

Volume 1, Issue 3

Chapter Est. May 1, 1922

Basileus, Dr. Kevin Dancy



Calendar of Events

47th Georgia State Workshop
Sept 30-Oct 03, 2010



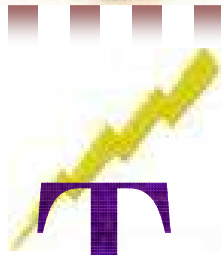
From the desk of Chaplain Trammel Fox:

Iron sharpeneth iron;
so a man sharpeneth
the countenance of his
friend.

Proverbs 27:17

Genghis Shakkan, editor
genghisx@hotmail.com

7th
District



Thunderin' Tau Chapter Newsletter



Tau Chapter Always Puts Community First



The men of *Tau* Chapter are no strangers to hard work nor to community service. Their stalwart commitment to community uplift and the near century old cardinal principals put forward by their much celebrated founders are annually manifested in their perpetually ambitious social action agendas.

Illustrated above: 1. Tau volunteers in Raleigh, North Carolina at a local YMCA 2. Tau volunteers participate in the Clayton County Community Action demonstration 3. Tau volunteers participate in Habitat for Humanity 4. Tau volunteers contribute to the Haitian Relief Effort 5. Tau Chapter volunteers as mentors at Kennedy Middle School

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The Basileus' Page



Brothers,

This has truly been a very busy year for Tau Chapter. Not only has it been busy, it has been successful. We left our mark on the Fraternity earlier this year by hosting the best 7th District Meeting in history. ALL the events during that weekend, including the golf outing, the Candidates Forum, Casino Night, and the Blaque Party were successful. The effort displayed by the Chapter to pull this off was extraordinary. We definitely raised the bar.

Recently, our very own Bro. Lewis Anderson was re-elected as Grand Keeper of Records and Seal. The support from the Chapter was great. We should all be very proud of this accomplishment for Tau. Now as the fraternal year ends and the focus shifts towards our Centennial Celebration I would encourage all brothers reading this to get motivated and keep the *Thunder* roaring.....

We are once again spearheading the Annual Metro Atlanta Rededication Program. This has proven to bring out some 600 brothers wanting to recommit themselves to Omega. This year we are setting our goal at 1500 brothers all assembled at the King Chapel on the campus of Morehouse on Nov. 17, 2010. There is no doubt that this goal is attainable if Tau is in the forefront.

As we move to celebrate 100 years of our existence be sure to contact at least 1 brother and reclaim him back into the fold of our beloved Fraternity. Be proud Tau; be very proud.....

FIETTS

Bro. Dr. Wm. Kevin Dancy

Basileus, Tau Chapter

9-Psi-92

LM#5525

CONGRATULATIONS

TAU CHAPTER 2010 INITIATES



1st row left to right:

1. Jerome "ECHO 1" Forrest
 2. Marcus "ENCORE" Benton
 3. Jonathan "CLUTCH DOG" Williams
 4. Rendell "RHINO" Jackson
- ADP Bro. D.J McCord Rho Psi 1992

2nd row left to right:

- DP Gene Toodle Tau 2006
5. Demario "STEALTH DOG" Austin
 6. Bola "OVERQAST" Adewumi
 7. Mike "BRIQUE" Carter
 8. Robert "DIABOLIQUE" Watson



Congratulations to our very own newly elected member of the Supreme Council, Grand Keeper of Records and Seals, Brother Lewis Anderson

Kudos

Kudos and congratulations are in order for these upwardly mobile brothers.

1. **Brother Jeffrey "Ripley" Anderson**, Psi 1996, has been newly appointed to the American Bar Association.
2. **Brother Willie Harrington**, Tau 2007, is currently attending medical school at Wright State University.
3. **Brother Barron Banks** Tau 2006, is currently attending dental school at Meharry Medical College
4. **Brother Phillip Elder** Tau 2006, is currently attending law school at Florida Coastal School of Law.
5. **Brother Booker T. Washington**, MAA 1993, is currently attending law school at University of Kentucky College of Law



4 Men for Haiti In the Name of Omega

As published in the Oracle

Written by Brother Dr. Augustus Jordan, Tau Chapter Historian

On January 12, 2010, many lives were affected by the earthquake that ravaged the Caribbean nation of Haiti. Measuring in at 7.0 on the Richter scale, the disaster ravaged most of the island's structures, especially its capital city of Port-au-Prince whose president was left homeless in the aftermath. Although this was definitely a turmoil that would take decades for the island nation to recover from, four financial members of The Thunderin' Tau Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity worked tirelessly to contribute their relief efforts in the devastation. These brothers are: Ralph Joseph, Leslie Etienne, Kenneth Wright and Genghis Shakhan.

Although the Grand Basileus Warren Lee of Omega Psi Phi Incorporated immediately sent out a release for brothers nationwide to contribute monetarily to the citizens of Haiti, individuals like Bro. Ralph Joseph took action even prior to this, for he knew that money would not be enough to save the nation of his birth. On that tragic day in January, the first thing that Ralph could remember was feeling disbelief.

"It had been maybe two years since the last time I had been to Haiti, but when my family members called and told me about the quake, at first I didn't want to believe it....Since much was destroyed in the rubble, I had to serve as 'CNN' for my family, reporting on the state of Haiti while here in the United States...I remember recalling that my aunt had just left Haiti the week before, but when I heard about my church collapsing and all of the other destruction, I began to wonder to myself if that was going to be her last time seeing Haiti again."

Due to a lack of communication facilities in Haiti, the estimated death toll of 500,000 was more than the confirmed 50,000. However, due to a lack of facilities to treat injuries as well as to provide logistics for supplies and aid, the 500,000 deaths soon unfortunately became a reality and exceeded this amount. Although the only casualty in Joseph's immediate family was his cousin receiving a broken leg, the hardest part Joseph explained was not knowing what was going to happen next. In spite of this despair, Bro. Joseph and his family and friends took immediate action. This entailed his wife Stacy-Ann and a number of their friends setting up a fund-raising organization called Tout Moun se Moun which can be translated from their dialect to mean "Everybody is somebody". Their mission was to raise money through various efforts and then directly contribute food, clothes, money, and other necessities to trustworthy organizations which they knew of based in Haiti. These efforts were furthered not only by the manpower of his 23 member squad of family and friends, but also the fact that one of these individuals had access to a boat in Miami which could be



used for shipping goods. Future projects for TMSM include building an orphanage for Haitians as well as continued restructuring of the republic in general.

A similar experience of disbelief in the wake of the earthquake in Haiti was felt by Bro. Leslie Etienne after his sister Denise McGill had just texted him about this horrific natural disaster. Etienne explains:

“When Denise told me about the quake, it really shocked me because my father had been deceased for many years, but his birthday is on February 4th. Basically Denise was saying that she was glad Pops was not around to have had to see that destruction, because the reaction to the death and chaos would have probably killed him!... Though we both miss our father extremely, we were glad that he didn't have to see his homeland destroyed.”

Although Etienne was not a native Haitian like Bro. Joseph, he was no stranger to the homeland of his immediate family. Out of his 5 sisters and 2 brothers, only 3 of them (1 brother and 2 sisters) had actually been born in Haiti. Though Etienne is a native of Detroit, Michigan, he was definitely familiar with his father's homeland as well as other places in the world. As a member of the Peace Corps in college, Etienne has volunteered in such nations as Guyana, South America. He is also a Program Director of curriculum for the Clarkston Community Center as well as a board member in an area that is heavily populated with immigrants from various nations around the world. His occupation was the niche that allowed him to provide relief for the homeland of his parents. Etienne's International Community School in Clarkston raised roughly \$800 for Earthquake relief efforts in Haiti. He also was able to organize an item distribution program that was given further assistance through Bro. Ralph Joseph, his neophyte, chapter brother and homeboy. Fortunately similar to Joseph, all of his family who were lost around January 12th was accounted for and only one of them had acquired an injury in the quake while visiting from Canada.

For Bro. Kenneth Wright, the earthquake in Haiti hit extremely close to home. His wife Hedwig St. Louis and the rest of her family are Haitian. He knew how serious the disaster was because his sister-in-law Tai who had been living with he and Hedwig around the time it hit had explained to him that authorities literally had to utilize her old high school as a hospital because all of the medical facilities had been leveled. Wright's father-in-law La Fonatine St. Louis eventually came to Atlanta to stay with them as well; however, this relocation was not an easy one. Wright explains:

“Although I thankfully had no deaths in my immediate family, my wife has an uncle whose car had exploded at a gas station killing two of his friends... People are there (in Haiti) staying away from buildings and my poor father-in-law has been having trouble sleeping here at our house since having a run-in with the destruction of the quake after leaving his brother's club in Port-au-Prince. I've been back and forth trying to provide assistance as much as I can...Even the aftershocks of the quake are 4 on the Richter Scale; this is a serious situation whether we're still hearing about in the media or not .

Wright, a technological consultant and radio announcer on various radio stations in Birmingham and Atlanta helped to organize an on-the-air fund raiser entitled “Pennies for Haiti”. Wright also made it his priority to request help from all of the brothers of Tau Chapter where he is currently active via the Chapter e-mail address. Shortly after this correspondence, Wright worked for relief through numerous efforts which included but are not limited to: Ralph Joseph's TMSM, his son's school, Leslie Etienne's International Commu-



nity School and provided guidance for his chapter Bruhs wherever it was needed.

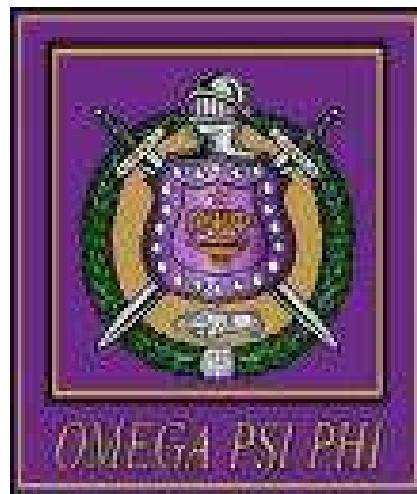
Bro. Genghis Shakhan heroically was able to provide drop-off points for necessities to be sent to Haiti which were utilized by Joseph, Etienne, and Wright as well as the community surrounding Forest Park Middle School where he is an Assistant Principal.

“I pretty much had heard about the earthquake and a need for supplies from CNN, Kenneth Wright and Ralph Joseph’s e-mail to the chapter (Tau)... I also had students from Haiti like Estime Stevens and Jean Charles Hernandez . As a result of this collective, we were able to collect approximately 8 pallets of bottled water and medical supplies that totaled to \$25,000 worth of support.”

Although Shakhan constantly eludes mention of his name in the scheme of the success of the Haitian reliefs efforts of Tau Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated, each brother interviewed for this piece insisted that his contributions were the very glue that made all of their efforts that much more effective.

With not much being heard about the state of Haiti currently in the news media, it is certainly horrific for not only the families of citizens of the Republic, but for humanity in general. Since Haiti had no building codes, a majority of its 9 million residents living under the poverty line and 54 million of them living in abject poverty, the destruction caused by the earthquake of 2010 will take decades to recover from. However, with relief efforts from U.S. citizens like Ralph Joseph, Leslie Etienne, Kenneth Wright, and Genghis Shakhan and their colleagues, the completion of a new and improved Republic of Haiti is far closer to being a reality.

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