



PANTHER BLUE

MCKINLEY ALUMNI: THE HEALERS



Dr. Leo S. Butler was the first male to receive a diploma from Baton Rouge Colored School, which became McKinley High School. Finishing from Howard University, **Dr. Butler** began a lifelong practice of medicine and community service and served as a mentor for other blacks who followed him into the profession. Known as the “Dean of Black Physicians,” he was honored for his services to Blundon Home, Southern University and to civil rights. His example ushered in the activism and community service of doctors like **Louis James** who became the first black to serve in the Baton Rouge coroner’s office, or **Donald Lee Harris** noted for his kindness, generosity and down-to-

earth demeanor. As compassionate and able as these physicians were, they could not have survived without the partnership of nurses, and other medical support staff, many of whom McKinley counts among its graduates. This issue of the newsletter is a salute to some of the McKinley Healers and to those who worked along side and were inspired by them.

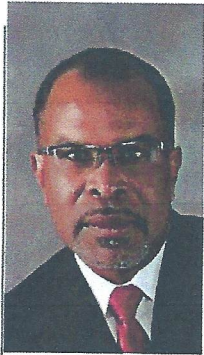
MCKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL HONORS THE LEGACY

MCKINLEY GRADUATE SALUTES NURSES



“Their friendship was therapy that kept the wounds from becoming overwhelming”. Spoken by a black nurse, these words reflect the pain and sometimes humiliation that her profession experienced during segregation in Baton Rouge. Brought together in 2010 for a reunion by McKinley graduate

Joan Forbes, a group of these nurses describe working on the “Black Ward” a single section of a single floor of a local hospital, where all blacks were lumped together, regardless of medical need. While they were not all McKinley graduates, these professionals all endured unprofessional treatment for many years as they toiled in local hospitals. They spoke of only two bathrooms, one for men and one for women, with a single tub, sink and toilet in each; whites refusing to be treated by them; a segregated cafeteria where they were unwelcome. In 2010, when her mother turned 83, Forbes hosted a large party, inviting all the nurses she could find who had once worked at the General’s fourth-floor “black wing,” then known as 4-South. Many hadn’t seen each other in years. Her mother died in 2011, but Forbes kept pursuing her cause to persuade the General to honor the women who cared for patients—and each other—through the hard times of the Jim Crow era and beyond. These women were later honored not only by the Baton Rouge General Hospital but by the women of Baton Rouge at The Celebration of Women program on March 17th of this year.



From the pen of the Alumni Association President...

Fellow Alumni, our alma mater has faced challenges in the past as we face them today. But just as they have not defeated us before, new trials do not affect our love for and devotion to our alma mater. Nor will they diminish our faith in an institution that has given so much to the world. The Alumni Association has met with the new administration and students about the athletic program and has pledged its support, both morally, spiritually and financially. Just as many of the healers highlighted in this issue faced and overcame tremendous barriers to their success, we also face present difficulties with courage and promise born of a faith in the One who gives us strength and assurance.

Rev. Dale Flowe

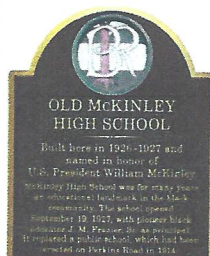
A NEW ADMINISTRATION



Esrom Pitre

In light of some athletic issues, real changes were brought to MCK in the form of a brand new administration, lead by **Esrom Pitre**, principal, along with former football coach and athletic director, **Robert Signater**, who will wear two hats: assistant principal and head football coach. The penalties levied against MCK, called for a suspension of all coaches along with a fine exceeding \$42,000. The two administrators had to hit the ground running to hire coaches to replace those suspended and to reassure students and parents that the MCK sports program would continue despite this setback. The administrators plan to appeal the penalties. A hearing is scheduled for September, 13.

HISTORICAL MARKER RESTORED



Shortly after the 2005-06 renovation of what is now the McKinley Alumni Center, the marker designating it as a national historical location was removed from the grounds of the building. Earlier this year, Cleo Fields, class of 1980, offered to finance its replacement. We look forward to seeing this symbol of educational excellence and African-American heritage once again restored to its place of prominence at the main entrance to the Alumni Center.

Obstacles don't have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don't turn around and give up. Figure out how to

AN INCONVENIENT JOURNEY



Dr. Alvin C. Williams began his practice in Baton Rouge in 1953, on Gus Young Avenue, formerly Capitol Avenue. For more than 40 years, Dr. Williams worked Monday through Saturday, dawn to dusk, treating patients from all over Baton Rouge but mainly in what was then called "The Park." He graduated from McKinley in 1935, but completed his medical degree more than 15 years later. After graduating from Southern, he was drafted into the army as a private and rose to the rank of major, a feat almost unheard of for African-American soldiers. He became a postman for five years after his discharge, before entering Howard University Medical School. During medical school breaks he would carry mail to continue financing his education. Like other black doctors, **Dr. Williams** overcame significant obstacles in his passion to serve his people.

**CLIMB IT,
GO
THROUGH
IT, OR
WORK
AROUND
IT.**

McKinley Graduates : The Healers

The medical pathway has always been long and arduous, but the graduates below are just some of the many who have exceeded expectations and become the *McKinley Healers*.

Legendary Baton Rouge Doctors



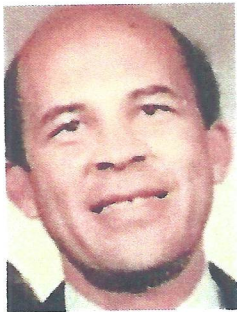
Standing: Dr. William Yates, Dr. Montrell Cummings, Dr. Dawson, Dr. Donald Harris, Dr. Bernard, Dr. Hall
Sitting: Dr. Leo S. Butler, Dr. Alvin C. Williams, Dr. Louis James, Dr. D'Orsay Bryant



Dr. B. V. Baranco



Lucinda Warren LPN



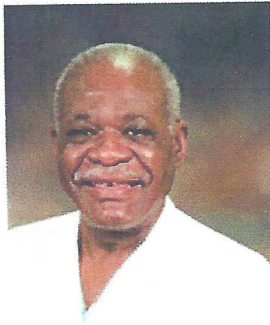
Dr. Louis Patin



Earl Dean Joseph RN



Dr. Wanda Spurlock



Dr. Ernest Mencer



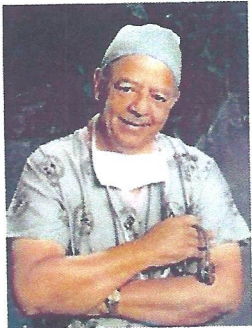
Dr. Karisma Patel



Ory Marionneaux PA



Dr. Stephanie Frederic



Dr. Emmit Conrad

McKinley Family! WE ARE GOING DIGITAL!

There's a new app for you to hear all things McKinley and receive information throughout the year on ALL upcoming events, dates, achievements and deadlines. This app is completely free and downloadable in your App Store!



Alumni Members Welcome Students Back to School

Calling All Alumni and Friends of McKinley!

**MEET UP AT THE PANTHERS' FOOTBALL GAMES
LET'S SHOW THEM SOME LOVE**

8/31	SCOTLANDVILLE	10/05	BROADMOOR (H)
9/07	CAPITOL	10/12	CATHOLIC
9/14	BAKER (H)	10/19	ST. AMANT
9/21	LIVONIA (H)	10/26	EAST ASCENSION
9/28	CECILIA	11/02	DUTCHTOWN



Scenes from the June, 2018 Alumni Roundup



Recognition of Willie Pearl Washington, class of 1946

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 and maintain the reputation of this great school through our accomplishments. 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 Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Let us all commit ourselves to lifting high the banner of McKinley and let us pledge loyalty to our alma mater forever.

Support your Alumni Center Through: Your Donations Support

- Donations
- Renting the facility
- Volunteering at McKinley
- Facility Upkeep
- Educational Outreach
- Community Outreach

IN MEMORIAM



Bernadine E. Chube Jenkins, who departed this life on June 27, attended McKinley High School, graduated from Southern University in May 1955 (Magna Cum Laude) and received her Master's Degree from Columbia University in New York. Mrs. Jenkins retired from Southern University as an Assistant Professor with over 50 years of Service in 2012. She was also an FCC licensed Radio Show host at WXOK on Sunday mornings from 1953 to 1958. She was an active member of numerous organizations and associations, including The McKinley Alumni Association.



Class Presidents: Mobilize!
Let's Grow the Alumni Association Together

Be the Class With Most Association Members
Earn a Plaque in the Alumni Center Museum



McKinley Class of 1966

Reverend Dale Flowers

- President
- Melvin Mitchell
- Vice-President
- Brenda G. Turner
- Secretary
- Hagar Brown-Anderson
- Assistant Secretary
- Vera Ellois
- Financial Secretary
- Drusilla Carter
- Treasurer
- Daryl Blacher
- Parliamentarian
- Georgia Neal
- Chaplain
- Jeffrey Neal
- Sergeant At-Arms

Have a
Story About McKinley
to Share?

Contact the
Alumni Center.

MCKINLEY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

(BY CLASS)



1.1975-27	13.1986-8	27.1959-5	41.1985-3	55.1937-1
2.1964-26	14.1945-7	28.1973-5	42.1995-3	56.1938-1
3.1965-13	15.1950-7	29.1976-5	43.1998-3	57.1943-1
4.1957-12	16.1961-7	30.1979-5	44.2001-3	58.1946-1
5.1968-11	17.1962-7	31.1956-4	45.1940-2	59.1960-1
6.1982-10	18.1969-7	32.1975-4	46.1944-2	60.1988-1
7.1966-10	19.1971-7	33.1984-4	47.1947-2	61.1991-1
8.1967-10	20.1974-7	34.1989-4	48.1952-2	62.1992-1
9.1980-9	21.1975-6	35.1997-4	49.1983-2	63.1996-1
10.1954-8	22.1977-6	36.1941-3	50.1987-2	64.2002-1
11.1962-8	23.1999-6	37.1948-3	51.1990-2	65.2003-1
12.1981-8	24.1942-5	38.1951-3	52.1993-2	66.2010-1
	25.1955-5	39.1953-3	53.1994-2	
	26.1958-5	40.1970-3	54.2000-2	

HOW MANY FROM
YOUR CLASS ???

McKinley High School
Alumni Association

1520 Thomas Delpit Dr.
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Support MCK: Purchase
a school license plate.



MCK Alumni Center Museum

The Alumni Center Museum contains many pictures and artifacts of the school, but is yet a work in progress as the museum continues to solicit donations of pictures or any other McKinley memorabilia you may have. Our space has been enlarged due to your generous donations. Thank you for continuing to help us grow.

Printing Courtesy of

COPIES TOO

5251 Nicholson Dr. Suite N
Baton Rouge, LA 70820
225-761-1888
FAX: 225.761.1090
Email: orders@copiestoo.com

www.mckalumniassociation.com

McKinley Alumni Newsletter



Non-Profit Organization
U. S. Postage Paid
MCK Alumni Center
Permit 569

Willie Mae Williams
1920 Minnesota St.
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

REVIVAL OF THE ALUMNI BRICK PROJECT

On the front lawn of the Alumni Center is a beautiful square paved with bricks paid for and named for McKinley graduates and supporters. Now, more than a decade later, the project is being revived as a way to memorialize McKinley graduates and supporters. For more information, contact the Alumni Center.

SUPPORT YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

All McKinley High Graduates!

JOIN today!

If you are not already a member of the Alumni Association, please join and stay informed about what's going on at your alma mater. Give back to the PLACE that has given you so much. You may complete an online application, or obtain one from the Alumni Center at 1520 Thomas Delpit Drive. If you call the Center, the staff will gladly send you an application form in the mail.

Membership Fees

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

Please join at www.mckalumniassociation.com or call the Center office at (225) 383-4865.

"Nobody can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending." – Maria Robinson

(225)383-4865