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Mather Alumni News

September, 2013

What's new?

Joel Hellman, Class of '67 and his cousin, Carol Hellman Dragon, Class of '65, were talking about Mather and how they could help the students. They both agreed on the importance of nurturing and developing the talent that percolates in the multi-cultural and urban population, one which is clearly represented at Mather.

Unbeknownst to her, Joel started a fund in honor of his cousin, to reach such students. Although totally embarrassed by his insistence that her name be used for the fund, she was not at all embarrassed by its purpose and mission.

"The Carol Hellman Dragon Friends of Mather Fund" will offer any certified Mather personnel who works with students, the opportunity to request money (up to \$ 400) for an innovative student program or an opportunity for supplemental student learning "above and beyond" what CPS can offer. Perhaps the art or music teachers want to create a classroom project that requires special materials. Perhaps a student advances in the History Fair, but needs funds to travel to Springfield for the day, or perhaps several students need registration fees for a unique science opportunity. There are many ESL (English as a Second Language) students at Mather who may not excel academically due to the language barrier, but who demonstrate talents in math or art and may need the help of this fund for supplies or workshop fees. These are the magic moments in education, when adolescents begin to see possibilities for their futures.

We are calling this grant "The Spark Grant" and we ask that the major intention be to ignite the excitement and love of learning in these students. We believe that talent and academic energy need to be nurtured and developed, and that lack of access to minimal financial resources should not be a barrier. The evaluation committee is comprised of alumni who currently teach or previously worked in Chicago Public Schools.



Dear Spark Grant organization,

Thank you for the VEX robotics equipment. With this new equipment, we are able to make another team, and take in more people. Currently, there are more people in robotics than I have ever seen in a long time. I also acknowledge the great opportunity that you gave us to make robotics more fun for us and for others. We are now able to proceed quickly and more efficiently with the plans that we have for the future.

Sincerely,

David, Mathew, Kelly, and Haleema (*Mather High School Robotics*)

If you are interested in supporting this fund, you can send your donation to:

The Friends of Mather Fund
P.O. Box 714
Highland Park, IL 60035

We thank you for reading this article and considering participation in the fund.

Where are they now?



Juliana Basko-Pluska, MD
Mather Graduate 2000

Juliana Basko, was the first recipient of the Alumni scholarship. She graduated from Harvard Medical School in June 2009. She completed her internship at Northwestern University and her residency in Dermatology at the University of Chicago. Juliana is currently at the University of Chicago Hospitals, where she is completing a fellowship in Dermatopathology

and serves as a Clinical Instructor of Medicine.

The Mather scholarship helped Juliana to begin her education by attending University of Chicago in the fall of 2000. Juliana who started at Mather High School after transferring from Albania at age 16, could barely speak English when she arrived.

"I am really grateful to have had such a source of support and encouragement when financial barriers could have stood in the way of accessing educational opportunities," Basko said. "I am so appreciative for the Mather Alumni and the difference their generosity made in my life."



Antwaun Sargent Mather Graduate 2007

Antwaun Sargent just completed Teach for America in a East New York neighborhood of Brooklyn. A Mather scholarship helped him study Politics at Georgetown University. Antwaun is also an avid freelance writer. He recently wrote a book review for the Chicago Tribune. [Click here](#) to read the review.

Support the Mather Alumni Scholarship Program! Simply [click here](#) to easily make your donation on-line.

Thank You!

We are proud to announce that this past year 23 alumni volunteered approximately 554 hours.

Board of Directors

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Renee Aloma (Retired Mather English teacher and Assistant Principal)

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Gary Johnson (Class of '69)
Lee Tockman (Class of '65)

If you are interested in serving on any of these committees, contact us at alumni@matheralumni.org.

Alumni Marketplace

The Alumni Marketplace is the perfect place to promote your businesses to fellow alumni. Our goal is to drive Mather Alumni to your products, services and websites, and keep them coming back to the marketplace to see what is being offered. The theme of this service is "Buy Mather alumni for Mather alumni!" Alumni can take advantage of special discounts, offers and gifts exclusively available by clicking through our website. Our e-newsletter currently reaches almost 5,000 people. [Click here](#) to learn more and place your ad.

Click the YouTube button and meet some of the Mather students your donations have supported in our scholarship program.



Any questions?

E-mail alumni@matheralumni.org Or call (773) 342-2749

Visit our website at www.matheralumni.org to learn more!

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