

PANTHER BLUE



**MCKINLEY
HIGH SCHOOL
CONTINUES
THE LEGACY**

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY



On a January afternoon in 2015, a motorcade of black limousines and SUV's drove through Baton Rouge heading south, turning up the hill onto Washington Street. It did not turn right to the Alumni Center but left onto Thomas Delpit Drive, down the hill, eventually stopping at McKinley High School. Outside, along this route crowds stood, cheered and cried, because going inside the oldest African-American high school in the state was the 44th President of the United States, the first African American to hold the office. As we begin our celebration of Black History we highlight some of those McKinley graduates who have dedicated their lives to

ensuring justice for all. When President Obama said *"the arc of the moral universe may bend towards justice, but it doesn't bend on its own"*, his words reflected McKinley graduates, too numerous to name, who were nurtured at a school that insisted on excellence in all things as it encouraged graduates to stand up for the causes of social justice. To all those MCK graduates who risked, their livelihoods, their reputations and even their lives in the name of justice, we salute you.

MCKINLEY GRADUATES FIGHT FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Dr. Dupuy Anderson, WWII veteran, civil-rights activist and local dentist, participated in the 1953 Baton Rouge bus boycott, ran for mayor of Baton Rouge in 1960 (when African Americans did not run for such offices), and filed suit to desegregate the undergraduate division of Louisiana State University. As a result, his daughter Dr. Freya Anderson Rivers was one of six African-American undergraduates to integrate LSU in 1964.

Jewel Newman, politician and community organizer, brought Little League competition to Scotlandville. In 1972, Newman won three, 4-year terms on the EBRP Council as representative from the Scotlandville area. Later elected to the LA House, Newman served one term from 1984-88. His "Help Our People for EBRP program raised \$14,000 through bingo games to keep open three food stamp offices in north Baton Rouge.

Eva Legard, the first African American female member of the EBRP School Board and was a longtime member of the BR Council on Human Relations. Her role in politics began with her attendance at a school board meeting in 1980, called to decide whether blacks should be members. Approached by attorney Walter Dumas asking her to run, Mrs. Legard won the seat, which she held from 1980-1994.



McKinley Class Presidents: Mobilize!

Let's Grow the Alumni Association Together
Be the Class With Most Association Member
Earn a Plaque in the Alumni Center Museum
Start Today!

www.mckinleyalum.org



(225) 383-4865



From the pen of the Alumni Association President...

Attention Class Presidents: Come and be a part of the new **McKinley Alumni Association's Presidents' Club**. If you are a class President or leader or know of a class President or leader please text or call Joette '72 Panther at (225) 916-8881 with the person's name and contact information. Your support is much needed and appreciated. Hail! Hail!

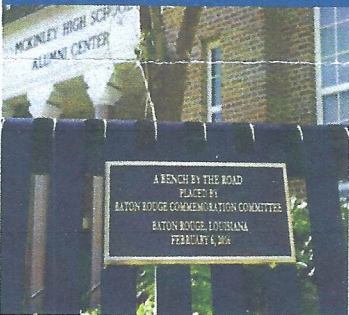
Rev. Dale Flowers

MCKINLEY ALUMNI CENTER

How many of you have stopped to reflect on the importance of an alumni association? We, the graduates of McKinley are the ones who create the reputation of this great school through our accomplishments in the world. We help to sustain the reputation through our donations and our volunteerism, and a key part of our success means keeping in touch with you.

We want you to hold McKinley and its memories close to you for all of your lives, always reflecting on what a tremendous gift we were given in being allowed to attend this greatest of high schools in Louisiana.

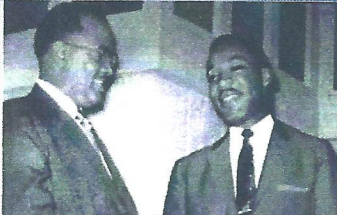
THE BENCH BY THE ROAD



In February 2006, author Toni Morrison launched the Bench by the Road community initiative as a response to the absence of markers in remembrance of the contributions to our country by African slaves. . She said, "*There is no place you or I can go, to think about or not think about, to summon the presences of, or recollect the absences of slaves . . . There is no suitable memorial, or plaque, or wreath, or wall, or park, or skyscraper lobby. There's no 300-foot tower, there's no small bench by the road.*" Of the more

than 30 benches with plaques placed at sites all over the world, a "bench" was placed at our own McKinley Alumni Center in 2016, commemorating the city's 1953 bus boycott.

AN INCONVENIENT JOURNEY



Attorney Murphy Wilbert Bell, class of 1939, was well-known for his efforts on behalf of civil rights. He was instrumental in bringing a desegregation law suit that lasted for more than 40 years, was an attorney for the Baton Rouge bus boycott, and also worked on behalf of H. Rap Brown, a figure of the Black Freedom Movement of the 60s and 70s. In addition to

fighting to desegregate school districts around Louisiana, Bell also defended former NAACP president, Emmet Douglas, arrested for trying to eat at an all-white restaurant in Baton Rouge.

McKinley also played a crucial role in the fight for justice as the staging area, laying out strategy for the 1953 bus boycott and raising money to transport those dependent on buses. Led by Rev. T. J. Jemison, it was the model for the Montgomery Boycott led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Alumni Association Board

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The Only American

The African American is the only American

Who came to America

Not seeking freedom

Because he had been robbed of it;

Not looking for a home

Because he had been robbed of it;

Not looking for a home

Because he had been snatched from his;

Not as a fugitive from persecution

Because it awaited him;

Not in search of opportunity

Because it was beyond his reach;

Not in pursuit of happiness

Because he had left it behind;

Not hoping for love

Because there was none for him;

And not willingly

Because he came as a slave

What's Going On at McKinley?



McKinley High School's 2017 Pantherette captain, **Semaya Roberts** (bottom center) along with girls from Florida and Georgia, won the opportunity to perform at halftime with the Sensational Stingettes of Alabama State University. They were designated "Lucky 7" to mark the original "7" Stingettes who performed at homecoming 40 years ago.



McKinley High choir performed at the MLK Day celebration held at Mt. Zion First Baptist Church and participated in other projects commemorating Dr. King's birthday.

Boys Basketball

The team was 13-6, going into the Bob Pettitt Coca Cola Tournament in December. Led by coach Harold Boudreaux, McKinley along with Scotlandville were the top two seeds and both advanced to the finals. Unfortunately McKinley fell to the Hornets.

You can still see the Panthers in action , with their standout player **Tyrese Radford**, as they play Capitol, Broadmoor and Catholic before the season ends on January 30.



McKinley High School is hosting a Dance Marathon at Buchanan Elementary, March 10, as a part of *more than 300 Miracle Network Dance Marathon* programs raising funds for local children's hospitals. This program unites college, university, and high school students across North America. The marathons are totally student-run organizations that operate throughout the year and culminate in a 6- to 48-hour Dance Marathon event where students reveal and celebrate the year's fundraising total, participate in games and dancing, enjoy entertainment, and meet with patient families treated at the local Children's Miracle Network Hospital. The event runs from 10:00 am to 4:00 p.m, and the public can make online contributions at <https://events.dancemarathon.com>.



Lady Panthers Basketball



Boasting a 21-3 record, the Lady Panthers basketball team, led by coach , Krystal Huggins, will not end its season until February 9, 2018. Check the school website for the schedule and come out to support our basketball teams.



Alumni Appreciation

The following are scenes from the October 29, 2017 McKinley Alumni Appreciation Gala, *An Evening in Paris* in honoring alumni members. Chaired by the Alumni Association Executive Committee, with beautiful decorations courtesy of Iris Lott, and music by a jazz ensemble, the evening was filled with fun and fellowship. Director Melvin C. Mitchell Sr. and Co-Director Jeffrey Neal were honored for their two year pledge of voluntary commitment to maintaining the McKinley Alumni Center as a source of pride and beauty for community activities and events.



We've Upgraded !

Thanks to a state assessment, the McKinley Alumni Center was able to install new floors in the downstairs office areas and the upstairs hall. The large, upstairs entertainment area is now ready for parties, teas, conferences and other events.



LEGENDS AND LIVE WIRES: The Bench, The Bar, The Badge

The branches of the McKinley tree extend to all fields of endeavor, far and wide over the country and the world. Although many fought on the battlefield of justice, those below are just some of the alumni who have excelled in bringing order to our communities. Judge John Michael Guidry once asserted that McKinley taught all students to be multifaceted, to do their best and have a sense of pride in McKinley. It is with this same sense of pride that we recognize a few of our graduates who have committed their lives to bringing justice to all people.



McKinley graduates who have ascended to the bench



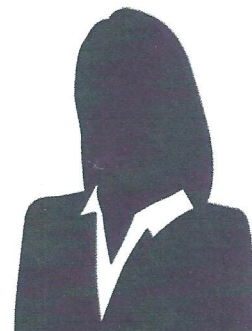
Freddie Pitcher



John Guidry



Trudy White



Connie Smith Rotan



McKinley graduates practicing at the bar



Cleo Fields



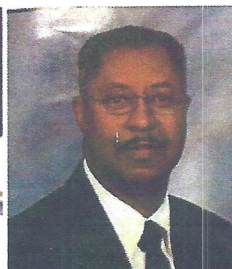
"Ted" James



Olivette Mencer



Robert Eames



Sidney Hall

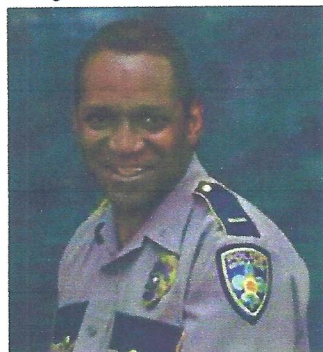


Paulette P. LaBostrie

Sidney Hall



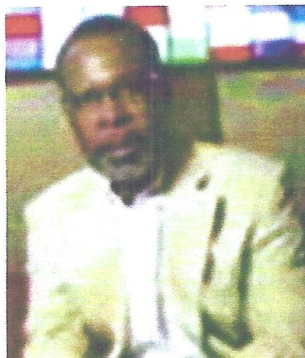
McKinley graduates in the fields of law enforcement.



Donald Valdry



Chiquita Broussard



Dale Flowers



Daryl Stansberry

McKinley High School
Alumni Association

1520 Thomas Delpit Dr.
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

McKinley Alumni Newsletter



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The
Alumni
Center
Museum
contains
many pic-

tures and artifacts of the school, but it is yet a work in progress as we continue to solicit donations of pictures or any other McKinley memorabilia you may have. We have been able to enlarge our space due to your generous donations. Thank you for continuing to help us grow.

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New Alumni Web Address

www.mckinleyalum.org

PANTHER NATION

VISIT: WWW.MCKINLEYALUM.ORG

www.mckinleyalum.org

SUPPORT YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Calling all McKinley High graduates! If you are a McKinley High graduate, but not a member of the Alumni Association, please join and keep in touch with your school and its activities. Give back to a PLACE and an IDEA that has given you so much!!! Pick up an application at the center 1520 Thomas Delpit Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70702 or join online at www.mckinleyalum.org or call the office at (225) 383-4865.

Annual Membership :	\$50.00
Life Installment	4x\$50.00 (within one year)
Life membership:	\$200.00 + \$25.00/year

If you have stories you'd like to submit to the newsletter or items to donate to the museum, contact center director, Melvin Mitchell at (225) 383-4865.

The majority of the Negroes who took part in the year-long boycott of Montgomery's buses were poor and untutored; but they understood the essence of the Montgomery movement; one elderly woman summed it up for the rest. When asked after several weeks of walking whether she was tired, she answered: "My feet is tired, but my soul is at rest." ~Martin Luther King, Jr.

(225) 383-4865