

Peabody High School National Alumni Association, Inc.

July 2010

Volume 10 Issue 4

PEABODY SCRIPT Centennial Celebration



Peabody Lions: Now and Forever

September 3-5, 2010

All Peabody alumni are invited to register and participate in all activities. We look forward to the opportunity to fellowship with classmates and friends.

September 2010 marks the 10th Anniversary of the Peabody High School National Alumni Association. As we celebrate this occasion, we will also rejoice in the legacy of Peabody High School and the 100 years that it existed.

Don't forget the deadline date: **Registration must be postmarked by July 31, 2010.** An additional fee of \$25.00 will be assessed on registration postmarked after the deadline date. Mark your calendars!

Schedule of Activities:



Friday, September 3rd

3:00 p.m.

Hotel Check-In - Holiday Inn Petersburg North

5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Registration

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Meet and Greet w/ light refreshments

Saturday, September 4th

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Registration
Peabody Middle School

Floating Tour

12:00 noon - 2:00 p.m.

Lunch & Alumni Up-date

6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Anniversary Celebration
Dinner & Dance
Fort Lee



Sunday, September 5th

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Worship Service
First Baptist Church
Harrison Street

12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Brunch
First Baptist Church

1:30 p.m.

Farewell & Departure

PHSNAA



PHSNAA

Teacher of the Quarter Mrs. Bessie R. Jones

Mrs Bessie Reid Jones is a native of Petersburg, Virginia where she attended public elementary and high school. She graduated from Peabody High School; class of 1942. After graduation from Peabody, she attended North Carolina College (now North Carolina Central University) in Durham, North Carolina and received her B.S. degree. She served as an adjunct faculty member for two semesters after graduation.

Mrs. Jones was married to the late Albert W. Jones, who was head football and baseball coach at Peabody High School for many years. They had four children: Dr. Venus Jones (deceased), Albert W. Jones, III, Culbert Jones and Mrs. Vickie Whitties.

Mrs. Jones taught biology and chemistry and was senior class sponsor at Sussex County Training School from 1953-1957. She taught in several different Petersburg schools from 1945 until her retirement in 1986. Her students remember her as "the teacher who insisted that they learn."

Mrs. Jones is a member of the Virginia Avenue Retirees Group. She also served an eight-year term on the John Tyler Community College Board.

After retirement, Mrs. Jones began working in the Civil Rights Movement with hopes of improving conditions for many residents in Petersburg. She marched, picketed and protested until barriers were removed for minority citizens. She is a member of the First Baptist Church, Harrison Street, where she is a member and past president of the L.A. Black Circle.



Grandson Plays a Steinway



Piano students at the Appomattox Regional Governor's School for the Arts in Technology had the opportunity to play an expensive keyboard in a recital. Timothy Clarke, grandson of Raymond and Irene Bailey ('60) made his family proud as he played Chopin's Waltz Op. 64, No. 2 in C sharp Minor during the recital. Notes from the school's new 1984 Model B Steinway Piano filled the auditorium as Timothy and other students entertained the audience with complex classical pieces.

To raise money for the piano, the school hosted a benefit concert on March 31 featuring Steinway pianist Don Irvin.





Mr. Ernest Shaw

Sports/Radio Icon

Ernest "Mr. Clue" Shaw became the first Black sports writer for The Progress-Index Newspaper in 1948, and in 1961 the first Black sports announcer for WSSV Radio. Mr. Shaw is a graduate of Peabody High School, and went on to receive his B.S. degree from Virginia State College (now University). He worked for WSSV Radio and soon earned the nickname of "Mr. Clue" for the extensive research he put into his reports. He was voted one of the top 100 Disc Jockeys in the nation. In 1962, he appeared on the Dick Clark Show, in Philadelphia, PA with Smokey Robinson and Mary Wells. He has interviewed many sports figures such as Jim Brown and Jackie Robinson.

Mr. Clue is very active in the community. He is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi, the Prince Hall 12th Masonic District and Elks Royal Lodge IBPOE of W; former Vice President of the Petersburg Branch of the NAACP, former Vice-President of the Petersburg Branch of the SCLC, and a member of the 555th Airborne of Petersburg. In 1980, he received a Meritorious Award from Virginia State University, named the 1992 NAACP Man of the Year, and received the Civil Rights Community Service Award presented at First Baptist Church in 2008.



Mr. Shaw is a member of Trinity Baptist Church where he serves on the Board of Deacons. He was married to the late Vivian Shaw and they had two children, eight grandchildren and one great-grandson.

PEABODY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IS ON THE MOVE

Take a few moments to view the Peabody Alumni Association web-site at phsnaa.org. A few more items have been added; however, there is still work in progress.

This site is designed for all alumni to keep in touch with classmates and friends. Send your photos, class reunions, and suggestions to the web-master, Deressa Miller at dmiller@vsu.edu



LATEST HAPPENINGS



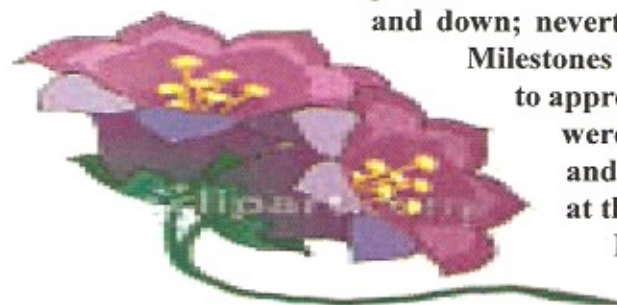
LATEST HAPPENINGS



Inspirational Thought

Greetings, Peabody Alumni,

As we close this academic year, do you feel valued and treasured? Allow me, please, to be presumptuous! As seasoned Peabodians, we can attest to the goodness of God, and to the love and protective nature of our parents and guardians. Others, of course, nurtured us and taught us to cook, sew, iron, build, play instruments, change a tire, braid hair, and ride a bike. Our formative years were fruitful, frivolous, and fascinating! The goal was to become productive, successful, happy citizens. The world was ours, and we had only to know it and ride its merry-go-round. Sometimes we toppled from the colorful horses as they bobbed up and down; nevertheless, we managed to recover, remount, and recommit.



Milestones were honored with a congratulatory wish for having learned to approach life in a new way. From our teachers we heard that we were growing taller, stronger, prettier, more handsome, smarter, and wiser. If such ramblings were true, we should not only be at the top of our game, but also far ahead, past the stars!

Not so? What happened? In the vernacular, one might retort, "Wha' ha' happun' was..."

In my black and gold opinion, we permitted our perception of reality and life's foibles to reset our goals and redirect us. Somehow, maturity was coupled with a resignation to being less useful. Suddenly, we did not count anymore, and we gave up our seat to a younger, more computer savvy pony rider. Staying upright in the saddle was no longer worth the trouble. We just could not take another revolution.

Conversely, we appreciate longevity, fine wines, full resumes, and retirement. We appear to be at war with ourselves, accepting the inevitabilities that occur, acknowledging personal championships, but earnestly striving to distance ourselves from further achievements.

You most certainly are priceless, a crown jewel, and still in the game. Others may ridicule and criticize your efforts, but remember that you are a dreamer, a doer, a thinker, an artist, an expert on this journey. You are accomplished in many fields, and on multiple fronts.

See yourself as an integral part of the process. You are special, unique, necessary... the book you did not write, the song you stopped singing, the painting you set aside, and the brushes you discarded are all waiting for your renewed perspective. You are worth everything. Think frequently and deeply as you vacation and prepare to launch a dynamic year in the Peabody High School National Alumni Association. Reclaim your God-inspired gifts and talents and be thankful for them.

Sincerely,

Ann J. Ellison, Chaplain



Retirement! Oh, What a Blessing



Effective July 1, 2010, Thelma M. Jefferson retired from Virginia State University with thirty-eight years of service. Ms. Jefferson began her career at VSU in September 1972 as a Clerk Stenographer in the Office of Student Special Services. Position promotions and several job re-classifications enabled her to advance to her current position of Administrative Program Specialist to the Department Chair, Department of Languages and Literature. Thelma did not limit her dedication and professionalism to the work in her office and the needs of the faculty and students she served, she also found time to serve on several university committees. She has served as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the University Staff Senate, Staff Representative on the Search Committee for three University Presidents, member of the University Parking & Traffic Appeals Committee, the Student Judicial Affairs Committee, the Space Allocation Committee, and the Homecoming Committee; served as chairman of the Faculty, Staff, Alumni Variety Show, and for many years she worked with graduation and commencement.

Even though Jefferson worked a full-time job; and for several years she worked part-time at Rite-Aid Pharmacy, she had the strength to attend VSU part-time, and she also made sure she stayed in tune with professional growth by joining and remaining active in professional organizations; which served to enhance her work performance. For twenty-six years she has been an active member of the Tri-City Association of Educational Office Professionals (TCAEOP). She held the offices of President, Secretary, Parliamentarian, Ways and Means Chairman, Awards Chairman, Bosses Night Committee Chairman, and was named Office Professional of the Year in 1994 and 2006. Since 1989, she has held membership in the Virginia Association of Educational Office Professionals (VAEOP) where she has served as Secretary, Membership Chairman for four terms, and was recently installed as Vice President; the National Association of Educational Office Professionals (NAEOP), and the National Association of Professional Women (NAPW). Since 2001 Ms. Jefferson has volunteered at Virginia Avenue and Walnut Hill Schools for Junior Achievement and was recognized in 2007 for "Sowing Seeds of Kindness." Thelma plans to continue serving the schools by rendering her service to Walnut Hill and she will add Ettrick Elementary to the list. In 2009, she conducted a professional development workshop entitled "Effective Communication in the Workplace" for office professionals at Petersburg High School.



Thelma graduated from Peabody High School; class of 1967. Motivating her and molding her to move in the right direction of office professionalism, she was mentored by the late Lawyer Robert H. Cooley, Jr. and she was allowed to student intern in his law office during her senior year at Peabody. Since 2003, she has held membership in the Peabody Alumni Association. She served as Recording Secretary for the 2004-06 term and Editor of the *Peabody Script*; and President for 2007-09 and 2009-11 terms.

Ms. Jefferson attends Mt. Olivet Baptist Church. She has two wonderful daughters, Melissa Williams (Michael) and Kimberly Dublin (Mahdi), and six beautiful, yet active grand-children. She is also a member of Club Megaton Social & Civic Club, Girls Inc. Social Club, and All That Hats Red Haters.

HAPPY RETIREMENT

Since her retirement, Thelma has been asked, "What will you do with your time, what are your plans?" She answered, "I have never been an idol person and have always been on-the-move and involved in some project to keep busy. However, because I dedicated so many years to my family and my job, it is now time for ME. Whatever my inner strength will allow me to do and it is reasonably feasible, that's what I will do. Look out! I may satisfy my younger year desire to ride a motorcycle. Can you see me now, z-o-o-o-o-o-o-ming through the streets of Petersburg."

**Peabody High School National
Alumni Association, Inc.
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The Mighty Lions

“Reuniting-Renewing-Restoring and Rejoicing Peabody’s Legacy”

We need your news articles!

Any corrections or comments
regarding the Script
should be sent to:



The Peabody Script



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