Alford, Vincent E. Long, Derrick L. Murry, Reginald H. White, Timothy C. Penix and Bruce L. Greene.

regional and national recognition as an award-winning producer, writer and anchor for radio and television programming, including at iHeartMedia, previously Clear Channel Radio, and as executive

director and host of *Inspiration for the Nation*. Archon Kilpatrick has also held positions ranging from director of minority affairs for the city of Syracuse to director of community affairs at WCNY-TV (Central New York's PBS affiliate), where he also anchored, produced and hosted live and recorded programming.

A New York City native, Archon Kilpatrick is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and sits on the board of Symphoria: The Orchestra of Central New York and the Friends of the Central Library board of directors. He has also been president of the New York State Affirmative Action Officers Association and the Minority Economic Development Council. In addi-

tion, Archon Kilpatrick is founding organizer of the Syracuse Juneteenth celebration and is active with Vera House, which works to end domestic and sexual violence. In 2023 he received the Concerned Citizens Action Program's Pioneer Public Service Award. Archon Kilpatrick obtained a B.A. and his master of arts in public administration from Syracuse University.

Archon Bertram L. Lawson II is the president and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Brandywine, a $45 million social-enterprise organization that serves more than 80,000 people through nine branches and twenty program sites. He was previously president and CEO of the YMCA of Central New York, a $25 million association serving more than 60,000 people in Syracuse and Onondaga County through eight branches and one camp. Archon Lawson has also held executive positions at the Y in Central Maryland and the Greater Philadelphia YMCA, where he was vice president of operations, supervising nine executive-level directors and seven branches. In addition, he is the past chief operating officer of Mastery Schools, a network of charter schools serving 14,000 students in Philadelphia and Camden, New Jersey.

A member of the Lincoln University board of trustees and the *Community Rec* advisory board, Archon Lawson has also sat on the board of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Eastern PA–Delaware, among many others. A native of Philadelphia, he is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and obtained his B.A. in history and secondary education from Lincoln University and an M.B.A. from Wilmington University.

Archon Vincent E. Long is a controls supervisor for manufacturing, technology and engineering at Corning, Inc. He was previously an engineering department head at one of the largest manufacturing facilities at Corning, where he was responsible for process improvements, cost reduction and technology road map planning and managed the department's $5 million budget. Archon Long began his career at Rockwell Automation as a field-support engineer. He volunteers with Habitat for Humanity's Southeastern Steuben County Habitat Young Professionals, where he is chairman and founder, and has been a board member of Illinois Action for Children. A member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Archon Long is from Chicago and earned his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Florida A&M University.

Archon Derrick L. Murry is CEO of Retina-Vitreous Surgeons of Central New York. He was previously executive vice president, chief operating officer and chief business-development officer of the Syracuse Community Health Center. Before the health center, he was chief operating officer at North Medical Primary Care and St. Joseph's Physicians, now Trinity Health, where he was responsible for $60 million in operating funds and more than 500 employees.

A certified health-education specialist, Archon Murry sits on Excellus BlueCross BlueShield's Central New York regional advisory board. He has also been a member of the American

Heart Association advisory board for Syracuse, the Onondaga County health advisory board, and the Christopher Community, Inc., and Blueprint 15 boards of directors. Archon Murry, who is from Bangkok, Thailand, earned his B.A. in political science and health-information management from St. Louis University and an M.P.H. from Walden University.

Archon Timothy C. Penix is vice president of the SUNY Syracuse Educational Opportunity Center, which provides community-based academic and vocational programs and support services to adult learners and is administered by SUNY Morrisville. He supervises the center's executive leadership team, which is responsible for all operations, including facility management, administrative and instructional resources, inventory and physical assets, and emergency management. He is also responsible for public advocacy and is completing a $30 million capital plan. Archon Penix was previously associate vice president at SUNY Morrisville and director of the school's Sheila Johnson Institute.

A member of the CenterState CEO board of directors, Archon Penix has also been president of the Association of EOC Directors, was appointed to the Central New York Regional Economic Development Council and served three terms on the Central New York Community Foundation. From Rome, New York, he has held board memberships with the Onondaga Community College Foundation, the Southwest Community Center and the Central New York Community Foundation; he is also a founding board member of the Upstate Minority Economic Alliance. Archon Penix obtained a bachelor's degree in mass communications and a master's degree in administration and leadership from SUNY Plattsburgh.

Archon Frankie B. Quarles is chief of obstetrics and gynecology, as well as risk manager and patient-safety officer, at the Syracuse Community Health Center. He is a mentor with the SUNY Upstate Medical University Physician Assistant Program and has worked with the National Health Service Corps, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration.

From Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Archon Quarles is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. He earned his bachelor's degree in biology and psychology from Queens College of the City University of New York, his D.O. from the New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine, and an M.B.A. from SUNY Empire State University. Archon Quarles completed a residency in obstetrics and gynecology and was chief resident in his final year.

Archon Reginald H. White is vice president of human resources and organizational development at Connecticut College, where he is responsible for all aspects of HR – including recruitment and hiring, health and benefits administration, and professional development – for more than 700 employees. He was previously senior director of human resources for the research-and-innovation division at Cornell University, where he managed the delivery of HR services for 1,200 employees at more than twenty research centers. A di-

versity, equity and inclusion specialist, Archon White was chair of the Men of Color Colleague Network Group at Cornell. He also held executive-level positions at Toran Enterprises, LLC, a consulting firm; Merrill Lynch; and Fidelity Investments.

Archon White sits on the Community Foundation of Tompkins County board and its development committee. His past memberships include the Cornell University board of trustees, the Social Venture Partners Charlotte board of directors, and the boards at New Generation of African American Philanthropists and the Partnership, Inc. A native of Wareham, Massachusetts, Archon White is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. He earned a B.S. in psychology from Cornell University's College of Human Ecology, where he is an active alumnus, and his Executive M.B.A. from Boston University's Questrom School of Business.

The New Archons



Gamma Xi Boulé Holds Historic Induction of Eighteen Archons



When Sarasota, Florida's Gamma Xi Boulé welcomed eighteen excellent men into Sigma Pi Phi on November 16, 2023, it was a historic event for Gamma Xi but also, perhaps, for all member boulés, not least because the coronavirus pandemic had placed significant limitations on Gamma Xi's recruitment of new members and subsequent induction ceremonies. With many of the COVID-19 restrictions no longer in effect, Gamma Xi, while remaining vigilant, embarked on a spirited effort to identify and attract prospective members who met the Boulé's lofty prerequisites of achievement and success.

Two hundred and ten Archons and Archousai attended the gala, which was held at the Lakewood Ranch Golf and Country Club and presided over by Sire Archon Carl Battle, with a full complement of Gamma Xi officers and their Archousai in attendance. Special guest Grand Grammateus Samuel Bacote III (Kappa) brought national and international perspectives to the event and later spoke eloquently and at length about the Boulé's history and traditions. He had an informal lunch prior to the induction with a small group of Gamma Xi's leadership that gave him insight into the boulé's concerns and priorities. While the Archons were being inducted, Archousa Charmaine Downie, with the assistance of Archousai Deborah

Reaves and Jacqueline Ray, shared with the new Archousai a comprehensive history and overview of Sigma Pi Phi and Gamma Xi programs and activities. The distinguished new Archons of this historic induction included:

Archon Lawrence Bailey recently retired as director of dentistry and associate medical director at Renaissance Health Care Network Diagnostic and Treatment Center and Harlem Hospital Center. He is a past president of the New York County Dental Society and the New York State Academy of General Dentistry. Archon Bailey has long been committed to civic and community affairs, with a particular focus on services to vulnerable and traditionally underserved populations, especially that of central Harlem. He earned a B.A. from the University of Nebraska, a D.D.S. from Howard University College of Dentistry and an M.P.H. from the Columbia University School of Public Health.

Archon Charles W. Brown is a past director of human resources for Merck's global pharmaceuticals business, where he created a minority summer intern program for sales representatives and partnered with Florida A&M University to recruit students completing their M.B.A. He was also an adjunct professor at Rutgers University's graduate program in human resources management. Virginia Union University, from which he earned a B.S., recognized him in 2014 as a Distinguished Alumnus in business, and he raised the second-highest donation amount of any class in the school's history.

Archon Gerald W. Bruce is CEO of Virpax Pharmaceuticals, a company that specializes in developing nonaddictive products for pain management. An executive with more than thirty years of experience in the pharmaceutical and medical-nutrition industries, he is also a member of the Virpax board of directors. Archon Bruce has also been a member of the Visible Men Academy Board of Directors and is chairman of the board of trustees of Lincoln University, where he earned a B.A. in business administration. He also has an executive master's degree in leadership from the Georgetown University McDonough School of Business.

Archon Donald E. Frieson is executive vice president of the supply chain at Lowe's Corp. His long and distinguished career in the retail industry includes senior executive positions at Sam's Club and Walmart, Inc., where his visionary leadership in business operations, supply chain and fleet management helped drive the company's profitability and global footprint. Archon Frieson sits on the Casey's General Stores Board of Directors and is an active member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. He earned a B.S. in business administration from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, where he was named among its distinguished alumni in 2022.

Archon Darren L. Gambrell is associate director of the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at the University of South Florida's Sarasota-Manatee campus. He was previously assistant director of the Office of Student Services and supervised the Office of Multicultural Affairs. As vice presi-

dent of the Student Government Association, he assisted USFSM in securing $26.9 million for the current campus. His numerous honors include, most recently, receiving *Sarasota Magazine*'s Unity Award in 2023. Archon Gambrell earned bachelor's degrees in psychology and criminology from the University of South Florida.

Archon Trevor D. Harvey is coordinator of student support services at State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota, and president of the Sarasota County Branch of the NAACP, where he coordinates programs ranging from housing and economic development to education and religious affairs. Long active in his community, he sits on the Economic Development Foundation of Sarasota County Board of Directors and the Economic Development Corp. of Sarasota County's diversity, equity and inclusion committee. Archon Harvey is also a member of the Community Foundation of Sarasota's equity and access grant committee and the Newtown Alive task force. He earned his B.A. in business management and administration from Eckerd College.

Archon Lawrence M. Lawson is a retired judge who served for twenty-seven years on the Superior Court of New Jersey, where he mentored other African American lawyers and judges. Since retiring, he has served as counsel with McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter, LLP. A member of the Monmouth Medical Center Board of Trustees, Archon Lawson sits on a number of local and state committees and is active with Light of the World, Sarasota, a nondenominational church. He has received numerous awards from legal and community associations, including the Professional Excellence Lifetime Achievement Award from the *New Jersey Law Journal* and the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Man of the Year Award. Archon Lawson earned a bachelor's degree in sociology and anthropology from Bowie State University and his J.D. from the Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law.

Archon Kelvin L. Lumpkin is senior pastor of Light of the World, Sarasota, the largest and most influential Black church in the Sarasota and Bradenton areas. He is a past member of the board of directors of the Community Foundation of Sarasota, where he has been very active as a mediator and advocate for improving relationships and defusing conflicts between members of the community and the police. Archon Lumpkin is pursuing a master of divinity degree at Virginia Union University's Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology and earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Bethune-Cookman University. One of the few inductees to speak during the ceremony, he said, "A Black fraternity has a special place [in society] today. I am pleased to be working together with Black men. Iron sharpens iron."

Archon Victor McTeer is a retired lawyer who, during his career of more than forty years, litigated many civil rights cases following his decision to go to Mississippi after law school. At age 25 he became one of the youngest lawyers to bring a civil rights case before the U.S. Supreme Court. Archon McTeer has also mentored many African American stu-

dents interested in law, as well as those who became lawyers. He is the recipient of numerous national and local awards for his professional achievements and philanthropy. Archon McTeer earned a bachelor's degree in political science from McDaniel College and his J.D. from Rutgers Law School. At the induction he spoke pointedly about the importance of the work being done by HBCUs. Archon McTeer also expressed that it was a privilege to become a part of Gamma Xi. With much emotion, he ended his remarks by simply saying, "It is an honor to be amongst you."

Archon Vincent J. Napoleon is a business leader, legal executive and retired U.S. Air Force Reserve colonel with extensive experience representing global Fortune 100 and 500 companies in industries including consumer, aerospace, defense technology, advanced technology and life science. He is the founder and principal of Eagle Consulting Advisors and an arbitrator for National Arbitration and Mediation. Vice chairman of the Church Farm School Board of Directors and treasurer of the Bishop John T. Walker School for Boys governing board, he is also a member of the Boy Scouts of America National Capital Area Council executive board. Archon Napoleon earned his B.S. in business administration from the George Washington University McDonough School of Business and a J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law.

Archon Greg Parris is an accomplished financial-services professional who has held a number of executive positions, including senior vice president for global banking and markets at Bank of America, senior vice president at JPMorgan Chase & Co., and senior finance director for corporate information management with McGraw Hill Financial. He is past president of 100 Black Men of New Jersey, where he was involved in mentoring and numerous activities helping those in underserved communities. Archon Parris has a B.A. in accounting from New York University's Stern School of Business and an M.B.A. from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

Archon Melroy Patterson, Jr., is industry executive for the professional-services industry at JPMorgan Chase & Co., which includes accounting, architectural, consulting, engineering and law firms. He was previously a senior relationship manager in the global banking group at Bank of America and has also held leadership positions at Bank of New York Mellon and National Westminster Bank. Throughout his career, Archon Patterson has been at the forefront in mentoring younger people of color in the banking and finance industry. He has a B.S.B.A. from Thomas Edison State University and an M.B.A. from Columbia Business School. Archon Patterson is FINRA certified and holds Series 7 and Series 63 securities licenses.

Archon Cecil B. Pickett is an expert in drug development, bringing to the pharmaceutical industry the essential scientific research to the development, marketing and manufacturing of advanced drug therapies. He is the past president of research and development at Biogen Idec and has held posi-

tions at the Schering-Plough Research Institute and Merck Research Laboratories. Archon Pickett – who was elected to the Institute of Medicine, now the National Academy of Medicine, at the National Academy of Sciences in 1993 – has long been an advocate for diversity and inclusion in the medical sciences and the pharmaceutical industry. He earned his B.S. in biology from California State University at Hayward (now Cal State East Bay) and a Ph.D. in cell biology from the University of California, Los Angeles. Another of the few newly inducted Archons to speak at the ceremony, Archon Pickett noted, "Wisdom comes naturally to the well trained."

Archon Derrick L. Randall is a clinical social worker with substantial experience in the nonprofit sector. He is the chief executive officer of United Community Centers and the founder, chairman and CEO of the D.L. Randall Foundation. An Iraqi War veteran and Purple Heart recipient, Archon Randall specializes in the administration of progressive systems and applications to encourage youth empowerment, community stabilization and relationship building. A member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, he earned his B.S.W. and M.S.W. from St. Leo University, a Ph.D. in human behavior from Capella University, and an Ed.D. from St. Thomas University.

Archon M. Rodney Robinson is a seasoned professional in online advertising sales and management who has worked with Fortune 100 companies to drive business growth. He has managed key startup offices for *USA Today*, where he was director of online advertising sales, and NBC, where he was vice president of online Midwest ad sales. As industry manager at Meta, formerly Facebook, Archon Robinson led growth from six office employees in 2020 to more than 500 in 2022, most of them people of color. He also founded Blacks in Tech in the Chicago market. He is currently director of the Robinson Family Foundation and sits on the Dean College board of trustees. A member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Archon Robinson earned his bachelor's degree from Brown University.

Archon Mark Smith is cofounder of MGEP Fundraising and Consulting and directs advancement at Centerstone's Foundation, the fundraising arm of Centerstone health system. An experienced marketing and fundraising executive in the nonprofit, cultural and educational fields, he was previously director of marketing for the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art. A member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Archon Smith has a bachelor's degree in hospitality management from Iowa State University and an Executive M.B.A. from Baylor University's Hankamer School of Business.

Archon Moses David Wilkins has more than thirty-five years' experience leading corporate global operations, supply chain and contracts. At Raytheon, where he was a vice president, he had operational oversight of fifty-four global factories, involving top secret and special-access clearance. Archon Wilkins, who was president of the Black Engineers and Native American groups at Raytheon, received the National Black Engineer Award for his efforts to ensure diversity

among younger engineers across the country. He earned a B.S. in economics and an M.B.A. from the University of New Mexico and a J.D. from Loyola Law School.

Archon Roderic L. Woodson serves as counsel at the Washington, D.C., office of Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein, LLP, where he provides advice and representation on matters before the executive departments, council and administrative bodies of the District of Columbia. A former partner at Holland & Knight, LLP, he is cofounder of the Academy of Construction & Design and was legal counsel to the D.C. Students Construction Trades Foundation, which recruited minority youths to pursue careers in the building trades. Archon Woodson received his B.A. in prelaw studies from the Pennsylvania State University and a J.D. from Howard University School of Law.

Archon Ronald T. Gault
Grapter, Gamma Xi Boulé

Four Outstanding Archons Join Delta Boulé



Newly inducted Archons Patrick Morris, Samuel C. Polk III, Alexander Wharton and Randelon D. Smith

Memphis's Delta Boulé inducted four accomplished Archons into the Boulé at a fall dinner gala on September 30, 2023, at the Stratford, an impressive new event space. Sire Archon Matthew Thornton III presided over the ceremony steeped in tradition, with Sire Archon–Elect Robert Cox, Grammateus Brian Coleman and membership council chair Archon Odell Horton assisting. The evening promised to be special from the outset when it was announced to applause that each inductee had joined at one of the Legacy Award levels, with an inspirational goal that Delta achieve 100 percent Archon participation by the end of 2024.

Two highlights of the presentation were addresses from Past Sire Archon Charles Carpenter, who gave an erudite sketch history of the Fraternity, and Grand Grammateus Samuel Bacote III of Kappa Boulé, who challenged the inductees to become better acquainted with Sigma Pi Phi's aims and purpose, as well as develop an experiential understanding of its traditions. Another special guest, warmly received, was Past Sire Archon Tony Holder, who now lives in Atlanta, where he

is also affiliated with Kappa Boulé. Stylishly attired Archousai added a picture of beauty to the induction when they streamed into the ballroom following the orientation from Archousa Nina Thornton. The evening ended with a celebratory toast to the new Archons and Archousai by Archon Esmond Arrindell, Sr.

Archon Patrick Morris is a senior attorney for litigation at Federal Express Corp. He was recently elected clerk of the American Bar Association's (ABA) Young Lawyers Division, appointed to the ABA's Commission on Governance, named a fellow of the American Bar Foundation and a 2023 fellow of the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity, appointed to the Tennessee Bar Association Young Lawyers Division board, and selected barrister of the Leo Bearman, Sr. American Inn of Court. Archon Morris received his B.S. in finance and economics from the Haslam College of Business at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and his J.D. and graduate diploma in comparative law from the Paul M. Hebert Law Center at Louisiana State University. He is married to Archousa Kimberly M. Morris, who is senior diversity, equity and inclusion and culture specialist at FedEx Freight. His hobbies include golf, snowboarding and obstacle racing.

Archon Samuel C. Polk III is a physician whose practice in physical medicine and rehabilitation stretches throughout the Greater Memphis area. He is a graduate of Morehouse College, where he received a B.S. in biology, and earned an M.D. from Meharry Medical College. Archon Polk is married to Archousa Elise N. Polk, who is a quality control supervisor and laboratory technician. Archon and Archousa Polk have two children: Samuel Ethan Polk IV and Eli Channing Polk. Among Archon Polk's hobbies are golf, football and Formula 1 racing, as well as community service, firearms and automobiles. During his induction, he said that he was "ecstatic" to be a part of the Boulé and was "looking forward to our brotherhood."

Archon Randelon D. Smith is a physician specializing in gastroenterology and hepatology with more than fifteen years of medical service. The Germantown, Tennessee, resident obtained a B.S. in biology from Southern University, an M.S. in organismal biology and ecology from the University of Memphis, and an M.D. from the College of Medicine at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, where he also completed his residency. Southern University inducted Archon Smith into its Sports Hall of Fame for tennis in 2023. His Archousa, La Treka G. Smith, keeps busy as a stay-at-home mom. They have two children: Owen J. Smith and Olivia D. Smith. In his spare time, Archon Smith plays golf, tennis and pickleball. He is also an avid cyclist. Archon Smith looks forward to being part of such a distinguished organization.

Archon Alexander Wharton is a practicing attorney in civil litigation and a partner at the Wharton Law Firm, which is owned and operated by the Wharton family. He was recognized by the *Memphis Business Journal* as Best of the

Bar in 2022 and is chair of the board of directors of Just City, an organization that works to ensure that all aspects of justice are within reach for the disenfranchised, regardless of race, ethnicity or income. Archon Wharton earned a B.S. in aviation management cum laude from Hampton University and a J.D. from the University of North Carolina School of Law. He is married to LaToya Monique Wharton, who is senior adviser of strategic marketing for ALSAC/St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Archon and Archousa Wharton have three children: Alexandria, Anderson and Adam. Archon Wharton's diverse hobbies include golf, reading, sports of all types and voting rights.

Archon Ronald A. Walter
Grapter, Delta Boulé

NEW YORK CITY

Zeta Boulé Inducts Four Worthy Archons



Archon Gregory Meeks

New York City's Zeta Boulé inducted four new Archons during a ceremony held at the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) in the David Dubinsky Student Center on the evening of October 28, 2023. Past Zeta Sire Archon and Grand Sire Archon–Elect Loren Douglass, Archousa Michelle Douglass, Past Grand Sire Archon Jim Cole and Archousa Ada Cole were in attendance. Archousai Charlene Dewey Riley, Michelle Douglass, and Joyce Brown, president of FIT and our host for the evening, led an introduction ceremony for the new Archousai.

Archon Gregory Meeks is in his thirteenth term serving New York's Fifth Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives, one of the most diverse constituencies in the nation. Archon Meeks is part of the forward-thinking, pro-growth New Democrat Coalition (NDC), the largest ideological caucus in Congress. He cochairs the NDC Trade Task Force. He is also chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, the first Black member of congress to serve as chair. Archon Meeks is a senior member of the House Financial Services Committee, where he served as chairman of the Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Financial Institutions, which oversees all financial regulators such as the FDIC, the Federal Reserve and all matters pertaining to consumer credit and the stability of the banking system.

Archon Meeks received his bachelor's degree from Adelphi University and his law degree from Howard University. He is a member of the Allen AME Church in St. Albans, New



Archon Robert Reed

York, and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. Archon Meeks enjoys watching the Knicks, Giants and Mets. He is married to Archousa Simone-Marie Meeks and has three daughters – Ebony, Aja and Nia-Aiyana.

Archon Robert Reed was elected a New York County Supreme Court Justice in 2016 and in October 2020 was assigned to the court's Commercial Division. Archon Reed was initially elected to a ten-year term on the New York City Civil Court and subsequently served as acting judge in Bronx Family Court, Bronx County Civil Court and acting justice of the Supreme Court. Prior to taking the bench, Archon Reed practiced at Carpenter Bennett & Morrissey; Sive, Paget & Riesel, PC; Williams & Harris LLP; and Bryan Cave LLP, as well as a brief stint exploring solo practice. He was assistant attorney general in the litigation and criminal prosecutions bureaus before becoming deputy bureau chief of the Civil Rights Bureau.

Archon Reed has been a member of the NAACP Mid-Manhattan Branch, Park Avenue United Methodist Church, Metropolitan Black Bar Association, New York State Unified Court System's Statewide ADR Advisory Committee, New York County Courts Public Access Law Library, Children for Children Foundation and the New York League of Conservation Voters governing boards. He is also a member of the New York State Bar Association and numerous legal organizations. Archon Reed graduated from Stanford University and Harvard Law School and he is married to Archousa Annette Gordon-Reed.



Archon Christopher Robinson

Archon Christopher Robinson is a partner in the private funds group and member of the corporate department at Proskauer. He primarily focuses his practice on representing buyers and sellers, as well as market intermediaries, in connection with complex secondary transactions. In addition, he regularly represents sponsors of, and institutional investors in, private investment funds, including buyout, energy, credit, mezzanine, healthcare, real estate, venture capital, special situation and secondary funds, including separate and other managed accounts. Archon Robinson has significant experience with a diverse group of private investment firms and select representative sponsor clients.

Prior to joining Proskauer, Archon Robinson was a corporate partner at Kirkland & Ellis LLP. He is a member of the New York City Bar Association and a director on the Metropolitan Golf Association, Summer Steps, Brick Church School, Riverside Hawks and Evans Scholar Foundation boards. A graduate of Howard University and Seton Hall University School of Law, Archon Robinson is married to Archousa Cari Robinson.

Archon Shelley Stewart III is a senior partner and leader in McKinsey & Company's global Marketing and Sales and Private Equity practices. He has led growth focused engagements with numerous privately held and publicly traded companies to help design new go-to-market models, improve effectiveness of sales forces and improve the bottom-line through comprehensive margin management transforma-



Archon Shelley Stewart III

tions. Additionally, Archon Shelley leads the McKinsey Institute for Black Economic Mobility, a think-and-do-tank focused on catalyzing solutions to improving economic outcomes for Black individuals and families. He has published numerous articles, the media widely covers his work, and he is a noted speaker on the topic.

Archon Shelley is on the board of directors of the National Black MBA Association and the Brooklyn Community Foundation. In 2022 he was named a Notable Black Leader by *Crain's* New York Business as well as one of the Most Influential Black Executives in Corporate America by *Savoy* magazine. Archon Shelley has a B.A. in Economics from Boston College, an M.B.A. from Columbia University and an M.P.A. from Harvard University. He is married to Archousa Rochelle Stewart.

LOS ANGELES

Two Distinguished Men Are the Newest Members of Xi Boulé



Sire Archon George Mallory, Archousa Brenda Mallory, Archousa Deleyla Mallory and Archon Ryan T. Mallory

Xi Boulé of Los Angeles inducted two Archons on November 9, 2023, at the Wilfandel Country Club in a ceremony presided over by Sire Archon George Mallory.

Archon Ryan T. Mallory is a managing director with City National Bank, where he is one of the youngest bankers to achieve that position. He was previously an associate in leveraged finance at Wells Fargo Securities. Archon Mallory's Boulé roots run deep. His grandfather, the late Archon George Mallory, Sr., was an esteemed member of Gamma Zeta Boulé, and his father, George Mallory, Jr., is Xi's current Sire Archon. Archon Mallory also credits his career choice to Xi Archon Cliff Johnson, who was instrumental in forging his entry into the capital-markets arena. Archon Mallory is proud to carry on his family legacy as a third-generation member of the Fraternity.

Archon Mallory is also eager to continue Xi's well-documented history of empowering young African American men. He is active with Change the Tune, a nonprofit that administers after-school programs. He also sits on the Brentwood School's finance subcommittee. A native of Los Angeles, he earned a B.A. in philosophy from the University of Pennsylvania and his M.B.A. from the University of Southern California's Marshall School of Business. Archon Mallory and Archousa Deleyla Mallory, who practices commercial litigation and consumer finance law, have a precocious 4-year-old daughter, Mila, who impatiently awaited the arrival of her baby sister due in February 2024.

Archon Arthel McDaniel III is co–managing partner of the Polsinelli, LLP, Los Angeles office. He leverages his expertise at the law firm to help clients navigate complex issues inherent in commercial-lending transactions, securitization, tax-credit finance and other structured financial transactions. Archon McDaniel is cochair of the Polsinelli African American Resource Group, also known as Polsinelli | Black; sits on Polsinelli's diversity, equity and inclusion committee and its national recruiting committee; and runs Polsinelli's summer program. He was named by the *Los Angeles Business Journal* as one of the Most Influential Minority Lawyers in 2016.

A native of Olathe, Kansas, he has numerous professional affiliations, including the American Bar Foundation, the American Bar Association, American Mensa, Ltd., Business Forums International and the John M. Langston Bar Association. He is also a proud member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. Archon McDaniel earned his B.A. in history with honors from the University of Kansas, where he was a Solon E. Summerfield Scholar, Kansas University Honors Scholar and National Achievement Scholar. He earned his J.D. from the UCLA School of Law, where he was a staff editor of the *National Black Law Journal*. Archon McDaniel and Archousa Kirra Jones, who is an attorney, have three daughters: Aspen, Grace and Annelise.

Archon de Winter L. Stewart
Grapter, Xi Boulé



Archousa Kirra Jones and Archon Arthel McDaniel III

Alpha Beta Boulé Presents Eight New Archons



Richmond's Alpha Beta Boulé proudly inducted eight distinguished Archons on October 13, 2023. Sire Archon Kenneth Johnson presided over the ceremony, which was held at the McGuireWoods law firm. Alpha Beta celebrated the monumental occasion afterward at the historic Jefferson Hotel. The boulé is immeasurably enriched by the induction of these eight outstanding Archons.

Archon Kenneth E. Ampy is CEO and cofounder of Astyra Corp., a firm that provides workforce solutions and staffing. He brings the technology, business and problem-solving expertise developed over a thirty-year career to his leadership role at the company, which he cofounded in 1997. Archon Ampy is a seven-time gubernatorial appointee and sits on a number of boards and committees, including the Virginia Credit Union board of directors, where he is chairman; the ChamberRVA, where he is treasurer; and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, where he is also chairman. His past board memberships include the Old Dominion University board of visitors and advisory board and the Metropolitan Business League board of directors.

Archon Ampy's numerous honors include being named to *Virginia Business* magazine's inaugural list of Black leaders

and receiving the Metropolitan Business League's Distinguished Community Service Award. He earned a B.S. in computer science from Old Dominion University and has attended executive-management programs at schools including the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business, the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University and the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business. He is married to Archousa LaTrice S. Ampy.

Archon Lamont Bagby has served his community as an elected official for the past sixteen years – almost eight as a member of the Henrico County school board and more than eight in the Virginia General Assembly. As a current member of the Senate of Virginia and chair of the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus, he has worked across the aisle and championed legislation focused on ending the school-to-prison pipeline; building affordable housing; championing criminal-justice reforms; protecting voting rights; and pursuing environmental justice, consumer protections and more. He was previously a member of the Virginia House of Delegates. Prior to his political career, Archon Bagby was a teacher and administrator at his alma mater Henrico High School. He is a current member of the VCU Health System Authority board of directors and a former member of the Norfolk State University board of visitors.

Archon Bagby holds a B.S. in business education from Norfolk State University and an M.Ed. and M.P.A. from Virginia Commonwealth University. He has also been awarded honorary doctorates from Norfolk State University and Virginia Union University. Archon Bagby is married to Archousa Jevata Herman Bagby.

Archon Victor K. Branch is president of Bank of America's Richmond market, where he oversees almost 2,000 employees. Archon Branch has almost forty years of experience with Bank of America and is the first African American president of a national bank in Richmond. A highly involved member of his community, Archon Branch is vice chair of the Community Foundation for a Greater Richmond board and chairman-elect of the Virginia Bankers Association board of directors. He also sits on the Virginia State University board of visitors, the Virginia Museum of History & Culture and Virginia Foundation of Independent Colleges boards of trustees, and the Venture Richmond and ChamberRVA boards of directors.

The recipient of numerous honors in recognition of his impact in the community, Archon Branch was most recently named to *Virginia Business* magazine's Black Business Leaders Hall of Fame and Heavy Hitters list of Virginia's fifty most powerful and influential leaders in 2023 and received the 2023 Humanitarian Award from the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities. He earned a B.A. in sociology from William & Mary and served on its board of visitors from 2018 to 2022. Archon Branch and Archousa Michele Bethune Branch have two adult daughters: Victoria and Stephanie. His interests include Bikram yoga, jogging and gardening.

Archon Ronald Carey is the CEO and founder of Tilt Creative + Production, a marketing firm that produces branded content for partners such as Audi, Capital One, HP and Walmart. He was previously president of Studio Squared and senior vice president at the award-winning Martin Agency. In 2022 Tilt Creative produced *The Birth of a Planet*, a documentary about *The Richmond Planet* – an African American–owned newspaper that chronicled stories about racism and oppression from the 1880's to the 1930's – and its editor, John Mitchell, Jr. That film aired on PBS and will be archived at the Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia and the Library of Virginia in 2024.

Currently president of the ChildSavers board of directors and a member of the Junior Achievement of Central Virginia executive committee, Archon Carey has also been a board member of the Virginia Athletics Foundation and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Richmond. The Richmond native received his B.A. in sports management from the University of Virginia, where he was also captain of the football team, and the mini M.B.A. from the University of Richmond's Robins School of Business. Archon Carey is married to Archousa Margaret Carey and has three daughters: Olivia, Eleanor and Kate.

Archon Wilson H. Friend is vice president of the customer supply chain at Altria Group, Inc., a Fortune 200 company. He leads the supply chain and distribution infrastructure for Altria Distribution Group Co., a function that is responsible for more than $24 billion in sales revenues. Archon Friend joined Altria in 1993 and has held several executive positions at the company, including senior director of account information services for Altria Client Services. Active in the Richmond community, he is a member of the Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia board of directors and the New Community School board of trustees. Archon Friend earned a B.B.A. from James Madison University and is an active alumnus. He and his Archousa, Gina Friend, were previously cochairs of the JMU Parents Council board. They have three daughters: Lori, Sydni and Halli.

Archon Thomas L. Ransom is president of the Virginia region for Truist Financial Corp., a leading financial-services company. He was previously head of sales and client-experience strategy at Truist and led Truist's partnership, scholarship and engagement strategy for HBCUs. Archon Ransom was also market president of the Greater Washington, D.C., region for BB&T, a Truist predecessor. An active volunteer, he was appointed by Virginia governor Glenn Youngkin to the Governor's Advisory Council on Revenue Estimates. His other board memberships include the national board of directors of Inroads, Inc., and the board of directors of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce; he is also chairman of the Corporate Advisory Council for U.S. Black Chambers, Inc. Archon Ransom's numerous honors include being named to *Virginia Business* magazine's 2023 Virginia 500 Power List.

Archon Ransom earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Hampden-Sydney College, where he was a four-year let-

terman on the football team. He was awarded a fellowship in public policy and international affairs at Princeton University and went on to receive his M.B.A. from the University of Baltimore. Archon Random also graduated from the ABA Stonier Graduate School of Banking Program at the University of Pennsylvania. He is married to Archousa Christy Ransom.

Archon Fred E. Shuford, Jr., is vice president of Fed-Cash engineering, quality and cash-operations technical support at the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, where he leads teams responsible for technology related to banknote-processing equipment, currency management and cash-operations support. He is also the founder and chair of the Richmond Fed African American Employee Resource Network. Archon Shuford joined the Richmond Fed in 2009 as a senior manager. His community involvement includes board roles at the Chesterfield Public Education Foundation and the Downtown YMCA of Greater Richmond. He earned his B.S. in zoology from Howard University, a master of teaching degree from the University of Richmond and an M.B.A. from Virginia Commonwealth University. Archon Shuford is married to Archousa Veronica Shuford and has two sons: Trey and Christian.

Archon Levar M. Stoney is serving his second term as mayor of Richmond. The youngest to hold the office, he was also the youngest member of then-Governor Terry McAuliffe's cabinet when he became the first African American secretary of the Commonwealth of Virginia in 2014. In that role, he was pivotal in efforts to restore the civil and voting rights of formerly incarcerated Virginia citizens. As mayor, he has emphasized economic growth and investing in the needs of children and families. Archon Stoney began his political career in then-Governor Mark Warner's office. He announced his candidacy to be the next governor of Virginia in November 2023.

A lifetime member of the NAACP, Archon Stoney sits on the Great Aspirations Scholarship Program board of directors and the Central Virginia Transportation Authority, where he is chairman. He was elected president of the Democratic Mayors Association in 2022 and is a member of the U.S. Conference of Mayors advisory board. Archon Stoney is also an executive committee member of the Democratic National Committee and former executive director of the Democratic Party of Virginia. He received his B.S. in public administration and political science from James Madison University. Archon Stoney was recently married to Archousa Brandy Washington Stoney.

Archon Brian P. Brown
Grapter, Alpha Beta Boulé

Alpha Epsilon Boulé Proudly Introduces Six New Members



New Archons Livingston Albritten, Jr., Anthony C. Coleman and Alfred "Chip" Johnson; Sire Archon Antonio Monk; and new Archons Andrew Leverette, Scott Minnix and W. Kelvin Walker

Dallas's Alpha Epsilon Boulé inducted six Archons on December 3, 2023, at the Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center at the University of Texas at Dallas.

Archon Livingston Albritten, Jr., is an executive director of wealth management with Morgan Stanley, where he is a management associate on the Texas– Mountain States team. He supports the overall leadership of the Houston Post Oak market, with $220 million in annual revenue, and the Greater Houston market, with annual revenue of $150 million. Archon Albritten previously held three concurrent leadership roles at Bank of America Merrill Lynch: He was the Bank of America Memphis market president; Merrill Lynch market executive for the Memphis–Little Rock wealth-management market, with $100 million in annual revenue; and chair of the Merrill Lynch Black–African American leadership council. Prior to Bank of America's acquisition of Merrill Lynch, he held several executive roles at Bank of America, including

consumer-market executive, regional business-support executive and sales-performance executive.

A life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Archon Albritten is president of the Diamond Achievers Foundation of Frisco – a STEM college-prep and mentoring group for young men of color launched by the Frisco, Texas, Alumni Chapter. He has a B.S. in office administration from Florida A&M University and a graduate degree from the Consumer Bankers Association Executive Banking School at Furman University. Archon Albritten and Archousa Phyllis Goss-Albritten have one adult son: Livingston "Tre" Albritten III.

Archon Anthony C. Coleman is executive director of the health care market at Genentech, a biotechnology company that invests in bold ideas and innovative solutions to address systemic inequities in science and medicine. As executive director, he is at the forefront of Genentech's vision. Archon Coleman is responsible and accountable for profit and loss performance, Genentech's entire portfolio of products, setting short- and long-term strategies, and exceeding revenue goals.

Archon Coleman received his B.A. in business from Middle Tennessee State University and recently completed the Genentech Leadership for Executive Advancement and Development course at Columbia Business School, led by the Columbia Business School Executive Education faculty. He has been married for thirty years to Archousa LaShaun M. Coleman, who is a therapeutic-area manager in the women's health/breast-cancer division at Genentech. The Colemans have three daughters: Danielle Coleman Allo, a recent graduate of the SMU Dedman School of Law, who is corporate counsel for Commerce Bancshares, Inc.; Alexandria M. Coleman, who recently earned an M.H.S. from Meharry Medical College and is a medical surgical intern with Medtronic; and Jaelynn, a ninth-grader at McKinney High School.

Archon Alfred "Chip" Johnson is president and CEO of Product Data Integration Technologies, Inc., or Modulant, an innovative cybersecurity, cloud and data-management software and services company. He was previously CEO of Presidio Media Group, a pioneering publishing company with a focus on business and alternative news, sports, and wine and spirits; president of Springbow Solutions, Inc., a digital-solutions company working with Fortune 1000 corporations; and president and CEO of the Walton Johnson Group, Inc., where he participated in more than $41 billion of transactions and managed the investment firm's wholly owned securities broker-dealer, asset-management company, automotive-manufacturing subsidiary and real estate– development company.

Archon Johnson began his career as a security and bond attorney with McCall, Parkhurst & Horton, LLP, representing global investment banks, states and local governments. He was also a finance commissioner for the state of Texas, involved in oversight of the banking industry, and a special assistant to a U.S. senator. Archon Johnson has sat on numerous

private and public boards of directors and has affiliations with several nonprofit organizations. He earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Morehouse College and a J.D. from Howard University School of Law.

Archon Andrew Leverette is owner and chief executive officer of RA-Lock Security Solutions, Inc., a distribution and manufacturing company specializing in security hardware. Along with his Archousa, Latisha L. Leverette, Archon Leverette also owns and operates Service Central, Inc., and Votex Surveying Co. Service Central manufactures locks and supplies casinos with metal cabinetry and other items; Votex provides professional surveying and mapping services to commercial land developers and real estate investors in North Texas. Before becoming an entrepreneur, Archon Leverette held various roles in the semiconductor industry, most notably at Texas Instruments as business-development manager and systems engineer, defining analog integrated circuits used in end products across automotive, industrial and consumer markets, including at Tesla, Apple and Ericsson.

Archon Leverette sits on the board of HAKing Innovation, a community-service nonprofit that introduces urban youths to STEM fields. He graduated from Prairie View A&M University with a B.S. in electrical engineering and from Stanford University with an M.S. in electrical engineering. Archon Leverette has two children.

Archon Scott Minnix is CEO of the SDM III Group, a national professional-services management consulting company. He is a seasoned executive coach and business leader who has led corporate transformations in organizational areas that include information technology, supply chain, human resources and procurement. Archon Minnix's career has also included significant municipal executive leadership roles. As director of Los Angeles County's internal-services department, he reported directly to the board of supervisors, managing a $5.6 billion budget and serving as chief procurement officer for the country's largest municipal government. Archon Minnix also oversaw infrastructure, facility management, and design and construction in Houston under mayors Annise Parker and Archon Sylvester Turner and was director of facility operations for the city of Seattle, leading sustainability efforts.

Archon Minnix's educational board memberships include the Hockaday School board of trustees and the board of directors at Emerge Fellowship, a Houston nonprofit with the mission of preparing students from underserved communities to attend selective colleges. He holds a B.B.A. from the University of Puget Sound, an M.P.A. from the University of Washington and executive education certification on cybersecurity from Harvard. Archon Minnix is married to Archousa Lanesha Minnix and has three daughters: Jasmine, 26; Ameenah, 25; and Alyssa, 18.

Archon W. Kelvin Walker is chief executive officer of the Dallas Citizens Council, made up of area CEOs and business leaders who provide guidance on the policy issues that

will move Dallas forward. Before leading the council, he spent twenty years in the private-equity industry, including as a managing director and Dallas-market executive at RLJ Equity Partners. Archon Walker was also previously managing partner of the 21st Century Group, a senior vice president at Mesirow and a vice president at Bank of America, among other executive positions. In addition, he has been an adjunct professor at the University of Texas at Dallas and Paul Quinn College, teaching corporate finance.

Archon Walker is a member of the Oncor Electric Delivery and Encore Wire Corp. boards of directors. His nonprofit service includes the YMCA Retirement Fund board of trustees and the Perot Museum of Nature and Science and the Cotton Bowl Athletic Association boards of directors. Archon Walker earned his B.A. in finance from Morehouse College and an M.B.A. from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University, where he was a Johnson & Johnson Fellow. He resides in Dallas with his Archousa, Celia, and two children.

Archon Kevin B. Wiggins
Grapter, Alpha Epsilon Boulé

Alpha Omicron Boulé Adds Three Business Leaders



Seattle's Alpha Omicron Boulé inducted three Archons into the Fraternity in a ceremony held September 16, 2023, at the Rainier Club.

Archon Raymond "Ray" K. Connell II is the Seattle-region managing director for the real estate–investment company Holland Partner Group. In that role he is responsible for site acquisition, deal underwriting and project execution for the region. Archon Connell was previously Bay Area development director at Holland Partner Group and, before joining the company, an acquisition and development manager at Lowe Enterprises. He graduated from Morehouse College

with a B.A. in business administration and earned an M.B.A. from the Wisconsin School of Business at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. He is the son of Alpha Omicron Archon Raymond A. Connell.

Archon Michael Conway is group president of international and channel development at Starbucks, where he is responsible for retail growth and operations in eighty markets across Asia, Europe, the Middle East and Africa, as well as for the consumer–packaged-goods business and strategic partnerships. He was previously executive vice president and president of international licensed markets at Starbucks. Before joining Starbucks, Archon Conway was worldwide president of McNeil Nutritionals, LLC, a division of Johnson & Johnson. He earned a bachelor's degree from Duke University, where he was captain of the lacrosse team and an all-American in the sport, and his M.B.A. from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

Archon Victor Solomon is director of enterprise accounts at McKesson Corp., a leader in pharmaceutical and medical-supply distribution. He is responsible for providing strategic direction and support to large health systems in the western United States, with a focus on renewing existing business and acquiring new business. Archon Solomon was previously a vice president at McKesson, leading the Northwest pharmaceutical sales team. Before joining McKesson, he was a commercial print-sales manager at NewPage Corp. Archon Solomon earned a B.A. in liberal arts and sciences from Seattle University and his M.B.A. from Pepperdine University's Graziadio Business School.

Archon Jerry Large
Grapter, Alpha Omicron Boulé

Alpha Chi Boulé Gains Two New Members



Past Sire Archon William Brewer II; new Archons Patrick N. Connally and Terrence "Terry" L. Frazier; and Archon Lloyd Bingman

Lansing, Michigan's Alpha Chi Boulé welcomed two new members on December 9, 2023, in a ceremony held at the University Club of Michigan State University.

Archon Patrick N. Connally is director of data analytics and digital strategy at business-consulting firm Clifton-LarsenAllen, LLP. He has held a number of leadership roles, including at Microsoft, where he was the national professional-services industry director for the U.S. subsidiary, and Teradata, where he led the federal-government consulting practice. Archon Connally was also director of the Minneapolis market's project-assurance practice at PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP.

A Denver native and life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Archon Connally is heavily involved with the Lansing-based Uplift Our Youth Foundation and the Movember Foundation, where he has been a champion and advocate for fifteen years. He is passionate about STEM advocacy and is active with the Information Technology Senior Management Fo-

rum; he is also a former national officer and regional adviser for the National Society of Black Engineers. Archon Connally has a B.A. in communications from the University of Denver, an M.S. in industrial technology from North Carolina A&T State University, an M.B.A. from Walden University and a Ph.D. in organizational development from Cabrini University. Outside the boardroom, Archon Patrick Connally finds balance in East Lansing with his Archousa, Quinetta Roberson Connally, and their son, Matthew, who is a freshman at Florida Atlantic University.

Archon Terrence "Terry" L. Frazier is special assistant to the vice president and chief diversity officer at Michigan State University, where he works to support the advancement of strategic priorities in diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). Beyond Michigan State, Archon Frazier has also made significant contributions in higher education administration, student affairs and DEI at institutions including Alabama A&M, Stephen F. Austin State, Iowa State, Ohio and Ball State universities.

Originally from Cincinnati, Archon Frazier has a B.S. in elementary education and an M.Ed. in higher education, both earned at Ohio University, and a Ph.D. in educational leadership and policy studies from Iowa State University, for which he wrote the dissertation, "African American College Men Holding Leadership Roles in Majority White Student Groups." Archon Frazier is a proud father of two daughters: Melia Frazier, 13, and Madison Frazier, 10. Beyond academia, he is also an entrepreneur alongside his Archousa, Nikki Frazier. They are the cofounders of Sweet Encounter Bakery and Café, which specializes in gluten-free desserts and other treats.

Archon Steven L. Lonzo
Grapter, Alpha Chi Boulé

Gamma Beta Boulé Inducts Five Formidable Archons



Archon Byron Boston



Archon Troy Bridge-forth



Archon Irvin Cohen



Archon Coley Jones



Archon Clarence Wilkerson

Jacksonville, Florida's Gamma Beta Boulé inducted five men of distinction into the Fraternity on November 10, 2023, at the Friday Musicale. The Archons all reside in Jacksonville, but their professional leadership and impact span banking, real estate, farming, manufacturing and finance.

Archon Byron L. Boston is CEO and co–chief information officer of Dynex Capital, Inc., as well as chairman of its board of directors. He previously also held the position of president at Dynex, a financial-services company with a focus on generating dividend income and long-term returns through the financing of real estate assets. Nationally renowned for navigating fixed-income capital markets, Archon Boston has held several leadership and entrepreneurial roles in asset management and investment banking during his career of more than thirty years. Before joining Dynex, he launched Sunset Financial Resources, a mortgage real estate investment trust specializing in high-quality residential and commercial loans and securities. Archon Boston was also a vice president at the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp., or Freddie Mac, and held positions at Credit Suisse First Boston and Lehman Brothers. He began his career at Chemical Bank, where he directed corporate loans and bond issuances.

Archon Boston earned a bachelor's degree in economics and government from Dartmouth College and an M.B.A., spe-



Grand Grammateus Archon Samuel Bacote; new Archons Coley Jones, Irvin Cohen, Troy Bridgeforth, Clarence Wilkerson and By-ron Boston; and Sire Archon Morris Applewhite

cializing in finance and accounting, from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. He is a member of the Salzburg Global Seminar board of directors.

Archon Troy W. Bridgeforth is a fifth-generation member of one of America's largest and oldest Black farming families, which has operated Bridgeforth Farms since 1877. In addition to producing cotton, wheat, corn and soybeans out of Huntsville, Alabama, Archon Bridgeforth now heads a rice-distribution and retail sales force from the family's rice mill in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. He was previously a strategic-operations program manager of highly classified weaponry and an engineer at Northrop Grumman, a primary Department of Defense contractor. Archon Bridgeforth was also a senior systems engineer with Syzygy Technologies, an aeronautics defense manufacturing firm, and an electronics and information technician with the U.S. Navy. He received a B.S. in electrical engineering from Southern Illinois University Carbondale and went on to earn his M.B.A. from the Crummer Graduate School of Business at Rollins College.

Archon Irvin PeDro Cohen is executive director of LISC Jacksonville, the local branch of the community-development firm Local Initiative Support Corp., where he brings more than fifteen years of leadership experience in community development and the development of programs that



benefit challenged communities. As executive director, Archon Cohen leads LISC Jacksonville's staff and programs focused on creating economic opportunity for local residents. He was previously vice president of operations and social responsibility at the First Coast YMCA, where he oversaw the $4 million campaign to construct the James Weldon Johnson Family YMCA Teen Center. Prior to that role, Archon Cohen led the city of Jacksonville's efforts with the New Town Success Zone for children and families.

A Jacksonville native, Archon Cohen received his B.A. in sociology from the University of North Florida, an M.B.A. in marketing from Pfeiffer University, and a doctorate in organizational leadership and nonprofit management from Nova Southeastern University. His research largely centered on education, health care and economics within communities of low socioeconomic status, including the role the African American church plays within that space.

Archon Coley Jones is a business-banking market executive for northern Florida, southern Georgia and Florida's Space Coast at Bank of America, a role to which he brings twenty years of experience to provide comprehensive financial solutions and advice to companies with annual revenues between $5 million and $50 million. Archon Jones has also held the position of vice president in the middle-market group for TD Bank. He began his banking career at Wells Fargo, where he was a vice president in the business-banking group.

Archon Jones's community service includes his role as executive sponsor of the bank's Black Professional Group em-

ployee network, as well as the Jacksonville chapter of the bank's Black Executive Leadership Council; he is also a member of the Jacksonville Public Education Fund board of directors and president of the Operation New Hope board of directors. Archon Jones received his B.S. from the University of North Florida.

Archon Clarence Wilkerson is vice president of national accounts for the Weyerhaeuser Co., a Fortune 500 wood-products company. He started his career with Weyerhaeuser after receiving a B.S. in business administration from Florida A&M University. Archon Wilkerson subsequently earned his M.B.A. from the University of Wisconsin School of Business. His community activities have included leadership positions with the Children's Home Society of Florida, 100 Black Men of Jacksonville, the Queens Harbour Yacht Club, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, and the National Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association, from which he received the Chairman's Award.

Archon Roger M. Groves
Grapter, Gamma Beta Boulé

Gamma Gamma Boulé Salutes Seven New Members



New Archons Ed Ward, Richard Reddick, Mel Parker and Anthony Owens; Sire Archon Joseph Parker; and new Archons Marcus Myers, Craig Moore and Brice Dudley

Gamma Gamma Boulé of Austin, Texas, inducted seven outstanding men into Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity at the luxurious Renaissance Austin Hotel on December 2, 2023. They were fondly dubbed the "Parker Seven" in honor of Sire Archon Joseph Parker, who presided over the ceremony. Following the induction, the Gamma Gamma Archons engaged in their elegant Christmas Is for the Archousai annual celebration. Prior to the dinner party and celebration, each new Archon and his Archousa were officially introduced to the members in attendance. The evening concluded with festive dancing and socializing.

Archon Brice Dudley, Sr., is vice president of global supply chain and demand planning for Hewlett Packard Enterprises. His global team members are responsible for forecasting equipment that enables a $30 billion– plus technology business. Archon Dudley began his career of more than twenty years with Dell Technologies, where he led teams and

initiatives in sales, retail operations, mobility, global operations and the supply chain. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army and was an aviation operations manager.

A native of Shreveport, Louisiana, Archon Dudley accepted a Reserve Officers Training Corps scholarship after graduating from high school and attended the HBCU Southern University and A&M College, where he earned a B.S. in accounting. At Southern University he was initiated into the Alpha Sigma Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, where he has served as chapter president and board member and is currently secretary and treasurer at the state level. He is also a board member at the Austin Kappa Education & Leadership Foundation. Prior to transitioning out of the military, Archon Dudley obtained his master's degree in organizational management from the University of Phoenix; he also has a mini M.B.A. from Abilitie. Archon Dudley and his Archousa, Tiffany Dudley, have two adult sons.

Archon Craig J. Moore is an adjunct professor at the University of Texas at Austin School of Law and Concordia University Texas and has also been an adjunct faculty member at St. Edward's University. He was previously executive director of Jail to Jobs, a nonprofit organization that provides employment-based mentoring to young people affected by the criminal-justice system. Archon Moore is a former assistant district attorney with the Travis County District Attorney's Office and former litigation attorney at several local law firms. He was a founding board member of the Austin–Travis County Sobering Center, and he has held leadership roles with the Austin Young Lawyers Association, the Austin Bar Association, the State Bar of Texas, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Texas and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, where he is a life member.

After earning a B.A. in political science from Austin College, Archon Moore obtained an M.P.A. from the University of Texas at Austin Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs and a J.D. from the UT Austin School of Law. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in criminal justice at Texas State University. Archon Moore and Archousa Amanda Moore, a fellow attorney, have three children. They are all members of Greater Mount Zion Baptist Church.

Archon Marcus Myers is the global program manager for wallets, payments and commerce engineering for the Evolve Software Engineer Rotational Program at Apple, Inc. He joined Apple as the financial analyst for global business solutions, focusing on budgeting, forecasting and planning. An active member of Black@Apple since joining the company, Archon Myers is passionate about helping to identify and assist diverse talented employees find their way across the Apple landscape and is cochair of Black@Apple Austin. Prior to Apple, he held several analyst positions at Lockheed Martin and also worked in higher education and banking.

A graduate of the University of Texas at Austin with a B.A. in economics, Archon Myers was a scholarship member

of the 2005 National Championship football team. He obtained an M.B.A. from the University of Texas at Arlington and also has a diversity and inclusion certificate from Cornell University.

Archon Anthony A. Owens is director of campus operations at Austin Community College, where he has worked for fifteen years, with oversight for the college's multiple campuses. He was previously executive director of procurement and materials management at the college. Archon Owens began his career in the public sector at the Texas State Treasury Department and also worked as a chief accountant and auditor in the Office of the Texas Governor and as a senior accountant for the Board of Nurse Examiners. He worked in the private sector as a business banker for Wells Fargo before joining Huston-Tillotson University as a business manager and later the Texas Water Development Board as a treasury manager overseeing debt portfolio and investments.

Archon Owens attended Texas State University, and after receiving his bachelor of public administration degree, he earned his M.B.A. at St. Edward's University. He is also a graduate of Leadership Austin and a member of the National Black MBA Association. Archon Owens has served the Austin community in several capacities, including as a Mainspring Schools board member. He is a proud life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, where he has held several officer positions and is the financial secretary. He and Archousa Darlene Owens have two adult sons.

Archon Mel F. Parker is president and CEO of Take the Limits Off, LLC, a senior-leadership–development and executive-coaching firm. As a global business leader, he has developed deep expertise in multiple industries, including food and beverage, consumer products, technology and financial services. During his almost thirty-year career in corporate America, Archon Parker has held senior-leadership roles at PepsiCo, Corporate Express/Staples, Newell Rubbermaid, Dell Technologies and Brink's. He is the author of *The Parker Principles: 10 Leadership Force Multipliers* and is a highly sought-after speaker, educator and executive coach.

Archon Parker is a member of the board of directors for V2X, a multibillion-dollar organization that provides global logistics, information technology and network-communications services to government entities in twenty-six countries. He also sits on the board of directors for Coinstar, an Apollo Global company that turns consumers' coins into the cash they need, and is a member of the Executive Leadership Council. A graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point with a B.S. in computer science, Archon Parker served with distinction in the 82nd Airborne Division. During his service, he graduated from Airborne School and Ranger School and participated in Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield before transitioning from the military to corporate America.

Archon Richard J. Reddick is the inaugural senior vice provost for curriculum and enrollment and the dean of un-

dergraduate studies at the University of Texas at Austin. He is also a professor for the Program in Higher Education Leadership in the UT Austin College of Education's department of educational leadership and policy, as well as a professor of African and African American studies at UT Austin's College of Liberal Arts. He was previously inaugural associate dean for equity, community engagement and outreach at the College of Education. Archon Reddick's extensive academic commitment also includes serving as faculty cochair of the Institute for Educational Management at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and teaching at the Institute for Management and Leadership in Education, also at Harvard. His fellowships at UT Austin include the Institute for Urban Policy Research and Analysis, the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, and the Trice Professorship in Plan II Liberal Arts Honors.

The recipient of numerous honors for his academic work, Archon Reddick was most recently presented with UT Austin's 2021–22 President's Award for Global Learning. He earned his B.A. in African American studies from UT Austin's Plan II Honors program and his Ed.M. and Ed.D. from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Archon Ed D. Ward is president of the client product group at Dell Technologies, where he leads a team responsible for the management, engineering, operations, delivery and overall performance of the global personal computer business. His leadership has been pivotal in creating and sustaining competitive advantages, revenue growth and share gains for Dell. Archon Ward was previously senior vice president of the group. A strategic and operational global-technology executive with more than three decades in technology-product development and business management, he was a vice president at the enterprise-technology firm NCR Corp. before joining Dell.

A lifetime member of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) and executive sponsor of NSBE at Dell, Archon Ward is committed to developing a diverse workplace and empowering the next generation of engineers and leaders. He is also a member of the Executive Leadership Council, where he continues to support the development of Black business leaders and their communities. Archon Ward is an alumnus of the University of Colorado Boulder, where he earned a B.S. in electrical engineering and computer science, specializing in silicon design. He is also a graduate of Harvard Business School's Advanced Management Program, where he studied general management. Archon Ward resides in Austin with his Archousa, Tina Ward, a physician.

Archon Ricardo C. Stinnette
Grapter, Gamma Gamma Boulé

ROCHESTER

Alan Prescod Joins Gamma Iota Boulé at Chartering Ceremony



New Archon Alan Prescod introduces himself and his Archousa, Joyce Akwaa, to event attendees.

Gamma Iota Boulé of Rochester, New York, inducted an outstanding Archon on December 6, 2023, at the Cobblestone Creek Golf Country Club as part of the setting apart of Syracuse, New York's Zeta Zeta Boulé. The distinguished attendees included Grand Sire Archon Antoine M. Garibaldi (Iota), Grand Sire Archon–Elect Loren R. Douglass (Zeta), Past Grand Sire Archon Gregory J. Vincent (Gamma Gamma), Grand Grammateus Samuel Bacote III (Kappa), Northeast Regional Sire Archon David C. Tapscott (Epsilon Zeta) and Northeast Regional Sire Archon–Elect Gregg Walker (Beta Zeta), along with supportive Archons from the Northeast member boulés.

Archon Alan Prescod is a specialist systems engineer with L3Harris Technologies, where he supports the company's technology products and business-development teams nationwide and globally. He is also L3Harris's communications director for the LEAD (L3Harris Employees of African Descent) Employee Resource Groups in Rochester and the Northeast region. In addition, Archon Prescod is the Caribbean-music director and on-air personality for WITR 89.7 FM radio.

Born in Barbados, Archon Prescod joined the Rochester community by way of Brooklyn, where he was raised. Prior to embarking on his technology-based career, he served in the U.S. Marine Corps. Archon Prescod maintains memberships in the Society of Broadcast Engineers and the Audio Engineering Society and is a life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, where he has been president of the Eta Rho Lambda Chapter and held other appointed state and regional officer positions. Archon Prescod is also an active member of the Rochester Jamaican Organization and the Rochester West Indian Festival Organization.

Archon Prescod earned a B.S. in information technology and an M.S. in cross-disciplinary studies, with concentrations in network security and business administration, from the Rochester Institute of Technology. His certifications include



New Archon Alan Prescod (standing, fifth from right) is joined by other Archons from Gamma Iota Boulé.

credentials in installing and maintaining fiber-optic lines. He enjoys skiing and snowboarding and was the first Black member of the Bristol Mountain Ski Patrol. Archon Prescod is married to Archousa Joyce Akwaa.

Seven Top Achievers Chosen by Gamma Rho Boulé



Seated: New Archons Jarvis "Jay" Melton, Gregory Dill, Brian Flaggs and David E. Rutledge. Standing: New Archons Bernard Hooper, Alan F. Green and Tyrone "Ty" Weeks.

Gamma Rho Boulé of Ann Arbor, Michigan, held an induction ceremony for seven Archons on December 3, 2023, at the Inn at St. John.

Archon Gregory Dill is county administrator of Washtenaw County, Michigan. He is a hands-on executive who brings more than twenty years of experience in strategic leadership and operations management to the position. Archon Dill sits on a number of boards, including the corporate board of the Detroit Region Aerotropolis Development Corp.; the Outreach706 executive board; and the boards of directors of the United Way for Southeastern Michigan, Ann Arbor Spark, the Washtenaw Housing Alliance and the Ann Arbor YMCA.

He is also a member of the Washtenaw Health Initiative steering committee and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. Archon Dill earned a B.B.A. in management and an M.B.A. in operations management, both from Eastern Michigan University.

Archon Brian Flaggs is co-owner and general manager of ABC Student Transportation. He is a results-oriented leader with a track record of success in sales, operations and management. Archon Flaggs has a bachelor of arts degree in materials and logistics management from Michigan State University and a master of science degree in business administration from Central Michigan University; he also completed the University of the Aftermarket continuing education program at Northwood Institute, now Northwood University.

Archon Alan F. Green is an internal medicine physician affiliated with several medical offices and hospitals in Detroit, including Detroit Community Health Connection, Inc., and Detroit Medical Center Hutzel Women's Hospital. He earned his M.D. from Meharry Medical College School of Medicine and completed his internal medicine internship and residency at Detroit Medical Center Sinai-Grace Hospital and Wayne State University School of Medicine.

Archon Bernard Hooper is chief corporate-compliance and diversity, equity and inclusion officer for Oakland Community Health Network, where he oversees the corporate-compliance program, reviewing and evaluating compliance matters and allegations regarding the organization and the network of service providers. Archon Hooper previously worked for the Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network as a corporate compliance and privacy officer. He sits on the board of the Farmington Hills Commission on Community Health. Archon Hooper earned a bachelor's degree in Asian history from Princeton University; a master's degree in applied economics, with a concentration in finance, from the University of Michigan; and a J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School.

Archon Jarvis "Jay" Melton and his Archousa, Madeline, are the owners of Super Value Cleaners, the only African American–owned dry cleaning company in Washtenaw County. They opened the laundry service following Archon Melton's retirement after more than forty years in the publishing industry. Archon Melton, with the help of Archousa Madeline, also founded Community for All to provide college scholarships and other financial assistance to African American students. Each year the 501(c)(3) nonprofit hosts the Juneteenth Scholarship Banquet, where thousands of dollars are awarded to college students in Ypsilanti–Ann Arbor communities. Archon Melton is a fifty-two–year member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and was recently named Citizen of the Year by the Ann Arbor graduate chapter. He is a lifelong member of the NAACP and attends the Bethel AME Church in Ann Arbor.

Archon David E. Rutledge is a former state representative for the 54th District, which includes the Ypsilanti area and eastern Washtenaw County. During his tenure in the Michigan House of Representatives, he was minority floor

leader and minority caucus leader. A Vietnam-era veteran, Archon Rutledge served in the U.S. Air Force as a personnel officer, achieving the rank of captain, and is a member of the Michigan Veterans Facility Authority board. In 2021 he completed a four-year commitment as the Griffin Endowed Chair in American Government at Central Michigan University. Archon Rutledge has a B.S. in political science from Tennessee State University and has studied at Harvard Law School and the University of Michigan Law School; he received an honorary doctorate from Eastern Michigan University. Archon Rutledge has two children – Marcus Rutledge and Felicia Rutledge-Cheeseborough – and three grandchildren: Kelton Patton, Darius Rutledge and Jayla Lawrence. His Archousa, Geraldine Simmons Rutledge, is deceased.

Archon Tyrone "Ty" Weeks is superintendent of Dearborn Heights School District 7 and has twenty years of experience as an educator and school administrator. His professional memberships include the Michigan Association of Superintendents and Administrators, the School Superintendents Association, and the National Alliance of Black School Educators. Active in his community, Archon Weeks contributes to Rising Stars Mentoring camps, distributes food during holidays for Meals on Wheels and has been a foster parent through the Children's Center. Archon Weeks earned a B.S. in secondary education, an M.Ed. in educational leadership and a Ph.D. in educational studies, all from Eastern Michigan University. He has also received an honorary doctorate from EMU and was selected as commencement speaker. Archon Weeks lives in Ypsilanti with his Archousa and three children.

Archon Bruce C. Gaines
Grapter, Gamma Rho Boulé

Delta Mu Boulé Adds Three to Its Ranks



New Archons and Archousai: Antonio and Kimulique Allen, Gregory and Jaquetta Davis, and David and Danielle Campbell

Delta Mu Boulé of Fort Worth–Arlington, Texas, welcomed three accomplished Archons into the Boulé at its annual musterion on November 18, 2023, at the Fort Worth Club.

Archon Antonio U. Allen, Sr., is an associate general counsel at Tarrant County College and specializes in labor law and employment litigation. Prior to his work at the college, he was a partner at Pham Harrison, LLP, and an associate attorney at Cantey Hanger, LLP. Archon Allen earned a B.B.A. in transportation and logistics and an M.B.A. from Mississippi State University. He subsequently earned a J.D. from Texas A&M University School of Law. He and his Archousa, Kimulique, have been married for twenty-eight years and reside in Irving, Texas, with their son, Antonio, Jr. Archon Allen sits on

the Tarrant County Bar Foundation board of directors and the grievance committee of the Texas Bar Association; he is also an active member of the Tarrant County Bar Association and a lifetime member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

Archon David L. Campbell is chief operating officer for Aero Design Labs, an innovative company focused on solving aerodynamic challenges in transportation. An airline executive with more than thirty-five years' experience, he has also held positions such as CEO of Horizon Air and COO of American Eagle since beginning his career in the industry as an airline mechanic. Archon Campbell, who is a member of the Nubia Brand International Corp. board of directors, earned his B.B.A. from Louisiana Tech University and an M.B.A. from the University of Texas at Arlington. He and his Archousa, Danielle – an internal medicine physician at the Cooper Clinic – have been married for thirty-eight years and have two adult children. Archon Campbell is an avid golfer.

Archon Gregory W. Davis is an associate vice president for Morgan Stanley, a global leader in capital and investment markets, where he provides financial advice to individual and corporate clients on wealth management, retirement options, estate arrangements and various other financial-planning opportunities. Archon Davis is a graduate of Louisiana State University, where he was a scholar-athlete and a member of LSU's award-winning Division I track-and-field team. While at LSU, he also joined Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity. Archon Davis has sat on the boards of directors of Trinity Episcopal Day School and the Fort Worth Academy and is a member of the Father's Auxiliary of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. Archon Davis and his Archousa, Jaquetta Clemons-Davis, live in Fort Worth, Texas, and are the parents of three students in high school and college.

Archon William T. Slater
Grapter, Delta Mu Boulé

Epsilon Gamma Boulé Presents Five Archons of Excellence



New Archons Steven A. Drake, George Battle III, Antwan Thornton, Geovanny E. Martinez and Raymond Trapp

Chapel Hill, North Carolina's Epsilon Gamma Boulé welcomed five new Archons on November 15, 2023, in a ceremony at the Rizzo Center. Special guests included Grand Grammateus Samuel Bacote III of Kappa Boulé, who provided greetings, as well as Alpha Tau Sire Archon Michael J. Palmer, Gamma Kappa Sire Archon Alan A. Andrews and Gamma Sigma Sire Archon James L. Corpening, Jr. Following the induction, the celebration continued with dinner and live jazz to welcome the new Archons and Archousai.

Archon George Battle III is vice chancellor for institutional integrity and risk management at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he is responsible for coordinating critical campus functions, including central compliance, enterprise risk management, public safety, emergency management, and ethics education and policy management. Archon Battle was previously general counsel to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg board of education, one of the largest public school districts in the country, overseeing its legal department and leading organizational risk-management efforts. He also

worked for Carolinas HealthCare System (now known as Atrium Health), providing legal counsel and advisory services.

A double alumnus of UNC–Chapel Hill, Archon Battle earned his B.A. in political science and his J.D. from the institution. He has been chair of the North Carolina Council of School Attorneys and the Community Building Initiative, as well as a member of the North Carolina board of community colleges and of the Chapel Hill–Carrboro Black Business Alliance board of directors. Archon Battle and his Archousa, the former Renita Mumford, live in Chapel Hill with their two children: Peyton Amara, 18, and George Elias, 12.

Archon Steven A. Drake is an attorney who works to protect families and their assets through estate planning, wills and powers of attorney. He also works with nonprofit organizations and small businesses. His firm, the Law Offices of Steven A. Drake, is based in Orange County, North Carolina, but he works with clients throughout the state. Archon Drake is licensed in North Carolina, Illinois and the District of Columbia. He was previously vice president of an affordable-housing developer in the Triangle region of North Carolina. Archon Drake is chairman of the Centre for Homeownership and Economic Development board of directors and vice chair of the Orange County Bail and Bond Justice Project. He resides in Chapel Hill with his Archousa and three children and is a member of First Baptist Church of Chapel Hill, where he serves as a deacon.

Archon Geovanny E. Martinez is a senior lecturing fellow and executive director for the Center on Law, Race & Policy at Duke University School of Law. He was previously an assistant U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Indiana, prosecuting federal crimes involving organized crime, drugs, firearms, tax and wire fraud, and the postal service. Archon Martinez was previously an assistant city attorney in South Bend, Indiana, and also served as a deputy prosecuting attorney for Elkhart County, Indiana, and as an assistant state's attorney for Prince George's County, Maryland.

Born in Honduras, Archon Martinez was instrumental in founding the Indiana Latino Bar Association, for which he served as the founding president. He was also previously vice president of external affairs for the Hispanic National Bar Association Region IX and vice president of internal affairs for the Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia. Archon Martinez earned a B.A. in government from Georgetown University and his J.D. from the Howard University School of Law. He was subsequently a law clerk to administrative judge Sheila R. Tillerson Adams in the circuit court for Prince George's County. Archon Martinez is married and has three children.

Archon Antwan Thornton is a partner at Brooks, Cameron & Huebsch, PLLC – a law firm that specializes in patent preparation and prosecution – and manages its Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, office. He is also a registered patent attorney with the United States Patent and Trademark

Office, where he writes and prosecutes patents domestically and abroad for clients in various technological fields. He has experience preparing and prosecuting patents in memory-chip fabrication, autonomous-vehicle technology, semiconductor devices, black box technology and satellite navigation systems.

Archon Thornton received his B.S. in electrical engineering from Hampton University, a master's degree in business from the Fuqua School of Business at Duke University and his J.D. from North Carolina Central University School of Law. He is a member of the NCCU board of trustees and the North Carolina board of science, technology and innovation.

Archon Raymond Trapp is executive director of NPower North Carolina. NPower is a national company that helps military veterans and young adults from underserved communities launch digital careers through tuition-free technical training. Archon Trapp was previously vice president of strategic engagement for the Research Triangle Foundation of North Carolina. Before joining the foundation, he was director of external affairs for North Carolina A&T State University and a Guilford County, North Carolina, commissioner representing District 8. He also served in the U.S. Navy as an interior communications specialist.

Archon Trapp's memberships include the North Carolina Community Colleges state board; the Durham Planning Commission and the Durham Sports Commission; the Nature Conservancy North Carolina board of trustees; and the Durham Public Schools Foundation, Leadership Triangle and Communities in Schools of Wake County boards of directors. He is also a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity. Archon Trapp earned his B.B.A. from American InterContinental University, an M.S. in agricultural education from North Carolina A&T and a certificate in nonprofit management from Duke University; he is also a certified diversity executive. Archon Trapp is a proud father of six through his blended family and lives in Durham, North Carolina, with Archousa Shannon.

Archon Fleenoil Lane, Jr.
Grapter, Epsilon Gamma Boulé

WILLIAMSBURG

Two Stellar Men Are the Newest Members of Epsilon Delta Boulé



New Archons Herbert Jones and Henry Ranger

Williamsburg, Virginia's Epsilon Delta Boulé welcomed two debonair Archons into Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity on October 14, 2023, at an induction ceremony and reception dinner held at the historic Colonial Williamsburg Lodge. Sire Archon Alfred Woods conducted the ceremonial rituals. Visiting Archons and Archousai included Sire Archon Paul Harris and Archousa Carol Harris of Epsilon Psi, Epsilon Psi Grapter A. Benjamin Spencer, Sire Archon Melvin Ferebee and Archousa Michelle Ferebee of Beta Lambda, and Epsilon Rho Sire Archon Mike Alston. As the induction ceremony was being held in one part of the lodge, the Archousai were in another area holding their orientation for the two new Archousai. Archousa Ethlyn Gibson, who is married to Sire Archon–Elect Carl Gibson, led the orientation.

Archon Herbert C. Jones, Jr., is the cofounder and CEO of Pyramid Technologies, LLC, a cloud computing, logistics and project-management consulting firm. He was previously treasurer for New Kent County, Virginia. A retired U.S. Army colonel, Archon Jones served in various locations around the world, including two combat tours in Iraq, and was awarded the Bronze Star. After his retirement from the Army, he was a Department of the Army civilian in Afghanistan for two years as the chief operations officer for the U.S. Army Logistics Civil Augmentation Program.

Active in his community, Archon Jones sits on several nonprofit boards of directors, including the Williamsburg–James City County Community Action Agency, where

he is chair, and Virginia NORML. He is a charter member of the Rotary Club of New Kent and a longtime member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Archon Jones was also the Democratic candidate for Virginia's Senate District 3 in 2019, earning the most Democratic votes in history for that district, and a candidate for Virginia's First Congressional District in 2022. He earned a B.B.A. in health care administration from Appalachian State University and an M.S. in material-acquisition management from the Florida Institute of Technology. Archon Jones and Archousa Yvonne have two sons and a grandson.

Archon Henry K. Ranger is owner of the Prescription Shoppe, an independent pharmacy that he operates alongside his Archousa, Jade L. Ranger, who is also a pharmacist. The Prescription Shoppe has been voted Williamsburg's best pharmacy four years in a row and was named the 2021 Early Stage Small Business of the Year by the Greater Williamsburg Chamber of Commerce. Archon Ranger was previously pharmacy manager at Walmart, where his store was recognized as Pharmacy of the Year among all Walmart pharmacies nationwide. He began his pharmaceutical career at Farm Fresh and Super-Valu.

A native of Beaufort, South Carolina, Archon Ranger pursued prepharmacy studies at Charleston Southern University and Norfolk State University and earned his Pharm.D. with honors from Hampton University School of Pharmacy. He sits on the Williamsburg Community Foundation board of trustees and the Olde Town Medical & Dental Center and Hospice House of Williamsburg boards of directors; he is also a member of the NAACP and a life member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Archon Ranger lives in Williamsburg with Archousa Jade and their sons, Jacob and Joshua. When his schedule permits, he enjoys playing basketball and tennis. Archon Ranger and his family attend New Zion Baptist Church, where they have been members since 2011.

Archon Rondall W. James
Grapter, Epsilon Delta Boulé

Epsilon Epsilon Boulé Inducts Three Leaders



New Archons Maurice Murray III, Ian O. Williamson and Thomas Hopson

Epsilon Epsilon Boulé of Orange County, California, welcomed three new members on November 2, 2023, in a ceremony led by Past Grand Sire Archon Wesley A. Coleman of Xi Boulé at the Pacific Club.

Archon Thomas Hopson is president of Bioplate, Inc., a manufacturer of neurosurgical and maxillofacial products, where he leads a diverse team, sets strategic initiatives and utilizes his broad network to open channels that would otherwise be closed. An accomplished business executive with more than thirty years of experience in the medical-device industry, he has provided leadership to multimillion-dollar businesses in Europe, Asia and the United States. Passionate about giving back to young people in underserved communities, Archon Hopson mentors youths and supports several organizations dedicated to serving them, such as Ambassadors of Compassion, Mentor Up, Boys Town USA, and Fathers and Sons Speak. He has also been a member of the executive-leadership team at the American Heart Association of Orange County.

Archon Hopson earned a B.A. in communication and media studies from the University of Texas at Arlington and his M.B.A. from Pepperdine University's Graziadio Business School. He is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and an alumnus of the Zeta Chi chapter at UT Arlington. Archon Hopson's greatest joy is his family: He has been married for forty-one years to Archousa Tina, with whom he has four children, six grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Archon Maurice Murray III is an executive director at J.P. Morgan Private Bank, where he works with affluent families, corporate executives and owners of closely held businesses to address the challenges that accompany success. He partners with a team of highly skilled specialists to deliver strategic and impartial advice to clients on a range of personal-wealth matters, including investment management, credit strategies, portfolio construction, and tax and estate planning. A native of Southern California, Archon Murray sits on the Pacific Symphony board of directors and the Arts and Business Leadership Council at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts, and he is an at-large director on the 100 Black Men of Orange County board of directors. Archon Murray is a graduate of Morehouse College, where he earned a B.A. in business administration, and holds an M.B.A. from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. He lives in Irvine, California, with his Archousa, Jennifer, and three children: Madison, 19; Carson, 15; and Aiden, 2.

Archon Ian O. Williamson is dean of the Paul Merage School of Business at the University of California, Irvine. He was previously pro–vice chancellor and dean of the Wellington School of Business and Government at Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand. A globally recognized expert in human resource management, Archon Williamson has also been a faculty member of universities in Australia, Switzerland and Indonesia as well as in Maryland and New Jersey. He sits on the boards of directors of AACSB (the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) and the Illumination Foundation, whose mission is to disrupt the cycle of homelessness in Southern California. Archon Williamson received a B.S. in management from Miami University and his Ph.D. from the Kenan-Flagler Business School at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He and his Archousa, Brandi Williamson, have three children: Sienna, Sierra and Sterling.

Archon Reginald C. Stewart
Grapter, Epsilon Epsilon Boulé

TULSA

Epsilon Iota Boulé Proudly Inducts Two New Archons



Archon Kevin L. Matthews



Archon Monroe Nichols

Epsilon Iota Boulé of Tulsa welcomed two exemplary Archons into Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity at the festively decorated DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Tulsa – Warren Place on December 2, 2023. Sire Archon Calvin Moore presided over the induction ceremony.

Archon Kevin L. Matthews is a senator in the Oklahoma Senate and chair of the Oklahoma Senate Democratic Caucus. He is a member of numerous Senate committees, including Retirement and Insurance, Tourism and Wildlife, Appropriations and Budget, Public Safety, and Transportation. He is also founder and cochair of the newly formed Oklahoma Civil Rights Trail planning committee. Archon Matthews was previously a member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives. He is the founder and chairman of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commission, resulting in the creation of the Greenwood Rising Black Wall St. History Center, which chronicles the atrocities perpetrated on Tulsa's Black Wall Street.

Archon Matthews's memberships include the Veterans Hospital in Tulsa advisory board, the board of the foster-care nonprofit Lilyfield, the Meals on Wheels of Metro Tulsa advisory council and the 100 Black Men of Tulsa board. He attended Central State University, where he earned a degree in fire-protection technology while serving in the Tulsa Fire Department. He retired after twenty-five years as the administrative fire chief of a fire department with almost 700 members and a budget of more than $50 million. Archon Matthews is married to Archousa Jessica Moore-Matthews and is the proud father of two sons.

Archon Monroe Nichols is a member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, where he is the first African American elected to represent District 72, and is chair of the Oklahoma Legislative Black Caucus. He has authored legislation to provide a high-quality education for all students, ensure access to health care services for all Oklahomans, build an economy that works for everyone, revitalize neighborhoods and reform the criminal-justice system. Archon Nichols is also

director of policy and partnerships at StriveTogether, a national nonprofit focused on advancing equity to improve student outcomes across the country.

Archon Nichols's diverse career includes serving as a mayoral aide during the administration of Tulsa mayor Kathy Taylor, as chief of staff to the Oklahoma University–Tulsa president, and as director of business retention and expansion at the Tulsa Regional Chamber of Commerce. In 2014 he cofounded Impact Tulsa, a collective-impact organization aimed at improving education for all Tulsa-area students. Archon Nichols launched his campaign to become Tulsa's forty-first mayor in July 2023. His goals are to expand Tulsa's economy, address the affordable-housing crisis and homelessness, and make Tulsa the safest big city in America. He earned a B.A. in political science and economics from the University of Tulsa and an M.P.A. from the University of Oklahoma.

Archon David W. Harris
Grapter, Epsilon Iota Boulé

COLORADO SPRINGS

Epsilon Chi Boulé Welcomes Three Exceptional Archons



Archon Rodney Gullatte, Jr.



Archon Marvin Lee



Archon Michael E. Sawyer

Colorado Springs's Epsilon Chi Boulé welcomed three exceptional Archons with military backgrounds on September 30, 2023, at the Pinery North event venue. Despite less-than-favorable weather conditions, the Archons and Archousai of Epsilon Chi warmly welcomed the boulé's newest members.

Archon Rodney Gullatte, Jr., is the CEO of Firma IT Solutions, which is a managed information technology and cybersecurity service provider that brings enterprise-technology solutions to businesses throughout the country. He is also a U.S. Air Force veteran, community leader and certified ethical hacker with sixteen industry-standard certifications.

The Marietta, Georgia, native met his Archousa, Iris, while in the Air Force; together they made their way to Colorado Springs by way of Key West, Florida. He's now living in his fifth community and a father of three, and Archousa Iris has retired after twenty years in the Air Force. Archon Gullatte, who was the first African American president in the more than one hundred–year history of the Rotary Club of Colorado Springs, sits on the boards of directors of the Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC and the Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region. He is also a member of the National Cybersecurity Center board and immediate past president of the Colorado Springs Black Chamber of Commerce. Archon Gullatte was recognized as one of the top fifty certified chief information security officers worldwide in 2023 when he was inducted into the EC-Council C|CISO Hall of Fame. He earned a B.S. in applied computer science from Troy University.

Archon Marvin Lee is a board-certified aesthetics and internal medicine practitioner serving Colorado Springs, where he is chief financial officer of PureLee Redefined, an inclusive medical aesthetic and wellness spa that he cofounded with his Archousa, Kenya Lee. Archon Lee was an active-duty physician in the U.S. Air Force and the Colorado Air National Guard. After serving his country for four years, he completed an M.B.A. from IE Business School in Madrid, Spain. He was also chief medical officer in Kwajalein Atoll in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

An active member of his community, Archon Lee facilitates health clinics and health-education sessions for local organizations. He is a member of the Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC board of directors and the Colorado Springs Black Chamber of Commerce; he is also a Colorado Governor's Fellow. Archon Lee earned a bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering from Brown University and earned his M.D. at Morehouse School of Medicine; he completed his residency in internal medicine at Methodist Hospitals of Memphis Central Hospital, now Methodist Healthcare University Hospital. Archon Lee and Archousa Kenya have been married for more than twenty years and raised two lovely children.

Archon Michael E. Sawyer is a tenured associate professor of African American literature and culture, as well as director of graduate studies, in the department of English at the University of Pittsburgh; he is also Electus Faculty Fellow in the David C. Fredericks Honors College and was recently appointed director of the Graduate Program for Cultural Studies. Archon Sawyer has published two books – *An Africana Philosophy of Temporality: Homo Liminals* and *Black Minded: The Political Philosophy of Malcolm X* – and is completing two new manuscripts: *The Door of No Return: Being as Black* and the definitive biography of Formula One driver Lewis Hamilton, entitled *Sir Lewis*.

Originally from Chicago, Archon Sawyer earned a B.S. in political science from the U.S. Naval Academy, and M.A. in international security policy from the University of Chicago's Committee on International Relations, and an M.A. in comparative literature and a Ph.D. from Brown University, where he was the first graduate of the Africana-studies doctoral program. He is a lifetime member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Archon Sawyer recently married Archousa Manya C. Whitaker, who is the executive vice president and chief of staff at Colorado College.

Archon Willard E. Bell, Sr.
Grapter, Epsilon Chi Boulé

Three Standout Archons Join Zeta Alpha Boulé



Archons Ansell V. Sims, Roderic I. Pettigrew and Daryl A. Basham

Fort Bend, Texas's Zeta Alpha Boulé confidently put forth three highly accomplished inductees to join the ranks of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity on November 5, 2023, at the Black Hawk Country Club. The majestic event included an opportunity for the Archousai to become better acquainted with one another during an orientation while the induction ceremony was conducted. After the induction, the Archons and Archousai joined together to celebrate and share highlights about their families and accomplishments. Keeping with tradition, the reception included fine libations and a delectable dinner. Sire Archon–Elect Warren Spann officiated at the occasion, which also featured the presence of Western Region Past Sire Archon Jesse J. Tyson (Epsilon Omicron).

Archon Daryl A. Basham is the chief legal officer and vice president of intellectual property for South Dakota Innovation Partners (SDIP), which invests in agriculture technology, food tech and life sciences. He is also a partner at the law firm of MDIP, LLC. Prior to joining SDIP, Archon Basham was a legal adviser at SM Groups Holding Corp. and president of the HS Manufacturing Group.

A native of New York, Archon Basham is a proud graduate of Brooklyn Technical High School and received his B.S. in microbiology and his Ph.D. in biochemistry and molecular biology from Howard University; he went on to earn his J.D. from the George Washington University Law School. After receiving his Ph.D., he became an assistant professor at the New York University Grossman School of Medicine department of psychiatry, where he received a patent for his work on the genetic etiology of schizophrenia. After law school, he went on to become an associate at the law firm DLA Piper in the life sciences–and–intellectual property group. Archon Basham is married to Archousa Beryl Elise Basham, an art dealer, and the proud father of Brandon and Blair. In his free time, Archon Basham enjoys writing, cycling, kung fu, yoga and calisthenics.

Archon Roderic I. Pettigrew is dean of the School of Engineering Medicine at Texas A&M University, where he is

CEO of engineering health and executive dean of engineering medicine, or EnMed – an innovative collaboration with Houston Methodist Hospital in which students earn an M.D. and a master's degree in engineering. Archon Pettigrew was previously founding director of the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering at the National Institutes of Health. He is known internationally for his pioneering work involving four-dimensional imaging of the cardiovascular system using magnetic resonance imaging.

Among Archon Pettigrew's numerous awards are the Vannevar Bush Award from the National Science Board, the Distinguished Service Award from the International Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine, and the inaugural Gold Medal from the Academy for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research. After earning a B.S. in physics from Morehouse College, where he was a Merrill Scholar, Archon Pettigrew earned a master's degree in nuclear science and engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, his Ph.D. in applied radiation physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and his M.D. from the Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine at the University of Miami. A member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, he is married to Archousa Robin Pettigrew and has a son.

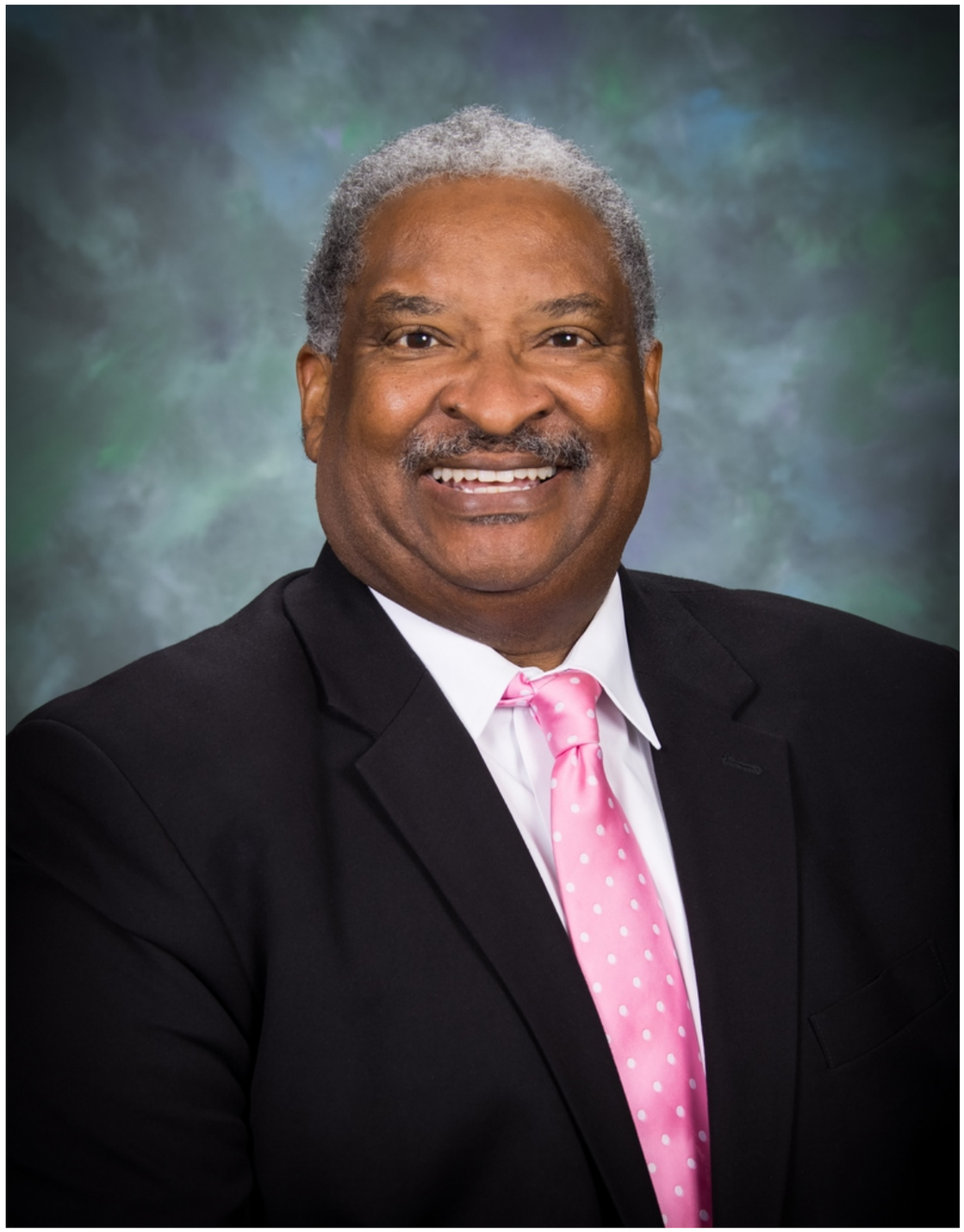
Archon Ansell V. Sims is USA president of Grundfos Pumps Corp., the world's largest water pump manufacturer with revenues of $4 billion and a global workforce of 20,000 people. Grundfos provides high-efficiency pumping solutions for modern irrigation systems with agricultural and nonagricultural applications. The first African American to become USA president at Grundfos in its eighty-year existence, Archon Sims recently worked with lobbying group Capitol Solutions to offer input to U.S. House and Senate agriculture committees regarding the Farm Bill.

The first African American member of the board of directors of the Hydraulic Institute, which is the global authority on pumps and pump systems, he also sits on the board of directors at the West I-10 Chamber of Commerce. An ordained deacon of more than twenty years, Archon Sims has twice served as chairman of the board at Brentwood Baptist Church. He received his B.A. in sociology from the University of Louisiana Monroe. A longtime member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, he remains active in the Houston Alumni Chapter. Archon Sims is married to Archousa Pamela Douzart-Sims and is the proud father of two: Alexis and Alexander. In his free time, he enjoys distance running and playing golf.

Archon Sean A. Haley
Grapter, Zeta Alpha Boulé

Kudos and Commendations

Glenn Adams Elected Chairman of Cumberland County Board of Commissioners



Fayetteville, North Carolina's Epsilon Alpha Boulé Archon Glenn Adams was elected to serve as chairman of Cumberland County's board of commissioners on December 4, 2023. Archon Adams has been a commissioner for Cumberland County for nine years. This marks the fourth time that Archon Adams has served as the board's chairman.

Archon Kelvin E. Farmer
Grapter, Epsilon Alpha Boulé

Article on John S. Adams Appears In *Chattanooga Times Free Press*



Archon John S. Adams of Chattanooga's Gamma Pi Boulé was recognized in the article "Champions of Health Care 2023: Dr. John S. Adams – Diversity and Inclusion," published by the *Chattanooga Times Free Press* on September 5, 2023. The article highlights Archon Adams's involvement in the Gamma Pi Boulé Foundation, where he leads the annual fundraising campaign. The bulk of the money raised goes to scholarships for Black male high school students in Hamilton County, Tennessee, who have been accepted to four-year universities. More than fifty scholarships have been awarded over the past ten years. Several of the winners have gone on to medical school, and two of those have graduated.

"The scholarships are aimed at Black men because they are the ones struggling the most, the ones who are lost, committing crimes, winding up hurt or in jail. These are the guys who need the most help, and that's why we've chosen them," Archon Adams said.

In 2023 the Gamma Pi Boulé Foundation partnered with the Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga. The Gamma Pi Boulé Foundation receives about twenty to twenty-five applications annually. Candidates are interviewed in person, and a scholarship committee chooses the top five. Renewable scholarships are awarded to the winners. The winners are followed from the time they receive their scholarships through the early part of their careers.

Archon Adams, who has been married to his Archousa, Annette, for forty-one years and has three children and four grandchildren, said he likes the idea of giving back.

Archon John V. Golding III
Grapter, Gamma Pi Boulé

Ron Ancrum Publishes New Book: *It's Time for Mo*



Charlotte, North Carolina's Beta Delta Boulé Archon Ron Ancrum released his book *It's Time for Mo* on December 5, 2023. He was also featured in the Pulmonary Hypertension Association's newsletter on November 7, 2023. Archon Ancrum is an expert in nonprofit management and organizational development. His professional career includes roles such as college admissions officer, professor, consultant, nonprofit executive, philanthropist, jazz musician and author. In 2021 he published his memoir *Keep on Moving: My Journey in the Fourth Quarter*.

Archon Ancrum was born in Stamford, Connecticut. He graduated from the University of Connecticut and the University of Massachusetts Boston John W. McCormack Institute for Public Affairs and earned a certificate from the Institute for Educational Leadership Education Policy Fellowship Program. He lived and worked in Boston, Massachusetts, for most of his professional career, retiring in 2018 to focus on his emotional and physical health. He now lives in Charlotte, North Carolina, with Archousa Pamela Cross Ancrum and his daughter Erica.

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

Antoine Anderson Appointed to Jackson State University Development Foundation Board



Archon Antoine Anderson of Beta Gamma Boulé, Jackson, Mississippi, was appointed a new member of the Jackson State University Development Foundation's board of directors on October 9, 2023. The foundation works to secure financial resources to support student scholarships, the endowment and other institutional priorities at Jackson State University. Archon Anderson is first vice president for Jackson at BankPlus. He has a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Southern Mississippi and a certificate in community lending from the Mississippi School of Banking.

Archon Pieter J. Teeuwissen
Grapter, Beta Gamma Boulé

Fred D. Archer III Is Associate Dean for Admissions

On October 18, 2023, Archon Fred D. Archer III of Buffalo's Alpha Kappa Boulé was named associate dean for admissions in the University at Buffalo Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences Office of Medical Education. Board-certified in pediatrics, Archon Archer is the interim chief of the division of general pediatrics in the department of pediatrics.

Rohan Arjun Named to Leadership Council and Pennsylvania Schools Commission for Accreditation



Archon Rohan Arjun of Zeta Delta Boulé, Mercer–Bucks Counties, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, received two new positions this past fall. Archon Arjun was named cochair for the Enrollment Management Association's Enrollment Management Leadership Council. He was also voted onto the Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools Commission for Accreditation by the board of trustees of the Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools. Archon Arjun is director of enrollment management and financial aid at Friends Select School in Philadelphia.

Rahn K. Bailey to Receive Solomon Carter Fuller Award



In November 2023 the American Psychiatric Association (APA) Foundation selected Archon Rahn K. Bailey of Alpha Alpha Boulé, New Orleans, to receive the 2024 Solomon Carter Fuller Award, established in 1969 in honor of Solomon Carter Fuller, the first Black psychiatrist in the United States. Upon naming Archon Bailey, Saul Levin, APA board chair, said, "We strongly feel that your demonstrated contributions and your exceptional achievements in the field of psychiatry make you an outstanding recipient of this award." Archon Bailey will receive the award at the APA's annual meeting in New York in May 2024.

Archon Bailey has a history of excellence in psychiatric medicine. He is professor and chair of psychiatry at Louisiana State University Health New Orleans School of Medicine. He also serves as assistant dean of community engagement. Before joining LSU, Archon Bailey was chairman of psychiatry at Meharry Medical College and Wake Forest University School of Medicine. He also served as the 113th president of the National Medical Association (NMA). In 2006 Archon Bailey was selected as NMA Physician of the Year during the Hurricane Katrina crisis. In 2022 he received the NMA Ernest Y. Williams, M.D. Clinical Scholars of Distinction Award.

Archon Bailey has 86 peer-reviewed publications in more than 20 refereed journals. He has also authored three books: *A Doctor's Prescription for Health Care Reform: The National Medical Association Tackles Disparities, Stigma, and the Status Quo*, 2013; *At Gunpoint: Firearms Violence from a*

Psychiatrist's Perspective, 2018; and *Intimate Partner Violence: An Evidence-based Approach*, 2020. His work has been key in developing strategies to assist communities with mental health care as well as to improve the mental health of young professionals.

Archon Brian L. Pettiford
Grapter, Alpha Alpha Boulé

Jeffrey A. Beaver Retires After Forty Years as Trial Lawyer



Friends and colleagues of Seattle's Alpha Omicron Boulé Archon Jeffrey A. Beaver celebrated his retirement after nearly forty years as a highly respected trial lawyer. The party was held on September 25, 2023, at AQUA by El Gaucho on Seattle's waterfront. Archon Beaver is widely known for his skill in the courtroom and his deep commitment to the community. He spent the past twenty-seven years with the law firm Miller Nash Graham & Dunn, where he became a partner in 1997. He has served on numerous boards and is respected for his generosity as a philanthropist, particularly his efforts to open doors for young people from underrepresented groups.

Archon Beaver's potential was recognized early on. He graduated with a B.A. in psychology from Morehouse College and decided to explore the possibility of becoming a lawyer. He impressed Derrick Bell, renowned lawyer, civil rights activist and first Black dean of the University of Oregon School of Law, who recruited him to UO's law school. Archon Beaver excelled. He became articles editor of the school's law review and president of the minority law student's association.

Archon Beaver's relationship with the UO law school continues to this day. In 2020 he created the Jeffrey A. Beaver Law Student Scholarship Endowment to provide financial aid to students from underrepresented groups and students who grew up in poverty.

After law school Archon Beaver had the rare opportunity to serve as a law clerk for Judge Jerome Farris, the first Black

judge to serve on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Over the course of his career Archon Beaver has been honored many times for his skill in the courtroom and his leadership in the legal field. In an article on Archon Beaver's accomplishments, published in the University of Oregon School of Law's newsletter, Archon Beaver is quoted as saying, "I've always tried to look for something greater than myself to be a part of, and the law has helped me do that."

Archon Jerry Large
Grapter, Alpha Omicron Boulé

Lynn Beckwith, Jr., Named Distinguished Retiree by Missouri Retired Teachers Association

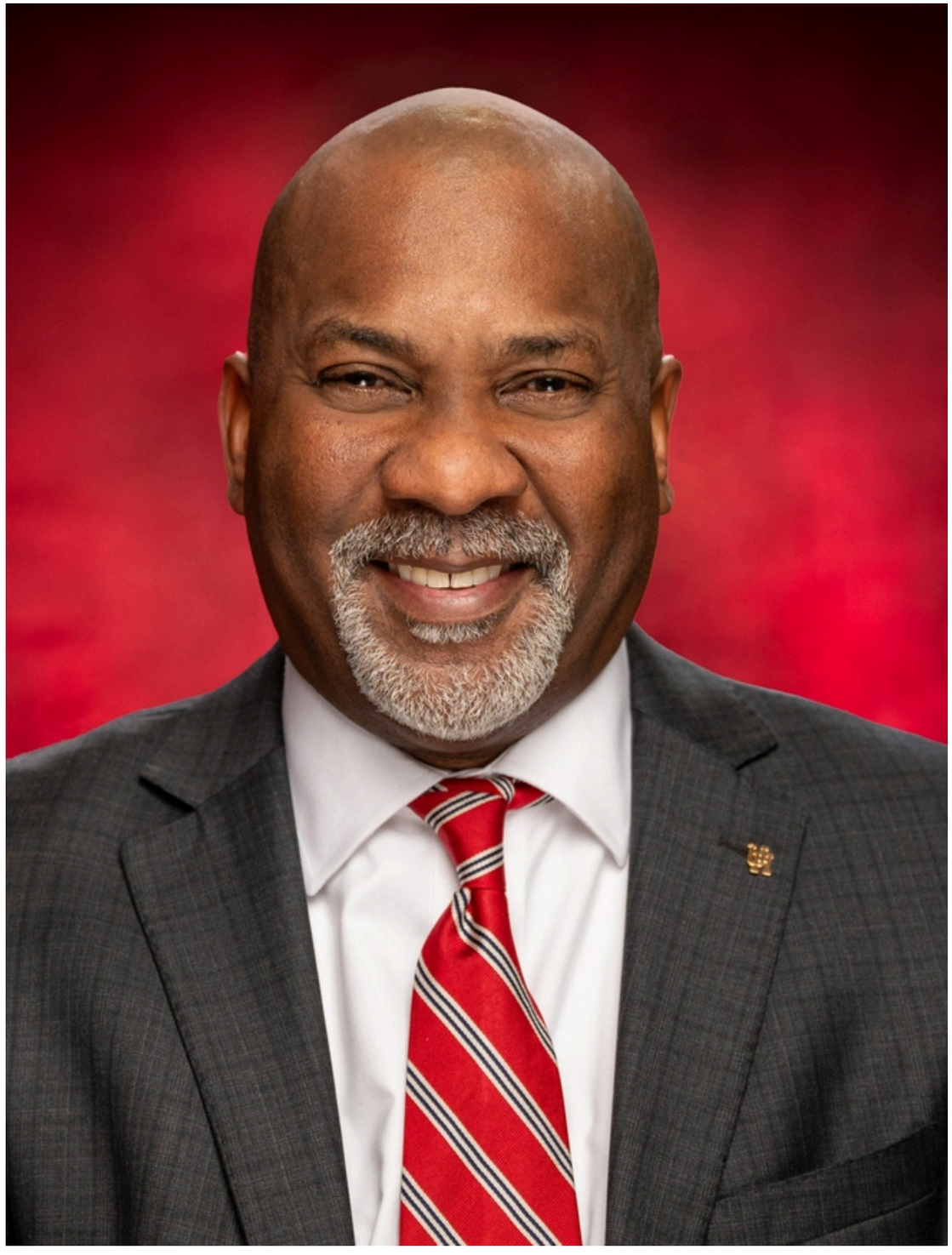


The Missouri Retired Teachers Association (MRTA) presented St. Louis's Eta Boulé Archon Lynn Beckwith, Jr., with the Distinguished Retiree Award at the association's annual meeting in Osage Beach, Missouri, on September 19, 2023. The association published a press release announcing Archon Beckwith's selection for the award on its website."It is a high honor to receive the prestigious 2023 MRTA Distinguished Retiree Award," Archon Beckwith said. "I consider it a validation of my continued efforts and volunteerism during my retirement years in support of the field of education and my community."

Archon Beckwith's fifty-four–year career in education includes time as a teacher, principal and director of federal programs for St. Louis Public Schools; superintendent of schools in University City, Missouri; and superintendent in residence and endowed professor of urban education for the University of Missouri–St. Louis. He is president of the St. Louis–area unit of MRTA and served as the MRTA Region 14 vice president from 2017 to 2018.

Archon Vernon C. Mitchell, Jr.
Grapter, Eta Boulé

Alfred H. Bennett Named Distinguished Alumnus



Nu Boulé, Houston, Texas, congratulates Sire Archon Alfred H. Bennett on being selected to receive the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Houston Alumni Association. The award will be presented to Archon Bennett at the UH Alumni Association Sixty-ninth Annual Alumni Awards in April 2024. Archon Bennett is a United States district court judge for the Southern District of Texas, a position President Barack H. Obama II nominated him to in September 2014. Archon Bennett graduated from the University of Houston with a bachelor of science degree in 1988 and the University of Texas at Austin School of Law with a juris doctorate in 1991. He served as presiding judge for the 61st Judicial District Court in Harris County, Texas, from 2009 to 2015.

Archon Michael T. Murphy
Grapter, Nu Boulé

Edward Benson, Jeffrey Hughes and Rosalind Williford Receive Diversity Award



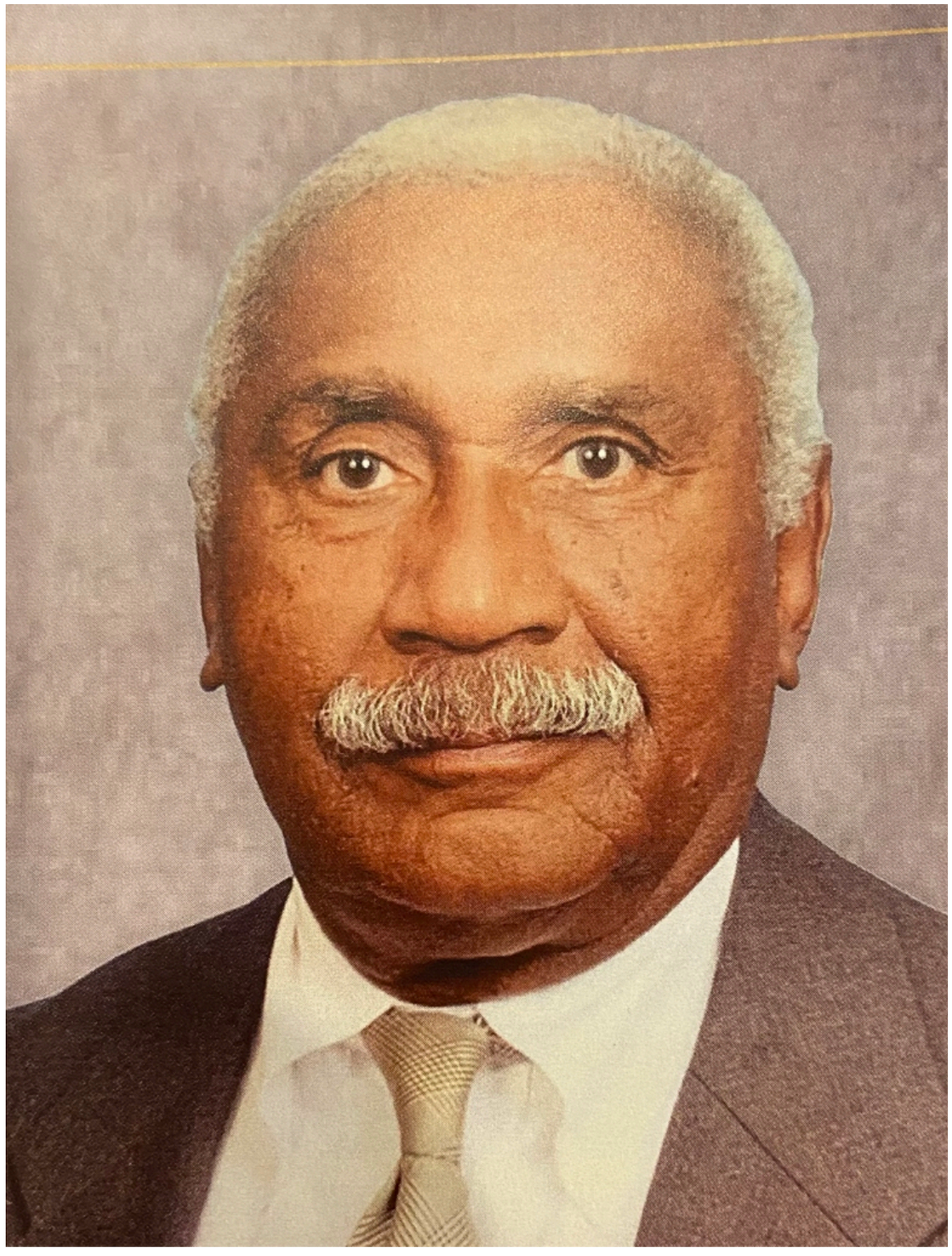
Archons Ansell V. Sims, Roderic I. Pettigrew and Daryl A. Basham

Through their leadership and intentional approach to DEI, Archons Edward Benson and Jeffrey Hughes and Archousa Rosalind Williford of Zeta Delta Boulé, Mercer–Bucks Counties, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, as board members and staff of First Tee – Greater Trenton, received the Barbara Douglas and Dr. William J. Powell Diversity Award on November 1, 2023, as part of the 2023 First Tee Awards presented by *Golf Digest*. Archon Benson is executive director of First Tee – Greater Trenton, and Archon Hughes and Archousa Williford serve on the board of directors as president and vice president, respectively.

The Barbara Douglas and Dr. William J. Powell Diversity Award is presented to the First Tee chapter that demonstrates outstanding commitment to promoting diversity both within its chapter and within its community. More than 75 percent of First Tee – Greater Trenton's participants are ethnically diverse, and 47 percent are girls. Nearly 70 percent of the chapter's staff and board members are ethnically diverse, and 100 percent of the chapter's executive committee members are ethnically diverse. These percentages are markedly higher than the national rankings within the First Tee network, which includes 150 chapters.

Archon John E. Fiadjoe
Grapter, Zeta Delta Boulé

Benjamin A. Blackburn II Receives Living Legend Award



Archon Benjamin A. Blackburn II of Atlanta's Kappa Boulé received the Living Legend Award at the Thomas J. Blocker Society Living Legends Gala on September 30, 2023. The Thomas J. Blocker Society is the health profession alumni association of Morehouse College. Archon Blackburn is a prosthodontist, community leader and retired colonel in the United States Army Reserve. In 1961 he received his bachelor of science degree in biology and chemistry from Morehouse and four years later received his D.D.S. from Meharry Medical College. He completed his postgraduate certification in prosthodontics at the New York University College of Dentistry.

In 1970 Archon Blackburn opened his private practice in downtown Atlanta, later relocating to Atlanta's Buckhead community in 2009. In 2002 his son joined the practice, and the two have been working together ever since.

Among his many achievements, Archon Blackburn was the third African American to be certified by the American Board of Prosthodontics, the first African American to become a member of the Southeastern Academy of Prosthodontics and the Fifth District Dental Society, the first African American to become president of the Northern District Dental Society, and the first African American to teach at the Dental College of Georgia and Emory University's dental school.

Archon Blackburn is a trustee at Meharry Medical College and Morehouse College. He is a member of the Health1st Foundation, a fellow of the American College of Dentists and the American College of Prosthodontics, and an honorable fel-

low of the Georgia Dental Association. He is also a member of several other dental organizations, including the American Prosthodontics Society, the Southeastern Academy of Prosthodontics, the Georgia Dental Society, Fifth District Dental Society, Northern District Dental Society and the North Georgia Dental Society.

Steven D. Bond Appointed Interim City Attorney for Hampton, Virginia

On December 13, 2023, the Hampton City Council appointed Hampton–Norfolk, Virginia's Beta Lambda Boulé Archon Steven D. Bond to serve as the interim city attorney for Hampton. In this role, Archon Bond will be the chief legal adviser to the city and will lead the city attorney's office. Archon Bond has worked for the City of Hampton for more than sixteen years, previously serving as deputy city attorney and most recently as the assistant city manager in charge of public safety. Archon Bond will be the first Black male to serve as city attorney in Hampton's 413-year history. He previously worked in private practice and served as an assistant commonwealth's attorney in Norfolk and Newport News. He also served seven years in the city attorney's office prior to being appointed assistant city manager.

Archon Steven D. Bond
Grapter, Beta Lambda Boulé

Darric N. Boyd Recognized as Top Revenue Producer



In November 2023 Archon Darric N. Boyd of Gamma Boulé, Baltimore, was named the top revenue producer in the brokerage category by the Association of African American Financial Advisors in recognition of his business success as well as his leadership, community involvement, and dedication to fostering diversity and inclusion in the finance industry.

Archon Guy B. Richardson
Grapter, Gamma Boulé

Albert L. Brooks Elected President of Alameda-Contra Costa Medical Association Council



On November 3, 2023, Archon Albert L. Brooks of Oakland–Berkeley, California's Alpha Gamma Boulé was elected president of the Alameda-Contra Costa Medical Association (ACCMA) Council, the elected governing body of the ACCMA. The council also serves as the ACCMA's delegation to the California Medical Association House of Delegates. Archon Brooks, cofounder of the 501(c)(3) nonprofit Physicians Medical Forum, is a staunch advocate for increasing the number of African American and underrepresented minorities in medicine. Over the past fifteen years, through its Doctors on Board Program, Physicians Medical Forum has assisted thousands of students in their journeys to become physicians.

Archon Vernon C. Goins II
Grapter, Alpha Gamma Boulé

Troy J. Broussard Appointed AARP Kentucky State Director

On September 3, 2023, Archon Troy J. Broussard of Baton Rouge, Louisiana's Alpha Xi Boulé was appointed the new state director of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Kentucky. Archon Broussard began his career with AARP as Louisiana state associate director of advocacy and outreach. Based in the Louisville AARP office, he leads the state office's advocacy and outreach effort with a team of volunteers and staff representing more than 425,000 AARP members across Kentucky.

Archon Christopher J. Tyson
Grapter, Alpha Xi Boulé

Artis M. Brown Promoted to Vice President of Global Basestocks and Waxes at ExxonMobil



On January 1, 2024, Archon Artis M. Brown of North Houston, Texas's Epsilon Omicron Boulé began his new role as vice president of global basestocks and waxes at ExxonMobil Corp. In this role Archon Brown leads a talented team in the marketing and sales of high-quality lubricants, base oils and waxes. Prior to his new role, Archon Brown served as senior corporate strategy executive for ExxonMobil.

Archon Eric T. Adams
Grapter, Epsilon Omicron Boulé

John Benjamin Brown, Jr., Receives President's Volunteer Service Lifetime Achievement Award

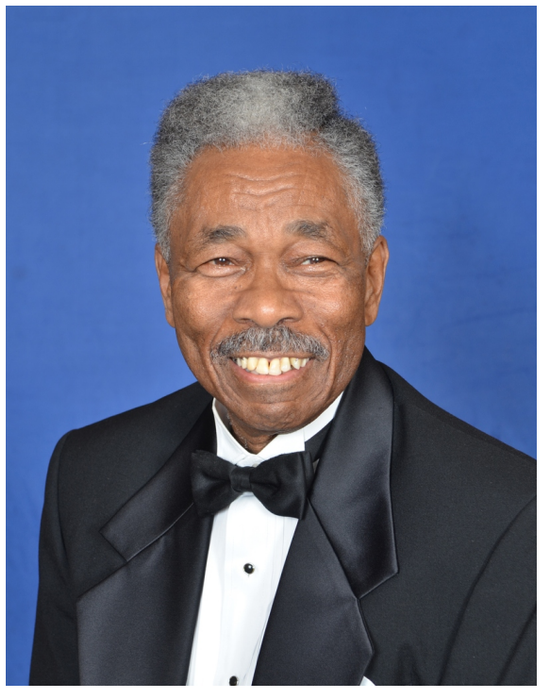


Past Sire Archon John Benjamin Brown, Jr., of Greensboro, North Carolina's Beta Epsilon Boulé received the President's Volunteer Service Lifetime Achievement Award on November 3, 2023, in recognition of the more than 8,000 community service volunteer hours he has acquired during his lifetime. Led by AmeriCorps and managed in partnership with the Executive Office of the President of the United States, the award allows organizations to nominate their most exceptional volunteers based on service over a twelve-month period or a lifetime. For the lifetime achievement award, one must complete at least 4,000 hours of service. The awards program began in 2003 and honors individuals whose service positively affects communities in every corner of the nation and inspires others to act.

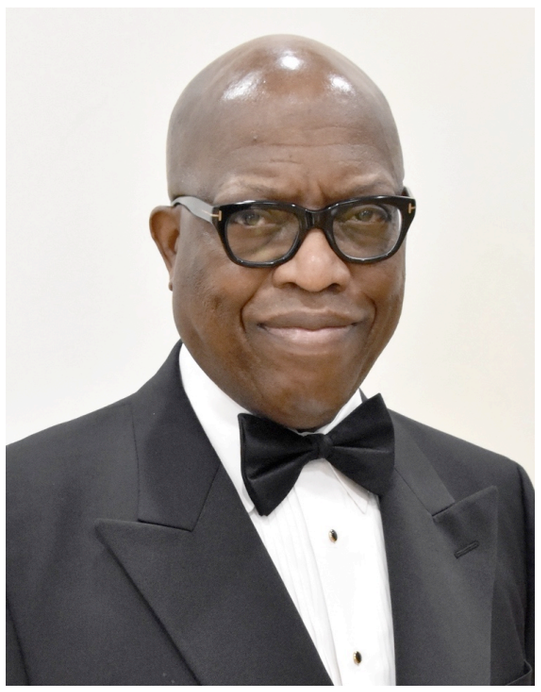
Archon Brown is a retired senior municipal administrator and a retired colonel in the United States Army. He has served in a multitude of leadership positions for local, state and national organizations, including the North Carolina City and County Management Association, the Greensboro Police Foundation's board of directors, Habitat for Humanity, the Hayes-Taylor Memorial YMCA's board of directors, Goodwill, United Way, the NAACP, the National Forum for Black Public Administrators, and Providence Baptist Church's board of deacons.

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

John Benjamin Brown, Jr., and Paul L. Jones Inducted Into Hayes-Taylor Memorial YMCA Hall of Fame



Archon John Benjamin Brown, Jr.



Archon Paul L. Jones

Archons John Benjamin Brown, Jr., and Paul L. Jones of Beta Epsilon Boulé, Greensboro, North Carolina, were inducted into the Hayes-Taylor Memorial YMCA Hall of Fame during the Fifty-seventh Annual Awards and Recognition Banquet on November 12, 2023. Dating back to 1939, the Hayes-Taylor YMCA was the first YMCA in Greensboro to allow the membership of nonwhite citizens, serving segregated Black residents during the Jim Crow era. Archon Brown is a past president of the Hayes-Taylor Memorial YMCA's board of directors and Archon Jones is the board's current president.

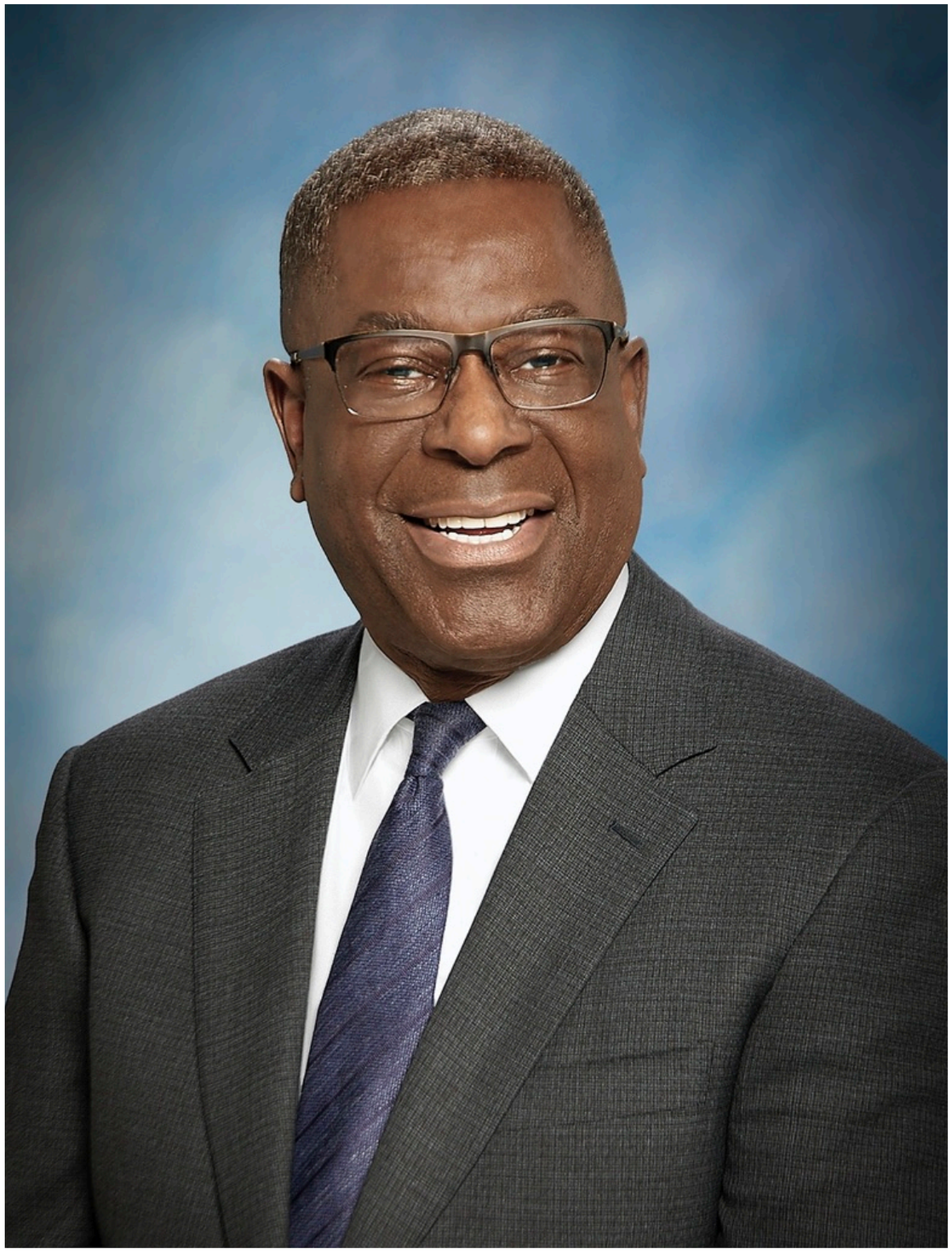
Archon Brown is a retired senior municipal administrator and a retired colonel in the United States Army who served combat tours in Vietnam and Grenada. His roles in local government included assistant city manager, finance director and chief development officer for the City of Fayetteville, North Carolina; assistant city manager for the City of Greensboro, North Carolina; and assistant county manager for Guilford County, North Carolina. Archon Brown served on Fayetteville State University's board of trustees from 2003 to 2011 – including two years as board chair – and currently serves as chair of the Fayetteville State University Foundation board. He is also a Past Sire Archon of Beta Epsilon Boulé. Archon Brown earned an undergraduate degree from Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio, where he double majored in political science and education, and he earned two master's degrees from Fayetteville State University. He has also completed graduate studies at the University of Kansas, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the United States Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Archon Brown and Archousa Dorothy have five adult children, eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Archon Jones is a retired superior court judge in North Carolina and a retired colonel in the United States Army Reserve. He was first appointed to the North Carolina Superior

Court in 1999 and was elected unopposed in 2000 and 2008. Archon Jones received his B.S. from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University and his J.D. from the North Carolina Central University School of Law. He also graduated from the United States Army's judge advocate officer's basic and advanced courses in Charlottesville, Virginia, and the Army's command and general staff officer's course at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He currently serves on NCA&T's board of trustees and is the immediate past president of the Rotary Club of Greensboro. He has received numerous accolades in his distinguished career, including the Order of the Long Leaf Pine and the North Carolina State Bar's John B. McMillan Distinguished Service Award. Archon Jones and Archousa Edwina have two adult children: Krystle and Erika.

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

Black Men XCEL Honors Shannon Brown



Memphis's Delta Boulé Archon Shannon Brown was honored at the Black Men XCEL Summit, October 11–13, 2023, at the JW Marriott Miami Turnberry Resort & Spa in Miami, Florida. Archon Brown rose from humble beginnings in public housing in Memphis, joining FedEx as a package handler before ultimately becoming senior vice president of eastern division U.S. operations and chief diversity officer at FedEx. Archon Brown was celebrated for his exceptional achievements and transformative impact. His focused commitment to diversity and inclusion paved the way for countless others to realize professional successes. Archon Brown retired from FedEx earlier in 2023.

Archon Ronald A. Walter
Grapter, Delta Boulé

William A. Brown, Sr., Receives Barack Obama Bronze Medal

On September 18, 2023, the Honorable Ventris C. Gibson, the first African American director of the United States Mint, presented Archon William A. Brown, Sr., of Epsilon Delta Boulé, Williamsburg, Virginia, with a Barack Obama Bronze Medal at the African American Federal Executive Association (AAFEA) annual workshop at the University of Maryland. Archon Brown, retired deputy director of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, is the lead founder of AAFEA, the second-largest federal Senior Executive Service association in the United States. Founded in 2002, AAFEA provides training and advocates for increasing the number of African Americans in the federal Senior Executive Service. During the workshop AAFEA also awarded the William A. Brown, Sr. Scholarship to two aspiring members of the Senior Executive Service.

Archon Rondall W. James
Grapter, Epsilon Delta Boulé

Pedro Bryant and Audwin Helton Elected to Board Leadership Positions



Archon Pedro Bryant



Archon Audwin Helton

In December 2023 Louisville, Kentucky's Psi Boulé Archon Audwin Helton was elected board chair of Evolve502 for 2024. Psi Boulé Archon Pedro Bryant was also elected treasurer and chairman of the finance committee. Archons Helton and Bryant have been on the board of Evolve502 since it was created in October 2018. A community-focused organization, Evolve502 aims to create pathways to education for Louisville's youth by linking young people to resources that promote academic success and giving them access to funding for postsecondary education.

Archon George Demaree
Grapter, Psi Boulé

Terrence V. Burroughs Receives William Richardson Davie Award



On November 9, 2023, the board of trustees of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill presented Raleigh, North Carolina's Gamma Sigma Boulé Archon Terrence V. Burroughs with the William Richardson Davie Award, the board's highest honor. *Carolina Pharmacy*, a publication of the UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy Alumni Association and the UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy Foundation, published a story about Archon Burroughs and his recent recognition on November 14, 2023: https://carolinapharmacy.org/2023/11/14/terrence-burroughs-davie-award/.

Archon Joel J. Ducoste / Grapter, Gamma Sigma Boulé

Manwell Bynum Appointed to North Carolina Board of Science, Technology and Innovation



In September 2023 Governor Roy A. Cooper III appointed Charlotte, North Carolina's Beta Delta Boulé Archon Manwell Bynum to the North Carolina Board of Science, Technology and Innovation as a member at-large. Archon Bynum is the head of business acceleration at Atrium Health.

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

Ryan Calhoun and Lawrence Milan Support Connecticut Children's Gala



Members of Alpha Psi Boulé, Hartford, came out to support the Connecticut Children's 2023 Gala on November 11, 2023, at the Connecticut Convention Center. Alpha Psi Boulé Archons Ryan Calhoun, vice president of strategy and care integration for Connecticut Children's, and Lawrence "Larry" Milan, senior vice president for human resources for Connecticut Children's, served as table hosts at the event. The gala raised more than $1.4 million for the Connecticut Children's Foundation.

Archon G.D. Harris
Grapter, Alpha Psi Boulé

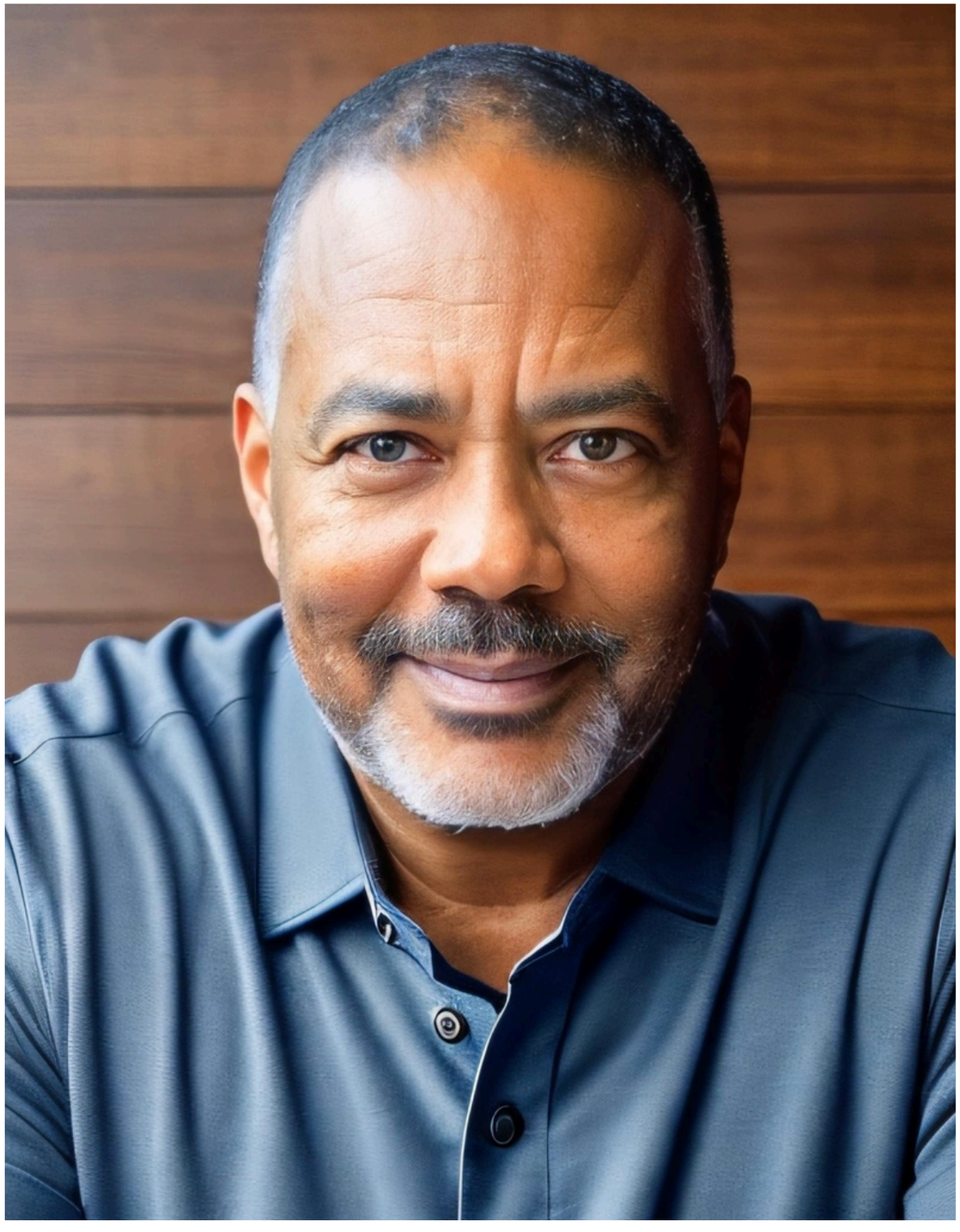
Preston J. Castille, Jr., Wins Education Board Reelection



On October 14, 2023, Baton Rouge, Louisiana's Alpha Xi Boulé Archon Preston J. Castille, Jr., won reelection to the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for District 8. He garnered 70 percent of the vote.

Archon Christopher J. Tyson
Grapter, Alpha Xi Boulé

Ralph Clark to Receive Distinguished Professional Service Award



On December 1, 2023, the University of the Pacific Alumni Association announced that Archon Ralph Clark of Oakland–Berkeley, California's Alpha Gamma Boulé will receive the 2024 Distinguished Professional Service award for achieving notable career success. Archon Clark is president and CEO of SoundThinking, formerly ShotSpotter, a public safety technology company most widely known for its gunshot detection system, which is used by more than 150 cities around the country. Archon Clark earned his bachelor's degrees in philosophy and economics from University of the Pacific and his M.B.A. from Harvard Business School.

Archon Vernon C. Goins II
Grapter, Alpha Gamma Boulé

Taj Clayton Joins Board of Sponsors for Educational Opportunity



In December 2023 Dallas's Alpha Epsilon Boulé Archon Taj Clayton, a litigation partner at the Dallas office of the Chicago-based law firm Kirkland & Ellis, LLP, was appointed to the board of directors for Sponsors for Educational Opportunity. The organization has operated since 1963 and is widely recognized as one of the leading organizations of its kind. Since its inception it has served more than 21,000 students through its various programs.

One program is the scholars program, which is a free, eight-year academic program that provides low-income public high school students with guidance through the college level and beyond to prepare them for career success in business, finance, law and STEM fields. Program participants have a graduation rate of 90 percent, and more than 80 percent are first-generation college graduates.

Another program is the career program, which plays a significant role in recruiting and coaching high-achieving undergraduates, including Black, Latino and Native American students, for summer internships that lead to highly sought, full-time jobs on Wall Street and in major corporations and other highly rated private-sector commercial entities.

Archon Kevin B. Wiggins
Grapter, Alpha Epsilon Boulé

Kieth Cockrell Named to *Charlotte Business Journal* Power 100



Charlotte, North Carolina's Beta Delta Boulé Archon Kieth Cockrell was named to the *Charlotte Business Journal* Power 100 in September 2023. This year's class is made up of the region's leaders in diversity, equity and inclusion. Archon Cockrell is the president and head of global sports sponsorships for Bank of America Charlotte.

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

Malcomb Coley Featured in *Charlotte Business Journal* Power 100



In September 2023 Archon Malcomb Coley of Beta Delta Boulé, Charlotte, North Carolina, was featured on the *Charlotte Business Journal* Power 100 list of the region's leaders in diversity, equity and inclusion. Archon Coley is the central region private leader and Charlotte managing partner at Ernst & Young. As the managing partner for the Charlotte office, Archon Coley oversees more than 2,000 professionals across Ernst & Young's tax, advisory, assurance and transaction advisory service lines.

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

Mitch Colvin Reelected Mayor of Fayetteville



Archon Mitch Colvin of Fayetteville, North Carolina's Epsilon Alpha Boulé secured his fourth term as mayor of Fayetteville on November 7, 2023. Archon Colvin is the longest-serving African American mayor and second-longest–serving mayor in the history of Fayetteville.

Archon Kelvin E. Farmer
Grapter, Epsilon Alpha Boulé

Education Foundation Award Named in Honor of Ronald L. Corbin



In appreciation of Nashville's Chi Boulé Archon Ronald L. Corbin and his long-standing support for public education in Nashville, the Nashville Public Education Foundation named an award in his honor at its annual meeting on September 27, 2023. The Ronald L. Corbin Inspiring Leader Award is now one of three inspiring leader awards presented annually at the Nashville Public Education Foundation Public Schools Hall of Fame. The recipient of the Ronald L. Corbin Inspiring Leader Award must be an outstanding, innovative Metro Nashville Public Schools leader who demonstrates exceptional leadership, inspires others to think big, and leads with compassion and strength. The first Ronald L. Corbin Inspiring Leader Award presentation is scheduled for the 2024 Nashville Public Education Foundation Public Schools Hall of Fame on September 5, 2024. Metro Nashville Public Schools and Lipscomb University sponsor the award and will select the honoree.

Archon Billy R. Ballard
Grapter, Chi Boulé

Earl M. Cummings Named Independent Board Chair for CenterPoint Energy



Immediate Past Sire Archon Earl M. Cummings of Fort Bend, Texas's Zeta Alpha Boulé was appointed to the board of directors of CenterPoint Energy as its independent board chair on August 21, 2023. Archon Cummings has served on the board as an independent director since 2020. He has also chaired the governance, environmental and sustainability committee and served as a member of the audit and compensation committees.

Archon Sean A. Haley
Grapter, Zeta Alpha Boulé

Robert C. Davidson, Jr., Named Chair of Smithsonian American Art Museum Board



The Smithsonian American Art Museum (SAAM) appointed Archon Robert "Bob" C. Davidson, Jr., of Pasadena, California's Gamma Zeta Boulé as chair of the museum's board of commissioners for a four-year term, effective January 1, 2024. Established in 1908, the SAAM board meets twice a year in Washington, D.C., to advise the director about matters of policy and fundraising and to review proposed major acquisitions. Archon Davidson, a leading collector of African American art who joined SAAM's commission on July 1, 2016, will be the first African American chair.

Archon Davidson was the chair of the collection committee from 2021 through 2023. "As a noted art collector and business executive, Bob Davidson brings important expertise and connections in the arts to this new leadership role," said Stephanie Stebich, The Margaret and Terry Stent Director of the Smithsonian American Art Museum. "He has championed the collecting mission of the museum as well as provided knowledge and experience of strategic, financial and public governance matters."

Archon Davidson is the retired chairman, CEO and founder of Surface Protection Industries, which in the past thirty years became one of the top African American–owned manufacturing companies in the United States. Prior to owning his own business, he cofounded and was vice president of the Urban National Corporation, a private venture capital firm that raised a fund for investments into U.S. minority-controlled businesses. Archon Davidson is an avid art collector with one

of the country's finest collections of African American art, which he and his wife, Archousa Faye, frequently have lent to major museums for public viewing. He holds a bachelor's degree and honorary doctorate of law from Morehouse College and a master's degree in business administration from the University of Chicago.

Currently, Archon Davidson's board affiliations include the Art Center College of Design (chairman emeritus); Broadway Financial Corporation; Cedars-Sinai Medical Center (life member); City First Broadway; Jacobs Engineering; Morehouse College (chairman emeritus); The Huntington, Library, Art Museum and Botanical Gardens; Toyota Motor North America's Diversity Advisory Board; and the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business advisory council. "I am incredibly honored to continue my work with the Smithsonian American Art Museum as chair of its board of commissioners," Archon Davidson said. "I believe wholeheartedly in its mission of sharing the stories of our nation through American art and craft to inspire reflection, spark dialogue and build connection. Since joining the commission in 2016, I am proud of the work we have done thus far and look forward to implementing the museum's newest strategic plan and to strategically expanding the national collections."

The museum's commission currently comprises twenty-five leaders in the arts, business and local community from across the United States. The commissioners contribute a wide range of perspectives, professional experiences and collecting interests to help advance the museum's mission.

Archon Michael L. Kennedy
Grapter, Gamma Zeta Boulé

Gordon and Josephine Davis Receive Whitney M. Young Jr. Service Award



Archon Gordon Davis



Archousa Josephine Davis

Fort Valley, Georgia's Beta Chi Boulé Archon Gordon Davis and his Archousa, Josephine Davis, received the Whitney M. Young Jr. Service Award from the Boy Scouts of America, Central Georgia Council on November 6, 2023, during the Stronger Together Gala at the Tubman African American Museum in Macon. The Davises each received the award for their mentorship, guidance and service to the troop and the young men and women in the Central Georgia community.

Archon Alvin C. Harmon / Grapter, Beta Chi Boulé

Miami Street Named for Ira P. Davis



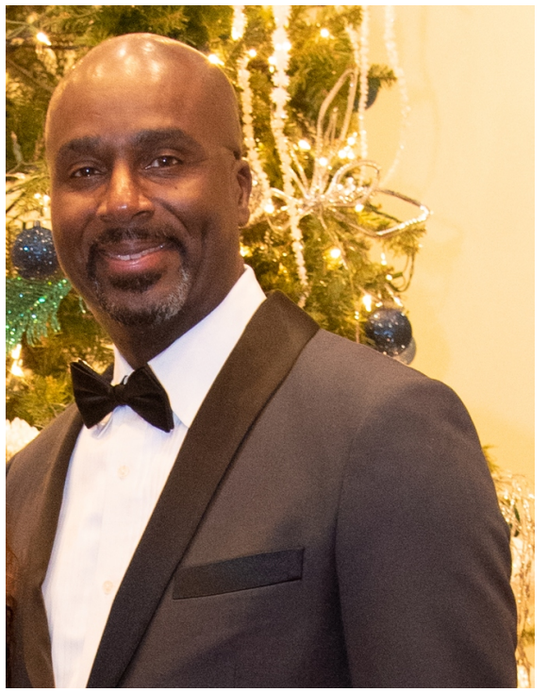
On November 17, 2023, the City of Miami and Miami-Dade County honored late Archon Ira P. Davis of Miami, Florida's Alpha Rho Boulé with a street named after him in Miami's historic Overtown neighborhood. Overtown's Northwest Sixteenth Street between Second and Third Avenue is now known as Dr. Ira P. Davis Street. Born in Jacksonville, Florida, in 1896, Archon Davis was a key figure in advancing the civil rights of the African American community in Miami from the time he arrived in the late 1930's until his passing in 1970.

After serving in the United States Army in World War I and graduating from the Howard University College of Dentistry, Archon Davis set up his dental office in Overtown. Archon Davis fought for housing rights for Black citizens and, along with a coalition of other community leaders, was responsible for the establishment of the first Black police force, police precinct, courthouse and judge in South Florida. He also played a role in having Virginia Key Beach assigned as a beach for Black people at a time when Black people had no place to swim and enjoy the outdoors. In addition, Archon Davis spearheaded the campaign to integrate the Orange Bowl and brought the Orange Blossom Classic to Miami. He also worked to desegregate golf courses in the area.

At the street-naming ceremony, which was attended by several Alpha Rho Boulé Archons, including Sire Archon–E-lect Tim Hogans and Archons George Simpson, Darryll Green, David Portergg and Ronald Frazier, Archon Davis was remembered by his family, civic leaders, military veterans and members of the clergy alike.

Archon Myles C. Pistorius
Grapter, Alpha Rho Boulé

Johnathon T. Davis and William H. Wilson Appointed to Lexington-Fayette County Planning Commission



Archon Johnathon T. Davis



Archon William H. Wilson

In a noteworthy advancement for the urban planning and development landscape of the city of Lexington, Archons Johnathon T. Davis and William "Bill" H. Wilson, esteemed members of Delta Tau Boulé in Frankfort, Kentucky, were appointed to serve four-year terms on the Lexington-Fayette County Planning Commission in December 2023. These appointments by Lexington mayor Linda Gorton underscore the city and community's recognition of these two Archons' leadership abilities and civic engagement. Archon Wilson's appointment marks a return to the commission, where he previously served, with distinction, from 2009 to 2021. During that time he held key leadership roles, including chair, vice chair and parliamentarian.

The Lexington-Fayette County Planning Commission plays a crucial role in shaping the future of the community. Responsible for reviewing and adopting the city's comprehensive plan, the commission serves as a vital authority in approving subdivision plats and development plans and providing recommendations to the council for zone-change requests.

Archon Timothy A. Johnson
Grapter, Delta Tau Boulé

Reginald DesRoches and Bernard Harris Join American Academy of Arts and Sciences



Archons Reginald DesRoches and Bernard Harris

In September 2023 Houston, Texas's Nu Boulé Archons Reginald DesRoches and Bernard Harris were inducted into the American of Arts and Sciences in Cambridge, Massachusetts, along with others elected into the 2022 and 2023 classes, including Grand Sire Archon Antoine M. Garibaldi. The academy comprises world leaders in the arts and sciences, business, philanthropy, and public affairs. Members join other experts to explore challenges facing society, identify solutions and promote nonpartisan recommendations advancing the public good.

Archon DesRoches is the eighth president of Rice University and the first African American to hold that position. He is also a professor of civil and environmental engineering, and a professor of mechanical engineering. A fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the society's Structural Engineering Institute, Archon DesRoches was the key technical leader in the U.S. response to the 2010 Haiti earthquake, taking a team of engineers, architects, city planners and social scientists to study the impact of the earthquake. He has participated in numerous congressional briefings to underscore the critical role that university research must play in addressing the country's failing infrastructure and enhancing the nation's resilience to natural hazards. He is on the advisory board of the Natural Hazards Engineering Research Infrastructure Simulation Center, the California Department of Transportation Seismic Advisory Board, the Halliburton Labs Clean Tech Accelerator and the HTX Impact Fund, which focuses on minority-led startups.

Archon Harris, a physician, is the chief executive officer and managing partner of Vesalius Ventures, Inc. A former NASA astronaut and the first African American to walk in space, he now pursues a range of activities that further his interest in business, space exploration, emerging technologies and community development. He was chief executive officer of the National Math and Science Initiative and is a member of the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine Board on Health Sciences Policy and chairman of the Texas Medical Center and the Harris Foundation, which he founded. He is also a trustee and director of Salient and Barings investment funds and is on the boards of U.S. Physical Therapy, Raytheon Technologies and MassMutual.

Archon Michael T. Murphy
Grapter, Nu Boulé

Jamel K. Donnor Named to William & Mary Endowed Professorship



Archon Jamel K. Donnor of Epsilon Delta Boulé, Williamsburg, Virginia, was appointed the Fred Huby Memorial Professor of Education at William & Mary in October 2023. Archon Donnor is an affiliated faculty member in the William & Mary Law School and William & Mary's departments of American studies, Africana studies, and Asian and Pacific Islander studies. He is the founding executive director of the William & Mary School of Education's Institute for the Study of Education, Democracy, and Justice.

Archon Rondall W. James
Grapter, Epsilon Delta Boulé

Grand Sire Archon–Elect Loren R. Douglass Meets With Top Democratic Leaders



Recently Grand Sire Archon–Elect Loren R. Douglass met with top leaders in the Democratic Party. On December 13, 2023, he attended a holiday reception at Vice President Kamala Harris's residence at the U.S. Naval Observatory in Washington, D.C.; a luncheon in Palm Beach, Florida, for House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries on January 26, 2024; and a Black History Month celebration at the White House in February 2024.

It's evident that Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, under the leadership of Grand Sire Archon–Elect Loren R. Douglass, will actively position itself as a significant player in national policy discussions. His recent meetings with President Joe Biden, Vice President Harris and House Minority Leader Jeffries underscore the Fraternity's growing influence. Archon Douglass's administration intends to pursue an agenda and influence public policy on critical issues, such as economic empowerment, the crisis affecting Black men and boys, healthcare, and addressing economic disparities that disproportionately affect Black communities.

The Fraternity's long-standing dedication to leadership, community service and advocacy for social justice has laid the groundwork for these high-level engagements. Grand Sire Archon–Elect Douglass's proactive approach in engaging with political leaders signals a strategic understanding of the Fraternity's potential to effect change.

Moreover, the emphasis on collaboration between government officials and civic organizations highlights a broader rec-

ognition of the importance of collective action in addressing societal challenges. Sigma Pi Phi, with its rich legacy and strategic alliances, is well-positioned to contribute significantly to these efforts.

These historic series of encounters not only highlight the Fraternity's importance in the national conversation on social and economic justice and equality, but also set a precedent for future engagement between Black professional organizations and the highest levels of government with Grand Sire Archon–Elect Douglass already having established a working relationship with the leadership of The Links, Inc.

Moving forward, the Fraternity's focus on coalition building, strategic partnerships and economic empowerment aligns with the recurring themes of the upcoming administration. By working closely with elected leaders, Sigma Pi Phi aims to amplify its impact and contribute to the advancement of a more equitable and just society.

Archon Lewis P. Long
Grapter, Zeta Boulé

Lance F. Drummond Chairs Freddie Mac's Board of Directors



Charlotte, North Carolina's Beta Delta Boulé Archon Lance F. Drummond was named chair of Freddie Mac's board of directors, effective February 2024. Archon Drummond joined the Freddie Mac board in 2015. He currently serves as chair of the compensation and human capital committee and is a member of the executive, audit, and operations and technology committees. Archon Drummond previously served as executive vice president of operations and technology for TD Canada Trust and executive vice president of human resources and shared services at Fiserv, Inc.

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

Jim Dunn Featured on Cover of *Who's Who In Black Charlotte*



In November 2023 Charlotte, North Carolina's Beta Delta Boulé Archon Jim Dunn was selected for the cover of *Who's Who In Black Charlotte*. Archon Dunn is chair of the board of trustees of Central Piedmont Community College.

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

Bar Association of Erie County Presents David L. Edmunds, Jr., With Charles H. Dougherty Civility Award

Archon David L. Edmunds, Jr., of Buffalo's Alpha Kappa Boulé received the 2023 Charles H. Dougherty Civility Award from the Bar Association of Erie County on November 2. The award is presented to a distinguished practitioner who exemplifies the same sense of civility and decorum that characterizes the career of the association's former president Charles H. Dougherty, who was always forthright and scrupulously fair and elevated the standard of integrity, honesty and courtesy in the legal profession. Archon Edmunds is the association's first African American president.

John Elmore Honored at Syracuse University College of Law Awards

Archon John Elmore of Buffalo's Alpha Kappa Boulé received the Black Law Student Association William Herbert Johnson Legacy Award for his outstanding contributions to legal education, the legal system and his community at the Syracuse University College of Law Awards in September 2023. Archon Elmore, a 1984 graduate of the college, is the co-founder and cochair of the Criminal Justice Reform Task Force in Erie County, New York. More information about Archon Elmore, including a video created by Syracuse University, is available at https://alumniweekend.law.syr.edu/2023-syracuse-university-college-of-law-awards/.

Frank E. Emory, Jr., Serves as Barton College Commencement Speaker



Archon Frank E. Emory, Jr., of Charlotte, North Carolina's Beta Delta Boulé served as the commencement speaker for Barton College's commencement exercises last year. Archon Emory is the executive vice president and chief legal officer for Novant Health. Archon Emory and Archousa Lisa Emory also established an undergraduate scholarship at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in honor of Archon Emory's father, Frank Emory, Sr., Class of 1951.

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

Coyness Ennix, Jr., Receives Sinkler Miller Medical Association Trailblazer Award



The Sinkler Miller Medical Association (SMMA) presented Oakland–Berkeley, California's Alpha Gamma Boulé Archon Coyness Ennix, Jr., with its prestigious Trailblazer Award at the SMMA 40th Annual Scholarship Gala on September 16, 2023. The Trailblazer Award was bestowed on Archon Ennix in recognition of his contributions to fighting for equity in California's health care workforce. Archon Ennix was the principal pioneer in the founding of the now state-funded California Medicine Scholars Program for underrepresented medical students. He chaired the California Medicine Coalition, the architect and author of the bill that eventually made its way into the state's 2022 budget to fund the California Medicine Scholars Program.

Formed in 1969 by physicians in California's Alameda and Contra Costa counties who saw the need to unite and form a professional medical association, the SMMA aims to improve the quality of health care in the community, advance the art and science of medicine, and maintain a high standard of medical ethics.

Archon Vernon C. Goins II
Grapter, Alpha Gamma Boulé

Thomas Farrington's Network Promotes Prostate-Cancer Awareness



On September 30, 2023, the fight against prostate cancer was highlighted at the State Fair Classic football game at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas, Texas, featuring historically Black colleges Prairie View A&M and Grambling. The Prostate Health Education Network, founded by Archon Thomas Farrington of Boston's Beta Beta Boulé, arranged for specially designed player sleeves and sideline caps with the blue ribbon of prostate-cancer awareness. Archon Farrington was assisted by Beta Beta Archon Keith Crawford, the organization's director of clinical trials and a graduate of Prairie View.

Archon Derrick Z. Jackson
Grapter, Beta Beta Boulé

George Fatheree Named Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center Resident



Los Angeles's Xi Boulé Archon George Fatheree was named a 2024 resident of the Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center Residency Program in November 2023. The residency, hosted in Lake Como, Italy, offers approximately one hundred people from around the globe the chance to develop ideas, art, policies and breakthroughs to promote the well-being of humanity. Archon Fatheree will use the residency to develop his Black Land Loss Narrative Archive Project, which seeks to establish a national repository to document narratives around the dispossession of Black-owned land. Archon Fatheree's fellow Bellagio alumni include luminaries like Ruth Bader Ginsberg, Maya Angelou, Ta-Nehisi Coates, Nikole Hannah-Jones, Akin Omotoso and Ilwad Elman.

Archon de Winter L. Stewart
Grapter, Xi Boulé

Mark T. Fleming Featured in Interview for Prostate Cancer Awareness Month



Archon Mark T. Fleming of Hampton–Norfolk, Virginia's Beta Lambda Boulé was interviewed for the article "Prostate Cancer Awareness Month Underscores the Importance of Getting Screened," which was published by the NBC affiliate Wavy-TV 10 in September 2023. Archon Fleming, an oncologist, discussed the loss of his father, who was also a physician, to prostate cancer and detailed his own scare when his prostate specific antigen (PSA) jumped for no clear reason. He stressed the importance of men getting their first PSA screening by taking a simple blood test between ages 45 and 50 to establish a baseline. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that approximately 13 out of every 100 men in America will be diagnosed with prostate cancer. Archon Fleming emphasized that prostate cancer is very treatable when diagnosed early.

Archon Steven D. Bond
Grapter, Beta Lambda Boulé

Ricky Fleming Receives Chancelor's Award For Excellence in Faculty Service

Alpha Kappa Boulé, Buffalo, congratulates Archon Ricky Fleming for receiving the State University of New York (SUNY) Chancellors Award for Excellence in Faculty Service on October 12, 2023. Archon Fleming, a professor of music, has a detailed history of commitment, inventiveness and devotion to SUNY Buffalo State University, the New York State Band Directors Association, the Western New York community and others through his initiatives and steadfast duty to deliver music education opportunities for all. Archon Fleming's record illustrates in detail how he has excelled in faculty service. Archon Fleming chairs the New York State Band Directors Association's Collegiate Chapter and serves as a domestic and international ambassador at various venues around the world, including Hungary, South Africa and China. He is a consummate professional and academic role model whose credentials, work ethic, energy and vision for Buffalo State University elevate the university's reputation around the world.

Henri R. Ford Installed as President of American College of Surgeons



Archon Henri R. Ford of Miami, Florida's Alpha Rho Boulé was installed as president of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) on October 22, 2023. An ACS Fellow since 1996, Archon Ford's history of service to the ACS includes being a member of the board of regents from 2012 to 2021; chair of the program committee, which is responsible for planning and implementing ACS continuing educational offerings; liaison for the ACS Advisory Council for Pediatric Surgery; and chair of the ethics committee, chair of the nominating committee and vice chair of the board of governors.

Archon Ford is the dean and chief academic officer of the University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine, where he is focused on developing the next generation of surgeon leaders, increasing research funding and making the Miller School of Medicine one of the most diverse medical schools in the United States.

Archon Myles C. Pistorius
Grapter, Alpha Rho Boulé

Nathaniel P. Ford, Sr., Receives Coveted National Transportation Leadership Award



Jacksonville, Florida's Gamma Beta Boulé Archon Nathaniel P. Ford, Sr., was presented the prestigious 2024 Sharon D. Banks Award for Humanitarian Leadership in Transportation on January 10, 2024. Archon Ford, CEO of the Jacksonville Transportation Authority, has become a national leader after decades of innovation with transformative effects. His work with driverless vehicles for mass transportation and his ability to bring some of Europe's best manufacturers to America is unprecedented.

Upon arriving in Jacksonville, Archon Ford noticed residents spending hours at bus stops without amenities or shelter from the elements. Under his leadership, governmental and nonprofit organizations fell in line to establish several people-oriented fixtures in the community, including Urban Rest Stop; the Career Closet initiative, which provides professional clothing for job interviews; Farm Share Jacksonville, which aims to solve issues of food insecurity; and supply closets for children in underresourced communities. Archon Ford networked a web of transportation vehicles and staff to make it happen.

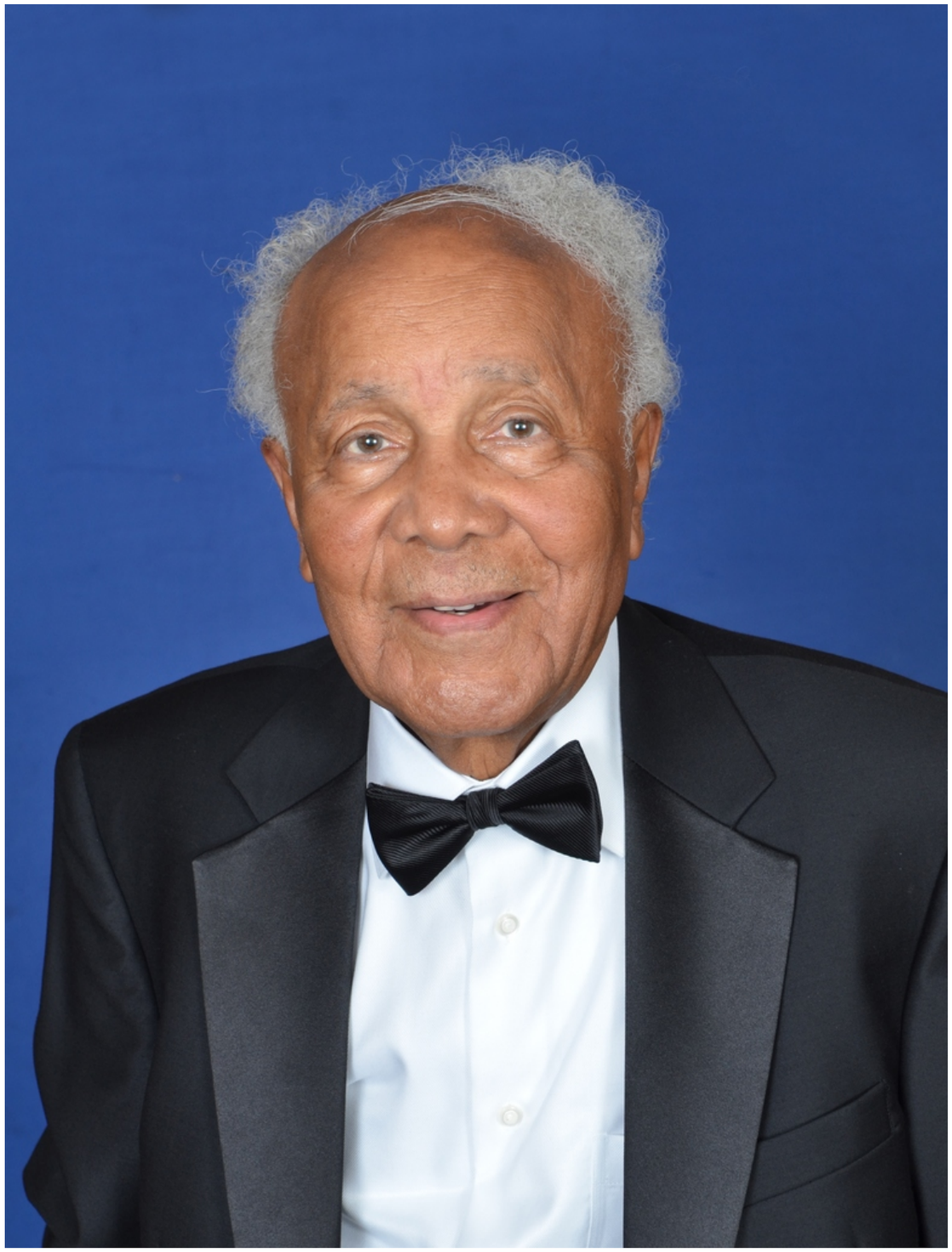
Awards flowed in due to Archon Ford's courageous work with autonomous shuttles during the COVID-19 pandemic. That initiative provided thousands of meals for essential medical and transportation workers and helped more than 12,000 transit-dependent residents receive COVID-19 vaccinations.

The Sharon D. Banks Award is as much an award for accumulated excellence in the transportation industry as it is a

tribute to Archon Ford as a forward-thinking leader for 2024. Archon Ford one of Gamma Beta's faithful, active and loved members.

Archon Roger M. Groves
Grapter, Gamma Beta Boulé

Edward B. Fort Honored by Greensboro City Council



Archon Edward B. Fort of Beta Epsilon Boulé, Greensboro, North Carolina, was recognized by the Greensboro City Council during its meeting on October 3, 2023, for his recent retirement. The resolution was presented by Beta Epsilon Archon Hugh Holston, an at-large member of the council. Archon Fort was the eighth chancellor of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, serving from September 1981 to June 1999. He was professor of leadership studies until his retirement in June 2023 and is currently chancellor emeritus.

During his time as chancellor of NCA&T, Archon Fort helped bring the university to national prominence as a leader in engineering and technology education, initiating more than thirty new academic programs and awarding the university's first Ph.D. degrees in mechanical and electrical engineering. The university also expanded its enrollment and completed more than $50 million in new construction. In January 1997 the university's Edward B. Fort Interdisciplinary Research Center was named in his honor.

Archon Fort received his bachelor's degree in history and master's degree in educational administration from Wayne State University and his doctorate in educational administration from the University of California, Berkeley. He also received an honorary doctor of laws degree from Wayne State University.

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

Evan S. Frazier Inducted Into Cornell Hotel Society Hotelie Hall of Fame



Pittsburgh's Rho Boulé Archon Evan S. Frazier was inducted into the Cornell Hotel Society Hotelie Hall of Fame on November 12, 2023, at The Pierre hotel in New York City. The Cornell Hotel Society is the alumni association of the Nolan School of Hotel Administration at Cornell University. The society aims to promote the interests of the Cornell University community as well as fellowship, networking, education, career management, recruitment, development and financial assistance in the hospitality industry. Archon Frazier is the president and CEO of The Advanced Leadership Institute in Pittsburgh.

Archon Ron G. Jones
Grapter, Rho Boulé

Antoine M. Garibaldi Gives Georgetown University Education Address

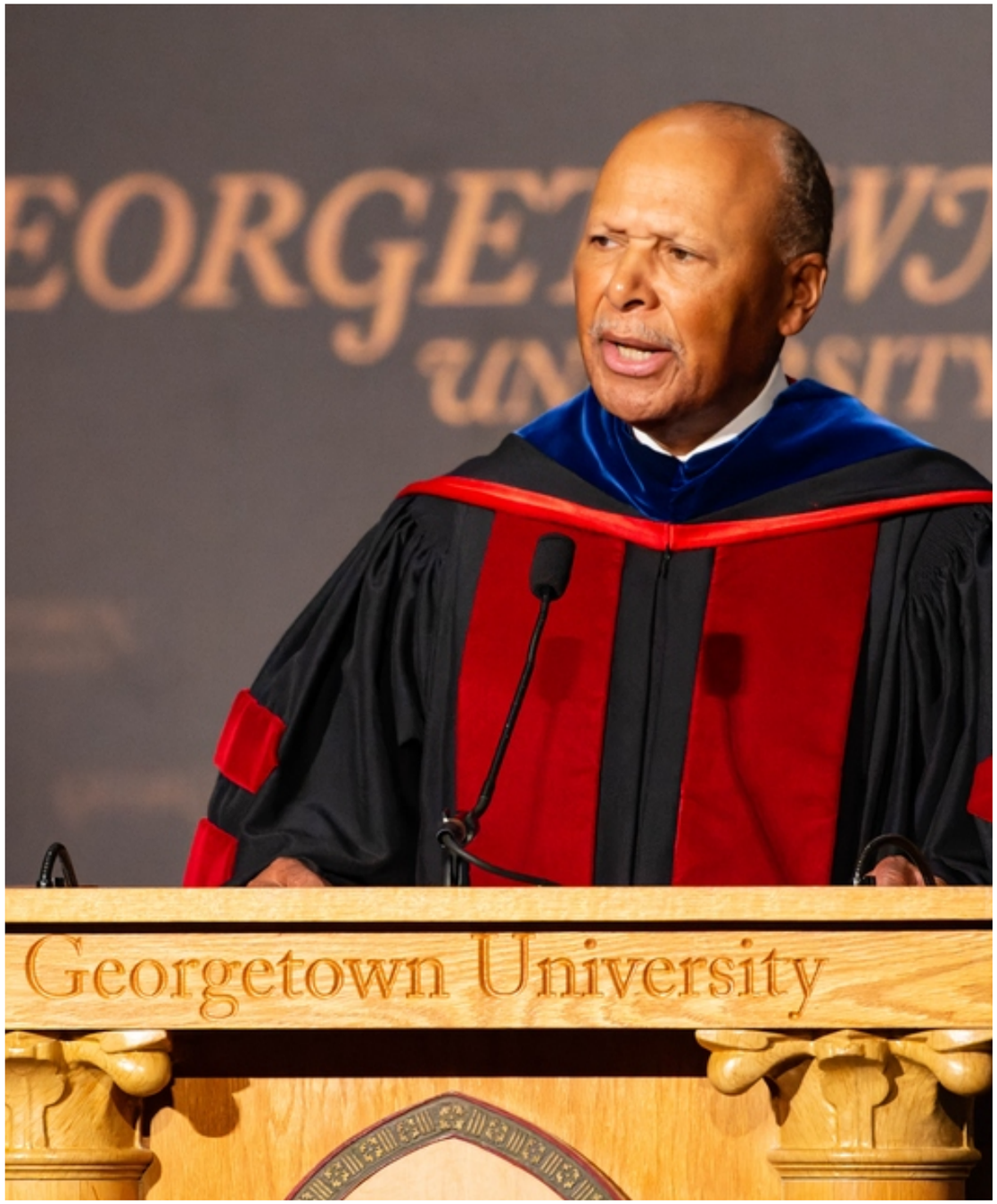


Photo Credit: Phil Humnicky, Georgetown University

Grand Sire Archon Antoine M. Garibaldi of Detroit's Iota Boulé delivered the Georgetown University's Aims of Education Address on November 6, 2023, at its fall faculty convocation. The annual ceremony honors Georgetown's newly tenured and promoted faculty. Archon Garibaldi is the first publicly acknowledged African American president of all Jesuit universities and led the University of Detroit Mercy as its first lay and third longest-serving president for more than eleven years.

A past two-term member of Georgetown's board of directors, Archon Garibaldi is president emeritus and distinguished university professor at the University of Detroit Mercy. His speech can be viewed at https://fb.watch/o1qjf2bv-p/

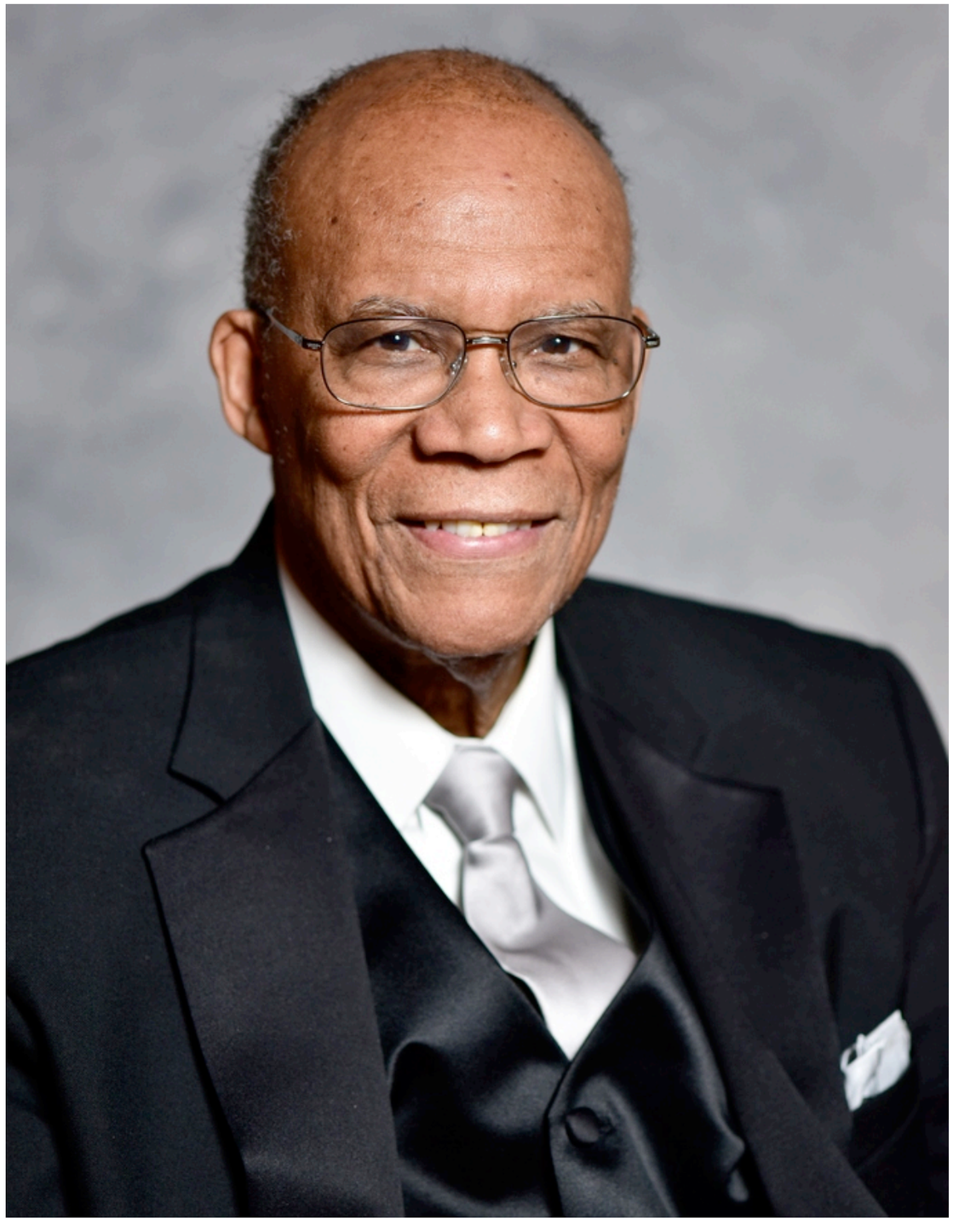
Antoine M. Garibaldi, David D. Wilson and M. Roy Wilson Inducted Into American Academy of Arts and Sciences



Grand Sire Archon Antoine M. Garibaldi and Archon M. Roy Wilson of Detroit's Iota Boulé and Archon David D. Wilson of Baltimore's Gamma Boulé were inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences 2023 class on September 29 and 30, 2023, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The academy was founded in 1780 during the American Revolution by a charter group of sixty-two "scholar patriots" who included John Adams and John Hancock. George Washington and Benjamin Franklin were inducted into its first class in 1781.

The American Academy is an honorary society that "recognizes and celebrates the excellence of its members and an independent research center convening leaders from across disciplines, professions, and perspectives to address significant challenges." Archons Reginald DesRoches and Bernard A. Harris, Jr., of Nu Boulé were also inducted. Sigma Pi Phi is fortunate to have many American Academy members from a wide variety of professions.

Larry S. Gibson Honored by University of Maryland School of Law



The University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law announced on September 24, 2023, that Baltimore's Gamma Boulé Archon Larry S. Gibson and Taunya Lovell Banks would have their names enshrined as part of the newly established Gibson-Banks Center for Race and the Law. Named for the school's first Black tenured professors, the center intends to carry forth the legacies of Archon Gibson and Taunya Banks, who, through their teaching, scholarship, advocacy and service, have committed their lives to racial equality and justice.

Archon Gibson is of counsel to the Shapiro Sher law firm, where he concentrates in litigation and administrative law. In 1972 Archon Gibson became the first African American law professor at the University of Virginia, and he has taught law ever since. He has taught at the University of Mississippi and the University of Aberdeen in Scotland. Currently, he serves as a professor of law at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law.

Outside of teaching, Archon Gibson served as associate deputy attorney general of the United States during the Carter administration. He also served as vice chairman of the National Security Council Working Group on Terrorism and director of the National Economic Crime Project at the United States Department of Justice. An experienced political organizer, Archon Gibson also served as campaign manager for Archon Kurt L. Schmoke in his successful elections in 1987, 1991 and 1995 as mayor of Baltimore. In addition, Archon Gibson

advised the 1992 Clinton presidential campaign in Maryland and in more recent years has advised the campaigns of African political leaders, including Madagascar president Marc Ravalomanana and Liberian president Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

Archon Gibson is an alumnus of Howard University, where he was student body president, chairperson of D.C. Students for Civil Rights and a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. He earned his law degree from Columbia University in the City of New York. Archon Gibson is the author of *Young Thurgood: The Making of a Supreme Court Justice* about Thurgood Marshall's education and early legal career. The book was described by *Kirkus Reviews* as "a well-researched and engaging biography and a fine addition to Marshall scholarship."

Archon Guy B. Richardson
Grapter, Gamma Boulé

Frank Gilliam, Frankie T. Jones, Jr., Harold L. Martin, Sr., and Kimberly B. Gatling Named *Triad Business Journal* Power Players



Archon Frank Gilliam



Archon Harold L. Martin, Sr.



Archon Frankie T. Jones, Jr.



Archousa Kimberly B. Gatling

Beta Epsilon Boulé, Greensboro, North Carolina, is proud to announce that Archons Frank Gilliam, Frankie T. Jones, Jr., and Harold L. Martin, Sr., and Archousa Kimberly B. Gatling have been named *Triad Business Journal* Power Players. The publication recognized eighty of the most influential leaders across North Carolina's Piedmont Triad region at a private reception at Congdon Yards in High Point on October 24, 2023.

Archon Frank Gilliam is chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. During his tenure UNCG has grown its endowment, research enterprise, and overall facilities and campus infrastructure; significantly increased its fundraising; and elevated the presence, reputation and real-world impact of the largest university in the Piedmont Triad region. Prior to his appointment as UNCG chancellor, Archon Gilliam served as dean of the University of California, Los Angeles, Luskin School of Public Affairs for seven years and was a longtime UCLA professor of public policy and political science. Archon Gilliam received his B.A. from Drake University and his M.A. and Ph.D. in political science from the University

of Iowa. He and Archousa Jacquie reside in Greensboro and have two adult children.

Archon Frankie T. Jones, Jr., is vice president and managing director at Lincoln Financial Group, where he is the head of commercial real estate closing, servicing, asset management and real estate private equity. He is also a member of the Guilford County Board of Commissioners, a position to which he was elected with nearly 80 percent of the vote in November 2022. Archon Jones earned a B.A. in history with a minor in economics from Davidson College, where he was a James B. Duke Scholar and a member of Omicron Delta Kappa. He earned his J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law, where he was president of the Black Law Students Association and a member of the Raven Society. He and Archousa Ashley reside in Greensboro.

Archon Harold L. Martin, Sr., is chancellor of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, a position he has held for nearly fourteen years. At nearly 13,000 students, N.C. A&T is the largest four-year historically Black university in the nation. Under Archon Martin's leadership, U.S. News & World Report has routinely listed N.C. A&T as the nation's top public HBCU. Archon Martin received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in electrical engineering from N.C. A&T and a Ph.D. in electrical engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. He and Archousa Davida reside in Greensboro and have two adult sons.

Archousa Kimberly B. Gatling is an intellectual property partner and the chief diversity and inclusion officer at Fox Rothschild, LLP. She is chair of the board of trustees of N.C. A&T, past chair of the board of directors of the Cone Health Foundation and past chair of the board of directors of United Way of Greater Greensboro. She is a member of the Greensboro Chapter of The Links, Inc., and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. She earned her B.S. in electrical engineering from N.C. A&T and her J.D. from the George Washington University School of Law. She and Archon LaDaniel Gatling reside in Greensboro and have three sons.

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

Maurice Green, Paul L. Jones, Wesley Ibazebo and Michaux Kilpatrick-Moore Participate in 133rd Annual Meeting of Old North State Medical Society



Archons Vincent Schooler (Beta Epsilon), Wesley Ibazebo (Beta Epsilon), Paul Jones (Beta Epsilon), Cedric Bright (Alpha Tau), George Kilpatrick (Beta Epsilon), Brent Moore (Beta Epsilon) and Tommy McNeill (Epsilon Gamma)

On November 17–18, 2023, Greensboro, North Carolina's Beta Epsilon Boulé Archons Maurice Green, Paul L. Jones and Wesley Ibazebo and Archousa Michaux Kilpatrick-Moore participated in the 133rd annual meeting of the Old North State Medical Society. The theme of the event was "Lift Every Voice…For Health Equity." Archon Ibazebo, president-elect of the Old North State Medical Society, was instrumental in planning the event.

Archon Jones delivered the keynote address for the event's gala commemorating the sixtieth anniversary of the *Simkins* v. *Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital* case that determined separate-but-equal hospital facilities and care were unconstitutional. Late Beta Epsilon Boulé Archon George Simkins was the lead plaintiff in this monumental court case. Included among the other plaintiffs was late Archon Alvin

Blount, who was a founding Archon of Beta Epsilon Boulé as well as its first Sire Archon.

The two-day event brought in world-renowned speakers to address major concerns and advancements in health care. Professor Ibram X. Kendi shared his insights in a session regarding humanity and equitable solutions for healthier communities for a better America. Archon Cedric Bright of Alpha Tau Boulé lectured on race and racism in medicine. Archon Green served as the keynote speaker for a discussion about equitable access to high-quality public education, and Archousa Kilpatrick-Moore, who is the immediate past president of the North Carolina Medical Board, presented on professionalism and ethics for physicians. Additional speakers included other notable medical and political leaders from North Carolina and the nation, such as United States congresswoman Alma S. Adams and North Carolina state senator Gladys A. Robinson.

Established in 1887, Old North State Medical Society is one of the oldest medical societies for African American physicians in the United States. It was initially formed to advocate for African American physicians in North Carolina and their interests. It has evolved to focus on educating and advocating for the vulnerable populations and people residing in communities that consistently produce poorer health outcomes.

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

Maurice O. Green Launches Campaign for North Carolina Superintendent of Public Instruction



Archon Maurice O. “Mo” Green of Beta Epsilon Boulé, Greensboro, North Carolina, announced his candidacy for North Carolina superintendent of public instruction on October 4, 2023. As the elected head of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, the superintendent oversees the state’s public school systems and serves as the secretary of the North Carolina State Board of Education. The superintendent is also a member of the North Carolina Council of State.

Archon Green served as executive director of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation from 2016 to 2023. The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation is a private, family foundation that has been a catalyst for positive change in North Carolina for more than 80 years and has invested more than $608 million into the state. Prior to Z. Smith Reynolds, Archon Green served more than seven years as superintendent of Guilford County Schools – the third-largest school district in North Carolina. Before joining Guilford County Schools, he served as general counsel for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools from 2001 to 2006. In 2006 he was named chief operating officer and later moved into the role of deputy superintendent. Archon Green began his career as a lawyer in private practice, following two United States federal court judicial clerkships.

Archon Green earned a bachelor’s degree in political science and economics as well as a law degree from Duke University. Archon Green is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. He and Archousa Stephanie Green have two adult children.

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

James D. Griffin Elected President of Parkland Hospital Medical Staff



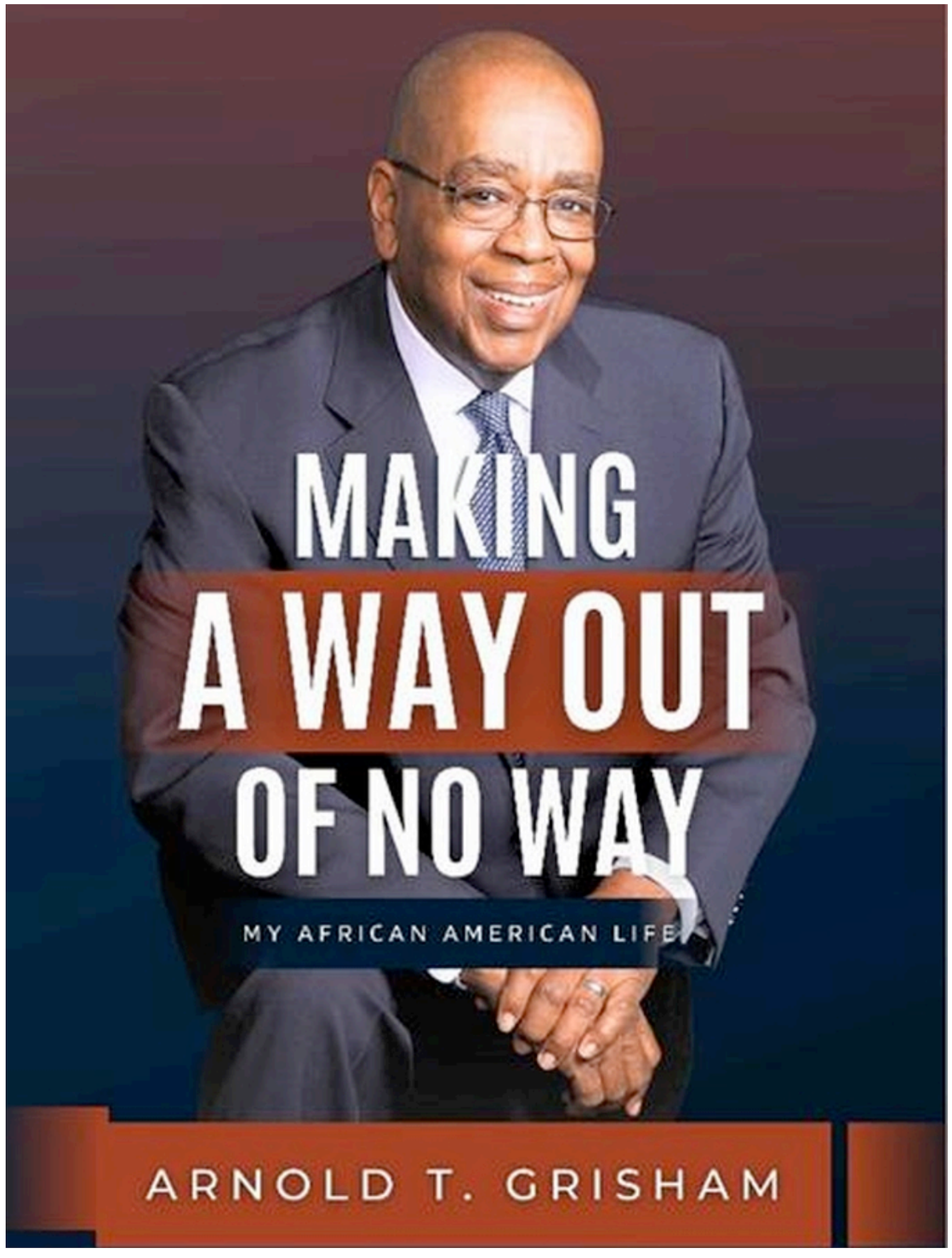
In January 2024 Dallas's Alpha Epsilon Boulé Archon James D. Griffin was elected president of the medical staff at Parkland Hospital. As president, Archon Griffin will chair the medical executive committee, provide overall guidance to the medical staff and serve as the primary contact between the medical staff and Parkland's governing board, in addition to other entities. His election makes him not only the first African American to serve as president of the medical staff but also the first person born at Parkland to assume the position.

Founded in 1894, Parkland is one of the largest public hospitals in the country. It employs approximately 2,000 physicians and averages more than 1 million outpatient visits annually. Services include a level-one trauma center, the first verified burn center in Dallas and a level-three neonatal intensive care unit. It is also the primary teaching hospital for the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School.

A native of Dallas, Archon Griffin received his medical training at UT Southwestern. He is now a professor in the department of anesthesiology and pain management at UT Southwestern, where he was given the title of Distinguished Teaching Professor of Anesthesiology and Pain Management. Archon Griffin is chief of the anesthesia services department at Parkland and serves as vice chairman of UT Southwestern's department of anesthesiology and pain management for Parkland.

Archon Kevin B. Wiggins
Grapter, Alpha Epsilon Boulé

Arnold T. Grisham Publishes Autobiography



Making a Way Out of No Way: My African American Life is a unique and inspiring autobiographical success story by Archon Arnold T. Grisham of Alpha Gamma Boulé, Oakland–Berkeley, California. Published on December 11, 2023, the book details the life and experiences of Archon Grisham, who was born to a working-class Black family in Chicago during the 1940's. Against all odds, Archon Grisham graduated from DePaul University, earned his M.B.A. in finance and became one of the first Black executive vice presidents at Wells Fargo Bank. He was also one of the country's first banking executives to create and run multicultural community banks.

Archon Vernon C. Goins II
Grapter, Alpha Gamma Boulé

Frederic Guerrier Receives Award From BayCare



BayCare, a Florida-based health care company, annually acknowledges physicians who demonstrate extraordinary commitment through exceptional patient care and remarkable contributions to the community. In December 2023 Archon Frederic Guerrier of Tampa Bay, Florida's Gamma Omicron Boulé was honored by BayCare for his exceptional contributions to academic excellence and community service.

Archon Guerrier of Roser Park Medical Center is board certified in family medicine and follows his patients at St. Anthony's Hospital. After establishing himself in St. Petersburg, Florida, more than four decades ago, he embraced a life defined by kindness and generosity, consistently striving to pay it forward. A beloved figure in the St. Petersburg community, Archon Guerrier is widely recognized for his enduring commitment as a weekly volunteer at St. Pete Free Clinic – a role he has dedicated himself to for more than forty years. As a dependable supporter of his community, Archon Guerrier also serves as an active presence in churches, health fairs and other community events.

Stemming from his humble origins in Haiti, Archon Guerrier's journey was shaped by the unyielding hard work of his mother, who paved the way for him and his four siblings to relocate to the United States and receive college educations. This foundation of determination and opportunity shaped his livelihood, and in turn, he has sought to do the same for others. A strong advocate for education, Archon Guerrier generously sponsored college tuition for his daughters, multiple

relatives and family friends. He has also championed higher education through an annual $2,000 scholarship fund benefiting St. Petersburg college students. He welcomes and mentors medical students, residents and high school students. Remaining true to his origins, he visits Haiti annually to provide essential medical care and vital resources to more than 800 individuals. In honor of his achievements, the Florida Academy of Family Physicians recognized Archon Guerrier's dedication to his profession and patients with the 2019 Family Physician of the Year award.

Archon Lawrence W. Hamilton
Grapter, Gamma Omicron Boulé

Leon L. Haley Celebrates 90th Birthday



Sire Archon Clarence Dozier and Grammateus Darrell Smalley pose for a picture while Archon Emeritus Leon L. Haley receives his resolution.

On September 28, 2023, Archon Emeritus Leon L. Haley of Pittsburgh's Rho Boulé celebrated his 90th birthday. In recognition and celebration of his birthday, the Grand Boulé presented a resolution to Archon Haley during Rho Boulé's Christmas Is for the Archousai event. Archon Haley is a professor emeritus at the University of Pittsburgh, where he was the first Black person to receive a doctor of philosophy degree. He was president and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh for ten years and was inducted into Rho Boulé on February 20, 1983. Rho Boulé was elated to celebrate this joyous occasion with him.

Archon Ron G. Jones
Grapter, Rho Boulé

Rhoman J. Hardy Named to Comfort Systems USA Board

On September 28, 2023, Archon Rhoman J. Hardy of Baton Rouge, Louisiana's Alpha Xi Boulé was named to the board of directors of Comfort Systems USA, Inc. (NYSE:FIX). Comfort is a leading provider of commercial, industrial and institutional heating, ventilation, air conditioning and electrical contracting services.

Archon Christopher J. Tyson
Grapter, Alpha Xi Boulé

Timothy W. Hardy Named to Governor-Elect's Transition Team



On October 23, 2023, Louisiana governor-elect Jeff Landry appointed Baton Rouge's Alpha Xi Boulé Archon Timothy W. Hardy to serve as a member of his transition committee and as cochair of the coast and environment subcommittee.

Archon Christopher J. Tyson
Grapter, Alpha Xi Boulé

Kenneth H. Harris, Sr., Organization Named a 2023 IC100 Winner



Archon Kenneth H. Harris, Sr., of North Atlanta's Delta Upsilon Boulé, owner and CFO of neMarc Professional Services, had the distinction of having his organization named as a 2023 IC100 Winner by the ICIC organization in December 2023. A Memphis-based small business, neMarc Professional Services provides nationwide staffing solutions in diverse sectors. Founded to address social disparities, neMarc empowers women, minorities and ethnic groups in Memphis with meaningful careers.

Archon Timothy Wayne Goodly
Grapter, Delta Upsilon Boulé

Leonard L. Haynes III Distinguished Service Award Presented to Third Recipient



In 2018 Archon Leonard L. Haynes III of Suburban Maryland's Beta Mu Boulé received the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities Distinguished Service Award for his efforts to advance the mission of the president's executive order for HBCUs. The award has since been renamed the Leonard L. Haynes III Distinguished Service Award, and it is given annually to a worthy recipient. In September 2023 Glenda Glover became the third person to receive the award named in honor of Archon Haynes.

Archon Daniel T. Richardson
Grapter, Beta Mu Boulé

Washington & Jefferson College Presents Alumni Award for Achievement to Jason E. Hazlewood



On October 7, 2023, Archon Jason E. Hazlewood of Pittsburgh's Rho Boulé received the Washington & Jefferson College Alumni Award for Achievement. This award has been given annually since 2001 to Washington & Jefferson alumni who have reached the pinnacle of their chosen field and through their achievements have brought recognition to the college. Archon Hazlewood is the managing partner of Reed Smith, LLP's Pittsburgh office and is a partner in the firm's global commercial disputes group.

Archon Ron G. Jones
Grapter, Rho Boulé

Robert Hillman to Serve on Supplemental Retirement Board of Trustees



North Carolina governor Roy A. Cooper III appointed Charlotte, North Carolina's Beta Delta Boulé Archon Robert Hillman to the Supplemental Retirement Board of Trustees on September 21, 2023. Experienced in finance and investments, Archon Hillman is a director at Virtus from FIS Fund Services. He previously served as a financial advisor for Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, an investment banker for Bank of America Merrill Lynch and an economics research analyst for Barclays Capital.

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

Odell Horton, Jr., Named Memphis-Shelby County Schools General Counsel and Chief Legal Officer



Past Sire Archon Odell Horton, Jr., of Memphis's Delta Boulé was named general counsel and chief legal officer for Memphis-Shelby County Schools on August 25, 2023. Immediately prior to his appointment, Archon Horton was a partner at the law firm Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs in Memphis. He served as assistant attorney general with the State of Tennessee from 1987 to 1990 and was assistant and associate general counsel with the University of Tennessee Health Science Center from 1990 to 2000 and vice chancellor from 2000 to 2005.

Archon Horton graduated with a B.A. from Morehouse College in 1983 and a J.D. from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 1986. He has served on the Pink Palace Family of Museums board of trustees and the Memphis Urban League. He is a former chair of the University of Memphis Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change and is a board member of the historic Elmwood Cemetery and the Greater Memphis Chamber. Archon Horton served Delta Boulé as its Sire Archon from 1999 to 2000. He is married to Archousa Ella Horton. His late father, Archon Odell Horton, Sr., was a distinguished member of Delta Boulé.

Archon Ronald A. Walter
Grapter, Delta Boulé

Derrick Z. Jackson Wins Three Maine Press Association Awards



Boston's Beta Beta Boulé Archon Derrick Z. Jackson was a triple winner in the Maine Press Association Awards, announced on October 14, 2023. He won Best Outdoor Story for an essay on recovering Atlantic puffins in Maine, Best Feature Photo for a puffin image and Best in Show for the image. The judges called the story "a fascinating article with engaging interviews and detailed descriptions that bring the story to life" and the photo a "gorgeous photo, full of detail! Tells the story of how these beautiful birds eat."

Archon Derrick Z. Jackson
Grapter, Beta Beta Boulé

James Jackson Provides Insight on Public Health Crisis of Violence in CNN's Weekly Health Newsletter



Oakland–Berkeley, California's Alpha Gamma Boulé Archon James Jackson's insight into the negative effects of Oakland's recent wave of violent crime was featured in CNN's weekly health newsletter and KFF Health News, a national newsroom that produces in-depth journalism about health issues, on November 27, 2023. Archon Jackson is chief executive officer of Alameda Health System and oversees an integrated public health care system of five hospitals and four wellness centers with more than 800 beds and 1,000 physicians.

The article reports that Archon Jackson is "among a growing chorus of health experts who describe gun violence as a public health crisis that disproportionately affects Black and Hispanic residents in poor neighborhoods, the very people who disproportionately struggle with type 2 diabetes and other preventable health conditions."

Archon Vernon C. Goins II
Grapter, Alpha Gamma Boulé

Robert E. James, Sr., and Robert E. James II's Carver Financial Corp. Receives $40 Million From New Markets Tax Credit Program



Archon Robert E. James II and Archon Robert E. James, Sr.

In October 2023 Carver Financial Corp. received an allocation of $40 million from the New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) Program. Carver Financial Corp. is led by Archon Robert E. James, Sr., chairman of Carver Financial Corp., and Archon Robert E. James II, CEO of Carver Financial Corp. The father-son team are members of Savannah's Alpha Lambda Boulé. The NMTC Program supports economic development, manufacturing and health care support for Black and low-income communities. This award is the third won by Carver Financial Corp., which also received a $30 million award in 2018 and a $50 million award in 2020.

Archon Ronald J. Gantt
Grapter, Alpha Lambda Boulé

Art by Rondall W. James Featured in Three Virginia Exhibitions



Archon Rondall W. "RJ" James of Williamsburg, Virginia's Epsilon Delta Boulé is an accomplished artist who recently had his art included in three different exhibitions: the Mary M. Torggler Fine Arts Center's exhibition *Persistence of Memory*, which was viewable from November 2023 through January 2024; the Fredericksburg Area Museum exhibition *Seen*, which was viewable until December; and the Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia exhibition titled *Art of Freedom II*, which was on display from May through December.

Archon James is a printmaker utilizing a unique technique of printing with clay that is unusual to the printmaking process. Archon James has exhibited throughout the state of Virginia, Washington, D.C., and Charlotte, North Carolina.

Archon Rondall W. James
Grapter, Epsilon Delta Boulé

Samuel L. Jenkins, Jr., Wins State Senate Race



Shreveport, Louisiana's Delta Kappa Boulé Archon Samuel L. "Sam" Jenkins, Jr., is well-known for his work uniting people for progress in the Shreveport-Bossier area for the past eight years as a Louisiana state representative. On November 18, 2023, Archon Jenkins was victorious in the highly contested race for Louisiana's District 39 senate seat. The importance of this senate race was elevated locally when lawmakers redrew political boundaries in 2022. In the redrawing, the Shreveport-Bossier area lost a state senate seat to Southern Louisiana, diminishing the political voice of the state's third-largest metro population.

Archon Shomichael L. Stephens
Grapter, Delta Kappa Boulé

Brian Johnson Nominated to Madison County Community Trust Board

In recognition of his personal passion for community development, Archon Brian Johnson of Jackson, Mississippi's Beta Gamma Boulé was nominated to the board of directors of the Madison County Community Trust in December 2023. The trust is dedicated to improving the educational health, economics and social status, and well-being of the citizens of Madison County. Archon Johnson is executive vice president of FBBInsurance, a subsidiary of Trustmark National Bank.

Archon Pieter J. Teeuwissen
Grapter, Beta Gamma Boulé

Brian G. Johnson Receives Neuner Award for Excellence in Professional Scholarly Publication



Assistant dean for diversity, equity and inclusion at Michigan State University's James Madison College, Archon Brian G. Johnson of Flint, Michigan's Gamma Delta Boulé was part of a team of faculty who received the Neuner Award for Excellence in Professional Scholarly Publication in 2023 for their work on the article "Creating Sustainable University Structures for Offices of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)." The award is given to authors who have written the finest article in the *Journal of Higher Education Management*.

Archon Tony Burks
Grapter, Gamma Delta Boulé

Channing D. Johnson and Craig Vaughan Collaborate on Iconic Multicultural Ad Agency Acquisition



Archon Channing D. Johnson



Archon Craig Vaughan

In October 2023 View Park Capital (VPC), founded by Archon Channing D. Johnson of Los Angeles's Xi Boulé, in partnership with FVLCRUM Funds, acquired Burrell Communications Group. Vaughan Capital Advisors (VCA), a mergers and acquisitions (M&A) advisory firm, acted as the exclusive buyside M&A adviser to VPC and FVLCRUM. Xi Boulé Archon Craig Vaughan is the founder and managing partner of VCA, which is based in Los Angeles and specializes in M&A transactions in the media, sports and technology sectors.

Founded in 1971, Burrell Communications is the most decorated multicultural advertising agency in the United States, having won more awards for its exemplary creative work on behalf of major consumer brands than all other creative agencies combined. Some of Burrell's long-standing clients include McDonalds, Toyota, Procter & Gamble, and Comcast, among others. Prior to the acquisition by VPC and FVLCRUM, Burrell was owned by Fay Ferguson, McGhee Osse and the multinational advertising holding company Publicis Groupe.

Archon Johnson, who will serve as the chairman of Burrell, emphasized his vision of positioning "Burrell to become the go-to agency for brands who recognize the importance of speaking authentically to our growing transcultural world," adding that Burrell "will become the destination agency for new talent in the business."

The Burrell transaction was structured by VCA, which also negotiated the definitive transaction documents and arranged a multimillion-dollar debt facility for both acquisition financing and operating liquidity post-closing. The Burrell transaction marks another landmark transaction for VCA at the intersection of culture and commerce. The firm was the exclusive sell-side adviser to Time, Inc., in its sale of Essence Communications to Richelieu Dennis. It also created the QueensBridge Fund, a multistage venture capital fund, in partnership with world-renowned hip hop artist Nas and Archon Johnson, VCA cogeneral partner. The QueensBridge Fund in-

vested in category-defining companies, including Lyft, Dropbox, Ring, PillPack and Robinhood, each of which exited at valuations of more than $1 billion through either initial public offerings or via private market transactions.

Archon de Winter L. Stewart
Grapter, Xi Boulé

Larry L. Johnson Receives Tracey Pinson Trailblazer Award



Archon Larry L. Johnson of Gamma Boulé, Baltimore, received the Tracey Pinson Trailblazer Award from the African American Federal Executive Association (AAFEA) on September 18, 2023. The award recognizes AAFEA members who have demonstrated a distinguished career of service to the nation. Archon Johnson is the special agent in charge of the policy and administration division within the Office of the Inspector General Social Security Administration.

Archon Guy B. Richardson
Grapter, Gamma Boulé

Van R. Johnson II Reelected Mayor of Savannah



On November 7, 2023, Archon Van R. Johnson II of Savannah's Alpha Lambda Boulé was reelected as the sixty-seventh mayor of Georgia's oldest city, Savannah, receiving 77 percent of the vote. Archon Johnson is the fourth African American to serve in this capacity. He plans to continue to support affordable housing, economic development and public safety for the citizens of Savannah.

Archon Ronald J. Gantt
Grapter, Alpha Lambda Boulé

Kenneth Jones Assumes Historic Role as Board Chair, Accepts Outstanding Contributor Award



Sire Archon Kenneth Jones of Frankfort, Kentucky's Delta Tau Boulé was elected board chair of United Way of the Bluegrass (UWBG), effective September 2023. His election follows in the esteemed footsteps of Archon William Wilson. Archon Timothy Johnson is current president and CEO of UWBG. Archon Jones also received the coveted Outstanding Contributor Award at the National Association of Extension Program & Staff Development Professionals annual conference in November 2023 in Salt Lake City.

Established in 1921, UWBG plays a pivotal role in Central Kentucky by mobilizing resources and fostering collaborations to address critical community needs. The second-largest United Way in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, UWBG has raised nearly $250 million over its existence and is responsible for serving approximately 200,000 people annually.

Archon Jones's appointment to UWBG board chair marks a significant milestone for Archon Jones, who is only the second African American to hold the position in UWBG's 102-year history. Archon Wilson made history as UWBG's first African American board chair in 2016 and first African American campaign chair. This succession underscores Delta Tau Boulé's dedication to breaking barriers and promoting strong civic leadership in its region.

This leadership transition at UWBG is also noteworthy in the broader context of the organization's executive team. Archon Timothy Johnson, current president and CEO of UWBG, is the second African American leader in the history of the or-



Archon Timothy Johnson, Sire Archon Kenneth Jones and Archon William Wilson

ganization. He follows in the footsteps of Archon William Farmer, who served as UWBG's first Black president and CEO from 2009 to 2019. Archon Farmer was previously a member of Delta Tau Boulé, while Archon Johnson is a current member.

In reflecting on his new role, Archon Jones expressed gratitude for the trust placed in him by the UWBG board and community. "I am honored to be a part of an organization with such a rich history of making a positive impact in our community," said Archon Jones. "I look forward to building on the incredible work of my predecessors and collaborating with the talented team who make up UWBG."

The Outstanding Contributor Award, the most prestigious recognition bestowed by the National Association of Extension Program & Staff Development Professionals organization, recognizes individuals who demonstrate exceptional creativity in enhancing the learning process. Archon Jones, faculty member within the department of community and leadership development at the University of Kentucky and director of the program and staff development unit for the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, received the award for his outstanding contributions to the field of extension education and his unwavering commitment to advancing innovative programming, tools for staff development, and transformative approaches to evaluation and administrative processes. His recognition showcases the commitment of Delta Tau Boulé members to making substantial contributions to their respective fields.

Archon Timothy A. Johnson
Grapter, Delta Tau Boulé

Calvin A. Kelly Receives Grant for Trauma Recovery Center

Dr. Calvin Kelly & Associates, owned by Austin, Texas's Gamma Gamma Boulé Archon Calvin A. Kelly, in partnership with the African American Youth Harvest Foundation, was awarded a multiyear, multimillion-dollar grant to open the first trauma recovery center in the state of Texas. The two organizations collaborated on the grant in February 2023 and were notified of their selection in August 2023. The Harvest Trauma Recovery Center opened on November 1, 2023, at 6633 Highway 290 East, Suite 300, Austin, Texas 78723.

The Harvest Trauma Recovery Center (HTRC) will stand as a sanctuary for those who have experienced trauma in all its forms. As a pioneering initiative dedicated to providing comprehensive support and healing for survivors of trauma, the HTRC will provide an unwavering commitment to aiding individuals on their journey toward recovery by promoting resiliency and fostering a community of understanding and empathy. Archon Kelly, in his role as clinical director for the HTRC, will oversee a staff of dedicated professionals, including medical professionals, therapists, counselors, social workers and case managers, who are passionate about helping survivors regain their strength and rebuild their lives.

Archon Ricardo C. Stinnette
Grapter, Gamma Gamma Boulé

Kenneth Knuckles Honored at University of Michigan



On September 22, 2023, New York City's Zeta Boulé Archon Kenneth Knuckles was honored by the University of Michigan's Taubman School of Architecture and Urban Planning with a Distinguished Alumni Award. Jonathan Massey, dean and professor of architecture at the college, said the award honors an individual who has made significant contributions to their chosen profession and a lasting impact on their community, and that Archon Knuckles (B.S., 1973) was an outstanding example of this.

Archon Knuckles spent fifteen years as the president and CEO of the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone or UMEZ. The organization works to sustain the economic revitalization of communities throughout Harlem. When Archon Knuckles announced his retirement in 2018, UMEZ had invested more than $240 million dollars in small-business enterprises, mixed use real estate development, and arts and culture grants, creating nearly 10,000 jobs across Harlem.

He also served as vice chair of the New York City Planning Commission, as a member of the Regional Economic Council for New York City and as a board member of Harlem's Carver Bank. He is a past deputy Bronx borough president and assistant housing commissioner. In addition to his Taubman College degree, Archon Knuckles also holds a J.D. from the Howard University School of Law.

Archon Lewis P. Long
Grapter, Zeta Boulé

Weldon H. Latham Retires From Jackson Lewis



Suburban Maryland's Beta Mu Boulé Archon Weldon H. Latham retired from Jackson Lewis, PC, at the beginning of 2024. The firm announced his retirement in November 2023, adding that he will continue to advise major corporate CEOs and general counsel on a selective basis. Archon Latham is the founder and long-term leader of Jackson Lewis's corporate diversity counseling group.

Archon Daniel T. Richardson
Grapter, Beta Mu Boulé

Brandon Lofton Appointed to North Carolina Courts Commission



Archon Brandon Lofton of Charlotte, North Carolina's Beta Delta Boulé was appointed to the North Carolina Courts Commission on September 14, 2023. Archon Lofton represents House District 104 in the North Carolina General Assembly. He is also an attorney at Robinson Bradshaw in Charlotte.

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

Willis L. Lonzer III Is New NPHC Council of Presidents Chairman



On September 20, 2023, Archon Willis L. Lonzer III of Chicago's Beta Boulé was installed as chairman of the Council of Presidents (COP) for the National Panhellenic Council (NPHC), comprising the nine international presidents of the historically Black fraternities and sororities. The COP proactively works to increase the impact of the respective organizations through alignment on matters of mutual concern to the Divine Nine. The COP is also the governing authority for the NPHC and its local chapters. Archon Lonzer is president of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Archon Randolph D. Carnegie
Grapter, Beta Boulé

Daryl K. Love Assumes Leadership Role on CHI Saint Joseph Health Board of Directors



In a significant stride toward advancing health care excellence in Central and Eastern Kentucky, Archon Daryl K. Love, a distinguished member of Delta Tau Boulé, Frankfort, Kentucky, was elected to the board of directors of CHI Saint Joseph Health, a renowned comprehensive health care system with 135 locations, spanning hospitals, physician groups, clinics, primary care centers, specialty institutes and home health agencies. His appointment, effective September 2023, also makes him a member of the audit and compliance committee. Delta Tau Boulé has a rich tradition of producing leaders who actively contribute to the betterment of their communities, and Archon Love's role on the CHI Saint Joseph Health board is a shining example of this tradition.

Archon Timothy A. Johnson
Grapter, Delta Tau Boulé

Lawdragon Names Raymond C. Marshall to 2024 Top 500 Leading Litigators in America



In September 2023 Lawdragon recognized Archon Raymond C. Marshall of Oakland–Berkeley, California's Alpha Gamma Boulé as one of the 2024 Lawdragon 500 Leading Litigators in America. Those selected represent the all-stars in commercial litigation, financial and securities matters, white collar and investigations, IP, and cybersecurity and data privacy. Archon Marshall is of counsel in the governmental practice group at Sheppard Mullin's San Francisco office, where he focuses on white collar and investigations; fiduciary duties; and environmental, social and governance issues.

Archon Marshall serves as an adviser to the American Law Institute on the Model Penal Code: Sentencing project. He serves on the boards of the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, the Equal Justice Society, the United Negro College Fund, Homebase/The Center for Common Concerns and the College of Idaho. In 2009, on behalf of the Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center, the California State Conference of the NAACP, the Equal Justice Society, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, and the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, he argued before the California Supreme Court that allowing Proposition 8, which sought to outlaw gay marriage, to stand could be detrimental to other minority groups.

Archon Vernon C. Goins II
Grapter, Alpha Gamma Boulé

Kyle McCree Honored by New McCree Theatre, Named Consumers Energy Director of Community Affairs



In September 2023 Flint, Michigan's Gamma Delta Boulé Immediate Past Sire Archon Kyle McCree was honored by The New McCree Theatre during the organization's annual gala. The New McCree Theatre is named in honor of Flint's first African American mayor, Floyd J. McCree, Archon McCree's grandfather. Additionally, in December, Consumers Energy named Archon McCree director of community affairs for Saginaw County, Michigan, and the eastern region of the state.

The New McCree Theatre is an African-centered theatre and performing arts company based in Flint. Operating since 2004, it is one of fewer than ten African American theatre companies. The theatre recognized Archon McCree for his longstanding and dedicated service to the Greater Flint community and for continuing the legacy of his late grandfather. During the gala Archon McCree spoke of the need for the theatre to continue to tell authentic Black stories, lifting up those who have been lost to history and training the next generation of African American performing artists.

Consumers Energy is Michigan's largest energy provider, serving customers in every county of the state's lower peninsula. Archon McCree has been with the company since 2017, serving in several roles, including community affairs manager for Genesee County and director of state governmental affairs.

Archon McCree was inducted into the Boulé in 2017. He is strategic planning committee chair for the Central Region

and a Harvey C. Russell Legacy awardee of the Boulé Foundation.

Archon Tony Burks
Grapter, Gamma Delta Boulé

American College of Physicians Honors Ryan Mire



In 2023 the American College of Physicians officially renamed its summer internship program the Ryan Mire, MD Summer Internship Program in honor of Nashville's Chi Boulé Archon Ryan Mire, immediate past president of the American College of Physicians, for his steadfast passion and commitment to mentorship and expanding diversity in medicine. The summer internship attracts college premedical students from underrepresented backgrounds and allows them to experience and understand components of health care outside of the clinical office setting by working under the guidance of department supervisors and mentors at the headquarters of the American College of Physicians.

Archon Billy R. Ballard
Grapter, Chi Boulé

David Mitchell Speaks at Juvenile Justice Center Rededication

On October 20, 2023, Archon David Mitchell of Suburban Maryland's Beta Mu Boulé served as the keynote speaker for the rededication of the Baltimore City Juvenile Justice Center. The center is the result of a collaborative effort to modernize and create efficiency in the administration of justice and services for at-risk children and families. While the center is a physical structure, it includes professionals across multiple disciplines who focus on achieving what is in the best interest of a child.

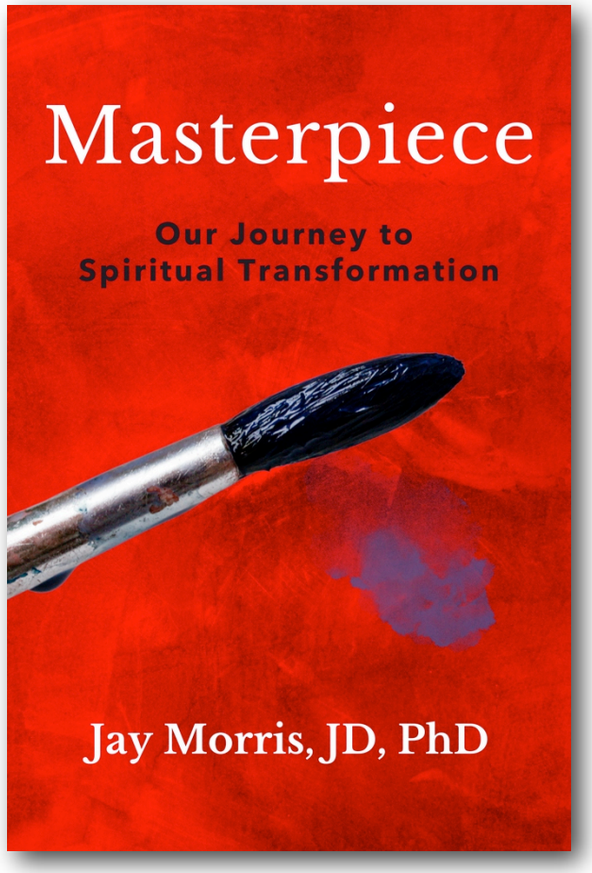
Archon Daniel T. Richardson
Grapter, Beta Mu Boulé

Jay Morris Publishes New Book



Masterpiece: Our Journey to Spiritual Transformation, a book by North Atlanta's Delta Upsilon Boulé Archon Jay Morris, was published on September 15, 2023. The book provides biblical and practical steps for building a personal and intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit. Archon Morris, an executive coach, recently retired from Yale New Haven Health as vice president of leadership development and succession planning. He currently sits on the board of governors for the Center for Creative Leadership in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Archon Timothy W. Goodly
Grapter, Delta Upsilon Boulé



Patrick H. Morris Elected Assembly Clerk of the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division



Memphis's Delta Boulé Archon Patrick H. Morris, senior employment litigator at FedEx and son of Delta Boulé Past Sire Archon Herman Morris, was elected assembly clerk of the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division (ABA YLD) at the group's meeting on August 4–5, 2023, in Denver. As assembly clerk, Archon Morris will chair the ABA YLD's credentials board and sit on the organization's executive committee, executive board and elections committee. He will also be in the line of succession for ABA YLD speaker, assuming this responsibility in the 2024–25 bar year. Archon Morris was appointed to the American Bar Association (ABA) Commission on Governance, where he will participate in the decennial review of the ABA's house of delegates, board of governors and nominating committee.

Archon Morris inducted into the Boulé in September 2023. He and his Archousa, Kimberly, live in Memphis.

Archon Ronald A. Walter
Grapter, Delta Boulé

J. Keith Motley Joins Board of African American Heritage Trail



On December 15, 2023, the African American Heritage Trail of Martha's Vineyard announced Sire Archon J. Keith Motley of Boston's Beta Beta Boulé as its newest board member. The Heritage Trail currently comprises thirty sites and tours dedicated with descriptive plaques to the formerly unrecognized contributions made by people of African descent to the history of the island. Archon Motley is chancellor emeritus at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

Archon Derrick Z. Jackson
Grapter, Beta Beta Boulé

Shaun Nelms Releases *Leading With Purpose*



Archon Shaun Nelms of Gamma Iota Boulé in Rochester, New York, is an author and prominent figure in the field of education and school transformation. In July 2023 Archon Nelms unveiled his inaugural book, *Leading With Purpose: Empowering Others to Create Lasting Change*. Also in July, Archon Nelms assumed the vice president of community partnerships role at the University of Rochester, following his pivotal leadership in the comprehensive transformation of East High School, the lowest-performing school in the state of New York. Remarkably, under his guidance, the graduation rate at East High surged from 29 percent to an impressive 86 percent over an eight-year period.

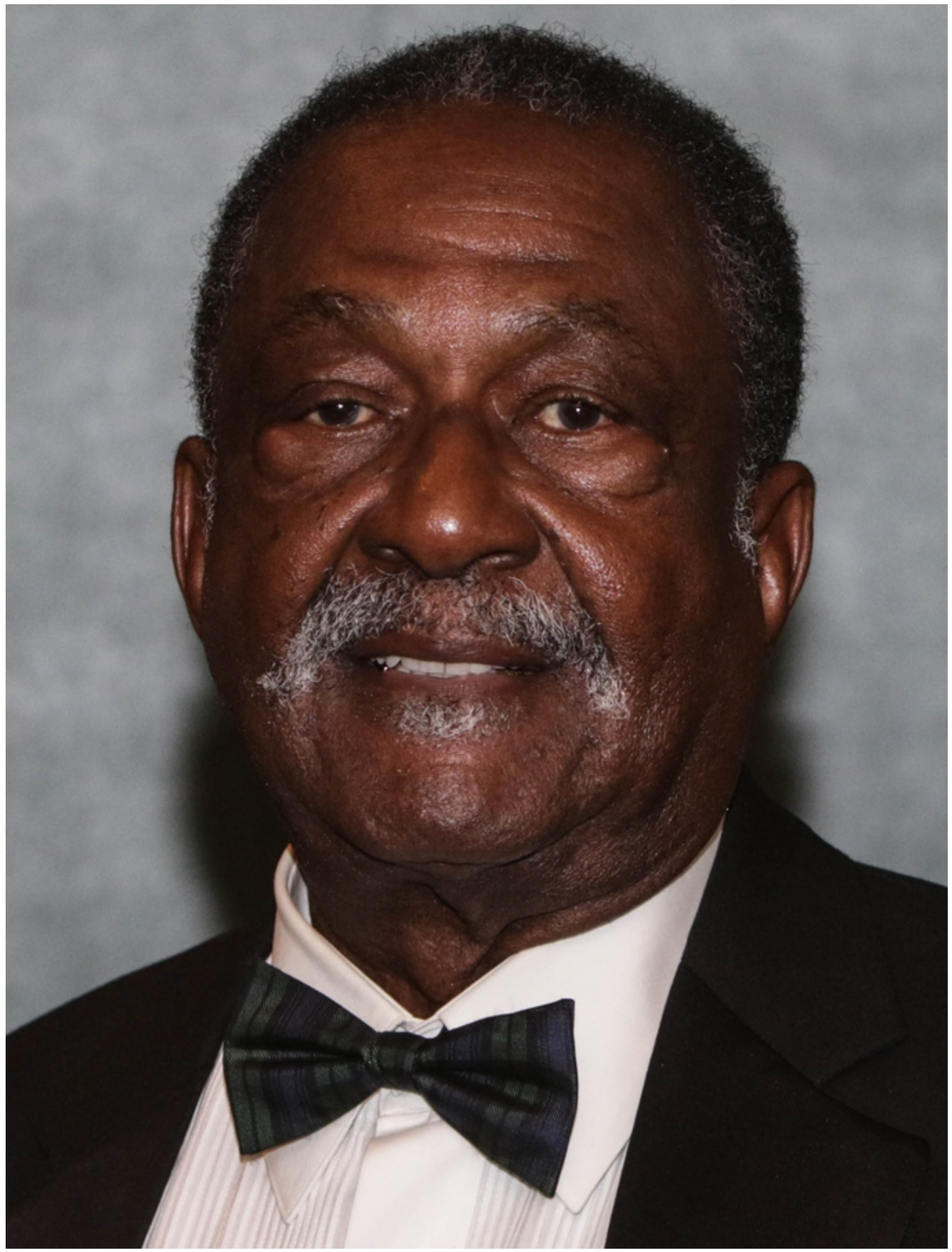
Dia Nichols Promoted to President of Advocate Health Care



Archon Dia Nichols of Chicago's Beta Boulé was promoted to president of Illinois-based Advocate Health Care, effective September 25, 2023. As president Archon Nichols is responsible for the growth, development and strategic direction of the Illinois market, which encompasses eleven hospitals, 300 sites of care and $7.4 billion in revenues. Archon Nichols joined Advocate Health Care in 2021 as president of the Central Chicagoland service area.

Archon Randolph D. Carnegie
Grapter, Beta Boulé

Harold Nixon Powers Rise of University of South Florida



In 2023 the University of South Florida became the first public university in Florida to join the Association of American Universities (AAU) in forty years. One of the key players in USF's development from a local commuter school into a nationally recognized research institution was Tampa Bay, Florida's Gamma Omicron Boulé Archon Harold Nixon. In 1994 Archon Nixon arrived at the University of South Florida from Wright State University and immediately began transforming the campus. At the time, USF was a little-known public university compared to the state's more well-known institutions, such as the University of Florida and Florida State University.

During his tenure Archon Nixon became the first African American to hold the position of vice president of student affairs and worked to improve the diversity of the university by hiring Dr. Wilma Henry to be his associate vice president. Archon Nixon was responsible for fourteen departments, including enrollment planning and management, admissions, financial aid, the registrar's office, and the university police, to name a few. He crafted the ten-year master plan that saved the USF College of Engineering's accreditation, replaced the roof on the university's arena, and built new residence halls and Greek-life housing. Using what was at the time an innovative lease-leaseback arrangement with the university's foundation, he doubled the number of on-campus residents and incoming freshmen in a five-year period.

Prior to his retirement, Archon Nixon was asked what he was most proud of in an interview with USF's fiftieth anniver-

sary committee. In his reply Archon Nixon stressed the importance of his departments being hyper focused on serving students: “At the end of the day, building facilities just cannot compare to helping students and individuals develop into great human beings.” Archon Nixon is currently enjoying his well-deserved retirement, although he continues to write and consult.

Behind every great institution, there is an Archon who powered its rise.

Archon Lawrence W. Hamilton
Grapter, Gamma Omicron Boulé

Fiemu E. Nwariaku Appointed Helen Lowe Bamberger Colby Presidential Endowed Chair in Health Sciences



On October 30, 2023, University of Utah Health's department of surgery celebrated the appointment of Southlake, Texas's Epsilon Pi Boulé Archon Fiemu E. Nwariaku as the Helen Lowe Bamberger Colby Presidential Endowed Chair in Health Sciences. Archon Nwariaku is globally recognized for his work in thyroid and adrenal disease. In his clinical practice of endocrine surgery, Archon Nwariaku has a keen interest in caring for patients with thyroid, parathyroid, adrenal and pancreas diseases. He is particularly interested in the surgical management of patients with thyroid cancer and adrenal tumors and in using minimally invasive surgical techniques, such as robotic and laparoscopic approaches, for these conditions.

An accomplished surgeon-scientist, Archon Nwariaku has broad research interests in the molecular and genetic determinants of outcomes in patients with endocrine cancers. In global surgery he secured federal funding to develop new mobile technology to reduce deaths due to road traffic injuries in sub-Saharan Africa. He also has a keen interest in the training of current and future surgeon-scientists.

Archon Nwariaku is a member of many prestigious organizations, including the American College of Surgeons, the American Surgical Association, the Society of Clinical Surgery and the Society of University Surgeons. He has also served in leadership roles for several organizations, including vice president of the American Association of Endocrine Surgeons, president of the Association for Academic Surgery and treas-

urer of the Society of Black Academic Surgeons. Through these organizations he has mentored numerous faculty, residents and students.

Prior to joining University of Utah Health, Archon Nwariaku was a professor of surgery at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in the practice of endocrine surgery for more than twenty-five years. While at UT Southwestern, he also served as founding vice chair for research, executive vice chair in the department of surgery and founding associate dean for global health.

Archon Nwariaku's training is broad and diverse. He attended medical school at the University College Hospital in Ibadan, Nigeria, and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, where he completed a residency and fellowship. He obtained his master's in business administration from the University of Tennessee.

Archon Gary L. Gadson
Grapter, Epsilon Pi Boulé

Jeffrey O.G. Ogbar Publishes *America's Black Capital*



Hartford's Alpha Psi Boulé Archon Jeffrey O.G. Ogbar, professor of history at the University of Connecticut, had his his latest book, *America's Black Capital: How African Americans Remade Atlanta in the Shadow of the Confederacy*, published by Basic Books on November 14, 2023. *Publishers Weekly* named *America's Black Capital* one of the best nonfiction books of 2023.

Archon G.D. Harris
Grapter, Alpha Psi Boulé

Aaron P. Omotola Voted Best Surgeon at 2023 Best of the Best Awards



The Telegraph and *The Edwardsville Intelligencer* hosted their 2023 Best of the Best event on December 1, 2023, at Lewis and Clark Community College. The event, which garnered a remarkable 24,893 nominations and 164,368 votes from the public, recognized numerous local businesses and individuals selected by voters as favorites in Madison County and Riverbend, Missouri. St. Louis's Eta Boulé Archon Aaron P. Omotola, a surgeon with BJC Medical Group, was selected as the best surgeon. Archon Omotola is Eta Boulé's Grammateus and Western Region Thesauristes.

Archon Vernon C. Mitchell, Jr.
Grapter, Eta Boulé

Jonathan Parris Earns Southeast Regional Boulé Distinguished Service Award



Congratulations to South Atlanta's Epsilon Upsilon Boulé Archon Jonathan Parris for receiving the Distinguished Service Award at the Southeast Regional Boulé event in New Orleans on October 7, 2023. Epsilon Upsilon Boulé is very proud of Archon Parris and his team leadership efforts.

Archon Pierre O. Clements
Grapter, Epsilon Upsilon Boulé

Sean A. Pittman Recognized by *Florida Trend*



Tallahassee, Florida's Alpha Zeta Boulé Archon Sean A. Pittman, CEO and managing partner of Pittman Law Group in Tallahassee, was honored by *Florida Trend* as one of the top 500 business leaders in the state, published on November 1, 2023. His contributions to the legal profession and his commitment to creating opportunities for underrepresented communities have earned him this well-deserved accolade.

Donald L. Porter Receives President's Lifetime Achievement Award



Archon Donald L. Porter of Fayetteville, North Carolina's Epsilon Alpha Boulé received the Volunteer Service Lifetime Achievement Award from President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., in November 2023. The award recognizes extraordinary individuals who have accomplished more than 4,000 volunteer hours of service to the nation.

Archon Kelvin E. Farmer
Grapter, Epsilon Alpha Boulé

Neil R. Powe Receives Herbert W. Nickens Award From Association of American Medical Colleges



Oakland–Berkeley, California's Alpha Gamma Boulé Archon Neil R. Powe received the Herbert W. Nickens Award from the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) on October 25, 2023. The award is presented in recognition of an individual's contributions to promoting justice in medical education and health care equity. Described by the AAMC as "one of American medicine's most distinguished, white-coated champions of health care equity and justice," Archon Powe also presented the Nickens Lecture at the AAMC's annual meeting on November 5, 2023. His address was titled "The Quest for Health Equity: Precision, Outcomes, Wisdom and Evidence."

Archon Powe is chief of medicine at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center and is the Constance B. Wofsy Distinguished Professor at the University of California, San Francisco. Archon Powe earned his B.A., cum laude, from Princeton University, his M.D. from Harvard Medical School, his M.P.H. from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and his M.B.A. from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. He completed his internal medicine residency at the University of Pennsylvania, where he was a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar.

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. He also started innovative training programs to support women and underrepresented

students and faculty as well as to allow underrepresented students from Howard University the opportunity to pursue research training at Johns Hopkins.

Archon Vernon C. Goins II
Grapter, Alpha Gamma Boulé

Chester C. Pryor II Receives National Medical Association Lifetime Achievement Award



Cincinnati's Alpha Delta Boulé Archon Chester C. Pryor II received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Medical Association Ophthalmology Section during the organization's annual meeting in New Orleans in 2023. He was the first African American: ophthalmologist in Cincinnati; intern at a private Cincinnati hospital; certified ophthalmologist in Ohio; treasurer of the Academy of Medicine of Cincinnati; president of the Cincinnati Eye Society; and faculty member in the University of Cincinnati Department of Ophthalmology.

Archon Pryor graduated from Withrow High School and obtained his bachelor of science degree in chemistry from Central State University. Archon Pryor holds an M.D. from Howard University College of Medicine and completed his residency at Boston City Hospital. He was also a captain in the United States Army, working as an ophthalmologist at Fort Bragg in North Carolina.

Archon Kenneth Washington
Grapter, Alpha Delta Boulé

Okorie L. Ramsey Is Among Top 100 Most Influential People in Accounting



On December 8, 2023, Sire Archon Okorie L. Ramsey of Contra Costa County, California's Epsilon Beta Boulé was named to *Accounting Today*'s Top 100 Most Influential People in Accounting. The list identifies the thought leaders, change-makers, regulators and others who are shaping the accounting profession. Archon Ramsey is vice president of Sarbanes–Oxley with Kaiser Permanente, chairman of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and chairman of the Association of International Certified Professional Accountants.

Archon Willie Lott, Jr.
Grapter, Epsilon Beta Boulé

E. Anthony Rankin and Marc E. Rankin Honored by Arthritis Foundation Metro DC



Archon E. Anthony Rankin



Archon Marc E. Rankin

On September 28, 2023, at the Arthritis Foundation Metro DC Commitment to a Cure Gala, Suburban Maryland's Beta Mu Boulé Archons E. Anthony Rankin and Marc E. Rankin received the Dr. Herbert S.B. Baraf Award for Excellence in Arthritis Care. The first father-son physician team for the Arthritis Foundation, Archons E. Anthony Rankin and Marc E. Rankin were each presented with an award as the only physicians being so honored that evening.

Archon E. Anthony Rankin was born and raised in Holly Springs, Mississippi. He studied at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri, and Meharry Medical College in Nashville. He served his internship and residency at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and, upon completion, was assigned to the 12th Evacuation Hospital and later the 95th Evacuation Hospital as chief of orthopedics in the Republic of Vietnam in 1970.

The recipient of numerous honors and awards, Archon E. Anthony Rankin has five times received a certificate of commendation from the government of the District of Columbia. He was recognized by Georgetown University-Providence Hospital with the Teaching Excellence Award for ten consecutive years and also received Howard University's teaching excellence award. A decorated member of the United States Army, Archon E. Anthony Rankin received the prestigious Bronze Star Medal and the Army Commendation Medal. He received the Medical Society of the District of Columbia Meritorious Service award for his work with the Unity Health Care homeless shelter and the children's orthopedic clinic at D.C. General Hospital. He was named an affiliate of the Daughters of Charity in recognition of his long-term service to the poor and underserved. Archon E. Anthony Rankin recently had a scholarship created in his name for the Society of Military Orthopaedic Surgeons.

Archon Marc E. Rankin completed his undergraduate studies at Hampton University and then attended Howard University College of Medicine. He further honed his expertise through an orthopedic surgery residency followed by a sports

medicine fellowship at Cincinnati SportsMedicine and Orthopaedic Center. Upon completing his fellowship, Archon Marc Rankin began practicing alongside his father, Archon E. Anthony Rankin, at Rankin Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Center. In 2007 he also began serving as a consultant physician for the Veterans Administration, a role he still holds today. He has served as an orthopedic consultant for the Gerson Lehrman Group, Healthgrades and US Medical Innovations. Archon Marc Rankin was an attending physician at Providence Hospital through 2018, after which time he joined The Centers for Advanced Orthopaedics-Summit Orthopedics, where he is now a partner.

Archon Marc Rankin's dedication extends to serving on multiple committees and boards, where he has been appointed to various leadership positions. Notably, Archon Marc Rankin has earned recognition for his outstanding contributions to the field of orthopedics. He has been named a *Washingtonian* top doctor multiple times and received outstanding attending physician of the year awards from both Howard University's department of orthopedics and Georgetown University's family practice.

Archon Daniel T. Richardson
Grapter, Beta Mu Boulé

CenterPoint Energy Appoints Ricky A. Raven to Board of Directors



CenterPoint Energy appointed Sire Archon Ricky A. Raven of Zeta Alpha Boulé, Fort Bend, Texas, to its board of directors, effective September 28, 2023. Archon Raven is senior vice president and deputy general counsel at Allstate Insurance Co. He is also a member of the University of Houston's board of regents and Southwestern University's board of trustees.

Archon Sean A. Haley
Grapter, Zeta Alpha Boulé

Carl Richie, Jr., Honored With Humanitarian Award



On October 28, 2023, in Austin, Texas, Archon Carl Richie, Jr., of San Antonio's Gamma Phi Boulé was honored by the African American Youth Harvest Foundation at its Annual Changing the Story Legacy Award Gala. The foundation bestowed its Humanitarian Award upon him for his long-standing unparalleled commitment, dedication and excellence in service to the Austin community in the areas of advocacy, affordable housing, business development, health care, legal services and strategic counseling. The highlight of the gala was a moving speech by Martin Luther King III.

Archon William T. Burke III
Grapter, Gamma Phi Boulé

Michael D. Robinson, Sr., Appointed Chief Operating Officer of FBI-Law Enforcement Executive



Baltimore's Gamma Boulé Archon Michael D. Robinson, Sr., was appointed chief operating officer of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Law Enforcement Executive Development Association on October 2, 2023. As COO Archon Robinson leads a team that is focused on advancing the science and art of law enforcement leadership and promoting the exchange of information to improve law enforcement management practices through training, education and networking among police professionals across the United States and beyond. He also oversees the budget, strategic planning efforts, conference planning, training development and numerous other areas.

After the Ahmaud Arbery killing, Archon Robinson was appointed to the command staff of the Glynn County Police Department in Glynn County, Georgia, where he implemented new policies, procedures and training expectations and established the Office of Professional Standards and a training unit. He also oversaw the public information office and community outreach.

Archon Robinson is a retired federal law enforcement Senior Executive Service member. He served as a special agent, assistant special agent in charge, special agent in charge, and assistant inspector general for investigations for the Social Security Administration, Office of the Inspector General, where he once oversaw four headquarters divisions and ten field divisions, encompassing about eighty offices across the United States and its territories.

Don Scott, Jr., Elected First Black Speaker of Virginia House of Delegates



On November 7, 2023, Archon Don Scott, Jr., of Beta Lambda Boulé, Hampton–Norfolk, Virginia, was reelected for a third term representing Virginia House of Delegates District 88. Following his reelection, on November 11, 2023, the Virginia House of Delegates Democratic Caucus unanimously elected Archon Scott as the speaker-designee. The full Virginia House of Delegates voted to confirm him as speaker on January 10, 2024, the first day of the 2024 legislative session. He is the first Black speaker in the more than 400-year history of the Virginia House of Delegates.

"Virginia voters sent a resounding message on Tuesday that they wanted a commonwealth that moved forward, and that is exactly what I intend to do as your next speaker," Archon Scott said in a statement released following the election on November 7. Archon Scott's election as speaker is the latest highlight in his meteoric rise in Virginia politics.

Archon Steven D. Bond
Grapter, Beta Lambda Boulé

Curtis R. Silvers, Jr., Receives Elder Watson Diggs Award



The Elder Watson Diggs Award, named after the revered founder of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, is the second-highest award that a member of Kappa Alpha Psi can receive and is reserved for members who have distinguished themselves in the service of the fraternity. Walnut–Diamond Bar, California's Delta Xi Boulé Sire Archon Curtis R. Silvers, Jr., was conferred as the 112nd Elder Watson Diggs awardee at the Eighty-sixth Grand Chapter Meeting of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity in Tampa, Florida, in July 2023. Archon Silvers has been a transformational and impactful leader at all levels of fraternity leadership. Past Grand Sire Archons Robert Harris and Dwayne M. Murray attended and participated in the award ceremony.

Archon Alonzo E. Hill
Grapter, Delta Xi Boulé

Joseph S. Simms III Appointed to Morgan State University Foundation and UpSurge Baltimore Boards



In December 2023, at his alma mater Morgan State University, Archon Joseph S. Simms III of Baltimore's Gamma Boulé rejoined the board of directors of the Morgan State University Foundation as board secretary. The foundation is a nonprofit 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. Chief diversity officer for Stanley Black & Decker, Archon Simms was also named to UpSurge Baltimore's advisory board. UpSurge Baltimore connects local tech entrepreneurs with investors, customers, mentors and experts.

Archon Simms joined Stanley Black & Decker in 2013 as vice president of human resources for U.S. sales and marketing in global tools and storage. Previously, he worked in several leadership roles in human resources at PepsiCo.

Archon Guy B. Richardson
Grapter, Gamma Boulé

Leonard L. Sledge and Richmond's Economic Development Initiatives Receive Nine Excellence in Economic Development Awards



On September 20, 2023, Hampton–Norfolk, Virginia's Beta Lambda Boulé Archon Leonard L. Sledge, director of economic development for the City of Richmond, and his team and partners received nine Excellence in Economic Development awards from the International Economic Development Council (IEDC). Every year during its annual conference, IEDC, the largest membership organization serving economic developers, recognizes the best economic development programs, partnerships and marketing initiatives for their efforts to create positive change in communities.

Archon Steven D. Bond
Grapter, Beta Lambda Boulé

Robert Smith III Gives Keynote Speech at Heroes Appreciation Breakfast



Ann Arbor, Michigan's Gamma Rho Boulé Archon Robert Smith III, retired major general in the U.S. Army, was invited to speak at the Sixth Annual Heroes Appreciation Breakfast on November 7, 2023, at West Bloomfield Middle School. The breakfast allows the Greater West Bloomfield community to recognize Veterans Day and celebrate its local heroes. Archon Smith had veterans in the audience shout out their service when called upon. He honored the family members as well by having them stand to be recognized for their sacrifices. His message was informative and encouraging. It was also noted that the U.S. House of Representatives has sent a request to the president to change the customary expression "thank you for your service" to "thank you for our freedom."

Archon Smith is immediate past president of the Michigan Military and Veterans Hall of Honor, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization created by the governor's office, Michigan Senate and Michigan House of Representatives. Not a hall of fame but a hall of honor, the Michigan Military and Veterans Hall of Honor aims to recognize Michigan's most distinguished service members and veterans and educate future generations about Michigan's military legacy. Archon Smith said, "This will inspire a sense of pride and promote, through scholarships, grants and other means, the research and the teaching of Michigan military service."

Archon Bruce C. Gaines
Grapter, Gamma Rho Boulé

Troy T. Spencer Named to Top 50 Under 50 Black Financial Advisers and Planners



On October 21, 2023, the Association of African American Financial Advisors announced its 2023 50 Under 50 awardees. The program recognizes 50 Black and African American financial advisers and planners in the wealth-management industry who are all under the age of 50. Archon Troy T. Spencer of North Houston, Texas's Epsilon Omicron Boulé was selected as an awardee for his work as a private client adviser and as vice president of investments at J.P. Morgan Wealth Management.

Archon Eric T. Adams
Grapter, Epsilon Omicron Boulé

Rick L. Stevens Selected as Conference Speaker, Honored by 100 Black Men of Metropolitan St. Louis



In November 2023 Archon Rick L. Stevens of St. Louis's Eta Boulé and his chief medical officer were selected to speak at the American Association for Physician Leadership's annual conference. Their talk was titled "Facing Multiple Challenges With One Solution: Culture Change." Additionally, on December 9, 2023, Archon Stevens received the 2023 Health & Wellness Award from the 100 Black Men of Metropolitan St. Louis for his leadership contributions in health care. Archon Stevens is president of Christian Hospital and Northwest HealthCare.

Archon Vernon C. Mitchell, Jr.
Grapter, Eta Boulé

Jeffrey L. Tate Rejoins Dow, Inc.



On October 24, 2023, Dow, Inc., announced the election of Archon Jeffrey L. Tate of Detroit's Iota Boulé to the role of chief financial officer. Archon Tate began his new position on November 1, 2023. Archon Tate originally joined Dow in 1992 and served the company in senior-level finance, operating and general management roles for twenty-seven years. Prior to his current position at Dow, Archon Tate served as executive vice president and chief financial officer of Leggett & Platt from September 2019 through June 2023.

"Jeff is a proven leader with tremendous strategic and financial capabilities, as well as trusted leadership," said Jim Fitterling, chair and chief executive officer of Dow. "We are excited to have Jeff back at Dow, where his demonstrated track record of financial acumen and his newly gained external perspectives will serve him and Dow well going forward."

Archon Jason D. Lee
Grapter, Iota Boulé

William F. Tate lV Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

In October 2023 Baton Rouge, Louisiana's Alpha Xi Boulé Archon William F. Tate IV, president of the Louisiana State University system, received the Benjamin Banneker Association's Lifetime Achievement Award for his research and leadership contributions to mathematics education in the United States. The honor was presented during the 2023 annual meeting of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics held in Washington, D.C.

Archon Christopher J. Tyson
Grapter, Alpha Xi Boulé

Pieter J. Teeuwissen Takes Oath as Hinds County Court Judge



Archon Pieter J. Teeuwissen of Jackson, Mississippi's Beta Gamma Boulé took the oath of office as a Hinds County Court judge on November 30, 2023. He started work on December 4, 2023. Mississippi governor J. Tate Reeves recently appointed Archon Teeuwissen as county court judge for Hinds County, Subdistrict 2. Archon Teeuwissen will continue serving on the Mississippi Board of Bar Admissions and with the National Conference of Bar Examiners. Archon James E. Graves, Jr., of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit provided remarks at the investiture ceremony, which was also attended by Archons Reuben V. Anderson and Fred L. Banks, Jr., who, along with Archon Graves, have each served on the Mississippi Supreme Court.

Archon Pieter J. Teeuwissen
Grapter, Beta Gamma Boulé

Donald A. Thigpen, Jr., Receives Lifetime Achievement Award From Kent State Black Alumni



Suburban Maryland's Beta Mu Boulé Past Sire Archon Donald A. Thigpen, Jr., received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Kent State University Black Alumni Chapter president Silas Ashley and Kent State University president Todd Diacon during homecoming in October 2023. Cofounder of the Black United Students while he was a student and coordinator of minority affairs for three years postgraduation, Archon Thigpen's leadership and work at Kent State led to the establishment of its student multicultural center, department of African American studies and DEI division. Archon Thigpen attended law school at Howard University.

Archon Daniel T. Richardson
Grapter, Beta Mu Boulé

Letter of Support for Jack Thomas Published in *Dayton Daily News*



Dayton's Sigma Boulé Archon Jack Thomas was featured in the article "VOICES: Exploring Developments at Central State Under the Leadership of Dr. Jack Thomas" published by the *Dayton Daily News* on October 19, 2023. The article, available at daytondailynews.com, was written as an open letter of support for Archon Thomas, who stepped down as president of Central State University in June 2023.

Archon Roger C. Rucker
Grapter, Sigma Boulé

Craig A. Thompson Recognized by *The Daily Record* as 2023 Influential Marylander



Baltimore's Gamma Boulé Archon Craig A. Thompson, a trial attorney and partner in the product liability and mass torts practice at Venable, LLP, was recognized as a *Daily Record* 2023 Influential Marylander in Law on September 21, 2023. Influential Marylander honorees are selected by *The Daily Record*'s editors for their significant contributions to their respective fields as well as their leadership in Maryland in the following categories: civic leadership, communications, education, finance, freestyle, general business, health care, law, philanthropy, real estate and technology. Three-time winners are inducted into the Circle of Influence.

Active in the Maryland community, Archon Thompson is chair of the board of trustees of the University of Maryland College Park Foundation. Additionally, he has served on the boards of the University of Maryland Children's Hospital, McDonogh School and the Baltimore Leadership School for Young Women.

Archon Guy B. Richardson
Grapter, Gamma Boulé

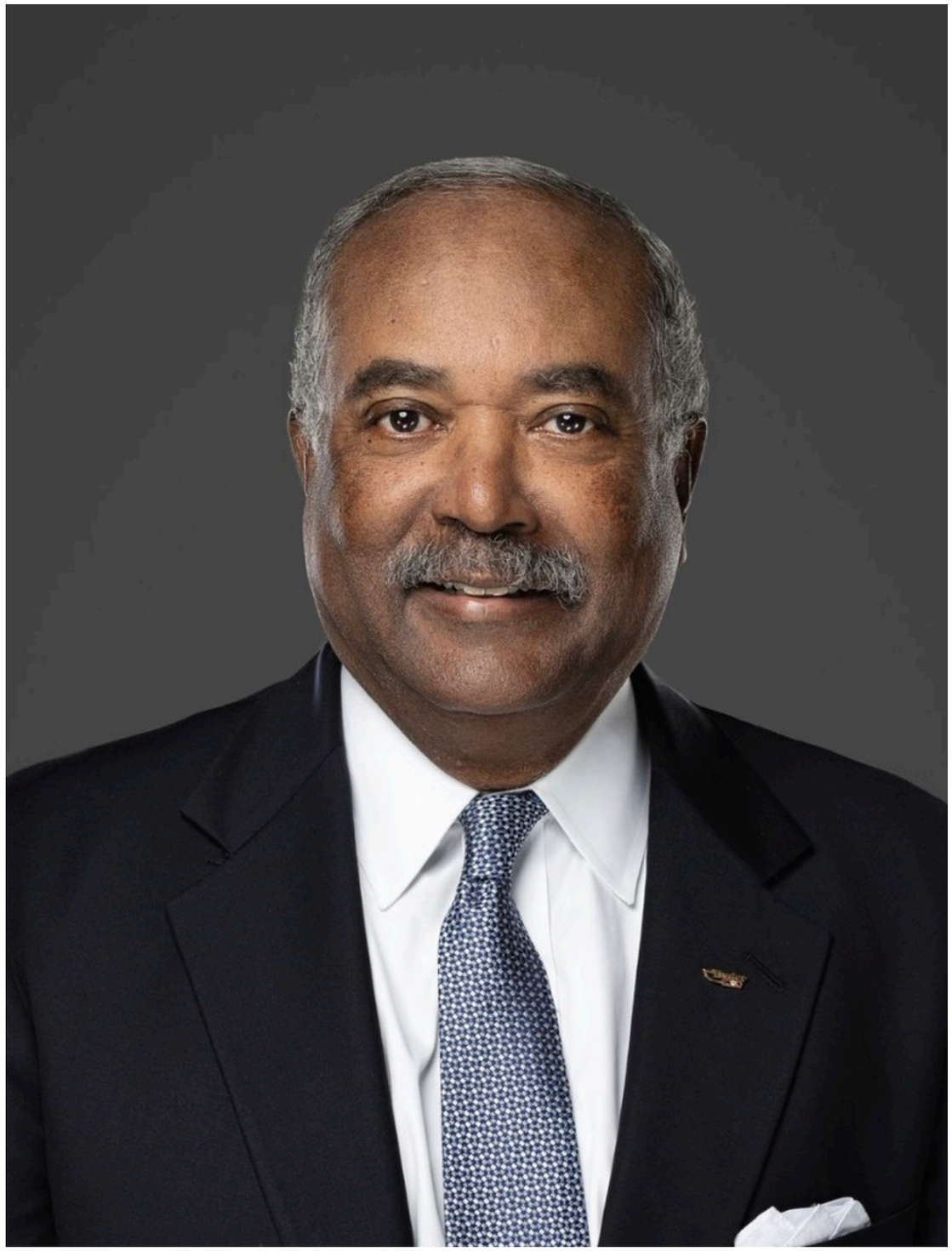
Warren M. Thompson's Business Donates $1 Million to Virginia State University



Virginia State University, one of the nation's top HBCUs, announced on October 11, 2023, that Thompson Hospitality Services, LLC, will donate $1 million to the university. Archon Warren M. Thompson of Beta Nu Boulé, Northern Virginia, is the founder, president and chairman of family-run Thompson Hospitality, the largest minority-owned food services company and one of the largest retail food and facilities management companies in the country. The generous donation – made in honor of Archon Thompson's parents, Fred and Ruby Thompson – is Thompson Hospitality's second $1 million donation to the university.

Archon Benjamin A. Dinkins
Grapter, Beta Nu Boulé

Hansel Tookes II Inducted Into National Academy of Engineering



On October 1, 2023, Archon Hansel Tookes II of Epsilon Lambda Boulé, Palm Beach, Martin and St. Lucie Counties, Florida, was inducted into the National Academy of Engineering at the National Academies building in Washington, D.C. Archon Tookes, now retired, previously served as chairman and chief executive officer for Raytheon International, Inc., in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, where he led the design and development of advanced military aircraft engines and systems.

Archon Gregory L. Williams
Grapter, Epsilon Lambda Boulé

Tony W. Torain II Appointed to Baltimore County Trial Court Judicial Nominating Commission



Governor Westley "Wes" Moore appointed Baltimore's Gamma Boulé Archon Tony W. Torain II to the Baltimore County Trial Court Judicial Nominating Commission on October 2, 2023. The commission is charged with advertising judicial vacancies, seeking recommendations for judicial candidates and evaluating judicial applicants. Archon Torain is a trial attorney specializing in labor and employment law. He is legal counsel to the board of directors for the Baltimore chapter of the National Association of African Americans in Human Resources and is first vice chair of the board of Associated Black Charities.

Archon Guy B. Richardson
Grapter, Gamma Boulé

Dennis Turner, Jr., Honored by New Orleans City Council

In July 2023 the New Orleans city council honored Atlanta's Kappa Boulé Past Sire Archon Dennis Turner, Jr., with a proclamation commending him as a National Medical Association convention panelist who brings attention, exposure and awareness to the problem of limb salvage and high amputation rates in minority patients in New Orleans. Archon Turner, a general surgeon, author and former hospital administrator, is a former president of the Atlanta Medical Association and the Student National Medical Association.

Martin Luther King Memorial Foundation Honors Sylvester Turner



Grand Sire Archon–Elect Loren Douglas, Past Grand Sire Archon Anthony Hall, Jr., Past Grand Sire Archon James Payne, Archon Sylvester Turner and Nu Boulé Sire Archon Harry Johnson

In September 2023 the Martin Luther King Memorial Foundation, Inc., awarded Houston, Texas's mayor Archon Sylvester Turner of Houston's Nu Boulé with its prestigious Leaders of Democracy award in recognition for his outstanding service as Houston's two-term mayor beginning in 2016. The award ceremony was conducted in Washington, D.C., during the Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference. Unfortunately, Archon Turner was unable to attend, but was given the award in November by fellow Archons.

Nu Boulé Sire Archon Harry Johnson, the founder and CEO of the Memorial Foundation, together with Grand Sire Archon–Elect Loren Douglas, Past Grand Sire Archon Anthony Hall, Jr., and Past Grand Sire Archon James Payne, presented Archon Turner with the award at Nu Boulé's November 2023 business meeting. With nearly fifty Nu Boulé Archons and numerous legend-status Archons in attendance, Archon Turner was presented with a miniature replica of the Martin Luther King, Jr., monument. The foundation is a nonprofit organization that exists to promote awareness of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial located in Washington, D.C., and its tenets of democracy, justice, hope and love as well as to support the general upkeep of the memorial in future years.

Archon Michael T. Murphy
Grapter, Nu Boulé

Gregory J. Vincent's Talladega College Awarded Historically Black Colleges and Universities Deferred Maintenance Grant



In August 2023 the Alabama Commission on Higher Education awarded Talladega College $408,000 as part of its Historically Black Colleges and Universities Deferred Maintenance Grant Program, which provides financial support for the maintenance and improvement of HBCUs across Alabama. Talladega College is using the grant for repairs and renovations in three campus buildings. Work began in October 2023 and is expected to be completed in March 2024. Past Grand Sire Archon Gregory J. Vincent of Austin, Texas's Gamma Gamma Boulé is president of Talladega College.

"We deeply appreciate the Alabama Commission on Higher Education for recognizing the importance of maintaining and improving our campus infrastructure," Archon Vincent said. "This grant will enable Talladega College to make critical repairs and renovations that will positively impact our students, faculty and the entire campus community."

Archon Ricardo C. Stinnette
Grapter, Gamma Gamma Boulé

Chuck Wallington Receives D. Parke Gibson Award From Public Relations Society of America



Archon Chuck Wallington of Beta Epsilon Boulé, Greensboro, North Carolina, received the D. Parke Gibson Award from the Public Relations Society of America during the organization's international convention in Nashville, Tennessee, on October 15–17, 2023. The award recognizes a public relations professional who has increased awareness of the profession within multicultural communities and who promotes issues meeting the informational and communications needs of those communities. Archon Wallington has promoted public relations careers in multicultural communities throughout a large portion of his career. His master's thesis research, which looked at the reasons why there are so few Black men in the public relations profession, was named one of the top fifteen public relations research insights of 2020.

Archon Wallington is executive vice president and chief marketing and communications officer at Cone Health, where he leads an award-winning team of professionals focused on providing strategic marketing and communications support for Cone Health's business goals. Prior to his association with Cone Health, Archon Wallington held a variety of public relations roles with American Express, Nabisco and R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.

Archon Wallington earned his undergraduate degree in journalism from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, his master's degree in communications management from Syracuse University and his Ph.D. in leadership studies from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State Univer-

sity. His dissertation was made into the book *A Seat at the C-suite Table: Insights From the Leadership Journeys of African American Executives*, which was published in January 2024.

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

President Biden Appoints Leland Ware to Commission on Presidential Scholars



On November 15, 2023, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., announced his intent to appoint Archon Leland Ware of Delaware's Beta Eta Boulé to the Commission on Presidential Scholars. Archon Ware is the Louis L. Redding Professor and Chair for the Study of Law and Public Policy at the University of Delaware. More information on Archon Ware is available in the White House's November 15 press release.

https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/11/15/president-biden-announces-key-appointments-to-boards-and-commissions-31/#:~:text=their%20young%20daughter.-,Leland%20Ware%2C%20Member%2C%20Commission%20on%20Presidential%20Scholars,Louis%20University%20School%20of%20Law.

Archon Rodney L. Gillespie
Grapter, Beta Eta Boulé

Michael Weekes Receives Lifetime Achievement Award From North Suffolk Community Services



Archon Michael Weekes and Damien Cabezas from North Suffolk Community Services

On October 19, 2023, North Suffolk Community Services presented Immediate Past Sire Archon Michael Weekes of Springfield, Massachusetts's Beta Sigma Boulé with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his dedication to serving nonprofits statewide and nationally and his lifelong dedication to public service. Archon Weekes is the outgoing president and CEO of the Providers' Council, the largest community-based human service membership organization, which he has led for more than a quarter of a century. He previously served as deputy commissioner for the former Massachusetts Department of Social Services and as executive director of the Center for Human Development in Springfield. Archon Weekes's board service includes serving on the boards of American International College, Springfield Technical Community College, the National Council of Nonprofits, United Way of Pioneer Valley, Amherst A Better Chance, Nonprofit VOTE and the Massachusetts Nonprofit Network.

Archon Jeffrey L. Johnson
Grapter, Beta Sigma Boulé

Augustus A. White III Wins Nonfiction Book Award



Archon Augustus A. White III of Boston's Beta Beta Boulé was the winner in Inspirational Nonfiction in the 2023 American Book Fest Best Book Awards, announced November 1, 2023, in Los Angeles. Archon White won for *Overcoming: Lessons in Triumphing Over Adversity and the Power of Our Common Humanity*, published by Post Hill Press. The book profiles people who thrived despite personal tragedy and life-long challenges.

Archon White said he wrote the book as a response to the divisiveness brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, "to bring light to the darkness that threatens to consume us."

Archon Derrick Z. Jackson
Grapter, Beta Beta Boulé

Governor Kotek Appoints Charles Wilhoite to Portland Central City Task Force



Oregon governor Christine "Tina" Kotek appointed Portland, Oregon's Delta Phi Boulé Archon Charles Wilhoite to the Portland Central City Task Force on August 22, 2023. He will serve as chair of the task force's taxes and services committee, which is charged with assessing the impact of recently enacted regional and local tax measures on the provision of critical services and the city's economic competitiveness.

Archon Larry D. Roper
Grapter, Delta Phi Boulé

David K. Wilson Selected for Prestigious Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education



Archon David K. Wilson of Gamma Boulé, Baltimore, received the prestigious Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education on November 8, 2023. The first president of an HBCU to earn this distinguished honor, Archon Wilson was selected for the overall transformation he has led at Morgan State University, which has included historic advancements in retention and graduation rates as well as engagement with adult learners. He was also recognized for his vigorous national advocacy on behalf of HBCUs and his support of degree attainment for Black students.

The Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education recognizes exceptional individuals in education whose accomplishments are making a difference in the lives of students. The 2023 award marks the first time the award has been given for lifelong learning, recognizing the need to help learners of all ages grow both inside and outside of the classroom.

Archon Wilson has more than thirty years of experience in higher education. At Morgan State University, Archon Wilson has overseen an increase in Fulbright scholarships as well as an increase in the number of degrees offered at the university. The university was also upgraded from an institution of moderate research to one with high research activity on the doctorate level. Archon Wilson has authored two books and more than twenty articles in scholarly journals and other publications. The American Association for Higher Education named him one of the nation's top 100 leaders in higher education in 1998. He was also named one of *The Daily Record*'s In-

fluential Marylanders on three occasions, earning his induction into its Circle of Influence. Additionally, the University of Alabama presented him with an award for outstanding leadership in engaged scholarship in 2011, the *Baltimore Business Journal* named him a top ten CEO in 2019, and he was inducted into *The Baltimore Sun* Business and Civic Hall of Fame in 2021.

Archon Guy B. Richardson
Grapter, Gamma Boulé

Glenn A. Wilson Named to "Under 40" Lists



In November 2023 Archon Glenn A. Wilson of Flint, Michigan's Gamma Delta Boulé was named to the 2023 *Crain's Detroit Business* 40 Under 40. Additionally, he was named to the Northwood University 20 Under 40 in March 2023. An alumnus of Northwood University, Archon Wilson is cofounder, president and CEO of Communities First, Inc., an award-winning nonprofit real estate and community developer serving Michigan and Indiana.

Archon Tony Burks
Grapter, Gamma Delta Boulé

Equity Justice Warrior Award Named for Ronald C. Woods



Archons John Wright, Ron Woods and Isaac Lockhart

Professor emeritus of Africology and African American studies at Eastern Michigan University, Archon Ronald C. Woods of Ann Arbor, Michigan's Gamma Rho Boulé helped form the Washtenaw County Chapter of My Brother's Keeper (WMBK) in 2015. The WMBK steering committee later established the Ron C. Woods Equity Justice Warrior Award to recognize Archon Woods's service. On November 5, 2023, Linda Edwards-Brown, trustee of Pittsfield Township, received this award.

Edwards-Brown began her career with the Washtenaw County Trial Court, where she served in several capacities. She retired from the court as the juvenile division administrator, a position she held for more than twenty years. She is passionate about juvenile justice and believes that children are a community's most valuable resource.

Edwards-Brown is serving her second term as a Pittsfield Township trustee. She is on numerous local and statewide boards including Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw, the Michigan Center for Youth Justice, and the Michigan Center for Treatment Court Professionals and is on the Edward Ginsberg Community advisory board. She is president of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., a community-conscious, action-oriented organization.

During his administration President Barack Obama launched the My Brother's Keeper initiative to assist young men of color in reaching their full potential.

Archon Woods holds a B.A. in history from Wittenberg University and an M.A. in history and a J.D. from the University of Michigan.

Archon Bruce C. Gaines
Grapter, Gamma Rho Boulé

Family Circle



Corine Ackerson-Jones Wins Child Care Grant for Georgia Southern University



Archousa Corine Ackerson-Jones, wife of Archon Bobby Jones of Savannah's Alpha Lambda Boulé, recently achieved a milestone for Georgia Southern University. As director of the TRIO Student Support Services program, Archousa Jones wrote and submitted a grant application that, in October 2023, resulted in a $1.6 million award to support student-parent child care expenses for the Savannah and Hinesville, Georgia, campuses. The grant is fully funded by the United States Department of Education and is the first of its kind at Georgia Southern. The grant will work with centers licensed and accredited through the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning and will serve no less than thirty student-parents per year by providing a maximum amount of $150 per week for child care services to be paid directly to the child care provider.

Archon Ronald J. Gantt
Grapter, Alpha Lambda Boulé

Joanna Bowie-Pruitt Is Jack and Jill of America Regional Secretary



Archousa Joanna Bowie-Pruitt, wife of Past Sire Archon Jacob Pruitt of Colorado Springs's Epsilon Chi Boulé, was elected regional secretary for the Central Region of Jack and Jill of America, Inc., at the regional conference in Westminster, Colorado, in 2023. As a past two-term chapter president of the Greater Pikes Peak Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc., Archousa Bowie-Pruitt looks forward to continuing her dedication to supporting equitable education, leadership and community service for all children in her new role.

Archon Willard E. Bell, Sr.
Grapter, Epsilon Chi Boulé

Gigi Bryant Is Chair of Texas Book Festival



Archousa Gigi Bryant, wife of Austin, Texas's Gamma Gamma Boulé Archon Sam Bryant, was elected chair of the Texas Book Festival, which was held in November 2023. Archousa Bryant is the ninth chair and first African American chair in the festival's history. As an avid reader and researcher, Archousa Bryant considers her appointment a great honor. Archousa Bryant stated that her goals as chair of the Texas Book Festival are to continue the festival's mission of introducing authors to readers of all ages as well as reach more authors and readers of color throughout Texas.

Archon Ricardo C. Stinnette
Grapter, Gamma Gamma Boulé

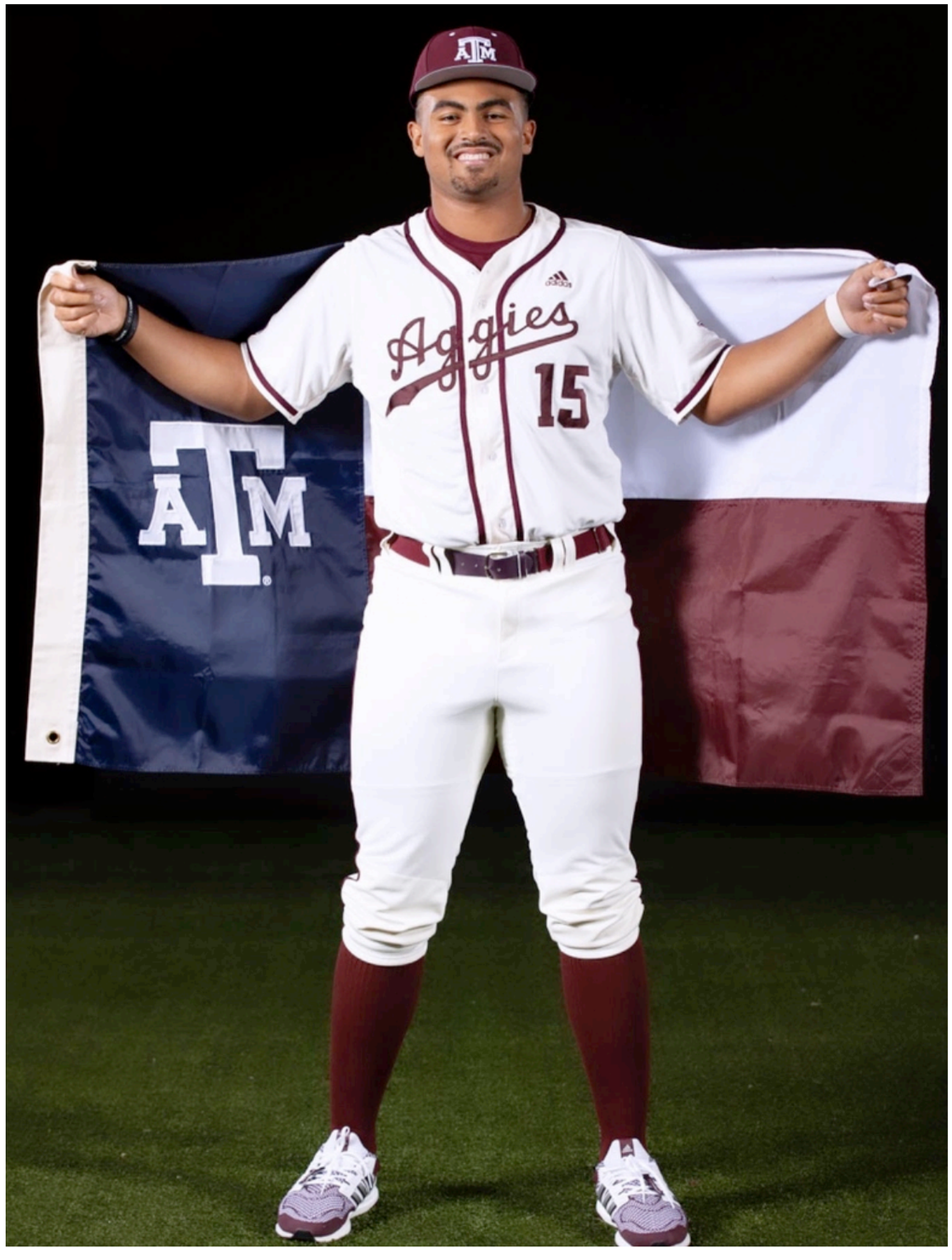
Heidrick & Struggles Promotes Marcus Cole



Marcus Cole, son of Archon Kevin Cole and Archousa Sheryl Cole of Austin, Texas's Gamma Gamma Boulé, was promoted in December 2023 to the role of principal at Heidrick & Struggles, the world's leading provider of executive search, corporate culture and leadership consulting services. Heidrick & Struggles works with more than 70 percent of Fortune 1000 companies in virtually every sector and industry worldwide. Cole, a 2018 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, specializes in senior executive placements within the private equity, venture capital and investment banking industries. His promotion makes him one of the youngest principals in Heidrick & Struggles's history.

Archon Ricardo C. Stinnette
Grapter, Gamma Gamma Boulé

Elbert Craig Signs to Play on Texas A&M University's Baseball Team



In November 2023 Elbert "Trey" Craig, a senior out of Mansfield, Texas, signed his National Letter of Intent, securing his scholarship to play baseball at Texas A&M University. Trey, son of Fort Worth–Arlington, Texas's Delta Mu Boulé Archon Michael Sheppard and Archousa Krystal Beamon-Sheppard, is the number-three–ranked first baseman in the United States, according to Perfect Game. He is a two-time Perfect Game All-American, a two-time Minority Baseball Prospects All-American and a two-time alumnus of the Major League Baseball (MLB) Development program's Hank Aaron Invitational, which is geared toward developing the nation's top African American baseball prospects. Trey has secured All-State honors in basketball and baseball, being named the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools's offensive player of the year in both sports as a sophomore and a junior. He scored more than 1,000 career points and grabbed more than 1,000 career rebounds as a junior.

Trey is also an avid volunteer in his community. He has volunteered hundreds of hours, coaching and mentoring young players in Mansfield and special needs players through The Miracle League. Additionally, he has traveled on several mission trips to the inner-city areas of New Orleans and Nashville. Trey has been invited to several showcases and private workouts by MLB clubs in preparation for the 2024 Major League Baseball draft.

Taylor Cross Begins Judicial Clerkship



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

Archon Willard E. Bell, Sr.
Grapter, Epsilon Chi Boulé

Wanda Q. Draper Receives Icon Honors Award



Archousa Wanda Q. Draper received *The Daily Record* 2023 Icon Honors award on December 12, 2023. Archousa Draper is married to Archon Robert F. Draper, Jr., of Gamma Boulé, Baltimore. The Icon Honors award recognizes Maryland business leaders over the age of 60 for their notable success and demonstration of strong leadership both within and outside of their chosen field. Honorees must demonstrate a long-standing commitment to the Maryland business community and a sustained commitment to community service and mentoring. They may be retired or currently in the workforce, and they must hold, or have held, a senior management-level position with significant authority in decision-making for their organization.

Archousa Draper, who grew up in Baltimore, is well-known in the area as a longtime journalist who worked as a reporter and columnist for *The Baltimore Sun* from 1973 to 1983. Archousa Draper started at *The Baltimore Sun* two days after graduating from the University of Maryland Philip Merrill College of Journalism at 20 years old. She was the youngest reporter, one of two women reporters and the only woman of color at *The Baltimore Sun*.

Archousa Draper became a talk show host on Maryland Public Television and went on to work in community and public affairs at the National Aquarium and WBAL-TV before taking the helm of the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture in 2016. Archousa Draper is credited with revitalizing the once struggling museum, leverag-

ing her relationships to raise revenue, increase attendance and boost the museum's online presence.

Archon Guy B. Richardson
Grapter, Gamma Boulé

Michelle Gaskill-Hames Named Kaiser Permanente Regional President



In September 2023 Archousa Michelle Gaskill-Hames, spouse of Archon Charley Hames of Los Angeles's Xi Boulé, was named regional president of Kaiser Permanente for Southern California and Hawaii, a region that includes more than 5 million members. "Michelle uses her deep operational knowledge and strategic focus to ensure that our members consistently receive high-quality care and service at every touchpoint," said Janet A. Liang, executive vice president, group president and COO for care delivery for Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc., and Kaiser Foundation Hospitals.

Archon de Winter L. Stewart
Grapter, Xi Boulé

Andrea Jackson Gavin Is Inaugural Director of HBCU Digital Library Trust



Following an extensive search, Andrea Jackson Gavin, daughter of Archon Maxie Jackson of Lansing, Michigan's Alpha Chi Boulé, was appointed the inaugural program director of the HBCU Digital Library Trust, effective October 11, 2023. A partnership of the HBCU Library Alliance and Harvard Library, the trust aims to preserve the African American history collections held by HBCU libraries and archives. Harvard Library's communications office announced Andrea's appointment on September 20.

Archon Steven L. Lonzo
Grapter, Alpha Chi Boulé

Darlene Goins Appointed Head of Philanthropy and Community Impact at Wells Fargo



On December 8, 2023, Wells Fargo & Co. announced that Archousa Darlene Goins, wife of Archon Vernon C. Goins II of Oakland–Berkeley, California's Alpha Gamma Boulé, has been named head of philanthropy and community impact and president of the Wells Fargo Foundation. She will be responsible for the company's philanthropic strategy in housing access and affordability, financial health, small business growth, and sustainability. Previously at Wells Fargo, Archousa Goins served as head of diverse customer segments and led the banking inclusion initiative. She was also head of financial health philanthropy for the Wells Fargo Foundation.

"Darlene brings a deep understanding of consumers and communities to this leadership position, which will help us take our philanthropic investments to the next level," said William M. "Bill" Daley, vice chairman of public affairs for Wells Fargo. "With her banking expertise and track record in creating community impact, we aim to open pathways to economic advancement and strengthen historically marginalized communities."

Archousa Goins attended Stanford University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and a master's degree in engineering-economic systems. She currently serves on the boards of Prosperity Now and the Bank Administration Institute. She is also a member of the Marin County Priority Setting Committee.

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

Isaac Green Commits to McPherson Bulldogs



In November 2023 Isaac Green, son of Archon Curtis Green and Archousa April Green of Fort Worth–Arlington, Texas's Delta Mu Boulé, committed and signed to play baseball at McPherson College in Kansas. The 2024 first baseman and designated hitter received six scholarship offers during his recruiting period before choosing the McPherson Bulldogs. Isaac gives all the glory to God for allowing him to play the game he loves at the collegiate level. He currently plays select baseball for the DFW Twins Baseball Club.

Archon William T. Slater
Grapter, Delta Mu Boulé

Springfield Museums Presents Lisa Green With Ubora Award



On September 16, 2023, Archousa Lisa Green, wife of Archon Vincent Jackson of Beta Sigma Boulé, Springfield, Massachusetts, received the Ubora Award from the Springfield Museums African Hall Committee. Archousa Green is a professor of linguistics, an expert in syntax and African American English, and a founding director of the Center for the Study of African American Language at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Since 1991 Springfield Museums has presented the Ubora Award annually to an African American adult who has demonstrated a commitment to Greater Springfield and has exhibited excellence in his or her field. Archousa Green is an active volunteer and mentor. Since 1996 she has run a children's summer reading program that she started at a church in her hometown of Lake Arthur, Louisiana. She is also the author of two books and is working on a third. According to Joe Pater, who is chair of the UMass Amherst linguistics department and who nominated Archousa Green for the Ubora Award, Archousa Green is as passionate about community service as she is about her academic specialty.

Archon Jeffrey L. Johnson
Grapter, Beta Sigma Boulé

United Negro College Fund Presents Maya Angelou Women Who Lead Award to Tina Bonner Henry



Archousa Tina Bonner Henry received a 2023 Maya Angelou Women Who Lead Award from the United Negro College Fund. Almost 1,000 people attended the event, which was held in Charlotte, North Carolina, on September 23, 2023. A longtime community advocate, philanthropist and leader, Archousa Henry is the wife of Archon Kevin A. Henry of Charlotte, North Carolina's Beta Delta Boulé.

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

Gwendolyn Allen James Receives Award From National Center of Women's Innovations



Archousa Gwendolyn Allen James, wife of Archon Rondall W. James of Epsilon Delta Boulé, Williamsburg, Virginia, received an award from the National Center of Women's Innovations (NCWI) at its inaugural gala in Arlington, Virginia, on October 27, 2023. The gala launched the NCWI and honored Dr. Gladys Brown West. Archousa James served as the catalyst for the gala by bringing recognition to a living hidden figure's innovative work. In the 1960's Dr. Gladys Brown West was one of the first Black female mathematicians hired at the naval base in Dahlgren, Virginia. After graduating from Virginia State College, she led the effort that mapped the Earth. Her work developed what we now know as the Global Positioning System, or GPS. Thanks to the efforts of Archousa James, Dr. West was recognized by the NCWI on her ninety-third birthday.

Archon Rondall W. James
Grapter, Epsilon Delta Boulé

Danne L. Johnson Serves as Chief Guest for Seminar in India



Congratulations to Archousa Danne L. Johnson, wife of Grammateus Reginald D. Johnson of Oklahoma City's Alpha Theta Boulé, who served as the chief guest for the Prestige Institute of Management and Research's First International Seminar on Recent Advances for Sustainable Development in the Area of Management, Humanities, and Law. The conference was held November 18–22, 2023, in Indore, India.

Archousa Johnson is a tenured professor of law and founder of Our Work, LLC, a boutique DEI firm. During her visit to Indore, she led professional development sessions with law and undergraduate faculty and leadership sessions for law and business students. She also held a fireside chat with the Indore chapter of FLO, the women's division of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry. The objective of FLO is to encourage and facilitate women to showcase their talents, skills, experiences and energies across sectors and verticals of the economy for a truly inclusive economic growth trajectory.

Archon Norman A. Jason, Jr.
Grapter, Alpha Theta Boulé

LaKenya Jordan Named 2023 California Secretary of State Employee of the Year



Archousa LaKenya Jordan was named the California Secretary of State Employee of the Year on November 6, 2023. Archousa Jordan, wife of Sacramento, California's Gamma Epsilon Boulé Archon James M. Jordan, Jr., was appointed deputy secretary of state by California's Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber in 2021. In this role Archousa Jordan leads policy and planning for the secretary of state as well as the implementation of the California Voter's Choice Act, which will include twenty-nine counties and more than 17 million voters in 2024.

Before her appointment to deputy secretary of state, Archousa Jordan served as director of legislation and governmental affairs at the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control and assistant director of legislation for the California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency. She was also executive director for the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls.

Archousa Jordan earned a bachelor of arts in communications and organizational management from Saint Mary's College of California and a master of public health from Touro University.

Archon Archie K. James
Grapter, Gamma Epsilon Boulé

Lynne Kennedy Named First Vice President of League of California Cities Board



Archousa Lynne Kennedy, Rancho Cucamonga, California's mayor pro tempore, has been selected as the first vice president of the board of directors of the League of California Cities. A lifelong public servant, Archousa Kennedy began serving her one-year term on September 22, 2023. Archousa Kennedy is the wife of Pasadena, California's Gamma Zeta Boulé Archon Michael Kennedy.

"It is with great honor that I take my place among the leadership team of the League of California Cities," Archousa Kennedy said in a statement released by the League of California Cities. "I am committed to furthering California Cities's mission to protect local decision-making and educate city officials."

Since 2021 Archousa Kennedy has been involved with the League of California Cities, participating in its transportation, communications and public works policy committee. She has also served on the League of California Cities Inland Empire Division Legislative Task Force.

Archon Michael L. Kennedy
Grapter, Gamma Zeta Boulé

Helen Kimbrough Named to *Charlotte Business Journal* Power 100



In September 2023 Archousa Helen Kimbrough, wife of Archon Marcus Kimbrough of Charlotte, North Carolina's Beta Delta Boulé, was featured on the *Charlotte Business Journal* Power 100 list of the region's leaders in diversity, equity and inclusion. Archousa Kimbrough is the senior director of community voice for Next Stage Consulting, where she champions the lived experiences and perspectives of others within research strategies to drive more meaningful strategic planning and implementation across the Next Stage portfolio of clients.

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

Camille Koger-McCree Elected to Flint Institute of Arts Board of Trustees



Archousa Camille Koger-McCree, wife of Flint, Michigan's Gamma Delta Boulé Archon Kyle McCree, was elected a trustee of the Flint Institute of Arts (FIA) in September 2023. She was also appointed to chair the board's exhibitions committee. The second-largest art museum in Michigan, the FIA is also the third-largest museum-connected community art school in the country. As a trustee Archousa Koger-McCree will continue her long-standing involvement with the museum. She served on the event committee of the museum's largest annual fundraiser and also on the museum's collections committee. Archousa Koger-McCree and Archon McCree are founding members of The Contemporaries, an affiliate group of the FIA for young professionals.

A graduate of Michigan State University, Archousa Koger-McCree works in human services. She is a lifelong lover of the arts and a member of the Flint Chapter of The Pierians, Inc.

Archon Tony Burks
Grapter, Gamma Delta Boulé

Sydney Iman Lee Selected as Cheatham-White Scholar



Sydney Iman Lee, daughter of Archon Jason D. Lee and Archousa Nicole Howard Lee of Detroit's Iota Boulé, was selected for the sixth Cheatham-White Scholars cohort at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University on September 26, 2023. This year's Cheatham-White Scholars represent some of the highest-achieving students of the NCA&T Class of 2027. Established in 2018, the Cheatham-White Scholarship is named for Henry P. Cheatham and George H. White, two African American men who represented North Carolina in the U.S. Congress in the late 1800's.

Sydney is a 2023 graduate of Wylie E. Groves High School in Beverly Hills, Michigan. At NCA&T she is a business major in the Willie A. Deese College of Business and Economics.

Archon Jason D. Lee
Grapter, Iota Boulé

Erin Harkless Moore Named Investor of the Year



On October 24, 2023, at the Nasdaq MarketSite in New York City, Erin Harkless Moore, daughter of San Antonio's Gamma Phi Boulé Archon Lawrence Harkless, Sr., and Archousa Gerry Harkless, was named Investor of the Year by Springboard Enterprises at the organization's fifteenth annual gala. The gala celebrates the contributions and advancements of women entrepreneurs and trailblazers, especially in technology and life sciences. Moore is senior director of investments at Pivotal Ventures, a Melinda Gates enterprise that supports women entrepreneurs in finance.

Archon William T. Burke III
Grapter, Gamma Phi Boulé

Alexia Nelms Excels Academically and Athletically

Starting setter for the University of Rochester's women's volleyball team and daughter of Archon Shaun Nelms of Gamma Iota Boulé, Rochester, New York, Alexia Nelms received the University Athletic Association All-Academic distinction for a third consecutive year in a press release on October 24, 2023. This prestigious recognition is bestowed upon student-athletes who have completed at least one year of college and maintained a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.3. Alexia is pursuing a dual major in brain and cognitive science and psychology.

Nekisha Omotola Selected as Paul Harris Fellow by Rotary Foundation



Archousa Nekisha Omotola, wife of St. Louis's Eta Boulé Archon Aaron Omotola, was selected as a Paul Harris Fellow by The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International and received the award on December 14, 2023, in a surprise ceremony in Edwardsville, Illinois. The fellowship is named after one of the visionary founders of Rotary International. Fellowship recognition is given to individuals who have made contributions, or have had contributions made in their name, totaling $1,000 to The Rotary Foundation. Other luminary figures who have been named Paul Harris Fellows include former United States president James E. "Jimmy" Carter, Jr., Russian president Boris N. Yeltsin, United States astronaut James A. "Jim" Lovell, Jr., United Nations secretary-general Javier Pérez de Cuéllar and polio vaccine developer Jonas E. Salk.

Archon Vernon C. Mitchell, Jr.
Grapter, Eta Boulé

Marcia Price Elected for Fifth Term in Virginia House of Delegates



On November 7, 2023, Marcia "Cia" Price, daughter of Hampton–Norfolk, Virginia's Beta Lambda Boulé Archon McKinley L. Price and Archousa Valerie Price, was reelected for her fifth term in the Virginia House of Delegates, receiving 89.5 percent of the vote. Price has served in the Virginia General Assembly since 2016. She represented Virginia House of Delegates District 95 for four terms and was most recently elected to represent the newly drawn District 85. Price is vice chair of the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus and director of the nonprofit Virginia Black Leadership Organizing Collaborative, which is focused on building empowered communities.

Archon Steven D. Bond
Grapter, Beta Lambda Boulé

African American Youth Leadership Conference Names Jordan Pruitt Student of the Month



Jordan Pruitt, son of Colorado Springs's Epsilon Chi Boulé Archon Jacob Pruitt and Archousa Joanna Bowie-Pruitt, was named the African American Youth Leadership Conference (AAYLC) Student of the Month for November 2023. A 7th-grade student at Discovery Canyon Campus Middle School, Jordan has been an active participant in the AAYLC for two years. The AAYLC's profile of Jordan is available at https://www.aaylc-co.org/jordan-pruitt.

Archon Willard E. Bell, Sr.
Grapter, Epsilon Chi Boulé

Stephanie Miller Pugh Elected President of Shelby County Chapter of The Links, Inc.



Stephanie Miller Pugh, daughter of Archon Leonard W. Miller and Archousa Rose H. Miller of Zeta Delta Boulé, Mercer–Bucks Counties, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, was elected president of the Shelby County (Tennessee) Chapter of The Links, Inc., last year. Pugh is committed to continuing the chapter's mission of developing transformational programs that have a positive and long-term impact on the community.

Archon John E. Fiadjoe
Grapter, Zeta Delta Boulé

Gina M. Ricard Included Among Xavier University 40 Under 40 Honorees



Archousa Laura Williams and Gina M. Ricard

On October 11, 2023, Xavier University of Louisiana named Gina M. Ricard, daughter of Central Region Thesaurists Melvin Williams, Jr., and Archousa Laura Williams of Chicago's Beta Boulé, to its 2023 class of 40 Under 40 Young Alumni honorees. Ricard is the director of strategic initiatives at Ichor Strategies, the largest Black-owned consultancy in the United States. Ricard is also on the planning committee for the upcoming Young Adult Career Symposium at the 57th Grand Boulé.

Archon Randolph D. Carnegie
Grapter, Beta Boulé

Jaden Luke Robinson Graduates with Bachelor of Science in Advertising



Oakland–Berkeley, California's Alpha Gamma Boulé Archon Dante W. Robinson and Archousa Lisa celebrated their son Jaden Luke Robinson's graduation with a bachelor of science in advertising and a minor in entrepreneurship from the University of Oregon last year. Jaden was initiated into the Delta Alpha Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, following in his father's footsteps, and became the chapter's polemarch. He was also selected by the University of Oregon School of Journalism and Communication to travel to New York City to network with advertising agency staff.

Archon Vernon C. Goins II
Grapter, Alpha Gamma Boulé

Jessenia Dianne Robinson Graduates With Doctor of Jurisprudence Degree



In September 2023 Oakland–Berkeley, California's Alpha Gamma Boulé Archon Dante W. Robinson and Archousa Lisa H. Robinson celebrated their daughter Jessenia Dianne Robinson's graduation with a doctor of jurisprudence degree from the University of Oregon School of Law. President of the local chapter of the National Black Law Students Association and a member of the University of Oregon Student Bar Association's leadership team, Jessenia was a summer intern and student assistant at Sephora in the company's legal department.

Archon Vernon C. Goins II
Grapter, Alpha Gamma Boulé

Karen Rundlet Tapped to Lead Institute for Nonprofit News



Archousa Karen Rundlet, wife of Miami, Florida's Alpha Rho Boulé Archon Alexander Rundlet, has been named CEO of the Institute for Nonprofit News, an organization that provides support services to more than 5,000 journalists and 425 news outlets in the United States and Canada to promote public service through investigative journalism. Archousa Rundlet, who previously served as senior director of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation's journalism program, took the helm on January 8, 2024. She now leads a staff of twenty-two, assisting communities in launching new publications to fill "news deserts," areas where newspapers and broadcasters have closed or cut coverage.

"Karen is uniquely positioned as a visionary, passionate and experienced journalist and philanthropist to propel the nonprofit news movement," said Marcia Parker, chair of the institute's board of directors. "As a leader of our field, she already is driving the national advances to redesign news media that is inclusive for communities of color and can bring trusted information to everyone."

Archon Myles C. Pistorius
Grapter, Alpha Rho Boulé

Weil, Gotshal & Manges, LLP, Elects Kristin Sanford Partner

Kristin Sanford, daughter of Archon Joseph High and Archousa Kathleen Cullins High of Chapel Hill, North Carolina's Epsilon Gamma Boulé, was elected a partner in the antitrust group at Weil, Gotshal & Manges, LLP, effective January 1, 2024. Sanford's experience covers a large range of industries, including medical devices, pharmaceuticals, hospitality and retail. Her practice at Weil focuses on mergers and acquisitions, government investigations, and general antitrust counseling. Sanford earned her B.A., with distinction, from Duke University and her J.D. from the Georgetown University Law Center.

Archon Fleenoil Lane, Jr.
Grapter, Epsilon Gamma Boulé

Kendle E. Schooler Inducted Into Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society



Kendle E. Schooler, daughter of Archon Vincent Schooler and Archousa Karen Schooler of Greensboro, North Carolina's Beta Epsilon Boulé, was inducted into Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society at the University of Virginia on November 5, 2023. Phi Eta Sigma recognizes high academic achievement, and members of its UVA chapter volunteer in various outreach and service projects throughout Charlottesville. Kendle is a sophomore majoring in environmental science and minoring in data science. She is also on UVA's equestrian dressage team.

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

Margery Atkins Scott Featured on Eastern Virginia Medical School Billboards



On October 7, 2023, Eastern Virginia Medical School featured Archousa Margery Atkins Scott, wife of Archon Thomas H. Scott, Jr., of Hampton–Norfolk, Virginia's Beta Lambda Boulé, on billboards around the Hampton Roads region of Virginia as part of the medical school's fiftieth anniversary celebration. Archousa Scott is a retired professor and vice chair of the department of dermatology at EVMS. She was selected in recognition of her service and contributions to the school.

Archon Steven D. Bond
Grapter, Beta Lambda Boulé

Kimberly Scott-Salkey Featured in *Diversity in Action* Magazine



On October 1, 2023, Kimberly Scott-Salkey, daughter of Hampton–Norfolk, Virginia's Beta Lambda Boulé Archon Thomas H. Scott, Jr., and Archousa Margery Atkins Scott, was featured in the fall 2023 publication of *Diversity in Action* magazine. For the issue Scott-Salkey discussed her education and current position as associate professor and residency program director in the department of dermatology with the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System. She also expressed a sense of satisfaction from being both a clinician and an educator. "I love taking care of patients and providing education to empower patients to manage their own health. I also love the opportunity to watch dermatology residents grow and mature in their training and ultimately going out into practice."

Archon Steven D. Bond
Grapter, Beta Lambda Boulé

Adrienne Simpson-Brown and Syreeta Vaughn Named to Leadership Knoxville Class of 2024

Archousa Adrienne Simpson-Brown, wife of Knoxville, Tennessee's Beta Theta Boulé Archon Charles A. Brown, and Archousa Syreeta Vaughn, wife of Beta Theta Boulé Archon Clarence L. Vaughn III, were named to the Leadership Knoxville Class of 2024 on September 18, 2023. Class members will participate in monthly sessions on servant leadership. More information on Archousai Simpson-Brown and Vaughn and the rest of the 2024 class can be viewed at leadershipknoxville.com.

Archon Charles A. Brown
Grapter, Beta Theta Boulé

Jada Simone Sims Graduates From Vanderbilt University



Jada Simone Sims, daughter of Detroit's Iota Boulé Archon Jerome Sims and Archousa Sharee Sims, graduated from Vanderbilt University last year with a bachelor's degree in both political science and African American and diaspora studies. Jada currently attends graduate school at the University of California, Los Angeles, where she is pursuing a graduate degree in higher education and leadership, with a goal to obtain her Ph.D. in higher education as well. She is a part-time researcher at the UCLA School of Education and Information Studies.

During Jada's tenure at Vanderbilt, she held several student leadership roles, including editor of the student newspaper, student teacher's aide and athletic adviser to new student onboarding. Jada was also a student-athlete at Vanderbilt. She received several academic and athletic accolades as a multi-event track and field athlete in heptathlon, high jump and pentathlon. Her accomplishments make her one of the best multi-event athletes of all time at Vanderbilt University.

Archon Jason D. Lee
Grapter, Iota Boulé

Jerome Sims III Graduates and Starts New Careers



After graduating from the University of Michigan with a degree in environmental science last year, Jerome Sims III, son of Archon Jerome Sims and Archousa Sharee Sims of Detroit's Iota Boulé, accepted an environmental science instructor position with the Barack Obama Leadership Academy in Detroit. He also accepted a leadership position with the East Michigan Environmental Action Council, where he will focus on empowering the Detroit community to protect, preserve and value the land, air and water.

During his time as an undergraduate student, Jerome was an active student activist who led many grassroots student initiatives and held leadership roles with the East Michigan Environmental Action Council, Detroit Black Community Food Sovereignty Network and D-Town Farm.

Archon Jason D. Lee
Grapter, Iota Boulé

Nia Sioux Inducted Into Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority



Nia Sioux and Archousa Holly Hatcher-Frazier

In November 2023 Nia Sioux, daughter of Pittsburgh's Rho Boulé Archon Evan Frazier and Archousa Holly Hatcher-Frazier, was inducted into the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Alpha Gamma Chapter at the University of California, Los Angeles. Nia is studying American literature at UCLA. She is also an actress who starred in the Lifetime films *Imperfect High* and *I Am Mortal* as well as the first season of *Dance Moms*, which she starred in when she was 9 years old.

Archon Ron G. Jones
Grapter, Rho Boulé

Marva Turner-Booth Promoted at PNC Bank



In September 2023 Marva Turner-Booth was tapped to manage PNC Bank's solution center in Franklin, Tennessee. Turner-Booth brings nineteen years of financial experience to her new role. Turner-Booth earned her bachelor's degree from Mississippi University for Women and her M.B.A. from Jackson State University. She is the daughter of Jackson, Mississippi's Beta Gamma Boulé Archon Marvel Turner, Past Southeast Region Sire Archon and current audit committee chair, and Archousa Patrice Turner.

Archon Pieter J. Teeuwissen
Grapter, Beta Gamma Boulé

Jillian Walker Releases Book Based on Her Critically Acclaimed Play



Jillian Walker, daughter of Northern Illinois's Delta Alpha Boulé Archon Dennis Walker and Archousa Deborah, is the author of the book *SKiNFoLK: An American Show*, published by 53rd State Press in October 2023. Based on Walker's critically acclaimed play of the same name, the book is a "prayerformance" text, a spell and a medicine for the Black ancestors of the American South told through the prism of the Walker family for all who wonder whose skin they live in. The play earned high praise and was described as "a reclamation of the joys of Blackness" by *The New York Times*.

Archon Herman S. Baskerville
Grapter, Delta Alpha Boulé

Marianne Walter Chairs Anniversary Celebration of Historic Second Congregational Church in Memphis

Marianne Walter, Archousa of Memphis's Delta Boulé Archon Ronald Walter, chaired the 155th anniversary celebration of historic Second Congregational Church in Memphis during the month of November 2023. The anniversary observance consisted of a series of historical vignettes about the church, a fund drive and a musical program involving students from the neighboring Stax Music Academy and other groups.

Second Congregational Church was established in November 1868 and is the sixth-oldest African American church in all of Memphis and Shelby County, Tennessee. It was an outgrowth of the missionary work of the American Missionary Association (AMA) after the Civil War. The AMA was also instrumental in the founding of LeMoyne Normal Institute, now LeMoyne-Owen College, in 1870. Both the church and the school have enjoyed close relationships throughout their existences, including their physical locations. Both are currently located on Walker Avenue in Memphis. At one point the late Delta Boulé Archon Hollis Freeman Price, a member of Second Congregational Church, was president of the college. He also became the first Black person in the United Church of Christ, Second Congregational Church's denomination, to be named its moderator, the highest lay position in the church's national organizational structure.

Second Congregational Church is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has several historical markers on its property from the Tennessee Historical Commission and the Shelby County Historical Commission. The current church structure will observe its centennial between 2026 and 2028, marking one hundred years since the start and completion of the building's construction.

Archon Ronald A. Walter
Grapter, Delta Boulé

Darryl Ford Williams's Documentary Premieres at Festival



Archousa Darryl Ford Williams, wife of Pittsburgh's Rho Boulé Archon Joseph K. Williams III, is the executive producer of *The Cost of Inheritance*, a documentary on the issue of reparations. On November 12, 2023, the documentary was selected for a world premiere at DOC NYC – America's largest documentary festival. Additionally, the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), WQED and WORLD announced that the documentary will have its broadcast premiere on January 8, 2024, on PBS, the PBS app, the PBS YouTube channel and worldchannel.org. The one-hour film traces the nation's legacy of systemic inequities and the challenges faced by those attempting to achieve economic conciliation for Black Americans.

Archousa Williams is known for her executive leadership on PBS documentaries, including *August Wilson: The Ground on Which I Stand* and *Harbor From the Holocaust*. Her work has been recognized with numerous Emmy awards and has earned her a nomination for an NAACP Image Award.

Archon Ron G. Jones
Grapter, Rho Boulé

Melissa S. Woods Named to Lawyers of Color Wonderful Women List



Melissa S. Woods, daughter of Williamsburg, Virginia's Epsilon Delta Boulé Sire Archon Alfred L. Woods and Archousa Diane Woods, was named to the inaugural Lawyers of Color Wonderful Women list on June 28, 2023. The list recognizes women attorneys across the United States who show promise in their careers and demonstrate a strong commitment to advancing diversity in the legal profession. Woods is a partner at Cohen, Weiss and Simon, LLP, in New York.

Archon Rondall W. James
Grapter, Epsilon Delta Boulé

Erica Zeno Joins Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Erica Zeno, granddaughter of Archon David Woodbury and Archousa Margaret Woodbury of Gamma Rho Boulé, Ann Arbor, Michigan, joined the global influenza branch of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as an epidemic intelligence service officer in July 2023. Zeno received a B.A. in classical civilizations from Duke University and an M.P.H. in epidemiology from Columbia University. She then moved to North Carolina, where she received a Ph.D. in epidemiology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. For her dissertation, which focused on the impact of low-density and subpatent plasmodium falciparum infections on transmission and disease, Zeno analyzed data from a cohort in an area of high malaria transmission in Western Kenya. In her free time, Zeno enjoys cooking, singing, reading fantasy novels and playing volleyball.

Archon Bruce C. Gaines
Grapter, Gamma Rho Boulé

The Member Boulés

Beta Boulé Basks in the Sun



Approximately sixty Archons, Archousai and guests attended a garden party sponsored by Beta Boulé, Chicago, on June 8, 2023, at the home of Archon Roland Criswell and Archousa Bethany Criswell. The morning was overcast, with a forecast of light showers for the afternoon, and a number of tents had been set up, but the clouds cleared and the sun came out just as the party began, lightening spirits and allowing everyone to fully appreciate the garden setting and enjoy the best of one another.

Special guests were Delta Alpha Sire Archon Jeffery S. Perry and Archousa Dena Perry and Delta Sigma Sire Archon William K. Payne III and Archousa Tian Payne.

Archon Randolph D. Carnegie
Grapter, Beta Boulé

Gamma Boulé Attends Northeast Regional Boulé



Front row: Archons Bert Hash, Calvin Baker, Trent Williams, Larry Johnson and Phillip Byrd. Back row: Archons Reginald Thomas, Sr., Nicolas Abrams, Dwayne Debnam, Joe Simms, Robert Draper, Nathan Fletcher, Guy Richardson and N. Scott Phillips.

Twenty-nine Archons and Archousai of Gamma Boulé, Baltimore, attended the 25th Biennial Northeast Regional Boulé on September 14–17, 2023, in Dover, Delaware. Well represented in numbers and in active participation as well as recognition and award events, Gamma Archons, in the spirit of solidarity, unity and brotherhood, proudly wore their new sport jackets featuring the Fraternity sphinx logo.

Sire Archon Kweisi Mfume participated in the opening session and public forum as guest speaker and panelist; five Archons represented Gamma Boulé as delegates; and Archon Nathan Fletcher provided exceptional counsel, successfully navigating procedural protocol during the election proceedings for Northeast Region Sire Archon–Elect. Archon Phillip Byrd was honored for exemplary service to Sigma Pi Phi, Archon Guy Richardson won the Northeast Region Grapter of the Year award, and Sire Archon–Elect Trent Williams gave the invocation at the memorial service.

Archon Guy B. Richardson / Grapter, Gamma Boulé

Nu Boulé Tours Sonoma County Vineyards



Archons and Archousai at the Harris Estate Vineyard

The Archons and Archousai of Nu Boulé, Houston, Texas, enjoyed a fun-filled, relaxing tour of California's Sonoma County wine country on the weekend of October 5–8, 2023. The trip began on Thursday night with a welcome reception and dinner at the Carriage House at Hotel Healdsburg. On Friday tasting tours were held at Silver Oak Winery in Alexander Valley and at CAST Wines, and on Saturday the group enjoyed a Rustic Elegance lunch and tasting experience at the Harris Estate Vineyard, which is owned and operated by Nu Archon Bernard Harris. Special thanks to Archon Harris and his partner, Valerie Mosley, for hosting this keynote event and to Archon Garfield Johnson for organizing yet another exciting Nu Boulé excursion.

Archon Michael T. Murphy
Grapter, Nu Boulé

Alpha Gamma Boulé's Jazz Band Shines at Biennial Pacific Region Boulé



On September 29, 2023, the legendary Alpha Gamma 6 jazz band of Alpha Gamma Boulé, Oakland– Berkeley, California, treated the Pacific Region Boulé in Los Angeles to an early Christmas gift of sultry musical excellence. Performing R&B classics, including "Song for My Father," "Take Five," "What a Wonderful World," "The Best Thing That Ever Happened to Me," "Killing Me Softly" and "Sitting on the Side of the Bay," Alpha Gamma 6 thrilled and mesmerized the audience of more than 250 Archons, Archousai and guests. The performance elicited rave reviews, appreciation and gratitude.

Alpha Gamma 6 comprises the following members: Archons Coyness Ennix (tenor saxophone), Neil Powe (bass guitar), Albert Brooks (drums), Robert Mines (alto saxophone) and Barry Breaux (guitar); Marco Casasola (keyboard); vocalists Archousai Autumn McDonald and Deborah Blackburn and Archons Kevin Blackburn and Tony Harris; and technical manager Archon Wendall Mitchell. Xi Archon Oliver Brooks (flute) was also featured in the performance.

Archon Vernon C. Goins II
Grapter, Alpha Gamma Boulé

Alpha Epsilon Boulé Installs New Officers



Archons Michael Horne, Rhetoricos; Kevin B. Wiggins, Grapter; Brendon Riley, Thesauristes; Raymond Ferrell, Grammateus; Keith Benn, Sire Archon; Myron Watkins, Jr., Sire Archon–Elect; Reginald Perry, Agogos; Terrance Wilkerson, membership council; and Calvin Jamison, membership council

Alpha Epsilon Boulé, Dallas, installed new officers on January 7, 2024, at a regular business meeting held at the Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center at the University of Texas at Dallas. The new officers are Archons Keith Benn, Sire Archon; Myron Watkins, Jr., Sire Archon–Elect; Raymond Ferrell, Grammateus; Brendon Riley, Thesauristes; Kevin B. Wiggins, Grapter; Michael Horne, Rhetoricos; Reginald Perry, Agogos; Marlon Henderson, membership council; Calvin Jamison, membership council; Terrance Wilkerson, membership council; and Antonio Monk, Immediate Past Sire Archon.

Archon Kevin B. Wiggins
Grapter, Alpha Epsilon Boulé

Alpha Lambda Boulé Waves Goodbye to Summer



"Getting to know the best of one another" was on full display as Archons, Archousai, and friends and family members of Alpha Lambda Boulé, Savannah, enjoyed their annual summer get-together on September 16, 2023, all dressed in white at the Charles Morris Center at Trustees' Garden in the city's historic district. Archon William Pittman and Archousa Alma Pittman graciously hosted this event. Fun, games and delicious cuisine were the highlights, and attendees were treated to a glimpse of the future of automotive innovation, as many EV models were on display.

Archon Ronald J. Gantt
Grapter, Alpha Lambda Boulé

Alpha Nu Boulé Hosts Chic Fall Soirée



Alpha Nu Boulé in Wichita, Kansas, held its Fall Soirée on Saturday, September 16, 2023, an annual event that gives Archons, Archousai and guests the opportunity to get to know the best of one another. Sire Archon Reginald Thompson hosted the casual chic party, which took place on the rooftop patio of the downtown offices of the IMA Financial Group, Inc. Western Region Sire Archon–Elect Askia Ahmad offered remarks. The evening was filled with music, dancing, food and fellowship.

Archon Jamil C. Moody
Grapter, Alpha Nu Boulé

Epsilon Beta Boulé Archousai Take the Napa Valley Wine Train



Archousai Lisa Cloud, Terri Dunn, Tasha Krukrubo, Valarie Kelly, Karen Stallworth, Sarajane Wheeler, Vallery Twamugabo, Denise Smith, Terri Porter, Joan Neblett, Juanita Lott, Tamara Scott, Rose White, Rita Marten and Latondra Goode

On September 16, 2023, the Archousai of Epsilon Beta Boulé, Contra Costa County, California, boarded the Napa Valley Wine Train, a vintage hundred-year-old railroad car that ventured along a rail corridor that once transported guests to historic thermal baths and spa resorts in Calistoga. During the thirty-six-mile round trip throughout the beautiful Napa Valley and St. Helena, the Archousai dined in a plush dining car, enjoying local wines and an elegant gourmet meal that was cooked to order. For dessert, they transferred to a domed rail car adorned with floor-to-ceiling windows.

The views on this warm afternoon consisted of rolling hills and miles of vineyards, the grapevines transitioning to the colorful hues of fall. All had a wonderful time. On this lovely day, the Archousai had a chance slow their pace a little while laughing, sharing stories and getting to know the best of one another. They thank the Archons for sponsoring this truly unforgettable event.

Archon Willie Lott, Jr.
Grapter, Epsilon Beta Boulé

Gamma Beta Boulé Gains Rare Insight From Navy Rear Admiral



Rear Admiral Gary Mayes discusses the importance of the U.S. Navy in the South China Sea.

Jacksonville, Florida's Gamma Beta Boulé brought retired U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Gary Mayes to speak to Archons on September 28, 2023. Admiral Mayes shared valuable global information unknown to most Americans, particularly regarding the importance of China and the threat it poses to America and the world economy.

Admiral Mayes developed his global perspective from more than three decades of operational experience in the Mediterranean, Adriatic Sea, Red Sea, Persian Gulf, South America and Haiti. At sea he flew the famed SH-60B/R helicopters; his shore assignments included duty as a station pilot in Guantanamo Bay and Cuba. He provided insight to the role of the vice president of the United States, who is the administrative aide to the Secretary of the Navy, and the commanding officer of Coronado Naval Base.

Admiral Mayes presented Archons with an amazing array of facts, including the following:

• Ninety percent of global commerce is conducted by sea.
• One in five U.S. jobs is tied to global trade.
• One in five U.S. manufacturing jobs is also tied to global trade.

Here is where the plot thickens:

• One third of the world's trade, and more than half of all oil trade, is routed through the South China Sea.
• The South China Sea is home to fifteen of the twenty busiest seaports on the planet.
• China steadfastly claims ownership of minerals and fishing and water rights within a critical area for trade routes within the South China Sea, though those claims are contrary to international norms.

These facts give context to the potential disruption to the economies of the world if China attempted to block or restrict trade in this area and explains why the U.S. Navy has a Pacific Fleet of active-duty personnel in the proximity of the South China Sea, among its 64,105 active-duty military, with a payroll of $4 billion.



Gamma Beta Boulé with Rear Admiral Mayes

One of Admiral Mayes's tours took him to Jacksonville, and he and his family made it a permanent destination upon retirement. The Archons of Gamma Beta Boulé thank him for that, and for his willingness to share these insights.

Archon Roger M. Groves
Grapter, Gamma Beta Boulé

The Regional Boulés

Archousai Welcomed at Northeast Region Boulé Luncheon



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

On Saturday, September 16, 2023, all Archousai present for the Northeast Regional Boulé in Dover, Delaware, gathered in the ballroom to be welcomed warmly and celebrated in grand style. The room had beautiful blue-and-white décor, and as each Archousa entered she was met with music played by twin violinists Ebony Strings. The Archousai were greeted at each table by an Archousa from Beta Eta Boulé, hosts of the event.

Ebony Strings played the entry song again for all who were sitting at the head table. Poet Kim Graham shared spoken words as the luncheon chair and mistress of ceremonies. Archousa Melanie Daniels recognized the members of the head table and every Archousa present, while describing the program for the day. The Grand Sire Archon's Archousa, Carol Garibaldi, gave a presentation about giving to the Boulé Foundation – what it means, whom it impacts and how to get involved.

The program was filled with beautiful presentations by local Beta Eta Foundation member Archousa Lanette Edwards and more spoken words from Graham. This led to the grand finale, the presentation of the keynote speaker, Archousa Val Demings, who spoke about the importance of involvement in civic affairs and the work that still has to be done. The luncheon closed with her charge to stay the course and be committed to working together to better the communities we serve. It was a “Grand Day” for Archousai to celebrate together.

Southeast Region Boulé Reconnects at Mardi Gras in October



By Archons R. Keith Belton, Jr., Regional Grapter, Southeast Region, Chi Boulé, and Brian L. Pettiford, Grapter, Alpha Alpha Boulé

From October 5 to 8, 2023, more than 800 Archons and Archousai from across the country descended on New Orleans for the 22nd Southeast Region Boulé, hosted by Alpha Alpha Boulé. Alpha Alpha Sire Archon James Williams, along with conference cochairs Archons Kern Reese and Sean Bruno, welcomed guests to the Crescent City. The event opened with registration and an executive committee meeting.

Everyone was prepared to "Let the Good Times Roll" in the Crescent City. The group was so large that the Hilton and the Four Seasons hotels cohosted the event. Alpha Alpha Boulé's planning team had worked overtime to prepare for the gathering, and through their hard work, no one left New Orleans disappointed.

Prior to the official start on Thursday, the Southeast Region Boulé and the Boulé Foundation hosted the inaugural Leadership Circle Dinner, held at Commander's Palace on Wednesday evening, celebrating Archons who have reached the William Sylvester "Turk" Thompson Legacy Award level and above.

As has become a tradition in the Southeast Region, the Registration Day Party Thursday afternoon officially kicked off the Southeast Region Boulé. The music, food and décor

provided the perfect opportunity for Archons and Archousai to reconnect with old friends and make new ones.

On Thursday evening a curated dining experience awaited registrants, who were able to select from world-renowned restaurants for which New Orleans is famous, including Brennan's, Dooky Chase and August. The evening ended with another relatively new event launched by the Southeast Region, Boulé After Dark.

The Manford Byrd Educational Breakfast was sponsored by the Chase Family Foundation of the famed Dooky Chase restaurant and served to reinforce the Fraternity's commitment to education on Friday morning. Concurrently, more than forty Archons departed for the coastal waters of the Gulf Coast for a morning of deep-sea fishing. Another group of Archons had the opportunity to play golf at the English Turn golf course, a Jack Nicklaus–designed golf course and community. The Archousai enjoyed an afternoon of shopping at the iconic stores of Magazine Street.

Friday afternoon was filled with content-rich sessions: Blacks on Corporate Boards; Multigenerational Wealth Preservation; Harnessing Our Power Through Private Equity; The Future of Technology in the Fraternity; Economic Empowerment, Economic Outlook and the Case for Equity; Retirement Income for a New Reality; and Maximizing Your Financial Legacy. Additionally, Archon James Clyburn signed his new book, *Blessed Experiences: Genuinely Southern, Proudly Black*, for those in attendance.

The evening concluded with the Regional Sire Archon Opening Reception at the spacious World War II Memorial Museum. Greetings were provided by Grand Sire Archon Antoine M. Garibaldi, Regional Sire Archon Darrell Searcy and Sire Archon James Williams of Alpha Alpha Boulé. Aside from the delectable local fare, the event highlight was a short film detailing the courage, patriotism and skill of the Tuskegee Airmen. Conference attendees who still had a festive spirit enjoyed Luna Fête Boulé After Dark late into the evening.

Saturday morning started with a King Cake Celebration Youth Breakfast, where local young people shared their musical talent. The Southeast Region awarded $5,000 each to two local nonprofits that support youth programming for STEM and music. The award recipients were STEM Nola and Roots of Music. After breakfast, Southeast Region Archons took care of the Fraternity's business. The Archons chosen to lead the Southeast Region Boulé in the 23rd biennium are:

- James A. Welch, Regional Sire Archon, Delta Upsilon
- LeRome C. Richmond, Regional Sire Archon– Elect, Delta Upsilon
- Timothy L. Bryant, Regional Grammateus, Epsilon Lambda
- Kenneth D. Gibbs, Sr., Regional Thesauristes, Alpha Tau

R. Keith Belton, Jr., Regional Grapter, Chi

- Johnny Newman, Regional Agogos, Alpha Beta

• Wendell Duggins, Regional Rhetoricos, Gamma Omicron

• Darrell B. Searcy, Immediate Past Regional Sire Archon, Epsilon Lambda

At the same time as the business meeting, Archousai engaged in a hands-on cultural experience, crafting authentic Creole umbrellas, which were used as the Archousai participated in their own second line as part of the Archousai Parade from the Hilton to the Four Seasons for the Archousai Luncheon, featuring keynote speaker *CBS Saturday Morning News* host Michelle Miller, a native New Orleanian. Archon Henry Coaxum hosted Archons at a fish fry in the penthouse of the Four Seasons Residences to share in the catch from the deep-sea fishing excursion.

Saturday evening's black-tie gala, The Boulé Carnivale Ball, exceeded everyone's expectations. Grand Sire Archon Garibaldi (Iota) and his Archousa, Carol, were in attendance and enjoyed a snapshot of their native New Orleans during this occasion. Regional Sire Archon Darrell Searcy (Epsilon Lambda) highlighted the challenges and successes during his tenure, offering special thanks to his Archousa, Kori, including a beautiful bouquet of roses. Archon Searcy then passed the torch to Regional Sire Archon–Elect James Welch (Delta Epsilon). After dinner, a full-fledged Mardi Gras parade broke out in the middle of the Hilton ballroom, complete with high school marching bands, floats, motorcycle police escort and second-line bands.

On Sunday the Memorial Service and Ceremony of Roses provided heartfelt tributes to the Archons and Archousai who had transitioned during this past biennium, with the memorial sermon delivered by Archon Jonathan C. Augustine. Following the memorial was the farewell NOLA Jazz Brunch, where Archons and Archousai were able to reflect on a wonderful weekend and reconnect one last time before departing New Orleans.

The Southeast Region Boulé was bookended with philanthropy, starting with the Leadership Circle Dinner and ending Saturday evening with the Chanel Gift Bag Raffle (won by Chi Boulé's Sire Archon Ed Littlejohn). Throughout the weekend, many Archons and Archousai decided to take giving to the next level; during the four-day event, more than $285,000 was raised for the Boulé Foundation.

Alpha Alpha Boulé wishes much success to the Archons and Archousai of Beta Delta Boulé in Charlotte, North Carolina, as we look toward the 23rd Southeast Region Boulé in 2025.

Southeast Regional Mardi Gras in October Gallery

OPEN









Southeast Region Boulé King Cake Celebration Youth Breakfast Reinforces the Importance of Early Learning for the Black Community



By Archon Raymond C. Pierce, Kappa Boulé

Children who attend high-quality early learning programs have better health outcomes, higher high school graduation rates and higher employment earnings throughout their life. Despite these well-established facts, opportunities for African American children to access effective early learning remains a considerable challenge. Consider the following:

• Eighty-five percent of Black children are not enrolled in a high-quality early learning program.

• Black children enter kindergarten an average of seven months behind in reading and nine months behind in math compared with their white peers.

• Black early childhood educators earn an average of 76 cents on the dollar compared with their white counterparts.

These disparities and their obvious harm to Black communities prompted the Southern Education Foundation to launch the Southern Early Childhood Education Justice network. This multiyear, multistate advocacy and research project focuses on racial justice and building capacity for state early childhood education advocates to improve early learning (prekindergarten) access, quality and equity for children of color in the South while also supporting the early learning workforce.

This comprehensive and aggressive education initiative was the focus of the 22nd Southeast Regional Boulé King Cake Celebration Youth Breakfast, sponsored by the Southern Education Foundation, in October 2023 in New Orleans. During the breakfast Archon Raymond Pierce of Kappa Boulé, president and CEO of the Southern Education Foundation, presented the Southern Early Childhood Education Justice initiative and outlined the state of early learning for Black children in the South. Archon Pierce presented an award to early childhood education advocates in New Orleans, who earlier that year worked in collaboration with the New Orleans business community to pass a citywide measure that significantly increased funding for early childhood education.

Several Archons from the New Orleans business community provided leadership in the effort to increase the number of Black children enrolled in early learning. Archon Alden McDonald, president and CEO of Liberty Bank in New Orleans, provided key leadership in having a measure placed on the ballot and securing the political support for the increased funding that has nearly tripled the availability of seats in early learning programs for Black children in New Orleans. Archon McDonald joined Archon Pierce and Archousa Diane Pierce on stage at the breakfast to present an award to several leaders of the early learning community who were instrumental in the success of the ballot measure for funding early childhood education.

One of the recipients of the award was Rochelle Wilcox, founder and executive director of Wilcox Academy of Early Learning, a provider of enriched child care in New Orleans. Upon accepting the award Wilcox commented that most education initiatives place little emphasis on early childhood learning when the reality is that a child's critical educational foundation begins before kindergarten. "We're not going to see the change that we want to see until we really start to invest and put those quality measures forward in early child care and early childhood education now," Wilcox stated. "Investing in early learning provides an incredible return in the long run, particularly for the Black community."

Wilcox is correct. Every dollar spent on high-quality birth-to-five education yields a 13 percent return on investment each year, as measured by declines in costs for unemployment, incarceration, dependency and other such societal determinants that negatively impact the health and viability of communities.

Launched in early 2023, the initiative unites more than thirty policy organizations and advocates across the South in a specialized network to advocate for systemic and transformative early-childhood policy improvements, focusing especially on historically underserved children of color and those in low-income families. The initiative partners with both national and state-based groups to advance a regional advocacy agenda that the network can advance at both the state and federal levels.

The initiative is focused in six states: Georgia, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, South Carolina and Tennessee. The Southern Education Foundation points out that nearly 60 percent of all African American students in this country are educated in the South, so any serious national racial equity effort should include a significant southern approach.

Author's note: Statistical information is provided by the National Institute for Early Education Research joint report, the Center on Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes and the Center for American Progress.

Southeast Regional Youth Breakfast Gallery

OPEN

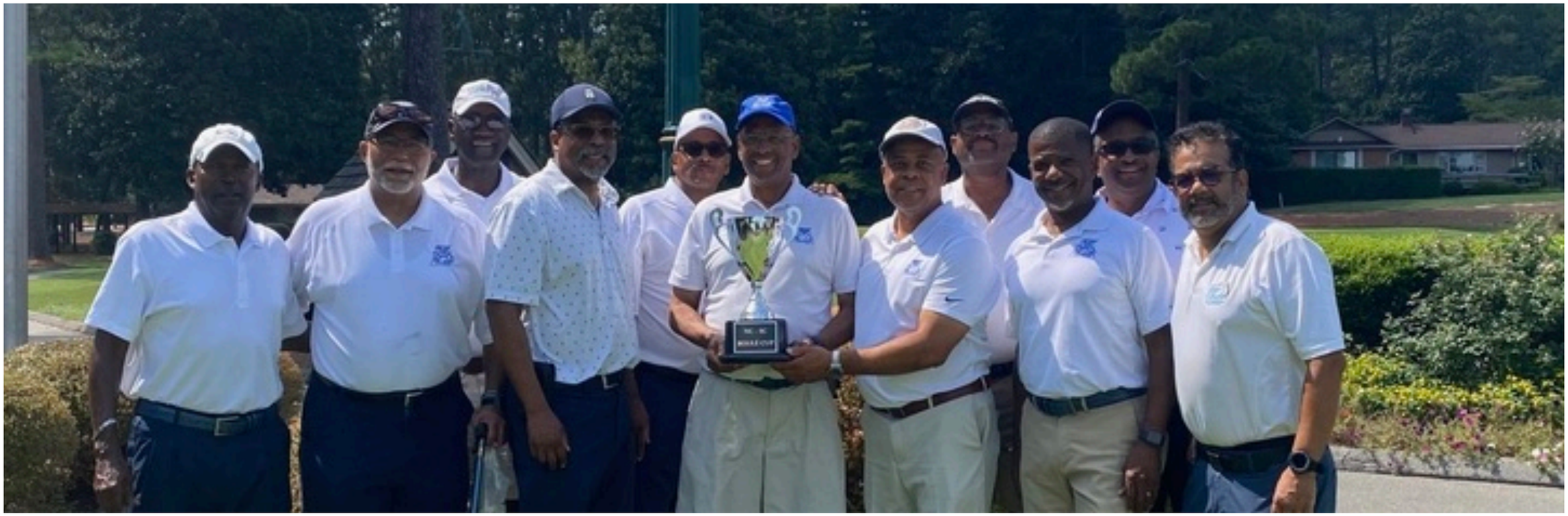








Southeast Region North Carolina Member Boulés Host Fourth Annual Boulé Cup



The Battle of the Border Competition winner is the North Carolina team.

By Archon Kelvin E. Farmer, Grapter, Epsilon Alpha Boulé

From June through August 2023, the North Carolina member boulés hosted its fourth annual summer-league golf program, the Boulé Cup. The events took place on four championship golf courses (Bryan Park Champions Course, Meadowlands Golf Course, Pine Needles Golf Club and Midpines Golf Course). Bryan Park, one of the top twelve golf courses in North Carolina, has hosted the U.S. amateur public links championships. Meadowlands Golf Club in Winston- Salem is one of Hale Irwin's signature golf design masterpieces. Pine Needles, nestled among the towering longleaf pines, offered character, warmth and comfort: A Donald Ross gem ranked fourth among golf courses in North Carolina, it has hosted the Women LPGA U.S. Open three times. Donald Ross masterpiece Midpines, impeccably manicured to modern standards, has hosted many national competitions, including the 2002 USGA Senior Women's Amateur Championship and the annual Kids USGA National Championship.



Epsilon Alpha Boulé wins the Member Boulé Competition.

This year's Boulé Cup, organized by Epsilon Alpha Archon Kelvin Farmer, was a two-part tournament, offering a North Carolina Member Boulé Competition and a Battle of the Border Competition (North Carolina versus South Carolina boulés). North Carolina's participating boulés were Alpha Tau, Beta Epsilon, Epsilon Alpha, Epsilon Gamma and Gamma Sigma. Each member boulé sent golfers representing their member boulé to compete for the Boulé Cup. The winner was determined based on the teams' total two-day cumulative lowest scores from the top two players for each day.

This year's North Carolina Member Boulé Competition winner was Epsilon Alpha Boulé. Epsilon Alpha went into the competition as underdogs but managed to hold off a narrow edge margin to capture the victory against second-place Beta Epsilon. Three-time defending champions Alpha Tau represented well but captured third place this year.

In the Battle of the Border Competition, the North Carolina team played an astonishing round to walk away with a strong victory against the South Carolina team. The North Carolina team consisted of two representatives from each of the state's member boulés; team captain Archon Sidney Brooks commented that he was excited with the level of play over the two days. Archon William Rayls, South Carolina team captain, said all enjoyed the fellowship and hospitality, but added he now understands the high caliber of the North Carolina golfers so he will be building the South Carolina team early by recruiting additional team players for the 2024 competition.

The golf was phenomenal, but the greatest asset of the Boulé Cup was getting to know the best of one another.



Boulé Cup

Western Region Boulé Convenes After Four Years

By Archon Kevin D. Covington, Grapter, Western Region

The more than 400 registered attendees at the massively successful 22nd Biennial Western Region Boulé, with the theme "Continuing the March Toward Black Excellence and Boulé Economic Empowerment," enjoyed the region's first in-person meeting in four years. Convened under the cluster concept by six member boulés, the Western Regional Boulé was held October 19–22, 2023, at The Woodlands Waterway Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in The Woodlands, Texas. Archons and Archousai of Epsilon Omicron Boulé (North Houston) served as the host member boulé. Other cluster member boulés joining in the planning and execution were Nu Boulé (Houston), Gamma Phi Boulé (San Antonio), Gamma Gamma Boulé (Austin), Delta Zeta Boulé (Beaumont) and Zeta Alpha Boulé (Fort Bend).

It was the Western Region Events Planning and Oversight Committee's vision to inform, entertain and provide a networking forum for attendees in a pleasant, comfortable environment. To ensure a Boulé-quality weekend, consistent with Archon Henry M. Minton's vision of a fraternity in which Black men of distinction would be invited to become members of a close fraternal union for their mutual benefit and to seek to enhance their underserved communities, the committee procured the services of fifteen Black-owned businesses. Western Region leadership recognized that when we support Black-owned businesses, we're supporting Black communities. And supporting Black communities helps create a healthy economy for all. Supporting Black businesses – whether through money, time or advocacy – creates jobs, strengthens local economies and closes the racial wealth gap.

During this biennium, the Western Region achieved many of its strategic goals, including an increase in overall membership of Archons through new inductions and retention in existing member boulés. One new member boulé – Zeta Beta of North Dallas – was added. And, of note, the Western Region is the only region in Sigma Pi Phi that has achieved 100 percent Minton Fellow status. There was also an increase in social action programming, from training junior golfers to mentoring high school students, and recognition by the Grand Social Action Committee that some of the region's programs are designated as best practice for other member boulés. The region's history continues to be documented.

Attendees participated in an array of exciting activities to enrich fellowship including a Water-kolours Fine Art exhibit hosted by Western Region Sire Archon Jesse J. Tyson and Archousa Cheryl Tyson; Epsilon Omicron Boulé's Something Special for Tamina Community Seniors Day of Service Event; joint Archon-and-Archousa content-rich sessions highlighting Black economic empowerment, the importance of Black higher education, Black health issues and Black political activ-

ism; a golf tournament hosted at the Clubs of Kingwood; a historic trip to Chapleton Vineyards hosted by Archon Curt Lyn and Archousa Michele Lyn; and a breakfast for Archousai focusing on the pillars of mental, physical and financial wholeness.

Featured speakers, moderators, emcees and panelists over the weekend included Past Grand Sire Archon James E. Payne, Grand Sire Archon– Elect Loren Douglass, U.S. representative Archousa Joyce M. Beatty, Texas state senator Archon Royce B. West, Rice University president Archon Reginald DesRoches, Sire Archon Joseph C. Parker, Archousa Kimberly Brown, Archousa Gisele Hudson, Archousa Sandra P. Rogers, Archon Jeffrey G. Webster, Archon E. Ron Kelley, Archon Lonnie L. Johnson, Archon Dexter G. Turnquest, Archon Tracy R. Porter, Archon Bryant L Marshall, Archon Tarrynce G. Robinson, Archon Terence H. Fontaine and Archousa Deidre Fontaine.

During the region's Executive Leadership and Boulé Foundation Legacy Contributors Reception, Archons and Archousai at or above the Harvey C. Russell Legacy Award level ($25,000) were honored by Past Grand Sire Archon and Boulé Foundation president Anthony B. Hall and Western Region Sire Archon Jesse J. Tyson. During her comments to reception attendees, Archousa Michelle A. Douglass encouraged Archousai in attendance to increase their Legacy Award level contributions by joining Archousai Tracie Y. Payne, Stephanie Nellon-Paige, Kimberly Vincent and Carolyn M. Hall at or above the Harvey C. Russell Legacy Award level.

Sunday morning's memorial service, "The Ceremony of Roses," was a powerful commemoration to the memory of Archons and Archousai who strove to "know the best of one another."

A new slate of Western Region officers was elected or selected to represent the region during the 23rd biennium. Officers serving the Western Region for the 2023–25 biennium are:

- Regional Sire Archon Askia B. Ahmad, Alpha Nu Boulé
- Regional Sire Archon–Elect Thomas R. Harvey, Epsilon Pi Boulé
- Regional Grammateus Leonard James III, Epsilon Omicron Boulé
- Regional Thesauristes Aaron P. Omotola, Eta Boulé
- Regional Grapter Kevin D. Covington, Theta Boulé
- Regional Agogos Eric F. Walker, Pi Boulé
- Regional Rhetoricos Herman J. Felton, Jr., Delta Gamma Boulé

Western Regional Excellence and Empowerment Gallery

OPEN









The Perfect Intersection: Pacific Regional Boulé and Xi Boulé



By Archon de Winter L. Stewart, Grapter, Xi Boulé

The bad news: The pandemic prevented Xi Boulé from celebrating its hundred-year anniversary in 2021. The great consolation: In September 2023, Xi avenged its pandemic postponement by hosting a glamorous celebration of the centennial anniversary of a member boulé with a storied history. Xi did so by hosting the Pacific Regional Boulé in Century City – the Los Angeles epicenter for major entertainment studios and talent agencies – at the Fairmont Century Plaza. Fresh off its $2.5 billion renovation, this luxury city resort spoiled Archons and, even more so, Archousai with elite amenities such as a spa offering biohacking treatments.

The opening ceremony: Xi Boulé Sire Archon–Elect Michael Armstrong leveraged his EVP clout for Xi to host this ceremony at Paramount Pictures Studios, where 450 Archons, Archousai and guests dined at the Bronson Gate, which was the original entrance to the Paramount Lot in the early twentieth century. Attendees were treated to a preview screening of *The Greatest Night in Pop*, a documentary about the making of the iconic *We Are the World* video, which was produced by Lionel Ritchie. Brought out from the Paramount vault exclusively to display at this event were original costumes worn by the actors in seminal films embracing Black culture such as *Coming to America, Fences* and *Lady Sings the Blues*.

Content-rich sessions: Numerous organizations generously sponsored sessions about corporate boards, civil rights,

healthy living and various wealth-related topics. My personal favorite session – and I confess I may be slightly biased, since I organized it – was entitled Creative Wealth Maximization and put on by platinum sponsor Northwestern Mutual. One Archon (not I) said it was his favorite of all the finance sessions because it not only was informative and entertaining but also provided actionable items for audience members.

Business opportunities: Boulé entrepreneurs had the opportunity to showcase their businesses. They included Archon George Fatheree's ORO, Archon Kareem Cook's Naturade, Archon Mark Small's T. Bryce Consulting, Archon Shawn Washington's Mileage Quest and Archousa Shauna Diggs's Cosmedic Dermatology.

Fashion and fun: The Archousai fashion show showcased Xi Archousai glamorously gliding down the runway in elegant attire. What better warmup to then sip, shop and stroll down Rodeo Drive, in which the Archousai indulged post–fashion show. There was also trap shooting, test-driving Slingshots, dining around Beverly Hills and Xi's famous golf tournament. The highlight of the black-tie gala was the poignant retrospective of Xi Boulé's founding Archons: Claudius Ballard, Alva Garrott, Charles Diggs, John Somerville, Willis O. Tyler, Frank Gordon, Wilbur Gordon, Benjamin Jordan, Frank Pearl and Edward Ceruti II.

Luminaries in the house: Because celebrities ranging from the Beatles to U.S. presidents have graced the halls of this hotel, it was quite fitting that Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity welcomed its own esteemed leaders, including Past Grand Sire Archons Rodney Reed (Alpha Gamma), Robert Harris (Alpha Gamma), Wesley Coleman (Xi) and Dwayne Murray (Alpha Xi). Grand Sire Archon–Elect Loren Douglass (Zeta) and Past Regional Sire Archons Samuel Johnson (Gamma Chi), Johnny Gibbons (Delta Rho), G. Bernard Brown (Xi), George Strait (Alpha Gamma) and Michael Keeley (Gamma Epsilon) also attended. Finally, we acknowledge Regional Sire Archon–Elect Rod Henley (Xi) and Past Sire Archon Pluria Marshall (Xi), who cochaired the Pacific Regional Boulé planning committee, as well as Xi's Sire Archon George Mallory and Archousa Brenda Mallory, who were instrumental in executing this gallant affair.

Pacific Regional Centennial Celebration Gallery

OPEN









In Memoriam



Robert Adams

An educator who served Santa Monica College (SMC) for more than three decades, Archon Robert "Bobby" Adams, 75, of Xi Boulé, Los Angeles, transitioned to Omega Boulé on September 24, 2023.

First hired by SMC in September 1976, Archon Adams served as a counselor, department chair and dean. He subsequently held the position of vice president of student affairs, and in 2008 he capped his career when he became president of Merritt College in Oakland, retiring in 2012. Known as a student-centered leader, he championed the college's mission and led by example with humor, knowledge and dedication to higher education and its potential to transform lives.

While at Merritt College, he established the Maximum Achievement Project (MAP), which was visited and recognized by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. Through this project, Merritt increased its retention and graduation rates for students, with a focus on African American males, and the MAP students raised their GPA from 1.5 to 3.1 in less than two years.

"He had a warrior spirit and was a champion for underserved students and students of color," wrote Kathryn Jeffery, chief student services officer and president, who had the opportunity to engage with Archon Adams on ways to best meet student needs. Several SMC colleagues, current and retired, have said that their careers at SMC started under his guidance and mentorship.

"Bobby has been an educational leader for more than forty years and has truly had a lasting impact on the Santa Monica and Oakland educational communities," said Yasmin Delahoussaye, retired president of Los Angeles Southwest College.

In celebration of his remarkable career in higher education and in appreciation of his being a staunch community college leader and a deeply dedicated social justice advocate, Santa Monica College, along with Archousa Laura Adams, has

created the Dr. Robert Adams Leadership Award, a scholarship fund investing in transfer students.

Archon Adams is survived by his wife, Archousa Laura Adams; his daughter, Flonisha; and his son, Gerald.



Robert W. Anderson III

A devoted family patriarch, Past Sire Archon Robert Webster "Mike" Anderson III, 78, a founding member of Delta Beta Boulé, Greenville, South Carolina, passed away on November 15, 2022. Born in Greenville on September 2, 1944, to Dr. Robert W. Anderson and Helen Latimer Anderson, he graduated from Sterling High School, completed his B.A. and master of education degrees at North Carolina A&T State University, and pursued additional postgraduate studies at Clemson University. He served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War as a track commander, receiving the Bronze Star Medal for Valor.

Inducted into Sigma Pi Phi as a Delta Beta charter member in 1990, he was chairman of the membership committee and was recognized by the Boulé Foundation at the James P. Brawley Legacy Award level.

Archon Anderson's strong encouragement, attention to detail and vast knowledge of social and educational services supported many children and families as they navigated the intricacies of the educational system. For fifteen years he served the Greenville County School District as a master social worker and as a mentor and surrogate at after-school programs throughout the district.

His civic and social service involvement included being a life member and past president of Gamma Gamma Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., receiving its President's Award and being named Alpha Man of the Year. Also, he was a member of the NAACP; a charter and past board member of the Greenville chapter of 100 Black Men of America; a lifelong, active member of Springfield Baptist Church; and a past advisory board member of Sunbelt Human Advancement Resources, a nonprofit community action agency that provides a wide range of services to low- and moderate-income residents in upstate South Carolina.

He is survived by his wife of fifty-four years, Archousa Nancy S. Anderson; children Robert W. Anderson IV, Colin

W. (Allison) Anderson and Whitnei A. (Damian) Pryor; his sister, Barbara L. Edwards; five grandchildren: Wells Anderson, Miles Stribling Anderson, Austen Pryor, Harper Anderson and Anderson Pryor; and a host of nieces, nephews and friends.



Hugh Charles Burroughs

Having lived a robust life of service and love of family, Archon Hugh Charles Burroughs, 83, of Gamma Chi Boulé, San Jose, California, left this world on September 22, 2023, after a valiant fight with cancer. He served Gamma Chi in several capacities, including as Sire Archon, and his legacy includes his many contributions as an innovative leader, mentor and adviser for foundations, government and nonprofit organizations.

Born in Arouca, Trinidad and Tobago, on February 6, 1940, the eldest of five children of Vernon Burroughs, a shoemaker and shoe repairman, and Evalina Burroughs, a homemaker, Archon Burroughs succeeded in overcoming his humble beginnings with the enthusiastic encouragement of his parents. He graduated from high school at the top of his class at the age of sixteen and immediately began his journey of public service as a civil servant before moving to New York City to study economics at Columbia University. He completed his undergraduate studies, and while earning his graduate degree there, he worked as an assistant dean of students, gaining experience in speaking with various foundations that donated funds to the university. After that he was hired as the associate director of the Martin Luther King Jr. Fellowship Program at the Woodrow Wilson Foundation.

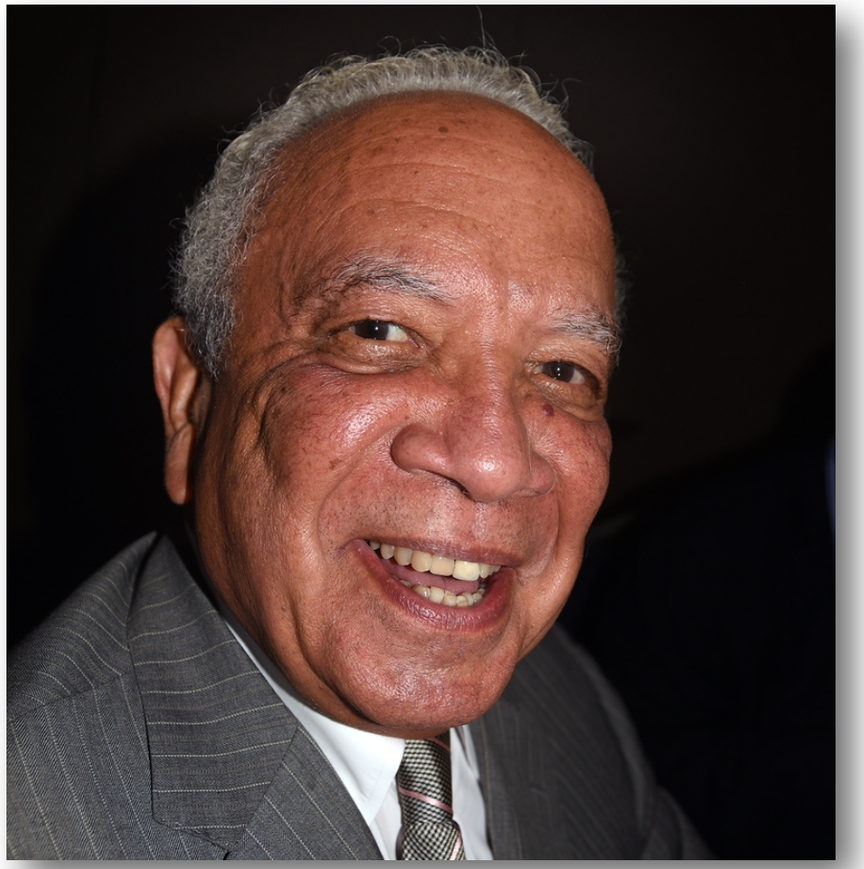
Subsequently, his work at the John Hay Whitney Foundation led him and his growing family to California, where he would serve as a program officer for the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. He later joined the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation as vice president and eventually accepted the position of director of external affairs for the David and Lucile Package Foundation, where he remained until his retirement.

In 2000 the music legend Berry Gordy asked Archon Burroughs to head the Berry Gordy Family Foundation, and the following year he decided to work as a part-time foundation management consultant, guiding foundations in building and

achieving successful strategies for uplifting underserved communities.

During his thirty-five-year philanthropic career he was a board member of the Association of Black Foundation Executives, the Council on Foundations, the Silicon Valley Community Foundation and other vital organizations across the country. As he embraced retirement, he was able to enjoy more fully his membership in Gamma Chi and his passion for tennis.

He is survived by his wife of twenty-seven years, Archousa Linda Burroughs; his children Kwame Burroughs and Dawn Burroughs; his granddaughter, Zora; siblings Artie, Earl, Frank and Ingrid; and a large circle of extended family members and loving friends.



John Lenoir Christian

Born into a lineage of educators, including his father and grandmother, a true friend to many and a generous patron, Past Sire Archon John Lenoir Christian, 83, of Beta Beta Boulé, Boston, passed away on October 9, 2023. Born on January 27, 1940, in Winton, North Carolina, to John and Addie Beatrice Christian, he excelled academically and athletically, becoming a star basketball player at Booker T. Washington High School in Norfolk, Virginia.

Archon Christian attended Hampton Institute (now Hampton University), where he was inducted into the Olympic Social Club of Omega Sigma Chi with the pledge name "Zeus." He graduated in 1962 with a B.S. in chemistry and went to work for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), where he penned scientific abstracts and swiftly rose to branch chief and then division manager at NASA's Scientific and Technical Information (STI) Program – the first Black person chosen for those roles.

In 1969 he joined Polaroid in Boston and quickly rose to become the first Black manager in financial administration and then division controller. His trailblazing streak continued when he became the first Black vice president and general manager of Trustees of Health and Hospitals, managing grants and contracts for medical and public health research for Boston City Hospital and its neighborhood health centers. Under his leadership, revenue grew nearly tenfold to $80 million.

Also in 1969, Archon Christian met Lesley Evans, and the couple married three years later, becoming pillars for the education of Black children in Boston. At one point Archousa Christian was president and CEO of the Crispus Attucks Children's Center, known for its innovative approach to early childhood education, while Archon Christian was a member of the board. Archousa Christian also oversaw the installation of the city's first natural playground.

Archon Christian was active on numerous boards, including the Boston branch of the NAACP and Big Brothers Big Sisters, and in Boston's social life. He was a leader within Beta Beta and with the Boston Chapter of the National Association of Guardsmen, another organization fostering brotherhood among professional African Americans.

Beta Beta Archon Juan Cofield, who came into the Boulé with Archon Christian nearly fifty years ago, called him a "fun-loving guy and an accomplished professional in equal parts . . . honest, straightforward, talented, principled and witty, all at the same time. With John, you could count on a job being well done. To be sure, John Christian was a 'class act.' "

Archon Christian is survived by his wife of fifty-two years, Archousa Lesley Christian; his daughter, Andrea Christian Parks, a physician in Atlanta; his son, John A. Christian II, a captain with United Airlines; his sister Althea; and six grandchildren. His life was celebrated on December 1, 2023, at the Historic Charles Street AME Church.



William Lewis Cody, Sr.

A pioneer in medicine during a nearly half-century career, Archon William Lewis Cody, Sr., 73, of Gamma Beta Boulé, Jacksonville, Florida, joined his heavenly host on December 3, 2023, after a life well lived and well served. A premier obstetrician-gynecologist in Jacksonville, he had multiple hospital affiliations, including Ascension St. Vincent's Southside and Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside.

Since 2022 he had been chairman of the Grand Boulé Health and Wellness Committee. He and his Archousa established the William and Betty Cody Foundation, which awards annual scholarships to high-achieving African American high school students.

Born on March 29, 1950, Archon Cody received his medical degree from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Medicine, and after completing his internship and residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Portsmouth Naval Hospital in Virginia, he joined the medical staff at the Naval Hospital in Okinawa, Japan, and served there for three years, becoming department head during his last year.

In 1990 he was transferred to the hospital at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, where he was department head of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Division. He started a private practice in 1991, merging his practice with North Florida OB/ GYN in 1999, and recently retired as the managing partner of St. Vincent's Division IV of North Florida OB/GYN.

Archon Cody held the position of associate faculty member in the Division of Obstetrics and Gynecology at St. Vincent's Family Medicine Residency Program for thirty years, retiring in 2021. His considerable personal accomplishments are exceeded only by his impact on and his service to others.

For decades, he actively trained residents and mentored medical students, physician assistant students and pharmacy students who rotated through his private practice. He also traveled to Haiti on medical missions for nearly three dec-

ades, performing more than two hundred major surgeries in service to women and children of that country.

The following is a very small sample of the tributes written by Gamma Beta Archons:

"It is with heavy hearts and profound sorrow that we bid farewell to a cherished friend, a pillar of strength and a true humanitarian. Bill's passing leaves a void in the community and the hearts of so many that is impossible to fill. His legacy is not just a collection of accomplishments but a testament to the power of kindness, compassion and selfless service. Bill was more than a friend; he was a beacon of light, radiating warmth and generosity to everyone he encountered – a reminder that even the simplest gestures of goodwill can have a profound impact on the lives of those around us." – Archon Gregory Morrison

"I came to know Archon Cody as a young naval ensign assigned to my first duty station in Jacksonville. He welcomed me, and I spent my first Thanksgiving in Jacksonville thirty years ago at his and Betty's table. He counseled me on some of my most challenging and rewarding experiences, but the greatest gift he ever handed me was when he placed my daughter Joi into my hands on May 27, 2003. I knew Bill fraternally as a humanitarian, philanthropist, leader, mentor, brother and a friend." – Archon Ken Johnson

Archon Cody is survived by his devoted wife of fifty-one years, Archousa Betty Ann Cody; his son, William L. Cody, Jr.; two grandchildren; and a host of family and friends. He will be missed but never forgotten by the members of Gamma Beta Boulé and the countless others whose lives he touched



Olivia P.J. Coleman

Archousa Olivia Patricia Jackson Coleman, 76, of Delta Boulé, Memphis, passed away on November 29, 2023. The youngest of two daughters and the "little sister" to Mae Frances Jackson White, she was born on June 20, 1947, in Selma, Alabama, to Henry Barnett Jackson and Lennie Morse Jackson. She grew up in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, where she received her primary schooling, and later moved to Queens, New York, where she attended middle school, graduating from Andrew Jackson High School in 1965.

She attended Fisk University in Nashville, where she joined the Pi chapter of her beloved Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, and during one summer while at Fisk, she lived in Spain via a program sponsored by the Experiment in International Living. After graduating from Fisk in 1969 with a B.A. in Spanish and a minor in French, she pursued graduate studies at Vanderbilt University, also in Nashville, where she earned her M.A.

On a blind date in college, she met her future husband, Harry Coleman, a dentist, who became her lifelong partner. Married in 1971, the couple moved to San Diego, where Archon Coleman was stationed as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy. In 1973, after the birth of their first child, Brian, they relocated to Memphis to be closer to family.

Archousa Coleman began a career in education with the Memphis city schools, teaching Spanish at Melrose High School, Colonial Middle School and Hamilton High School as well as advanced Spanish at White Station High School, one of the city's premier public schools. She was selected to be included in Who's Who Among American Teachers. For years, she took students on trips to Spanish-speaking destinations around the world, and she was often asked to participate and translate in the annual Memphis in May International Festival.

Active in social and civic activities, she was president of the Shelby County Dental Auxiliary and the Memphis Jack and Jill of America, Inc.; a member of the Beta Epsilon

Omega graduate chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, The Smart Set of Memphis and the Memphis Fisk Alumni Association; a charter member of the Memphis Girl Friends; and a charter member and past president of the Shelby County chapter of The Links, Inc., with more than thirty-five years of active service.

As a dedicated member of Mt. Pisgah CME Church, she served on the church's B. R. Danner Club and chaired the hospitality committee. An articulate speaker, Archousa Coleman was often referred to as "Ms. Personality" and was one of the original June Tribe coordinators, ensuring that the church's June Birthday Club stayed connected with memorable celebrations.

Wife, mother, daughter, sister and aunt, she treasured time spent with her family, with whom she traveled extensively, especially with her husband, Archon Harry T. Coleman, who preceded her in death in June 2022. They loved each for more than five decades and were true soulmates and best friends.

She leaves to cherish her memory her son, Archon Brian (Holly) Coleman; her daughter, Chandra Coleman; her grandson, Bryce Coleman; granddaughters Lauren Coleman, Chloe Harris and Camryn Harris; and many other relatives and friends.



Richard O. Hope

Activist and prominent academic administrator, grandson of John Hope (the first African American president of Morehouse College), Archon Richard O. Hope of Beta Boulé, Chicago, passed away on December 1, 2023. The middle child of John Hope II and Elise Oliver, he was born in Atlanta on April 1, 1939, and spent his early life in Nashville, attending Pearl Elementary and graduating from Pearl High School. He received his B.A. from Morehouse College in 1961. In the years prior to his graduation, he was part of the civil rights student sit-in movement, and at one such action he and other students were arrested for refusing to leave a restaurant. In the newspaper report, the restaurant manager said the students were orderly in every way, qualified to be served in every way, except for their race.

Prior to his senior year at Morehouse, Archon Hope went to Senegal with Operations Crossroads Africa to build a school and health center. His time there proved invaluable, leading to his life's focus on group dynamics and the African diaspora. After graduation, he went to Columbia University and worked with Archon Kenneth Clark and then to Syracuse University. While in New York he met the lovely Alice Anderson, and a chance meeting turned into a lifetime of memories.

Archon Hope earned M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in sociology in 1964 and 1969 at the Maxwell School of Syracuse University. Upon graduation, he was hired as an assistant professor of sociology at Brooklyn College. In 1972 he served as the first director of the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) in Florida, which was developed owing to racial tensions in the U.S. military, and some years later he was named president of the DEOMI Foundation, Inc.

In 1974 he was hired as a full professor and chairman of sociology at Morgan State University, and in 1982 he became chairman of sociology at Indiana University–Purdue University at Indianapolis. In 1988 he accepted a position at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he served as executive director of the Quality Education Project in conjunction with the Carnegie Corporation.

In 1990 he went to Princeton University as a full professor of sociology and senior vice president of the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. During a visit to South Africa, Archon Hope met Nelson Mandela, who urged him to broaden their programs internationally, and he developed the foundation's Public Policy Partnership Program in South Africa and the Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship Program with the U.S. State Department, which brought more minorities into the U.S. Foreign Service. He also consulted with the Pueblo leaders in New Mexico to support Native Americans in higher education.

A member of the board of directors of the National Urban League and Princeton University's Center on African American Studies, Archon Hope was elected to the Council on Foreign Relations and served as an advisory panel member of the Brookings Institution. He published numerous articles and books, including *Racial Strife in the U.S. Military*, *African-Americans and the Doctoral Experience* and *Educating a New Majority*, and he received the Mellon-Mays Achievement Award, the Gandhi-King-Ikeda Peace Award, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Award and the Candle in the Dark Award from Morehouse College.

Archon Hope is survived by his loving wife of fifty-nine years, Archousa Alice Anderson; his daughter, Leah Hope; his son, Richard (Andrea) Hope, Jr.; grandchildren Julian and Elise; his sister Linda Hope (Calvin) Lee; brothers-in-law Ferdinand (Patricia) Anderson and Bertram Anderson, and many extended family members.



Gwendolyn A.P.W. Jones

Devoted to God and community service throughout her life, Archousa Gwendolyn “Gwen” Anita Partee Washington Jones, 70, of Delta Boulé, Memphis, died on November 30, 2023, at Methodist Germantown Hospital.

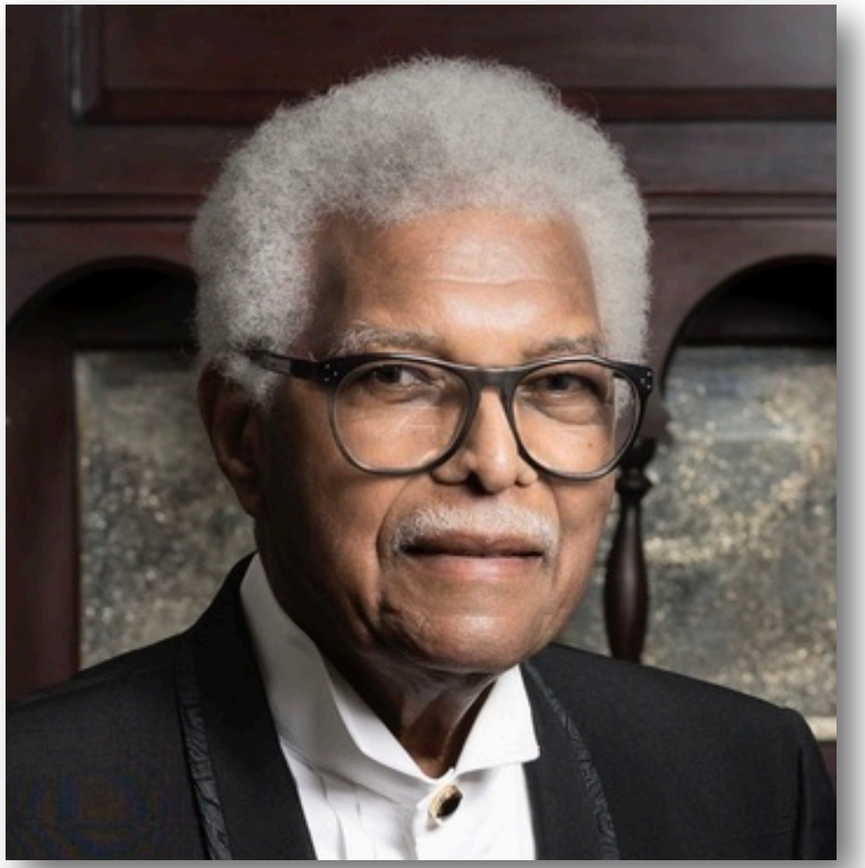
Born on February 17, 1953, she graduated from South Side High School in Memphis, earned an associate degree in health care, and dedicated her life to serving others within the Methodist hospital system and as office manager of Tri-State Gastroenterology, where her tenure was marked by the profound impact she had on her colleagues and clients. She is remembered as one who had exceptional professional competence, meticulous attention to detail, organizational skills and a caring attitude toward all. Her friends, spanning various stages of her life and different corners of the world, remember her as a pillar of strength, a source of unconditional love, and a beacon of joy and positivity.

She had a heartfelt commitment to her family as well as a passion for global adventures, which took her from New York to cruises on the Mediterranean and explorations in Asia, Russia and Australia, among other world destinations, including Paris and London via such iconic modes of transportation as the legendary Concorde and the majestic *Queen Elizabeth II*.

A thirty-year steward on the usher board at Middle Baptist Church, she was a charter member of the River City Links, Inc., holding membership for more than thirty years and serving as sergeant at arms, archivist, program chair and on the hostess committee, and she was a member of the Bluff City Medical Auxiliary, where she also served as president, treasurer, financial secretary and region III vice president on the national level.

Archousa Jones leaves to cherish her memory her husband of thirty-six years, Archon Wesley Jones; her beloved children: Wesley (Kimberly) Jones, Jr., Sean (Stacy) Washington, Kimberly Jones (Ernesto) Lee, Corey (Jennifer) Washington and Patrick (Sandrila) Washington; grandchildren Joshua, Wesley, Sydney, Shelby, Jordan, Madison, Caesar,

Connor and Waverly; and her siblings Lavern, Terrell and Tina.



Robert H. Kirk

A beacon of light does much more than illuminate darkness, and the radiance created by Archon Robert H. Kirk, 92, of Beta Theta Boulé, Knoxville, Tennessee, who passed away peacefully on September 25, 2023, will never be diminished.

Born to Henry Eugene Kirk and Georgia Ella Kirk on May 5, 1931, in Hamtramck, Michigan, he was raised in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. As a Black man of his generation, his deep understanding of this era pushed him to pursue education, and after completing high school, he went on to Fisk University, graduating in 1953 with a bachelor's degree in health and physical education. After serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict, he completed four other graduate degrees at Indiana University, earning his doctorate in health and safety in 1960.

Initially employed as a teacher in Murfreesboro, in 1967 he was hired by the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, as an associate professor, and in 1969 he became the university's first full-time African American professor. He was the first Black professor to earn tenure, heading and chairing the Department of Safety until his retirement in 2003. After his retirement Archon Kirk was honored by the Tennessee State Legislature.

Beyond the state of Tennessee, he shared his expertise and vision with other HBCU communities, including Fisk University, Alabama State University, Grambling State University, Southern University and the Southern University of Baton Rouge.

A consummate community leader, he actively participated in many East Tennessee organizations and initiatives – as a member of the board of trustees of Emory & Henry College, the Knoxville Black Officials Coalition, several hospital boards and community councils. He was the first Black man on the Knoxville Utilities Board, and at the state level he served in the Tennessee Department of Education, chairing related committees and directing specific curriculum projects. Inducted into the University of Tennessee African American

Hall of Fame and the Safety & Health Hall of Fame International, he was also a local entrepreneur, founding Kirk's Market in the Knoxville inner city, where he perfected his love of barbeque.

Nationally, Archon Kirk served as president of the American School & Community Safety Association, as well as the American Academy of Safety, and he held a key position with the National Safety Council. He was recognized by Indiana University with their W. W. Patty Award, and he received the National Safety Council Distinguished Service to Safety Award.

In 1988 he proposed the establishment of a boulé in Knoxville, and after further meetings and related research from Beta Kappa Boulé (Birmingham, Alabama) and others from the Grand Boulé, Beta Theta was established eight years later, on February 3, 1996, with Archon Kirk as its founding Sire Archon and eleven other members (three of whom continue to be Archons). He was also a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. He embodied the qualities our founding fathers described in the creation and formation of the Boulé. Fraternally, spiritually and personally, his heartfelt empathy for his fellow man and his life's work resembles that of the quintessential Boulé Archon. He will be sorely and somberly missed.

He is survived by his wife, Archousa Lois Kirk; his son, Derek Kirk; daughters Tamara Kirk, Aaliyah Kirk and Archousa Tracy Kirk (Archon Donald Hardin, Jr., Chi Boulé) Hardin; grandchildren Donald Hardin III and Mackenzie Kirk; stepsons Charles Fortson II, David Fortson, Stephen (Christine) Fortson and Gerald Fortson. Archon Kirk was proceeded in death by his first wife of fifty-seven years, the late Archousa Aravella Davis Kirk.

The family asks that donations be made to the Van Vechten Gallery and sent to Fisk University, Institutional Advancement, 1000 17th Avenue, Nashville, TN 37208. Online donations may be made to the university at connect.fisk.edu/ donate.



Leonard E. Lawrence

After taking part in organizing the establishment of Gamma Phi Boulé in San Antonio, becoming a charter Archon, serving two terms as Sire Archon and one term as Regional Sire Archon and as a member of the Boulé Foundation Board of Trustees, and subsequently being accorded the title locally of Founding Emeritus Sire Archon of Gamma Phi, Archon Leonard Eugene Lawrence, 86, transitioned to Omega Boulé on November 23, 2023. The professionalism of a W.E.B., the wise counsel of a Frederick, the universality of a Martin, the directness of a Malcolm and the experience of a Thurgood – this was Archon Lawrence, holding stature among the tall oaks of African American and Sigma Pi Phi history.

Born in Indianapolis on June 27, 1937, he graduated from Cathedral High School, went on to earn a B.A. in premedicine at Indiana University–Bloomington in 1959 and earned his M.D. in 1962 at the Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis, where he met his future wife, Barbara, whom he married that year. He interned at E. J. Meyer Memorial Hospital in Buffalo, served for two years as a general medical officer in the U.S. Air Force and in 1965 returned to the Indiana University School of Medicine, completing a residency and fellowship in child psychiatry and a chief residency in general psychiatry in 1969. He was assigned to the Child Guidance Clinic at Wilford Hall U.S. Air Force Medical Center in San Antonio from 1969 to 1972.

Board certified in psychiatry in 1970 and child psychiatry in 1971, Archon Lawrence joined the faculty of the medical school of the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA) as an assistant professor and in 1981 became associate dean of student affairs for the medical school and the dental school. He retired in 2005 as a tenured professor in the departments of psychiatry, pediatrics and family and community medicine.

Following his retirement, the Board of Regents of the University of Texas bestowed upon him the distinguished title of professor emeritus, and in 2022 UTHSCSA established the

Dean Leonard E. Lawrence M.D. Scholarship Fund in support of African American students.

Recognizing the powerful impact that passionate service and leadership has on the community, Archon Lawrence was the first Black man to serve as chairman of the United Way, the San Antonio Area Foundation, KLRN-TV public television and the Texas Youth Commission, (overseeing juvenile correction facilities throughout the state), and from 1993 to 1994 he was the ninety-second president of the National Medical Association. A member of Holy Redeemer Catholic Church and the Knights of Peter Claver, he had become a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity while at Indiana University.

He is survived by his wife of sixty-one years, Archousa Barbara Lawrence; their three children and their partners: Courtney Lawrence and Jeannette McHugh, Archon Leonard Michael Lawrence and Archousa Shari Lawrence, and Archon David Lawrence and Archousa Stefani Lawrence; grandchildren Olivia, Maya, Collin, Patrick and Alexander; and his sister, Lynda Browne – "Aunt Sue."

Providing the inspirational legacy of a life of intellectual and professional excellence interwoven with a deep, heartfelt caring for his people, their station and their community, his light will shine within the lives and future legacies of all of those he embraced.



Nina Roxie M. Lewis

Archousa Nina Roxie McGoodwin Lewis, 89, of Gamma Delta Boulé, Flint, Michigan, passed away at her residence on October 28, 2023. The fourth child of Daingerfield McGoodwin and Roxie Dixon McGoodwin, she was born on September 12, 1934, in Indiana, educated in Ohio and spent all of her adult life in Michigan.

In 1956 she graduated cum laude from Central State University, where she was a cheerleader as well as a member of the rifle team, the Radio Guild and Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society, and in 1953 she became a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

Recruited by the Flint Community Schools to teach first grade, she spent the next thirty-five years in that school system as a teacher, coordinator, instructional specialist and assistant principal. Teaching was such a joy for her, she said, that she never felt it was actual work – just another blessing from God. She received her master's degree in reading from Michigan State University and did additional graduate studies at the University of Michigan. During this time she married her college sweetheart, the late LeVert Jones, and they were blessed with a wonderful son, LeVert "Chip" Jones, Jr., both of whom have gone on to glory.

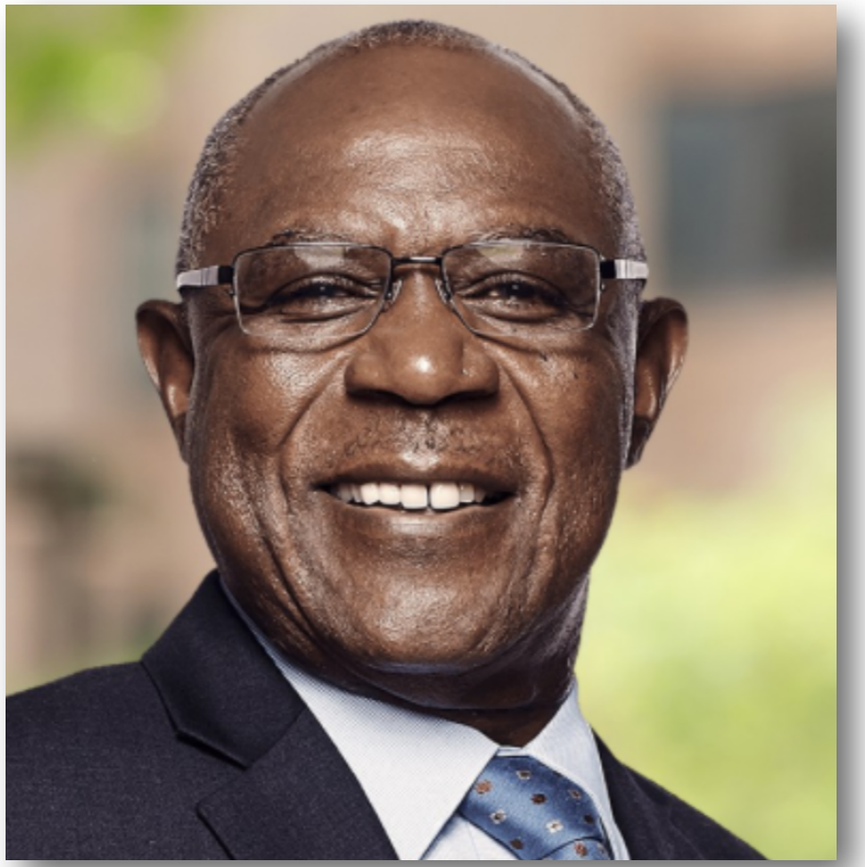
At age 75 Archousa Lewis married her "golden years love," the late Archon Billie Lewis, M.D., who went to be with the Lord in 2016.

Active in the Flint community, she was a member and past president of the Salvation Army Advisory Board and the Flint Central Optimist Club; a board member of the Community Foundation of Greater Flint and the Women and Girls Fund; board secretary of the Whaley Children's Center; and a sixty-three-year member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, where she served with love in various capacities.

She received the Salvation Army Hands of Mercy Award, the Negro Business and Professional Women's Club Sojourner

Truth Award and Zeta Beta Omega's Laura Jean Thompson Award.

She is survived by her grandchildren, LaMarr D. Lee and Alexis Arletta Jones; great-grandchildren LaMarr Lee, Jr., and LaChelle Lee; her brother Roland C. (Lillian) McGoodwin, D.D.S.; and many extended family members and friends.



Frank M. McClellan

Archon Frank Madison McClellan of Alpha Boulé in Philadelphia transitioned to Omega Boulé on December 2, 2023, at the age of 78. He passed surrounded by his family following a courageous battle against cancer and heart disease. Born on February 5, 1945, in what is now Dillon County, South Carolina, Archon McClellan was a dedicated husband and father, an accomplished attorney, a distinguished professor and a passionate public advocate. One of three children born to Gradie and Lucinda Richardson, his father worked two jobs as a steelworker and a barber, owning his barbershop. His mother managed the household. Archon McClellan credited his parents with instilling in him a strong work ethic at an early age, which is illustrated by his many accomplishments.

His family moved from South Carolina to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as part of the Great Migration. In Pittsburgh Archon McClellan was part of the first generation to attend desegregated schools. He attended George Westinghouse High School, where he was an excellent student and a star football player. Graduating from Westinghouse in 1963, his strong academic performance earned him a scholarship to Rutgers College in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

While at Rutgers Archon McClellan helped to form the Student African American Society and served as its first president. He graduated from Rutgers in 1967 and went on to Duquesne University School of Law, where he once again excelled, becoming an editor of the prestigious law review journal and achieving a merit award for excellence in writing. The only student of color in his law class, he was inspired to help form the first Black Student Union at Duquesne, later serving as the first president of that organization. He graduated from Duquesne University School of Law in 1970 with a law degree. He later received his Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree from Yale Law School and was one of two Black graduate students accepted into the program at that time of his enrollment. While at Yale he was awarded the prestigious Felix S. Cohen Prize in jurisprudence.

Archon McClellan went on to have a storied career of service and achievements. He began his legal career as a law clerk for Archon William H. Hastie, chief judge of the Third Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, the first Black federal judge and federal appellate judge in the country. He later joined the law firm of Wilmer, Cutler and Pickering (now WilmerHale) in Washington, D.C., as an associate, at a time when Black associates were rarely given offers to work at major law firms.

He subsequently returned to Pittsburgh where he began his teaching career at his alma mater, Duquesne University Law School, where he taught from 1972 to 1981, becoming a full professor with tenure. He then moved to Philadelphia and joined the faculty of Temple University's Law School (now the Beasley School of Law). A professor at Temple for more than three decades, he taught courses on torts, remedies and medical malpractice. He also had a distinguished joint appointment at the Temple School of Medicine. Archon McClellan held endowed chairs at several other universities and taught comparative and healthcare law internationally.

Exhibiting the work ethic instilled by his parents, he was also managing partner at the law firm of Eaton & McClellan, where he represented patients in hundreds of complex medical malpractice and product liability cases. He was also an active member of the American Law Institute and the American Board of Trial Advocates.

Archon McClellon found time to serve on the boards of several non-profit advocacy organizations, including The Aids Law Project of Pennsylvania, To Our Children's Future with Health, Inc., Philadelphia FIGHT and the national steering committee of Movement is Life, and was a member of the National Institutes of Health, Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. In concert with his service in these organizations, Archon McClellan worked tirelessly to advocate for eliminating racial disparities in health care.

A prolific writer, Archon McClellan authored numerous articles, books and legal casebooks. In 2019 he wrote what he believed was his most important work, *Healthcare and Human Dignity: Law Matters*, published by the Rutgers University Press, which was based on his vast life experiences and his success as a medical malpractice lawyer and law professor. Archon McClellan received numerous awards and recognitions throughout his life, among them a Special Recognition Award by the Legal Clinic for the Disabled for his "extraordinary commitment to the disability community," a lifetime achievement award from the Rutgers African American Alumni Alliance and, most recently, the Augustus A. White III Institute Humanitarian Award.

Archon McClellan valued quality time with family and friends in Philadelphia and on Martha's Vineyard where he spent his summers. He was known for his lifelong love of sports, especially tennis and golf, and for his competitive spirit. He is survived by his Archousa, Phoebe A. Haddon; his children and grandchildren; and a host of extended family member and friends. He is also survived by his fellow Alpha

Boulé Archons, who were proud to have been able to get to know the best of him.



Jerome Alfred Murphy

Archon Jerome Alfred Murphy, 80, of Beta Epsilon Boulé, Greensboro, North Carolina, transitioned to Omega Boulé on November 19, 2023. Born on July 24, 1943, in Mount Holly, North Carolina, the third of three children of Eddie Leroy Murphy and Willie Johnson Murphy, he attended Mount Holly Elementary School and Reid High School in Belmont. In 1965 he graduated with honors from North Carolina A&T State University, where he majored in mathematics and was a member of the Army ROTC program.

He served as a captain in the U.S. Army from 1965 to 1968 at various posts, including Fort Gordon in Georgia and Fort Monmouth in New Jersey, and in Germany, France, England and Vietnam. After that he returned to North Carolina A&T, where he earned a master's degree in mathematics (education) and became reacquainted with his future wife of fifty-three years, the late Archousa Laura Williams Murphy.

Archon Murphy moved to Endicott, New York, to work for IBM, where he remained for thirty-eight years. Upon retirement, he taught mathematics at ECPI University. He was a faithful member of Lady of Grace Catholic Church, and his other affiliations include Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and the Greensboro Men's Club.

He is survived by four daughters: Gina Bryant, Lesa Yvonne Williams, Marlys (Edward) Ratliffe and Alana (Brian) Moser; grandchildren Laura, Taura, Kaura, Sanaa and William; siblings Ann (James) Neal and Irma Stone; and other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Archousa Laura Murphy, and a brother, Edward Johnson.



Ricky Edward Wilkins

An accomplished attorney who championed human rights and other important causes, Archon Ricky Edward Wilkins, 58, of Delta Boulé, Memphis, died on October 19, 2023, having bravely fought a six-year battle with brain cancer. Born in February 1965, he graduated from Carver High School in Memphis in 1983 and went on to receive his undergraduate degree at Howard University in Washington, D.C., and his J.D. at Vanderbilt University in Nashville.

After law school, he returned to Memphis, ready to make an impact as an attorney in a city he loved, and he became the first African American to be named a partner at the prestigious law firm Burch, Porter and Johnson, the storied firm that had represented Archon Martin Luther King, Jr., when he came to Memphis in 1968 to assist striking sanitation workers. The young Ricky was barely three years old at the time.

Archon Wilkins represented the City of Memphis in a dispute with historic Beale Street, where many decades earlier, W.C. Handy popularized and performed the blues, and he also represented the Memphis Charter Commission, which explored whether metro government is right for Memphis and Shelby County and evaluated the impact of government consolidation. He was appointed by then– Memphis mayor W.W. Herenton to serve on the Memphis Housing Authority.

In 2003, after his stint with Burch, Porter and Johnson, he founded his own firm, the Law Offices of Ricky E. Wilkins, and he became a leader in the Memphis Bar Association and the Ben F. Jones Chapter of the National Bar Association.

Active politically, he ran as a Democratic candidate to represent the Ninth Congressional District of Tennessee in the U.S. House of Representatives. Though he failed to win the nomination, it did not stop him from digging in and remaining prominent in government and electioneering affairs. He created a political action committee – MEMPOWER – to help African American Memphians gain political influence.

While enrolled at Howard, he'd been initiated into Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, and he served as the section leader for drums in the university's marching band. An accomplished athlete, he was a golf enthusiast who played a competitive game, and he was a regular at the gym, where he lifted weights, keeping himself in tip-top physical shape throughout his life.

He is survived by his two young adult daughters, Regan Wilkins and Riley Wilkins. His funeral services were held at the First Baptist Broad Church, which is pastored by Delta Archon Keith Norman. Archon Wilkins was preceded in death by Archousa Renee Wilkins, who died several months earlier.



Jacquelyn L.G. Wilson

Physician, mother of four, big sister, genealogist and world traveler, Archousa Jacquelyn Lolita Graves Wilson, 87, of Alpha Theta Boulé, Oklahoma City, passed away quietly on August 26, 2023, surrounded by many family members and friends. Born in Kansas City, Missouri, on June 29, 1936, to Lewis Laverne Graves and Irma Jackson Graves, she was the oldest of five siblings.

At the age of thirteen, having developed an interest in medicine, she joined Y-Teens. While she was working as a volunteer nurse's aid, the physicians and nurses at the hospital noted her interest and allowed her to see things at her young age that increased her interest and resulted in her decision to become a pediatrician. After high school graduation, she attended Fisk University in Nashville, where she won numerous awards and honors, including the coveted Homer Cooper award as the most outstanding premed student. She was also elected to the Beta Kappa Chi scientific honor society, the first African American STEM honor society in the nation.

While at Fisk, she met her future husband, the late Archon Frank F. Wilson III, whom she married in August 1958. One week later, she went to Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, D.C., to pursue her medical education.

Three of her children were born during her medical school training and pediatric internship and at the completion of her pediatric residency. Her first pediatric position took place at the U.S. Army hospital in Fort Huachuca, Arizona, where her husband was stationed during the Vietnam War. From Arizona, the family moved back to his hometown, Oklahoma City, where her fourth child was born as Archon Wilson established his medical practice. Archousa Wilson practiced pediatric medicine for thirty-three years. She was a member of the Oklahoma County Medical Society, the Oklahoma City Med-De- Phar Society, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, The Links, Inc., and Jack and Jill of America, and she served on various nonprofit boards.

An avid genealogist, she was a trailblazer before the advent of Ancestry.com; Finding Your Roots; or 23andMe. In the 1980's she hired a professional genealogist who traced her Graves family roots to slavery times in Virginia in the 1700's and Missouri in the 1850's. She and her sister also traced her father's family to Germany (1635) and England (1700's). She did additional research that went as far as 1828, tracing her father's maternal line to an enslaved great-great-grandmother. Later, she did DNA testing and discovered that her maternal line comes from the Kru people in the country that is now Liberia.

Archousa Wilson is survived by her four children, twelve grandchildren, four siblings, and many nieces and nephews. She was married to her beloved husband, the late Archon Frank F. Wilson III, M.D., for sixty-five years.



Karen Sue Buggs Wilson

The first woman of color to open her own dental practice in the Tri-Valley area of the San Francisco Bay Area, Archousa Karen Sue Buggs Wilson, 75, of Epsilon Beta Boulé, Contra Costa County, California, passed away on July 26, 2023, in San Ramon after a brief illness. Born and raised in Cincinnati, one of two daughters of Phillip Chester Buggs and Ruth Marie Ferguson Buggs, Archousa Wilson graduated from Walnut Hills High School and earned her B.S. from the HBCU Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio, graduating summa cum laude. She attended Meharry Medical College in Nashville, where she studied medical technology.

Archousa Wilson worked as a medical technologist for several years at St. Vincent's Hospital in New York City and in San Francisco until, after marrying and becoming a mother, she enrolled in dental school at the University of California San Francisco, where she received a Regents Scholarship, one of the highest honors conferred on a UC student. She completed her D.D.S. in 1982 and opened a solo practice the following year in Livermore, where she practiced dentistry for about fifteen years, retiring in the late 1990's.

She served as First Lady of San Ramon in the early 2000's, when her husband, Archon H. Abram Wilson, became the city's first elected mayor. The Wilsons, who had married in 1973, lived in San Francisco before moving to San Ramon, where they bought a house near California High School. They welcomed their daughter, Natausha Alise, in 1975 and their son, Philip Nathan, in 1983.

During her undergraduate years, Archousa Wilson had pledged Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, and she remained a proud member throughout her life, earning the designation of Golden Member after fifty years with the esteemed organization. She also was one of the founding members of the Contra Costa County chapter of Jack and Jill of America, receiving its Trailblazer Award for her many contributions. She was active in the Bay Area with The Links, Inc., and in her later years she was a beloved Archousa of Epsilon Beta. In San Ramon, she

helped found and organize jazz concerts at the San Ramon Library, and in the mid- 1990's she organized the first Black History Month program for the city, featuring a musical performance by the a cappella group Stanford Talisman, which included her daughter, Natausha.

In retirement, she adopted two small Maltese mixes, Giggy and Romeo. Above all, she doted on her five grandchildren, cherishing holidays when the extended family gathered, and she was an intensely proud mother, aunt, great-aunt, cousin and mother-in-law.

Archousa Wilson is survived by her husband of more than fifty years, Archon H. Abram Wilson; her children Natausha (Aaron) Cruz and Nathan (Jenna Rohde) Wilson; grandchildren Marlo, Carver, Nellie, Cecilia and Oaklee; her brother-in-law, Robert E. Wilson; and many beloved cousins, nieces, nephews and friends who were as close as family.

Beta Delta Jazz and Comedy Fundraiser Gallery

CLOSE



Beta Delta Jazz and Comedy Fundraiser Gallery

CLOSE



Beta Delta Jazz and Comedy Fundraiser Gallery

CLOSE



Beta Delta Jazz and Comedy Fundraiser Gallery

CLOSE



Beta Delta Jazz and Comedy Fundraiser Gallery

CLOSE



Beta Delta Jazz and Comedy Fundraiser Gallery

CLOSE



Beta Delta Jazz and Comedy Fundraiser Gallery

CLOSE



Beta Delta Jazz and Comedy Fundraiser Gallery

CLOSE



Beta Delta Jazz and Comedy Fundraiser Gallery

CLOSE



End
Beta Delta Jazz and Comedy Fundraiser Gallery

CLOSE

Beta Xi Fundraising Gallery

CLOSE



Beta Xi Fundraising Gallery

CLOSE



Beta Xi Fundraising Gallery

CLOSE



Beta Xi Fundraising Gallery

CLOSE



Beta Xi Fundraising Gallery

CLOSE



End
Beta Xi Fundraising Gallery

CLOSE

Epsilon Zeta Service in Loudoun County Gallery

CLOSE



Epsilon Zeta Service in Loudoun County Gallery

CLOSE



Epsilon Zeta Service in Loudoun County Gallery

CLOSE



Epsilon Zeta Service in Loudoun County Gallery

CLOSE



Epsilon Zeta Service in Loudoun County Gallery

CLOSE



Epsilon Zeta Service in Loudoun County Gallery

CLOSE



Epsilon Zeta Service in Loudoun County Gallery

CLOSE



Epsilon Zeta Service in Loudoun County Gallery

CLOSE



End
Epsilon Zeta Service in Loudoun County Gallery

CLOSE

Southeast Regional Mardi Gras in October Gallery

CLOSE



Grand Sire Archon Antoine M. Garibaldi and Alpha Alpha Sire Archon James M. Williams

Southeast Regional Mardi Gras in October Gallery

CLOSE



Newly installed executive committee for the Southeast Region

Southeast Regional Mardi Gras in October Gallery

CLOSE



Archousai participating in the Second Line

Southeast Regional Mardi Gras in October Gallery

CLOSE



Archons celebrating a successful catch

Southeast Regional Mardi Gras in October Gallery

CLOSE



Region Sire Archon Darrell Searcy and his family enjoying the fun

Southeast Regional Mardi Gras in October Gallery

CLOSE



The majestic Mardi Gras Indian Chief

Southeast Regional Mardi Gras in October Gallery

CLOSE



Memorial Service

Southeast Regional Mardi Gras in October Gallery

CLOSE



Archousai luncheon event

Southeast Regional Mardi Gras in October Gallery

CLOSE



Grand Sire Archon Antoine Garibaldi at the Memorial Service

Southeast Regional Mardi Gras in October Gallery

CLOSE



Past Grand Sire Archons Wesley Coleman, James Cole and James Payne; Grand Sire Archon Antoine Garibaldi; Grand Sire Archon–Elect Loren Douglass; and Past Grand Sire Archons Charles Teamer and Rodney Reed

Southeast Regional Mardi Gras in October Gallery

CLOSE



Attendees at the Manford Byrd Educational Breakfast

Southeast Regional Mardi Gras in October Gallery

CLOSE



Mardi Gras performer at Saturday night gala

Southeast Regional Mardi Gras in October Gallery

CLOSE



Newly installed Southeast Region Sire Archon James Welch

Southeast Regional Mardi Gras in October Gallery

CLOSE



Regional Sire Archon Opening Reception at the World War II Memorial Museum

End
Southeast Regional Mardi Gras in October Gallery

CLOSE

Southeast Regional Youth Breakfast Gallery

CLOSE



Archon McDonald, Kristi Givens, Rochelle Wilcox, Archon Pierce and Archousa Diane Pierce

Southeast Regional Youth Breakfast Gallery

CLOSE



Southeast Regional Youth Breakfast Gallery

CLOSE



Southeast Regional Youth Breakfast Gallery

CLOSE



Southeast Regional Youth Breakfast Gallery

CLOSE



Archon Alden McDonald and Archon Raymond Pierce

Southeast Regional Youth Breakfast Gallery

CLOSE



Southeast Regional Youth Breakfast Gallery

CLOSE



Southeast Regional Youth Breakfast Gallery

CLOSE



Southeast Regional Youth Breakfast Gallery

CLOSE



Southeast Regional Youth Breakfast Gallery

CLOSE



End
Southeast Regional Youth Breakfast Gallery

CLOSE

Western Regional Excellence and Empowerment Gallery

CLOSE



Western Regional Excellence and Empowerment Gallery

CLOSE



Western Regional Excellence and Empowerment Gallery

CLOSE



Western Regional Excellence and Empowerment Gallery

CLOSE



Western Regional Excellence and Empowerment Gallery

CLOSE



Western Regional Excellence and Empowerment Gallery

CLOSE



Western Regional Excellence and Empowerment Gallery

CLOSE



Western Regional Excellence and Empowerment Gallery

CLOSE



Western Regional Excellence and Empowerment Gallery

CLOSE



Western Regional Excellence and Empowerment Gallery

CLOSE



Western Regional Excellence and Empowerment Gallery

CLOSE



Western Regional Excellence and Empowerment Gallery

CLOSE



Western Regional Excellence and Empowerment Gallery

CLOSE



Western Regional Excellence and Empowerment Gallery

CLOSE



Western Regional Excellence and Empowerment Gallery

CLOSE



Western Regional Excellence and Empowerment Gallery

CLOSE



Western Regional Excellence and Empowerment Gallery

CLOSE



Western Regional Excellence and Empowerment Gallery

CLOSE



Western Regional Excellence and Empowerment Gallery

CLOSE



Western Regional Excellence and Empowerment Gallery

CLOSE



Western Regional Excellence and Empowerment Gallery

CLOSE



Western Regional Excellence and Empowerment Gallery

CLOSE



Western Regional Excellence and Empowerment Gallery

CLOSE



Western Regional Excellence and Empowerment Gallery

CLOSE



Western Regional Excellence and Empowerment Gallery

CLOSE



End
Western Regional Excellence and Empowerment Gallery

CLOSE

Pacific Regional Centennial Celebration Gallery

CLOSE



Pacific Regional Centennial Celebration Gallery

CLOSE



Past Sire Archon Pluria Marshall and Past Grand Sire Archon Robert Harris

Pacific Regional Centennial Celebration Gallery

CLOSE



Archousa Carrie Henley at the fashion show

Pacific Regional Centennial Celebration Gallery

CLOSE



Archon George C. Fatheree

Pacific Regional Centennial Celebration Gallery

CLOSE



Paramount Pictures Studios

Pacific Regional Centennial Celebration Gallery

CLOSE



Grand Sire Archon–Elect Loren Douglass and Archousa Lori Hall Armstrong

Pacific Regional Centennial Celebration Gallery

CLOSE



Celebrated Pacific Region Archons

Pacific Regional Centennial Celebration Gallery

CLOSE



Past Region Sire Archon George Strait

Pacific Regional Centennial Celebration Gallery

CLOSE



Archousai fashion show

End
Pacific Regional Centennial Celebration Gallery

CLOSE