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## Spotlight on Que: Brother Vermell Emerson Hill

By Jeffrey T. Smith

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Brother Hill is an Omega man with purpose, passion, and promise. He has a leader's presence when he walks in the room, fraternizes with Brothers, sits at the boardroom table, or engages in service projects. Hill is a spiritual man, conscientious, smart, motivated, results oriented, and community focused; His entrepreneur mindset and acumen are respected talents in the fraternity and beyond. Brother Hill models the way for the four cardinal principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift, and he greets friends and strangers equally with a huge smile and firm handshake. Here is a brief segment of Brother Hill's story.

Brother Hill was born in Oakland, CA and raised in the Montbello community of Denver.

His K-12 education was in the Denver Public Schools, graduating from Montbello High School in 1999. He was the captain of the school's speech team and lettered in Academics. Hill is the youngest of four children; he has three older brothers, Curtis Johnson, Christopher Johnson, and Danial Robinson. Brother Hill's mother is Mrs. Dorothy Emerson whom I had the pleasure of sitting with during an Achievement Week luncheon. His father, Joshua Hill is deceased. Brother Hill is a widower; he was married to Charlena for four years.



Brother Hill was initiated into Chi Phi Chapter on December 11, 2013 as a 'Tre Tail' on a line of three, The Geek Squad (Brothers Ashley Pickens and Jovan Melton). Hill has been putting in the work from the beginning of his Omega journey working on various committees and projects. They include: Chapter BBQ; Chi Phi University; Downing Street Clean-up; Social Action projects; Bruce Randolph Thanksgiving Food packing and giveaway; Pancake Breakfast fundraiser; MLK Parade; Paint-a-thon; Rites of Passage & OLA; and, Achievement Week. Hill chaired the Achievement Week Program which featured several noteworthy activities: Veterans Outreach; Monday Night Football game night; Take a Brother to Lunch; Call a Brother Challenge; Omega Sweetheart date night; Founders' Observance; and, an Achievement Week luncheon. Brother Hill was recognized for his service to others with three Chapter Service Awards and one Basileus Award.

Brother Hill has held the following leadership positions in Chi Phi Chapter: Vice-Basileus (2 terms, 2017-2019) and Keeper of Finance (2 terms, 2015-2017). He was the vendor coordinator as part of the planning team for the 70th Annual 8th District Meeting in Denver (2019). During Hill's terms of office, Chi Phi Chapter achieved two 8th District Chapter of the Year awards, one 8th District Social Action Chapter of the Year award and three 8th District Reclamation and Retention awards through the chairman, Brother Chris Gantz, Jr.

Additionally, Brother Hill serves as Vice Chairman and Secretary of the Board of the Clarence F. Holmes/Omega Psi Phi Scholarship Foundation, an organization that funds scholarship opportunities for young men of color. He worked the 2018 golf tournament and is a member on the scholarship selection committee.

Brother Hill's aspiration for Chi Phi is for the chapter to uphold the traditions and continue to grow its reputation in the State and District; he believes the chapter should work in areas of service beyond the mandated programs. In Omega, Hill hopes Brothers emphasize 'friendship' in all aspects and all things done in the name of the fraternity. Brother Hill aspires to lead at the district level.

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## Spotlight on Que: Brother Vermell Emerson Hill - Continued

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Brother Hill attended Colorado State University and graduated from Metropolitan State University of Denver with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nonprofit Business Development, 2011. He has a Master of Science degree from Colorado Technical University in Computer Science, 2014. As an undergraduate, Brother Hill received unique opportunities to serve and get involved. He received the Albert C. Yates Leadership Development Institute Award and participated in the leadership program. Hill was the President of the Colorado State Chapter of National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) and he was selected to speak at the Lockheed Martin S.T.A.R.S. institute as an undergraduate. Hill also shadowed engineers and astronauts as part of the institute. He volunteered as a math tutor in support of the Black Student Services and El Centro, the LatinX Cultural Center.

Professionally, Brother Hill is an Aerospace Engineer for Raytheon Technologies and is responsible for architecting the security posture of technological infrastructure that commands spacecraft both pre-launch and in orbit. He extends his community involvement to his work with Raytheon as a member of the Raytheon Black Employee Network (RAYBEN), and was named the 2020 RAYBEN employee of the year. Hill is also a member of the Raytheon Site Diversity Inclusion Council, which is charged with making the company more inclusive and working towards equity in the aerospace industry for disadvantaged populations. Prior to Raytheon, he worked in oil and gas and the hospitality industries. In addition, Hill serves as an Adjunct Professor at Regis Jesuit University in the Anderson College of Business and Computing, teaching both undergraduate and graduate students.

In the community, Brother Hill has a passion for educational equity and advocacy. He is a technologist and educator who balances professional responsibility with civic engagement. Hill's heart for education led him to establish a scholarship in 2017 at Colorado State University to honor his late wife, the Charlena Clardy Hill Memorial Scholarship, which focuses on funding educational opportunities for young women of color. Brother Hill also serves as Chairman of the Board of Families Against Violent Acts, an organization that started as a grassroots movement to address violence and its impact on the Montbello neighborhood of Denver in which he was raised.

Brother Hill was raised in the church which is evident in his manner and ways; he serves as a musician (drummer) at Now Faith, his home church. Hill's uncles are ministers, Reverends Leon Emerson and Leonard Emerson, and they are pastors of Now Faith and Christ Our Redeemer AME churches, respectively.

Brother Hill's resume of life is inspiring and influential; he is a next generation leader with the requisites and endeavor to further the cause and aim of Omega Psi Phi. Hill's mantra of 'Better doesn't mean Bad' speaks to his growth and thriving persona which will serve him well. May God continue to bless Brother Hill along with his journey and pursuits.