

Fall  
2011

# Centennial Notebook

Wendell Phillips Centennial, NFP – Alumni Association

Janice Clemons Harley, Editor/Founder

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## MARLA GIBBS AND LUCIUS GREGG RETURN TO PHILLIPS



Marla Gibbs (1949) and Lucius P. Gregg (1950) returned to Phillips on September 23, 2011, as part of a nationwide HistoryMakers back-to-school initiative. They spoke to students, alumni and guests at an assembly program. They later spoke personally with a group of students prior to a luncheon reception that was held in the Maudelle B. Bousfield Social Room. The two illuminaries also visited various classrooms and responded to questions posed by students. Marla Gibbs is an actress who is best known for her role as Florence in the "Jeffersons" sitcom, and her starring role in the TV sitcom "Room 227." (continued on page 2)

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Above: Principal Terrance A. Little (right) and Asst. Principal Devon Horton. Below: Eric Hung, 2011 Valedictorian.



### FIRST GRADUATION UNDER AUSL MANAGEMENT

The June 2011 was the first graduation for students under AUSL administration. The graduation was held in the school auditorium. There were 87 graduates in the 2011 Class. Several seniors were expected to complete their credits and other requirements in Summer classes.

**MARLA GIBBS AND LOU GREGG** (continued from page 1)

Lucius P. Gregg is a retired Naval Officer who helped to break barriers by becoming only the fourth to graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy. He also was an associate Dean of Science at Northwestern University after his service in the Air Force. Both alums said they enjoyed being welcomed back to their old high school, and recalling their days at Phillips. The HistoryMakers is a Chicago-based organization dedicated to collecting oral histories from recognized African Americans of outstanding achievements.



HistoryMakers met with students (left) and Hall of Fame Committee members (right)

## 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

On April 16, 2011, Wendell Phillips Alumni gathered at the Harambee House for the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Alumni Prayer Breakfast sponsored by the Centennial Committee. The event featured musical selections performed by the Wendell Phillips Academy Band. The Phillips Drill Team also performed for guests. Rev. Dr. Byron T. Brazier (1967) of Apostolic Church of God, was the keynote speaker.



## Notes from the Chair



As the school year gets underway for the second year under AUSL, we would like to welcome the entire Wendell Phillips Academy High School student body, administrators, faculty and staff back. As members of the alumni, we will be praying and hoping for another productive school year for Phillips, and we look forward to working with and being a positive portion of all the good things that lay in store for Phillips.

I can imagine that the journey last year must have been tough for all, and at times a little awkward, but the saying *"It takes a village to raise a child"* seems to apply to what is taking place at Phillips. With a little help from all of us we can make Phillips what it should be and can be. We can restore it back to the days when Phillips was the talk of the city and everyone dwelled on its grandeur and history.

As I observe the beginning of the school year and I watch happenings all over the city, I am glad that the Phillips football team has started off so well. Just like the football team is doing well let's carry some of that momentum over into the classroom, throughout the rest of the school and into our daily lives. As time goes on you will find out that everyone loves a winner and loves to be associated with a winner, but it takes effort from all of us to succeed. Let's all pitch in and make this year the best so far.

We want everyone, *and we do mean everyone*, to get involved, not just with the sports at Phillips, but whenever you see we are sponsoring different events and activities, we ask everyone to come out and support us. All monies that are raised are for the purpose of making PHS better. The alumni truly believe in returning back from whom we have received. We want all the seniors to be aware that coming in the second semester we will help to encourage their application for scholarships and completion of the necessary forms. So we ask you our fellow alumni, when you see these notices and invitations to different events, please support us, so we can continue to support PHS.

Hubert C. Jackson, Jr.

# ALUMNI-AT-LARGE

## "AROUND & ABOUT" WITH PHILLIPS ALUMNI

### —■ In Memoriam ■—

Several former administrators and teachers at Phillips made their transition in recent years. Notably:

- Dr. Virginia F. Lewis, *Principal '50-61 - (In 2008 at 101 yrs.)*
  - Dr. Robert L. Lewis, *Principal, '61-65 - (In 2001 at 98 yrs.)*
  - Dr. William F. Finch, *Principal, '68-71 - (In 2006 at 86 yrs.)*
  - Ernestine D. Curry, *Principal '75-'90*
  - Daniel Caldwell, *Principal '71-'75*
  - Wade B. Ellis, *Art Teacher, Asst. Principal, Administrator, for 45yrs. (In 2009)*
  - Henry C. Springs, Jr. *Asst. Principal, Coach, (In 2000 at 80 yrs.)*
  - Geraldine McCullough, *Art Teacher, '50-64 - (In 2008 at 91yrs.)*
  - Dr. Earl W. Madison, *Music Teacher, 50s-60s - (In 2009 at 92 yrs.)*
  - Ronald Griffin, *Teacher/Counselor - (In 2009 at 65 yrs.)*
  - Carl Bonner, *Coach /Phys. Ed. Teacher/Alum (33yrs.) - (In 2009 at 75 yrs.)*
  - Leroy Lovelace, *English Teacher, April 2008 at 82 yrs.*
  - Mallalieu R. Golden, II, *Math Teacher/Coach,(34 yrs.)- (In 2005 at 73 yrs.)*
  - Dr. Samuel Williams, Jr., *English/Spec. Ed.'73-'86, (In 2004 at 52 yrs.)*
  - Dr. Peter M. Joseph, *December, 2005*
  - Mr. G.K. Smith, *Math Teacher/Coach, May 2010*
  - Shirley Kelso Robinson, *Jan. 2011*
- Distinguished Alumni:
- Dr. Larry Hawkins, *Class of 1948 - (In 2009 at 78 yrs.)*
  - Mrs. Ponce deLeon Cooke, *Class of 1934 (In 2009)*
  - Atty. Benjamin C. Duster, *Class of 1944 (In 2011 at 83 yrs.)*

We regret the omission of any names of individuals for whom we have no verified information.

### UPDATE:

#### Hall of Fame Photos, Trophies, and Archives

The Hall of Fame Committee (HOFC) was expected to complete the process of reframing the HOF photos by October 2011. The photos were removed after the 'turnaround' in July 2010, and the extensive remodeling of the building that followed. A call was made to all alumni and friends for contributions to the *Restoration Fund*. We are pleased to report that many alumni heeded this call and contributed to the fund. The fund is being used to finance the restoration and reframing of photos from the HOF Gallery. This assures that photographs of Hall of Fame inductees will again line the walls of the first floor corridors sometime in the near future.

The HOF Committee is still appealing to all alumni and friends of Phillips to continue to contribute to the *Hall of Fame Restoration Fund*. This will make it possible to clean and refurbish school trophies and to restore other historical items before they can be replaced and displayed in the new trophy cases. We urge everyone to support this effort with a generous donation ASAP. Many thanks to all who have already contributed to this effort.



### Class of 1956 Picnic July 21, 2011 55<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Dan Ryan Woods at 83<sup>rd</sup> Street



### Fun In the Sun



### Class of 1966 Picnic August 28, 2011 45<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Dan Ryan Woods at 87<sup>th</sup> Street



# NOTEWORTHY



**JUDGE STANLEY L. HILL**

Judge Stanley Hill (1967), received the Award for Excellence in Public Service from the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. Hill received the award May 19<sup>th</sup> during the annual Pro Bono and Public Interest Service ceremony at the Dirksen Federal Building. He accepted the award from Chief Judge F. Holderman.

Judge Hill had the honor of addressing the first graduating class under the new administration at Wendell Phillips Academy High School. He spoke to the grads about the importance of staying in school and upholding the tradition of "Enter to Learn and Learn to Serve." He recalled his days at Phillips, sharing some of his experiences as a student and encouraged the grads to continue with their education.



**JAMES M. MONTGOMERY, ESQ.**

Attorney James Montgomery (1949), of *The Cochran Firm* was among honorees at this year's Loyola's Black Law Students Association (BLSA) Alumni Awards Dinner. The dinner was held in April at the Loyola School of Law.

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FREQUENTLY FOR INFORMATION AND UPDATES ON SCHOOL AND ALUMNI ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS



## Wendell Phillips Centennial, NFP Wendell Phillips Academy High School Alumni Association

### MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission is to preserve the history, legacy and historical artifacts of Wendell Phillips High School, Chicago's first secondary school devoted to the education of African Americans.

Our Major Goal is to establish the Wendell Phillips Alumni Center & Museum, as a permanent location for alumni events and access to archival documents and school artifacts donated by alumni.

A Secondary Goal is developing an Endowment Fund to support students in achieving academic excellence and to help maintain viable school programs.

We serve as the alumni liaison to the Administration and staff at Wendell Phillips Academy High School for all alumni, and between Class Leaderships from different years.

### 2011 CALENDAR

#### SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2011

Wendell Phillips Centennial Committee - Alumni Association  
*8<sup>th</sup> Annual Prayer Breakfast*  
Harambee House 11901 S. Loomis, 8-11 AM

#### THURS., JULY 21, 2011

*Class of 1956 Picnic*  
Dan Ryan Woods, 83<sup>rd</sup> St., @ Grove 16

#### Sunday, August 28, 2011

*Class of 1966 / All Class Union Picnic*  
Dan Ryan Woods, 87<sup>th</sup> St, @Grove 8

#### October 15, 2011

*Classes of 1960-1961-1962 Reunion*  
Oak Lawn Hilton Hotel  
Cicero Avenue @94<sup>th</sup> Street

#### OCTOBER 21, 2011

Alumni All Alumni Hall of Fame Committee  
*Sock Hop*  
6:00-10:30 PM  
Wendell Phillips Academy H. S. Gym

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2011

Wendell Phillips Centennial Committee  
*3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Blue & White Gala*  
& "Class of 1956 -55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration"  
1-6 PM | Lunch @ 2PM  
Luncheon/Entertainment/Dancing/CashBar  
Oak Lawn Hilton Hotel  
Cicero Avenue @94<sup>th</sup> Street  
For Info: 773-445-1242 | 773-339-7145  
or [retta425@aol.com](mailto:retta425@aol.com)

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*"Preserving Our Illustrious History"*