

DETROIT TEACHER MAKERS

Workers Give Us and Hope



Worker Curtis Stout with 2011 Mildred Ellis scholars (from left) Maiya Dalton, Chris A. Smith, Denby High School; Destinee Almore, Detroit International Daniel, Finney High School; Chelsea Wheeler, Detroit International Academy; Western High School; Lakeitha Green, Southeastern High School, and social

is headed to Langston University in Oklahoma.

"He did it all having got shot at nine and losing a big chunk of his arm," explained Dr. Roger Manela, a social worker at Finney High School. McDaniell persevered with the help of Detroit teachers and social workers.

"He had strong support," Manela said.



Chelsea Wheeler and Eula Rice

Golightly Students Prepare for Summer Internships

The Detroit branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago provided the backdrop for the 15th Pre-Internship Conference. Students from Golightly Career and Technical Center's three academies participated in this annual event designed to expose students to the different aspects of successful employment. Golightly runs the Academy of Finance, Academy of Information Technology, and the Academy of Travel and Tourism.

Students participated in a series of workshops to emphasize key elements of successful internship experiences.

Following the workshops, students participated in interviews with the school's advisory board members and business partners from the three academies. They critiqued the students' interviewing skills and also gave excellent input about what employers are looking for from prospective candidates.

Keynote speaker Darryl E. Bingham, a Life Underwriters Training Council Fellow and advisor, urged students to



remain positive and continue their education. Academy of Travel and Tourism student April McCain said the workshops provided real world scenarios and a forum to ask questions and get feedback from presenters. An integral part of the Academies' programs are summer internships. Students typically earn from \$8.50 to \$13.50 an hour, working 40 hours a week in professional environments. Through these industry partnerships, many students are able to enhance their professional skills while making significant money during the summer.

Building Strong Bodies and a Strong School



Spain teachers Arthur Davis (from left) and Daryl Rogers with students.

By Charlene Uresy

Spain School Physical Education teacher Gloria Celina and the PE staff brought together the entire school for the ACES (All Children Exercise Simultaneously) program. ACES is a Michigan Fitness Foundation campaign to encourage children to become more physically fit. This year Michigan had more than 1,000 schools exercising together, making our state the most active ACES state in the country.

This is great news for a state that has been hit with hard times.

Spain, under the leadership of Ronald Alexander, offers PE to all of its students, and is committed to endeavors such as ACES and First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move campaign. We want to make our students physically strong, with the rest of the world.

Carstens Teacher Named Goodfellow Teacher of the Year

She cares.

The Detroit Goodfellows Teacher of the Year “loves us like her own kids,” wrote Jene’a Stroughter, a third-grader at Carstens Elementary School on Detroit’s east side. “Sometimes I wish she was my mom.”

The nine-year-old wrote the winning essay in the Detroit Goodfellows Teacher of the Year contest.

The Detroit Goodfellows surprised Rhonda Raheem in her classroom June 13 with the news and presented her with a \$200 gift card to buy classroom supplies. Her students won a pizza party. Raheem will be honored at a Detroit Goodfellows breakfast this fall.

The winning teacher was selected from over 300 submissions answering “Why is your teacher so special?” Raheem received six nominations from her class of 23 students.

The King High School graduate joined Carstens this year as a third-grade teacher. She has been a teacher for 10 years, primarily in charter schools. Raheem says she likes to engage her students.



Teacher of the Year Rhonda Raheem with Detroit Goodfellows president Michael Coakley

“I make it fun and exciting for the kids,” she said. Raheem is pursuing a doctorate in instruction, curriculum and leadership.

Michael Coakley, Detroit

Goodfellows president, visited Raheem in her classroom. He thanked her and all Detroit teachers who help the Goodfellows identify families to deliver 35,000

“No Kiddie Without a Christmas” holiday gift packages.

“They’re on the front line,” Coakley said. “We couldn’t do it without them.”



Marcus Walton, a special education teacher at Jerry L. White Center, has been named 2011 Detroit Special Education Teacher of the Year. The 17-year teacher of the severely multiply impaired is a graduate of Cass Technical High School and Wayne State University. Walton is chair of the DFT’s Special Education Chapter, a building representative at Jerry L. White Center, and a member of the Council for Exceptional Children. “Special education is all about collaboration,” Walton said, “So we always do things as a team to help students improve.”

Special Education Teacher of the Year

Barsamian Wins Law Day Contest

Jada Handy saw a lot of symbolism in entering the 24th Annual Law Day contest to defend the Boston Massacre soldiers.

"When you come here everybody gives you a second chance," says Handy, 15, a Barsamian Preparatory Center student. "The soldiers got a second chance. Therefore, we'll get a second chance."

Barsamian, a school for expelled students, gave the students on her Law Day team a second chance, to brilliant results.

The four students acted as co-counsel and divided up the arguments of why the British redcoats acted in self defense on March 5, 1770 against the angry protesters. The incident ended in five civilian deaths and sparked a rebellion that led to the Revolutionary War.

The students studied and rehearsed their arguments to near perfection. They came home with the first place award.

Their social studies teacher, Katherine Temple, said the students felt great about the success.

"The whole thing was like a Cinderella story," Temple said. "We weren't invited. Then one school dropped out. We then entered into the contest."

The contest, held at Third Judicial Circuit Court, Frank Murphy Hall of Justice on May 8, was an achievement for the students who rarely get these kind of accolades. They learned not to repeat an argument and to use their time before the judges judiciously.

"You have to have a great closing argument," said Keith Lillard, 16.

Aaron Harris, 16, said the group studied daily before the contest.

"When you're an attorney you have to be able to defend both sides," Harris said. "There's always two sides to a story and then there's the actual story."



Keith Lillard, Aaron Harris, Katherine Temple, Jada Handy and Kortara Harris

Stay in Touch this
Summer — Visit the
DFT Web site
www.DFT231.com



Raising Cancer Awareness at Mann

The sea of red and pink was evident at Mann Elementary School as over 90 percent of the student body participated in its first annual Breast Cancer Awareness Day May 20. The young women wore pink and the men wore red. The proceeds from the Pink and Red Bake Sale were sent to the National Breast Cancer Association. An informational brochure about breast cancer was sent home with students. Pictured above is Mann teacher Sean Perin, chair of the student council, and student council president Tyler Welch, who organized the event.

Popular Writing Program Debuts at Davison

By Joseph Hines

Davison Elementary School became an expressive place for young creative writers this year. Literacy coach Calli Hayes started a "drop everything and write" program called P.O.P. Time, which stands for paper on pencil time. Once a day, Hayes got on the public announcement system and gave a writing cue to students. They wrote extemporaneously and creatively for 15 minutes.

The quick-write concept culminated in a P.O.P.TASTIC competition May 6 with 36 contestants in grades five through seven.

Students whose stories were submitted and showcased throughout the school year gave readings to a panel of distinguished judges. The morning-long event brought life to their written words.

It is a "best practice" for developing creative writing skills among students in an urban district. Students were judged on creative expression and delivery of their written work.

"It's just something to reward kids and encourage them to write and speak publicly," Hayes said.

The competition had nine winners. The first-place "Top Poppers" were

Khalid Gooden, Susmita Dash and Jailah Chames-Mitchell. Second-place winners were Sadia Rupa, Mecca Davis and Dakeilah Freeman. Third-place winners were

Abdul Mahbub, Mamotaz Musa and Brice Washington.

The competition was judged by Lola Charles, an author; Maria Jones-Foster, a Davison teacher; William Washington, a former DPS principal; Donald Walker, production director at WRCJ (90.9 FM) DPS Communications; and Dr. Jelani Jabari, an educational consultant.

The competition was sponsored by community partner Huntington Bank and its representatives: Betsy Reich, Susan Bussey, and Yolanda Small. Huntington Bank provided trophies, medals and gift bags.



2011 Building Reps Dinner

Tireless Building Reps Honored at Dinner

DFT President Keith Johnson thanked the union's building representatives for enduring one of the most difficult years yet.

"We are being assaulted relentlessly and passionately, not only as union members but as professionals," Johnson said at a June 10 dinner at the DFT. The dinner fell the day after the Michigan House passed bills attacking the rights of Michigan teachers. Legislators said 98 percent of teachers are doing a wonderful job but passed measures to make it easier to fire teachers.

"Then why are they punishing 100 percent of us?" Johnson said. "Don't punish a teacher who's always looking for creative ways to get the message through to children that education is your ticket to success. Don't punish people who give so much and ask for so little in return."

Daryl Newman, a member mobilizer for AFT Michigan, said the policies coming out of Lansing are misguided. "Good politics makes good policy and good policy makes good politics," he said.

"They're trying to kill our morale, but we're not going to let them," Newman said. "Because at the end of the day, our very survival is at stake."

Thanks to the building rep, unions work and stay united, Johnson said.

"This union cannot function without you," he said. "I can't thank you enough for all you do."



DFT Executive Vice President Mark O'Keefe and Marshall Widick, lead attorney with Sachs Waldman law firm.



Mershira Oliver, DFT labor relations administrator and host of the 2011 Building Rep Dinner.



Karin Whittler, DFT labor relations administrator, sings "Happy Birthday" to DFT President Emeritus John Elliott, who turned 80.



John Elliott celebrates his 80th birthday at the 2011 Building Rep Dinner.

2011 Building Reps Dinner



(Seated) Sidney Lee, Dorothy Burk, Tamyra Rhodes-O'Neill, (standing) William Brown, Richele Oliver and Gerald Krause.



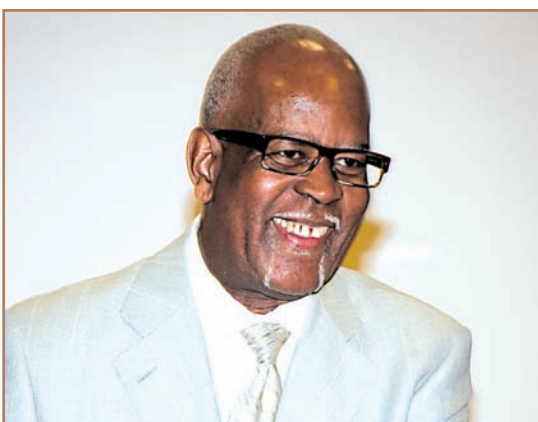
(Seated) Sue Wallace, Chris Abood, (standing) Pat McPherson, Lorraine Sheffield, Tracy Arneau and Michelle Gibson.



(Seated) John Becker, Deborah Pruitt, Angela Ling, (standing) Julie Jablonski and Kevin Smith.



(Seated) Lisa Scott, Wendy Newberry, Vanessa Parnell, Vanessa Rasheed, (standing) Mike Schenk, Jan Curry and Steve Portnoy.



George Barnes of Heritage Optical



Edna Reaves,
Melvin Evans
and James
Britton.

2011 Building Reps Dinner



**Melvin Evans of
Co-Op Optical**



**(Seated) Tranessa
Waters, (standing)
Birukan Prince and
Kathy Gray.**



**(Seated) Vanessa Nash, Virginia Sellers, Patrick Falcusan, (stand-
ing) Cathy Schrock, Melaine Tillman, Joyce Burrell and Miranda
Washington.**



**(Seated) Bridgette Brooks, Robin Partmon, June Price, (standing)
Rosalind Fore, Xetavious Jones and LaWanda Smith.**



George Barnes, Daryl Newman, Kurtis Brown and Mark O'Keefe.



**(Seated) Glenda Booker, Terrence Martin, (standing) Barry
Cannon and Mershira Oliver.**

2011 Building Reps Dinner



(Seated) Glynn McCary, Luciana Simpkins, Christal Bonner, (standing) Maria Jones-Foster, Desiree Clinkscale and Barry Cannon.



Estella Burnette, Judy Smith, Karin Whittler and Samarra Thomas.



John Becker wins cash.



Ethelle King and Jeanette King.



(Seated) Priscilla Robinson, Wanda Hogg, Marie Brown, (standing) Ngozi Chinedu, Marvin Bodley and Louvera Lawrence.



Liz Duhn, DFT president emeritus John Elliott, and Jewel Gines.

See a Bully, Stop a Bully

How to stop bullying in schools? Adults need to step in the way.

Adults need to heed what they say, teach acceptance of difference, and know who kids are hanging with.

"I always ask the old Bernie Mac question: Who you with?" DPS Police Officer Bernard Spragner told an anti-bullying conference at the DFT May 14.

Spragner said bullies come in all forms, both high-achieving students and failing students. All bullying is about power, he said.

Young people are being bombarded with messages that it's not cool to be smart and that sexual prowess makes one cool. Adults can turn this around,



he said, if they act as caring but disciplined leaders.

"We have to stop settling for less," he said. "We're not going to school to be failures because we're not having that. We're not going to school to be bullies because we're not having that."

Spragner said there needs to be more "mom over shoulder" and parents getting into kids' business.

The conference was sponsored by the DFT, the Detroit Association of Educational Office Employees, and the Detroit Federation of Paraprofessionals. The unions have

joined together to involve the community in targeting Detroit's most pressing educational and social issues.

"I was incessantly emotionally bullied for being gay," said Chase Stein, of GLSEN of Southeast Michigan. "It happens when one person has a privilege."

A panel of experts at the conference agreed that school districts need anti-bullying policies.

Rakiba Mitchell, a guidance counselor at King High School, said bullying is alive and well in DPS, some of it cyber bullying and some of it sexual bullying.

"Facebook was never intended for middle school children to reconnect; they see each other every day," Mitchell said. She said we need to teach children to accept people who are different. "Our students have a hard time with different. Our jobs are to teach them that there are many different people on earth."

Steven Portnoy, a school psychologist at Finney High School, said parents should take a look at their own prejudices.

"It's tolerance you're really talking about," Portnoy said. "If you teach Christian values in your home and

you hear atheism is evil, how will you treat someone? If you teach homosexuals don't have the same rights, what's the message you're giving?"

DFT President Keith Johnson said adults must stop the denial.

"The denial that my child can be a bully," he said. "The denial that my child could be bullied. The denial that my child may be homosexual."

Dossin Elementary School teacher Jaye Powell attended the conference. She said many adults dismiss bullying even when it happens in front of the them.

"Parents and teachers tend to say, 'Oh well, this child is young.'"

But bullying is not new and shouldn't be tolerated.

"Remember J. Edgar Hoover and the Communists?" Powell said. "That was bullying. Remember the Japanese and the U.S. concentration camps? That was bullying."

International Day at Keidan

Not a white wall could be found at Keidan Special Education Center on May 27. Tapestries, maps, flags, photos and even vegetation lined the halls and ceilings of the school. The students took tours through Africa, the Far East, South America, and the Middle East, each representing a hall of the square school. Organized by teachers Susan Gregory, Josephine Mejia, Anne Berris, and Courtney Harris, the staff dressed in ethnic costume and borrowed artifacts from the Children's Museum for the International Day. They visited the Wailing Wall in Israel and the Pyramids in Egypt. They walked underneath the Amazonian rainforest and through the hot Serengeti. On the tour they learned about faraway places, including native cuisine, wedding rituals, the Igbo language of Nigeria, and currency.



Keidan teachers Gayle Lynne Hollis, Dona Brooks, Tanya McClue and LaShaunedra Steed.

*Have a Safe
and
Happy Summer*