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## Spotlight on Que: Brother Chris Gantz Jr.

By Jeffrey T. Smith

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Brother Gantz is an Omega man whose path is illuminated by scholarship, endeavor, brotherhood, and respect. Gantz has traveled extensively throughout the fraternity on friendship, meeting and greeting Brothers as an unofficial hospitality ambassador of the chapter; his fraternal network is such that he is typically the first to be contacted when visiting members are in town. Yet, Gantz's chief mission over the past few years has been shining the light of Omega Psi Phi to guide and assist Brothers in their return to the Fold. His reclamation efforts have produced positive results year-over-year; Gantz's purpose, steadfastness, and patience have garnered compliments and special recognition from leaders in the chapter, the district level, and internationally.

Brother Gantz was born in Madison, WI and raised in Denver, CO; he is the oldest of four (two sisters and a brother). Gantz is a Thunderbolt, graduating from Manual High School in 2002. He was a three year letterman in football playing tailback and strong safety; he participated in basketball (point guard) and track (100-meter & 200-meter dash).

Scholastically, Brother Gantz received a B.A. degree in Communications with a minor in Media Production from Metropolitan University of Denver in 2009. He is currently pursuing a graduate degree in social work from the same institution with a completion date in 2022. In 2018, Gantz was a member in of the National Society of Leadership and Success, having attained a 3.8 GPA during his enrollment.

Professionally, Brother Gantz is a career educator with over 10 years of experience; he serves as a Dean of Students and has been a Restorative Justice Coordinator both in the Denver Public Schools. In addition, Gantz's has been serving as a youth counselor and coach for nearly 20 years. Here's a brief section of his activities with youth:

- **Camp Counselor**, East Denver YMCA
- **Head Coach & Sports Director for Basketball**, Compass Program Neighborhood Project
- **Assistant Head Coach**, Denver Lightning Track and Field, Denver Community Recreation Center; recognized as Assistant Coach of the Year in 2010
- **Head Flag Football Coach**, Florida Pitts Waller, Denver
- **Volunteer Coach for Running Backs & Defensive Backs**, Thomas Jefferson High School, Denver
- **Counselor**, Youth Corrections, Denver

Personally, Brother Gantz is a member of the Purpose Center Church in Aurora, the Reverend Rico Wint, Pastor (and Gantz's line brother). He has received recognition for his service at church and has provided support to the Young Men of Purpose (YMOP) mentor program lead by Brother Wint. Gantz hobbies are physical fitness, playing dominos and spades, and traveling (road trips).

In Omega, Brother Gantz was initiated into Chi Phi Chapter on April 12, 2008 as the 'Tre' (line name is MisQue or MisUnderstood Que) on the 9 Quintessential Souls line. Gantz's father is an Omega man, Brother Christopher Gantz, Sr., Epsilon Theta, Spring 1982, University of Wisconsin. Through an association with his father's chapter brothers, Gantz's, Jr. was bestowed with honorary status in Epsilon Theta Chapter by Brother Charles Brown, Fall 1972.



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Brother Gantz has held the following positions within the chapter: Assistant Undergraduate Advisor for Lambda Beta Chapter (2016-2017); Co-Chairman, Membership Selection Program (MSP) (2016-2017); member, 8th District Social Action Committee (2018-2019); Assistant Keeper of Peace, (2017-Present); Chairman, Chi Phi Reclamation & Retention (2017-2021); and, member, 8th District Reclamation & Retention Committee (2017-2021).

His record of service is as follows: MLK Parade; Paint-a-thon; Downing Street Clean-up; Voter Registration; Bruce Randolph Thanksgiving Food packing and giveaway; Christmas Toy Drive; Chapter BBQ; MSP Mentor for three candidates; and, attendance at 8th District meetings and Grand Conclaves.

Gantz's also worked as the 'step coach and mentor' with the chapter's youth mentoring program. Lastly, Gantz aspires to lead at the top two roles in the chapter. He has received several awards for his contributions to Omega and Chi Phi:

- 4th Ranked Reclamation & Retention Chairman, Omega International Headquarters (2020)
- Reclamation & Retention Chairman of the Year, 8th District (2017, 2018, 2019, & 2020)
- Omega Life Member #8373 and 8th District Life Member #19
- Superior Service Award, Chi Phi Chapter (2018)
- Chapter Service Award, Chi Phi Chapter (2017, 2019 & 2020)
- Financial Supporter, Omega 1911 Project (2017)
- Scroll of Honor (Project Manhood- Rite of Passage Mentor), Chi Phi Chapter (2009)

Brother Gantz aspirations for the fraternity and chapter are for Brothers to build better bonds with each other becoming a bridge builder as well as living the motto of 'Friendship is essential to the Soul.

In closing, Brother Gantz consistently demonstrates the four cardinal principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift. He helps others when needed and maintains regular communications with Brothers about the fraternity and the activities therein. Gantz has worked in earnest since his initiation into Chi Phi Chapter, providing time and effort which are both appreciated and valued. It is my prayer that God continues to bless his professional career, scholarship endeavors, and fraternal works of service abundantly.