



## Mather Alumni News

### November, 2008

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#### Mather Alumni Happenings

**Fellow alumni - don't forget to scroll down to see if your reunion is listed!**



**Mark Your Calendars**  
**"Mather at 50"**  
**A Birthday Celebration!**  
**Saturday, October 10, 2009**

How many Mather alumni know that Stephen Tyng Mather helped to create, and was the first director of, the National Park Service? I had no idea until I recently visited the Grand Canyon in Arizona and witnessed the breathtaking views from Mather Point.



Mather High School first opened its doors in the fall of 1959 and will be celebrating its 50th birthday next year. In honor of this milestone, we are planning a special event to be held at the school on the evening of Saturday, October 10, 2009. Alumni from all classes are invited to participate in Mather at 50 - A Birthday Celebration, which will include special areas for each decade to assemble. This will be a great opportunity to spend time with your classmates, meet Mather Alumni from 50 classes, have lots of fun and support your high school. We expect many former and current teachers to attend the Celebration as well.

The Steering Committee is currently compiling Alumni lists and seeking sponsors. Alumni with class lists or an interest in serving as a Sponsor or committee member should call 773.873.5050. For more information about Mather at 50 and to stay updated on this event, visit the [alumni website](#), watch the message board on [www.classmates.com](http://www.classmates.com), or look for future notices in this e-newsletter.

Please help to make Mather at 50 an extraordinary experience. Interested Alumni should call 773.873.5050 or e-mail [50thCelebration@matheralumni.org](mailto:50thCelebration@matheralumni.org). Also, please forward this newsletter to your alumni friends and encourage them to email us so we can add their name to the list.

All net proceeds from the celebration will benefit the students of Mather High School. With your help, Mather at 50 will be a HUGE SUCCESS!

Barbara Orloff Litt  
Class of June, 1964

### **Mather Alumni Scholarship Program is Honored by the Class of 1968**

The Class of 1968 recently played a very special role in our scholarship program with a donation of \$1,250.00.

Each of our scholarship recipients have realized the hopes the Scholarship Committee had for them. The 2008 recipient, Farzana Akter, is in her freshman year at Loyola University pursuing her dream of becoming a doctor. The 2007 recipient, Antwuan Sargeant, is working hard at Georgetown University and has made the adjustment from a Chicago Public School to a highly competitive out-of-town university. Leah Bettag is doing well at Northwestern University. She is still playing her cello and is in one of the NU performing groups. Muhammad Khan has just notified us of his acceptance to an early decision program at Loyola Medical School and Sanja Tesnjak has completed her third year in a nursing program. Our first recipient, Juliana Basko, will graduate from Harvard Medical School this spring.

Remember the Mather Alumni Scholarship Fund for your end-of-year giving! The Mather High School Alumni Scholarship Fund depends on your support. A donation to the scholarship fund is a wonderful way to "give back" to your favorite high school and help a student go on to college. Simply [click here](#) to easily make your donation on-line. Or, if you prefer to write a check you will be able to download a donation form and mail it

to our  
office.

## Volunteer Today!

### **Sign up for the Sandi Port Errant Alumni Volunteer Program!**



It's been really nice meeting the teachers and staff at Mather. They have wonderful ideas for the students and the alumni have the opportunity to help out in many ways.

*Carol Gordon, Psy.D., CADC*

### **Classroom Speakers**

Teachers request classroom speakers throughout the year. One particular request is from the AVID program. Friday mornings throughout the school year, alumni are requested to talk about their profession to freshmen in the AVID classes. This program was developed to help underachieving high school students prepare for and succeed in college. They are requesting alumni from all professions to join this program to encourage and inspire the students.

### **College Application Reviewers**

The Librarians need alumni to help seniors get accepted to college by reviewing their college applications. This is an immediate need.

### **Research Papers**

The Librarians are requesting alumni to mentor students by critiquing research papers and offering suggestions for success.

### **Grant Writers**

Opportunities exist to fund high school programs and provide new opportunities for their students. Help Mather staff by researching these opportunities and drafting grant applications.

### **Translators**

The nursing office is looking for volunteers to translate handouts for the students. We are looking for alumni fluent in the following languages: Assyrian, Urdu, Mandarin, Spanish, Greek, Napali, Polish and Russian.

If you are interested in any of these volunteer positions contact [Carol Gordon](#). Learn more about the volunteer program and opportunities to get involved.

**It's not too late to sign up for this year's Career Fair**

**November 21st****8am-Noon**

Share your career stories and expertise with Mather students. Joining us this year is Don Fontana, whom many of you will fondly remember as Coach Fontana.

He will talk to the students about his career as a firefighter and paramedic.



All interested alumni should contact [Carol Gordon](#) for more information.

**Join fellow alumni at the 2008 Science Fair****December 13, 2008****9am - Noon**

Make a memorable impact on the lives of some very talented students by volunteering as a judge for the Science Fair. Judges directly interact with students and see the exciting projects they have completed.



Share your knowledge and excitement about science with the Mather student body. All scientific disciplines will be represented -- biology, chemistry, physics, health care, engineering, astronomy, computer science, and more!

As a judge you will listen to student presentations, ask questions, and give meaningful critiques of the students' work. They key is to teach students the "scientific method" of inquiry. You help the students validate their hypotheses through scientific problem solving.

[E-mail](#) us to learn more.

**Mather Alumni Invited to participate in the Spring Cabaret**

Chris Smith, Mather's Band Director, is asking all alumni with any type of musical talent to join the Mather Band at this year's Spring Cabaret. The date is not set yet. There will be only one rehearsal. Send us an [email](#) and put your name on the list.

**Mather Alumni Participate in Principal for a Day**

Mather was fortunate to have eight "Principals for a Day" on Thursday, October 29, 2008. Of the eight, three

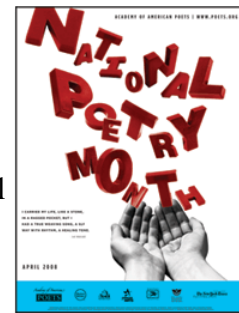


were alumni of Mather. Bob Berland, shown here, served as one of the Principals. Bob is a 1979 graduate and a 1984 Olympic Silver Medalist in Judo. Joining him was Gail Paradise (1981), the Public Information Officer of the Cook County Adult Probation Department and William Marovitz (1962), an attorney and former Illinois State Representative and Senator.

All of the alumni were inspiring to the students. The Principal for a Day Program provides an opportunity for companies and industries to support the school system at the local level. Students from the National Honor Society acted as guides for the eight Principals for a Day.

### Calling All Poets!

April is National Poetry Month. The Mather Librarians invite all alumni to join students at poetry readings and other special events. You will have the opportunity to read your own poetry as well as listen to the students' readings. Plans are currently being developed. Join the fun by contacting the Librarians, [Ms. Schiltz](#) or [Ms. Wright](#). You can also get your name on the list by [contacting us](#).



## School News

### School Renovation Update

Construction is moving forward. Bids are going out for lockers and a new roof. The school will be closed this summer to get this work done.



### Mather High's Wish List

Don't forget to [check out](#) the Mather High School wish list on our website. We are always adding more "wishes" from the Mather staff. We have just added items requested by the school nurse and teacher in charge of the Year Book. They need a digital camera, stethoscope, thermometers, public health informational pamphlets and more.

Looking for a creative way to give back? Ilene Nye (Class of 1978) donated the centerpieces from her son's Bar Mitzvah. Her son wanted to share his love for music with other kids.

They did this by purchasing keyboards and guitars which were used as centerpieces and then donated to Mather. The instruments are already being used by the students.

### **Mather Sports Teams are City Champions!**

The Boys Varsity Cross Country Team are the 2008 City Champions! They finished first in the city for the third straight year. Way to go team!

Ivan Coronal was the 2008 Individual City Champion in Cross Country! Way to go Ivan!

The Girls finished in third place in the 2008 city championship in Cross Country! Way to go team!

Congratulations to the Mather Junior Varsity Soccer Team 2008 City Champs! Way to go JV!

### **Mather Talent Show**

Alumni are invited to this year's Talent Show.

Solo Dance Voice Instrumental Drama Ensemble

Tuesday, November 25th

7:00 p.m.

Mather Auditorium

Admission: \$5.00

Proceeds will benefit the Mather Special Olympics

### **Alumni Connection**

#### **Calling all members of the Class of 1969!**

Mark your calendars for your 40th reunion!

**June 27, 2009**

**Maggiano's, Skokie**

Stay in touch with the planning committee and learn more about the reunion plans by visiting their website at [www.mather1969.com](http://www.mather1969.com).



### **Reunion Spotlights**

We have created a new forum in the Alumni Connections to help keep the memories of your reunions alive. Go to the [Alumni Connection](#) and click on your reunion and post your thoughts and experiences and continue the fun.

If your reunion is missing simply send us an e-mail and we will add it to the forum.

[Forward email](#)

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