



## 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 1

Fall 2008

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## NEW BOARD

Our new board took office in January 1, 2008 and their terms will end in December 31, 2009. The new board members are:

President	Seth McCormick, Class of 1964
Vice President	James Patrick, Class of 1968
Past President	Sharon Harvey Massey, Class of 1965
Treasurer	Rebecca Taylor Nicholes, Class of 1968
Assistant Treasurer	Floyd Simpson, Class of 1969
Secretary	Judi GrandPre' Smith, Class of 1969
Parliamentarian	Kenneth Webb, Class of 1964
Chaplain	Kevin Crutcher, Class of 1986
Public Relations	Theodore Mustiful, Class of 1973
Historical Committee Chair	Elsie Hamilton Jones, Retired Faculty
Historical Committee Co-Chair	James Patrick, Class of 1968
Membership Chair	Sharon Harvey Massey, Class of 1965
Picnic Committee Chair	Shirley Booker, Class of 1975
Member	Charletta Mattox-Askia, Class of 1969
Member	Cheryl Kirk Jackson, Class of 1969
Member	Jamal Rasheed, Class of 1972
Member	Joey Thurman, Class of 1977

## WEBSITE

We encourage you to visit our newly reconstructed website, which is "*user friendly*". You will find the following to keep you updated on our latest information:

*Home; News; Harlan High; Alumni Concern (Alumni Newsletter, Photos, Fallen Falcons, New Members, Announcements); Alumni Information; and President's Notes.*

The address is:

[www.jmhaa.org](http://www.jmhaa.org)

## WEBSITE (continued)

We will also keep our old website, which you can also visit. The address is:

[www.groups.msn.com/JohnMHarlanAlumniAssociationIncChicagoIL](http://www.groups.msn.com/JohnMHarlanAlumniAssociationIncChicagoIL)

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### **Chicago Public Schools Alumni Website**

The John M. Harlan High School Alumni Association, NFP was invited to serve as one of the members of a focus group for the Chicago Public Schools alumni website. We provided input that assisted them in developing their website.

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 it’s 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](http://www.cpsalumni.org)

## MEMBERSHIP “Honoring Our Heritage”

In December 2008, renewal notices for membership dues and donations will be mailed. Membership applications are also available on our website. Our database is **3,100**; initially we had 203. Our goal for 2008 is to increase our membership by 10%. Dues are \$25.00 per year, slightly higher if paid via PayPal on our website.

Currently we have 163 members. Recruitment numbers from our activities are:

Back to Roots Festival	24
Class Reunion '68	2
Annual Picnic	44

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](mailto:Sharon@jmhaa.org).

## MENTORING PROGRAM

Alumni are needed for mentoring as follows:

- Provide opportunities for exposure to various work environments
- Act as a resource for students who may be interested in your specific employment area
- Serve as a guest speaker for career exploration inservices with students
- Provide opportunities for job training and internships
- Being a resource for just “talking and relating” to a student or students

If you are interested in assisting us with the Mentoring Program, please contact Reggie Evans, Principal, Harlan Community Academy at 773: 535-5400.

## PICNIC

Our annual picnic was held on Sunday, July 27, 2008 at Grove 12 in the Dan Ryan Woods. It started at 10:00 AM and ended at 7:00 PM. Many of the alumni had signs of their class year put on tents that they put up, so they could network with their peers of their specific graduation year. Food, beverages, and music were provided and everyone enjoyed themselves. The picnic continues to get larger and, as usual, more and more alumni are coming from out of state to attend this event!

Jamal Rasheed and his son, Jabari, videotaped many of the attendees. Specific questions were asked to be answered on the videotaping and he will be editing the information and putting it in a CD. This will be the start of a record for actual taping information for our historical archives.

## HARLAN UPDATE

### 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

A committee is being formed to coordinate the activities and prestigious events for Harlan Community Academy's *50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*, aka John M. Harlan High School, which will be celebrated in 2009. For more information, please contact James Patrick at [chipat@webtv.net](mailto:chipat@webtv.net).

### *Graduation, Michigan State University, May 5, 2008*

Brandon Turner, a 2004 graduate of Harlan Community Academy, had kept in contact with Charletta Mattox-Askia (Board Member); Sharon Harvey Massey (Membership Chair), and Ken Webb (Board Member), since being a participant at a 2002 Career Day, where we were speakers. During our Career Day presentations, we told the students if they ever needed us for something to please give us a call and we'd try to help.

He took us up on that offer and called us to ask if we could see him off to his prom in 2004 and continued the communication throughout his college education. Ken visited him on campus a few times. We promised him that when, *not if*, he graduated, we would be there to see him walk across that stage to receive his diploma.

We are proud to inform you that Brandon graduated from Michigan State University on May 5, 2008, receiving his degree in Economics. He accelerated his class hours to receive his degree in four years rather than five. One of his professors told us he was a “*focused*” student that always stood out, academically as well as personally...and assured his Mom that he would make it wherever he went. Considering there were over 1,200 students graduating that day and she made a special effort to find him and his family...says a lot. Not only was it a special day for Brandon, but for us, too. This is what we're all about and the reason we do what we do. We were his “Harlan Family” and as an Alumni Association, we *do* make a difference.

## **HARLAN UPDATE (continued)**

### ***7 Reasons to Leave the Party...Dangers of Drug and Alcohol***

Judge Lewis Nixon (Class of 1967), Judge David Atkins (Class of 1965), Judge Drummond, and Judge Scheuring, provided a presentation to 600 Harlan Community Academy students on Tuesday, April 29, 2008, regarding the dangers of drugs and alcohol. They also informed them of what would happen when they would come before a Judge. The presentation was a tremendous success and well received by those students fortunate enough to attend. Alderman Fredrena Lyle also participated.

### ***Girl's Track and Field Team***

They were ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in the overall Chicago Public Schools and 28<sup>th</sup> in the State of Illinois. They were selected to participate in the Jackie Joyner-Kersey Relays, which were held on April 4-5, 2008. The track participants met Olympic Gold Medalist Jackie Joyner-Kersey, Gail Devers, Maurice Green, and many more Olympic participants.

These ladies competed with top track teams in the State of Illinois and received photos, autographs, and awards from the Olympic Track stars. The Alumni Association, NFP donated money to support team members so they could attend the event, as well as Judge David Atkins, Judge Lewis Nixon, and some other alumni members.

### ***Field Trip: University of Chicago Medical Center***

On May 29, 2008, Sharon Harvey Massey (Membership Chair) and Charletta Mattox-Askia (Board Member) assisted as chaperones to 26 Harlan Community Academy students to tour the University of Chicago Medical Center. The students visited various departments within the Medical Center, i.e., Central Sterile Processing, Morgue, Blood Bank, Radiology, etc., and learned about clinical services from registered nurses from one of the Intensive Care Units.

They viewed various ICU equipment and the nurses explained to them how they functioned and the reason for their specific uses. They also visited Radiology and viewed the Medical Center's most advanced equipment, i.e., MRI, CT, etc. Employees from this area explained the importance of various radiology procedures. In the Blood Bank, they learned the differences in blood types as well as positive vs. negative bloods and compatibility with patients. Students were informed that not all career in health care involved degrees; some health care positions were those that required certifications.

The UCAN helicopter was unavailable for them to see, however, they were shown from one of the windows where it is docked when not out on a flight.

The students were awed, excited, and impressed by what they saw. They had excellent questions and the presenters commented that they were a great group and enjoyed sharing with them their experiences and talents.

Some of the comments from the students were:

“A role I am not interested in as a future career is in sterile processing. I will be able to help keep the equipment sterile and clean for the patients.”

“The part I enjoyed most was the ICU, because th3e things they deal with is what I want to be able to do one day.”

## HARLAN UPDATE (continued)

### ***Field Trip: University of Chicago Medical Center (continued)***

“I enjoyed visiting the morgue the most because I learned a lot about how certain body parts are actually supposed to look. I learned about the body and how to find the cause of death.”

“Thank you for coordinating this great opportunity of learning.”

The students received certificates from the Medical Center acknowledging their participation in the tour. It was an enlightening experience for them and many in the group are now considering careers in the health care field as a direct result of this encounter.

### ***Field Trip: Law Day***

On May 1, 2008, Seth McCormick (President) and Sharon Harvey Massey (Membership Chair) donated their time as chaperones to attend the Law Day field trip with Harlan Community Academy students at the Richard J. Daley Center. Students were separated into smaller groups and were allowed to be “*special guests*” in various courtrooms to hear the proceedings and court rulings. Judges talked with the students who were assigned to their courts. Seth and Sharon’s student group attended housing court, which was really an “*eye opener*” for the students.

They learned about various consequences of irresponsibility as well as responsibility in regards to paying rent. Many noted they had more of an appreciation for having a place to live.

### ***Homecoming***

Harlan Community Academy’s Homecoming Game was held at Gately Stadium on Saturday, October 4, 2008. Harlan hosted Brooks High School and the “Falcons” won with a score of 26-6.

### ***Cheerleader Uniforms***

When board members attended the 2007 Homecoming game, they noticed that not all of the cheerleaders were in uniform. Upon further investigation, Tory Collins, the Cheerleading Coach, explained that there were not enough uniforms for all of the girls on the squad. They needed 12 more uniforms for all of the girls to be in uniform. In January, 2008, the Board unanimously voted to purchase 14 uniforms, so all the cheerleaders would be in full uniform with two extra for spares.

### ***Breakfast for Men***

On Saturday, October 11, 2008, Harlan Community Academy hosted a “*Breakfast for Men*”, which included an invitation to grandfathers, fathers, uncles, cousins, alumni, and/or friends. Their vision was to “*Educate, Empower, and Encourage.*”

The breakfast focused on the premise that education is the key to the future. They discussed ways to improve Harlan as well as the community and students. Mr. Reggie Evans, Principal, noted that our city is undergoing very serious times and, as men, we cannot just sit back. We need to stand up and stand out by showing our children that we truly care about their future. “*We’re not just talking the talk, but walking the walk.*”

The breakfast was a total success and literally there was I “*Standing Room Only.*”

## TRANSITIONS...*Fallen Falcons*

The following Falcons made their transition:

Richard E. Thompson	Retired Faculty	February 14, 2008
Eric Spencer	Class of 1968	October 3, 2008
George Raby	Class of 1963	October 16, 2008
Floyd Brady	Class of 1964	
Doyle Johnson	Class of 1970	
Florence Johnson	Class of 1962	

### RICHARD E. THOMPSON

It was with heartfelt regret that we learned of the death of our beloved, Richard E. Thompson, *aka "Mr. T."* who made his transition on February 14, 2008. It was a shock to everyone, especially to the John M. Harlan High School Alumni Association, NFP Board Members. He was a former Assistant Principal at Harlan and served faithfully as a "*Lifetime Board Member*" advisor, and Membership Chair.

He was so dedicated to the mission of the Association that, unbeknownst to the Board members, when he entered the hospital for the last time, he had taken with him the recent membership renewals, checks, and money orders he had received in the mail. His family returned to the Board his last calculations, including names, checks, and amounts, which he had written on an envelope during his final hospitalization. *He loved Harlan High...unconditionally.* He volunteered his time unselfishly, participating in many Harlan Community Academy field trips.

He was inducted into Harlan's Hall of Fame in 2004. At that time, the Association was providing award plaques; subsequent Hall of Famers received the elegant "Falcon". He was awed by that statue and wanted to get one as did other 2004 Hall of Fame inductees. One of the board members purchased the statue for Mr. T. and it sat *regally* in his curio cabinet.

We, too, were his other "*family.*" He had an uncanny way of remembering everyone...from grandparents, to parents, to students. He taught many generations. There was standing room only for his funeral services, which spoke to how well he was loved and respected. Tears flowed as many shared how he had made a change in their lives; other shared memories provided staunch lessons and laughter.

Mr. T made a lasting impression on the students he taught at Harlan. He will be missed. In his honor, we have established a "Richard E. Thompson Fund".

### 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.

Please read the enclosure for the full description of this fund named in his honor.

### 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*, please **make a separate check or money order to “JMHAARichard E. Thompson Fund”**.

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, which was Mr. Thompson’s pet project.

### CAN TELEVISION PRODUCTION “*Thread the Needle*”

Dr. J. Byron Hooks, producer of CAN TV production “*Thread the Needle*” filmed at Harlan Community Academy our 7 “Falcon’s on the Bench.” Unfortunately, one of the judges was unable to attend the filming. The judges were in full judicial robes, provided cameo personal information and then interviewed by the students of Harlan Community Academy. They were honest and frank with their responses to the students’ questions. Their message was loud and clear, you can be a success...just stick with it. The road may, sometimes, be hard to travel, but the further you travel, the “*roughness*” tends to become smoother. They also shared with them the trial and tribulations that they had to overcome to get where they are today. Many of them credited “*caring*” teachers who inspired them to seek their destinations.

David Adkins (Class of 1965); Darron Bowden (Class of 1982); Michael Brown (Class of 1972); Nathaniel Howse (Class of 1969); Sibyl King Thomas (Class of 1969); Lewis Nixon (Class of 1972); and John Steele (Class of 1965) participated in this interview.

### KUDO’S

**Ken Webb, (Class of 1964)**, Board Member, was recently selected to participate in “*Real Men Read*”, which is a program sponsored by Rufus Williams, President, Chicago Public Schools. This is a seven week program, where participants are assigned to a specific school to read a book to the children and then discuss the contents of the reading material. Ken was assigned to Avalon School, located at 8025 S. Kenwood, Chicago, Illinois. His first reading assignment was held on Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup> and the book was entitled “*Barack Obama: An American Story.*”

**Judge Lewis Nixon, (Class of 1967)**, was appointed by the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Timothy C. Evans, to serve as the Supervising Judge of the Mortgage Foreclosure/Mechanics Lien Section of the Chancery Division, effective September 22, 2008. This section hears all matters initiated under the Illinois Mortgage Foreclosure Act and all those concerning the rights of property owners, contractors, and sub-contractors under construction contracts in Cook County. The Cook County Courts are on track to hear more than 43,000 mortgage foreclosure cases. Judge Nixon will supervise a staff of 14 judges and several administrative employees.

## KUDO'S (continued)

**Judge David Atkins, (Class of 1965)**, was recently installed as President of the Illinois Judicial Council (IJC). The IJC is an organization of African-American judges that has been in formation for over 20 years.

**Judge Lewis Nixon, (Class of 1967)**, was recently re-elected to a new 6-year term as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County. Judge Nixon wants to thank the Harlan Community who came out in droves and voted for his retention.

**Judge John Steele, (Class of 1965)**, was elected to the Illinois Appellate Court. He will be sworn in as an Appellate Justice on December 1, 2008. He will now be known as "Justice John Steele."

**Judge Lewis Nixon, (Class of 1967)**, was elected to the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President of the Illinois Judges Association (IJA). The IJA is a 1,100 member organization of current and retired Illinois judges from throughout the state. It provides educational opportunities and support to its members and information about the judiciary to the public.

**Dr. J. Byron Hooks, retired Harlan educator**, sponsored a free Prostate Cancer Education Workshop on Saturday, May 24, 2008 that addressed the purpose for prostate cancer awareness, information on the risks associated with prostate cancer, including anatomy, prevention, early detection methods, and treatment options. There was a group discussion on how to reach people to share prostate cancer education and the availability of local community resources for the medically underserved. Every participant was given a kit and a pre and post test were done at the beginning and end of the workshop. There was a group photo and certificates.

**Jamal Rasheed, (Class of 1972)**, Member, and a Past President of the John M. Harlan High School Alumni Association, NFP, conducted the program. Jamal is a prostate cancer survivor and Spokesperson for Prostate Cancer Education.

## SAVE THE DATE

Back to Roots Festival  
February 6, 2009  
Harlan Community Academy High School

Annual Picnic  
July 26, 2009  
Dan Ryan Woods

\*\*Once we secure the permit on January 2, 2009, we will advise you of the Grove.