



Mather Alumni News

March, 2010

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Mather Alumni Happenings

Mather Alumni Fund Board Welcomes New Faces

In its final act after roughly ten years of service, the founding Board of Directors of the Mather High School Alumni Fund expanded the number of Directors from five to twelve, and elected new Directors to fill the positions.

With the success of the October 10, 2009 celebration of Mather's first 50 years came not only the outpouring of 2000 guests, but the planning and organizational work of a large cadre of committed Alums. We are pleased to gain the advantages of their energy and ideas in managing the Fund's activities and planning its future.

Leaving the Board are Lois Landsman Moss, Michael Rosenberg, and Lee Tockman, all from the Class of 1965. On behalf of all the Alumni, thanks go out to these Mather graduates who provided many years of effort, insight, guidance, and commitment to the creation and development of the Alumni Fund.

The following Alumni were elected to the Board. Their terms will run to September 2011. The Board elected its officers and they are so identified in the listing. We also note that though leaving the Board, Lee Tockman continues to serve as General Counsel to the Fund.

Officers

President

Richard J. Rice, Class of 1965: Owner of March Capital Corp. and Chairman of Health eTechnologies LLC. Business activity focused on hedge funds and venture capital. Resides in Chicago with his wife, Lynne Newman Rice (Class of 1966).

We have two children, Aaron, 32, and Marisa, 29. Past charitable involvements have included chairman of an election watchdog agency, condo presidency, and president of the Chicago chapter of the Nation's oldest human relations organization. Nothing I have done in the past has matched the satisfaction which results from the Alumni Fund's direct impact on young lives.

Vice President

Larry Weiler, Class of 1970: An Account Executive at Creative Promotional Products in Skokie, IL. Married for 32 years, lives in Wilmette with wife Judy. They have 3 children, Michelle (28), Eric (26) and Franny (24).

Treasurer

Carol Hellman Dragon, Class of 1965: Career split between teaching high school history/sociology and professional museum volunteer management. Passionate commitment to personal and career development of adolescents as a foundation for the future of our society. Totally loves working with people from Mather.

Secretary

Jeff Prosansky, Class of 1968: Married for 37 years, 3 grown children, and 1 grandchild. Retired Spanish Teacher/Counselor from Chicago Public Schools after 34 years and working again for CPS as a counselor in a retired teacher position.

Directors

David Abrams, Class 1978: Owner of Skybox on Sheffield (Cubs Rooftop). Proud to serve on the Alumni Board while realizing his philanthropic desire to help young people at his alma mater achieve their educational goals and dreams.

Orsejda Basko, Class of 2003: Attended Northwestern University and majored in Economics with a minor in Italian. Works at Morningstar, INC., an investment research company, as a Consultant in the Institutional Software group. Resides in Chicago and enjoys volunteer work as well as playing volleyball and swimming.

Monica Frias Betance, Class of 1977: Resides in Niles with her son Alan. Employed by Moneris Solutions, a payments processing company, for the last three years and is a 30 year veteran in this space. As the Channel Manager, she is focused in the early childhood education vertical.

Debra Fleischman-Vilchis, Class of 1983: Chief Operating Officer, Fishman Public Relations (A national PR agency specializing in media relations and publicity programs for

franchise companies). Married to awesome husband, Mark for 15 years. Mother of three amazing children: Cassidy (14) Marlee (12) & Charlie (8).

Eugene (Gene) M. Frank, Class of February, 1962: B.S. Pharmacy from the University of Illinois COP (1967), Ph.D. in Medicinal Chemistry from the University of Illinois. Is a Registered Pharmacist in Illinois and California. Married to Rachel (Neuberg) Frank since 1969. They have three children (David, Deborah and Jeremy) and 3 "great" grand-daughters (Taylor, Logan and Charlie). Currently Employed at RAANI Corp. as Sr. VP Sales and Marketing (since 1989). Has worked in the cosmetic/Personal Care Industry for over 35+ years.

Denise Kase-Nabat, Mather class of 1986: Resides in Vernon Hills. Denise has 3 amazing kids.

Arni Miller, Class of 1967: After leaving Mather, attended the University of Illinois (Champaign-Urbana) followed by a 30 year career in the pharmaceutical industry. Now "retired", most of my time is spent working with healthcare start-ups, volunteer positions, travel and hobbies. Married to Robin Bluestone (Mather '69), father to two daughters and grandfather to one grandson. Currently living in Evanston, IL.

Ron Shulkin, Class of 1973: A veteran marketing automation subject matter expert, helping large organizations deploy the latest technologies. He writes a blog on social media focusing on innovation, collaboration, social communities and idea management. Ron is married to Peggy Coleman and has five wonderful children. He lives in Mundelein, writes, paints and sells technology.

Introducing the Alumni Marketplace!

The Alumni Marketplace is the perfect place to promote your businesses to fellow alumni. The theme of this new service is "By Mather alumni for Mather alumni!" The goal is to drive consumers to your products, services and websites and keep alumni coming back to the marketplace to see what is being offered.

A variety of ad sizes and promotion options are offered. All proceeds will support the Mather High School Alumni Fund scholarship program. [Learn more and purchase your ad today!](#)

Let's expand the alumni photo collection.

During the planning of



Mather at 50 we collected many pictures of alumni depicted through the years. We want to continue to add to our collection so please continue to send us photographs. You can email them to alumni@matheralumni.org.

Purchase Mather Gear and Continue to Support the School!

Visit the Mather at 50 Store and purchase Mather Rangers and Mather at 50 T-shirts, pullovers and hats.



[Order today!](#)

Profits from the Mather Gear will support Mather High School.

Volunteer Today!

The Sandi Port Errant Volunteer Program is supported by Harris Bank.



Chaperones needed for two exciting field trips!

Once again Mather students will be hosted again by Swedish Covenant Hospital for an opportunity to explore medically related careers. This exciting field trip, arranged through Ms.



Charmaine Danguilan of the Mather Science Department and our own Alumni Volunteer Program, will take place on April 13th. 65 students in A.P. Anatomy / Physiology and Chemistry will tour various departments so they can see careers in rehabilitation, pharmacy, nursing, medical laboratories and marketing first-hand. As a chaperone you will see the medical profession through the eyes of students who hope to work in one of these dynamic fields in the future.

When was the last time you visited the Field Museum?
 Freshman Biology teachers are in need of chaperones! Half of the Freshmen Class is attending a field trip to the Field Museum on Thursday, March 25 and the other half are going on Friday, March 26. 9am - 2pm. They need 20 chaperones for each trip! This is a great opportunity to round up your fellow classmates and make the trip together.

Send us an [email](#) to sign up for these trips.

The Alumni Speaker's Bureau Has Been Busy!

Recently, Officer Mitch Ross (1976), spoke to Ms. Adrienne Hawthorne-Kuhls class about his profession as a police officer. Airline pilot, George Karagiannis (1984), also spoke to a Physics class about Bernoulli's principle and flight.



Teachers are looking for individuals who can come to their classrooms and share their expertise, ideas and professions with the students. We are always seeking alumni who would like to be included in our Speaker's Directory.

Interested alumni are asked to complete a registration form. Please [click here](#) to download the form, fill it out and either fax it to (773) 253-5359 or [email](#) it to us.

School News

Support teacher projects at DonorsChoose.org!

Many Mather teachers have submitted projects to DonorsChoose.org. This is an organization that allows teachers to write small grants for classroom projects. Alumni can browse the grants and are able to contribute all or part of the project. This is a terrific way for alumni to contribute to Mather in a small but yet meaningful way.

[Click here](#) to see the current projects. Check back often because new projects will be added all the time.

Blood Drive

American Red Cross is holding a



Blood Drive at Mather High School on Thursday, March 25 from 8am - 2pm. We encourage the alumni to come out and donate for a worthy cause. This blood drive is sponsored by the Mather High School National Honor Society.

School library update!

Great progress is being made on the new library. The walls are up! Students and staff alike are excited and can't wait for the completion of their new library. Plans are for construction to be completed by late April with a Grand Opening in the Fall.



Get ready for Ethnic Fest!

Preparation is underway for Mather's Ethnic Fest! Ethnic fest is a celebration of the multi-cultural population of Mather. Watch singing and dancing from 20 different ethnic groups around the world as Mather students share their unique backgrounds! It will take place Thursday, May 13th and Friday May 14th and is open to the public both nights. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend. Tickets are \$7.00 and will be available at the door.



More information to follow in the next newsletter about this exciting event!

A Thank You From Mather High School

Ralph Watzke (1979) sadly passed away this fall at the age of 48. Ralph was very active at Mather behind the scenes with the stage crew, film and photography, all of which were great passions throughout his life. Mather High School is very grateful to Ralph and his family for



Stage Crew
Back Row: Matt Schmitt, Steve Hahn, Jeff Roberts, Jason Cole, Mike J. Brown, Ryan, Evan, [unclear], [unclear], [unclear], [unclear]
Front Row: [unclear], [unclear], [unclear], [unclear]

thinking of Mather and donating in his honor a wonderful professional quality video camera and equipment to the school. The students and faculty will be using this equipment for film classes, theatre groups, special events at the school, and to record Mather's history. The limits are endless, maybe even a video yearbook could be in sight!

Alumni Connection

Connect with fellow alumni!

Join the discussion at the [Alumni Connection](#). 2,262 alumni have already registered.

The current message boards include:

- General Announcements
- Alumni Classes Chat
- Alumni Employment Exchange
- Reunions - Post Current Reunion Plans
- Reunion Spotlight - Relive your reunion
- Looking for Fellow Alumni

New to the Alumni Connection discussion boards is the **Employment Exchange**. Here is your opportunity to post both employment wanted and job notices. Thank you to alumnus, Howard Robins (1965) for spearheading this project.

If you want to add a new discussion board just let us know.

Calling All Reunion Committees

Let us help you promote your class reunion! If reunions are planned for the following class years please send us an [email](#) and let us know about your event:

1970	1971
1980	1981
1990	1991
2000	2001

Facebook in Israel

Gitel (Gerri) Hesselberg (1976) has started a Facebook group for alumni living in Israel. It is called "Mather HS (Chicago) Alumni in Israel". Her hope is to connect and have some get-togethers with fellow Matherites.

[Forward email](#)

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