



# Mather Alumni News

## February, 2008

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### Alumni Scholarship Fund Happenings

#### **The 2008 Scholarship Year is underway.**

Mather seniors are getting ready to apply for the Mather High School Alumni Scholarship. Scholarship applications are due on March 7, 2008. Last year we received 23 applications, all from very worthy applicants. This year we anticipate receiving more.



The Scholarship Committee will begin their review of the applications in early April. If you would like to join this committee and complete the volunteer form on our website. We will be contacting all interested alumni in February.



#### **Mather Alumni Return to work at their Alma Mater**

There are eight staff members at Mather who also walked down the halls of the school as students. They represent graduating classes in the 1960's and 90's and have seen changes, including a more diverse student population, inclusion of special education students, expanded use of technology and brighter lighting, that have made the school a better place. There are some things that are also missed like the cheeseburgers and grilled onions in the cafeteria. It is also hard to find something to satisfy a sweet tooth!!

A few of the alumni have returned to Mather as a second career. Allen Jones, class of 1990, Assistant Principal, first

worked in Hospital Administration and then decided to complete his degree in Special Education at Northern Illinois University. He worked at Taft High School for the past 4 years until he joined the Mather staff in fall 2008. Chris Jones, school principal, and Allen Jones are NOT related, but did work together at Taft High School. Allen married another Mather alumnus, Nancy Marseille, class of 1993.

Chris Connelly, class of 1989, first received his M.S.W. from University of Illinois Chicago in 1997 and worked in alternative schools for a few years. He started taking classes in guidance counseling and was hired as a counselor at Mather in fall 2006.

Another guidance counselor is Karen (Lee) Rojek, class of 1995. After receiving her elementary education degree from University of Illinois Chicago and teaching in a middle school for five years, Karen decided to get her Master's degree in School Counseling. She was hired at Mather in fall 2005. Also sitting in the guidance and counseling suite at Mather is Tina Escobar, class of 1969. Tina was working on her dissertation at the school board and fell in love with school nursing. She is now the Mather school nurse and sponsor of our Red Cross Club.

Cosmin Moraru, has grown up around Mather. He graduated from Mather in 1994 and taught history as a student teacher at Mather. He received his teaching degree and was hired to work at Mather in 1998. He has been employed at Mather for the past nine years. Although she did not graduate from Mather, Cosmin's sister Simona Moraru is also a teacher at Mather. Elizabeth Castro (not pictured) also went from college to working at Mather as an English teacher. Finally, Neda Zabadneh, class of 1993, is busy teaching English and is one of the volley ball coaches at the school.

Pictured from left to right: Chris Jones, Tina Escobar, Neda Zabadneh, Cosmin Moraru, Chris Connelly and Allen Jones.

## Volunteer Today!

### Requests for volunteers from the teachers!

We have recently received requests from the teachers for field trip chaperones.



Teachers have also requested volunteers who use a foreign language in their job to provide a workshop for their students.

If you are interested in being contacted for either opportunity [contact Robin Bluestone-Miller \(1969\), Program Director, to get your name on the list.](#)

### **Career Fair**

On November, 16, 2007, the Sandi Port Errant Alumni Volunteer Program once again worked with the school at this year's College/Career Fair. Almost 1,000



Junior and Senior students had the opportunity to visit many college sponsored booths, military tables and career tables. Thirteen alumni answered questions and discussed careers with the students. They represented careers in computer science, pharmacy, law enforcement, nursing, cosmetology, social work, law, science, accounting, education and counseling, early childhood and day care, business marketing and investments. Some of the students commented about how impressed they were that alumni would return to Mather to help out at the career fair. The alumni thought that the more than 550 students they personally met were enthusiastic and very motivated. This has become an annual event that started out in 2004.

Thank you to Ken Weingard, Robert Smoller, Lori Frisch, Natasha Peric, Angelo Nikolov, Liz Cooper, Arni Miller, Isha Malik, Steven Papageorge, Marcia Marczewski, Cynthia Brown, Lisa Trotter and Carol Dragon for volunteering their time and expertise.

Some alumni were disappointed that they could not attend the career fair and has offered to do a class presentation or job shadowing at a future date. Please contact Robin Bluestone-Miller (1969), Program Director, at [alumni@matheralumni.org](mailto:alumni@matheralumni.org) for more information.

### **School News**

#### **Mather Gets A Face Lift!**

A new library! Air conditioning! Green School! These are some exciting improvements coming as part of the \$30 million renovation planned for Mather High School. The improvements are intended to not only improve the physical structure of the building, but also



enhance and facilitate the educational experience of the students.

A new addition to the school will house a state-of-the-art library and computer lab, in addition to a meeting area. There will be many additional renovations throughout the existing structure. Some of them are:

- air conditioning throughout
- new flooring , walls painted & new lockers throughout
- new fitness area and renovated dance room
- new gymnasium lighting, floor and bleacher repair
- new auditorium seating, lighting and sound system
- new Counseling Department space in the renovated old library space
- new space for the Assistant Principal in the current counseling office area
- new cabinetry throughout the school to replace existing cabinets
- new roof and drainage systems

The renovations will be accomplished in an environmentally-friendly way, along with enhanced recycling programs, which will make Mather a model "green" school. The project is scheduled to begin June 2008 and completed in late fall of 2009. A school that is all spruced up and just in time for Mather's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday party! Plan on being there!!

### **Meet the Mather Student Advisors**

Remember what it was like to be a freshman in high school? Helping freshmen overcome obstacles is what the Student Advisor program is about. Twice a month the advisors, teams of juniors and seniors, meet with their division rooms to talk about current events, such as grades, homecoming, and Saturday school. In addition, we are there to give them advice about how to make their freshman year the best. When there is long division we have the opportunity to play games with them. For example a game might be "Are you smarter than a senior" consisting of question about the school. Recently we held a pizza party/movie night where we all gathered to eat pizza and watch "Freedom Riders". Student Advisor is a great program which teaches us qualities that we will use in the future.



*Cynthia Valasquez*  
Student Advisor

## Mather High's Wish List

Don't forget to [check out](#) the Mather High School wish list on our website. We are always adding more "wishes" from the teachers.

## Alumni Connection

### Connect with fellow alumni.

Join the discussion at the Alumni Connection. 512 alumni have already registered.

Are you planning a reunion? Post the details in the Alumni Connection.

Also send us a quick [e-mail](#) and we will send the information out in an e-mail burst to alumni from your graduation year.



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