



History of Gamma Epsilon Boulé

The Beginning

Gamma Epsilon Boulé (Sacramento) was chartered as the 74th Boulé of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity. The initial local work of forming the Boulé in Sacramento was begun by Gary Ransom, along with Eugene Spencer Jr. They met twice at Eugene Spencer's office to discuss the idea. They also developed a list of potential members. The third "formation meeting" for the Gamma Epsilon Boulé was held at Archon Eugene Spencer's home. This was followed by a fourth meeting at the home of John Hudson. This meeting was the so called "organizational meeting". With the assistance of Benjamin Majors, of Alpha Gamma Boulé of Oakland/Berkeley, (Gamma Epsilon's sponsoring Boulé) John Hudson helped to finalize the new members list. Ransom, Spencer and Hudson invited local physicians, educators, retired military men, attorneys and businessmen to join. Archon Hudson continued the work of establishing Gamma Epsilon Boulé and according to Archon John Norton of San Francisco's Alpha Gamma, and Willie Bell of Gamma Epsilon, Hudson provided the due diligence necessary to ensure that the application process was completed in a timely manner. Hudson received a total of fifteen applications and submitted them to the Grand Boulé in New York. Fourteen applications were approved by the Grand Boulé. Along with the approval, there were instructions on the formation of a local member boulé, how to select officers and set a date for the induction, as well as how to collect and send the application fees to the Grand, and select a hotel for the induction ceremony. Grand Sire Archon Robert V. Franklin attended the chartering ceremony on July 7, 1984 at the Red Lion Inn, Sacramento.

The history of Gamma Epsilon, as chronicled by Past Grand Sire Archon Rodney J. Reed

A Grand Journey: The History of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity 904-2010, page 445 "

"Gamma Epsilon Boulé, in Sacramento, California, was next set apart, on July 7, 1984. It is noteworthy that the efforts of Archons from Alpha Gamma were influential in establishing this new member boulé. Its charter class consisted of Sire Archon John Wesley Hudson, Grammateus Randolph Cooke, Thesauristes James Dillard Martin Jr., Grapter Alfred Travis, Leading Archon

Eugene Spencer Jr., Lecturing Archon John Leroy Spencer, Willie Alexander Bell, John M. Carson, Fester Collon, Louis J. Johnson, Raymond LaSure, Gary E. Ransom, Eugene D, Stevenson Sr., and Willie Bell.”

Gamma Epsilon’s first Sire Archon John Wesley Hudson, M.D. , had years earlier, started a pediatrics practice in 1965, serving multi-ethnic and needy patients, in South Sacramento. Sire Archon Hudson wrote a letter on July 27, 1984 to the Grand Sire Archon stating that Gamma Epsilon had completed its chartering ceremony. The list of charter members included the following: Grammateus, Randolph Cooke, Thesauristes, James Dillard Martin Jr., Grapter, Alfred Travis, Leading Archon Eugene Spencer Jr., Leading Archon John Leroy Spencer, Willie Bell, John Carson, Fester Collins, Louis Johnson, Raymond LaSure, Gary Ransom, Eugene Stevenson Sr, and James Thomas, a total of fourteen charter members.

Membership

Gamma Epsilon continues to attract men of distinction and its current active membership totals thirty-nine. Three new Archons were inducted into the membership in September 2018. The membership of Gamma Epsilon represents a variety of professions including: medicine, dentistry, law, architecture, engineering, real estate development, education, business executives, attorneys and politicians. The first African American Chancellor of the University of California, Davis is a member. The first African American Mayor of Sacramento, is also a member.

Activities

Gamma Epsilon has not only been active locally, but it is also active regionally and on a national level. Gamma Epsilon hosted the 5th Pacific Regional Boulé in 1989. This successful meeting ended with the traditional exquisite brunch held at the home of Archon Dr. Eugene Spencer Jr. The 2006 Gamma Epsilon summer event was held on September 9, 2006 at an African-American owned winery and was attended by Grand Sire Archon Cornell Moore and Archousa Wenda Moore.

Gamma Epsilon sponsored the charter of the Epsilon Eta Boule’ of Stockton and conducted the induction ceremony, which was attended by Grand Sire Archon Robert L. Harris and Grand Sire Archon-Elect Rodney Reed in Stockton on May 3, 2009.

Gamma Epsilon sponsored the joint Alpha event with Northern California Member Boulés in 2012 as well as hosting the 17th Biennial Boulé Convention (2013 Pacific Regional).

Like many Boulé Gamma Epsilon is developing strategies for increasing its support for social, educational and economic assistance for African American youth. Archons have participated in reading programs at local schools much to the delight of the students. In 2003, Gamma Epsilon gave its first \$10,000 donation to St. Hope Academy, which was founded by Sacramento native, and NBA great (former Mayor) Kevin Johnson, who later was inducted into Gamma Epsilon. St. Hope, which was founded in 1989, consists of a charter school and an after school program. It is located in the Oak Park, an underserved neighborhood of South Sacramento.

Gamma Epsilon is one of the sponsors of a successful student, academic and athletic program that was founded by Archon Wornel Simpson in the summer of 2009. Archon Simpson coaches “Team Sage”, an extra-curricular basketball team of African American young men who are required to maintain a “B” average or better in the classroom. These student athletes have competed on a national level. Their success was recently recognized on an international level by an article published in the Malaysian Times. In the summer of 2010, not only did the team score well in academically, with an average GPA of 3.8, they also won the Western Regional Basketball Tournament. Team Sage continues to mentor successful student athletes.

Gamma Epsilon is also active in community health issues. Archon Darryl Hunter and Archon Michael Keeley started The Prostate Cancer Symposiums which began in 2007 at the St. Paul Baptist Church, then in 2008, moved to the Antioch Baptist Church and in 2009, moved to the Sacramento Urban League center and later to Oak Park Community Center. The event continues under the leadership of Archon Hunter. Archons Shelton Duruisseau and Michael Keeley have served as chairman of the Prostate Cancer Symposium in the past. Archon Hunter has worked very hard to make this annual event even larger by continuing the partnership of the Boulé with the Capital Medical Society (a chapter of the National Medical Association), the University of California Davis Medical Center, and the local Cancer Society.

The social activities of the Boulé consist of our annual Christmas gala, spring and summer events, as well as an early spring mixer. Gamma Epsilon has in the past’ hosted a Family Day.

The first Family Day, held in 1988 was titled “A Family Affair” and was held at the home of Archon Eugene Spencer Jr. Over the years this family mixer has resulted in a number of lifelong friendships and even resulted in marriages. Archon Ralph Aldredge hosted the 2003 Family Day and a few college students discovered that they would be attending the same universities in the fall! Prior to 2001, the general business monthly meetings were sponsored by individual Archons and held at their private residences, but now such meetings are sponsored by the Boulé and held at commercial venues. A round of golf would often precede meetings in the past and the members would have enough time to change clothing as business attire was and remains the order of the day, for all business meetings.

Appointments and recognition

On July 15, 2010 Grand Sire Archon Rodney Reed appointed three Archons of Gamma Epsilon Boulé to three Grand Boulé committees for the 2010-2012 bienniums.

- Archon Edward A. Phillips was appointed to the Elections Committee.
- Archon Eugene Spencer Jr. was appointed to the Audit Committee.
- Archon E. Dotson Wilson was appointed to the Public Policy Committee.
- Archon Melvin Ramey, now deceased, was appointed to the Math and Science Council by the Grand Sire Archon in 2010.

As of 2019, Archons Jahmal Miller, Nathan Cox, Ralph Aldredge, John Douglass, and Tommy Ross all have been appointed to National committees at the Grand Boulé level

- Past Sire Archon Michael Keeley is currently a candidate for Regional Sire Archon.

The election is to be held at this year’s regional conference in October of 2019.

One of our Archons, Julius Cherry, was inducted at the Centennial Grand Boulé in Philadelphia in 2004.

In July of 2010, at the Grand Boulé national meeting in Las Vegas, Archon Dotson Wilson received the Distinguished Service Award. Archon Wilson was one of only three Grammatei among the one hundred and twenty five, to receive this honor.

Archon Wilson continues his duties as Gamma Epsilon’s award winning Grammateus. He has been Grammateus for over 14 years. Archon Wilson is the first African American to serve as Chief Clerk and Parliamentarian of the California Legislature.

He has used his broad experience and skills to serve as consultant and advisor to a total of 8 past Sire Archons of Gamma Epsilon. In his capacity, he helps provide-organization, information and focus to our group.

Officers

The historical list of Sire Archons of Gamma Epsilon Boulé:

1984-1986	John W. Hudson
1986-1988	Willie A. Bell
1988-1990	Eugene Spencer
1990-1992	Eugene Stevenson
1992-1994	John Spencer
1994-1996	Clifton A. Lamb
1996-1998	James D. Martin
1998-2000	Edward A. Phillips
2000-2002	Robin T. Wilson
2002-2004	Ira Joyner
2004-2006	Melvin Ramey
2006-2008	A. Tyrone Glover
2008-2010	Allen W. Warren
2010-2012	Ralph C. Aldredge, III
2012-2014	Kevin Mitchell
2014-2016	Michael Keeley
2016-2018	Shelton Duruisseau
2019	Harold Jackson

The officers of Gamma Epsilon for 2010, 2011 were Sire-Archon Ralph Aldredge III, Grammateus E. Dotson Wilson, Thesauristes Nathan Cox, Grapter Archie K. James, Rhetoricos Mark Harris, and Agogos Gary Ransom.

The officers of Gamma Epsilon for 2019- 2020 are Sire Archon Harold Jackson, Sire Archon-elect Nathan Cox, Grammateus E. Dotson Wilson, Thesauristes Gary Strong, Grapter Archie K.

James, Rhetoricos Walter Robinson and Agogos Marvin Speed. The Immediate-Past Sire Archon, Shelton Duruisseau, is a member of Gamma Epsilon's Executive Committee.

Summary

As evidenced by this brief history, Gamma Epsilon Boulé is proud of its beginning and its past. The Boulé, under the guidance of its officers locally, regionally and nationally, will continue to make the effort to be a relevant and active member of our community.

It is toward this end that, under the leadership of Sire Archon Duruisseau in 2017, Gamma Epsilon established the Gamma Epsilon Foundation in order to help provide scholarships for the youth of the Sacramento region. Gamma Epsilon held its first fund raiser chaired by Archon James Jordan, in the summer of 2018 and raised nearly a total of \$20,000. Gamma Epsilon owes a debt of gratitude to all of its Archons and especially the Archousai who helped make our initial Foundation fundraiser such a successful event.

(Original history provided by Archon A. Tyrone Glover, Grammateus, Gamma Epsilon 2002-2003). Thanks to assistance from Archons Gary Ransom, Eugene Spencer, Willie Bell, of Gamma Epsilon Boulé. Also Thanks to Archons Rodney Reed and John Norton of Alpha Gamma Boulé.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Archon Archie K. James,
Grapter, Gamma Epsilon 2010-2019

3/4/2019