

omega psi phi founders

omega psi phi founders refers to the distinguished group of individuals responsible for establishing one of the most prominent historically African American fraternities in the United States. Founded in the early 20th century, Omega Psi Phi has played a significant role in promoting academic excellence, community service, and cultural enrichment among African American men. This article delves into the lives, contributions, and legacy of the omega psi phi founders, highlighting their vision and the fraternity's enduring impact. Understanding the origins of Omega Psi Phi provides insight into the broader context of African American collegiate history and the fraternity's role in civil rights and social advancement. The discussion will cover the founders' biographies, the fraternity's founding principles, historical milestones, and the continued relevance of Omega Psi Phi in modern society.

- The Origins of Omega Psi Phi
- The Founders of Omega Psi Phi
- Founding Principles and Vision
- Historical Impact and Milestones
- Legacy of the Omega Psi Phi Founders

The Origins of Omega Psi Phi

Omega Psi Phi fraternity was established on November 17, 1911, at Howard University in Washington, D.C. It emerged during a time when African American students were seeking ways to foster unity, academic excellence, and leadership in the face of widespread racial discrimination and segregation.

The fraternity was the first predominantly African American fraternity founded at a historically black university, making it a significant milestone in African American collegiate history. The institution aimed to create a brotherhood that emphasized scholarship, perseverance, uplift, and faith, values that would guide its members throughout their lives.

The Founders of Omega Psi Phi

The omega psi phi founders are four distinguished men whose vision and dedication led to the creation of the fraternity. Known collectively as the “Four Founders,” their legacy remains central to the fraternity’s identity and mission. These men were:

- **Dr. Ernest Everett Just**
- **Professor Oscar James Cooper**
- **Dr. Frank Coleman**
- **Bishop Edgar Amos Love**

Each founder contributed unique talents and perspectives that shaped the fraternity’s founding principles and organizational structure.

Dr. Ernest Everett Just

Dr. Ernest Everett Just was a pioneering biologist and educator whose scientific achievements earned him international acclaim. As one of the omega psi phi founders, Just brought an emphasis on intellectual rigor and academic excellence to the fraternity. His commitment to education and research helped establish the fraternity’s scholarly reputation. Just’s work in cell biology and marine biology was groundbreaking, and he was known for advocating for African American representation in the sciences.

during an era of significant racial barriers.

Professor Oscar James Cooper

Oscar James Cooper was a respected educator and mentor who played a crucial role in organizing the fraternity's initial structure. His dedication to fostering leadership among African American men aligned with the fraternity's mission to uplift its members and the broader community. Cooper's involvement in education and civic affairs helped lay the groundwork for Omega Psi Phi's commitment to service and social responsibility.

Dr. Frank Coleman

Dr. Frank Coleman was an educator and administrator whose organizational skills and leadership were instrumental in the fraternity's establishment. Coleman emphasized the importance of fraternity as a vehicle for personal development and community engagement. His contributions ensured that Omega Psi Phi would maintain a strong presence on college campuses and within African American communities nationwide.

Bishop Edgar Amos Love

Bishop Edgar Amos Love was a distinguished clergyman and leader whose spiritual guidance influenced the fraternity's principles of faith and perseverance. Love's role as a religious leader brought a moral and ethical dimension to Omega Psi Phi's foundation. His vision of brotherhood extended beyond academic achievement to include character development and social activism.

Founding Principles and Vision

The omega psi phi founders established the fraternity with four cardinal principles that continue to define its mission: Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift. These principles were chosen to

promote a holistic approach to personal and communal development among African American men. Manhood emphasizes integrity and responsibility, Scholarship highlights the importance of academic achievement, Perseverance reflects resilience in the face of adversity, and Uplift focuses on community service and social progress.

The founders envisioned Omega Psi Phi as more than just a college fraternity; they sought to create an organization that would empower African American men to become leaders in their professions and communities. This vision has guided the fraternity's programs and initiatives for over a century, including mentorship, educational scholarships, and civic engagement projects.

Historical Impact and Milestones

Since its founding, Omega Psi Phi has made significant contributions to African American society and American culture at large. The fraternity was among the first to establish a national presence for African American students, providing a network of support and leadership development. Over the decades, Omega Psi Phi has been involved in civil rights activism, educational initiatives, and community service programs.

Key milestones include the fraternity's expansion to multiple chapters across the United States, the establishment of scholarship programs to aid minority students, and active participation in social justice movements. Members of Omega Psi Phi have included prominent figures in various fields such as politics, sports, education, and the arts, demonstrating the enduring influence of the omega psi phi founders' vision.

Legacy of the Omega Psi Phi Founders

The legacy of the omega psi phi founders is evident in the fraternity's continued relevance and impact. Their commitment to excellence, brotherhood, and service has inspired generations of African American men to pursue higher education and community leadership. The fraternity's rich history honors the founders through annual celebrations, educational programs, and memorials that keep their memory alive.

In addition to their contributions to Omega Psi Phi, the founders' individual achievements in science, education, religion, and civic leadership continue to be celebrated. Their pioneering spirit set a standard for what African American fraternities could achieve, and their example remains a powerful source of inspiration.

- Promotion of academic excellence among African American youth
- Advancement of civil rights and social justice
- Development of leadership skills and community engagement
- Creation of a lasting brotherhood committed to service

Frequently Asked Questions

Who were the founders of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity?

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity was founded by three undergraduate students: Edgar Amos Love, Oscar James Cooper, and Frank Coleman, along with their faculty adviser, Dr. Ernest Everett Just.

When and where was Omega Psi Phi founded?

Omega Psi Phi was founded on November 17, 1911, at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

What roles did the founders play in the establishment of Omega Psi Phi?

Edgar Amos Love, Oscar James Cooper, and Frank Coleman were undergraduate students who initiated the fraternity's creation, while Dr. Ernest Everett Just served as their faculty adviser, providing

guidance and support.

Why is Dr. Ernest Everett Just considered a founder of Omega Psi Phi?

Dr. Ernest Everett Just was instrumental as the faculty adviser who mentored and supported the student founders, helping to shape the fraternity's principles and ensuring its successful establishment.

What was the primary purpose behind the founding of Omega Psi Phi?

The founders aimed to create a fraternity that emphasized scholarship, community service, leadership, and the upliftment of African American men during the early 20th century.

How did the backgrounds of the Omega Psi Phi founders influence the fraternity's values?

The founders, being educated African American men at Howard University, valued academic excellence, social justice, and brotherhood, which became core principles of the fraternity.

Are there any commemorations or honors for the founders of Omega Psi Phi?

Yes, Omega Psi Phi honors its founders annually through Founders' Day celebrations, memorials, and educational programs that highlight their legacy and contributions.

How has the legacy of the Omega Psi Phi founders impacted the fraternity today?

The founders' vision continues to guide Omega Psi Phi's commitment to scholarship, community service, and leadership, influencing its programs and initiatives worldwide.

Additional Resources

1. *Omega Psi Phi: The Founders and the Legacy*

This book provides an in-depth look at the four founders of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., detailing their lives, visions, and the challenges they overcame to establish one of the most storied African American fraternities. It explores the historical context of the early 20th century and how the fraternity's principles of manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift continue to influence generations. Rich with photographs and personal anecdotes, it offers a comprehensive tribute to the fraternity's origins.

2. *Founding Fathers of Omega Psi Phi: A Historical Perspective*

Focusing on the biographies of Dr. Ernest E. Just, Bishop Edgar A. Love, Dr. Oscar J. Cooper, and Frank Coleman, this book delves into their academic achievements and leadership qualities. It highlights their contributions to education and civil rights, framing their fraternity work within the larger African American struggle for equality. The narrative serves as both a history lesson and an inspiration for future leaders.

3. *The Spirit of Omega Psi Phi: Stories of the Founders*

This collection of essays and stories captures the essence of the fraternity's founding members, emphasizing their dedication to service and brotherhood. Through personal letters, speeches, and memoir excerpts, readers gain insight into the motivations that drove the founders. The book also examines how their ideals have shaped the fraternity's ongoing community impact.

4. *Brothers in Excellence: The Founders of Omega Psi Phi*

Highlighting the academic and social backgrounds of the founders, this book portrays the fraternity as a beacon of excellence and empowerment for African American men during segregation. It discusses the role of Howard University in nurturing these leaders and the fraternity's early activities that set the foundation for future growth. The work is a tribute to the educational and social aspirations of the fraternity.

5. *Legacy of Leadership: The Founders of Omega Psi Phi*

This book focuses on the leadership styles and philosophies of the Omega Psi Phi founders, illustrating how their approaches to mentorship and community engagement have endured. It provides

detailed analyses of their speeches and writings, revealing a shared vision for uplifting African American communities. The book is essential reading for those interested in leadership development within historically Black organizations.

6. *Omega Psi Phi Origins: The Founders' Vision*

Exploring the socio-political climate of the 1910s, this book contextualizes the creation of Omega Psi Phi within the broader African American experience. It details how the founders' vision was not only to create a fraternity but to build a lifelong brotherhood committed to academic achievement and social justice. The narrative is supported by archival materials and interviews with fraternity historians.

7. *Champions of Change: The Founders of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity*

This biography-driven book celebrates the founders as pioneers who challenged racial barriers through education and service. It chronicles their personal journeys and how these experiences influenced the fraternity's guiding principles. The book also discusses the fraternity's role in shaping African American leadership in the 20th century.

8. *Omega Psi Phi: Brotherhood and Beyond*

While focusing on the founders, this book also examines the fraternity's expansion and influence over the decades. It provides a detailed account of the founders' original mission and how subsequent generations have honored their legacy through activism and scholarship. Readers will find a blend of historical facts and contemporary reflections.

9. *Founders' Footsteps: The Early Days of Omega Psi Phi*

This detailed historical account traces the fraternity's beginnings, emphasizing the collaborative efforts of the founders at Howard University. It explores the challenges they faced, including institutional racism and societal obstacles, and how they established a supportive brotherhood. The book is enriched with primary sources and testimonials from early fraternity members.

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omega psi phi founders: The History of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. (an Update for the Period 1960-2008) Vernon Steve Weakley, 2009-05-01 This literary work is an update of the History of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. for the period 1960 to 2008. This book humbly takes up where Omega men Herman Dreer, Robert L. Gill and their outstanding committees stopped. This new update was officially sanctioned and commissioned by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. via the 38th Grand Basileus, the honorable Warren G. Lee, and the elected Supreme Council for the 74th Grand Conclave. This Omega History Book project will provide a clear and accurate history of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and its impact on America and African Americans in particular for the period 1960 to 2008. This new History update will serve to clearly demonstrate how Omega Psi Phi fraternity Inc. has, not only made a significant positive difference in the lives of Black people, but the entire world. It is this committee's fervent hope that this update will not only enlighten, be a beacon and shed light on our illustrious history but will also be an inspiration to young people, the general public at large and all Omega Men, past, present and future. This new update involved the comprehensive gathering of historical data on Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. from all across America and internationally for the period 1960 to the 2008. It endeavored to encompass all significant contributions, all noteworthy efforts and the resulting factual recordation of Omega Psi Phi fraternity and all Omega men who have had pertinent impact on America and Omega Dear during this period. This project was massive and took over two years to complete. The resulting final product will be a self perpetuating income generating source for Omega Psi Phi fraternity for many years to come. Please be clearly advised readers that this is an update of the previous history books written by the honorable Herman Dreer, Robert L. Gill and their committees. This book, with the exception of containing some basic historical information to enlighten a person who has no knowledge of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, will not routinely cover past historical information shown in the great works of Dreer and Gill occurring prior to this update period. The history rich period for this update has provided many interesting challenges for Omega and its members. The Founders of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity did not shrink from the task, nor did they pity themselves for being given the tremendous burden to uplift the African American race. W.E.B. DuBois' talented tenth assertion must be our rallying cry in that it crystallizes the fact that Omega men must be in the forefront in lifting the Black community to higher heights. Omega men are indeed the cream of the crop endowed with the divine gift of greatness. And, our great history and our individual and unified deeds bare witness to this fact and with that our readiness to step to the fore. Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. is filled with many great Omega men who have had significant positive impact on America during this update period. There are undeniable facts, inspiring legends, and exceptional Omega men who have accomplished great things in their districts and at the international level, as well as in their personal lives and in their gallant exploits across the nation. It is time that the world knows of our extraordinary contributions to the greatest country on earth and our proud race. We pray that this HISTORY OF OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY INC. for the period 1960 to 2008 accomplishes this goal and be a guiding light to live by and be a positive uplifting force for all that reads it.

omega psi phi founders: The Founders Gerald Curry, 2025-07-04 Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. was founded on Friday evening, November 17, 1911, in the office of biology Professor Ernest Everett Just in the Science Hall (now Thirkield Hall) at Howard University in Washington, D.C. The vision for this pioneering organization emerged from the collective ambition of three undergraduate students - Edgar Amos Love, Oscar James Cooper, and Frank Coleman - who sought to create a new kind of fraternity, one rooted in more than just social fellowship. They envisioned a brotherhood dedicated to serious intellectual pursuits, personal excellence, and tangible contributions to their

communities.

omega psi phi founders: Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, 1995*

omega psi phi founders: The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and the Men who Made Its History Robert Lewis Gill, 1963 The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity was founded in 1911 at Howard University, a university primarily attended by African Americans. .

omega psi phi founders: The Divine Nine Lawrence C. Ross, 2019-08-27 This comprehensive history of African American fraternities and sororities celebrates the spirit of Black Excellence in higher education that has produced American leaders in politics, sports, arts, and culture such as Kamala Harris, Colin Kaepernick, Michael Jordan, Thurgood Marshall, and Toni Morrison, and is sure to be a treasured resource for generations to come. America's Black fraternities and sororities are a unique and vital part of 20th century African American history, providing young black achievers with opportunities to support each other while they serve their communities and the nation. From pioneering work in the suffragette movement to extraordinary strides during the Civil Rights era to life-changing inner-city mentoring programs, members of these organizations share a proud tradition of brotherhood, sisterhood, and service. Today, America's nine black fraternities and sororities are millions of members strong with chapters at HBCUs, Ivy League Schools, and colleges across the nation including Stanford University, Howard University, and the University of Chicago.

omega psi phi founders: The Omega Psi Fraternity and the Men who Made Its History Robert Lewis Gill, 1963

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introduction that outline the story of the fraternity's founding in the context of the racial, social, political, and educational history of the period. This volume spotlights scientists Ernest E. Just and Percy Lavon Julian; civil rights lawyers Fred Gray, Oliver Hill, Spottswood Robinson, and Oscar W. Adams Jr.; sports legends Robert Lee Elder and Clarence Gaines; and musicians Count Basie, Max Roach, and Roland Hayes. Including both widely recognized and little-known individuals and featuring people who were on the front lines of the struggle for racial equality and those whose work took place behind the scenes, these volumes show the contributions of Black leaders in the areas of science, civil rights, athletics, the arts, the military, politics, education, and more. Leading Figures in the History of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. is a testament to the significance of Black Greek-letter organizations, whose members have made history through lives of struggle, accomplishment, triumph, and uplift. Contributors: Arthur Smith | Kevin C. McDonald | Marvin P. Dawkins | Theodore Walker, Jr. | Marvin Chiles | Wawaise Schmidt | Bertis D. English | Judson L. Jeffries | Jomills Henry Braddock II | Matthew Buttermann | Christopher A. Brooks | Derryn Moten

omega psi phi founders: *African Americans and the Bible* Vincent L. Wimbrush, 2012-09-01 Perhaps no other group of people has been as much formed by biblical texts and tropes as African Americans. From literature and the arts to popular culture and everyday life, the Bible courses through black society and culture like blood through veins. Despite the enormous recent interest in African American religion, relatively little attention has been paid to the diversity of ways in which African Americans have utilized the Bible. *African Americans and the Bible* is the fruit of a four-year collaborative research project directed by Vincent L. Wimbrush and funded by the Lilly Endowment. It brings together scholars and experts (sixty-eight in all) from a wide range of academic and artistic fields and disciplines--including ethnography, cultural history, and biblical studies as well as art, music, film, dance, drama, and literature. The focus is on the interaction between the people known as African Americans and that complex of visions, rhetorics, and ideologies known as the Bible. As such, the book is less about the meaning(s) of the Bible than about the Bible and meaning(s), less about the world(s) of the Bible than about how worlds and the Bible interact--in short, about how a text constructs a people and a people constructs a text. It is about a particular sociocultural formation but also about the dynamics that obtain in the interrelation between any group of people and sacred texts in general. Thus *African Americans and the Bible* provides an exemplum of sociocultural formation and a critical lens through which the process of sociocultural formation can be viewed.

omega psi phi founders: *Black Greek 101* Walter M. Kimbrough, 2023-09-12 *Black Greek 101* analyzes the customs, culture, and challenges facing historically Black fraternal organizations. The text provides a history of Black Greek organizations beyond the nine major organizations, examining the pledging practice, the growth of fraternalism outside of the mainstream organizations, the vivid culture and practices of the groups, and challenges for the future.

omega psi phi founders: *The Soul of Omega* Kyle S. Yeldell, 2021

omega psi phi founders: *Omega Psi Phi Secrets* Itty Bitnique, 2014-07-26 This collectible little history study book includes the unauthorized history of Omega Psi Phi with a COLLECTIBLE BOOK COVER. It includes information about the origin of the organization, founders, traditions, and secret college greek nomenclature.

omega psi phi founders: *The History of Omega Psi Phi* Herman Dreer, 1911

omega psi phi founders: *Ebony*, 1961-12 EBONY is the flagship magazine of Johnson Publishing. Founded in 1945 by John H. Johnson, it still maintains the highest global circulation of any African American-focused magazine.

omega psi phi founders: *Black Greek-letter Organizations in the Twenty-First Century* Gregory S. Parks, 2008-06-13 During the twentieth century, black Greek-Letter organizations (BGLOs) united college students dedicated to excellence, fostered kinship, and uplifted African Americans. Members of these organizations include remarkable and influential individuals such as Martin Luther King Jr., Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, novelist Toni Morrison, and Wall Street pioneer Reginald F. Lewis. Despite the profound influence of these groups, many now question the continuing relevance of

BGLOs, arguing that their golden age has passed. Partly because of their perceived link to hip-hop culture, black fraternities and sororities have been unfairly reduced to a media stereotype—a world of hazing without any real substance. The general public knows very little about BGLOs, and surprisingly the members themselves often do not have a thorough understanding of their history and culture or of the issues currently facing their organizations. To foster a greater engagement with the history and contributions of BGLOs, *Black Greek-Letter Organizations in the Twenty-first Century: Our Fight Has Just Begun* brings together an impressive group of authors to explore the contributions and continuing possibilities of BGLOs and their members. Editor Gregory S. Parks and the contributing authors provide historical context for the development of BGLOs, exploring their service activities as well as their relationships with other prominent African American institutions. The book examines BGLOs' responses to a number of contemporary issues, including non-black membership, homosexuality within BGLOs, and the perception of BGLOs as educated gangs. As illustrated by the organized response of BGLO members to the racial injustice they observed in Jena, Louisiana, these organizations still have a vital mission. Both internally and externally, BGLOs struggle to forge a relevant identity for the new century. Internally, these groups wrestle with many issues, including hazing, homophobia, petty intergroup competition, and the difficulty of bridging the divide between college and alumni members. Externally, BGLOs face the challenge of rededicating themselves to their communities and leading an aggressive campaign against modern forms of racism, sexism, and other types of fear-driven behavior. By embracing the history of these organizations and exploring their continuing viability and relevance, *Black Greek-Letter Organizations in the Twenty-first Century* demonstrates that BGLOs can create a positive and enduring future and that their most important work lies ahead.

omega psi phi founders: A Pledge with Purpose Gregory S. Parks, Matthew W. Hughey, 2024-02-06 Reveals the historical and political significance of “The Divine Nine”—the Black Greek Letter Organizations. In 1905, Henry Arthur Callis began his studies at Cornell University. Despite their academic pedigrees, Callis and his fellow African American students were ostracized by the majority-white student body, and so in 1906, Callis and some of his peers started the first, intercollegiate Black Greek Letter Organization (BGLO), Alpha Phi Alpha. Since their founding, BGLOs have not only served to solidify bonds among many African American college students, they have also imbued them with a sense of purpose and a commitment to racial uplift—the endeavor to help Black Americans reach socio-economic equality. *A Pledge with Purpose* explores the arc of these unique, important, and relevant social institutions. Gregory S. Parks and Matthew W. Hughey uncover how BGLOs were shaped by, and labored to transform, the changing social, political, and cultural landscape of Black America from the era of the Harlem Renaissance to the civil rights movement. Alpha Phi Alpha boasts such members as Thurgood Marshall, civil rights lawyer and US Supreme Court Justice, and Dr. Charles Wesley, noted historian and college president. Delta Sigma Theta members include Bethune-Cookman College founder Mary McLeod Bethune and women’s rights activist Dorothy Height. Huey P. Newton, co-founder of the Black Panther Party, who left an indelible mark on the civil rights movement, was a member of Phi Beta Sigma, while Dr. Mae Jemison, a celebrated engineer and astronaut, belonged to Alpha Kappa Alpha. Through such individuals, Parks and Hughey demonstrate the ways that BGLO members have long been at the forefront of innovation, activism, and scholarship. In its examination of the history of these important organizations, *A Pledge with Purpose* serves as a critical reflection of both the collective African American racial struggle and the various strategies of Black Americans in their great—and unfinished—march toward freedom and equality.

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Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, novelist Toni Morrison, and Wall Street pioneer Reginald F. Lewis. Despite the profound influence of these groups, many now question the continuing relevance of BGLOs, arguing that their golden age has passed. To foster a greater engagement with the history and contributions of BGLOs, Black Greek-Letter Organizations in the Twenty-first Century brings together an impressive group of authors to explore the contributions and continuing possibilities of BGLOs and their members. Editor Gregory S. Parks and the contributing authors provide historical context for the development of BGLOs, exploring their service activities as well as their relationships with other prominent African American institutions. Both internally and externally, BGLOs struggle to forge a relevant identity for the new century. Internally, these groups wrestle with many issues, including hazing, homophobia, petty intergroup competition, and the difficulty of bridging the divide between college and alumni members. Externally, BGLOs face the challenge of rededicating themselves to their communities and leading an aggressive campaign against modern forms of racism, sexism, and other types of fear-driven behavior. By embracing the history of these organizations and exploring their continuing viability and relevance, Black Greek-Letter Organizations in the Twenty-first Century demonstrates that BGLOs can create a positive and enduring future and that their most important work lies ahead.

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omega psi phi founders: *Encyclopedia of the Harlem Renaissance* Aberjhani, Sandra L. West, 2003 Presents articles on the period known as the Harlem Renaissance, during which African American artists, poets, writers, thinkers, and musicians flourished in Harlem, New York.

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