



John M. Harlan High School Alumni Association, NFP

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence is not an act, but a habit"
Aristotle

THE HARLAN TIMES

Volume 3

Fall 2010

"Honoring Our Heritage"

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

"ENGAGEMENT"

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every member of the John M. Harlan High School alumni for their continued support and dedication to the school and to the Alumni Association, NFP.

As the new administration took form in 2010, we envisioned a new beginning by re-energizing the Association and engaging the membership in participating in an effort to achieve its goals and objectives. The renewed enthusiasm by the membership in supporting the *Back to Roots Festival*, *Career Day*, and the *Annual Picnic* this year has been great!

I welcome each of you to remain "*engaged*" with the Association by volunteering to serve on a committee, providing support and ideas, as we continue to move forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth M. Webb, Sr.

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MISSION

The mission of the John M. Harlan High School Alumni Association, NFP is to:

- **provide** a vehicle to renew, revitalize, reinforce, and engage the relationship between past and present Harlan Community Academy students and alumnus;
- **support** student development through self-esteem enhancing goals; and
- **increase** pride for personal development and academic success.

VISION

The John M. Harlan High School Alumni Association, NFP is dedicated and committed to:

- **providing** positive role models and examples for motivating students to reach their fullest potential;
- **striving** to support our school and community by providing Career Days and other activities to project a committed association; and
- **maintaining** an influential force of mutual trust and respect as we bridge the gap between students, teachers, and alumnus.

MEMBERSHIP

Since September 24, 2010, over 78 children, **18 years and under**, have been murdered; the majority at the high school level. Just reading and hearing the mass media should alert you to action. There are many homeless students, which we seldom had when we attended school.

Currently we have 126 members and are actively trying to increase our membership. We desperately need your help, if we are to continue to survive. In December 2010, renewal notices for membership dues and donations will be mailed. Membership applications are also available on our website.

If you know of any Harlanites who are not members, but want to become one, we ask that you have them contact Sharon Harvey Massey (Class of 1965), who is Chairman of the Membership Committee at 773: 391-5416 or via email at Sharon@jmhaa.org or Ms. Elsie Hamilton Jones, Retired Faculty, Membership Co-Chair, at 773: 264-2914. We look forward to hearing from you.

Please make your check or money order payable to the John M. Harlan High School Alumni Association, NFP or JMHA. Send it to the following address:

**Sharon Harvey Massey
Membership Chair
John M. Harlan High School Alumni Association, NFP
P.O. Box 437767
Chicago, Illinois 60643-9998**

501c3...CHARITABLE DONATION STATUS

Your donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. There are many ways in which you, as alumni, can help us in our efforts to assist Harlan students through your financial gifts via 501c3.

We ask you to consider a donation at any time or when renewing your membership each year to help us with our programs at Harlan.

If you would like to make a donation specifically to the **Richard E. Thompson Fund**, **a separate check or money order to "JMHA Richard E. Thompson Fund" is needed.**

Please remember that there are increasing needs for materials, equipment, and services that directly affect students at Harlan Community Academy. Your donations make a difference in supplying needed materials, supplies, and services to the students.

RICHARD E. THOMPSON FUND

The Richard E. Thompson Fund was established on February 16, 2008 by the John M. Harlan High School Alumni Association, NFP, (JMHA) in memory of the late Richard E. Thompson, affectionately known as "Mr. T", to assist students at Harlan Community Academy.

The purpose of this fund is to allow individuals and organizations an opportunity to contribute, through JMHA, to the ongoing programs and projects of Harlan Community Academy. The funds will be used for the basic and essential needs of the students, (i.e., supplies, materials, text books, equipment, activities that engage students directly, such as, woodshop, arts, technical training, athletics, etc.).

The use of these funds will be authorized and dispensed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors of the JMHA.

BACK TO ROOTS FESTIVAL

We had an excellent turnout for our "*Back to Roots Festival*", which was held on February 5, 2010. There was an Afro-Centric theme with a great variety of vendors with everything from African masks to personalized cards and accessories.

Our special guest this year was Sam Greenlee, author of "*The Spook Who Sat by the Door.*" Mr. Greenlee's presence gave our affair a different flair. Not only were alumnus and guests inquisitive about his life story, but there were also interested in background information on his best selling book.

CAREER DAY

Career Day was held at Harlan Community Academy on Thursday, May 20, 2010 and was our most successful Career Day since its inception in 2001/2002.

There were 50 participants, which included 12 Hall of Famers. There was a vast array of careers represented, i.e., marketing, public service administrators, journeymen, college student advisors, social worker, Certified Public Accountant, attorneys, photographers, senior program analysts, etc.

Sharon Thomas Parrott was our Keynote Speaker. She is a graduate from the Class of 1966 and is Senior Vice President, Chief Compliance Officer for DeVry Institute. She spoke to the differences in educational degrees and certificates.

The Alumni Association also presented a special program on "Application and Interview Process" to teach students the "in's and out's" of how to apply for jobs and adequately complete job applications. They also stressed the trend of criminal background checks for new applicants and how this can affect their job interview and offer.

A Continental Breakfast and lunch was available for all participants. Each attendee received a "Certificate of Attendance", packet of information, lapel pin, and ID badge. All participants rotated through classes to speak to the students.

At the conclusion of the event and during lunch, comments and suggestions were garnered from the participants.

This event was so successful that Harlan Administration has asked for a "Repeat Performance". We graciously accepted their invitation. Our website will have the information available once the new date has been determined for 2011. If you are interested in participating in Career Day, please contact Elsie Hamilton-Jones or Sharon Harvey Massey.

PICNIC

The summer of 2010 caused flooding and heavy rains across Chicagoland, yet it did not prevent the John M. Harlan High School Alumni Association, NFP, from being washed out. In fact, this was our biggest turnout to date, thanks in part to the Picnic Committee members who were: Joey Thurman, Chair; Judith GrandPre Smith, Shirley Booker, and Pamela Brewster Waites. We want to give specific accolades to Pam who continues to contribute her bountiful salad every year for the enjoyment of all!

This was our 7th Annual Membership Drive and Picnic. Each year it is held in a grove at the Dan Ryan Woods. It is *always on the 4th Sunday in July*. This year it was held on Sunday, July 25th in Grove 5. This was possibly our best Grove yet. There was an enormous amount of room and the location was superb, due to the proximity to the restrooms and parking.

Our alumni looks forward to this event every year and we get more alumni to participate because of the excellent press and publicity. Some alumni actually plan their return to the Chicagoland area around the picnic date!

We did something new this year that we had not done before...group pictures of every class year represented were taken. We began with the classes of the 1960's through the 1990's. Our plan is to do that again next year.

The purpose of the picnic is to increase our membership into the Association and have an all class reunion. This picnic is not possible unless you, our alumni, become dues paying members. Our annual dues are \$25.00 and are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law. We need your support.

Next year's picnic is scheduled for Sunday, July 24, 2011 and once we have identified the Grove, we will be posting it on our website. We look forward to seeing you there and, if you are not a dues paying member, please remember to bring your dues with you and join us in helping our alma mater.

COTTAGE GROVE PLANTERS SOCIETY PROJECT

The Cottage Grove Planters Association sponsored a public works project to involve selected Chicago Public Schools in decorating concrete flower planters across the city. Ms. Vivian Hapaniewski applied for and Harlan Community Academy was chosen to participate along with 25 other schools in this project.

The students created the panel artworks that were enlarged and mounted onto the side of concrete planters. Teams of students will be involved in planting the flowers and maintaining the "Harlan" planter on various Saturdays. The purpose of this project was threefold:

1. to instill pride in the students, their school, and their neighborhood;
2. to make them aware of the "green" concept; and
3. to help beautify the "Avenue".

The John M. Harlan High School Alumni Association, NFP, sponsored their project. We want to recognize Leiana Thomas Gary, Class of 1972, for coordinating the artwork to help beautify the planters, showcasing Harlan Students at the *Midas Auto Service Center, 8100 S. Cottage Grove, Chicago, IL*.

Sponsorship information is printed directly onto the art panels, prominently displayed, but not interfering with the student artwork. Stop by to see it!

COTTAGE GROVE PLANTERS SOCIETY PROJECT (continued)

On November 12, 2010, Harlan Community Academy students, who participated in designing Harlan's artwork submission for the panel, sent us the following "Thank You":

"Dear Harlan Alumni Association,

We, the students and staff of Harlan Community Academy, wanted to let you know that we deeply appreciate the sponsorship of Harlan's students' artwork onto the planter at 81st and Cottage Grove Avenue.

We are grateful that our school was able to participate in the Cottage Grove Planters Project because of the support of the John M. Harlan High School Alumni Association, NFP.

Thank you, again, JMHA!"

2010 GRADUATION FEES FOR HARLAN STUDENTS

The John M. Harlan High School Alumni Association, NFP, paid graduation fees for 7 students who could not afford to do so. With the payment of their dues, they were proudly able to invite family members and friends to see them accept their diploma at the graduation ceremony.

We were so pleased to be able to provide this financial support for these students. This milestone will be a remembrance for them for the rest of their lives.

HARLAN COMMUNITY ACADEMY EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Comments from the Principal, Reggie Evans

It has been said, *"If you don't know where you've been, then you don't know where you're going."* The John M. Harlan High School Alumni Association, NFP, and other alumni have been of great service to all of us at Harlan.

Our alumni constantly remind us of the high expectations during the 60's and 70's, that the administration and teachers of Harlan and their parents had for them. The *outstanding achievements* obtained by Harlan's alumni, from all years, show and prove that with hard work and determination, the sky is the limit to one's success.

Not only does the alumni remind us of where we've been, but they contribute to Harlan's future. It gives me great pleasure to work with a group of people who are totally committed to helping our students succeed. I would like to say *"Thank You"* to all of the alumni who have supported us.

I'd like to give a special thanks to *Sharon Harvey Massey, Class of 1965, Judge John Steele, Class of 1965, and Seth McCormick, Class of 1964.* These individuals continue to go above and beyond the call of duty and they share their love for Harlan with whomever they come in contact.

Bill & Melinda Gates Millennium Scholarship

Larrina Patterson, the Valedictorian for the Class of 2010, was the recipient of the prestigious *"Bill and Melinda Gates Millennium Scholarship" Award*, which provides her free college tuition through the completion of her Ph.D.

HARLAN COMMUNITY ACADEMY EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

Larrina has decided she will major in nursing for her undergraduate degree and then go to medical school, where she would like to become a doctor who specializes in oncology or anesthesiology.

Career Day

Mrs. Robin Henry, Coordinator, Career Day, commented that she was so appreciative that alumni who participated in Career Day at Harlan on May 20, 2011, were so interested in assisting the Class of 2011 with their post-secondary decisions. It was the type of dedication that the new millennium students need in order to get organized and learn how to show their readiness for post-secondary options. The alumni had plenty to share with the Harlan students. They shared excellent feedback about the renewed levels of respect for the students, their parents, the teachers, and for the community. It became extremely obvious that we all must never fail to recognize the fact that our nation and many other countries are facing the devastation of a recession. They mentioned the need for our students to find and pursue their goals with focus in order to just survive. They also recognized that the students today have many more choices to make than previous generations. The alumni members shared that while their lives have turned out rather well, they also had to learn from their mistakes “*back in the day.*”

Since their graduation, many have experienced life in very diverse ways, but it was obvious that each speaker had achieved success in some form. Many would assume that with success comes selfishness, but these alumni members are the opposite of selfish. They shared experiences from their career journeys. They spoke from the heart and when needed, they shared the difficulties that they had to face along their way.

Mayor Daley’s Book Club Textbook Scholarship

Ashley Gibson is the recipient of the “***Mayor Daley Book Club Textbook Scholarship.***” She was Captain of the Mayor Daley Book Club this year, which was among the 10 semi-finalists in the “*Battle of the Books*” competition. On May 15, 2010, Ashley was awarded her scholarship and presented with a check by Mayor Daley.

“Lady Falcons” Girls Basketball Team

On Saturday, May 8, 2010 the Girls Basketball Head Coach, Andrew Lewis, was awarded the CPS Windy City South Section “*Coach of the Year*” Award. He was acknowledged for guiding the Harlan Girls Varsity Basketball team to a record of 20 wins and 7 losses this past season. Three Harlan seniors received scholarships for college. They were Tikeyiah Johnson, who is attending Johnson County Community College in Kansas; Tiffany Morris, who is attending Oklahoma Baptist University on an academic and athletic scholarship; and Jackie McKinnis.

Bass Fishing Tournament

The Harlan Falcon’s Bass Fishing Team is the first African American team to fish in the 2nd Illinois state championship, beating Marist by a couple of ounces for the final spot at the Wolf Lake Sectional.

On Thursday, May 6, Harlan’s bass fishing team had an article written about them in the Chicago Sun-Times. This article caught the attention of Governor Pat Quinn, and his representative from Springfield informed a banquet hall of all 57 state qualifying teams that the Governor would be watching these young Falcons. The ***Harlan Falcon Anglers*** were asked to stand as they were applauded by the state’s best coaches and student athletes.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

HARLAN COMMUNITY ACADEMY EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

Visit to the White House

Harlan students, Cassius Rudolph and Daniel Merrick, were invited to attend a concert sponsored by the President and the First Lady called "*The Performance at the White House*" featuring the Music of the Civil Rights Movement. Mr. Reginald Evans, Principal, Harlan Community Academy, also attended this event with the students, which provided the opportunity for students from all over the country to meet each other and interview well-known musical celebrities. Students served as reporters as they learned about history from those who actually walked with Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King. This was truly a "*once in a lifetime experience*" for these two students.

Chicago Tribune's Stock Market Game

Harlan's accounting team, led by Mrs. F. McKinney, finished first in the city in the Chicago Tribune's "*Stock Market Game*."

Engineering Program

Harlan won "*Rookie of the Year*" honors at the Illinois Institute of Technology Contest, which featured 42 teams from across the country. During their first year, they formed and expanded the Harlan Engineering Partners Board, which awarded a \$25,000 CTE Grant, shared with the Information Technology Team.

Another \$6,500.00 was awarded from the Boeing Founders Grant for the first Robotics Competition held on April 23, 2010.

Engineering students also participated in the IDOT Engineering Academy and placed 3rd in the Illinois State Finals.

Homecoming Football Game and Dance

The Homecoming Football game was held on Thursday, October 7, 2010 at Gately Stadium. Harlan played Robeson. Unfortunately, the Falcons lost by a score of 29 to 20.

After the game, the parents sponsored a Homecoming Football Dance in the school's gymnasium for the students and food, dancing, Bid Whiz card games, and "*Meet and Greet*" for parents and alumni in the school cafeteria.

AVID Recertification

The AVID Program has been certified for the 5th successful year. This program is guided by 11 Essentials (requirements). The certification process takes place annually and involves the AVID Site Team providing documentation to prove that all the requirements are met. Harlan's AVID Program exceeds the minimum standards for each of the 11 Essentials.

95% of the students who have graduated from the AVID Program are in college today, pursuing their post-secondary dream. This percentage far exceeds the national rate of college enrollment of African American students.

TRANSITIONS: *Our Fallen Falcons*

The following Falcons made their transition:

Steve Allison

Lois Butler, Retired Faculty

Myron Covington, Sr.

Class of 1965

(Business)

Class of 1977

April 5, 2010

November 9, 2010

TRANSITIONS: *Our Fallen Falcons (continued)*

Mary Dillingham, Retired Faculty (Biology & Counseling)		September 19, 2010
Norma Martin	Class of 1969	July 27, 2010
Rev. Robert Nalls	Class of 1965	
George Norment, III	Class of 1963	February 4, 2010
Donald "Duck" Patrick	Class of 1966	April 8, 2010
Dorothy Syers Berry	Class of 1967	
Gerald Wesley	Class of 1967	

WEBSITES

John M. Harlan High School Alumni Association, NFP

Pictures from the 2010 Career Day as well as our All Reunion Class Membership Drive and Picnic are now posted on our website. They are located in the *Photo Gallery*.

Effective December 2010, we will have a page on Facebook. Here you will be able to post pictures, blog, share information about yourself and your class years, have updated information concerning our Alumni Association, NFP, and of course, Harlan High School (*aka* Harlan Community Academy).

Payment of membership dues, donations to the Richard E. Thompson Fund, or other monetary donations to the Alumni Association, NFP, will be available via PayPal.

We are anticipating a very good upcoming year with new technologies, Facebook, and changes to our website. Want to get involved? Stay tuned. There's plenty for all of us to do!

As a reminder, our address is: www.jmhaa.org You may contact us for your upcoming events, reunions, parties, and fundraising activities.

Harlan Community Academy

We also encourage you to visit Harlan's website at: www.harlanfalcons.org

The website has a home page, information and updates about academics, athletics, students, parents, alumni, and a number for contacting the administration. Their alumni directory currently has 144 listed.

This is a wonderful resource to keep updated on Harlan's activities.

Chicago Public Schools Alumni

This website has names of all graduates of Chicago Public Schools starting in grammar school through college. You can look up any graduates name in the system and see what schools they went to, etc. It's a great networking system.

Each school has its own "page". Harlan has theirs. It provides updated information on the school, some background information, famous people who attended the school, and information about our Alumni Association, NFP. We can also post our activities on this website.

We support the efforts and commitment of the Chicago Public Schools alumni website and invite and encourage you to visit them at: www.cpsalumni.org

KUDO'S ILLINOIS JUDGES ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Lewis M. Nixon, Class of 1969, and Judge in the Circuit Court of Cook County, was installed as the 39th President of the Illinois Judges Association at the organization's Annual Meeting on May 21, 2010. Retired Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice Mary Ann G. McMorrow, who officiated at Judge Nixon's swearing-in ceremony, when he was first appointed to the bench on November 30, 2001, performed the induction.

The 1,100 member Illinois Judges Association addresses issues impacting on a fair and impartial judiciary, access to justice, and educating the public about their courts and judges as part of their commitment to education. Judge Nixon will seek ways to increase community awareness of the Illinois Judicial Speakers Bureau, a collaboration of the Illinois Supreme Court and Illinois Judges Association to provide judges as speakers to community and business groups and to schools.

2010 WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE

The Chicago Defender saluted three Harlanites for the "2010 Women of Excellence" recognition. This group of women was featured in the April 14, 2010 edition of the Chicago Defender. Selections were made from hundreds of nominations submitted by the Chicago Defender readers.

The three Harlanites are *Patricia McCleary*, Senior Vice President, Seaway Bank; *The Honorable Sybil C. Thomas, Class of 1965*, Judge, Cook County Circuit Court, and *Reverend Janette Wilson, J.D.*

FIRST FEMALE ENGINEER RETIRES FROM METRA

Vallorie O'Neil, Class of 1969, was the first female to work as an engineer for the Burling Northern line and she was also Metra's first female engineer. During her career, she held many positions, including per diem car clerk, trainer, manager, fireman, and hostler. She was the engineer on trains on the commuter lines from 1976 to 1985 that ran from Aurora to Chicago's Union Station. She retired on October 22, 2010 at the controls of a Metra Rock Island train that ran between Chicago and Joliet. In 1992, she was responsible for designing an assistant conductors program, and those who were participants are still working today. *What accomplishments!!!!*

Vallorie strongly believed that if you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem. She advocates giving back and stresses that you don't have to fall prey to your environment, unless you choose to do so.

HARLAN CONTINUES TO SHOWCASE TOP TALENT

Kevin McIlvaine, Class of 1974, starred in the play "I Am Who I Am: The Story of Teddy Pendergrass," who died on January 13, 2010. Kevin gave a splendid performance of the legendary Pendergrass' soulful sounds and life story in June 2010 at the Kennedy King College Theater.

Rhonda Preston, Class of 1972, starred in the play "Nothin' but the Blues," at the Black Ensemble Theater in June 2010. The backdrop for this play was Theresa's Lounge, a little club in a basement that featured down home blues, for some of the greatest blues legends in the world.

Marguerite Mariama, performed jazz, blues, and R&B in concert at Room 43 on July 18, 2010.

SAVE THE DATE

8th All Reunion Annual Picnic

July 24, 2011

Visit our website for updated information.