

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.
Xi Lambda Lambda Chapter
Founded September 25, 2003



THE EXCELLINES REVIEW

The News, Events and Activities of Omega Men in Rockland County, NY

Vol. 1, No. 1

May 2004

Introducing Omega Psi Phi's newest Chapter

Our Mission:

We, thirteen brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc believe that the time is ripe for establishing a chapter in Rockland County, NY. Rockland is one of the fastest growing counties in the New York metropolitan tri-state area. We believe that our local communities will benefit greatly by the extended reach our Cardinal Principles and Mandated Programs our new chapter will bring.

Our potential chapter is in an untapped fertile area. There is a large and growing African – American and Hispanic population. This growth creates many opportunities for the men of Omega Psi Phi to influence the direction and life choices of many of the youth in our communities. We will seek out young men and women in our communities and initially put our emphasis on supplemental education

(the formal and informal learning and developmental enrichment opportunities provided to students outside of the school and beyond the regular school day or year). This supplemental education includes tutoring and mentoring programs, study programs, after-school and/or weekend academies, and participation in various cultural events and faith-based activities.

Our charter members come from a wide range of professions and bring a variety of ideas and experiences to our efforts. We will also endeavor to do joint projects /programs with other area Omega chapters with the intention of increasing the fraternity's influence in the tri-state area. We will also build relationships with corporations in Rockland to help better leverage our programs.



Charter Members

(1 to r) Byron Hurlock, Dennis McGloster, Michael Johnson, Herbert Thomas, Gerald Inman, T. Ed McBride, David Smith, Sr., Michael Peterson, Hannibal Holmes.

(seated) Edmund Gordon and Christian Sampson (not shown) Melvyn Davis and David Smith, Jr.



The Charter

The Basileus Message

Bro. Chris Sampson

It is with both a deep sense of both humility and pride that I assume the position of Basileus in our newly chartered chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. here in Rockland County. The charter members of Xi Lambda Lambda (XLL) are each established leaders in their various professions and walks of life. My sense in terms of leading this group is to function much like a mirror; a mirror helping to reflect, via our participation in various community based activities, some of the dreams, aspirations and potentials of these thirteen eXceLLent men.

As I reflect on who I am in this position it is clear to me that I am in part the sum of the brothers I've served with and the Basilei under whom I've served: Ron Mimms, Bill Brown, Clyde Isley, Frank Williams, Ken Tapp and currently Steve Schmidt (all BAA). It is my hope that they will share in the pride of whatever successes I'm able to help facilitate in the name of Omega.

Our mission as a chapter, as it is for the fraternity, is to enrich our community through living our cardinal principles and fostering their development especially in our youth. To that end I am particularly proud to have as a mentor, guide and fellow founder of XLL Dr. Edmund W. Gordon. Brother Gordon, a nationally celebrated psychologist and educator, holds a position unique in XLL of Basileus Emeritus. It is his work that defines supplemental education as the key to eliminating the academic achievement gap, particularly as it relates to black males, to which XLL is committed.

In addition to us thirteen founding brothers, Rockland county is home to a number of inactive Ques who, it is my hope, will find the presence and good works of XLL to be as a beacon drawing them back into the fold of active membership in the fraternity.

My vision for Xi Lambda Lambda chapter is that this group of men will come to be known for eXceLLence in all that we endeavor in the greater Rockland

The KRS Report

Bro. Dennis McGloster

It's My Job!

From the moment I became a brother in this illustrious fraternity I knew I wanted to get very involved. Being a part of an organization was never enough for me. I have a tendency to become deeply involved or not at all. After a few months in the fraternity I knew being Keeper of Records and Seals would fit my desire to be very hands on. I felt I always had decent organizational skills and very little procrastination in me. I have not been deterred by anything or anyone since originally becoming a KRS with Beta Alpha Alpha. This position requires that you stay on top of everything that is happening within the chapter, the district, and on a national basis. In some respects you are very much like the M.A.S.H. character, *Radar O'Reilly*, who knew what you wanted before you did. A good KRS has the answer in many instances before the question is asked. He also allows the Basileus and the other brothers in the chapter to develop a high sense of comfort achieved when a good KRS has the administrative house in order. In addition, the KRS must have the records organized in such a manner that if something were to happen to him, the chapter and new or interim Keeper of Records and Seal can step right in and move forward with very little struggle. With this all said I am honored to be KRS of the new Xi Lambda Lambda chapter. I am fully committed to making sure that our ship is run smoothly and that our Basileus, Bro. Chris Sampson and the rest of the chapter brothers are allowed to concentrate on making our chapter a force in the community and the region because they know that everything behind the scenes is in the good and competent hands of their Keeper of Records and Seal.

The Rockland Omega Community Development Foundation

By Bro. Dennis McGloster

On April 11, 2004, The Rockland Omega Community Development Foundation (ROCDF) was born. This New York nonprofit corporation was formed by the brothers of Xi Lambda Lambda as a financial tax-exempt entity to generate funds for a number of purposes. First some of the funds brought in will be used to provide college scholarships to high school seniors in and around Rockland County. Other pieces of these funds will be used to support the various programs of Xi Lambda Lambda, which largely involve of supplemental educational programs, which include but are not limited to tutoring, mentoring, educational & cultural trips and seminars. The foundation will use grant writing as one source of generating funds with other avenues being starting and running fundraisers, such as a golf tournament, a black tie dinner dance and a planned art auction sometime this upcoming September or October. The foundation will run on a fiscal year ending October 31st of each year and currently will have all of its' financial records, including tax returns available to the general public at large. Any questions concerning this foundation can be addressed to Bro. Dennis McGloster at (845) 323-2548.

Xi Lambda Lambda 2004 Executive Council

Basileus	Christian Sampson
Vice Basileus	Byron O. Hurlock
KRS	Dennis McGloster
KF	Michael Peterson
Chaplain	Gerald Inman
Editor	T. Edward
McBride	
KP	Melvyn Davis

Xi Lambda Lambda Fellowships at Pilgrim Baptist Church

On Sunday, November 23, 2003, Brothers from the newly chartered Xi Lambda Lambda Chapter of Rockland County came together at the Pilgrim Baptist Church in Nyack, New York. Present at this service were brothers Chris Sampson, Byron Hurlock, T. Ed McBride, Gerald Inman, Hannibal Holmes and David Smith.

Brother Gerald Inman, Xi Lambda Lambda Chaplain, had stated at the Charter meeting held on the previous Friday that since this Fraternity was started on Christian principles that we should begin this chapter by meeting at church as a chapter. During that meeting a total of \$168 was raised for a donation to the Pilgrim Baptist Church.

During the church service the Pastor acknowledged Omega Psi Phi Fraternity as the newest fraternity in the Rockland County community. Brother Inman spoke for the chapter explaining what Omega Psi Phi Fraternity is about and the mission and purpose of Xi Lambda Lambda Chapter. He then concluded with a presentation of the chapter's gift to the church.

After the service was over the Brothers were requested by the Pastor to have repast with the church. This was a surprise and a treat for there is nothing like a home cooked church meal.

**Chapter Meetings:
3rd Friday at 7:30 p.m.
CEJJES Conference Center
1003 Route 45
Pomona, NY 10970**

Brothers Representing at NPE's Kwanzaa event

The brothers were in attendance at the 2nd Annual Naomi's Program of Excellence, Inc. (NPE) Kwanzaa show at the CEJJES Institute. NPE is a non-profit cultural and academic enrichment organization based in Rockland County.

Naomi's Program of Excellence was founded by Jacqueline Cherry (whose late daughter it is named after) during the summer of 2002. It was her concern that children of African descent were losing much of what they learned during the school year and thus furthering the educational gap that has been reflected in the state wide examinations for children in the East Ramapo School District. NPE's program would provide students with an opportunity to start the school year better prepared. Also, Ms. Cherry felt that children of African Descent were not being exposed to some of the greatness of the African- American culture.

Brothers Byron Hurlock and Dennis McGloster are members of this organization. The event was a big success and if other brothers would like to be involved with this program get in touch with brothers Hurlock and



Brothers Hurlock, Peterson, McGloster, Gordon and Holmes at NPE Kwanzaa event

Kudos to Bro. Dr. Gordon

Congratulations to Xi Lambda Lambda's Basileus Emeritus, Brother Dr. Edmund Gordon, for receiving the Trailblazer award from the Nyack branch of the NAACP.

Dr. Gordon, you have made us proud to be men of Omega and even more proud to say that we are your chapter brothers.

How Do You Get To Broadway?

By Bro. T. Ed McBride

If you ask Xi Lambda Lambda's charter brother, Hannibal Holmes he will tell you "Take a Jitney." Brother Holmes as well as Brother William Carter of Beta Alpha Alpha, made their debut appearance in August Wilson's "Jitney" at the Elmwood Playhouse in Nyack, Rockland County.

The play is about the coming and going of various characters. It is set in the office of a jitney cab company in a section of Pittsburgh that is slated for urban renewal.

Brother Holmes played the role of Philmore, the hotel bellhop. Brother Carter played Turnbo, a hulking giant, who is both a coward and a bully given to outbreaks of frightening rage.

Congratulations to Brothers Holmes and Carter, we expect to see more of you. Now, can you please call me a Jitney.

Xi Lambda Lambda Chapter History

By Bro. Dennis McGloster

Xi Lambda Lambda Chapter was founded in Pomona, New York (Rockland County) on September 25, 2003 by a group of graduate and professional men.

During the end of 2002, Brothers Dennis McGloster, Gerald Inman and Chris Sampson spearheaded the inception of the chapter. They had a vision of organizing a chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc which would serve the growing county and community.

In February 2003, through perseverance, Brothers Dennis McGloster, Gerald Inman, Chris Sampson, Byron Hurlock and Dave Smith were able to bring together interested Omega Men with a williness to start a new chapter.

Brothers instrumental in founding the new chapter were Dennis McGloster (Beta Alpha Alpha, '01); Melvyn Davis (Beta Alpha Alpha, '90); Edmund Gordon (Alpha, '40); Hannibal Holmes (Beta Alpha Alpha, '86); Byron Hurlock (Xi Phi, '84); Gerald Inman (Chi Delta, '74); Michael Johnson (Beta Alpha Alpha, '99); T. Ed McBride (Xi Phi, '92); Michael Peterson (Beta Delta Delta, '89); Chris Sampson (Beta Alpha Alpha, '90); David Smith (Zeta, '63); David Smith, Jr. (Omicron Sigma, '91); and Herbert Thomas (Phi Upsilon, '75).

On September 3, 2003 the application process for the chapter charter was completed and mailed to the Second District Representative, Brother Benjamin Jef-

fers. The application was then presented to the Supreme Council during an economic conference in Washington, D.C.

On October 5, 2003 the brothers of Rockland County received a letter from The Executive Director, Brother S. Earl Wilson, informing them that the Supreme Council had approved the chapter application for Rockland County. The official date of the chartering was September 25, 2003. The Supreme Council assigned the chapter Name "Xi Lambda Lambda #917."

On November 21, 2003 the first official meeting of Xi Lambda Lambda Chapter was held at the Louis Kurtz Civic Center in Spring Valley, New York. The brothers elected Chris Sampson as Basileus, Byron Hurlock, as Vice Basileus, Dennis McGloster as Keeper of Records and Seal, Michael Peterson as Keeper of Finance, Gerald Inman as Chaplain, Melvyn Davis as Keeper of Peace and T. Edward McBride as Chapter Reporter. Brother Edmund Gordon was bestowed the honor of Basileus Emeritus. Brother Thomas Wallace, Second District Corridor 5 Representative, performed the swearing in of the elected officers.



MLK Center Celebrates Forty Years of Community Service

By Bro. Michael Peterson

The Xi Lambda Lambda Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. congratulated the Martin Luther King Multi-Purpose Center and board member Michael Peterson (XLL, KF) on 40 years of Community Service in the Rockland County, NY area. The Martin Luther King Center is a not-for-profit One Stop Community-based organization. The Center provides educational, cultural and social programs to empower families in Rockland Community.

The Honorable Christian Sampson (Basileus) was the Master of Ceremonies of the 2004 Annual Benefit Dinner Dance held on Saturday, April 3, 2004 in Suffern, New York. Bro. Byron Hurlock (Vice Basileus) was also present. Bro. Sampson announced the 2004 Honorees: Civic Organization – Jamaican Civic and Cultural Association of Rockland County, Rockland Negro Scholarship Fund; Education – Ms. Arlene Clinkscale; Elders: Mrs. Mary Artis and Ms. Rosetta Coleman; Humanitarians – Ms. Sherry Scott and Mr. Peter Williams; Law – Correction Officers Benevolent Association of Rockland; Social Services - Catholic Community Services of Rockland; Volunteers: Mr. John and Mrs. Monica Alexandra, Dr. Chad Murdock and Ms. Ann Stahl.

The CEJJES Institute

Founded to honor and continue the work of Drs. Edmund W. and Susan G. Gordon; life long activists and advocates for the emotional, physical, and intellectual development of children.

Edmund W. Gordon is a nationally renowned developmental, cognitive and educational psychologist. His background includes the John M. Musser Professor of Psychology, Emeritus at Yale University, the Richard March Hoe Professor Emeritus of Psychology and Education at Teachers College, Columbia University, and currently the interim Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of Teacher's College.

Susan G. Gordon, is a retired Associate Professor of Pediatrics. She has taught for more than 25 years at New York Medical College and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University and delivered health care during her teaching career and in private practice to tens of thousands of infants and children.

The Gordon's children have established the CEJJES Institute and Library to continue their parent's life work in the promotion of social justice, particularly as it pertains to health, education, and the environmental and material well being of marginalized communities. The Institute gives special attention to the well being of children.

The CEJJES Institute works primarily in collaboration with communities of color, particularly those of African descent. The Institute's premise is that prevailing political economies of race, gender, culture, and sexuality uniquely and negatively impact communities of color. The accelerating negative consequences of these processes make coming to terms with and working against Black people's oppression a matter of urgency. CEJJES believes that by engaging in education, critical thinking, activist research, strategizing, and organizing with such communities, social justice and liberation can be achieved.

The CEJJES Institute and Library has been created to engage in and promote these activities. The primary focus of the work of the Institute will be in Rockland County, New York, but the concerns of the Institute will be worldwide.



Drs. Edmund and Susan Gordon

Book Club on it's way to successful

Brothers Mike Peterson, Chris Sampson, Dennis McGloster and Byron Hurlock were in attendance and giving back to the community at the Coretta Scott King Book Club that met on Saturday, January 3, 2004.

Bro. McGloster stated that It was a wonderful day and the beginning of a wonderful relationship.

The event is held on the first Saturday of each month throughout the school year at the CEJJES Institute in Pomona, New York.



Brothers Chris Sampson, Byron Hurlock, Mike Peterson and Dennis McGloster at the Coretta Scott King Book Club



Participants and Xi Lambda Lambda brothers at the Coretta Scott King Book Club

Xi Lambda Lambda in Recognition of Rockland County Veterans

In support of Black Heritage, the Second Districts' Newest Chapter, Xi Lambda Lambda collaborated with the local chapter of the Buffalo Soldiers and recognized veterans from the African American, Native American, and Hispanic communities of Rockland County.

The program was lead by chapter brothers, Byron Hurlock, T. Ed McBride, and David C. Smith, all of whom are military veterans. The agenda focused on recognizing all the World War II and Korean War veterans. Veterans recognized spoke of their personal experiences, assignments, and combat awards. These stories were video recorded and will be available at the Rockland County Archives.

Additionally, a video produced by the Veterans Administration was presented on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The video identified symptoms, behaviors, and programs through the VA, which will help those veterans; especially African Americans diagnosed with PTSD.

All veterans recognized received certificates from the NY State Senate and Assembly, the County Executive, County Legislature and the Town of Ramapo. Bro. Chris Sampson, Basileus and Ramapo Town Clerk represented the town Supervisor. Bros. Ed Gordon and Dennis McGloster were in attendance and provided outstanding support to the 150 Veterans and their guest.

Based upon solicited feedback, the program was well received. During Memorial Day weekend the chapter will sponsor another veterans' program recognizing the Tuskegee Airman, The 555th Parachute Infantry Regiment, and a Salute to all WWII veterans.



Brothers Hurlock and Smith (left and right of center) of Xi Lambda Lambda with members of the Buffalo Soldiers and World War II Veterans



The Bruhs



Getting



Down

St. Valentine's Day Brunch

On Saturday, February 14, 2004 the brothers of Xi Lambda Lambda surprised their wives and family by preparing brunch for them. The event took place at the CEJES Conference Center in Pomona, New York.

The wives and children were treated to home-made waffles, pancakes, grits, eggs, various meats and lots of fruits. The CEJES center was decorated to resemble a four-star restaurant with the brothers greeting the guests of honor with the aroma of freshly cooked breakfast treats.



Flowers were presented to the wives as the brothers serenaded them with the "Sweetheart Song." This also served as an opportunity for the brothers to finally meet each other's wife and family. In addition, it allowed the wives to meet each other and form a bond. Xi Lambda Lambda would like to extend a grateful thank you to Dr. Ed and Dr. Susan Gordon for allowing us to use the CEJES Conference Center as the venue for this event. Dr. Ed Gordon is the Basileus Emeritus of Xi Lambda Lambda. And to the brothers, thank you for



The Quettes



And Family



Getting Down

Look Who's cooking

On Saturday, April 24, 2004, the Rockland Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. had their 9th annual Look Who's Cooking event. Men from all over the county prepared dishes and made them available to all. The event was held at Spring Valley HS in Spring Valley, New York. Their were over 50 men who made food and well over 200 people who paid a fee to



Xi Lambda Lambda's Chris Sampson, Dennis McGloster and Byron Hurlock throwing up the hooks as they cook.

come in and sample the various dishes. The proceeds from this fundraiser are used to support the various local Delta programs, one of which is the Betty Shabazz Academy.



Bros. Hurlock and McGloster with the Ladies of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

Look out for Xi Lambda Lambda's first fundraising event.

It is an Art Auction. And you are invited to this Gala Art Exhibition and Auction. Each collection is designed to reflect a variety of artist, styles and prices. We will have a broad collection of originals oils, watercolors, signed and numbered limited editions and lithographs, etc. So be on the lookout for further information about Xi Lambda Lambda's Art Auction coming in September.

For further information contact : Brother Byron O. Hurlock at

Grand Basileus Visitation

By Dennis McGloster

On Wednesday, January 14, 2004, the Grand Basileus of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Bro. George Grace made a visit to the Kappa Omicron house in Harlem to say hello to the brothers.



Bro. Dennis McGloster (l) and Bro. T. Ed McBride (r.) of Xi Lambda Lambda with Grand Basileus George Grace

Bro. Grace was in New York City to support the Wall Street Project headed by Bro. Rev. Jesse Jackson. During his brief visit he told of the great things that the brothers all around the country was doing in addition to the wonderful things that are going on down in Georgia. The International office just recently purchased a large multi bedroom house in Stone Mountain, Georgia. Headquarters is hoping that this purchased will lower the cost of visiting brothers and dignitaries to the Georgia region by providing them with the comfort of home and allowing them to avoid the huge hotel prices in the area. The International office also made a huge capital purchase for \$3 million of a large industrial printing press. The thinking behind this too would allow headquarters and in many instances the various chapters around the United States to shrink their printing costs by having much of the work done at this new printing press. In leaving Bro. Grace left of realizing that much has to be done and we have both the talent and passion to get it done.

Queens Alumnae Delta's Party

By Bro. Dennis McGloster

The Queens Alumnae chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. had their annual dance party at Antun's on Saturday, January 17, 2004. Over 1,100 people attended the affair, which was a brown bag event, with brothers from Xi Phi, Epsilon, Alpha Upsilon, Nu Omicron, and Zeta Psi showing up in big numbers. Xi Lambda Lambda brothers Chris



Sampson, Byron Hurlock, T. Ed McBride, and Dennis McGloster along with their lovely wives showed up to "break a sweat or two." The party was on two levels and four rooms with a separate DJ in

each, including the current Epsilon Basileus, Bro. DJ Tony Smalls. The Queens Alumnae chapter headed by President, Gail Mitchell has brought this event to such lofty levels that a short waiting lists exists just to purchase tickets for this annual shindig. The brothers of Xi Lambda Lambda will do well to emulate this strong effort and facilitate an event of this magnitude.



WHAT TYPE OF OMEGA MAN ARE YOU?

Are you an active member
The kind that would be missed?
Or are you just content
That your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meetings
And mingle with the Brotherhood?
Or do you stay at home
And criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part
To help the work along,
Or are you satisfied to be
The kind that just belongs?

Do you ever voluntarily
Help at the guiding stick,
Or leave the work to just a few
And talk about the clique?

Come out to meetings often
And help with hand and heart.
Don't be just a member
But take an active part.

Think this over member
You know right from wrong
Are you an active member
Or do you just belong?

From the Editor

Bro. T. Ed McBride

I truly believe that God places people in each other's path to bring about change. Led by the spirit my wife and I moved to Rockland County without any knowledge of what the county was about. My first day in Rockland I meet Brother Byron Hurlock who I knew from Xi Phi. He invited me to a party at his home where I met Brother Dennis McGloster who was trying to form a new chapter in Rockland. I gave his invitation some thought, however, it's a "no-brainer." I'm in a new area that I'm not familiar with so what's the best way to meet folks and learn the community as well as spread the spirit of Omega.

It was only a few years ago that I went to Bermuda and got to experience the spirit that the brothers of the newly chartered Zeta Lambda Lambda exuded as they "set things out" for my wife and I. So here's an opportunity that doesn't come around very often. This had to be somewhat of a similar experience that the Founders had when they started this great fraternity of ours, as well as every other brother after that.

Being a charter member is a challenging experience. Everything has to be built from the ground up. You can't just say, "I'm a member of Omega Psi Phi" and expect things to happen. We have to attend and sponsor events – lead by example – until the community recognizes who we are.

Rockland was ripe for Omega. It's unbelievable how many brothers are willing to be reclaimed because they live up in the area and did not want to travel outside to attend chapter meetings. Rockland also attracts those brothers that live upstate and did not want to travel across the Tappan Zee Bridge to attend meetings and social action programs. Let it be noted that the Tappan Zee was a source of long delays due to work being done. For this reason I was always deterred from visiting or wanting to move to Rockland County.

When brothers ask me how it feels to be a charter member, I tell them it's like giving birth. My mother chapter gave birth to and raised me, I grew up and fathered a chapter of my own. I (as well as my charter brothers) give Xi Lambda Lambda all the love and affection that a parent can offer. "All my love, my peace and happi-



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Address Correction Requested

"Friendship is Essential to the Soul"