



Mather Alumni

National Alumni Association

From Our New President



Vernell Hayes Wright ('51)

The weekend in Charleston was a wonderful celebration. It was recognition of the past, present, and future and of the ties that, despite time and distance, continue to bind us together. Thank you to the Alumni Association for trusting me as your President for the next two years with this legacy that has done much to guide us in times of challenge and adversity, to ground us in periods of uncertainty, and to support us in moments of weakness. It is truly special to say, "I am a graduate of Boylan Haven - Mather Academy".

The fact that our school closed its doors so many years ago means that we must work even harder and be ever vigilant if we are to keep Mather's legacy alive. This is why the plans made in Charleston are so important.

We have committed to raising the funds necessary to endow the Boylan Haven - Mather Academy Alumni Association Memorial Scholarship at Claflin University. Doing so ensures an ongoing source of scholarship assistance to high school graduates who exemplify the principles and ideals of Boylan Haven, Mather Academy, and Browning Home and will simultaneously keep the spirit of our school alive for generations to come.

The Association has promised to work together to find more Matherites and their families wherever they may be, thereby strengthening our alumni network and making it easier to reach our social and economic goals. It is anticipated that beginning in the next few months, you will hear about area meetings, with the first planned for the South Carolina-Georgia area. Another will be planned for the Northeast in the spring. If you are available to assist the Executive Board in

(continued on back page)

Help establish scholarship at Claflin

Join Matherites and friends in raising funds to endow a "Boylan-Haven Mather Academy Alumni Memorial Scholarship" at Claflin University!

As of September, alumni pledged or donated half of the \$20,000 seed money due by the next reunion in 2012.

The scholarship will preserve Mather's legacy at the Orangeburg, SC school, where Mather's transcripts are located.

Alumni voted on the action at the 2010 National Reunion in Charleston, SC.

Claflin will invest the funds to aid Claflin-bound students related to BHMA alumni or former students.

Donate on Claflin's website, or mail in the enclosed Claflin Pledge Form.

Online, click "Give To Claflin" and include the scholarship's name in the Comments box.

On the enclosed form, just fill in the front and mail with



Signing a Memorandum of Understanding are (from left): Marion W. Jamison II, Claflin major gifts officer; and BHMA Alumni board members Daphne Smith Graves ('65), executive secretary; Deltarcia Jenkins Mitchell ('75), 2008-2010 president; Jeronell White Bradley ('65), 2010-2012 1st vice president; Vernell Hayes Wright ('51), 2010-2012 president; Hester Moye ('48), chaplain; and Rayford Harris ('48), parliamentarian.

Contact Claflin University to donate:

- ONLINE – www.claflin.edu
- MAIL IT IN – Claflin University, Division of Institutional Advancement, 400 Magnolia Street, Orangeburg, SC 29115

your donation.

The back of the form is already filled out for you: At the bottom, we've included

the name of the Mather scholarship and checked the appropriate box. ■

2010-2012 Alumni board takes office



Charlie Dannelly ('44), NC State Senator, administers the oath of office at the 2010 Reunion to: President **Vernell Wright** ('51), 1st Vice President **Jeronell White** ('65), 2nd Vice President **Maria Major** ('56), Treasurer **Knorphe Byrd** ('73), Recording Secretary **Lynne Thomas** ('74) (behind Dannelly), Corresponding Secretary **Antoinette White Toney** ('74), Executive Secretary **Daphne Smith Graves** ('65), Chaplain **Hester Moye** ('48), Parliamentarian **Rayford Harris** ('47) and Assistant Treasurer **Martin Robinson** ('74). ■

Alumni at Memorial Site symbolize Mather's success

A new display at the BHMA Memorial Site in Camden gives visitors a look at some of the students produced during Mather's 96-year history of academic service to humanity.

The "Eagles Fly High" board features photos and biographies of six of perhaps the most-well-known alumni: **Jim Clyburn**, U.S. Congressman and House Majority Whip; **Larry Doby**, athlete; **E. Perry Palmer**, businessman; **Frieda Mitchell**, childcare advocate; **Eddie McGirt**, coach; and **John Roy Harper II**, attorney.

They "defined and gave meaning to the promise and greatness of Mather and in doing so have written an outstanding chapter that is without equal in

our local history," states the introductory text.

The new structure joins several other displays on a small portion of Mather's former property that tell the story and preserve Mather's memory on the site.

The project was created and is maintained by the Kershaw County Clean Community Commission. The BHMA Camden Alumni Chapter is a sub-committee of the KCCCC and acts as a "guiding force" for the implementation of the memorial.

View closeup photos of the bios on the Mather alumni website at www.mathernaa.org. ■



Clafin ready to accept Mather memorabilia

Do you have any photos, documents or other items stashed away that depict Mather through the years?

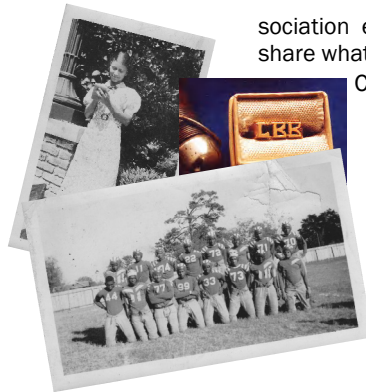
Send them, or copies if desired, to Clafin University for archiving and safekeeping.

Marilyn Y. Gibbs, Clafin library director, told 2010 Reunion attendees that she will oversee the receipt and cataloguing of Mather memorabilia.

She already has seven boxes

of Boylan Haven material and needs a knowledgeable person to help identify those items.

The Mather Alumni Association



sociation encourages you to share what you have with Clafin.

The items will be available for view in person upon request.

Our long-range goal is to fund a room devoted to Mather in a new wing that will be

built onto the library.

As was Mather, Clafin is a predominantly African American school founded by the Methodist church after the Civil War.

To donate artifacts, contact Ms. Gibbs at Clafin University, 400 Magnolia Street, Orangeburg, SC 29115-4498.

Email: mgibbs@clafin.edu.
Phone: 803-535-5309. ■

\$25 dues due every year

Mather NAA Treasurer Knorphe Byrd reminds alumni that the \$25 dues are **annual** dues.

Reunion attendees tend to pay dues only for the biannual reunion year when registering for the reunion. They don't think about paying for the "non-reunion" year.

Many non-attendees never pay dues.

However, dues should be paid for every year — anytime during a year, or doubled-up during reunion registration to cover the previous year.

Send dues to Mr. Byrd at P.O. Box 15303, Quinby, SC 29506. ■

Schedule your Class Reunion the same time as National's!



The Class of 1960 (shown above in 2010) did it, and yours can too. Plan your next Class Reunion to occur the **same time and place** as the National Reunion! You'll enjoy an already-selected hotel and scheduled activities. And you won't be the only one there from your class year. Start getting your class list ready! (See all 2010 Reunion photos online at www.mathernaa.org.)

NAA part of schools coalition

First Vice President Jeronell White Bradley ('65) is our representative on the National Alumni Coalition of Black Boarding and Private Schools.

Its goals are information-sharing and awareness. Visit <http://nationalalumnicolition.org>

NEXT NATIONAL REUNION:

Charlotte, NC

August 2-5, 2012

From Our President *(continued from front)*

planning such a meeting in your area, please contact Jeronell Bradley (jeronell@aol.com) or me (vw364@yahoo.com).

Since Mather closed its doors in 1983, some of our school's memorabilia has been housed at Clafin University in Orangeburg, SC and at Drew University in Madison, NJ. Interest has been expressed in locating items that are not presently

in either of these locations and possibly making a commitment to the naming of a room in the library at Clafin so that our additional memorabilia can be preserved and displayed as an honor to the great history of our alma mater.

The next two years may be filled with challenges, but our Executive Board, with the support of you, our Alumni, is committed to implementing

the goals our association set in Charleston. Please keep the Board informed of any Mather gatherings that you will have or will be planning.

Can we count on you? I look forward to seeing you at our area meetings and in Charlotte in 2012.