



# The Wright Information

*“A Legacy of Excellence”*

March, 2010  
Volume IV, Issue 1

John J. Wright Alumni Association Newsletter  
www.JJWAlumni.org

## FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK...

*“We love thee so, our dear old school...”*

Greetings and best wishes for the new decade! We have many things for which we can be thankful. Our alumni association continues to grow and we need the strength of all who claim allegiance to John J Wright to help us prosper.

A highlight of the past year was our annual Scholarship Banquet and Dance. Alumni throughout the years, along with family and friends, met to renew acquaintances and share experiences as they enjoyed a delectable meal. It was a special night for classes celebrating 40, 50, 60, and even 70-year reunions. Of special note was an elegant member of the class of 1939, Mrs. Lillian Robinson Pryde who shared memories of her school years and the importance of the village that supported the education of students. The class of 1949 was also represented. The class of 1959, joyously celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> year, paid tribute to their class sponsor, Miss Courtney Sample. Banquet speaker, Donald Scott, a member of the class,

reminded us of heroes of an era in our history who provided the bridge that brought us to where we are today. The class of 1969 spent most of their school years at John J Wright and was a part of the first graduating class after integration at Spotsylvania High School.

A portion of the banquet ticket cost is used to replenish funds for scholarships and stipends. Banquet 2010 will be held October 9, at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House. Please “save the date” on your calendar and tell all alumni you meet! Honorees will be the classes of 1940, 1950, 1960 and the class that would have been 1970. Let us know if you are a member of one of those classes. We are also developing a data base of all John J Wright alumni. Please share addresses or contact information. Note our mailing address and website.

We are also involved in, and excited about the development of the John J Wright Museum in the Sadie Combs Johnson Library at the newly renovated John J Wright Education and Cultural Center. Plans are ongoing with the anticipated opening date of July 2010. You can help by donating or loaning artifacts, allowing us to scan photographs and documents, financial contributions and telling others

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2009 - 2012

**Mailing Address:** JJWAA  
P.O. Box 1061  
Spotsylvania, VA 22553





about this exciting project. You will want to purchase a museum calendar as a keepsake and to support the development of the museum.

Let us build on the past and expand our reach in the community. It is our duty to preserve and teach our history lest the story of the struggles of our heroes be lost. We can't depend on others to do it for us. It must be taught to our youth and documented for others to learn of our place in history. It is our responsibility to encourage and support our youth to reach beyond known horizons for achievements in a world we will not see. Working together, our possibilities are endless.

*Constance E. Braxton, '58*  
President

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### CALLING ALL MEMBERS

We are looking for members and would love to have your support. Any person who attended, graduated from, employed by John J. Wright High School, John J. Wright Consolidated School or Snell Training School or would like to support this organization and pays the annual dues of \$25.00 may become a member.

### MEMBERSHIP

We have three (3) membership categories.

- A. **Regular Member**-any person who attended, graduated from or worked at Snell Training School, John J. Wright High School or John J. Wright

Consolidated School and pays annual dues.

- B. **Associate Member**-any person who shall ascribe to the purpose of the corporation and pay annual dues.

- C. **Honorary Member**-any person so designated by the Board of Directors.

**Membership is on an Annual Basis: January – December. 2010 Application is on the website. For questions please contact:**

**Lena "Liz" Henderson**  
([hendersonle@att.net](mailto:hendersonle@att.net)) or

**Rochelle Bazemore-Fountain**  
([R\\_Bazemore@hotmail.com](mailto:R_Bazemore@hotmail.com))

Once becoming a member, we have many committees within the organization to which you may contribute your talents.

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### SCHOLARSHIPS AND ELIGIBILITY

2009 proved once again with help from all of our dedicated members and pledges, we can help others achieve their goals. JJW Alumni awarded a total of four (4) scholarships and two (2) stipends. The recipients were:

#### Scholarships:

**Lauren Fortune**  
James Madison University

**Shea Bates**

J. Sgt. Reynolds Comm. College

**Chelsea Washington**

James Madison University

**David Michael Woodward**

George Mason University

#### Stipends:

**Taylor Sutton**

Hampton-Sydney College

**Cortez Cook**

Hampton University

Eligibility: Applicants must be a financial member of the alumni association or the offspring of a financial member. Offspring may be biological, step, adopted, foster or grandchild. The financial member upon whom the applicant is basing his or her eligibility must be a financial and current member of the alumni association for at least two consecutive years prior to the year of the application. (i.e; 2008, 2009, 2010).

Complete application package must be submitted to the Scholarship Committee by April 15, 2010. For more information, please contact: Milton Hilliard (540) 891-5502, Jean Williams (540) 898-1068 or write: "Scholarship Committee" JJWAA, P.O. Box 1061 Spotsylvania, VA 22553.

**Note: Scholarship and Stipend amounts are determined by the number of eligible applicants.**



**PLEDGES**

Over \$6,000 was pledged for scholarship at our 2009 Banquet. Those who made pledges are reminded that they are now due.

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**WRIGHT ON TIME ~Save a Date! Upcoming Events**

***Board Meetings***

These meetings are held the first Saturdays of March, May, July, November and the second Saturdays in January and September. The General Meeting is held second Saturday in October.

***Friends & Family Day 2010***

Annual Friends & Family Day will be Saturday, July 17, 2010 at the John J Wright Park Site. Please save this date, come out and have a good time with friends and family.

***18<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholarship Banquet Dance***

The Annual Scholarship Banquet Dance will be October 9, 2010 @ The Fredericksburg Hospitality House in Central Park. 6:00pm – 12:00am. Tickets will be \$50.00 & Group Room Rate will be \$89.00. All alumni are invited. Classes ending in “0” honored: 1940, 1950, 1960 and the class that would have been 1970.

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**JOHN J WRIGHT MUSEUM & CALENDER**

“Throughout 2009, extensive research was conducted for the purpose of documenting the history of African American one-room school education and the Spotsylvania Training School, also call the Snell School, and later John J Wright Consolidated School. This calendar is a by-product of that research, and all the images therein will be available in the upcoming museum, opening in 2010.

The history of African American education in Spotsylvania County is a rich one. The Spotsylvania Training School received its initial breath from enlightened men and women of the Spotsylvania Sunday School Union who thought they could raise money to provide secondary education in Spotsylvania rather than helping to establish the Fredericksburg Normal and Industrial Institute.”

Terry Miller, co-author, African Americans in Spotsylvania County

***Sample pictures:***

- January – Summit School, also known as Second New Hope School
- February – Biography of Mr. John J Wright
- March – Alfred “Allie” Fairchild and the Spotsylvania Training School
- May – students in an early elementary classroom in the 1920s
- June – Piney Branch School
- November – Mrs. Bertha Pratt Fairchild, class of 1945

The calendar, developed by Terry Miller, is a *keepsake*. The cost of the calendar is \$15.00; a portion of the proceeds will be used to financially support the development of the museum. Please contact Constance Braxton (540) 582-5138 for information to secure a calendar.

Support the museum: Record your oral history, donate or loan educational artifacts. Allow us to scan your photographs and/or school documents. Make a financial contribution. Tell other alumni and friends about this exciting project.

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**THE WRIGHT STYLE: JJW Polos on Sale Now!**

The Ways & Means Committee have Polo Shirts on sale. They are White with the John J Wright Logo. Get your shirt now! Sizes & Prices:

- S-XL: \$20.00
- 2X – 4X: \$22.00
- Youth: \$15.00

**RAFFLE TICKETS**

Don’t forget to get your Raffle Tickets early. Tickets will be available in late March until July. Cost will be \$2.00 per ticket!

- First Prize: \$500.00
- Second Prize: \$200.00

Drawing will be July 17, 2010 at JJW Park Site – Friends & Family Day.

For more Information on Polo Shirts and Raffle Tickets, please contact Melvin L. "Butch" Lewis @ (202) 449-2030 or email [MLL46M@aol.com](mailto:MLL46M@aol.com)

**OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS and COMMITTEES (2009-2012)**

**President:** Constance Braxton

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540-582-2279

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Melvin "Butch" Lewis

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**Board Members (2009-2012)**

**Bernice B. Coleman**

**Helen M. Henderson**

**Lena E. Henderson**

**Melvin L. "Butch" Lewis**

**Alma L. Taylor**

**L. Melvin Thompson**

**Jean L. Williams**

*"A sure way for one to lift oneself up is by helping lift someone else." Booker T. Washington*

