



The Boggs Panther

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National Alumni Association, Inc.

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A WORD FROM THE BANAA PRESIDENT



Dear Boggs alumni, family and friends,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Boggs Academy National Alumni Association, I would like to thank you for your support. We owe a debt to our chapters for the long and tireless hours spent in working with us in protecting and preserving the legacy of Boggs Academy across the USA. I am happy to report on this 25th anniversary of the closing of our school, the spirit of Boggs Academy is still alive.

In the past year we formed The Regional Chapter to cover the Western States and reorganized and renamed the New York Chapter, now known as The Northeast Chapter, to include those alumni living in states near New York. We also published a bi-monthly newsletter to better inform the membership of our activities along with other articles of interest. We have our own website and are on several social networks such as Facebook, Ning and Twitter. Our Board committees have done a fantastic job of carrying out their tasks to ensure that the alumni association functions smoothly. With those activities in place, we continue to seek new ways to enhance our image.

Thanks to you, our regular and associate membership continues to grow. We appreciate and encourage your continued involvement, support, suggestions and advice on how we can better preserve and perpetuate our legacy. To those members involved in one of our six chapters, we thank you. To those members who are not engaged in the work of one of our chapters, yet support us in other ways, we appreciate you. To those who are not involved but may be thinking of becoming involved, come, join us. We need you. Let's all work together to ensure that the Boggs legacy stays alive.

It is my privilege to serve as your President.

Sammie L. Dukes

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African-American Quotes

I freed a thousand slaves. I could have freed a thousand more if only they knew they were slaves.

Harriet Tubman

A quote to live by

“Speak without offense, listen without defense.”

Anon

“Words from the Good Book”¹

“Unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build it.”

Psalms127:1

A Memorable Place of Worship



John I. Blackburn Presbyterian Church on the Boggs Academy campus, Keysville, GA—closed

I am sure that the picture of John I. Blackburn Presbyterian Church will evoke memories of years past. Some of us remember “church” as a place where something mysterious and wonderful happened. For most of us, this God who was everywhere and knew everything was too much for us to grasp; yet we felt the church was a warm and safe place to be. In church we heard Bible-based sermons and great choral music. For some, the church was a very uncomfortable place to be, even with caring adults and friends close by. No matter what we felt or thought, we all left John I. Blackburn each Sunday morning with memories that continue to impact our lives. If the walls of this church could talk, I wonder what they would say about the hundreds of students who sat in her pews?

2011 Alumnus of the Year



Daisy Richardson is a 1961 graduate of Boggs Academy and has distinguished herself by not allowing her humble beginnings on a farm in Gough, GA to define her life. A formal education seemed to have been the norm in her household because Daisy was the fourth and last of nine siblings to graduate from Boggs. What a legacy! After graduating from Boggs, Daisy attended and graduated from another Presbyterian school, Warren Wilson College in NC. Not yet finished with her educational pursuits, Daisy went to Howard University in Washington, DC for one year and was then off to see the world as a member of the Air Force. While serving in the Air Force, love came calling. Daisy met her husband, William, and love took flight. As a mother of two young children, Daisy joined the Air Force Reserves and traveled with her husband, who was still on active duty. They traveled from the plains of Nebraska to the beaches of Florida and spent time overseas. While traveling around the USA and the world was work, it was also fun and educational for the entire family. In addition to being a Reservist, Daisy worked in accounting for the Air Force as a civilian. She retired in 2004 after 28 years as a Senior Accounting Technician for Defense Finance and Accounting.

Retirement opened doors for leisure travel and the use of Daisy's talents and gifts in serving her community. Daisy has served several terms as President of the Greater Randolph Area Kiwanis Club where the emphasis is on changing the lives of children and families. She is most proud of being able to serve the community through the Eta Phi Beta Sorority where she is treasurer. The sorority's motto "Not for ourselves but for others" seems to infuse Daisy's life. Daisy has faithfully served as Recording Secretary for the Boggs Academy National Alumni Association for many years and is also secretary for the local chapter in San Antonio, TX where Daisy and William make their home.

What drives Mrs. Daisy? I think the answer might be *the giving of herself to enrich the lives of those around her.* Daisy, congratulations are in order because your life speaks volumes about the ability to live fully and well.

The Editor

There is always room in The Panther newsletter for an exciting story. Share yours with us.

HONESTY!

Defined as the absence of the intent to deceive, so who cares if you're honest with me? Truth prevails, and my mind stands relieved that you become what God wants you to be. Absent of the intent to deceive. Who cares about my honesty with you? Dishonest until I luridly grieved - all of my secrets speedily flew! Our journeys are distinct, exclusive, and beautifully ordained by God, in whom we MUST believe or die deceived in narcissistic pain.

Poem by **James Costen**, class of 1972

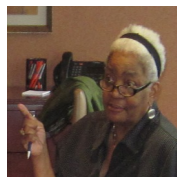
The Editor's Corner

There are currently **six BANAA** chapters around the USA. They are the: **Augusta Chapter**, the **Northeast Chapter**, the **Greater Atlanta Chapter**, the **San Antonio Chapter**, the **Florida Chapter**, and the **Regional Chapter**. Which one are you a member of? If one of these chapters is near you and you've not made the connection, please become a member so our chapters can be stronger. Tell us your story. What's happening with you and other Boggsites?

What have you done that you enjoyed and would like to share? Where have you been that's exciting? Tell me so I can share with the BA family.

Send your information to: newsletter@boggsacademy.com

Oweta Johnson Hegeman



African-American Trivia Did you know that

The St. John Coltrane African Orthodox Church in San Francisco uses jazz musician **John Coltrane's** music and philosophy as sources for religious discovery?

BET was the first African-American controlled company to sell shares on the New York Stock Exchange?

The African Methodist Episcopal Church, founded by **Richard Allen** became the first national black church in the United States in 1816?

"Strange Fruit", the song about black lynching in the south made famous by blues singer **Billie Holiday**, was originally a poem written by Abel Meeropol, a Jewish schoolteacher from the Bronx?

Jamaican-born chess player **Maurice Ashley** became the first Black Grandmaster in 1999?

Thomas J. Martin patented a fire extinguisher in 1872?

BANAA Board and Chapter News

Mid-Term Meeting Announcement: The BANAA Board has scheduled its mid-term meeting for April 26-28, 2012 at our national headquarters office in the Gross Collins Building, 3330 Cumberland Boulevard, Suite 500, Atlanta, GA 30339.

Welcome Aboard!



We are very pleased to announce two Boggs graduates as our newest BANAA board members, **Mr. Martin Cooper** of the Florida Chapter and **Mr. Winston Cook** of the Atlanta Chapter. Mr. Cooper will serve as our board treasurer and Mr. Cook will assist in the IT department. Both gentlemen were seated as At Large members to serve two year terms. They bring a wealth of education and experience to assist us in perpetuating the Boggs legacy.

Martin Cooper



Winston Cook

The Northeast Chapter (former New York Chapter)

On behalf of the Northeast Boggs Alumni Chapter, we are happy to announce that we will host the 2012 annual all school reunion at the Embassy Suites in Baltimore Maryland. The dates are October 4 - 7, 2012. For the first time we are chartering buses to leave from Atlanta, GA and from New Brunswick, NJ to the Embassy Suites just outside of the Baltimore city limits. Seating will be limited, so make your reservations early. Schedules and all pertinent information will be forthcoming via, email, newsletter, website, Facebook, snail mail, telephone and word of mouth. We need your help and participation to make this the largest and grandest Boggs Reunion we've had.

We plan to take in the sights of Baltimore and nearby Washington, DC. As usual we will attend to BANAA business, see the sights, make new friends and renew friendships, showcase talent and dance the night away. Plan now by marking your calendar so that you will be a part of this wonderful venture.

The officers are Bobby Murph, President, Serita Davis, Treasurer, Hazel Williams-Rollins, Parliamentarian, John Franklin, Secretary. The representatives to the Board of Directors from the Northeast Chapter are: Bobby Murph and Ali Rahman.

The Greater Atlanta Chapter of the **Boggs Academy National Alumni Association (BANAA)** will meet Tuesday, October 11, 2011 at our national headquarters. We had a very productive meeting that centered around rebuilding our chapter, adopting a community service project, and ideas for local fundraisers. We are presently planning a major membership drive to increase our membership and active participation. We invite all metro Atlanta alumni and associates to come to our next chapter meeting on November 8 at our national headquarters office: 3330 Cumberland Boulevard, Suite 500, Atlanta, GA 30339 (Gross Collins Building). We meet the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM. We look forward to seeing you.

For more information, please contact: James Costen at jhc_jr@boggsacademy.com (770-795-0324), Mary Jimerson at mejaka@bellsouth.net (404-761-4989), or Jerita Hall at jeritahall@yahoo.com (678-770-2761)

The San Antonio Chapter members are busy hosting the Annual Reunion this month. We hope you will join us, but if not, we will give a full report of the happenings as soon as the dust settles in San Antonio. Until then, take good care.

The Florida Chapter recently met via conference call on Monday, September 12. We are trying to invigorate our chapter and are calling all Boggsites in Florida, in Georgia near the Florida line and those who come down to Florida for the winter, to join us. We will meet again in October. Please feel free to contact me, Roberle Pratt, via my email, roberle.pratt@gmail.com.

Some historically black colleges and universities in the USA:

Central State University, Charles Drew University of Medicine, Cheyney University, Claflin University, Clark Atlanta University, Coahoma Community College, Clinton Junior College, Concordia College, and Coppin State University

Good News!

The newly elected President of the Southeast Region of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus lives in Augusta, GA and is the Pastor of Belle Terrace Presbyterian Church. **Reverend Dr. Melvin Lowry** has represented the Presbyterian Church USA, along with the **Reverend Otis Smith**, as a member of the Boggs Rural Life Committee. Both of these ministers, along with **Lay Pastor Oweta Hegeman**, attended the African-American Clergy Retreat at Epworth By-the-Sea, St. Simons Island, GA in September.



Evita Paschall '69 had surgery in late September and is recuperating. She hopes to be able to attend the reunion in San Antonio, TX.

Get well wishes to all who are experiencing health issues.



To all Boggsites born in **September** and **October** May you be blessed with good health which is your wealth.

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Membership	Jerita Hall
Reunion	TBA
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Please feel free to share this newsletter with your friends and acquaintances.