

James Joyner

Greek Organization

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc

Bio

I was born and raised on the eastern coast of North Carolina on a farm in a small town called Ahoskie (Pop. 10,000). We were a family with two girls and six boys. I attended college at North Carolina A&T State University with a degree in accounting in 1974. I worked in governmental accounting, cost accounting, financial reporting, payroll, accounts payables and receivables, auditing, budgeting and asset accounting. I worked at the university, AT&T for 5 years, Ciba-Geigy Corp 10 Years, Mitsubishi Motor Mfg. NA 25 years, State Farm 14 years. I retired from Mitsubishi Motor NA in April 2013. I retired from State Farm April 2014.

My wife's name is Brenda and we have six children – Preston, Letisha, Roderick, Regina, Rosalind (triplets) and Tameka. We have 16 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren. We lived in Greensboro, North Carolina for 17 years and were transferred to Bloomington, Illinois in January 1979.

Leadership Roles:

- Several of my job positions were in management
- Chairman of the Deacon Board at church (Loving Missionary Baptist Church)
- Minister of Music at church
- Choir director
- Treasurer at church
- Benevolent Treasurer
- Coordinate several ministries
- Executive Board for MLK Jr. National Celebration at Illinois Wesleyan University (25 years)
- Coordinate the gospel segment for the Annual Cultural Festival, Inc. (34th year)
- 100 Black Men of Central Illinois (mentoring)
- Promise Council (local school districts)

- A Master Toastmaster in Central Illinois (teach youth communication and leadership skills) Two 8 week classes, Metcalf School (6th & 7th Graders), ISU Health Education Juniors & Seniors. Also present annually in Fairbury, IL.
- Leadership McLean County Graduate (community involvement – chamber of commerce) Class of 1997 graduate.
- 2007 Recipient of the Bloomington Human Relations Award
- State Representative, 88th District, Dan Brady Citizen Award (volunteerism)
- Bloomington/Normal Juneteenth Committee Member
- Mentoring and Providing Scholarships (M.A.P.S.) Facilitator
- Member of the Executive Board of Mentoring and Providing Scholarships
- Volunteers on a three-person team to provide African American History to two classes at ISU annually.
- Judge Miss Juneteenth Pageant

In Sigma

- Past President of Kappa Mu Sigma Chapter
- Coordinator Sigma Beta Club (Youth Auxiliary of Kappa Mu Sigma)
- Judge (3 years) Miss Black ISU Pageant
- Illinois State Treasurer
- 2011 State Director's Award for Leadership
- 2014 Illinois Sigma Man of the Year Award
- Last 14 years – attended each conclave, state meeting and missed one regional meeting.
- Quarterly prepared breakfast at Home Sweet Home Mission for residents
- Coordinator Adopt-A-Highway Project once a quarter
- PSA on WXRJ Radio
- Coordinate the Devine Nine Tailgate Celebration for Illinois State Homecoming (9 years)
- BANSAGO Project – Thanksgiving and Christmas (dinners for 30 families in housing project each holiday).
- Mentor at Glenn Elementary School (3rd, 4th and 5th grade boys).
- Epsilon Chi Advisor (PBS Undergrad chapter at ISU)

- Advisor of the Year (ISU)
- Sigma Beta Club Coordinator

Other Community Activities

- Volunteers on the Executive Board at Mid Central Community Action (MCCA). Finance Committee.
- Charter Member of the National Pan Hellenic Council (NPHC) of Central Illinois

My motto in life: “If I can help somebody as I pass along, then my living will not be in vain”.