

omega psi phi initiation

omega psi phi initiation is a significant and revered process that marks the transition of candidates into full members of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. This historic fraternity, founded on principles of scholarship, perseverance, and uplift, has a rich legacy within the African American community and collegiate life. The initiation process is carefully structured to instill these values, promote brotherhood, and ensure candidates understand the fraternity's mission and obligations. Throughout this article, the various aspects of omega psi phi initiation will be explored, including its history, requirements, ceremonial components, and the responsibilities that new members undertake. Understanding these elements provides insight into the fraternity's culture, traditions, and the lifelong commitment expected from initiates. The following sections will guide readers through the detailed components of the omega psi phi initiation experience.

- History and Background of Omega Psi Phi
- Eligibility and Requirements for Initiation
- The Initiation Process and Ceremony
- Post-Initiation Obligations and Responsibilities
- Significance and Impact of Omega Psi Phi Membership

History and Background of Omega Psi Phi

The omega psi phi initiation process is deeply rooted in the fraternity's rich history, which dates back to its founding on November 17, 1911, at Howard University. Established by three undergraduate students and their faculty adviser, Omega Psi Phi was created to provide a supportive brotherhood with a focus on academic excellence, community service, and social uplift. The fraternity is notable for being the first historically African American fraternity founded at a historically black college or university (HBCU).

Founding Principles

The fraternity's cardinal principles—manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift—shape every aspect of the omega psi phi initiation. These ideals guide the fraternity's activities and serve as the foundation for the expectations placed on new members during the initiation process and beyond.

Legacy and Influence

Over the decades, Omega Psi Phi has cultivated a legacy of influential

members, including civil rights leaders, athletes, educators, and entertainers. The fraternity's commitment to service and leadership is reflected in its initiation practices, which prepare candidates to uphold this distinguished heritage.

Eligibility and Requirements for Initiation

Before candidates can participate in the omega psi phi initiation, they must meet specific eligibility criteria designed to ensure that prospective members are committed to the fraternity's values and capable of fulfilling their responsibilities.

Academic and Character Standards

Prospective initiates are typically required to maintain a minimum GPA, demonstrating their commitment to scholarship. Additionally, candidates must exhibit strong moral character, leadership potential, and a willingness to contribute positively to both the fraternity and their communities.

Application and Vetting Process

The candidate selection process includes submitting an application, attending interviews, and sometimes participating in educational workshops. This vetting process helps existing members evaluate the candidate's dedication and suitability for membership.

- Minimum academic requirements (varies by chapter)
- Recommendations from current members or faculty
- Demonstration of leadership and community involvement
- Agreement to adhere to fraternity codes and conduct

The Initiation Process and Ceremony

The omega psi phi initiation is a formal and structured ceremony that symbolizes the candidate's transition into fraternity brotherhood. The process is both educational and ceremonial, focusing on the imparting of fraternity knowledge and the reinforcement of core values.

Orientation and Education

Before the formal initiation, candidates undergo an orientation phase, often called “pre-initiation” or “pledging,” where they learn about the fraternity’s history, principles, and expectations. This phase includes workshops, study sessions, and community service activities designed to prepare candidates for full membership.

Ritual and Ceremony

The actual initiation ceremony is a private event conducted according to fraternity traditions. It includes symbolic rituals, oaths, and presentations that emphasize brotherhood, commitment, and the responsibilities of membership. Candidates swear to uphold the fraternity’s ideals and commit to lifelong service.

1. Candidate preparation and instruction
2. Formal presentation of fraternity history and values
3. Recitation of the fraternity oath
4. Welcoming into the brotherhood
5. Presentation of fraternity paraphernalia

Post-Initiation Obligations and Responsibilities

Once initiated, new members of Omega Psi Phi are expected to actively participate in fraternity activities and uphold its principles. The omega psi phi initiation marks not an end, but a beginning of continuous commitment.

Active Participation

New members must engage in chapter meetings, community service projects, and fraternity-sponsored events. Active involvement is essential for personal growth, networking, and contributing to the fraternity’s mission.

Leadership and Mentorship

Initiates are encouraged to develop leadership skills and mentor future candidates. This cyclical process helps sustain the fraternity’s standards and ensures the continuation of its positive impact.

Financial and Ethical Commitments

Members are required to pay dues and adhere to a code of conduct that reflects the fraternity's values. Ethical behavior and financial responsibility are critical to maintaining the fraternity's integrity and operational stability.

Significance and Impact of Omega Psi Phi Membership

The omega psi phi initiation is more than a ceremonial rite; it is a transformative experience that significantly impacts members' personal and professional lives. Membership provides access to a lifelong brotherhood that fosters support, leadership, and community involvement.

Brotherhood and Networking

Initiates join a network of brothers who provide mentorship, career opportunities, and social support. This network spans local chapters, national leadership, and global connections.

Cultural and Social Influence

Omega Psi Phi members often serve as role models and leaders within their communities. The fraternity's emphasis on uplift empowers members to contribute positively to social justice, education, and civic engagement.

- Access to leadership development programs
- Opportunities for community service and philanthropy
- Engagement in cultural events and advocacy
- Support system for academic and professional achievement

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Omega Psi Phi initiation process?

The Omega Psi Phi initiation process is a structured series of steps designed to educate and prepare candidates for membership in the fraternity, including orientation, education on the fraternity's history and values, and participation in various activities culminating in the induction ceremony.

Are there any eligibility requirements for Omega Psi Phi initiation?

Yes, candidates must typically be enrolled college students with a certain GPA, demonstrate good character, and be recommended by current members. Specific requirements can vary by chapter.

How long does the Omega Psi Phi initiation period last?

The initiation period generally lasts several weeks to a few months, depending on the chapter, during which candidates undergo education, community service, and fraternity-related activities.

Is the Omega Psi Phi initiation process secretive?

While certain aspects of the initiation are private to members to preserve tradition and fraternity integrity, the overall process focuses on brotherhood, leadership, and service, and is not intended to be secretive or harmful.

What values are emphasized during Omega Psi Phi initiation?

Initiates learn about the fraternity's cardinal principles: manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift, which guide their conduct and commitment to community service.

Can someone be disqualified during the Omega Psi Phi initiation?

Yes, candidates can be disqualified if they fail to meet the fraternity's standards for conduct, academic performance, or commitment during the initiation process.

Additional Resources

1. Omega Psi Phi: The Journey Begins

This book offers an in-depth look into the history and traditions of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. It provides prospective initiates with a comprehensive overview of the fraternity's founding principles and the significance of its rituals. Readers gain insight into the brotherhood's commitment to scholarship, perseverance, and uplift.

2. Initiation and Brotherhood: Inside Omega Psi Phi

A detailed guide focusing on the initiation process of Omega Psi Phi, this book demystifies the steps and ceremonies involved. It also highlights the values and responsibilities that new members must uphold. The narrative fosters understanding of the fraternity's emphasis on integrity and lifelong commitment.

3. The Omega Psi Phi Manual of Rituals and Traditions

This manual serves as an essential resource for new members and brothers alike, outlining the fraternity's rituals, symbols, and traditions. It

explains the meaning behind various ceremonies and how they contribute to the fraternity's strong identity. The book is both a historical archive and a practical guide.

4. *Brotherhood and Beyond: Stories from Omega Psi Phi Initiates*

A collection of personal stories and testimonials from Omega Psi Phi initiates, this book captures the emotional and transformative experiences of joining the fraternity. It emphasizes the personal growth, challenges, and lifelong bonds formed during initiation. Readers gain a heartfelt perspective on what it means to be an Omega man.

5. *Principles of Omega Psi Phi: A Guide for New Members*

Designed as an introductory text, this book focuses on the cardinal principles of Omega Psi Phi: Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift. It provides practical advice for new initiates on how to embody these values in daily life. The book also discusses the fraternity's impact on community service and leadership development.

6. *Omega Psi Phi: A Legacy of Leadership*

Exploring the fraternity's rich history of leadership, this book profiles notable members and their contributions to society. It connects the initiation experience with the broader mission of cultivating leaders who serve their communities. The text inspires new initiates to embrace leadership roles within and beyond the fraternity.

7. *The Code of Omega Psi Phi: Ethics and Expectations*

This book outlines the ethical standards and behavioral expectations set for Omega Psi Phi members. It highlights the importance of accountability, respect, and loyalty during and after initiation. The guide serves as a moral compass for brothers striving to uphold the fraternity's reputation.

8. *Omega Psi Phi: Rituals, Symbols, and Significance*

Focusing on the symbolic elements of Omega Psi Phi's initiation, this book explains the origins and meanings behind the fraternity's colors, emblems, and ceremonies. It offers a scholarly perspective on how these symbols reinforce the fraternity's identity and unity. The text is valuable for both new initiates and long-standing members.

9. *The Path to Omega Psi Phi: Preparing for Initiation*

This preparatory guide helps prospective members navigate the physical, mental, and emotional challenges of Omega Psi Phi initiation. It includes tips for success, common obstacles, and advice from experienced brothers. The book aims to equip candidates with the knowledge and confidence needed to complete the process honorably.

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entertainment news.

omega psi phi initiation: *Leading Figures in the History of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.* Judson L. Jeffries, 2025-02-04 Highlighting 21 members of this illustrious historically Black fraternity Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., was founded in 1911 at Howard University to cultivate and nurture a generation of leaders who would work toward racial uplift and influence American society. In an unprecedented two volumes, Judson Jeffries brings together original works on 21 of the fraternity's accomplished and influential members. Written by a diverse group of scholars, these profiles highlight the national importance of these figures in their chosen fields of endeavor, as well as the enormous impact of this great fraternity. In volume 1, Jeffries presents a prologue and 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 initiation: *Black Haze, Second Edition* Ricky L. Jones, 2015-06-27 Expanded and revised edition of the first book devoted solely to black fraternity hazing. Are black men naturally violent? Do they define manhood in the same way as their counterparts across lines of race? Are black Greek-letter fraternities among the most dangerous student organizations on American college and university campuses? Can their often-dangerous initiation processes be stopped or even modified and, if not, what should be done about them? In this second edition of *Black Haze*, Ricky L. Jones takes on these questions and more. The first edition was an enlightening and sometimes disturbing examination of American men's quest for acceptance, comfort, reaffirmation, and manhood in a world where their footing is often unstable. In this new edition Jones not only provides masterful philosophical and ethical analyses but he also forces the engagement of a terrifying real world process that damages and kills students with all too frequent regularity. With a revealing new preface and stunning afterword, Jones immerses the reader in an intriguing and dark world marked by hypermasculinity, unapologetic brutality, and sometimes death. He offers a compelling book that ranges well beyond the subject of hazing—one that yields perplexing questions and demands difficult choices as we move forward in addressing issues surrounding fraternities, violent hazing, black men, and American society. *Black Haze* is a landmark study on hazing culture within black Greek-letter organizations. With an insider's eye and scholar's touch, Jones masterfully captures the emic contours, complexities, and contradictions of black fraternity hazing as ritual act and cultural practice. This text is at once rigorous and accessible, theoretical and practical, classic and urgent. Anyone interested in understanding hazing, masculinity, BGLOs, or black cultural practice must read this book! — Marc Lamont Hill, coauthor of *The Classroom and the Cell: Conversations on Black Life in America* *Black Haze* is a compelling survey of black Greek-letter organizations, their history, purpose, and their most damning traditions. This is an examination of how the virtues of brotherhood and civic service coexist with brutal violence and cruelty within some of the oldest organizations in black America. Professor Jones has produced a vital contribution about a crucial and enduring problem. — William Jelani Cobb, author of *The Substance of Hope: Barack Obama and the Paradox of Progress* *Ricky Jones's Black Haze* is an important study of black male identity development. By examining black men's relationship with fraternities, he uncovers larger and brilliantly penetrating insights into issues of masculinity and

political identity among African American males in the post-civil rights era. □ □ Peniel E. Joseph, author of *Waiting 'Til the Midnight Hour: A Narrative History of Black Power in America* □ *Black Haze* is a riveting coup de grâce against ritualized violence in black fraternities. The second edition of *Black Haze* is the most penetrating, illuminating, and articulate sociopolitical and cultural analysis of the chilling legacy of violence in black Greek-letter fraternities. As one of the world's leading authorities on black masculinity and organizations, Ricky Jones intelligently confronts traditional verities, social norms, and myths that seek to justify and continue ritualized violence in black fraternities through the courageous prism of a reformed insider dedicated to the preservation of black dignity and life. □ □ Jeremy I. Levitt, author of *Black Women and International Law: Deliberate Interactions, Movements and Actions Praise for the First Edition* □ provides valuable insights into the reasoning behind hazing, a practice that extends into the realms of sports and even high school, and is relevant for not only fraternity members and officials, but the general public as well. □ □ *The Griot* □ an important contribution because of the skillful manner in which Jones incorporates and critically analyzes relevant literature and other related scholarly writings Jones, himself a member of Kappa Alpha Psi, offers personal observations as well as first-hand views and perceptions of hazing. □ □ *Journal of College Student Development*

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omega psi phi initiation: *Xi Psi Phi Quarterly* , 1909

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omega psi phi initiation: *When the Air Comes out of the Ball* Jr Inman, 2012-11-27 To some sports is just a hobby. To others, it is a way of life. Athletics have become a primary component of American culture, as well as other cultures throughout the entire world. It provides principles of work ethic, leadership, teamwork, and unity. For the most part, fans cant help but appreciate the blood, sweat, and tears athletes shed during competition. Spectators should value the dedication that enables elite athletes to perform at high levels. Although championships can be fun to watch, one thing both athletes and fans should understand is that sports dont last forever. Seventy-eight percent of all former NFL players and 60 percent of all retired NBA players face bankruptcy or financial hardship within five years after retirement. The reason for these horrid statistics results from a number of different factors. The most common problem retired players face is their failure to develop a plan that will promote prosperity after they have played their last game. *When the Air Comes Out of the Ball* is an inspirational autobiography written by Gerald H. Inman, Jr. It serves to educate readers about both the glamour and rigor of professional sports. This will inspire young people to perceive and utilize their gifts as a window of opportunity to make their wildest dreams become reality.

omega psi phi initiation: *African American Fraternities and Sororities* Tamara L. Brown, Gregory S. Parks, Clarendia M. Phillips, 2012-02-29 The rich history and social significance of the "Divine Nine" African American Greek-letter organizations is explored in this comprehensive anthology. In the long tradition of African American benevolent and secret societies, intercollegiate African American fraternities and sororities have strong traditions of fostering brotherhood and sisterhood among their members, exerting considerable influence in the African American community and being in the forefront of civic action, community service, and philanthropy. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Toni Morrison, Arthur Ashe, and Sarah Vaughn are just a few of the trailblazing members of these organizations. *African American Fraternities and Sororities* places the history of these organizations in context, linking them to other movements and organizations that predated them and tying their history to the Civil Rights movement. It explores various cultural aspects of the organizations, such as auxiliary groups, branding, calls, and stepping, and highlights

the unique role of African American sororities.

omega psi phi initiation: Bigger Secrets William Poundstone, 1987-11 Cultural sleuth William Poundstone tells the secret recipe for oysters Rockefeller; the location of the federal government's underground bunker for use in a nuclear war; the phone company's own unlisted numbers; and more than a hundred other secrets.

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omega psi phi initiation: In the Beginning Valvier Latease Harris Bright, 2021-02-24 In the Beginning By: Valvier Latease Harris Bright In the Beginning follows the memoirs of an African American BabyBoomer as she shares colorful memories while tying it to a larger context of her ancestral research into her European Harris and Stokely lineages. Historical connections are made through narrative story telling that brings into vivid light a period in the South that describes family, culture, color, race, religion, economics, opportunities, disadvantages and more. Valvier Latease Harris Bright details her life from childhood to adulthood, from Knoxville, Tennessee to Montgomery, Alabama. Many from both the North and the South, black or white, who were born in the forties through the sixties, will recognize similar experiences and cultural touchstones including segregation and the civil rights movement. Bright chronicles her personal journey from childhood relationships through marriage, childbirth and the death of both parents that transcends all ages. It is an inspiring, provocative and endearing journey. She has crafted well, a compelling and sensitive story descriptive of life for many, no matter what city or state! Her account of the meaningful journey travelled while in Montgomery was so nostalgic for those of us who encountered and can recall places, events and moments in time so vividly painted through her words. -Sheyann Webb Christburg Civil Rights Activist and Co-author, Selma, Lord, Selma The telling of family history is sacred, in that it honors those who have come before and keeps them alive for those who will follow. Valvier Bright's reverent exploration of her own life story and family roots, range across multiple states, countries, and continents and lovingly paints a portrait that will enrich any reader. - Horace Randall Williams Editor and Author, Montgomery, Alabama

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omega psi phi initiation: The Legend of the Black Mecca Maurice J. Hobson, 2017-10-03 For more than a century, the city of Atlanta has been associated with black achievement in education, business, politics, media, and music, earning it the nickname "the black Mecca." Atlanta's long tradition of black education dates back to Reconstruction, and produced an elite that flourished in spite of Jim Crow, rose to leadership during the civil rights movement, and then took power in the 1970s by building a coalition between white progressives, business interests, and black Atlantans. But as Maurice J. Hobson demonstrates, Atlanta's political leadership — from the election of Maynard Jackson, Atlanta's first black mayor, through the city's hosting of the 1996 Olympic Games — has consistently mishandled the black poor. Drawn from vivid primary sources and unnerving oral histories of working-class city-dwellers and hip-hop artists from Atlanta's underbelly, Hobson argues that Atlanta's political leadership has governed by bargaining with white business interests to the detriment of ordinary black Atlantans. In telling this history through the prism of the black New South and Atlanta politics, policy, and pop culture, Hobson portrays a striking schism between the black political elite and poor city-dwellers, complicating the long-held view of Atlanta as a mecca for black people.

omega psi phi initiation: Before You Pledge: Essential Information You Should Know About the Divine Nine Dr. Michael J. R. Winfield, Before You Pledge: Essential Information You Should Know About the Divine Nine is an important read for all those considering joining a Black Greek Letter Organization or for anyone wanting to simply learn about the origin of this august body of black men and women. The dawn of the twentieth century brought many challenges to young African American students seeking enrollment at all-white college campuses. Intense racial prejudice forced many black students to leave predominantly white universities. And at the same

time, on Historically Black College campuses, the desire for fellowship through shared social experiences led to the rise of Black Greek life, starting with Cornell University in New York. Alpha Phi Alpha, the first black fraternity formed at a predominantly white university in 1906, would point the way for similar organizations to develop. Between 1906 and 1922, eight Black Greek Letter Organizations were formed, with a ninth in 1963. Known collectively as the "Divine Nine," these five fraternities and four sororities would go on to shape the course of Black America. Together, these young black men and women would face down racial prejudice, take the lead in the fight for social justice, in the end, reshape the American cultural landscape. Finally, no other group of people can claim to have the sheer degree of accomplishments in all areas of human activity in the United States and in many other parts of the world compared to the Divine Nine.

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omega psi phi initiation: The Cruzan E. Audain Naughton, 2023-10-03 This book shows the ongoing effects of racism in the United States. It shares the journey of one man victimized by the systemic injustices of bigotry. *The Cruzan: A Melanated Man in America* chronicles the life of a Black man in this republic, a man in the Land of the Free always having to focus on the Latin words *fidem, patientiam, operatur!* Yes, faith and perseverance delivered him from the vicious cycle of prejudice and discrimination!

omega psi phi initiation: *The Architect (PB)* R. J. Linteau, 2021-01-21 *The Architect (PB)* By: R.J. Linteau Young architect Connor Jones West is about to graduate magna cum laude from Harvard's prestigious Graduate School of Design. He has been offered his dream job in Chicago by the nationally known firm of Nolan, Jefferson, and Marlow. Recently commissioned to design the cities' biggest multi-use skyscraper, the firm adds the talented West to bolster its design prowess, one dulled by years of tired municipal work. West is thrilled at the opportunity but soon discovers that the glittering façade of big-time corporate architecture masks a tottering, corrupt foundation. An unprincipled and shameless developer, mobsters vowing revenge upon the project and its owner, bitter and vicious office rivalries, a forbidden romance, and endless hours of hard work conspire to destroy young Connor as he is caught in a maze of difficult decisions, challenges and trials. Determined to live the life he dreams of without sacrificing his ethics and morals, his exceptional talent, or the love of his life, *The Architect* takes you on a fast-paced look at the world of architecture and urban development, through the complex lens of self-realization, tragedy and humanity.

omega psi phi initiation: *Ohio State University Bulletin* , 1921

omega psi phi initiation: *Through the Walls: Without Any Doubting or Quiddit* Dr. Diran L. Cowell, 2020-07-09 *Through the Walls: Without Any Doubting or Quiddit* By: Dr. Diran L. Cowell About the Author Dr. Cowell was born in Portsmouth, Virginia to a teenaged mother. He is the oldest of her children but the third oldest to his father's children. Biologically, he has five siblings. Through marriage, he has two step-siblings. Dr. Cowell grew up in various cities in Tidewater, Virginia. In Norfolk, he completed grades kindergarten through seventh grade. From eighth through part of his 11th grade years, he grew up in Chesapeake. Dr. Cowell graduated from high school and attended community college in Suffolk. At the age of six, he was diagnosed with a speech impediment and struggled academically due to his disability and other precipitating factors, which included domestic violence, family alcohol and drug use, and poverty. Although these circumstances impacted him, Dr. Cowell was able to excel in football and weightlifting, which earned him an opportunity to play college football at Virginia Union University on a full scholarship. In 2001, he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology. He immediately began a career in social work and residential youth counseling. Dr. Cowell enthusiastically served as a life coach, mentor, and tutor to students with emotional and behavior disorders, learning disabilities, and attention deficits. Through that experience, he became passionate about special education and earned a Master of Arts degree in Education with a concentration in Curriculum and Instruction from Central Michigan University in 2004. In 2005, he began his teaching career as a special education teacher and football coach in

Hanover County Public Schools, where he was recognized as the Beginning Teacher of the Year. In 2007, Dr. Cowell earned his first teaching endorsement in Emotional Disturbance through Virginia Commonwealth University. His passion for education had increased tremendously, which led to him earning a Doctorate in Education with a concentration in K-12 Educational Leadership from Argosy University in 2012. His dissertation was entitled, "How Organized School Sports Impacts the Organization and Time Management Skills of ADHD Students with Executive Functioning Weaknesses." This research motivated Dr. Cowell to investigate the controversy of how interscholastic athletics may deter or enhance the student achievement of pupils with academic challenges and how valuable educators are in helping student athletes achieve their academic goals. In 2014, he completed his post-graduate certificate in Educational Administration and Supervision from The George Washington University. In the state of Virginia, he is licensed as a special education teacher and administrator. Currently, Dr. Cowell works in Northern Virginia as an educator, mentor, and coach. His motto is "DILIGENCE, PERSEVERANCE, and CONFIDENCE generates SUCCESS!" Through respecting authority will encourage self-discipline which fosters tremendous work ethics to build self-assurance and lead to success. Dr. Cowell's accomplishment in being the first in his immediate family to earn a college degree has pinned him as a proponent of breaking the cycle. He is a life-long learner and instructional leader who is passionate about closing the achievement gap and serving as a change agent and barrier combating the school to prison pipeline theory.

omega psi phi initiation: Breaching Jericho's Walls Allen B. Ballard, 2011-03-01 A rich narrative recounting the life story of award-winning African American historian and novelist Allen B. Ballard, *Breaching Jericho's Walls* takes its readers on an exciting journey from a segregated Philadelphia community in the 1930s to mid-century Paris, Moscow, Cambridge, and Manhattan. The author reflects on his own pioneering role as he expands his horizons, as one of the first African American students at Ohio's Kenyon College, studying abroad in France and sharing a café table with Richard Wright and James Baldwin, serving in the military in the American South and attending graduate school at Harvard University. Becoming one of the nation's first black Russian specialists, Ballard studies in post-Stalinist Russia for a year, where, among other adventures, he spends a month with Michael Gorbachev and his wife, Raisa, on a Soviet farm. Though he tells his own personal story within *Breaching Jericho's Walls*, Ballard also portrays the experiences of those northern African-Americans whose generations bridged the gap from the legacy of slavery to the breakdown of the segregated system in the 1950s and 1960s while revealing the crucial role that individuals like civil rights leader Paul Robeson, Olympic athletes Jesse Owens and Long John Woodruff, and scholar Alain Locke played in inspiring the hopes of an oppressed and downtrodden race. A memoir filled with entertaining anecdotes and insightful reflection, *Breaching Jericho's Walls* offers Ballard's compelling personal story and reveals how, brick by brick, African Americans built the road that led to the election of President Obama in 2008.

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College student, 20, pledging Omega Psi Phi fraternity dies after an off-campus hazing ritual (Yahoo7mon) Caleb Wilson during a performance with Southern University's 'Human Jukebox' Marching Band. (Photo credit: WAFB) Southern University junior Caleb Wilson was pronounced dead on Thursday, February 27,

College student, 20, pledging Omega Psi Phi fraternity dies after an off-campus hazing ritual (Yahoo7mon) Caleb Wilson during a performance with Southern University's 'Human Jukebox' Marching Band. (Photo credit: WAFB) Southern University junior Caleb Wilson was pronounced dead on Thursday, February 27,

Omega Psi Phi Breaks Silence After HBCU Scholar Dies From Hazing Ritual at Southern University (The Root7mon) Southern University, located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, has officially suspended all fraternity and sorority activities after the sudden death of a student. Last week, Caleb Wilson — a 20-year-old

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