

**TAU OMICRON CHAPTER OF
OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC**

**20TH ANNUAL
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
LEADERSHIP BREAKFAST**

'BLOODY MONDAY'



**NEW COLLEGE INSTITUTE
91 Fayette St., Martinsville VA**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 2024 @ 9:00 AM



GUEST SPEAKER

Karice Luck-Brimmer

**Community Initiatives
Program Associate for
Virginia Humanities**



Karice Luck-Brimmer is an Education Community Initiatives program associate for Virginia Humanities.

She works primarily in the Dan River Region, where she collaborates with local community members to sustain a strong network of cultural organizations committed to positive change. In her role, she also manages the General Assembly African American Cultural Resources Task Force.

As a public historian with over 20 years of experience as a genealogist, she has done extensive genealogical research in the Pittsylvania County area. One of her current projects is the development of the Danville Research Center for African American History & Culture.

The founding president of the Danville/Pittsylvania County Chapter of the Afro-American Historical Genealogical Society (AAHGS), she served on the Virginia Board of Historic Resources from 2019 to 2023.

She has been featured in several publications and media outlets such as The Washington Post, People, and 60 Minutes.

Luck-Brimmer is the owner of Our History Matters, LLC, an entity that provides heritage tours, historic preservation consulting, and genealogy services.

Tau Omicron's Community Impact Award

FAYETTE AREA HISTORICAL INITIATIVE (FAHI)



Established in 2004, Fayette Area Historical Initiative (FAHI) is a grassroots organization formed for the purpose of creating a living institution that celebrates the past, current, and future history of the Fayette Street corridor and its surrounding communities.

The initiative grew out of an increased awareness of the local community to embrace their sense of worth and economic opportunities. FAHI was organized by the late Linda Strange-Dillard and other dedicated community leaders, including Fred Motley, Simon Spencer, Ben Murdock, Reverend Tyler Millner, and Sharon Maitland.

FAHI's mission is to encourage a diverse group of people to examine the collection of artifacts of the African-American community of Martinsville, Henry County, and surrounding areas, to develop a perspective of their enriched experience, history, and culture.

FAHI offers recorded oral history, public forums and workshops, lectures, tours, and other special programs.



The Fayette Area Historical Initiative African-American Museum and Cultural Center (FAHI) is located at 211 Fayette Street, Martinsville, Virginia. The Executive Director is Charisse Hairston.

Tau Omicron Chapter Business of the Year

Tim Gunter / Gunter Nissan



Executive automotive manager with hands on experience at all levels of dealership management. Highly successful leader with more than 34 years of experience including 21 years dedicated to automotive.

Dealership expertise in all aspects including sales, service, operations, and executive management. Decorated senior leader at both Asbury Automotive and Mills Automotive Group working primarily with the Nissan portfolio.

Automotive career launch in 2002 as a sales associate at Crown Nissan in Greensboro, NC with a meteoric rise to General Manager in conjunction with the role of Executive Manager by 2009.

Building the right team, understanding the local market, targeting the right customer and significant sweat equity led to a \$1 million profitability improvement in 2009 and moved the store from a profit loss to a profit generator. Continued improvements culminated in \$2 million in profits for 2016.

A lifetime member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and Mt. Sinai Baptist Church who is also active in the local community both socially and financially. A military father and an “old school” stay at home mother instilled high integrity, character, and honesty at a very young age.

This beginning provided a foundation of success where everyone is important from the detailer to the General Sales Manager.

Important Facts About Tim Gunter:

Current Dealer Principal of Gunter Nissan and Gunter CDJR of Martinsville, since January 2019.

A career change from Textile Management in 2002 lead me into the car business because of a mentor and a friend who had achieved success in the business. A friend of mine told me that he heard the deal in Ridgeway Va was available. Ridgeway is 15 minutes from my hometown, so I reached out tot he dealer and the rest is history.

The three things I have learned in being an owner:

- 1) have faith
- 2) trust your people
- 3) be clear in your expectations.

Commit to your dream...

...DON'T HAVE A PLAN B

COMMIT TO WHATEVER IT IS YOU LOVE AND GO FOR IT.

If you love it then it doesn't feel like work.



Married to Tasha Gunter

Children in the Automotive Business:

Brittanie Gunter

Owner Loyalty Manager/Social Media Personality

Timmy Gunter

Accounting

Tyler Gunter

Finance Manager

Jada Gunter

Marketing Manager

TAU OMICRON CHAPTER

OMEGA MAN OF THE YEAR

BROTHER JAMES PENNIX

Tau Omicron Brother Spotlight



Brother James 'JP' Pennix
(Tau Omicron 2020)

Brother James 'JP' Pennix is yet another great brother who shines Omega's light of Leadership and Service through sharing his time as a mentor to the youth of our community. Brother Pennix is a life member of Omega Psi Phi and exemplifies the frat through Christian Manhood and Scholarly Attainment. Brother JP is a passionate advocate for students and higher education achievement. He is an active member of the Tau Omicron Chapter where he serves as Chair of the Achievement Week committee, the Chapter's Editor / Reporter, co-lead of the Social Media Team and as an active QUE School mentor. He has worked in higher education for 25 years and feel a calling to serve students in their pursuit of college education. He serves as the VP for Enrollment Management at Roanoke College.



Professor Ernest E. Just – 2023 Mentee of the Year



TAUOMICRON CHAPTER OF THE OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY INC. QUE SCHOOL - MENTEE OF THE YEAR

IS PRESENTED TO :

Akorea Niblett

For his outstanding achievement and participation in the Martinsville - Henry County
QUE School Mentoring Program for the Academic Year 2022-2023 at Martinsville Middle School



Brother Greg Preston
BASILEUS OF TAUOMICRON
CHAPTER OF OMEGA PSI PHI
FRATERNITY, INC.



Brother Garrett Dillard
CHAIR OF THE QUE SCHOOL
MENTORING PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Professor Coleman – 2023 Father of The Year



**TAU OMICRON CHAPTER
OF THE OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY INC.**

FATHER OF THE YEAR 2023

IS PRESENTED TO :

JERELLE CARTER

For his demonstrated mentorship, support, guidance and love to his children and numerous other children through his work and family life within the Martinsville-Henry County community

Brother Greg Preston
BASILEUS OF THE
TAU OMICRON CHAPTER



Brother Garrett Dillard
VICE-BASILEUS OF THE
TAU OMICRON CHAPTER



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Pardoned, But Not Forgotten

“Say Their Names”

Howard Lee Hairston, Frank Hairston, Jr., Joe Henry Hampton, Francis DeSales Grayson,
John Clayborn Taylor, Booker T. Millner, James Luther Hairston

The Martinsville Seven Initiative Inc. is a Martinsville, Virginia-based organization dedicated to challenging injustices for people of color in Martinsville and Henry County and surrounding areas.

The Initiative is calling attention to systemic racism and seeking closure for the Martinsville Seven including a meaningful exhibit to memorialize the history of The Martinsville Seven.

C.F. Holland-Executive Director

P. O. Box 3404

Martinsville, Va. 24112

Phone: (276) 226-4318 Cell: (276) 806-3983

Email: info@martinsville7initiative.org

Congratulations Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. - Tau Omicron Chapter
on this 20th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Breakfast



Michael Hairston
Right Grand Thrice I'll Master
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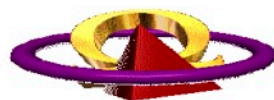
19 Years of Celebration

Tau Omicron Chapter

The Legacy

of

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Congratulations

Tau Omicron Chapter

On Celebrating



The Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

For "20 Years"

Verslaska Gravely & Nerissa Jones

Prince George's County

Alumnae Chapter



**Greetings from the Brothers
of the Martinsville (VA)
Alumni Chapter of
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.**

**Congrats to the
Tau Omicron Chapter of
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.
and thank you for what you
are doing in the community!**





Congratulations

to the Tau Omicron Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.
on a successful 19th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Breakfast.



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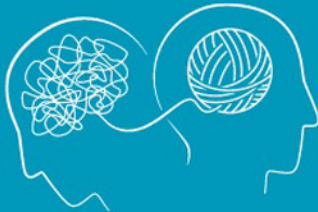
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The 2022 Virginia State Youth of the Year Conference and Speech Competition was hosted by Boys & Girls Clubs of the Blue Ridge and held in Martinsville-Henry county. Youth from across the state of Virginia and Washington, D.C. came together for a weekend of leadership development, team-building, and sightseeing in our community. Asha, pictured in the center of the photo above, was named the Virginia State Youth of the Year in April 2022. In September, 2022, Asha competed with 49 other participants and was chosen as the National Youth of the Year for Boys & Girls Clubs of America.



Tyree Gravely and Nicholas Davis worked with the Dan River Basin Association on a storm drain project to increase awareness around protecting our rivers, streams, and natural resources through waste management in uptown. Community Service is our way of learning job skills, meeting new people, and keeping our selves and our world healthy.

Club Memories



Boys & Girls Club members participate in community service projects throughout the year. Teens participating in these activities are eligible for additional scholarships through our Club programs



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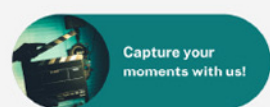
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**New Light Missionary Baptist Church
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**Congratulations to the Omega Men of the Tau Omicron Chapter
of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. on your
20th MLK Leadership Breakfast and your committed service to the
Martinsville - Henry County community. God Bless!**

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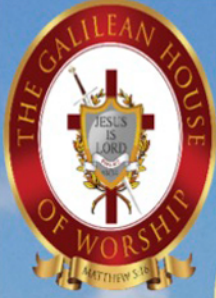
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Celebrate Martin Luther King Day

He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it
as he who helps to perpetrate it.

He who accepts evil without
protesting against it is
really cooperating with it.

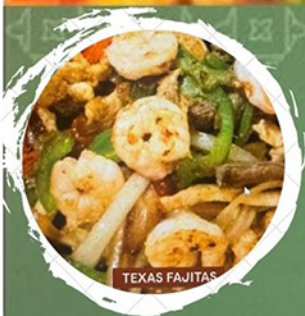
-Martin Luther King Jr.



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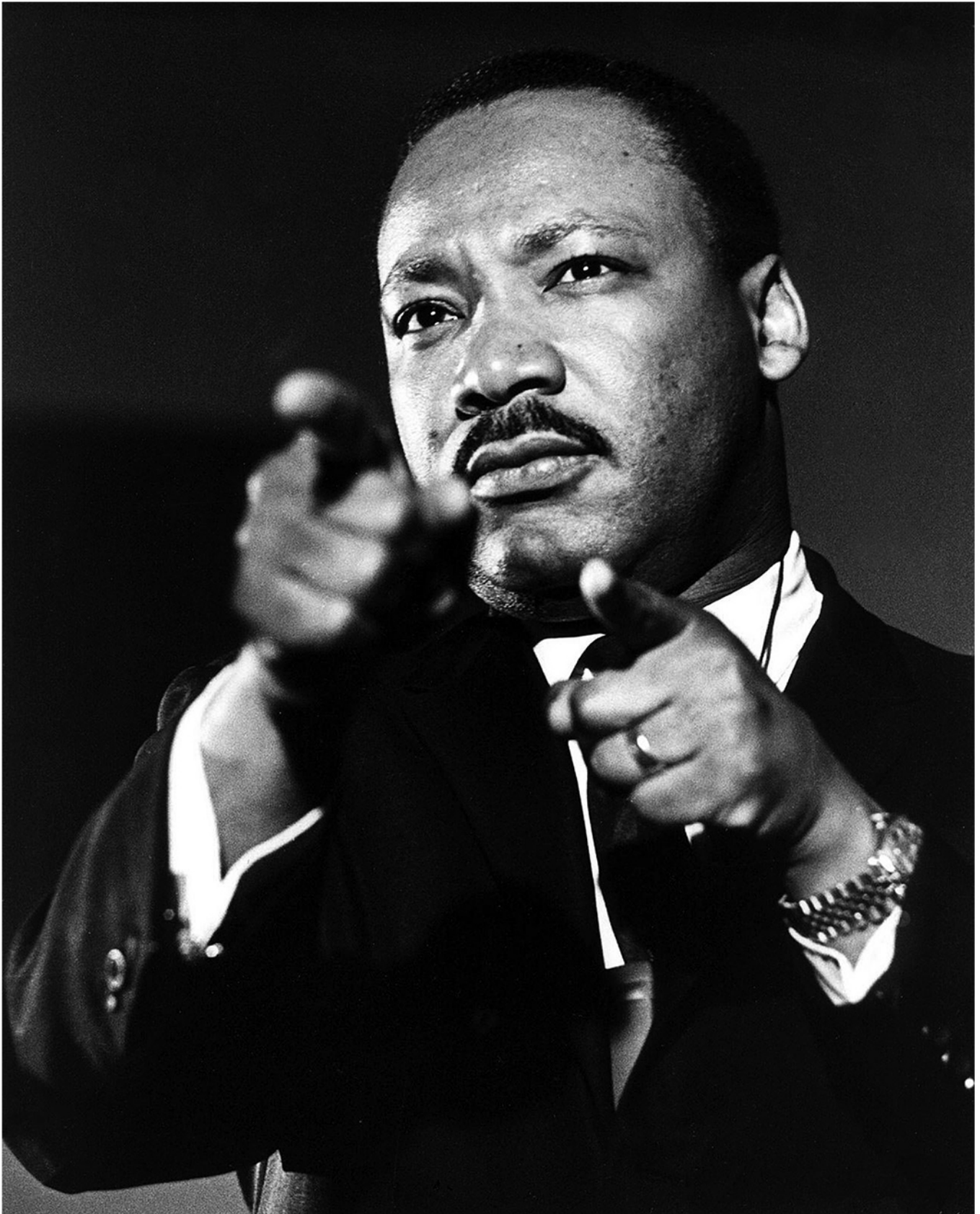
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of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc and its
20th Annual MLK Leadership Breakfast in the MHCo community



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We are actively seeking new members and are accepting Honorable Discharged Veterans and those currently serving on active duty in the Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Space Force

**TAU OMICRON CHAPTER
OMEGA PSI FRATENITY, INC.**

Congratulations on your 20th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Birthday Breakfast

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

Warren A. "Sonny" Richardson
Commander

Curtis R. Millner, Sr.
Adjutant



CONGRATULATIONS TAU OMICRON CHAPTER

20 YEARS OF CELEBRATION - DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

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- fall 1983



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

WILLIAM
HENRY
THOMAS



William Henry Thomas (November 4, 1858-June 4, 1929) was a skilled craftsman. He was born and raised in what was then the village of Martinsville in the 1860s-1880s. He attended Hampton Institute (now Hampton University) in the 1890s, where “he studied carpentry, embraced the tradition of service, and returned home to build the three-room structure which became the Dry Bridge Colored School,” a school that would serve the community for almost thirty years. According to U. S. Census Records, Mr. Thomas served as a Henry County teacher in 1900. He was also a Founding Elder of Grace Presbyterian Church. Known for his meticulous craft as a carpenter, “his work remains evident as Martinsville residents drive along Starling Avenue, Fayette Street, and Brookdale Street (formerly Old Danville Road).” Today, there is a memorial tree on Church Street at the corner of Ellsworth Street across from his birthplace in honor of William Henry Thomas.

---from Henry County Heritage Book (2010)
written and submitted
by Imogene Hodge Draper (great-granddaughter)

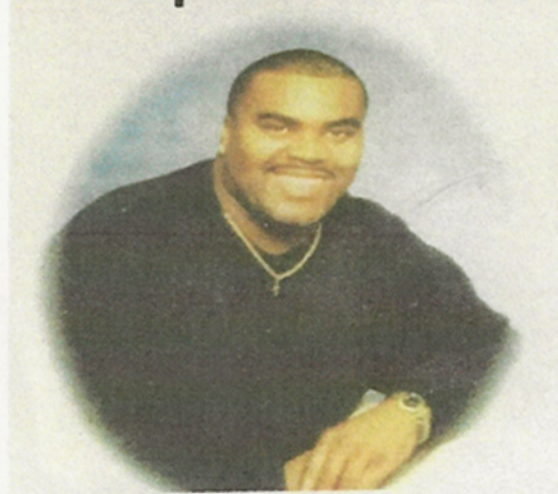


In celebration of the contribution
of African American citizens
to the success of
Martinsville and Henry County, Virginia,
The MHC Historical Society
recognizes the significant contributions
of

William Henry Thomas

On this 26th day of January, 2019
during the annual
Founders' Day celebration.

Christopher Rountree



The Dash

By Linda Ellis

I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of a friend.
He referred to the dates on the tombstone from the beginning...to the end.

He noted that first came the date of birth and spoke the following date with tears,
but he said what mattered most of all was the dash between those years.

For that dash represents all the time that they spent alive on earth.
And now only those who loved them know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not, how much we own, the cars...the house...the cash.
What matters is how we live and love and how we spend our dash.

So, think about this long and hard. Are there things you'd like to change?
For you never know how much time is left that can still be rearranged.

And be less quick to anger and show appreciation more
and love the people in our lives like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect and more often wear a smile,
remembering that this special dash might only last a little while.

?So, when your eulogy is being read, with your life's actions to rehash...
would you be proud of the things they say about how you spent YOUR dash?

The Rountree Family
December 17th, 1971—April 14th, 2018



Life Is Not The Same Without You

The sun still rises in the east
and darkness fall at night
but nothing seems quite the same
each day is not as bright

The birds still sing, the flowers grow
The breeze still whispers, too
but it will never, ever be
the same world without you

It's so sad that you had to go
Your leaving caused such pain
but you were so very special
and Earth's loss is Heaven's gain....
Love Your Girl





*In Loving Memory
of
Ben & Daisy Gravely*

*This world is not our home; we are looking forward to our
everlasting home in heaven.*

*Hebrews 13; 14
The Children*

**In Loving Memory
of
Alfred L. Harris**



Anita, Alexis, Annie, Tammy



*In Loving Memory
Of*

BRO. JIMMIE A. HAILEY

Tau Omicron Chapter

Johnson C. Smith

BS Degree, Social Studies



“.... What is Your Life”

James 4:14

Ms. Vern Hailey

THE HISTORY OF OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. is the first international fraternal organization founded on the campus of a historically black college.

On the evening of November 17, 1911, Omega Psi Phi was founded inside the Science Building (later renamed Thirkield Hall) at Howard University, Washington, D.C.

The founders were three undergraduates: Edgar Amos Love, Oscar James Cooper and Frank Coleman. Joining them was their faculty adviser, Ernest Everett Just.

From the initials of the Greek phrase meaning, "friendship is essential to the soul", the name Omega Psi Phi was derived. That phrase was selected as the motto and "Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift" were adopted as Cardinal Principles.



History of Tau Omicron Chapter Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc, Omega Chapter

In the year of 1948, Tau Omicron Chapter was issued a Charter by the National Headquarters of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity for the communities of Martinsville and Danville. The chapter began with nine (9) charter members who was prominent, professional figures in the education (school administrators), medical and business fields. The Brotherhood established a regular monthly meeting schedule that rotated between Martinsville and Danville.

Charter members: Gene Banks, Robert Hairston Sr., James Hughes, Charles Richardson, James Slade, J. Elmer Turner, William 'Bill' Turner, Clyde Williams, R.O. Wilson.

Tau Omicron continued to grow as new Brothers moved into the two communities served by the chapter. With the continued growth, it was decided that it would be beneficial for the two communities to establish separate chapters in each community. At the time of separation, it was agreed that the charter would remain in Martinsville and the brothers in Danville would seek a new Charter, thus becoming Rho Iota in 1968.

Clyde Williams became the newly elected Basileus of Tau Omicron with a membership of ten Brothers. In 1977, Tau Omicron of Martinsville, initiated it's first member into the fraternity, Brother William Howell. Tau Omicron, now consisting of brothers from only the Martinsville - Henry County community region, began to get more involved in the black community by sponsoring more of the Fraternities' mandated programs.

As years passed more brothers moved into the area, joined Tau Omicron and became community servant agents.

Since 2005, the cornerstone of Tau Omicron's service to the Martinsville - Henry County community has been the QUE School mentoring program. This initiative, rooted in mentorship and guidance, has shaped countless lives over the years.

Through mentorship, education, and empowerment, the program has become a beacon of hope, nurturing future leaders and fostering positive change within the community.

The impact of the QUE School resonates deeply, weaving a tapestry of resilience and empowerment throughout Martinsville - Henry County.



Tau Omicron Charter Members

December 15, 1948

1. Banks, Eugene 'Gene'

Rho Chapter at JC Smith

Teacher at Langston High School and Bonner School in Danville

2. Hairston, Robert Sr.

Rho Chapter at Biddle College (JC Smith University)

Principal at Presbyterian Industrial School (burned down)
became Principal at an Elementary School in Roxboro, North Carolina

3. Hughes, James

Banker married into Cunningham family and became a
co-owner of the Cunningham & Hughes Funeral Home in Danville

4. Richardson, Charles

Nu Psi Chapter at Virginia State University

Principal of Gibson School in Danville

5. Slade, James

Nu Psi Chapter at Virginia State University

Principal of West Moreland School. Retired as Assistant Principal at GWHS

6. Turner, J Elmer

Principal at Albert Harris High School

7. Turner, William 'Bill'

Principal at Southside High School in Pittsylvania County

8. Williams, Clyde L.

Principal at Martinsville High School

9. Wilson, R. O. (Dr.)

was a Dentist in Danville, Virginia

Tau Omicron Chapter Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Omega Chapter

Richard Mattox Coles

Nu Psi / Virginia State College
B.S. Degree in Social Studies
Master's in Counseling

Marshall O. Johnson

Nu Psi / Virginia State College
B.S. and Doctor of Dentistry

Franklyn Delano Brown

Pi / Morgan State College
B.S. Degree in Biology
Masters of Arts for Teachers
Indiana University

James H. Shelton, Jr.

Delta Omega
A&T State College
B.S. Degree in Social Studies
Master's Degree Secondary Education

Christopher Pritchett

Tau Omicron
Hampton University
B.S. Degree in Business Administration

Harold Joenathan Napper, Sr.

Rho / Johnson C. Smith
B.S. Degree in Elem. Education

James R. White

Nu Psi / Virginia State College
B.S. Degree in Chemistry

Chris Carter

Delta Psi / Shaw University
B.S. Health and Physical Education

James Monroe Hairston

Nu Psi / Virginia State College
B.A. Degree in Sociology

William W. Edwards, II

Lamda Psi / Livingstone College
B.S. Degree in Biology

Clyde O. Dillard

Tau Omicron
B.S. Degree in Biology
Hampton University
Master's Degree School Administration

James A. Hailey

Tau Omicron
Johnson C. Smith University
B.S. Degree in Social Studies

Christopher Rountree

Epsilon Gamma / St. Paul's College
B. S. Degree in Sociology

Charles L. Butler

Tau Omicron
B.S. Degree in Music Education

Byron Ross Eure

Phi Upsilon / Stockton State University
B.S. Degree in Accounting

Jesse B. Goode, Jr.

Tau Omicron
Johnson C. Smith
B.S. Economics/MS Education Administration



TAU OMICRON CHAPTER
MARTINSVILLE, VIRGINIA