



The Boggs Panther

A publication of the Boggs Academy National Alumni Association
National Alumni Association, Inc.

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Volume 2, Issue 2

April 2011

Reunion 2011

This is Your Personal Invitation to the BANAA 2011 Reunion. Please accept it by saving **October 6-9** to join your high schoolmates in San Antonio, TX.

Folks in **The San Antonio Chapter** are busy as bees working to make your reunion vacation special. During your free time there will be a lot to do in the city and surrounding areas and we want you to have a great time in the state where everything is "big." In addition to the necessities (meetings) there will be super good food, time for fellowship and activities where you can "strut your stuff."

As soon as you have made your reservations to attend the reunion, make your hotel reservation at The Embassy Suites in San Antonio. Do this as early as you are able. There is free transportation to and from the airport to the hotel.

We are planning for you and don't want you to miss anything. Just so you don't forget, we'll remind you a few more times. See you in October.

2012 Scholarship—Apply Now!

The **purpose** of this scholarship is to provide financial assistance in an effort to maximize higher education learning opportunities for high school graduates and college students who are descendants or relatives of members of the Boggs Academy National Alumni Association. Awards will not be made to online universities or trade schools. Check out our website for more information and the application form.

A Note from the PR Officer

Greetings All. As the Public Relations Officer, let me take this opportunity to give a huge THANK YOU to the contributors and readers for taking the time to help in keeping us informed. It is truly through your efforts that we will succeed in accomplishing our mandate to follow in the footsteps of those who helped make our lives better. Toward that end, we would love to hear from you. Please forward your comments and suggestions to: newsletter@boggsacademy.com
John Franklin.

Inside this issue:

Roger Bruce	2
St. Emma Military Academy	2
Who Knew and Trivia	2
BANAA Board News	3
Chapter News	3
Raffle Ticket Announcement	3
Organization Info	4

African-American Quotes

I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody.

*Bill Cosby,
Actor, Comedian, Activist*

Leaving TX on the 10th?

♪ There's Jazz at the Witte Museum from 4p-7p on Sunday the 9th in San Antonio ♪

"Words from the Good Book"

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

Philippians 4:6
The New King James Version

A bit of trivia about **The Alamo**. The Daughters of the Republic of Texas are permanent custodians of the site.



The BANAA Board at Work



Friday afternoon session in our new office space

Blessings at Easter

The reason for Christmas will be fulfilled on what we call Easter Sunday. To be theologically correct, we should say Resurrection Sunday, because Jesus Christ rose from the dead on this day and that is why we celebrate. While at Boggs Academy we were taught that Easter was not about colored eggs and bunnies but about the Risen Lord. Happy Easter!

A New Friend and Supporter



As I listened to Roger Bruce talk about the school he attended at the BANAA mid-term meeting earlier this month, I found his experience similar to ours at Boggs Academy. Wanting to know more about his high school experience, I learned a lot.

Roger was born in Harlem, NY and entered St. Emma Military Academy in Powhatan, VA as a 10th grader in 1969. Students, though very young, took on adult responsibilities in running and maintaining the school. Recognition of Roger's talents, academic and leadership skills landed him the title of being second in Command of the Battalion at St. Emma.

Roger is very organized today because he learned discipline from great men of the military. He graduated in the top of the class of 1971.

Graduates of the four-year program of study at St. Emma were offered three diplomas: one leading to college (academic), to the military (as a non-commissioned officer), and to an apprenticeship (working knowledge in auto mechanics, shop, etc.). Roger Bruce used all three diplomas to his advantage. He went to Morehouse College, served with the Reserve Officer Training Corps, and learned how to be an auto mechanic.

Academic, leadership, and social skills became deeply rooted with the young men who attended St. Emma. They learned early how to get along, respect, support, encourage, analyze situations and accept responsibility, responsibility not only for themselves, but for those in the communities in which they lived. As young African-American men, they became acutely aware of African-American history, their place in history as young men, and their responsibility to change, one man at a time, the future of their people. In response to the responsibility to make changes in our society, Roger currently serves as President of the University Community Academy.

St. Emma influenced Roger's family in a very profound way. He was the first in his family to attend and graduate from college. His son, a graduate of Hampton University in VA, is the second family member to attain this status, and his daughter, now an undergraduate student at Howard University in Washington, DC, is on target to be the third. It all began with Roger's aunt, a corrections officer, sending him to St. Emma. What a legacy-a legacy not just for St. Emma but for Roger's family as well.

Although St. Emma closed her doors in 1972, Roger says he met his best friend at the school. Friendships that began in many of these academies last a lifetime.

Roger Bruce is married and the father of three children. The skills learned at St. Emma and Morehouse made him a successful businessman. He entered politics as an elected official in 2002 and serves in the House of Representatives in Atlanta where he makes his home.

The Editor

More about St. Emma Military Academy

The St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural Institute opened in 1895 and admitted only African-American boys from the South. St. Emma was a Black Catholic boarding school founded by Colonel Edward and Louise Drexel Morrell and boasts a rich history of dedication to educating children of color, particularly African Americans and Native Americans. The first graduate, John Paul Scott, received his diploma in 1899. Emphasizing practical skills, Colonel Morrell's approach to education was similar to that of Booker T. Washington. The curriculum at St. Emma consisted of canning, farming, equipment repair, engineering, accounting and management. As an in-state agricultural school, St. Emma was second only to Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. The school's prominence waned after desegregation and the academy closed in 1972. Most of the buildings were demolished in 1974. During its seventy-seven year history the school was re-established as the St. Emma Military School and graduated 10,000 men.

The Editor's Corner

There are currently six BANAA chapters around the USA. Each chapter has been charged with providing information to pass on to you in the newsletter. I am sure that there are stories to be told, both about individuals and the chapter as a whole. Make sure you select a "Reporter" to tell what's going on in your chapter.

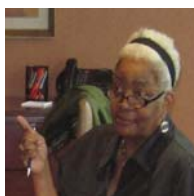
Let me congratulate the chapters who have contributed information to the newsletter. Let me

also encourage the other chapters to join them in keeping us informed "The inquiring mind wants to know."

Send your information to: newsletter@boggsacademy.com

Oweta Johnson
Hegeman

Making my point!



African-American Trivia

Did you know that

Chuck Berry studied to be a hairdresser before becoming a professional musician?

Shirley Chisholm survived three assassination attempts during her campaign for the 1972 U.S. presidential election?

W.E.B. Du Bois and **William Monroe Trotter** started The Niagara Movement, a black civil rights organization which got its name from the group's first meeting location, Niagara Falls? This collective later became the N.A.A.C.P.

Ella Fitzgerald had a three-octave range - a range greater than most professional opera singers?

W.E.B. Du Bois died the day before **Martin Luther King, Jr.** delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech?

Sarah Boone patented the ironing board in 1892?

BANAA Board and Chapter News

The **BANAA Board** met in Atlanta, GA for its Mid-Term meeting, April 8-9, 2011. The meeting was held in the newly acquired office space in a high-rise office building. What a wonderful accomplishment for BANAA. The Atlanta chapter will also use this space for its monthly meetings.

Although we shared fellowship and food, the main focus was business. The time was well spent with committee reports followed by detailed discussions of great significance. Most of the goals for 2010 were met and goals were set for 2011.

A highlight of our meeting was welcoming **GA Representative Roger Bruce** who was introduced to us by **Curtis Smith**. Rep. Bruce introduced an idea that will be explored and, if feasible, would help us perpetuate the Boggs legacy.

THANKS to **Jerita Hall** for making sure our bodies were filled with healthy and very appetizing foods and to **John Franklin** for ensuring that our hotel accommodations were comfortable and safe. Our hats are off to both of you! The Editor

The **Northeast Chapter** formally known as the **New York Chapter** met at the home of Caliph Rahman in New Jersey last month. It was the first face to face meeting in two years for the chapter. The meeting was well attended and commitments were made to work together with the National to help perpetuate the Boggs legacy. Several members indicated that they will attend the School Reunion in San Antonio Texas in October. So far the officers that have been elected are Bobby Murph, president, Serita Davis, Treasurer, Hazel Williams-Rollins, Parliamentarian, John Franklin, Secretary (temporary). The representatives to the Board of Directors from the Northeast Chapter are: Bobby Murph and Ali Rahman.



Please keep those who are not well in your thoughts and prayers.

The **Greater Atlanta Chapter** of the **Boggs Academy National Alumni Association (BANAA)** met Tuesday, April 12 at our new 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 May 10, 2011 at our national headquarters office: 3330 Cumberland Boulevard, Suite 500, Atlanta, GA 30339 (Gross Collins Building). We meet the second Tuesday of each month. 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 **Scholarship Committee** is to be commended for its work on the guidelines regulating the submission of applications for scholarship assistance. For more information, please go to the BA websites.

Hats off to **Glenda Farrell** and **Alonzo Smith**.

Just Thinking and Thanking...

Sometimes we take things for granted and assume that things will always be the same, yet we know that things change. Sometimes they change because we do nothing. I used this context to help us not take for granted the contributions by **James Costen** and **John Franklin** and that keep us informed through the BA websites. These guys have done and continue to do a fantastic job. The simple word THANKS seem inadequate to express what we feel for what they do and do so well. I invite you to express your appreciation for the job they do in digitally informing us as the history and legacy of Boggs Academy unfolds and is recorded. The Editor

Did you know that there are 111 historically Black colleges and universities in the USA according to the Black History Educational Network ?

The **San Antonio Chapter** is looking forward to having you come to San Antonio for the All School Reunion in October. The Riverwalk is only one of the major attractions in the area. There are numerous other attractions including The Alamo, Sea World, Six Flags, Witte Museum, The Mencher Hotel, Ripley's Believe or Not, the best Mexican cuisine and shopping north of Mexico.

We are making arrangements to have a wonderful DJ provide the entertainment for the banquet. If you have special songs you want to hear as you remember the "good old days," be sure to let us know in advance by calling the BANAA toll-free number (877-270-4822) and leaving a message for the Secretary.

One of the persons doing all of the planning is our own **Lennis Wyatt** who is recovering from a lung transplant and doing very well. You go, Lennis!

There are nine historically Black fraternities and sororities in the USA. Will give you the listing next time.

Roberle Collier-Pratt is the Chairperson of the BANAA Fundraising Committee and a vital member of the **Florida Chapter**. While her head is filled with ideas to raise money, her hands are filled with a beautiful granddaughter who lives in Nashville, TN. Let's welcome **Micah Noel Swift** as one of the newest members of the Boggs family.



Get ready! Get ready! Get ready! The **Raffle Ticket Fundraiser** is about to begin. The gauntlet's been thrown! Will you accept the challenge? Let's see what individual or chapter will sell the most tickets.

Boggs Academy Family News

WE ARE FAMILY! Boggs really is a FAMILY AFFAIR. If your last name is below, you have something in common.

Bessent, Coy, Curry, Davis, Gresham, Joyner, McCloud, Saxon, Sills, or Stephens.

Two or more members of your family attended Boggs Academy. Your family not listed? How many persons in your family attended Boggs Academy? Let me add your name to the list. Email me at newsletter@boggsacademy.com with pertinent information. Let me hear from you soon.

The Editor

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