
❖ FHHSAA NEWSLETTER ❖

February 2005

FROM THE PRESIDENT ...

John J. Williams

Greetings, peace and blessings Alumni/Friends:

It's celebration time again, the year we pay tribute to the 55th anniversary of Fairmont Heights High School. So mark your calendar and begin making plans to join the all-class reunion at Martin's Crosswinds in Greenbelt, Maryland on October 21, 2005.

A number of things have happened since we celebrated our 50th anniversary in the year 2000: the unforgettable terrorist attack of "911"; the devastating war in Iraq; the election and re-election of President George W. Bush; the appointment of Fairmont's sixth principal, Mr. Richard Jones, Jr. who replaced Dr. Carolyn Blue, the dedication of the newly constructed G. James Gholson Middle/Cora Rice Elementary Complex and the loss of many alumni, former faculty, and friends.

Although there have been many trials and tribulations, "we must look toward the hills from whence cometh our help." For we know that it comes from God, the creator of all good things.

Congratulations to the class of 1954 who continues to carry the torch of school pride and "hornet" spirit by celebrating their 50th Reunion recently. If there were other reunions that I don't know about, please send me information about the occasion.

We have doubled our Life Membership since our last school celebration from 20 to 45. I have asked the membership chair, Michael Marshall, to set a goal of 55 members by the 55th Reunion Dinner Dance. I know you are not going to let Michael and the alumni association down. You can contact him by checking our web page www.fhhsaa.com or his e-mail address: mlmikemarsh@att.net. All Lifetime members will be recognized at the celebration. The cost of a life membership is \$200.00 at the present time. With everything escalating, that is subject to change.

FHHSAA SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2004

Elsy Marleni Ramos – \$500.00

4.1 GPA - Political Science/ International Affairs
University of Miami

Melvette Melvin – \$500.00

3.9 GPA - English, BA – Bennett, Greensboro, NC
English, MA – Penn State University
Phd. Candidate

Luther Davis – \$500.00

3.67 GPA – Electrical Engineering BS - Ft. Valley
State University
Electrical Engineering, MA – Penn State
University

Theresa King – \$500.00

2.8 GPA – English/Sociology/Criminal Justice
Morgan State University

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

Volunteers are needed to help with the planning for the 55th Reunion Dinner Dance. We solicit your ideas to help to make this experience a memorable one. Anyone interested in helping should contact John Williams, President of the Alumni Association, at (301) 336-7913.

**CONTRIBUTE TO THE
G. JAMES GHOLSON ENDOWMENT
FUND**

The Fund recently donated \$1,500 to Fairmont Heights High School for the purchase of a van, which will be used to transport students to and from SAT/ACT prep courses. We want to thank all of you who contributed to this effort, and particularly the Class of 1953 for their substantial donation. Your support will make a difference for highly deserving students who want to attend college.

Please make a difference and make a tax-deductible donation to the G. James Gholson Endowment Fund. Mail your check today to:

**THE G. JAMES GHOLSON ENDOWMENT FUND,
C/O MARY MCKINNEY**
Secretary, GJGEF
9006 Ardmore Road
Springdale, MD 20774

**2005 COMBINED FEDERAL
CAMPAIGN**

**REMEMBER TO CHECK #5606
FOR THE 2005 COMBINED FEDERAL
CAMPAIGN**

Under the aegis of the Institute for Black Charities on
behalf of the
G. James Gholson Endowment Fund of FHHS

THE ENDOWMENT FUND WAS CREATED IN HONOR OF G. JAMES GHOLSON—A MASTER TEACHER AND ADMINISTRATOR 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.

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Mattie C. Williams Bell
Delores Cole Brown
Norman Byrd, Sr.
Barbara Wilson Bush
William C. Clayborne, Jr.
Donald Conway
Grace Ray Countee
Jerome Countee, Sr.
Carolyn DeVore-Parks
Isaac Floyd
Deborah Franklin
Barbara Tyson Gainey
Anthony Gantt
Elizabeth Gordon
Corrine Myles Hamilton
Richard A. Hamilton
F. Ellen Newman Harley
Beverly D. Hill
Anna Mae Queen Holmes
Marjorie Johnson
Robert Johnson
Ernestine Jones
June Clark Jones
Loretta Stroman Ligon
Raymond N. Lipscomb
Michael L. Marshall
Catherine Lucas Maupins
Ann Moore
Thelma Boyd Nash
N. Joyce Tyson Payne
Denise Wilson Pogue
Wilbert Ridgley
Karen A. Robertson
Constance Tilghman Rouse
Teresa Strong
Sylvia Mosley Syphax
Eleanor Thomas Traynham
Dr. Gail Dennis Ward
John Williams
B. Yvonne Wilson
Diane Wilson-Bragg
France Wilson
Lillian Jenkins Wiseman
Lavata Wilkinson Wood
Michael L. Wooten

REPORT FROM THE G. JAMES GHOLSON ENDOWMENT FUND

ACADEMIC CRISIS AT Fairmont Heights High School

The G. JAMES GHOLSON ENDOWMENT FUND and the FAIRMONT HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION have been working together over the last several years to improve educational opportunities for students at Fairmont Heights High School. In spite of our efforts, Fairmont continues to face nearly insurmountable challenges in maintaining master teachers, improving academic performance and reducing the dropout rate. Just a few years ago, the school board made an attempt to CLOSE the school. If we fail to improve the academic performance of the students, they just might succeed the next time.

We desperately need your ideas and your contacts on the board of education and in the state legislature. If you are willing to chair or serve on a committee to generate support for Fairmont, please contact Mary McKinney (301) 322-9268.

An article in the *Washingtonian* on "Top High Schools" in the metropolitan area, indicates that students at Fairmont had a combined score of 818 on the SAT. The highest average score in the State of Maryland was around 1234. Equally alarming, the article notes the following for FHHS:

- 9% enrolled in special education
- 69% below the State Achievement Tests in reading
- 98% below the State Achievement Tests in mathematics
- 2% taking Advanced Placement Tests
- 31% attending college
- 54% teachers with "conditional" certificates

While the state speaks with pride about the great achievements of public education, the reality is that schools in poor/Black communities are being denied the full benefits of equal educational opportunity...in the midst of celebrating more than 50 years following Brown v. Board. In spite of the rhetoric of equality of opportunity, Fairmont Heights High School is being undermined by discriminatory policies and practices that favor the "have-mores" at the expense of the "have-nots." While Fairmont crumbles under the weight of arcane school finance policies, the county is building new schools and creating innovative instructional programs in high-income communities.

We must constantly be reminded that "equality is a political issue, and the only route to a more equal society lies through political struggle." IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT THAT WE DO ALL WE CAN TO IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY FOR THE NEXT GENERATION.

N. Joyce Payne
Chair, GJGEF

Membership Information

The FHHS Alumni Association has an active mailing list that includes 2,203 graduates from Fairmont Heights High School. You can register for membership by completing the Membership Application on this page.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- FREE FHHSAA Newsletters
- Notification of Upcoming Events
- Information Sharing and Networking Opportunities

MEMBERSHIP TYPES

- Annual (\$10)
- Lifetime (\$200) - See Lifetime Members List



Fairmont Heights High School Alumni Association



Post Office Box 2727
Landover Hills, Maryland 20784-0727

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 _____

Lifetime Membership - \$200.00 _____

Staff _____

FAIRMONT HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REUNION DANCE

FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2005

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

"NO SALES AT THE DOOR"

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



*FAIRMONT HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION*



SPONSORS THE:

**55th REUNION CELEBRATION
"Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow"**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2005

7:30 PM TIL 11:30 PM

AT

**MARTIN'S CROSSWINDS
7400 GREENWAY CENTER DRIVE
GREENBELT, MARYLAND**

**ALL CLASS YEARS ARE WELCOME
"RESERVE A TABLE FOR YOUR CLASS"**

PLEASE: MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY

RSVP: SEPTEMBER 30, 2005

ATTIRE: AFTER FIVE

DONATION:.....\$50.00 PER PERSON

NO ADMITTANCE WITHOUT A TICKET

NO SALES AT THE DOOR!!!!

FOR TICKETS CONTACT:

ELIZABETH GORDON..301-773-6752.....LORETTA LIGON....301-249-2527

LAVATA WOODS..... 301-390-2483.....JOHN WILLIAMS.....301-336-7913





FHHSAA NEWSLETTER SPECIAL



August 1, 2005

THANKS, "HORNETS" AND FRIENDS!!! ----- From the President...
John J. Williams

On behalf of Fairmont Heights High School Alumni Association, I want to thank all "Hornets" and friends for helping make our 16th Annual Reunion Dance at Glenarden Municipal Center on April 29, 2005 a great success! We were able to give scholarships to three graduating students at Fairmont Heights High School:

Danielle Finney - \$1,000

3.73 GPA – Business – University of MD, College Park, MD

Sophie Gamy - \$1,000

3.5 GPA – Biology-- McDaniels College, Westminster, MD

Erin Hill-- \$1,000

3.9 GPA –Pre-Med.—Xavier University, New Orleans, LA

MEGA THANKS TO OUR LIFETIME MEMBERS

You did it again! Not only did you help reach our goal of 55 life members by our 55th Reunion Dinner Dance, October 21, 2005, but you surpassed our expectation (like I knew you would). As of today we have a total of 57 Life members. Fairmont Heights High Family has some of the best people, not only in Prince George's County, but in the world. Fairmont "Hornets" have a legend that cannot be duplicated. For Life Membership application, contact Michael Marshall, Membership Chairman via our web page: or his e-mail address: www.fhhsaa.com or e-mail mlmikemarsh@att.net. The cost of a life membership is \$200.00 (we are now a 501 C (3) tax exempt organization). All Lifetime Members will be recognized at the 55th Reunion Celebration.

Come meet FHHS new principal, Ms. Peggy Nicholson from Crossland High School, surprise guests, and 'ole' friends at the reunion celebration on October 21st. You don't want to miss this "once in a lifetime" occasion. Bring your camera and high school photos. See ya' there!