

❖ FHHS AA NEWSLETTER ❖

March 2004

FROM THE PRESIDENT ... JOHN J. WILLIAMS

Greetings Alumni and Friends:

How time flies! It seems like it was yesteryear that we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of Fairmont Heights High School. Well, mark your calendar and begin making plans to celebrate the school's *55th Anniversary on October 21, 2005 at Martin's Crosswinds in Greenbelt, Maryland.* More details will follow.

The Chinese call this "The year of the monkey." I hope you didn't start this year with one on your back (smile). I pray that this will be one of the best years of your life. All things are possible, if you believe.

First, let me thank you all for the generous support you gave during the year 2003. Your assistance and financial contributions made it possible to award \$3,500 to four graduating seniors from FHHS last year: **Constantin Chickando** (GPA 3.9) to Cornell University - \$1,000; **Edwina Freeman** (GPA 3.8) to Morgan State University - \$1,000; **Dominique Shackelford** (GPA 3.1) to Morgan State University - \$1,000; **Lynette Williams** (GPA 2.88) to Prince George's Community College - \$500.00.

Second, thanks again for the overwhelming response you gave after our announcing that the Annual Spring Dance of 2003 at Glenarden Municipal Center had been postponed due to roof damage caused by snow. The roof was repaired just in time for the dance as scheduled. The place was filled to capacity and everybody had a great time. In fact, some didn't want to go home. It took almost an hour to get some to understand that just because we call it a Reunion Dance did not mean that they could hold a reunion meeting after the dance.

On the other hand, as we begin planning our 55th school anniversary celebration for 2005, we would like all class reunions and interested persons to be a part of the activities. Persons interested in helping to plan the celebration, please contact yours truly by phone 301/336-7913 or via e-mail - sirjvwms@hotmail.com

Kudos to Michael Marshall, chair of the Membership Committee, for helping to meet the goal of 20 Life Members by the end of year 2003. Not only did we reach the goal, but we exceeded it by 13 to a total of 33 Life Members. Let's increase the membership to 55 before the 55th Anniversary Celebration. The cost of a Life Membership is only \$200.00 at the present time. We will

Last, but not least, just as you responded to the call four years ago concerning a \$5,000 shortfall by FHHS 50th Anniversary Yearbook project, I am calling on all alumni again to help the FHHS Choir to raise \$5,000 for the purchase of choir robes. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Miss Deborah Franklin, alumnae and vice -principal at Oxon Hill High School for a generous donation of \$100.00. Yours truly also donated \$200.00. Millwood-Waterford Citizen's Association contributed \$300.00 for the FHHS band to participate in the community's Christmas parade.

In addition to choir robes, the school needs about \$5,000 to pay for transportation of students to SAT and ACT prep courses in the evenings at Fairmont Heights High School. If 1,000 alumni members and/or friends would contribute just \$10.00 we could raise \$10,000 for both the robes and evening transportation, and possibly transport students to the SAT Workshop with John Swann scheduled for April 30, 2004 at Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Greenbelt.

There are more than 2,200 alumni on our membership list. If all were "members in good standing," we would not have to make these appeals. To be in good standing, you must pay \$10.00 per year from the day you joined the alumni association, or become a Life Member at a one-time donation of \$200.00.

Get involved, become active, donate some time and financial support to the school and the FHHS Alumni Association.

HORNET HIGHLIGHTS

- Welcome to Mr. Richard Jones, Jr., the new principal at Fairmont Heights High School. Mr. Jones, who was principal at Lord Baltimore Middle School, replaces Dr. Carolyn Blue, former principal who retired at the end of the 2003 school year.
- G. James Gholson Middle School opened with dedication and tributes-June 2003.
- Ralph Paden, after 28 seasons as Hornet's head coach, inducted into the Hall of Fame-2003.
- Class of 1963 held its 40th Class Reunion at the James R. Bates Hall, Bowie and contributed \$900.00 to the G. James Gholson Endowment Fund. (Mr. Gholson donated \$100.00 to make a total of \$1,000).
- G. James Gholson Endowment Fund hosted the 91st birthday celebration of Mr. Gholson on July 20, 2003. Mr. Gholson is still enrolled in school, studying philosophy and other subjects.

HORNET HIGHLIGHTS (CONT'D)

- Family and friends celebrated former teacher, Samuel Jordan's 80th birthday at Martin's Crosswinds on January 16, 2004.
- Lt. Governor Michael Steele spoke to students on "the importance of education" at Fairmont Heights High School in celebration of Black History Month on February 13, 2004.
- Bette McLeod hosted the 35th Annual Black History Program at the Comfort Inn, Bowie, MD on February 16, 2004.

MAKE A DONATION AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE at Fairmont Heights High School

Calling on all graduates and all graduating classes (1950-2003) to make a donation (\$30.00 individuals, \$300.00 class) and make a difference in the ability of students at Fairmont to:

- Engage in the creative and performing arts
- Improve their SAT and ACT test scores

The Fairmont Heights High School Alumni Association and the G. James Gholson Endowment Fund desperately need your support. We have taken on the responsibility of raising \$10,000 to purchase choir robes and provide transportation service (VAN) for students to participate in SAT and ACT prep courses in the evenings at Fairmont.

It is vitally important that we do all we can to improve educational access and opportunity for the next generation. While the President leads his crusade to "leave no child behind," it is criminal that in 2002:

- The wealthiest school districts in the nation spent 56% more per student than the poorest school districts.
- African-Americans constituted 11% of the SAT in contrast to 65% whites.
- African-Americans had a combined score of 857 on the SAT in contrast to 1060 for whites.

We need every graduating class to make a donation and make a difference for the students of Fairmont Heights High School — it is our school and they are our children.

**HELP US INSPIRE THE STUDENTS AT
FAIRMONT HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL WITH
THE POWER OF MUSIC AND THE PROMISE
OF EDUCATION**

Please send your check for \$30.00 and/or contact your class leaders and encourage them to send a check for \$300.00 by **April 30, 2004**, payable to:

The G. James Gholson Endowment Fund
C/O Mary McKinney
9006 Ardmore Road
Springdale, MD 20774

For more information, contact Mary McKinney at 301/322-9268 or John Williams at 301/336-7913.

**The Endowment fund is a non-profit 501C3
Donations are tax deductible**

2004 COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN REMEMBER TO CHECK #5606

Under the aegis of The Institute for Black Charities on behalf of the **G. JAMES GHOLSON ENDOWMENT FUND**

The endowment fund was created in honor of G. James Gholson — a master teacher and administration and an advocate for the children of Prince George's County public schools. Mr. Gholson served as principal of Fairmont Heights High School from 1950-1969 and had an enduring influence on the lives of thousands of students. In recognition of his commitment to educational excellence, our goal is to create an endowment of \$50,000, which will be used to provide scholarships to exceptional students.

As you reflect on the role Mr. Gholson played in your life, make a donation to transform the life of others. Please contribute through the CFC or send your tax deductible donation to:

The G. James Gholson Endowment Fund
C/O Mary McKinney
9006 Ardmore Road
Springdale, MD 20774

We need new leadership on the fund's board of directors. If you have time and talent to continue building the endowment, please join us. For additional information, please contact Mary at 301/322-9298.

**The Endowment fund is a non-profit 501C3
Donations are tax deductible**

**FHHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
LIFETIME MEMBERS
February 2004**

Delores Cole Brown	Raymond N. Lipscomb
Norman Byrd, Sr.	Catherine Maupin
William C. Clayborne, Jr.	Ann Moore
Donald Conway	Joyce Payne
Grace Countee	Denise Pogue
Jerome Countee, Sr.	Karen A. Robertson
Carolyn Devore-Parks	Constance Rouse
Deborah Franklin	Teresa Strong
Barbara Gainey	Sylvia Syphax
Anthony Gantt	Eleanor Traynham
Elizabeth Gordon	John Williams
F. Ellen Newman Harley	Lillian Wiseman
Marjorie Johnson	B. Yvonne Wilson
Robert Johnson	France Wilson
Ernestine Jones	Diane Wilson-Bragg
Loretta Ligon	Lavata Wood
	Michael L. Wooten

ANNOUNCEMENTS

50th CLASS REUNION

The Class of 1954 is planning a class reunion for Saturday September 25, 2004. We are attempting to locate as many classmates as possible. If you are a member of the class or know of a member who has not been contacted, please call one of the following for more information:

Delores Cole Brown - 301/773-7245
 Norman Byrd - 301/925-8239
 Mervine Newman Stevens - 301/350-5677
 Lillian Jenkins Wiseman- 301/773-3702



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please make check/money order payable to FHHSAA and send to the above address

Name _____

Date _____

Address _____

Graduation Year _____

Regular Membership - \$10.00 _____

Faculty _____

FAIRMONT HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REUNION DANCE

FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 2004
10:00PM UNTIL 2:00AM

AT

JAMES R. COUSINS JR. MUNICIPAL CENTER
8600 GLENARDEN PARKWAY
GLENARDEN, MARYLAND

DISCO MUSIC BY : SKIN TIGHT
OLDIES AND MIXED SOUNDS
PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT:

FAIRMONT HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL
ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP FUND

B.Y.O.L. - FREE SETUPS

DONATIONS.....\$20.00

"DRESS TO IMPRESS"

FOR TICKETS CONTACT:

LORETTA LIGON....301-249-2527.....CHRISTINE TILGHMAN...301-627-4867
LAVATA WOODS....301-336-8541 ___ MICHAEL MARSHALL.....301-773-8248
JOHN WILLIAMS.....301-336-7913 ___ OTIS BROADWATER.....EBONY INN

MEMBERSHIP SIGN-UP WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE DESIRING MEMBERSHIP

