



Mather Alumni News

May, 2010

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Mather Alumni Happenings

Celebrate with the 2010 Scholarship Winners!

For the past eleven years, Mather alumni have been reaching back and helping the current Mather students with college scholarships. The 2010 recipient of the Mather Alumni Scholarship is Ramon Robles. Chosen from a field of 29 exceptional candidates, Ramon captured the hearts of the entire scholarship committee. As a special intern at the Legislative Reference Bureau of Chicago's City Council he was a driving participant of a new ordinance. "Never in my life have I felt so intrigued by the law." Ramon plans to attend Trinity College in Hartford, CT and study law.



Ramon's teachers had the following to say: "He strives to learn because he recognizes learning as an important pursuit." "Ramon has embraced learning opportunities where he could explore and develop his talents and pursue his interests." "I continue to be in awe of his commitment, intellectual curiosity and intense drive." We are thrilled to have him as our 2010 recipient. Ramon will receive an \$8,000 scholarship for tuition, fees, and books, payable over four years, as well as mentoring through his college years.

In addition five students were chosen to receive \$500 scholarships. They are Deba Alam, Yvette Gonzalez, Brian Micic, Gargi Vaghmare and Zainab Wadia.

Thank you to Co-Chairs Arni Miller (19) and Debra Vilchis (1983) and 2010 Scholarship Evaluation Committee

members Richard Rice (1965), Jill Schiller (1966), Joan Gold (1963), Larry Jacobson (1972), Carol Dragon (1965), Jeffrey Prosansky (1968), Sharon Prosansky (1968), Robin Bluestone-Miller (1969) for sharing your time and insights.

Mather is turning 51. It's your last chance to be part of the celebration. All Mather at 50 gear is 50% off!



Visit the Mather Gear Store and purchase Mather Rangers and Mather at 50 T-shirts, pullovers and hats. Quantities for Mather at 50 Gear are limited so [order today!](#)

Alumni Marketplace to debut in July!

The Alumni Marketplace is the perfect place to promote your businesses to fellow alumni. The theme of this new service is "Buy 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.



Volunteer Today!

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



A Field Trip For Science Students!

Our annual field trip to Swedish Covenant Hospital was held on Tuesday April 13, 2010. Ms. Charmaine Danguilan, Chair of Mather's Science Dept., organized a group of 45 juniors and seniors from her science classes to attend.



The morning began with the students listening to a nurse, pharmacists, and a hospital administrator as they described their jobs and the education needed to reach those positions. The students had the opportunity to ask questions following each speaker and were most interested in college programs and starting salaries.

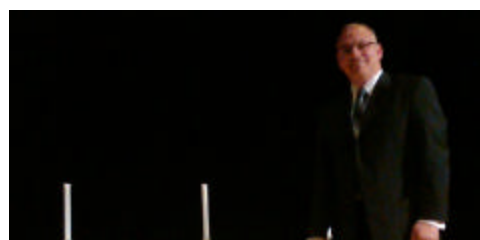


Next the hospital staff led the students on a tour of the hospital. The students learned about careers in rehabilitation, pharmacy, nursing, various medical laboratories and marketing. Hospital staff also provided hands

-on opportunities such as viewing cells growing through a microscope. They also viewed actual human organs! The morning concluded with the students learning about volunteer opportunities. This was an exceptional opportunity to job shadow all aspects of the medical profession. A special thank you to the staff at Swedish Covenant Hospital for donating their time and allowing Mather students to take part in their amazing educational program. We definitely plan to sponsor this exciting field trip again next year!

Alumnus Selected as Keynote Speaker for National Honor Society Induction Ceremony

The Mather 2009/10 National Honors Society Induction Ceremony was held on May 6, 2010, and was a



huge success! Attending were 30 inductees, 22 current members and parents, teachers and friends. The National Honor Society recognizes outstanding high school students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character. It was a very exciting evening for the students.

David Abrams, Mather High School Alumni Fund Board member and 1978 graduate was chosen to be the keynote speaker for the event. The motto he lives by is "Flying first class in the game of life and winning!" His message to the students and their families was "... embrace your accomplishments, embrace your goals, your future and believe it or not, embrace the struggles ahead which will bring character and toughness and inspire your determination for success in all you do."

David owns and manages the Skybox on Sheffield, a rooftop building across from Wrigley Field, entertaining some of the country's top corporations while they watch the Cubs play baseball. Additionally, as a member of the Chicago 2016 Olympic Committee he and fellow Mather alumnus, Bob Berland, traveled to Copenhagen with President and Mrs. Obama, Mayor Daley, and other dignitaries. David has recently been appointed to the Marketing/Communications committee for World Sport Chicago, the legacy program for Chicago 2016. David's passion lies in philanthropy where he serves on the board for local chapter organizations of Cystic Fibrosis, Osteogenesis Imperfecta (Brittle Bone Disease) and Core/EL Centro Cancer Rehabilitation.

Participating in the National Honor Society event gave David an opportunity to live out a lifelong dream of coming back to his roots and inspiring young people. Maureen West, Mather Spanish teacher, and an organizer of this event said "David did an amazing job. Just perfect and one of the best speeches she has ever heard". Kudos to you David for a job well done. Thank you.

[Click here](#) to read his entire speech.

The Alumni Speaker's Bureau Is Booming at MHS!



Last month the Speakers Bureau was a smashing success at Mather! Dr Steven Harris (1977) spoke

to Ms Hawthorne-Kuhls' students about what it takes to become a physician. He also answered many questions about the medical profession in general, and other student inquiries ranging from HIV to the common flu bug. Ms Hawthorne-Kuhl said: "I wish our time with Dr. Harris could have been longer! The students enjoyed his presentation".

Larry Dechter (1979) spoke to students in one of Ms. Hawthorne-Kuhls' classrooms. He described how to start your own business and what it takes to become an entrepreneur. One of the things that Larry touched on was the importance of staying in school. During the presentation the students learned about jewelry manufacturing. All of the students really enjoyed hearing Larry speak and hope he comes back again with samples of his work.



Mitch Ross (1976), an officer with the Milwaukee Police Department, made his second trip to Mather this year! Officer Ross spoke to Ms.Chinsio's class regarding how to become a police officer and described his daily duties. The students

thoroughly enjoyed his presentation, including pictures and video presentation. On his evaluation form Officer Ross wrote "The students seem to be focused and very interested in the field of law enforcement. It did not take them long to start asking questions about the career and my personal experiences"

Thank you to everyone! The students receive so much information from our speakers, much more than just the topic at hand. They ask so many great questions and are eager to learn as much as they can. We encourage all alumni to join our Speakers Bureau and share your profession, interests and expertise. Thank you to all of our speakers for making a difference! Sign up to be included in the Speakers Directory today. [Click here](#) to download the form, fill it out and either fax it to (773) 253-5359 or [email](#) it to us.

School News

The Mather Debate Team is going strong!

The MHS debate team had an extremely successful season. They started by winning the championship at the season opener, placed 2nd at the varsity level in tournament 2 and won 1st place at the junior varsity level in tournament 3.



Throughout these tournaments, all students earned at least one speaking award, with some earning multiple awards! For the city championship tournament, where students must qualify to participate, the junior varsity team of Amna Chandna and Sophia Sheikh advanced to the finals making them one of the top 16 junior varsity teams of all Chicago and suburban schools. In this amazing tournament, David Greenberg earned 18th place as junior varsity speaker in the entire city. Amna and Sophia's performance at this tournament qualified them for an invitational tournament at McDermott, Will, and Emery, where they earned 4th place.

The MHS debate team won numerous plaques, medals, gavels, incentive checks totaling \$450, and established very dear friendships. They represented Mather amazingly well, and we cannot wait to see what they do next season. Congratulations to teacher, Ms. Elizabeth Thompson and all of her student members of the 2009/10 Mather debate team for a job well done!!

Alumni Connection

The Class of 1980 is going to celebrate its 30th reunion on Saturday!

Date: Saturday, June 5, 2010 at 8:00pm

Location: eSkape Entertainment
350 McHenry Road
Buffalo Grove, IL

Cost: \$25 Advanced Registration ; \$35 at the door
(Credit cards may be called in to (847) 821-9000 or e-mailed to billf@eskape.us Kindly specify event.)

**Pizza and Appetizers -- Live Band --
Complimentary late night bowling -- Cash Bar**

At 10pm all Mather Grads and other friends are welcome to join the fun at \$5.00 per person.

Join fellow classmates for what promises to be an incredibly fun evening!

Any questions? Contact Bill Feldgreber (1980) at eSkape at 847-821-9000.

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