



# DC METRO BEAR FACTS

Morgan State University Alumni Association  
Washington, DC Metropolitan Area Chapter

Spring/Summer 2008

Vol. 9 No. 3

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



### Greetings Morganites,

As the 2007-2008 academic year closes, let's reflect on the Chapter's goals, accomplishments and challenges.

We started the year with a focus on three goals:

- **Substantially increase chapter membership;**
- **Increase participation in college fairs; and,**
- **Establish a speakers' bureau to expand awareness of MSU.**

**Membership** – By May 2008, the Chapter had approximately 70 paid members. While this is substantial in comparison to other alumni chapters, it represents less than two percent of the 4,000 alumni in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, including Montgomery, Prince George's, Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, and other neighboring counties. We can and will do better to expand our reach and solicit greater participation in the 2008-2009 year. We will keep you posted on chapter activities and special events.

**College Fairs** – The Chapter participated in four college fairs in the area, talking to middle and high school students and their parents about the benefits of an education at Morgan. We distributed recruitment pamphlets and school paraphernalia displaying the pride of Morgan. The number of college fairs is ever increasing and we are often called upon to participate. To expand our outreach to the community and potential Morgan students, it is critical that the chapter supports more of these events. To round out the cadre of alumni who volunteer for these events, we need recent graduates to become more involved by sharing their experiences and encouraging high school students to attend Morgan. Contact the Program Committee today to join this effort.

**Speakers' Bureau** – **While we have not yet established this unit, opportunities still abounded** for us to extol the virtues of Morgan. At the New Student Reception, Morgan alumni demonstrated their excellent presentation skills, all crediting Morgan's emphasis on

speech and presentation as a part of its core curriculum. In the next year, we intend to establish a speakers' bureau so we can have members who are readily available to make presentations and coordinate the Chapter's participation in high schools and community-sponsored career awareness events.

These are some of the things we have done to continue building a progressive D.C. alumni chapter. You will read about other activities in this newsletter. Let's continue onward through outreach to schools, students, and families, and focused programs and activities that foster scholarship, cultural awareness, and community.

*Jacqueline Lawson, '75*

## SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

It is the primary goal of the Washington D.C. Metropolitan Area Chapter of the Morgan State University Alumni Association to provide financial assistance to deserving students from the area who would like to attend Morgan. This year, two students were selected by the Chapter to receive financial assistance in the amount of one-thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) per semester. The students are required to maintain a 2.8 or better GPA and to spend fifteen (15) hours assisting in the Office of Alumni Relations.

One student, **Brittany Jones** is a resident of Prince George's County, MD, and is a graduate of Charles H. Flowers High School in Springdale, MD. She was a participant in the Science and Technology Program with a concentration in engineering. Brittany will enter her junior year in September with a major in industrial engineering.

The second student, **Tiarra McCloud**, is a resident of Washington, DC. She is a graduate of the Academy of Holy Cross in Silver Spring, MD. She will enter her senior year in September and is expected to graduate in May, 2009 with a degree in industrial engineering.

The monies for our financial assistance to the students are made possible from our two major fund raisers held each year — our Crab Feast held in August and a Musical Concert featuring the world renowned **Morgan State University Choir** in November.

## Chapter Officers

### President

*Jacqueline Lawson*

### Vice President

*Charles Butler*

### Treasurer

*KaLima Fields*

### Recording Secretary

*Delores Mabins-Adeneken*

### Corresponding Secretary

*Cora Marshall*

### Financial Secretary

*Charles H. Pollard*

### Chaplin

*Harold D. Blackwell, Sr.*

### Sergeant-at-Arms

*Ethel J. Bynum*

### Reporter

*Jennette Wade*

### Parliamentarian



Chapter can be reached in one of the following ways:

Log onto [www.morganalumsdc.org](http://www.morganalumsdc.org)

or

E-mail us at: [dcmsuaa@aol.com](mailto:dcmsuaa@aol.com)

or

Call us at: 202-832-3167

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*MEMBERSHIP DRIVE - from prev. col.*

Presently we have two students on chapter scholarships and we are looking to increase that number to five. Too many good students have to leave school each year because of their inability to pay the cost of a college education. We need your help to help these students stay in school.

Join the chapter and pay the \$25 annual dues and help us help them. A membership application is enclosed. You also may download the application from the Chapter's Web site at [www.morganalumsdc.org](http://www.morganalumsdc.org) or contact us by email at [dcmsuaa@aol.com](mailto:dcmsuaa@aol.com).

The Membership Committee is planning activities to bring Morganites, parents, and friends together over the next couple of months. Details are forthcoming.

## 2008-2009 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Membership Committee is launching a **2008-2009 Membership Drive** to reach the Chapter's goal of 200 paid members by the end of June 2009. There are almost 4,000 Morgan graduates in the Washington, DC metropolitan area and several hundred more individuals who attended Morgan but did not complete a degree program. Every graduate and those who attended Morgan are eligible to join the Alumni Chapter. Parents of Morgan students and those who love what the school is doing and accomplishing can join us as Friends of Morgan State University.

We know that everyone cannot always attend meetings or participate in all of our activities, but we do hope to increase the number of Morganites and friends who join the chapter and pay the \$25 annual dues. Your dues and the revenue we raise from our various activities go into the Chapter's Vesta W. Blye Scholarship Fund to provide tuition assistance for deserving Washington Metropolitan Area Morgan students. The Chapter has provided well over \$45,000.00 in scholarship funds to a number of students over the years.

*Cont. next column*

## MEETING SCHEDULE

The June meeting will be held at our regular meeting place, the Northern Metro Bus Division (conference room) at **4729 – 14<sup>th</sup> Street, NW** (corner of 14<sup>th</sup> and Decatur Streets), Washington, DC.

Thanks to Art Lawson (February), Mary E. Blackwell, Hattie Bulluck, and Eleanor Ford (March), Ethel Bynum (April), Shirley Relf (May), and Willie Mae Ferguson and Jackie Lawson (June) for so graciously hosting our meetings throughout the year.

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## Newsletter Committee

Nellie S. Maskal

Jennette Wade

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## SNAP SHOT of the 68<sup>th</sup> ALUMNI AWARDS and CLASS REUNION LUNCHEON

### Alumna of the Year

Ella Moultrie Harris

### Chapter of the Year

Philadelphia Alumni Chapter

### Special Achievement Award

Charles H. Pollard

### Excerpts of the State of the University by President Earl S. Richardson

- We started our doctoral degree program in 1976 in one discipline – education administration. We have broadened our base. We now have 14 disciplines. As a matter of fact, on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 43 doctoral degrees were bestowed.
- Our programs have developed as a result of the Morgan State University Foundation and federal money – and not state money. But we need more federal money.
- Thirty-three percent of our faculty members are part-time. This is not the worse in the state, but more full-time faculty is needed to teach our students.

### Money/Scholarships

- In-state tuition now cost \$17,000 per semester; out-of-state tuition is \$24,000, not including books. The average family income is \$49,000 gross. During these economic times it is difficult to afford the complete college financial expense. This is where financial aid is necessary. We must continue to support and make available financial aid to students who need it.

In conclusion, Dr. Richardson added that we are proud of our campus, but we must move forward with further developments, must continue to encourage, praise, and support our students, and above all, recruit the Best and Brightest to attend Morgan.

### CONDOLENCES

Our sincere condolences go out to our alum, **Mildred B. Johnson** and her family whose husband, father, and grandfather Louise Melendez Johnson died on May 5, 2008.

We also mourn the loss of Doris Lucille Davis Mitchell on April 25, 2008. She was one of the persons involved in the beginning of this chapter in the 1940s. Pictures of her are included in our archives.

### NEW ADDRESS?

*Got a new address, phone number, email address, or newsletter item?*

**Contact: Jennette Wade on 301-951-5223  
or at [Jet2lag@aol.com](mailto:Jet2lag@aol.com)**

## VOLUNTEERING

During the past year, Chapter members volunteered their time to represent MSU at the following programs: the Black Expo at Prince George's County Sports and Learning Complex in Largo, MD; the Council of Negro Women's College Fair at the University of Maryland, College Park, MD; the Alfred Street Baptist Church College Fair in Alexander, VA; and Shiloh Baptist Church's College Fair in Washington DC.

This outreach effort assisted MSU's Office of Admission and Recruitment to recruit the best and brightest students from the Washington, DC metropolitan area to the University. One of the greatest assets of MSU is its alumni. It is important to involve positive, informed, and helpful alumni in the recruitment of undergraduate students. Faithful **Morgan** alumni are the building blocks that provide testimonies and support for students interested in attending **Morgan**.

A special thanks to Sheila Wilson for the wonderful orange and blue handouts that were given to future **Morganites**, to recent graduates Qiana McKoy and Duane M. Harris (a scholarship recipient) who were on hand to share their experiences with prospective students, and to other alums who participated in the college fairs.

**Remember, we need you to assist in this effort in the future. Additional volunteers are always needed.**

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### PROGRAM/PLANNING COMMITTEE DELIVERS

Several members of the chapter enjoyed two wonderful concerts by the Morgan State University Choir. The first was February 16, when we visited the Strathmore Music Hall in Rockville, MD to celebrate Black History Month. Strathmore presented "**Free to Sing: The Story of the First African-American Opera Company.**" This Strathmore production told the story of Washington, DC's "Colored American Opera Company," the first African-American opera troupe in the United States.

The second concert took place at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts on April 20. The opera entitled **Let My People Go! A Spiritual Journey Along the Underground Railroad** was well received by those in attendance. This spiritual journey took us to "The Buryin' Ground, The Auction Block, Daily Life, Hush Harbors, Preachin' Symbol of Freedom, Signals, The Pearl Incident, and finally to the Buryin' Ground" to "T'tell ol' Pharaoh, **LET MY PEOPLE GO!**

This was powerful!! The audience was able to envision how life must have been during those times. The Morgan Choir and the Master Chorale of Washington led us along the journey.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL  
CHAPTER

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**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

**“Once A Morganite, Always A Morganite”**