



Alumni of Lambda Epsilon (AE) Foundation

Vol 1 A Quarterly Publication Reporting AE and TU "facts on a high and dignified plane" № 1
The Inaugural Edition March 1, 2022

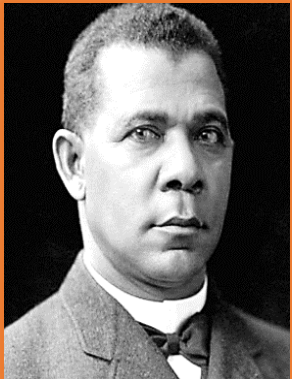
WHO WE ARE

OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE is promoting the educational well-being of undergraduate members of Lambda Epsilon Chapter, *an unaffiliated association*, of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., who are pursuing a college degree at Tuskegee University. ALEF assist male senior students at Booker T. Washington High School, Tuskegee, Alabama, who enroll and pursue a college degree at Tuskegee University. ALEF aspires to support the growth and development of the City of Tuskegee and surroundings. ///

OUR PHILANTHROPY - ALEF's sense of philanthropy is grounded in the educational and philanthropic work of Tuskegee University's founding principal and master teacher, **Booker T. Washington**. Through his philanthropic outreach and

ineffaceable commitment to uplifting the race, Washington observed:

"My experience and observation have convinced me that persistent asking outright for money from the rich does not, as a rule, secure help. I have usually proceeded on the principle that persons who possess sense enough



Booker T. Washington

to earn money have sense enough to know how to give it away, and that the mere making known of the facts regarding Tuskegee, and especially the facts regarding the work of the graduates, has been more effective than outright begging.

I think that the presentation of facts, on a high, dignified plane, is all the begging that most rich people care for." (Up from Slavery, An Autobiography by Booker T. Washington)

ALEF resolves to continue Booker T. Washington's work in the spirit and vision most attributable to him. We resolve to let no one drag us into a place of forgotten struggle or perpetual worth. ///

OUR VISION

ALEF PROVIDES charitable and educational assistance to brothers of Lambda Epsilon and youth of Macon County through financial and scholarly assistance. Our resource capacity permitting, we assist in improving the general well-being of the Tuskegee University community. We foster: (1) opportunity for students of Lambda Epsilon, and (2) promote strategic initiatives to assist the restoration of infrastructure at Tuskegee University and the surrounding community. ///

OUR INAUGURAL LAMPLIGHT STAR ALUMNUS Brother Jerome B. Williams, DVM, LE - '64



Dr. Charlotte P. Morris
9th President, Tuskegee University



Bro. Dr. Jerome B. Williams

Tuskegee AL, March 1, 2022 - Brother Dr. Jerome B. Williams presented Dr. Charlotte P. Morris, president of Tuskegee University, a personal check in the amount of \$50,000 of which \$25,000.00 was directed to the ALEF endowment (*an endowed fund established by graduate members of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.*) and \$25,000.00 was directed to the School of Veterinary Medicine endowment from which Dr. Williams graduated.

(Continued on page 2)

WHAT WE DO

THIS NEWSLETTER WILL present news and special features on Tuskegee University, the Lambda Epsilon Chapter and its alumni. To date, ALEF has established an endowed scholarship program for Lambda Epsilon Undergraduates. Having merged with Lambda Epsilon Alumni Scholarship Fund (LEASF) in June 2021, more than \$160,000 are being held in a growing endowment fund at Tuskegee University. With the help of our LE alumni, ALEF will increase that fund to expand benefits to all of our key stakeholders. ///

(Williams, continued from page 1)

In a note to president Morris following the meeting of November 29, 2021, Brother Dr. Williams expressed great optimism. He observed that his meeting left him “*encouraged by the progress*” being made by president Morris who was “*moving Tuskegee forward.*”

Williams praised president Morris on her work in addressing the financial challenges of veterinary med students. “*Historically, we have had to compete with much better resourced universities for the best and brightest students for this highly competitive profession,*” he said. Brother Williams acknowledged that HBCUs come up short in recruitment because of its very limited scholarship offerings.

President Morris was deeply appreciative and thankful for the generous gift from Brother Dr. Williams. In her statement she said, “*We are most grateful for this generous contribution from alumnus Dr. Jerome Williams to the endowment funds.*” She then continued, “*We appreciate his continuing support and loyalty to alma mater.*”

Brother Williams is a 1968 second generation graduate of Tuskegee Institute (TI) and a 1969 graduate of the TI School of Veterinary Medicine. He is completing a 4-year term as president *pro-tempore* of Alabama A&M University (AAMU) Board of Trustees. Brother Williams knows a thing or two about the challenges associated with leading large complex institutions of higher education.

Going into his twelfth year as a member of AAMU’s Board of Trustee, Williams has been working to elevate our HBCUs. He is challenging fellow members of his beloved Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., to work with him as he seeks to move Alabama’s largest public HBCU (AAMU) and his distinguished alma mater (Tuskegee University), a **Registered National Historic Landmark**, to the forefront of educational and entrepreneurial greatness – *for our posterity. ///*

Our Fund-Raising Approach:

Information about the fund-raising campaign is continuing. Please be alert to additional announcements and information as it is developed and distributed.

SOCIAL MEDIA SUPPORT NEEDS: To assist in the marketing of the fundraising initiatives, ALEF is looking for brothers who are tech savvy to aid with solidifying the *social media* presence of ALEF. Brothers who are interested in honing their technology and social media skills can help. If interested in volunteering your practical expertise, creativity, and can-do spirit, we need you! This is a great way to fortify your résumé. Our Point of Contact (POC) is: **Bro Eien Williams, LE-2011: eienwilliams1@gmail.com.**

How to APPLY for Assistance

Alumni of Lambda Epsilon Foundation (ALEF), An
Approved Public Service Charity (#20-3437385)

For information contact: scholarships@alef.foundation

How to GIVE Back

Two Options:

1. Go to Tuskegee University Website:

Go to: <https://www.tuskegee.edu/support-tu/give>

Choose gift amount:

Under Designation, select: Other

Other Designation Field:

E1765 - Alumni of Lambda Epsilon Foundation

Insert: Donor information

Select: Secure payment and follow the prompts

2. Go to ALEF website: <https://www.alef.foundation>

Use the PayPal link

Every little bit helps, so let’s give back!

2022 ALEF Calendar of Events/Activity

Mar 15	– ALEF Board meeting
Apr 19	– ALEF Board meeting
May 17	– ALEF Board meeting
Jun 21	– ALEF Board meeting
Jul 19	– ALEF Board meeting
Aug 16	– ALEF Board meeting
Sep 20	– ALEF Board meeting
Oct 18	– ALEF Board meeting
Nov 4-6	– LE 75th Anniversary Celebration ALEF Annual Meeting and Homecoming
Dec 20	– ALEF Board meeting

2022 ALEF Board of Directors

Zebby Miles, 90	President
Carlos Miller, 95	Vice President
Edward L. White, 78	Secretary
Robert Mosby, Jr., 78	Assistant Secretary
Shawn Brewer, 92	Treasurer
Earl Jones, 57	Assistant Treasurer
Dr. George D. Taylor, 61	Editor, Newsletter Board Member-At-Large
Ed B. Massey, 61	Cont. Ed., Newsletter Board Member-At-Large
Eien Williams, 2011	Board Member-At-Large

*“We shall prosper in proportion as we dignify
and glorify common labor and put brains
and skill into the common occupations of life”*

BTW

A Jump Back Into Lambda Epsilon History

Ralph Ellison, noted author of *"The Invisible Man"* and other literary works, began his college career studying music at Tuskegee Institute in 1933. In the summer of 1936, he went to New York to earn enough money to finish his studies at Tuskegee. While in New York that summer, the literary world opened for him and Ellison never returned to finish his degree at Tuskegee. According to research, he found much of his personal and social life at Tuskegee constricting.

Born in Oklahoma City, to parents from South Carolina and Georgia, some believe Ellison's early life experiences in Oklahoma, Tuskegee and then New York shaped and molded his world view which may best be described by this arduous Ellison quote: *"If you can show me how to cling to that which is real to me while at the same time teaching me the ways into the larger society, I will drop my hostility and my defensiveness, I will sing your praises forever, and I will help you to make the dessert bear fruit."* A generation later, the Tuskegee family sought *metaphorically* to help Ellison *"make the dessert bear fruit."* And so it was that before the final Selma to Montgomery march in 1965, there was this Lambda Epsilon brother in the photo below helping out as best he could.



Above, a photo of **Brother George E. Davis, LE - '64**, Omega Chapter, from Medford, Mass, *"paying it forward"* for posterity. **Brother Wilson Blount, LE-'64**, found this piece while researching the Selma to Montgomery March. The picture was taken March 18, 1965 on Dexter Ave. Montgomery, AL (Courtesy of Brother Wilson Blount, LE-67).

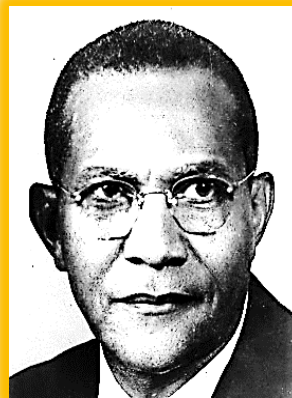
The final day of the march for voting rights legislation ended on March 25, 1965. As shown below, *all the King's men*, women, children and Lambda Epsilon, turned out to help in their own way to *"make the dessert bear fruit."*



L-R: Folk singer Joan Baez, George D. Taylor, LE-'61, Beverly Adams, SNCC leader James Foreman – photo from May, 1965 issue of Ebony Magazine.

WALKING AMONG GIANTS!

"Once upon a time, on a far-a-way plot of private land, we studied and walked among Giants - because we could!"



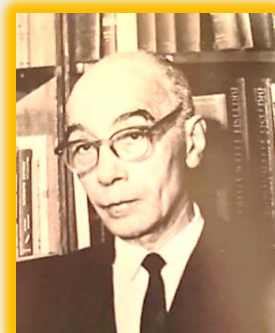
Brother Dr. Charles G. Gomillion, IQ - '38, (1900-1995). B.A. 1928, Paine College. Ph.D. 1959, Ohio State University. Brother Dr. Gomillion was a professor at Tuskegee Institute. During the civil rights era, he successfully filed and won a lawsuit against the racially motivated **gerrymandering** in Tuskegee and Macon County – a judicial case significant in the passing of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. At issue was altering the shape of the city of Tuskegee from a traditional square to a 28-sided figure that would

eliminate all 400 Black voters from the City except for about four or five without eliminating any white voter. See: *Gomillion et al. v. Lightfoot et al.* [364 US. 339]. (Courtesy of the Tuskegee University Archives). ///



Brother Dr. Melvin B. Tolson, Theta Chi -'55 taught speech and English and served as debate coach at Wiley College in Texas from 1924–1947. He mentored students such as James Farmer of CORE and Herman Sweatt, who later became civil rights activists. In 1935, the Wiley College debate team under his tutelage, defeated the reigning national debate champion, the University of Southern California. Tolson encouraged his students not only to be well-rounded but to stand up for their rights – a controversial position in the U.S.

South during the early and mid-20th century. In 1965, Tolson was appointed to a two-year term at Tuskegee Institute, where he was Avalon Poet. The movie, **The Great Debaters**, directed by and starring Denzel Washington as professor Tolson opened in theaters in December 2007. Brother Tolson died after cancer surgery in Dallas, Texas, on August 29, 1966. He was buried in Guthrie, Oklahoma. ///



Brother Dr. Saunders E. Walker, IQ – '44, Chairman, Department of English. As editor to the Oracle for Iota Omega, brother Walker wrote in the May 1948 Oracle, p 24, *"Prospects for the establishment of an undergraduate chapter at Tuskegee Institute are encouraging."* Professor Walker was by far the fanciest dresser on campus from shoes to suits. Had GQ or Esquire visited the campus during that time period, he would have made the front cover of both magazines at the same time. He was

very formal in the spoken word, and in his expectations from his students – whether you took one of his advanced classes or not. He had a deep affinity for classical literature. He was ready to lend a hand when students needed help. With him, failure was not an option. /// (Continued on page 4)

(Giants, continued from page 3)



Brother Colonel Hubert L. "Hook" Jones, USAF, Chi Phi, '36, greeted Brother Andrew "the Squench" Cunningham, when he attended a LE "Smoker" during his freshman year. Squench tells how shocked he was to walk into the restaurant and see the Colonel sitting at the head table when he and others arrived for the Omega Psi Phi interview. The Colonel was USAF Commandant of Cadets at Tuskegee when several LE Brothers entered Tuskegee in the later 1950s and early 1960s - those turbulent years of southern living. The Colonel was tall and had a presence on campus.

After retiring from the Air Force, and relocating to Denver, CO, the Colonel pursued his real passion for aviation and teaching. He along with two others, established the Denver Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., in 1973. There they engaged in an initiative to "motivate young minority individuals to aspire, seek and achieve successful careers in aviation, mathematics, engineering and aerospace. The Chapter was later renamed the Hubert L. "Hook" Jones Chapter to commemorate the Denver aviator who died August 24, 1975. Old soldiers and Omega Giants never die. ///



Brother Colonel Lawrence E. Roberts, USAF, Alpha - '43, Brother Roberts was a member of the Department of Air Science, Tuskegee Institute 1958-1960. We didn't see much of him that year as he was a new father (*a baby girl named Robin*), he was taking graduate classes pursuing a Masters degree and, he was teaching young AF-ROTC Cadets the ways of life in the Air-Force. Soon after we arrived that fall, Brother Roberts was shipped off to his next assignment. There was not much interaction with the fall 60 class of freshmen but we

remember him talking to us about what we could expect as young Air Force ROTC cadets in the large auditorium on the third floor of Huntington Hall. ///



Brother Major Edward R. Vaughn, Jr., Delta Iota - '48, Department of Military Science, one of many undergraduate advisors for LE. Captain Vaughn (at that time) came into the frat room and gave us a cold hard life lesson when word got out that the Chapter was in dire straits financially. He said to us in military certainty: "*Any organization that cannot financially sustain itself should cease to exist.*"

The message was received - a lesson of a life time. He drove a British front-engine, rear wheel drive, two-passenger, white Triumph Spitfire convertible sports car - one LE brother got to drive it around campus and the town to run errands for the frat during a homecoming weekend that fall. ///

Mentors, Role Models, Fathers, Father Figures, Big Brothers!

There were many other Omega men around campus, in the city, in our communities and in our families. For example, Garland Smith, engineering faculty; Walter Scott, a photographer and faculty member; Jimmy Williams, musician master - of - the Hammond organ; Lorenious McDonald, an administrator at the VA Hospital who made it possible for LE to do volunteer work with military veterans at the VA hospital; Aubrey O. Page, Jr., a graphic artist at the VA who helped us design and decorate the Student Union for our annual spring dance; and of course, Hercules Joyner, avid golfer/father of two prominent LE brothers. Looking back, these men were omnipresent in our development! Indeed, there was a time when LE young men walked and talked and studied and played among and around tall giants, strong men - *that looked like us!* ///

Challenge for Today



Who is **Marshall W. Cabiness Abuwi**? In what way or ways *might* he be connected to Lambda Epsilon?

Challenge: *The first student (high school or college) who successfully comes up with the correct answer and submits a 750-word essay will win a prize.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ALEF's Fund Raising program: Information to Follow
- Homecoming, 75th LE Anniversary Celebration, November 5, 2022
- Future issues of this Newsletter will continue to bring information about the history of Lambda Epsilon, as well as current activity including:
 - a. "The Rock" i.e., The Baldwin Monument
 - b. The Little Theater: Its LE Significance
 - c. Interviews with LE Members
 - d. The Undergraduate LE Chapter
 - e. Other Serendipitous LE Moments

Newsletter Essentials

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<http://ALEF.Foundation>