



Thurgood Marshall Academy ALUMNI eNEWSLETTER

Volume 3, No. 2: September 2009

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SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

- 1: Tramika Johnson
- 4: Dayna Hudson
- 7: Danielle Bender
- 8: Jasmine Jordan
- 9: Natasha Williams
- 11: LaTisha Moses
- 15: LaShena Cross
- 16: Theodora Walker
- 18: Derrell Lipscomb
- 22: Monique Matthews
- 23: Mary'I Pope
- 24: Chantel Thompson
- 25: Michael Miller
Carlton Wilhoit
- 26: June Hall
- 27: Andre Brown

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS:

- 2: Rayvonne Brown
- 4: Maxine Walker
- 5: Shienia Johnson-Grear
- 14: Britnee Flowers
- 16: Alasia Young
- 19: Tiffany Welch
Michele Short
- 20: Ashley Taylor
- 21: Antonio Moore
- 24: Elizabeth Robinson, Ketra
White

WELCOME!

Hello all TMA alumni! For those of you who have not heard, Ms. Beth Walker will be returning to the college life this fall as she pursues her Masters Degree. I (Ms. Levine) will eagerly be taking over her alumni responsibilities. This will be my 2nd year at TMA; in addition to my alumni role I also help with college counseling at the school. I look forward to working with you all and having a great year!!!

What is Thurgood Marshall Academy's Alumni Program?

The Alumni Program was established to provide all of you with the tools and resources you need to succeed in and graduate from college. It also seeks to engage you in special events that will help you stay connected to the high school community. As the Alumni Affairs Coordinator, I am the liaison between Thurgood Marshall Academy and its alumni. Through frequent phone calls, e-mails, and/or face-to-face meetings, I will be working closely with all alumni to ensure your academic success in college. I will also be in touch with those who took some time off and are now interested in re-enrolling in college.

WANT TO BE IN THE LOOP?

Read the Alumni eNEWSLETTER!

The Alumni eNewsletter, which includes helpful tips and class notes, will be e-mailed on a monthly basis. To ensure that you receive the eNewsletter, please contact me whenever your e-mail address changes.

Facebook!

Connect with old friends, meet new friends, and be your alumni coordinator's friend (©) on facebook! The alumni webpage can be found searching for the username alumni@tmapchs.org OR you can email me your Facebook username and I will find you. My email address is listed below.

Dear Alumni,

Just as Thurgood Marshall Academy's freshmen are gradually adapting to our school environment and learning the "No Brainers," I hope that you are settling in your classes, making new friends, and enjoying your new freedom. Just remember not to get too carried away in all the excitement!

In this issue, you will find tips on getting academic help, budgeting, and (re)-enrolling in college.

As always, I am here to help you succeed in college. If you need assistance, please contact me via phone or e-mail (scroll down for my contact info).

Best wishes,
Ms. Levine
Alumni Affairs Coordinator

P.S. Don't forget to complete our Alumni Survey! See below for link.

HAVING TROUBLE IN YOUR CLASSES?

Be *proactive* about seeking help *early*.

- Take advantage of your professor's **office hours**. Ask your professor, check Blackboard, or look at your syllabus for hours and location.
- Visit your **academic resource center for tutoring support and study skills workshops** and the **writing center for paper assistance**.
- Form a **study group** with your classmates. Schedule regular meetings to review course material and homework.
- Meet with your **academic advisor**. S/he may be able to guide you to additional on-campus support services.
- Find a **private tutor** if you need intensive one-on-one tutoring. Your professor or academic advisor may be able to pair you up with a graduate student.
- If you are a student with an IEP, make sure that you **register with the Student Support Services office** and **receive the appropriate accommodations**.
- Still having trouble? Contact me (scroll down for my contact info) so we can come up with more solutions.

STILL MISSING FINANCIAL AID?

Did you file your FAFSA yet?

You must file a FAFSA if you wish to receive any type of federal financial aid for college. Please visit www.fafsa.ed.gov to begin a new application (for first-year students) or a renewal application (for returning students).

Did you forget about DC-TAG & DC-LEAP?

DC-TAG will . . .

- fund the difference (up to \$10,000) between in-state and out-of-state tuition for DC residents **OR**
- provide a grant up to \$2,500 for any college in the D.C. metropolitan area or any HBCU in the nation or any two-year community college

DC-LEAP will . . .

- provide a need-based grant of up to \$1,500 for any college

To apply:

- You must bring these documents and forms to the State Education Office (441 4th Street, NW, Suite 350N at Judiciary Square) **immediately**: 1) **certified copy of 2008 D-40** (DC's state income tax return) for you or a guardian **OR proof of TANF or SSI** for you or a guardian; 2) **two of the following: utility bill, pay stub, bank statement** (cannot be over 45 days old) from DC residence; 3) **one 2008 – 2009 Student Aid Report (SAR)** from FAFSA; 4) **Affirmation Statement** (attached); and 5) **HS diploma or unofficial/official college transcript**
- NOTE: If you have never applied for DC-TAG or DC-LEAP, you will also need to provide certified copies of previous D-40. For example, if you graduated in 2006, you will need to submit certified D-40s from 2005 and 2006. And, if you graduated in 2005, you will need to submit certified D-40s from 2004, 2005, and 2006.
- Please call the State Education Office at 202-727-2824 if you have any questions

ON A TIGHT BUDGET?

Find a work-study job on campus.

Work-study provides jobs for students with financial need, allowing them to earn money to help pay for educational and/or living expenses. In order to have a work-study job, you must have a work-study award, which represents the amount you can earn, in your financial aid package. To find a work-study job, please visit your college's student employment center and speak with a work-study coordinator.

Apply for a Resident Assistant (RA) position on-campus.

RAs are trained to supervise and support students living in a college residence hall. As an RA, you will likely receive free boarding and a partial meal plan. Furthermore, it will be a great opportunity to build leadership skills. Please visit your college's housing department for more information.

Apply for Thurgood Marshall Academy's Alumni Emergency Fund.

The Emergency Fund was established to help alumni manage unexpected financial hardships while they are in college. TMA alumni can apply for emergency funding of up to \$500/year to cover tuition and fees, textbooks, school supplies, etc. To learn more, see the attached Information Sheet, Application, and Agreement Form or look under the alumni option on the TMA website at: <http://www.thurgoodmarshallacademy.org>

WIN A \$25 GIFTCARD TO TARGET!

Fill out the Alumni Survey by September 31st for a chance to win.

Complete it at:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=cf8pLUTsxpluwKEWW7in4A_3d_3d

This short, but important, survey will be used to collect your contact information, confirm your current school or work status, evaluate our college counseling and alumni program, and find out which types of alumni event most interest you. It should take no longer than 10 – 15 minutes to complete.

THINKING ABOUT (RE-) ENROLLING IN COLLEGE?

TMA can help you with the application and financial and process.

Did you know that individuals with a bachelor's degree annually earn an average of \$23,000 more than those with a high school diploma? If you took some time off after high school to work, it's not too late to go back to school. Please contact me (scroll down for my contact info) to schedule a college counseling appointment.

CLASS NOTES:

Have exciting news that you would like to share with the Thurgood Marshall Academy Alumni Community in the next eNewsletter? Please contact me (see below).

HAVE A COMMENT OR SUGGESTION?

Let me know! E-mail elevine@tmapchs.org or call 202-563-6862 ext. 266
Fax #: 202-563-6946

Phone: 202-563-6862, ext. 266 Email: elevine@tmapchs.org