

---

## Spotlight on Que: Brother Ashley L. Pickens

By Jeffrey T. Smith

---

Brother Pickens is the Basileus-elect for Chi Phi Chapter and his leadership term will start on November 1, 2021. Pickens' comradeship, communications, collaboration, competence, commitment, and courage will provide a solid foundation for him to build on the chapter's good works and accomplishments. His application of the four cardinal principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift will serve as an example for members to follow. Brother Pickens' practices and promotes the fraternity's motto of Friendship is essential to the soul for others to experience.

Brother Pickens was born in Brooklyn, NY and raised in West Palm Beach, FL. He is the oldest of three with a brother and sister. Pickens attended Suncoast High School and he participated in track (4X100), swimming (butterfly) and band (drums/percussion). While attending FAMU, Pickens was a two year member of the famed Marching 101 Band Flag Corps. Brother Pickens is the father of five



children (four boys and a daughter: Ashley II (age 23), Austyn (age 19), Jaylon (age 19), Jourdyn (age 16), and Isaiah (age 13)). Brother Pickens graduated in 2011 from the University of Phoenix with a Bachelor's degree in Information Technology (IT) Security and he graduated in 2017 from the University of Denver with a Masters in IT Security. Pickens has a CompTIA Security Plus (InfoSec) certification.

Brother Pickens is a new employee of the Boulder Valley School District working in the IT Security Department. Previously, he was a Network Engineer for Comcast and a warehouse lead (supervisor) for SYGMA Network, a subsidiary of Sysco Foods. Pickens is an affiliate professor at Regis University (Denver), teaching IT concepts to graduate students and the capstone for the Bachelor's IT program. Brother Pickens' aspires to continue growing within the IT Security field in order to become a director and to share his knowledge with the youth in the community to broaden their horizons.

Brother Pickens was initiated into Chi Phi Chapter on December 11, 2013 as the Ace on a line of three (The Geek Squad – Brothers Javon Melton and Vermell Hill). He has been involved in all facets of chapter operations from the commencement of his Omega journey. He has worked on the following committees and projects: Chairman of the Membership Selection Program (MSP); Chapter BBQ; Downing Street Clean-up; Voter Registration; Social Action projects; Bruce Randolph Thanksgiving Food packing and giveaway; MLK Parade; Paint-a-thon; chapter's step team (first place winners at the Delta Sigma Theta's Mile High Step Show in 2015); Rites of Passage & OLA; Achievement Week; and, attendance at 8th District meetings. Pickens has served as the Vice Basileus and Chapter Editor. He is the recipient of Chi Phi's Omega Man of the Year Award, Superior Service Award, and Basileus Award. Pickens' aspiration is to live his 'Que' in all aspects of life and to be an inspiration for all who have a goal to achieve. Brother Pickens aspiration for Omega Psi Phi and Chi Phi Chapter is for Brothers to stand on the oath, be resolute, and commit to a committee for the growth and continued advancement of our beloved fraternity.

Brother Pickens enjoys movies, camping, physical fitness, watching college football, and all things technology related especially robotics. Pickens is an enthusiastic, open-minded, and knowledgeable man who appreciates the importance of self-sacrifice and service to others in pursuit of the greater good. May God bless Brother Pickens endeavors as the next Basileus for Chi Phi Chapter and may He protect and keep his family too.