



## The Boggs Panther

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

Oweta Johnson-Hegeman (class of '57) Editor  
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## Reunion 2011 Announcement

## BA Family News

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### African-American Quotes

"Nothing in all the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity."

Martin Luther King (1929-1968)  
Strength to Love, 1963

### "Words from the Good Book"<sup>1</sup>

**Don't hit back; discover beauty in everyone. If you've got it in you, get along with everybody. Don't insist on getting even; that's not for you to do. "I'll do the judging," says God. "I'll take care of it."**

Romans 12:17-19  
The Message

To all Boggs family members and friends, please accept this announcement as **Your Personal Invitation to the BANAA 2011 Reunion.**

Join us this **October 6-9** for our annual school reunion in beautiful and historical San Antonio, Texas. More info will follow and information updates will be posted to our website.

The reunion this year is hosted by the **Boggs Alumni San Antonio Chapter**. The 2010 Reunion in Atlanta was a huge success and this year's event promises to be even more successful. We have planned meetings and activities to fill the 4-day, 3-night stay and have included free time so that you can explore the many attractions in San Antonio, such as The Alamo and several well known museums and parks. Free transportation to and from the airport is available from the hotel. Please make your reservations for the Reunion and your hotel stay at **Embassy Suites** early. Plan to have a great time. Looking forward to seeing you in San Antonio in October.



The passing of a matriarch leaves a void in the Boggs family. **Mrs. Lela Wright Stone**, class of '46 and a Boggs faculty member, passed on December 24 in Marietta, GA.

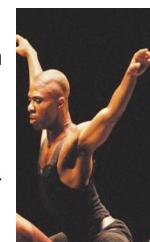
The funeral was held on December 30 at Belle Terrace Presbyterian Church in Augusta, GA with a great cloud of witnesses to a life well lived present. Among the tributes given were Resolutions from the BRLC, the BANAA and the Concerned Citizens of Keysville. Mrs. Stone would have been proud of the Boggs graduates who were program participants. The music reminded us of a gentle and quiet woman who left no stone unturned. The service was evidence that she left her soul print on those she met and served.

*Mrs. Stone, you set an excellent example for us and we hope to follow in your path.*  
RIP  
The Editor

## The World's A Stage for a Boggs Graduate

**Ulysses Dove** (1947-1996) was one of the most innovative contemporary choreographers of the past half century. **He began his dance training at Boggs Academy in Keysville, Georgia.** Dove became Alvin Ailey's principle dancer and was renowned for his ability to command the stage with a powerful and dramatic clarity. Dove was the assistant director at the Groupe de Recherche Choreographique de l'Opéra de Paris from 1980 to 1983 before becoming a freelance choreographer, working for companies such as the Dutch National Ballet, the Basal Ballet, American Ballet Theater, New York City Ballet, and the London Festival Ballet.

Ulysses Dove said this about his work: *"In every embrace, every second of life [should be] lived so fully that there can be no regrets, no retreats, no looking back."*



**Dream Deferred**  
by Langston Hughes

What happens to a dream deferred?

Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun? Or fester like a sore—and then run?

Does it stink like rotten meat or crust and sugar over—like a syrupy sweet?

Maybe it just sags like a heavy load.



**Robert Long**  
leads  
**The Regional**  
**Chapter :**

**Robert Long** is a 1962 Boggs Academy graduate Robert was born in Cheraw, SC and has made Anchorage, Alaska his home for the past 40 years. He is the son of BA staff member **Van Long** and wife Annie. Robert retired from the military after twenty-two years of service. He is the father of two children, has a twin brother, Richard, and a sister, Sandra.  
Congratulations Robert!

**A New BANAA Chapter**

**The Regional Chapter** was established on December 13, 2010. This new chapter is for those who reside in areas outside of the larger Boggs Alumni populations. We want to provide a portal through which our members can support the national objective-which is to perpetuate the Boggs legacy - which, by default, we will recognize as our own. Just as the corporate structure does, our group intends to, promote the actions necessary to bring, growth and keep us (Boggs alumni) together as a group.  
We are new and still engaged in contacting perspective members, developing goals and generating

Ideas, as well as an active agenda that will continue the building of the legacy of the Boggs Academy Alumni Association.

The Regional Chapter officers are:

**Robert Long**, President,  
**Glenda Farrell**, Vice-President,  
**Sammie Dukes**, Secretary.

**Please accept our invitation to become a member of this new chapter.**

Want to contact Robert?  
Home: 907-333-0408  
Cell: 907-350-0611

Healing Thoughts  
go to:



**James Rouse**—1962

Sympathy and Prayers  
go to

The families of:  
**Mrs. Lela Wright Stone**, class of '46 of Augusta, GA who passed 12/24/10  
**Lynn Stoddard Green** (AKA Nikki), class '68, passed away 1/12/11.



**The New Embroidered Boggs Alumni Emblem**



Available now for purchase. Go online to the [Boggs](#) website to order your emblem.

This emblem can be sewn on a sweater, jacket or hat. The best quality threads have been used to keep the emblem looking crisp at all times while maintaining the contrast in colors.

Be one of the proud owners of the Alumni Emblem, [Buy Now](#).

**Who Knew?**

**Mrs. Constance Stinson**, wife of the late **Dr. Harold N. Stinson, Sr.** and a '45 graduate of Boggs, is enjoying retirement and busily gathering historical facts about her family. Her mother, **Mrs. Eliza Smith Robinson**, was the first boarding student at Boggs. Mrs. Stinson is a cousin of the late **Mrs. Lula Cates Francis**, wife of the late **Mr. C. W. Francis**. Small world isn't it? Mrs. Stinson has a wealth of information about Boggs and is eager to share our school's history.

Kudos to Mrs. Constance Stinson.

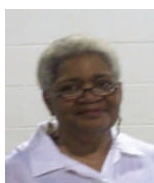
**The Editor's Corner**

There are currently six BNA 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 your chapter is represented by challenging your president and officers to "tell your story."

Pictures are welcomed.

To keep the newsletter current and interesting, I am always looking for "new" news about Boggs Academy, so start sending the news and keep it coming. Send your information to: [newsletter@boggsacademy.com](mailto:newsletter@boggsacademy.com)

Oweta Johnson-Hegeman



**Did you know that**

**Selma Burke** sculptured the image of President Franklin D. Roosevelt minted on the U.S. dime?

**Pearl Bailey**, actress and singer, earned a bachelor's in theology from Georgetown University in Washington, DC in 1985?

**Mayme Clayton**, a Los Angeles librarian and historian, amassed an extensive and valuable collection of black Americana, which houses an estimated 3.5 million items, including a signed copy of the first book published by an African-American?

**Jack Johnson**, the first African-American heavyweight champion, patented a wrench in 1922?

**Condoleezza Rice** entered college at the age of 15, and was an assistant professor at Stanford University by age 26?

## TWO FIRSTS: Both From Below the Mason Dixon Line

**Eula Burke Johnson** *the first African American Registered Nurse in Cordele, GA and surrounding areas.* She was a life-long resident of Cordele, GA who graduated from Gillespie-Selden Institute (a Presbyterian sister school of Boggs Academy) in 1918. She graduated from the Lamar School of Nursing, University Hospital in Augusta GA in 1921 and went on to get a B.A. in Nursing from Albany State College in Albany, GA. Mrs. Johnson served her community for fifty-years and was known as "The Lady in White", "The Lady with a Lamp" or simply as "Nurse Johnson." She served as the Administrator and Head Nurse of Gillespie Memorial Hospital (part of the Gillespie campus), which was established by the Presbyterian Church to serve the Negro population in Cordele and surrounding areas. Mrs. Johnson trained hundreds of female students attending Gillespie with over 97% becoming Licensed Practical Nurses. The hospital closed in 1953 and Mrs. Johnson became the First RN and Head Nurse at the local hospital over the "colored" wing serving in that position until 1972. She cofounded the local Health Department, taught and certified local "colored" women as midwives, and ministered to the community by providing clothes and food to families. She

was a life member of St. Paul Presbyterian Church in Cordele where she served as a Ruling Elder. She was the wife of T. L. Johnson and the mother of *Oweta Johnson-Hegeman* (class of '57 and our newsletter editor.) Mrs. Johnson passed on May 21, 1973.

This statement was written by Mr. Hywarden Just\* a Gillespie faculty member as a tribute to Nurse Johnson, his coworker and friend. **"There was a kind lady who dressed all in white and cared for her loved ones through both day and night. She loved each helpless baby in its cozy bassinet and also the grownups with ways so firmly set. She loved so very many that it really seems to be best to cover those loved as all humanity."**

Mrs. Johnson was well acquainted with the following members of our Boggs family: Mrs. Lela Wright Stone and Mrs. Leona Stinson (Dr. Harold Stinson, Sr.'s mother) who both worked with Mrs. Johnson at Gillespie-Selden Institute, Dr. and Mrs. Harold (Constance) Stinson, Sr., and Mr. C. W Francis.

\*Dr. Ernest E. Just, father of Hywarden Just, was a renown scientist. In 1996 the U.S. Postal Service issued a commemorative stamp honoring Dr. Just and his work. Dr. Just was also one of the founders of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. The Editor



**Do you know this man?** Let me introduce **The Reverend Dr. Barry Black**, *the first African-American Chaplain of the United States Senate.* He has served in this capacity since June 27, 2003. Dr. Black is retired from the Navy where he obtained the rank of Rear Admiral and was the first African-American Chief of Navy Chaplains, an office he held for twenty-seven years. He is a native of Baltimore, MD.

He possesses a keen sense of humor, very sharp wit and a photographic memory. With two masters degrees, two earned doctorates and many prestigious awards under his belt, Dr. Black seems to be a man who is comfortable wherever he finds himself. He is the author of a book entitled *"From the Hood to the Hill"* beginning with his life as a youngster in the inner city to becoming a prayerful and powerful leader among men and women who shape our des-

tiny in this country." *My job as Chaplain of the Senate, gives me a front row seat to history,*" Black said."

Dr. Black is in great demand as a speaker and preacher around the nation.

I had the privilege of meeting and sharing some life stories with Dr. Black in October 2007 The Editor

## More BANAA Chapter News

Greetings Boggs Family and Friends! Hold the date: Saturday, **19 March 2011 - 1:00pm to 5:00pm** for a chapter meeting at the home of **Caliph Abdur-Rahman (Carlis Sills,'75)**, 949 Central Ave. Plainfield, NJ 07060. Tele: 908-226-9488, email: [abuyacub@hotmail.com](mailto:abuyacub@hotmail.com)

We will have a **New York Chapter** meeting in Plainfield New Jersey on the above date. This meeting will be the first step in bringing the Boggs family from New York, Connecticut, New Jersey and Pennsylvania together in what will be known as the Boggs Academy Northeast Alumni Chapter. (BANAC) Please keep in mind that we do have some officers in place and have been operating for the last 5 years with just 7 registered members. If you have any questions, please contact the above named person and/or John Franklin class of '57. [John.franklin@boggsacademy.com](mailto:John.franklin@boggsacademy.com) Please be sure to call if you can't make the meeting. 877-270-4822 Ext. 7.

Happy New Year to Everyone! We are just getting our first **Atlanta Chapter** meeting underway. We have scheduled it for Tuesday, March 8, 2011 at 6:30 PM. Please mark your calendars! We are anticipating the expansion of our chapter and looking forward to being the biggest and best chapter in the Boggs Academy National Alumni Association (BANAA). Please come and bring an alumnus or a friend. We plan to have lots of fun! Our March meeting will be held at Piccadilly's Restaurant, 536 Cobb Parkway, South, Marietta, GA 30067, 770-422-7121. We look forward to seeing you there!

For additional information, please contact Mary Jimerson – 404-761-4989, [mefaka@bellsouth.net](mailto:mefaka@bellsouth.net), James Costen – 770-795-0324, [jhc\\_jr@comcast.net](mailto:jhc_jr@comcast.net) or me, Jerita Hall—678-770-2761

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**Mr. & Mrs. Anybody**  
**Any Street**  
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**Any State**

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## Committee Chairpersons

|                              |                                |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Membership</b>            | Jerita Hall                    |
| <b>Reunion</b>               | TBA                            |
| <b>By-Laws</b>               | Barbara Williams               |
| <b>Editor<br/>Newsletter</b> | Oweta J. Hegeman               |
| <b>Scholarship</b>           | Glenda Farrell<br>Alonzo Smith |
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| <b>Fund Raising</b>          | TBA                            |