



THE INFORMANT

THE VOICE OF THE HISTORIC FREDERICK DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.

July 2025

www.hfdhsaainc.net

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



As we deal with the heat of Summer, it is time for us to turn up the heat on our support of one of the most historic high school alumni associations in our country. As the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Historic Frederick Douglass High

School Alumni Association, Inc., I am soliciting your support of this organization to keep our legacy alive and to support the youth attending and graduating from our school. I have said before that our alumni association is a testament to the strength and spirit of your support and contributions which have been invaluable in fostering a vibrant legacy. But we need to focus on spreading this charge to other alumni. In addition to sharing information about past or upcoming events, this quarter's newsletter will highlight the recent graduates who are college or technical school bound and will benefit from our scholarships. We will also focus on how you and others can set up ongoing contributions to support our great institution. While these accomplishments would not have been possible without your dedication and enthusiasm, individually and by class groups, it is time to reach out to other alum and get them on board! So, share your copy of the newsletter, direct classmates to our website, invite them to alumni social events and encourage them to consider a contribution to our scholarship fund.

Johnnie Foreman, Jr.
Chairman

PRESIDENT'S NOTES REGARDING MAY 2025 ALUMNI WEEK ACTIVITIES (April 28 – May 4, /2025)

This year's Alumni Week/Day activities were a success with students, staff and alumni enjoying the following:

Mon 4/28/25 – Brunch & Brush,
Tues 4/29/25 -Tik Tok Tuesday (Dessert Social),
Thurs 5/1/25-Decision Day (Pizza & beverages), Fri
5/2/25 – Grill & Chill and Alumni Day

On Alumni Day, we recognized five distinguished Alumni including keynote speaker Sharon Hassan, Class of 1978.



Chairman Foreman with Sharon Hassan, Keynote Speaker

The honorees included (l to r) Natasha Gilbert-Powell, Class of 1997, Milburn A Matthews Sr, Class of 1971, Warren C Hayman, Class of 1951, and Raymond Lucas, Class of 1973.



We were joined by the Jr ROTC Color Guard and the Concert Ensemble led by Director Adam Brown. Three students, one each from the 9th, 10th and 11th grades were recognized and awarded \$100 merit awards. Eight graduating seniors were recognized and selected to receive \$2,000 scholarships.

1. Malver Canales
University of Maryland (UMD)
2. Jakiyah Dillard-Bey
Coppin State University
3. Hamish Mueller
McDaniel College
4. Ki'Janay Gilliam
Empire Beauty School
5. Damascus Murray
Massachusetts Maritime Academy
6. Breasia Watford
Baltimore City Community College
7. Serenity Lewis
Anne Arundel Community College
8. Tywan Wright
Bowie State University



The following groups and individuals were acknowledged for substantial contributions to the HFDHSAA scholarship fund: Class of 1977, Douglass Alumni Sports Group, Joe Smith & Class of 1953, Greer Griffin, Class of 1972, Ida Hines, Florence Smith, and Michelle Braxton. Principal David Verdi expressed his thanks and appreciation for the Alumni Association's continued support. The Alumni Day program was followed by lunch in the media center/library, where we were introduced to Author Carole Boston Weatherford, daughter of former FDHS Industrial Arts & Driver Education instructor, Mr. Boston.

On Saturday, May 3, 2025, we sponsored the 1ST Annual Fun Walk. Although rain was forecast for this day, we were spared. About a dozen people participated and \$565 was raised.

Later that same day, we hosted the Raffle Ticket drawing at Green Turtle: The winners of \$100 gift cards included: Robin Blackstone, Jetavia Jones, Johnnie Foreman and Shirley Harrington. In total, over \$1800 in raffle tickets were sold to help replenish the Scholarship Fund.

Our weekend closed on Sunday, May 4, 2025 at morning worship service at Calvary Baptist Church. Approximately 15 FDHS alums were acknowledged by church clergy and received Blessings & Communion. It was noted that several Calvary Baptist Church members are FDHS graduates.

As Association president, I want to acknowledge Susan White, Rhonda Kershaw, Yolonda Scott, Steven James and Greer Griffin for their tireless efforts in the success of these activities. I would also like to "thank" Patricia Cherry, Patricia Rhodes, Johnnie Foreman, Cheryl Horton, Rod Bell, Walter Brooks, Dorne Lyles, and Adele White. Please know that all your hard work, time, and commitment to the HFDHSAA is forever appreciated. It is because of ALL your efforts that Alumni week was a success.

Finally, I would like to invite all alumni to feel free to share your ideas and comments regarding our successes, failures, and ways to improve going forward. What do you think is the best way to keep this association strong so that our alma mater remains a "pillar of Black achievement" in Baltimore and Maryland?

Kevin M Jackson, Class of 1976
President

RENOVATION UPDATE

The 21st Century School Buildings Program issued an updated construction report for the Frederick Douglass High School renovation on May 28, 2025. This link will take you to the synopsis and diagrams

of the work being completed on our Building. The next update is scheduled for the Fall of 2025. The construction is up to date and on schedule to open in the fall of 2026. These pictures and reports have also been posted to our Facebook page and the Website.

<https://baltimore21stcenturyschools.org/schools/941https://baltimore21stcenturyschools.org/schools/941>

[Frederick Douglass Building | 21st Century Schools - Baltimore.](https://www.baltimore21stcenturyschools.org/schools/941https://www.baltimore21stcenturyschools.org/schools/941)

IN MEMORY OF

We lost the following alumni during this quarter.

Benjamin "Ben" Holmes Class of 88 June 30, 2025

Charlene L. Wyman Class of 75 June 20, 2025

Beverly Ann Scott Class of 71 April 7, 2025

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

Our Membership application has been revised! You are now able to indicate on the back of the application your selection for committee service. In addition, if payments are being made toward Life or Golden Life memberships, you can make those payments in REGULAR monthly installments.

If you have not sent in your membership dues, please take the time to renew your membership now. The Association's fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30. We encourage you to send in your dues, as well as remind your classmates to join the Alumni Association. The work of the Association depends on membership dues and contributions.

Your membership enables us to continue working toward the restoration of 'pride, dignity and excellence' at our beloved alma mater, as well as to provide graduating seniors with scholarship funding.

If additional information is required, please contact Pat Rhodes at (443) 254-0420 or pawrhodes@comcast.net. Membership dues should be sent to the Historic Frederick Douglass High School Alumni Association, Inc., P.O. Box 25151, Baltimore, Maryland 21229.

Membership as of June 5, 2025

- 992 MEMBERSHIP DATABASE
- 105 CURRENT MEMBERS
(paid from 3/1/25 to 7/15/25)
- 215 LIFE
- 39 GOLDEN-LIFE
- 633 NON-MEMBERS

Members paying their membership dues beginning March 1 are recorded as paid for the upcoming Fiscal Year. Membership renewal information was mailed in mid-June, 2025.

FINAL THOUGHTS - EVERY CONTRIBUTION MATTERS

It has been said that you don't need to be a millionaire philanthropist to support your school. Whether it's donating old books to the media center, volunteering a few hours a week, or simply spreading the word about a fundraising campaign to fellow alumni, your actions send a powerful message: This school matters. The young "Ducks" matter. Our legacy matters.

In fact, we can support our school, our young Ducks and our legacy with perpetual or consistent giving. To get started, go to the HFDHSAA, Inc website at the following link <https://hfdhsaa-inc.net/hfdhsaa-inc-donations/>. If you don't use Paypal to set up a recurring payment, remember that you can also go through your bank to set up a recurring payment to the Association.

Legacies are built one brick at a time. These recurring donations support the scholarship committee and FDHS students. If 100 people make a minimum recurring payment of \$10 per month (\$120 per year) the legacy expands at a rate of \$12,000 per year!

At the same time, we know that alumni engagement is most successful when it starts with genuine connections rather than just donation requests. That is what we also want to build and maintain... strong relationships between alumni from all classes. So, the next time you receive a request to support an alumni activity, whether for your specific class year or for this Association (HFDHSAA), remember—it's not just about money or resources. We are a part of Baltimore history and we want to foster involvement in meaningful ways. So contribute monthly, and encourage other alumni to do the same.

UPCOMING GENERAL MEETINGS

Enjoy the Summer, and place these Fall meetings on your calendar. Meetings are held in the school's Alumni Office.

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

- Thursday, September 18, 2025
- Thursday, October 23, 2025
- Thursday, November 20, 2025
- Thursday, December 18, 2025 (HOLIDAY GATHERING)

PHOTO GALLERY

2025 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



CLASS OF 1965 REUNION AND FUNDRAISER



CLASS OF 1988 FUNDRAISER NIGHT



MORE FROM ALUMNI DAY



Eleanor Everett is recognized



Adele White with honoree M. Matthews (1971)