

Winter 2010

**THE MIGHTY
EAGLES!**



Boylan-Haven-Mather Academy

Mather Alumni

National Alumni Association

From Our President



Delmarcia Jenkins Mitchell ('75)

Greetings!

Since our last reunion, much has happened around the world and here at home.

In 2008, we witnessed the H1N1 Flu pandemic that killed people around the world. We witnessed an earthquake of 7.9 magnitude in the provinces of western China; a rise in the US jobless rate from 5% to 5.5% – the largest increase in 22 years; and the election of the first African American president of the United States.

2009 brought us a miracle on the Hudson River when a plane landed with all 155 passengers surviving. The 111th Congress and the 44th President of the U.S. were sworn in. Wire-tapping was ruled illegal and Michael Jackson died.

Thus far in 2010, we have witnessed earthquakes in Haiti and in Chile with a combined death toll in the hundreds of thousands. Our country faces important issues concerning national health care, homeland security and war/troops in Afghanistan.

We are in a world where we are losing our dignity, our jobs, our homes and our children. We find ourselves not only having to take care of our families, but the families of our neighbors. We work hard every day and many of us

(continued at right)

4-Day National Reunion: August 5-8, 2010:

Let's do the ... CHARLESTON, SC!

Enjoy a great family vacation while you reconnect with former classmates at the BHMA National Alumni Association's "National Reunion" in 2010!

It's set for **August 5-8 (Thurs-day through Sunday)** in Charleston, SC, at the Francis Marion Hotel.

There'll be plenty of time during those four days to mix alumni "business" with family entertainment.

Reminisce and get updated on how alumni are preserving Mather's memory.

And in between? Sightsee interests such as the Gullah culture and the aquarium,



shop, golf and do much more in this historic port city, which was a major arrival point for our African ancestors into slavery, and where the Civil War that led to freedom began.

So act now and join us! Check the deadlines, send the Registration fee to the Alumni treasurer, and call the hotel to reserve a room. See the brochures for details. ■

(See other side of this newsletter for special topics in Saturday' morning's business meeting .)

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Registration:** \$200 (\$175 + \$25 dues). See brochure for Payment Plan suggestion.
- **Thurs., March 25 Deadline:** \$75 Registration Deposit (non-refundable)
- **Hotel:** \$109-\$129 group discount (say "Boylan-Haven-Mather Academy")
- **Tues., June 1 Deadline:** Hotel reservations. Call the number in the brochure.

Class of '60 Mini-Reunion to be Held During National Get-Together

The BHMA Class of 1960 will host special activities for its members while attending the 2010 National Reunion in Charleston.

For more information, contact **Mary Frances**

Harper Adams, 1218 Campbell Street, Camden, SC 29020 (803-425-5301) mfhiadams@hotmail.com

Or you can email **Janice Singleton Vaughn** at drjanicev@comcast.com

They aren't the only ones who've been active lately. Last October, the Class of 1959 held a special reunion in Camden for its members. See photos on our website, www.mathernaa.org ■

From Our President *(continued from at left)*

do very little for ourselves. We have very little time to reflect on our past lives and reach back to help those in need. Every minute, 20 children around the world die.

What do we do as individuals to help the situation? How do we give back? What are we involved in to make the world a better place?

In August, we will meet in

Charleston. We will certainly have much fun with family and friends. During this time we will address several issues which are very important to the legacy of our dear old alma mater. **We need you there to hear all the details and we need your voice.** This is an important time in the life of our Association.

Your Board has worked really hard and we feel we

have lived up to your every expectation. With every decision and discussion, our thoughts were always with you, the spirit of Mather and what is best for our alumni.

I invite you to join us at our 9th biennial reunion since the school's closing in 1983. Help us celebrate "The Spirit of Mather and Her Legacy". ■



SPECIAL TOPICS: Guest Speakers at Sat. A.M. Business Meeting



(1) Endowment as Mather Legacy: Next Steps?

As all of you know, none of us are getting any younger. As much as we enjoy gathering during the reunions, the day will come, for whatever reason, when we are not able to make the journey home to see our (family) classmates.

There will also come the time when we will no longer be able to make financial contributions to our dear ole BHMA. We recognize we are Mather (she is in our hearts), and if her name is to enter into the history books, it needs to be very clear what she stood for.

Over the last two years the BHMA Alumni Board has been in conversations with Claflin University. We met with a member of the Claflin University staff. There was a lot of excitement with our conversations and the possibility of an **endow-**



ment in the name of Boylan-Haven-Mather Academy.

Our young people have missed the special attention you received as a youth.

My brothers and sisters, we as Matherites are obligated to give back because we were given so much and were loved even more. Let us, in the spirit of Mather, come together once again as a Family to remember how fortunate we are and to give back to our youth. These young people, for the most part, have no idea what it's like to have someone in their lives like we had.

The thought of having an

endowment was very overwhelming to us. The thought of being able to give back and providing a helping hand to young people who are really trying to make something of themselves is very exciting. They need our help!

In our schools today, there are students in the 5th grade at the age of 13. There are 12th graders who remain in the classroom at the age of 20.

Do you ever wonder what the presence of Boylan-Haven-Mather Academy would be like today? Do you ever wonder if there are nurturers around today like Lula B. Bryan, "Momma" Evelyn Gittens, "Madame" Dorn, John Roy Harper Sr., Rev. Balzora, George "Daddy G" Singleton, Thelma

Walker-Boykins and Richard Wright (just to name a few)? Do you ever wonder where you would be if someone had not reached out and cared for you and pointed you in the direction of Mather? Do you ever give any thoughts to just how you would have turned out? Well, we have an opportunity to make the difference. Will you join the BHMA Alumni Board in making a difference?

During the reunion weekend, a representative from Claflin University will provide more information on the proposed "Boylan-Haven-Mather Academy Endowment".

We can do this, family! Please come with the willingness to help young, bright intelligent minds who need that extra helping hand. Come help the legacy of Mather live on in our future youth! ■

(2) Black Boarding Schools Association

Did you know there were many schools across the country just like Mather? These schools, just like Mather, were built for slaves and were supported by other religious denominations: the Presbyterians, African Methodist Episcopal and Baptist.

There were approximately 200 schools located around the United States, mostly in the southeast. Presently, there are about 6 of these boarding schools still in existence. Would you believe the concept of boarding schools is touted in educational reform circles as if

they began yesterday?!

John Franklin, who is the founder of the National Alumni Coalition of Black Boarding and Private Schools, is committed to getting the word out about this rich history.

Mr. Franklin will speak to our Alumni Association at the upcoming reunion in Charleston.

Mr. Franklin's Charter Advisory Board includes: Dr. Joseph



T. Durham, Historian; Dr Valinda Littlefield, Professor-USC; Maceo Mays, Advisor; Dr. Bobby Donaldson, Professor-USC; Ralph K. Luker, Author; Dr. J. Michael Rush, Advisor; Keith Weldon Medley, Writer-Advisor; Sammie Dues, Esq., Legal Advisor; Oweta Johnson-Hegeman, Research; Curtina Moreland-Young, Ph.D., Research; Frequita Slade, Research; and Dedrick Sims, Research.

The Charter Alumni Members are: Muriel Felder-Palmer Memorial Institute; Samuel Ballard, Piney Woods School; Debra Anderson, Pine Forge

Academy; Wilbur Kennedy, Gilbert Academy (Rev. Andrew Douglas); John Franklin, Boggs Academy; Frances McDuffie, Laurinburg Institute; and Delmarcia Mitchell ('75), Boylan-Haven-Mather Academy.

Our BHMA Alumni Association is playing a vital role in organizing the coalition. Our Alumni Board representative is Jeronell White-Bradley ('65).

If you would like to learn more information about the coalition or contact Mr. Franklin, the website is: <http://nationalalumnicolalition.org/> ■

(3) Claflin to display Mather artifacts?

NAA President Mitchell has been in discussion with Claflin University, Orangeburg, SC, about creating a room in which to showcase some artifacts from Mather.

Examples of such items are: the old-English-lettered sign on the main highway (located at the parking lot beside Browning Hall), desk, uniforms, cornerstone of Browning Hall, and the personal papers of Lula B.

Bryan (superintendent 1939-1952).

Claflin University Staff will speak to the Alumni Association at our reunion in Charleston. Please come prepared to offer any artifacts you may have in your possession.

Do **YOU** know where some of Mather's artifacts are located? The "Bell", the Archway", which was donated by members of a class of the '60's? Old pictures

(it doesn't matter what shape they are in)? This is our opportunity to share our heritage with South Carolina and the world.

(NOTE: Claflin is a historically Black Methodist-heritage school like Mather. BHMA transcripts and other records were sent there after the closing of the school in 1983. To request a copy of your high school transcript, contact the records office at Claflin University.) ■