



# Xi Lambda Ledger



eXcel Center  
8236 S. Western Ave.

VIIIXL  
Since 1924

February 13, 2021  
Vol. XVI

## Brothers Palmer & Knox Enter Omega Chapter



Photo Courtesy of Bro. Charles Harper



Photo Courtesy of Facebook

## SWEET REST BROTHERS...

## Xi Lambda Chapter

**Barris D. Sims**  
President

**Nicholas Cummings**  
Vice President

**Theodore Johnson**  
Recording Secretary

**Kenneth Booker**  
Corresponding Secretary

**Craig T. Turner**  
Financial Secretary  
(Interim)

**Michael Clark**  
Treasurer

**Gregory Payton**  
Chaplain

**Vincent Richardson**  
Director of Educational  
Activities

**Farrad Ali**  
Director Membership\*\*

**Richard W. Lawson**  
Historian

**Jeffrey L. Gougis**  
Associate Editor to  
"The Sphinx"

**DaRon Montgomery**  
Director of Initial  
Membership Development

**John "Apple" Lane**  
Chairman Emeritus  
Membership Intake

**Paul L. Stubblefield II**  
Sergeant-at-Arms

**Curtis Bolden**  
**Tramell Henderson**  
Parliamentarian

**Steven Minter**  
Immediate Past President

**James W. Palmer, Sr.\***  
Treasurer Emeritus

• Omega Chapter  
\*\* Appointed

**"Personal growth is the mother of greatness,  
but its price is pain and perseverance."  
- Bro. Paul Robeson**

## A Message From The Editor

Greetings Brothers!

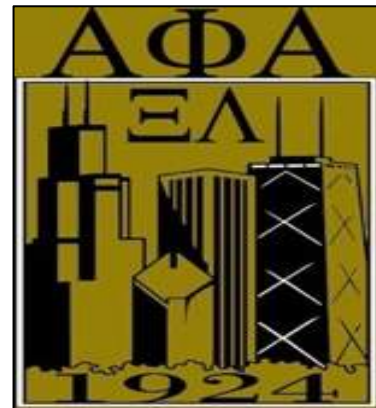
This edition of the *Xi Lambda Ledger*, the longest version to date, is full of substance, as it contains articles that are both timely and informative. I would like to thank our contributing writers including Bros. Rev. Gregory Payton, Kevin Baskins, Farrad Ali, Rodney Jones & Robert Cook, as well as Neophytes Wayman Freelon and Kirby Jones. A special acknowledgment goes out to Bro. Royce Strahan who created the blueprint for the *Ledger*, but in this edition, he wrote the cover story as well! Thank you, Brother Strahan!

This edition also features a Health & Wellness article, which will be a mainstay moving forward that is aimed at enhancing our overall health as a Chapter. Additionally, the "Neophytes Up Close" section will offer a glimpse of our new initiates. Our seasoned Xi Lambda Brothers will continue to be highlighted in the "Senior Brother Spotlight" section, which was preempted due to the cover story of our dear Bros. Palmer and Knox entering Omega Chapter.

**Fraternally,**  
**Brother Jeffrey Gougis**  
**Editor**



**Bro. Jeff Gougis**



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# A Message From Our President

Greetings,

Let me take this time to thank all the brothers and partners that have made personal sacrifices during this pandemic to make an **IMPACT** by supporting our communities and each other through Chapter initiatives and programs this past year. Again, I can't thank you enough and please know that you are greatly appreciated.

We often make these sacrifices in the name of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. - Xi Lambda Chapter, as a way of holding our beloved Fraternity high as servant leaders. We also make sacrifices because we truly want to live the mission and transcend all.

## **WHY?**

Here is why I think we should continue to make those personal sacrifices:

- **Our community continues to need us ...** Alphas are leaders in servicing the community and we must advocate for those who cannot.
- **Our Brothers need us, and we need our Brothers...** We are our Brother's keeper and must be there to promote and support our Brothers by any means necessary and have fun along the way.
- **Society requires Alphas to take their rightful place as leaders ..** We must be role models and sponsors as we develop a pipeline of Alpha leaders waiting to answer the call.
- **Young black men must value education and strive for academic excellence...** As Alphas, we must set positive examples and be there to emphasize the value of education as a means for them to reach their full potential.
- **We must excel and strive for professional success...** We must encourage and promote our Brothers to reach new heights and pave the way for those following in our footsteps. We may be the first, but we will not be the last!

I say all of this as a call to action to continue to make those personal sacrifices and remember the reasons why we make them along the way.

As we begin our annual strategic planning cycle for the coming year, it is very important that we understand the reasons why we do what we do. In the coming weeks, the Planning Committee will introduce some visionary objectives for the Chapter. These objectives will anchor our strategic plan and allow for Brothers to contribute to making a measurable **IMPACT**, in their own way, through key results. Be on the lookout!

If you are still looking for inspiration, recite the poems that include these lines. they seem to always inspire me:

- “**Good will is the monarch of this house...**”
- “**To be an Alphaman means more than just to wear a pin..**”
- “**.. It isn't the victory after all be the fight that a brother makes..**”
- “**.. I am the master of my fate; I am the captain of my soul.**”

**Be safe...**  
**Fraternal Regards,**  
**Brother Barris Sims, Chapter President**



**Bro. President Barris Sims**



# Xi Lambda Technology Corner

## Dedicated Alpha Email Account

In these hectic times, we receive a lot of email and we often find ourselves missing some relevant communications from the fraternity and chapter. To reduce this risk, **I am recommending that you create a separate, Alpha-only email address** that you use for Alpha-related communications.

Along with the obvious benefit of consolidating your Alpha-related email in one place, you also help to ensure that the information being shared is centralized in a place where you expect privacy to be observed. This is important to observe as some brothers may currently have shared email accounts with their spouses or other family members. Use of a shared email account potentially exposes communications intended for brothers-only to a non-Alpha, thereby not keeping the information within the house.

To get this process started, I suggest that you create a Gmail account with the format that utilizes your name along with 1906, 06, etc. in the address. As an example, my email address combines my first and last name along with 1906 ([farrali1906@gmail.com](mailto:farrali1906@gmail.com)). You can choose any combination as long as it is available to use in Gmail. Additionally, you can set up the Gmail client on your smartphone to centralize Alpha-related communication when you do not have access to a desktop computer.

After creating the new email account, you can go to Alpha MX and update your



**Farrad Ali**  
Contributing Writer



email account to the newly created one. All subsequent general organization emails will come to the new email address. The Xi Lambda Chapter roster is updated on a monthly basis from Alpha MX, and we will pick up the email address change during the next data import. From there, all Xi Lambda Chapter communications will use the new email address as well.

Lastly, to deter hackers from compromising your email account, I suggest that you choose a complex password and employ the use of a password safe to store it. A complex password protects your account from someone guessing your password because they know things about you, such as your birthday, your address, your spouse or child's name, etc. Password safe applications are available in the app stores for your given smartphone. It is important to diversify your account passwords to ensure that a breach in one account does not expose other accounts because they have the same password.

Hopefully, you find this info helpful. Feel free to reach out to the Xi Lambda Technology Committee if you have any questions.

**Fraternally,**  
**Bro. Farrad Ali**  
**Xi Lambda Technology Committee Chair**



# My Covid-19 Testimonial

**Rev. Gregory L. Payton**  
*Contributing Writer*

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As many of you may or not know, we had several brothers who were diagnosed with the coronavirus near the end of 2020. I (**Bro. Rev. Gregory Payton**), **Bro. DaRon Montgomery**, **Bro. Jeffrey Gougis**, **Bro. Patrick Lee Palmer**, and **Bro. Alex Roberts** were among those who were affected during the surge of the virus in November of 2020.

After learning of Bro. Montgomery's recovery from the virus, I communicated with him via phone and text to share some words of encouragement. Shortly after our last chapter meeting, I began to feel sick. I had been in the house for about 5 days straight after taking my MacBook to Orland Mall to have my camera looked at. I ended up sending my device to an Apple repair shop to be have the camera fixed for free as the device is still under warranty. I went home that day not knowing that I likely contracted the virus even though I had on a mask and I practiced social distancing while entering and exiting the mall. My initial symptoms were body aches and a fever. I was unable to conduct my virtual Sunday School Class that morning and I stayed in bed all day.

On **Monday November 16th** I spent the entire day at the Advocate Urgent Care in Oak Lawn. When I arrived at 11:00 am, there were 30 people ahead of me. I was asked to wait in my car, and I did so until

about 5:00 that evening. After falling asleep in the car and missing at least four calls, I was called into the lobby to be seen. After a short wait, I was taken to a room to be examined. I was given the nasal swab test and about 20 minutes later, I was told that **I tested positive**. I was very upset because I spent so many months being careful and doing everything I could to avoid catching the virus. I was immediately concerned about my wife and the 3 children that live in our home. I didn't want any of them to be infected with the virus because of me! I was instructed to quarantine for 14 days and to take Tylenol for the fever. I also had to accept the fact that a 53-year-old Black Male on Blood pressure medication, I was a greater risk of catching the virus.

Fortunately, my Wife tested negative twice and the kids all tested negative as well. I praise God for my Wife, Keyonna and the gracious nurturing care she gave over the 14-day quarantine. I had to sleep in our room separately and I had to stay 6 feet from everyone. We all had to wear masks daily and I was only allowed to go to the bathroom and my office, which are both in the basement. I began a daily regimen of Tylenol, Elderberry, Zinc, Turmeric, Ginger, and Vitamin D along with my daily meds. I must say that all the meds along with Emergen-C, orange juice, and Ginger Tea were very helpful. There were times when my fever was high, along with chills, body aches, a dry cough, and diarrhea. But, for the most part, the symptoms were mild,

**(Continued on next page)**

**(Brother Rev. Gregory L. Payton – Testimonial: continued from previous page page)**

I had no respiratory or breathing issues, and I did not have to be hospitalized. Mrs. Payton took great care of me. And the Brotherhood was amazing with the prayers and support on a daily basis. I appreciate every phone call and text message I received over the two weeks in quarantine. They were all heartfelt and greatly appreciated.

November 30<sup>th</sup> was my first day out of quarantine. One good thing is that I lost about 15 pounds, so now I have to figure out how to keep those pounds away for good! **I tested negative for the virus on December 18<sup>th</sup>.** I was extremely happy that and I was able to enjoy Christmas and the New Year holiday season with no issues. I am looking forward to getting vaccinated in the spring or earlier. I would like to encourage all brothers to do the same, especially those over 65 and those with pre-existing conditions.

Overall, I endured this trial to be able to share my testimony and to encourage another person that may be facing the virus at this time! God is truly a healer and a miracle worker! And my Brothers of Alpha are true prayer warriors and a



**Bro. Rev. Gregory L. Payton**

tremendous support system! The prayerful, loving, and caring support that I have tried to show as Chaplain was given back to me in a gracious manner! And I praise God for my beautiful AKA wife, Keyonna, who was the ultimate helpmate! I still struggle with fatigue on a daily basis, but overall, I feel fine, and I've only gained about 5 pounds of the weight back so far (and I blame that on Holiday eating). I ask that you continue praying for me as I will continue to pray for all of you! Thank You Brothers!

**Fraternally yours in Christ,  
Bro. Rev. Gregory L. Payton  
Chaplain, Xi Lambda Chapter**

Alpha History Fact

Brother A. Wayman Ward (pictured right), initiate of Xi Chapter at Wilberforce College in 1912, wrote Alpha's prayer. Brother Ward returned to Chicago after being in Detroit for some time and joined Xi Lambda Chapter where he served for many years as the national chaplain.



# Adopt A Senior: The Pandemic Won't Stop the Brothers of A PHI A!!!

**Rodney Jones & Robert Cook**  
*Contributing Writers*

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In keeping with our faithful motto **"First of All, Servants of All, We Shall Transcend All,"** the Brothers of Xi Lambda would not let the pandemic keep them from serving our community or the faithful seniors within it. On Friday, December 18th, 2020, the *Adopt a Senior Committee*, which includes Bros. Robert Cook, Rodney Jones, and Ron Kimble with the help of Bros. Richard Nelson, Ira Young, and Wayman Freelon, served 54 residents of the Holiness Home Vision Senior Home located at 8216 S. Racine, Chicago, IL.

The Brothers of Xi Lambda issued gift bags containing various helpful items to assist in supplying the needs for our loving seniors from the community. The bags consisted of soap, socks, skull caps, jars of candy, word search books, and gloves. The Brothers, understanding that seniors are vulnerable to this dreaded disease, donned the proper PPE equipment to serve the seniors in a safe and effective way. They were allowed access to the 7 floors of the facility where they knocked on doors and shouted Merry Christmas as they left gift bags at each resident's door. The residents were very thankful and welcoming.



**Brothers Rodney Jones & Robert Cook**

The committee would like to thank Facility coordinator Bernadette McGinnis, her staff, and the residents for allowing us to share a little goodwill. A special thanks to Ms Tameka Gavin who helped select and arrange the quality items contained in each bag. The committee would also like to thank Brothers Vance Bonner and Deputy Police Superintendent Eric Carter for their help in securing the facility and placing items in the gift bags. Finally, the committee would like to thank Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. member Daniell Cox-Jones, the wife of Bro. Rodney Jones, for her attendance and photography support.

*Photos Courtesy of Daniell Cox-Jones*





# HEALTH & WELLNESS

Produced by Brother Kevin Baskins  
Health & Wellness Chairman

February 2021

Edition II

## TARGETING COLON CANCER IN AFRICAN AMERICAN MALES

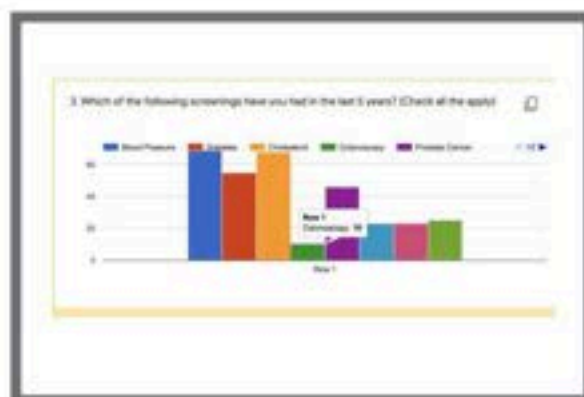
**DISCLAIMER:** Xi Lambda Chapter and its members are not attempting to diagnose or treat colon cancer in individuals. The following content is for educational purposes only. If you feel that you suffer from colon cancer, please seek immediate treatment from a licensed or trained healthcare professional, or from some of the resources included in this bulletin.

I've worked in the pharmaceutical industry for almost 30 years. I had the pleasure of working with Jason for 4 years. Jason was an African American male who liked to lift weights, was energized, spirited, a family man, loved God, and was a fervent Kappa man. At the age of 44 Jason left my company to work for another company to sell a drug prescribed for treating colon cancer. Ironically 8 months later, Jason was diagnosed with Stage 4 colon cancer. After being diagnosed and while undergoing aggressive treatment, Jason utilized Facebook to chronicle his journey and keep friends updated on his battle with colon cancer.

What's amazing is that Jason also used his time to be an ardent advocate, in particular for black men, to receive colonoscopies for colon cancer screening. Sadly, Jason lost his battle against colon cancer at the young age of 46.

Many of us are still mourning the loss of actor Chadwick Boseman, who lost his battle with colon cancer in August 2020, at age 43. His untimely death has reignited discussions about the rising cases of [colorectal](#)

[cancer](#) in young adults, particularly among the Black and African American community.



Of the 70 Brother's from Xi Lambda Chapter who responded to the survey in the fall, only 10 have indicated they had a colonoscopy in the last 5 years

## REFERENCES

Tomislav Dragovich, MD, a gastrointestinal medical oncologist with Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center in Arizona, Dr. Fola May, assistant professor of medicine at UCLA and a researcher at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Durado Brooks, MD vice president of prevention and early detection at the American Cancer Society, American Gastroenterological Association, American Cancer Society



"Black and African American men and women have the highest incidence rates among any other ethnic group in the U.S.," said Tomislav Dragovich, MD, a gastrointestinal medical oncologist with Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center in Arizona. "In addition, when diagnosed with colorectal cancer, they also have the highest risk of dying from cancer."

"African-Americans are more likely to get colon cancer, they're more likely to have an advanced stage of disease when they're diagnosed with colon cancer, they're more likely to die from colon cancer and they have shorter survival after diagnosis with colon cancer," said Dr. Fola May, assistant professor of medicine at UCLA and a researcher at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

"Colorectal cancer is the second deadliest cancer in the country," said Durado Brooks, M.D. vice president of prevention and early detection at the American Cancer Society. "This disease is ravaging the Black community, and it is as important as ever that everyone has access to and is receiving the recommended screenings. Even during the coronavirus pandemic, necessary screening tests remain available to prevent the disease or find it at an early, more treatable stage."

Although colorectal cancer is one of the most commonly diagnosed and most preventable cancers, it does not affect all people equally. The reasons Blacks and African Americans are at greater risk are complex, but age and race seem to play into this disparity, socioeconomic status, environment, heredity, awareness and access to care are all contributing factors. While we continue to see an overall decrease in colorectal cancer cases and deaths in the past two decades, the rate has surprisingly increased in younger Americans (those under the age of 50). Blacks and African Americans still have the highest incidence of colorectal cancer – with nearly 20,000 cases in 2019 and are 15 to 20 percent more likely to die from the disease than patients of any other race.

This greater awareness and understanding led to the recent change by the [American Gastroenterological Association](#) to recommend starting screening between ages 45 and 50, and the [American Cancer Society](#) recommending screening for Blacks and African Americans at the age of 45. The hope is that this will aid detection in those at risk for early onset colon cancer.

## KNOW THE POSSIBLE SYMPTOMS OF COLORECTAL CANCER

The American Cancer Society doesn't recommend starting screening before age 45 for most people, largely because the benefits aren't likely to outweigh the possible downsides. But it's still important to be aware of possible symptoms of colorectal cancer, no matter what your age. The most common symptoms of colorectal cancer include:

- A change in bowel habits, such as diarrhea, constipation, or narrowing of the stool, that lasts for more than a few days
- A feeling that you need to have a bowel movement that's not relieved by having one
- Rectal bleeding
- Blood in the stool, which might make the stool look dark brown or black
- Cramping or pain in the abdomen (belly)
- Feeling tired or weak
- Losing weight without trying

Many of these symptoms can also be caused by other conditions. But if you have any of them, especially if they last for more than a few days or are getting worse, it's important to have them checked out by a doctor as soon as possible so the cause can be found and treated, if needed.

People at higher risk for colorectal cancer should talk with their doctor about whether starting screening earlier might be right for them. This includes people with:

- A family history of colorectal cancer or certain types of polyps
- A personal history of colorectal cancer or certain types of polyps
- A personal history of inflammatory bowel disease (ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease)
- A known or suspected family history of a hereditary colorectal cancer syndrome, such as familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP) or Lynch syndrome (also known as hereditary non-polyposis colon cancer, or HNPCC)
- A personal history of radiation to the abdomen (belly) or pelvic area to treat a prior cancer

## TYPES OF COLORECTAL SCREENINGS

In addition to [colonoscopies](#), which remain a gold standard for colorectal cancer screening, Dr. Dragovich gastrointestinal medical oncologist with [Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center](#) in Arizona September 2020 said there are other tests that can be considered for individuals who are unable to have a full colonoscopy.

Screening tests for colon cancer include:

- **Colonoscopy:** In this test, the rectum and entire colon are examined using a colonoscope, a flexible lighted tube with a lens for viewing and a tool for removing tissue.
- **Virtual Colonoscopy:** In this test, a CT scan produces a series of pictures of the colon and rectum from outside of the body.
- **Stool Test for Blood or DNA:** Both polyps and colorectal cancers can bleed, and stool tests

can check for tiny amounts of blood or cancer DNA in the stool that can't be seen visually.

"It's so important that everyone has access to and are receiving their recommended screenings, particularly those who are at a higher risk," Dr. Dragovich. "If you have a first-degree relative in the family who was diagnosed with colon cancer at an earlier age, the rule of thumb is that you should get a first screening colonoscopy 10 years before you reach that age even if it is before the age of 45 for Blacks and African Americans, or 50 for other races. Talk to your doctor to discuss these options."

## GET SCREENED

If you're Black/African American, don't wait to know your risk. Talk to your doctor about potential risk factors, family history and when you should start getting screened for colorectal cancer.

## The 2021 Xi Lambda Wellness Challenge is here!

Locate this flyer in your email from the Health and Wellness Committee. Then, click on the image shown below for more details and to register yourself or your team!



# 2021 Xi Lambda Wellness Challenge

Xi Lambda Membership Committee: Health and Wellness

### Stage 1:

#### Registration

- Complete individual registration form
- **EARLY REGISTRATION**  
1/11/21- 1/31/21 will be \$20/participant.
- **LATE REGISTRATION**  
2/1/21 - 2/14/21 will be \$30/participant.
- [REGISTRATION LINK](#)

### Stage 2:

#### Teams and Payment Finalized

- TEAM names will be decided and submitted prior to the start of the XLWC (submission by 2/14/21)
- All payments should be received by 2/14/21
- Following are the PayPal payment links for the different scenarios:
  - [Team payment of \\$100](#)
  - [Individual payment of \\$20](#)
  - [Late Registration \\$30](#)

### Stage 3:

#### 2021 XLWC Begins!

- All teams listed by 2/21/21
- XLWC commences 2/22/21
- Let's get Healthy Brothers.
- **11119...00006!**

# Editorial: A Tale of Two Brothers



**Bro. Royce Strahan**  
Guest Editor

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This past year has handed the chapter immeasurable loss in the form of great brothers and time spent together often taken for granted, leaving a void once filled filled with spirited meetings, Wednesday nights at the Alpha House, and signature Xi Lambda events. Most recently, we lost two brothers who once held prominent positions in the chapter as president and treasurer – Bro. Dr. Allen Knox and James W. Palmer Sr (respectively).

While these two brothers were especially loved by brothers in the chapter, they both left an indelible impact on my life and progression in Alpha.

Bro. Knox was my introduction to Alpha. Prior to meeting him, I hadn't been exposed to any Alphas, but upon getting to know him and later talking to chapter brothers about him, I quickly realized how blessed I was to have him as my introduction to the chapter.

In addition to being an accomplished dentist who earned the Chief of Dental Services role at the Cook County Board of Corrections, he was also a writer who published a Christian book titled *Young Jesus Stories* under the moniker of Doc Knox.

Brothers who knew Knox well would agree that there wasn't a Black social organization he wasn't a member of, holding membership in *Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity – Beta Boule, Chicago Assembly, Frogs, The Original 40 Club, and Royal Coterie of Snakes.*

He was an active member of the chapter who always welcomed conversations with brothers across the region, made evident by his run for Midwestern Regional Vice President that was cut short by his service as a medic in the Gulf War – Desert Storm.

Through Bro. Knox's work to initiate connections for me within the chapter, I met Bro. James W. Palmer Sr. and had the honor of highlighting his story in the Xi Lambda Ledger and Sphinx Magazine. Bro. Palmer wasn't large in stature, but his presence was always felt during chapter meetings where he always had a first-row seat.

In 2013, as a bright-eyed neophyte with the desire to make an impact on the chapter, I was assigned to "*Palmer Duty*" along with my ships at the regional convention in Cincinnati. Palmer Duty consisted of escorting Bro. Palmer to some of the regional events since he had lost his visions years earlier and required assistance to get around.

Despite losing his eyesight, he had a stretch of only missing one convention in a 45-year period and was as sharp as any brother even into his elder years. To our surprise when we went to escort Bro. Palmer from his hotel room to the banquet,

**(Continued on next page)**

*(Bro. Royce Strahan – continued from previous page page)*

he answered the door with a stocking cap on and managed to receive special accommodations from the hotel staff because of his charm and ability to connect with people.

Bro. Palmer managed to serve in a leadership role with the chapter as Treasurer for close to 25 years as detailed in a below excerpt from the 2015 Sphinx magazine article.

***Palmer's structure and desire to see brothers active led to Xi Lambda being the largest chapter in the country at one point. A reputation of being no-nonsense during his close to 25-year tenure as treasurer made the brothers respect Palmer and fear him if they ever gave him a bad check.***

***"I would not tolerate any bad checks," Palmer said. "I would embarrass you. If you give me a bad check and I put it in the bank, then the check I write to the chapter bounces, which meant Xi Lambda chapter got a bad name. I can only count on one hand the number of bad checks I got over the years because the brothers knew that I would embarrass them."***

*Despite his reputation for embarrassing the brothers, Palmer made many friends around the country because of his dedication and passion for the fraternity.*

While they are no longer with us physically, as our hymn for fallen brothers of black and old gold comforts, their spirits dwell with us now. In addition to their spirits, the memories that were shared with Brothers Knox and Palmer will continue to keep their legacies alive.



**Brother James W. Palmer, Sr.**  
*Photo Courtesy of Bro. Charles Harper*



**Brother Dr. Allen Knox**  
*Photo Courtesy of Alleson Knox*

# 7 IMPACT Days of Service: Day 4

## Food & Clothing Drive

**Wayman Freelon**  
*Contributing Writer*

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The Brothers of the fall 2020 line of Alpha Phi Alpha's Xi Lambda Chapter, E.P.O.C.H., hosted a Clothing, Coat, Shoe, and PPE drive in conjunction with Day Number 4 of the **7 Days of Service** leading up to our fraternity's Founders' Day.

The Brothers engaged both men from the Chapter as well as the community in the efforts to reach their goal of **"1906 pounds of Care."** And... with the aid of both the community, local business partners, other members of the Divine 9, the Brothers listed made the *4th Day of Service Initiative* a success. Xi Lambda was able to donate over 1906 pounds of this "Care," in the form of the items listed above.

Beneficiaries of our efforts:  
Pacific Garden Mission & Break Through Org.

- Chapter Participants:**  
Barris Sims (President)  
Nicholas Cummings (VP)  
Curtis Bolden  
Jason Toliver  
Kirby Jones  
Joe Ignatius  
Adrian Durry  
Wayman Freelon  
Darryl Farrow  
Rodney Jones  
Patrick (Lee) Palmer  
Maceo Thompson  
Emmanuel Neal  
David Griggs  
Joel Taylor  
Charlie Dates  
Otis Moss III  
Michael Edwards  
Eddie Winters

*Photos Courtesy of Bro. Wayman Freelon*





**Kirby Jones**  
Contributing Writer

# Neophytes Up Close!

## Joe Ignatius Jr. - Xi Lambda Initiate: Fall 2020

I am the Captain of the most **EPOCH** ship to set sail!

About a year ago, I married my lovely ATL, Georgia Peach, Brittany Ignatius (AKA, Savannah State) on 8/11/19, and we just became fur parents to a (Yorkie) in May '20. Born in the *PHirst* month (1/20/90) & raised on the southside, I am a CPS graduate and Howard Alumnus. The only son of three (middle child), and the only grandson to attend & graduate college out of a God-fearing family tree that started with 12 children out of Tchula & Lexington, Mississippi. I love cycling, especially in group, but I need to work on my golf game! No matter how I spend downtime, nothing beats fellowship over a Brotherhood Smoke—particularly at Smoked Filled Room. **Shout out my Ship Phrozone!**



**Bro. Joe Ignatius**

IT salesmen by day, and I work with family & friends with other tech related topics. Lately, I have been building websites for family members to support their side businesses. **Being an Alpha Man to me means**, I now have even more to do! Since becoming an Alpha, I led one (1) day of the (7) Day Impact Initiative, currently working with our Webmaster & a part of the overall communications committee. I have only a few months in, and I've already scrubbed toilets at the house!!!! Lol. **The quote I live by, "Tough times don't last, Tough people do!"**

## Rev. David Griggs - Xi Lambda Initiate: Fall 2020

While most know me as a pastor, banker, or technologist, there is more to Brother Griggs. Chicago native and true South Sider. I grew up in Chatham, and currently live in Bronzeville. I have been married for 24 years to Tanya Griggs, who is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. We have one daughter, Madison, who is a teen member of Jack & Jill of America, Inc. I am a cycling advocate and have led many community bicycle riding events all around Chicago. My longest bicycle ride was a three (3) state tour--106 miles from the state of Indiana to Wisconsin.



**Bro. Rev. David Griggs**

I love to travel, jazz and house music, gun ownership, photography, and outdoor activities (hiking, skiing, camping), and most importantly Jesus Christ. **Being an Alpha Man to me means**, serving our community by being a visible man of excellence, service, class, achievement, faith, upholding family values, and always remembering to advance Alpha Phi Alpha. In my few months of being an Alpha, I have participated in the (7) days of service events, helping make & distribute meal bags on Voting Day in November, and working with the Xi Lambda Education Committee. Recently, I took on a leadership role as Co-Chair of the Budget & Finance Committee and I am looking forward to contributing to Xi Lambda in the years to come. **The quote I live by, "Time solves many problems."**

*(Continued on next page)*

**(Bro. Kirby Jones – Neophytes Up Close continued from previous page page)**

**Emmanuel Neal - Xi Lambda Initiate: Fall 2020**

I am proud to have joined the family and I look forward to establishing a brotherhood with all of you including, but not limited to, the ice-cold *Tres Club* (#3)! I am a house head deejay, business coach and consultant. I am currently a PhD candidate, father of three, and always ready to jump in and help others reach their full potential.



**Bro. Emmanuel Neal**

**Being an Alpha Man to me means**, leadership, scholarship and service. It also means to embrace those tenets, but even more, to be a true and loyal brother to your brothers, as well as help the organization. In the short time of becoming an Alpha, I gave a lecture and poem during the Fall 2020 Theta IMDP process, helped deliver snacks to polling places as part of the (7) Days of Impact, recently helped clean up the eXcel Center, and currently, I am working with the Membership Committee. **The quote I live by**, “Live, Love, Laugh & Learn; The secrets are hidden in books.”

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. District of Illinois Presents:

# Unsung ALPHA Heroes of Illinois

**Showcasing Alpha Men Who Make A Difference**

**zoom**

Meeting ID: 876 3336 7539  
Passcode: 523291

Sunday, February 28, 2021  
1pm to 3pm

Franklin Stacy, Jr.  
Illinois District Director

Charles Smoot  
Illinois District Historian

Tyler Frazier  
Asst. District Director

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated's  
District of Illinois Presents:

# How B.G.L.O.'s Impacted the 2020 Election and What's Next?



Saturday, February 27  
11am to 2pm



The Hon. Michelle Harris  
8th Ward Alderman,  
Chicago

Okey Enyia  
Management Analyst,  
Dept of Health of  
Human Services

The Hon. Adrienne E. Davis  
Cook County  
Circuit Court Judge

Andrew Snorton  
Media/Show Host  
"The Conversation Corner"  
(Atlanta, GA)



The Hon. Elgie R. Sims  
Illinois State Senator

Dr. Tchicaya Ellis Robertson  
Social Action Co-Chair, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.,  
Chicago Alumnae Chapter

Britton Smith  
National Political Director,  
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc.



zoom

#votelesspeopleisahopelesspeople

#blackhistorymonth

Meeting ID: 861 4960 8479

#bglounity

Passcode: 551012

Franklin Stacy, Jr.  
Illinois District Director

Charles Smoot  
Illinois District Historian

Tyler Frazier  
Asst. District Director

For further information, please contact [smoot.charles@gmail.com](mailto:smoot.charles@gmail.com)