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national alumni association president’s message

Brothers,

On the night of the presidential election, ABC News made its way to Morehouse to gauge the reactions of students as the election returns came in from across the country. This was no accident or merely ‘filler’ for a nightly news story. The decision to come to Morehouse was rooted in our years of developing young men to accept the challenge of providing ethical and moral leadership throughout the nation and the world. It is obvious that people in the know are very much aware of our reputation for producing the ‘best and the brightest.’

Your Alumni Association has accepted Dr. Franklin’s vision of creating “Renaissance Men” both as a challenge and an opportunity. In order to provide our students with the development opportunities to assist in solving global challenges, we all must now step up and be counted! At the fall meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Alumni Association, we established a very clear objective for the next three years. We will increase our active alumni participation by 30 percent. Additionally, we will become more relevant as an Association to our members by providing job assistance and business to business connections for our alumni searching for alumni owned businesses in there geographical areas.

Our next major fundraising effort will be in the spring. Each local chapter will be asked to conduct a first ever Association sponsored Prostate Cancer & Scholarship Walk. We continue to seek corporate partnership; the most recent being with Google. Please take advantage of our Bank of America Credit Card Program and Liberty Mutual Insurance products designed specifically for our alumni.

A special recognition is due to our 2008 Alumnus of the Year, Brother Brad Minnefield ’00 from Chicago and 2008 Chapter of the Year, Washington, D.C.

Also, a special recognition is due to the 2009 Alumnus of the Year, Brother James D. Henry ’61 from Washington, D.C., the 2009 Chapter of the Year, Atlanta Metro Chapter and the 2009 Region of the Year, Region 8. Please join me in congratulating these men and the Chapters for there contributions to the College and the Association.

I would like to recognize Dr. Joseph Draper ’57 for his many years of service to the Association as Executive Director upon his retirement. We are all indebted to him as a living example of a “ Morehouse Man.” I would like to welcome Collie Burnett ’72 to the team as Executive Director. Collie will be responsible for enhancing the Association by among other things, upgrading the operational and fiscal management of the Alumni Office along with Ms. Vernell Morton, operations manager.

Please contact us at the National Office and provide your recommendations and feedback to enhance the Association.

Thank you all for your continued support of the College and Association.

Regards,

Phillip H. McCall Jr. ’69

NOTE: MCNAA is an independent 501c3 organization.

Jeh Charles Johnson '79 Named General Counsel for the Department of Defense



Jeh Charles Johnson '79

JEH CHARLES JOHNSON '79 has been tapped to become the next general counsel for the Department of Defense. He is a partner in the law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP, based in New York City.

Johnson's career has been a mixture of successful private law practice (as an experienced trial lawyer) and distinguished public service (as a federal prosecutor and presidential appointee). At age 47, he was elected a fellow in the prestigious American College of Trial Lawyers.

His career as a trial lawyer began in 1989-91 as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of New York, where he prosecuted public corruption cases. He served three years as a federal prosecutor. In 1998, Johnson left Paul, Weiss for 27 months when President Bill Clinton appointed him general counsel of the Department of the Air Force, following nomination and confirmation by the United States Senate. While in that position, he was awarded the Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service.

In 2007-08, Johnson served as a foreign policy adviser to President Barack Obama's campaign and is currently a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. ■

Drexel Ball '72 Named Executive Vice President at Claflin



Drexel Ball '72

DREXEL B. BALL '72 has been appointed executive vice president Claflin University in Charleston, S.C. Before joining Claflin, Ball served for the past 19 years as an administrator in higher education at historically black colleges and universities, including executive assistant to the president at Delaware State University. In his new position, Ball will assist university President Henry N. Tisdale in the daily operations of the university. He replaces Dr. George Bradley, who left the university to become president of Augusta's Paine College.

Ball, a Charleston, S.C., native, landed his first position in higher education at North Carolina A&T State University, where he served as assistant director of public relations from 1982 to 1989. He then became director of public relations at Delaware State University, a position he held from 1989 to 1993, when he was promoted to executive assistant to the president. In January 2006, he became director of public relations at Lincoln University of Pennsylvania, where he was credited with enhancing the public relations operations and bringing increased visibility to the institution.

After graduating from Morehouse in 1972, Ball earned a master's degree in adult education from North Carolina A&T in 1986. He did further studies at the University of Delaware.

Ball has held leadership positions in several community organizations, including chair of the United Way Campaign for two years and president of Psi Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Fraternity Inc. for six years. He was twice the recipient of the chapter's Man of the Year Award. ■



Collie Burnett '72 is Alumni Association New Executive Director

COLLIE BURNETT '72 was appointed executive director of the Morehouse College Alumni Association, succeeding Joe Draper '57.

Burnett, president and CEO of Atlanta Interfaith Broadcasters (AIB), also has worked for WSB-TV, the Metro Atlanta Regional Transportation Agency, Atlanta Regional Commission, Georgia Cable Television and Media One.

"Collie, a life member of the Association and past vice president, brings many years of leadership experience to the position," said MCAA president, Philip McCall '69.

Burnett's appointment became effective July 1, 2008. ■

Recruiting Effort Gets Boost with Morehouse Alumni Recruitment Team

WHEN JAY SHEATS '93 got the request to help his alma mater, he did not hesitate.

The College is in the midst of fierce competition with other colleges and universities to recruit a stellar pool of African American young men each year for its 800 freshman spots.

That's where Sheats and other alumni come in.

Terrance Dixon '87, associate dean of Admissions and Recruitment, and Henry Goodgame '84, director of Alumni Relations, have formed the Morehouse Alumni Recruitment Team (MART). The group will serve as an extra front in the recruitment battle for prospective students in 15 cities. MART will follow up with students who have been the focus of the College's recruiters.

"We want to make sure we are arming our Admissions and Recruitment staff with people in these cities," Goodgame said. "We did a similar program in 2004 and we thought with the challenge of finding Renaissance Men, we needed to do a refresher."



Terrence Dixon '87, associate dean of Admissions and Recruitment, leads a MART session.

Dixon said the MART members, who represent a wide range of class years going back to the mid-1960s, will help in the interviewing process, the follow-up process, on-the-ground recruiting and with measuring the quality and character of prospective men of Morehouse.

"We're doing something a little bit different," Dixon told MART members. "You guys will serve as a support organization to the recruitment team by attending local job fairs, presenting for your local recruitment information sessions and interviewing during the admissions process."

Fifteen alumni came to campus a day early during Homecoming weekend in October to attend a three-hour training session with Dixon and Goodgame.

They were given an overview of the College's recruiting efforts, trained in character assessment and interviewing techniques and shown the kinds of things they should focus on when trying to help the College to "seal the deal" with prospective.

That's what attracted Sheats.

"There's an urgent need for us to give back," he said. "People have laid foundations for me particularly and many of us before, so there's no excuse for me not to do the same to help others out."

Said Dixon: "I need you to interview them and I need you to talk to them. The market is just that competitive. But this is about fit." ■

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Duke Bradley III '98 to Open 'Mays Prep' in New Orleans

OVER THE PAST YEAR and a half, Duke Bradley III '98 has been engaged in the education reform movement in New Orleans, La. Earlier this year, he submitted an application to the Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Schools to open a Type-5 transformation charter school. After defending his 200-page charter to the National Association of Charter School Authorizers, Bradley received word that the school has been approved and will open in fall 2009. The school will be officially known as Benjamin E. Mays Preparatory School—Mays Prep for short—named in honor of Morehouse's legendary sixth president.

Bradley relocated to New Orleans from Atlanta to participate in the highly selective New Leaders for New Schools Principal training program and is currently completing the New Schools for New Orleans School Founder Fellowship.

A native of Columbus, Ga., he received a bachelor's degree in English from Morehouse in 1998. While at Morehouse, he served as president of the Benjamin E. Mays Teacher Scholars

Program, which positioned him for acceptance in the Institute for the Recruitment of Teachers (IRT) at Phillips Academy in Andover, Md.

Bradley went on to complete graduate studies as a fellow at Brown University. He is also a 2003 graduate of John Marshall Law School and will soon complete requirements toward his doctorate in educational administration. Over the past 10 years, he has taught on the secondary and post-secondary levels, worked for educational non-profits, presented research at national and international conferences, and served as an intern for US. Congressman John Lewis, where he conducted research on educational policy.

Benjamin E. Mays Preparatory School will be an open-enrollment public charter school (Pre-K thru 8th grade) that serves the children of New Orleans. The school's mission is to prepare every student for success in high school, college and beyond. ■