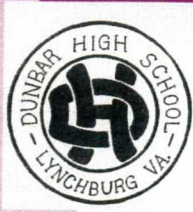


DHS



**Class
of
1965**



40th Class Reunion

2005



**Dunbar High School
Lynchburg, VA
Class of 1965
40th Class Reunion**

August 20, 2005



MESSAGE FROM THE 40TH REUNION COMMITTEE

Dear Classmates,

It is with great pleasure and honor that the 40th Reunion Committee and I welcome you to the 40th reunion of our class.

"Back in the Day" when we were 17 years old, 40 years seemed like an eternity. Today it seems like only yesterday when we were students at DHS, enjoying the learning experiences, the school activities, partying at the YMCA and hanging out with our friends. We look back on those years with great fondness and wonderful memories.

Many of us can point to our teachers, education and experiences at Dunbar as big parts of the foundation that prepared us for success in our various careers and in raising our families. Our experience at Dunbar was unique and we all remember that during our time there, Dunbar was an exemplary school. We were proud of our sports teams, our Dunbar Chronicle, our Dunbarian, our Dunbar Chorus, our Marching and Concert Band and the Thespians.

We can all be proud of our contributions that made Dunbar the institution that it was during our years of attendance. This reunion provides an opportunity to rekindle memories of that wonderful time and come together, once again, as the Class of '65. Appropriately our theme is "Connecting with /Honoring Our Past". We invite you to recreate and relive the experiences of our youth and years at Dunbar.

Sincerely,



Farnese J. Hicks, Chairperson & the Class of 1965 40th Reunion Committee

“ WE LOVE OLD DUNBAR...”
A SHORT HISTORY OF DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL
IN
LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA

as written by Dr. L. Garnell Stamps in 1989

Paul Laurence Dunbar High School in Lynchburg, Virginia, was truly unique among the finest secondary schools in the history of the United States of America. From her ranks there have emerged men and women of preeminent repute: federal judges and brilliant lawyers, entrepreneurial innovators and self-made millionaires, doctors and dentists, theologians and philosophers, military tacticians and battlefield heroes, politicians and way makers: and on and on and on.

C.W. Seay, Dunbar's greatest principal, served in that capacity for thirty years. **Pauline Weeden-Maloney**, his finest assistant principal, helped to permanently unlock the doors to America's greatest colleges and universities. Many of Dunbar's teachers became the unmistakable substance of legend. Some of her graduates have literally spanned the globe, breaking down barriers which had stood as giant obstacles.

Why then.. after forty-seven splendid and fully-productive years..did other men and women, who never really tried to understand the mission of Dunbar, tear down Dunbar's hallowed walls?

The Dunbar Story begins in a smoke-filled room on the grounds of Virginia Theological Seminary and College. There in historic old Hayes Hall, sixty-nine years ago, **Edward A. Bondurant**, a city postman; **Washington Scott**, a carpenter by trade, but a dynamic, charismatic, determined individual; and **D. N. Vassar**, an instructor of Homiletics from Virginia Union University in Richmond, waged the first major assault against the status quo.

“We met to decide upon a course of action to follow in order to show our opposition to the dimmable shame of things in Lynchburg.” The preceding quotation was transcribed by the late Rev. Dr. F. P. Lewis, a distinguished Lynchburg historian and theologian, from the frayed notes of a dusty old diary which belonged to Washington Scott. Mr. Scott went on to say, “...Our main three gripes centered on (a) the need for an accredited high school for Negro citizens of Lynchburg, (b) the elimination of the immoral laws which called for discrimination on public carriers, and (c) fair and equal payment for employees of race, creed or national origin.”

Negotiations, confrontations and meetings of one kind or the other lasted a thousand days. Finally public school superintendent **Edward Christian Glass** and school board chairman **R. E. Blackford**, acting on the orders of the city government and local school board members, paved the legal way toward the formation of a brand new “colored high school.”

Mr. Seay's initial premise was that ability and aptitude **cannot** be pre-determined by race; therefore, he demanded that Dunbar's students have access to new and updated textbooks and progressive new courses of study. He organized his faculty and staff into Professional Faculty and Staff Committee which held monthly sessions of topics of interest.

In 1939, Athletic Director **J. L. Mitchell** held a contest to further promote school spirit and to choose the most appropriate lyrics for an official song. Sixteen-year old **Rosa Lomax** was the winner.

A short time later Dunbar graduate **Lawrence Jones** presented to the **Dunbar Family** the now famous portrait of Paul Laurence Dunbar, which for years hung over the auditorium entrance in the old main building. Experts claim it to be a perfect likeness of the literary genius. Jones has since gone to international acclaim as an artist.

Primarily because of **Mrs. Anne Spencer**, Lynchburg's first Librarian of color, many of America's greatest men and women of letters, politics, the arts and sciences, and public service visited Dunbar High School to share a portion of their own marvelous talents—all free of charge! These visitors included **Langston Hughes, James Weldon Johnson, Carter Godwin Woodson, J. Saunders Redding, Helen G. Edmonds**, and many others.

In 1957 during the superintendency of **Dr. Paul Munro**, the multi-purpose administration building was erected. The gymnasium was dedicated in honor of C. W. Seay in the winter of 1970. Three months earlier the Lynchburg School Board had voted to assign the status of **Dunbar Middle School** to Dunbar High School, beginning with the 1970 – 71 school year. Ten years later in the summer of '79 the original building was demolished with certain school officials referring to it as "an eyesore." Vice Mayor M. W. Thornhill, Jr. had waged a valiant public effort to prevent its demolition, but the walls came tumbling! Later a stone of atonement was erected on the spot of the building that is, even now, as irreplaceable as it is immortal.

The life span of Dunbar High School was only forty-seven years; nevertheless, honors too numerous to name were heaped upon her noble head. On three different occasions the basketball teams played in the finals for the National championship. Thirteen times **Elizabeth Jordan's Theatre Guild** received the highest possible rating at the State V.I.A. Drama Festival. The National Honor Society inducted 600 new members. The **Fighting Poets Marching Band** was a perennial showpiece all across the state. The **Dunbar Chorus** performed in matchless excellence. Nine track and football stars achieved All-American recognition. Dunbar graduates have brought glory and honor to America's greatest colleges and universities, including Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Penn, Dartmouth, Duke, U.C.L.A., Radcliffe, Stanford, Howard, Fisk, Morehouse, UVA, UNC, Spelman, Ohio State, Georgetown, Minnesota, Hampton and Southern Cal.

This has been only a smattering—just a swift portion of the history of Dunbar High School. The rest can be found everywhere you look. Her prevailing legacy is a quintessential part of the archives of candor. So much remains to be told—not just about the best and brightest; but about sacrifice and serving, about giving and sharing; about those precious few who gave so much of the very little that was theirs to give. They are the nameless parents and neighbors and visitors and friends who knew all along that such as they gave was only a part—payment on an unpayable debt. Perhaps they "loved old Dunbar best of all.." We dedicate these humble words to them and to their heirs, forever.

Dunbar High School Class of 1965 Reunion Itinerary
August 19, 20 & 21, 2005
Lynchburg, VA
"Connecting with/Honoring our Past"

Friday, August 19th

3:00 PM

Hotel Check-In at Holiday Inn Select Lynchburg

3:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Reunion Registration, Distribution of Registration Materials
Holiday Inn Select Lobby

6:00 PM - until

Meet and Greet in Hospitality Room, Holiday Inn Select Board Room

Saturday, August 20th

8:00 AM - until **Hospitality Room Available All Day**

8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Reunion Registration
Continental Breakfast

10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

You're On Your Own

6:15 PM Promptly

Class Picture in Hotel near Waterfall

7:00 PM to 12:00 PM

Holiday Inn Select Ballroom A

7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Buffet Dinner/Program (Soft Music/Jazz)
Memorial Service/Lighting of the Candle

9:00 PM to 11:00 PM Cash Bar

9:00 PM to 12:00 PM

"Oldies but Goodies" Dance with DJ

Sunday, August 21st

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Worship Service at Fifth Street Baptist Church

**Dunbar High School
Lynchburg, VA
Class of 1965
40th Reunion Program**

**Holiday Inn Select Ballroom A
Saturday, August 20, 2005
7:00 PM**

Welcome and Opening Remarks.....Odella Wood Vaughn
Mistress of Ceremony/Co-Chairperson

Invocation.....Rev. Evelyn Farrow Mitchell

Musical Selection.....Herman Jones

Blessing of Food.....Harvey Dickerson, Jr.



Dinner
(Soft Music/Jazz)



Musical Selection.....Herman Jones

Recognition of Teachers.....Carolyn Jackson McCain
Co-Chairperson

Tribute to Class of 65.....Dr. L. Garnell Stamps

In Memoriam/Lighting of Candle.....Mildred Eubanks

Remarks.....Hylan Hubbard
Class President

Open Microphone.....Class of 1965

Acknowledgements/Presentations.....Farnese J. Hicks
Chairperson

Closing Remarks.....Patricia Crews Brown
Co-Chairperson

Alma Mater.....Class of 1965

Benediction.....Rev. Evelyn Farrow Mitchell



Dance
(DJ Trevor)
Cash Bar



Connecting with /Honoring Our Past

*P*aul Laurence Dunbar was a prolific writer of poetry – in both the dialect of Southern blacks and standard English; He also wrote short stories and plays. Dunbar's work often addressed the difficulties encountered by blacks and their efforts to achieve equality in America. He was the first African American writer to achieve a national reputation and to be accepted by both blacks and white audiences.

THE POET

He sang of life, serenely sweet,
With, now and then, a deeper note.
From some high peak, nigh yet remote,
He voiced the world's absorbing beat.

He sang of love when earth was young,
And Love, itself, was in his lays.
But ah, the world, it turned to praise
A jingle in a broken tongue.

Works

- Majors and Minors*
- Lyrics of Lovely Life*
- When Malinda Sings*
- Lyrics of Love and Laughter*

by: Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872-1906)