



INSIDE VIEW

THE SIUE EAST SAINT LOUIS CHARTER SCHOOL QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2005



We Helped!

Hats off to students and staff of the SIUE East St. Louis Charter School. A total of \$269.59 was raised for the Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund. In addition, coats, sweaters, and other clothing were collected. The money raised was turned over to the American Red Cross and coats were donated to an area church. Congratulations to **Mrs. Henske's advisory** for collecting the most money. They collected \$126.00



Charter School Takes the Lead...AGAIN!

SIUE East St. Louis Charter School once again finds itself on the forefront of a new program! The program is a collaboration between the Missouri History Museum and the St. Louis Regional Office of the Anti-Defamation League/A World of Difference. The program, entitled Reading Bias/Writing Tolerance: Using History's Powerful Stories is a multidimensional program, developed with grant funds, meets a number of needs identified by teachers. Starting with ADL lessons as a lens, artifacts from the museum's collection are used as a catalyst for students to understand bias and patterns of discrimination, to learn to interrupt stereotyping, to deepen their awareness of history's dynamic role in understanding the present, and to increase their literacy skills.

What are the goals?



- Deepen students' understanding of history
- Explore issues of social justice and the historical and sociological roots of bias and racism
- Help students develop a more personal understanding of bias and racism and the way it impacts their lives
- Produce attitudinal changes in students that are reflected in positive behaviors
- Develop students' literacy skills and harness the power of language to express powerful feelings
- Use artifacts as "text" so that students become "practicing" historians.

What's the shape of the program?

The curriculum includes six, two-part lessons (12 classroom sessions) and a museum visit. Part one of each lesson is conducted by ADL facilitators; part two, a series of museum-based, object-centered lessons, is presented by the classroom teacher. The museum visit takes place midway through the program.

Mrs. Christine Henske, Faculty Associate/History, served as one of five lead consultants on designing the curriculum and developing the project. **Ms. Alsandrya Essien**, Faculty Associate/Language Arts, will serve as one of the "teacher consultants" in the program pilot phase of the project. The Charter School was selected as one of several schools to pilot the project.

Parents As Partners Meetings

Mark your calendars. All meetings are held at 5:30 p.m. in Room 2029 in Building A. Please park in the visitor's Parking Lot.

Tuesday – November 1, 2005
Tuesday – December 6, 2005
Tuesday – February 7, 2006
Tuesday, March 7, 2006
Tuesday, April 4, 2006
Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Parents Show Support

Thank you...thank you...thank you... from the Charter School team to the following parents for their support and involvement. When parents are involved in their child's school, the student tends to be more engaged in learning. We welcome and encourage all parents to get involved. Our doors are always open.

Ms. Donna Powell, parent of Deidre Powell, volunteered to coordinate organizing sites for our students to do their required community service. In addition, she is working with a select group of students to produce a yearbook. She has also pledged to provide two book scholarships for seniors.

Ms. Barbara Washington, parent of graduate Nigel Washington and current advisory council member, has solicited two sites to place students for community service.

Ms. Andrea Rouse, parent of Ryan Vaughn, volunteered to design a survey to assess parent needs regarding teen issues and to coordinate a speakers bureau to address the identified issues.

Mr. Marvin Parnell, parent of Marvin Parnell II, serves as President of the Parent Association.

Again, thank you to all parents for your support.

Students Prepare for Robotic Competition

By Brian Riley, Faculty Associate/Science

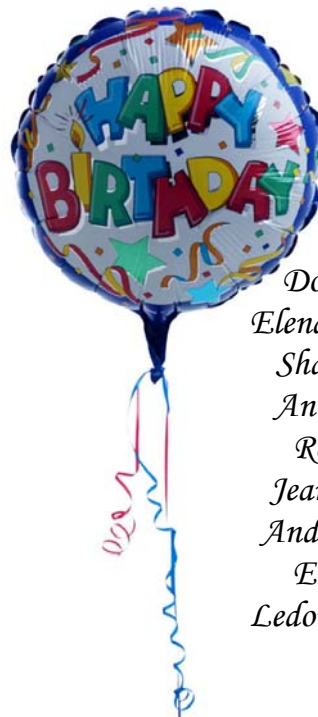
The SIUE School of Engineering is once again hosting a robotics competition. This year's competition is titled Firebot Challenge. The Charter school is planning on entering five teams this year. This is quite an improvement over the two teams that entered last year. The students will be building robots out of Lego kits. The robots have to perform a specific task. They will compete against students from area schools: Columbia, Edwardsville, Highland, and Triad. The contest is set for Saturday, November 19th. The top ten teams from the high school competition will return to compete against freshman engineering students on Tuesday, December 6th. The students involved this year are: **Antonio Agnew, Nikita Anderson, Martell Ball, Kevin Bland, Harvey Binford, Norman Cotton, Jamya Dallas, Corey Drisdell, Kristen Evans, Patrick Ezell, George Goodwin, Tayan**

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Holman, Christopher Pearson, Deidre Powell, Brandon Scott, LyShanae Scott, Ryan Snelling, Yoshimik Wayne, Daryus Wilkes, Floyd Wilson, and Robert Wilson. More details about the competition can be found here: <http://roboti.cs.siu.edu/competitions/firebot>



Last year's robotic competition from left to right: Mickeya Moore, Daryus Wilkes, Brandon Scott and their teacher Brian Riley.



*Doris B. Adams – August 12
Elena C. Badjie – September 18
Sharon M. Joiner – October 6
Anthony Neal – December 20
Robert G. Shaw – October 6
Jean E. Smith – September 26
Andrea Smythe – December 22
E. L. Wilkes – December 20
Ledora A. Williams – August 6
Willis Young – August 20*

Students Give Voice

Charter School students share their thoughts and feelings through their writings.

Tears in My Eyes

By Angelica Pinedo

I'm sitting here looking at you
So lifeless—so cold
Wishing you could get back up
Wondering why you had to go
But I know—no matter what—
You'll make a way to get through to me
I believe you were an angel
God just forgot the wings
I love you more than life itself
And I hope life for you in heaven
Is better than it is here
You will always have a place in my heart

(in memory of my uncle)

You

By Daryus Wilkes

Sometimes you annoy me
But I love you anyway
Sometimes you use my things without asking
But I love you anyway
When the world puts me down
I know when I see that dirty smile
All is well
When life gets hard
Your comical style makes life easy
You do things that are unheard of
That's why I love you
Do you know who you are
You are my brother
Thank you for being you

Most Influential Person

By Jamesha Rainey

The person who has influenced me the most is my aunt, Teresa. My aunt has taught me things that I will never forget. I have learned from her to always treat people with respect and also myself. She has always taught me how to take care of my personal hygiene. My aunt wears her perfume really well. She always smells nice wherever she goes. She has taught me to wear

my perfume just like her and how to keep the smell on my body. I have learned to do everything she does. She can also dress really well, and she has taught me to do the same thing she does. I can talk to my aunt about anything. If it's personal, I can trust her not to tell anyone. In conclusion, my aunt has influenced me in a lot of ways; she has taught me things I will never forget.

The Most Influential Person

By Brandon Edmond

The person who influenced me the most was my grandfather, Poppa. By being around my grandfather Poppa, I learned lots of things. Poppa has taught me how to be a man by taking care of the family. He helps people and he's a hard worker. He always told me that a man should never be broke. There was a time I didn't know how to do yard work but one morning long ago we went outside, and he taught me how to cut grass, paint, and all types of other outside work. In conclusion, my grandfather, Poppa, has taught me things that no one else has.

The Essien Influence

By Catherine Jackson

A person who had a strong positive influence on my life is my former teacher and friend, Ms. Alsandyra Essien. Ms. Essien taught me what I believe to be the three things needed to have a successful career. She first taught me to be assertive, to stand up for myself and my beliefs. Also, Ms. Essien taught me to extend my intellectual arm in every direction, to add variety to my personality. She always told me no one can know everything, but everyone can learn something. The final and most important lesson I learned was to never make small dreams because if think small, everything in my reality will always be small. Concluding my thoughts, I believe I would be a totally different person if I had never been placed under the **ESSIEN INFLUENCE**.

My 2 Little Angels By Courtney Jackson

I love you my two lil' angels --
When the world comes down to what it is
right now,
I could look down in your eyes and find
peace --
I believe you should be put in a showcase to
shine for others--
You might not act like an angel at times --
But I know your true heart and your truest
form --
So no matter what demons may say or do --
You know that your aunt will be with you

Dedicated to Dennis Odom, Jr. and Brandon
Parker

The Power Of One Writing Essay By Terrance Byrum

There's always that one special person
whom you admire and acknowledge and who's
always there for you. This is why I decided to
choose my cousin for my creative writing
assignment. She's my power of one because
she's a strong individual, my mentor, and also a
best friend.

Ever since I can remember, there's always
been that one special lady who was there for me,
besides my mom. She is my cousin, one of the
strongest women I know. Before, I was just a
teenager who really didn't care about high
school. I mean all I did was just go and be done.
I also was very rude, talked back to my mother,
and cursed my brother and sisters. Also, I never
really believed in myself nor anything people said
to me. I would always get upset, and I could
never take it, so I'd always break down in
distress.

Overall, I think I changed for the better. I'm
more determined, and I strive for the best. I've
become more independent and motivated
towards a variety of things. Thanks to my cousin
I no longer talk back to my mother or any other
adult. I am also doing way better in school. I've
gained so much from my cousin. Sometimes I sit
and wonder how would I be if I didn't have her in
my life? The things I've gained from her are
knowledge, confidence, respect, and
determination. I really thank her for this from the
bottom of my heart.

I hope many others have someone who
cares about them besides their parents. My

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cousin is the best mentor and strongest individual
alive. This is why I chose my cousin as my
power of one.

Untitled By Nikita Anderson

Like Hurricane Katrina,
you swept me off my feet.
Like sugar cane,
you were so sweet.
Like an infant's punch,
you were nice and gentle.
Like the Red Cross,
you were giving.
Like the aroma of ammonia and bleach,
you were strong.
And like Romeo and Juliet,
our love did not last long.

An Influential Person By Destiny Johnson

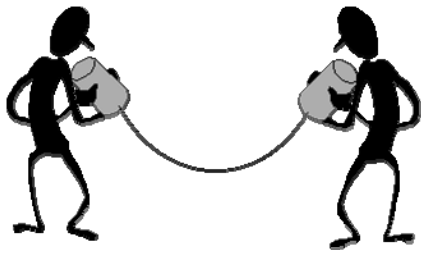
Out of all the people who influenced me, I
have to say that Janina Kay Smith is the best.
Janina is my mother. My mother influences me
in a way that no one can. My mother taught me
everything that I needed to know. The number
one thing that she taught me was how to be an
intelligent young lady. What I mean by this is for
me to grow up and make it through school and
strive for my goal. She also taught me to not let
anyone talk down to me. The third thing she has
taught me was how to be independent as far as
getting a job and not depending on anyone. The
final thing that she has taught me was
responsibility like taking care of myself and
paying my own bills and making sure everything
is going right in my life. In conclusion, my mother
has taught me a lot in my life.

SIUE Faculty Lend a Hand

We are pleased to have Southern Illinois
University Edwardsville faculty volunteer their
time at the SIUE East St. Louis Charter School.
Dr. Dennis L. Taylor, from the Art Department,
provides art classes once a week for students;
Dr. Donyell Roseboro, from the School
Education, and **Dr. Howard Ramsby**, from the
College of Arts and Sciences, both assist one
day a week for a couple hours helping students
in language arts classes.

Hats off to each of them for their support!

ATTENTION PARENTS



There's a new way to communicate with your teachers...

Teachers can now post homework assignments, spelling words, calendars, and other school information on the Internet! It's easy, fast, and free.

Surf over to www.schoolnotes.com today!

- Click on "View Notes"
- Enter the zipcode for our school
- Click on your teacher

If you don't see your teacher's notes, let them know that you are interested.

- Improves parent-teacher-student communications
- Easy-to-use
- No Programming Required
- All that is needed is a web browser
- Teachers can add new school information
- Can be accessed from home, school, work or anywhere with Internet access
- Each teacher notes page can be linked directly to their school web site
- Parents and students can be notified via email whenever a change has been made to a teacher's school notes page
- Allows teachers to build stronger relationships with parents and students
- Allows parents to get more involved and in-tune with their child's education.
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Inclement Weather



In case of inclement weather, notification will be made on local radio stations. SIUE East St. Louis Charter School will close in accordance with East St. Louis School District #189.



Denise Thimes, Kelvin Roston and J. Samuel Davis in The Black Rep's "Crossin' Over," in Edison Theatre Sept. 14-25.

CROSSIN' OVER

On Wednesday, September 21, 2005, the Basic Theatre II and Musical Theatre classes took a Field Trip to the St. Louis Black Repertory Company's production of *Crossin' Over*, held at the Edison Theatre at Washington University. The production was a 2 ½ musical collage of gospel music from Africa, to the Middle Passage, Slavery, the Civil Rights Movement and to the contemporary sound of today. The students enjoyed the experience of seeing a live production and had an opportunity to talk and meet with members of the production's cast afterward. The students also wrote thank you notes to the St. Louis Black Repertory Company's Producing Director Ron Himes and the cast of *Crossin' Over*, expressing their gratitude. The students of both classes wrote an analysis of all the production elements of the show as a part of their end of the semester term paper.

SIUE Scholars Roseboro, Bradley, and Ramsby Share Hope for African American Male Teens

Newspapers, radio shows, and magazine articles all give little hope when it comes to talking about the plight of the African American male. Many scholars have painted a bleak picture and some even have taken the opportunity to capitalize on the African American males' demise through books, speaking engagements and getting grant money for research projects. Recently, **Dr. Donyell Roseboro**, **Dr. Stephan Bradley**, and **Dr.**

Howard Ramsby, all scholars in the SIUE School of Education, Department of Historical Studies, and College of Arts and Sciences respectively, addressed the topic “Responsive Teaching for African American Males: Changing Climate, Culture, and Classroom Discourse, A Courageous Conversation.” Their presentation shed a new light and presented a much needed new perspective on the direction of our young African American male leaders. It was indeed a message of HOPE...a dawning of a NEW day, an awakening.

The three outspoken and outstanding scholars mesmerized 35 SIUE East St. Louis Center faculty and staff as they discussed their vision of hope for young African American male students. The focus of the workshop was to explore and examine several critical analyses that are often presented about failure, low achievement, special education and lack of social capital, all pertaining to African American male students. The scholars used personal stories, their research, and work they have done to support and uplift African American males. Their main point was that “All” students can make it. Your circumstance is not your identity; therefore, it can be changed was the message woven in the fabric of their presentation.

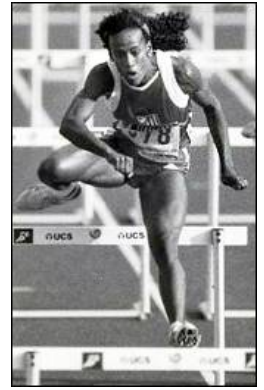
Roseboro, Bradley, and Ramsby, are not just studying and researching the issue; all three volunteer their time weekly working with students in the Charter School and in other SIUE East St. Louis Center programs. They are committed to the success of not only the male students but to all students. The scholars are indeed making a difference in the life of each student one classroom at a time.



Pictured from left to right: Anthony Neal, Dr. Stephan Bradley, Dr. Donyell Roseboro, Dr. Howard Ramsby, and Willis Young.

JJK Bridge Run

SIUE East St. Louis Charter School students participated in the Schnucks/Jackie Joyner-Kersey 5K & 1 Mile Walk/Run. The students, who are also members of the University of Illinois Extension Children, Youth, and Families At Risk (CYFAR) Rites of Passage Program were excited to participate as proceeds from the event support Jackie Joyner-Kersey youth development programs.



Twelve Charter School students participated in The Run on October 15. Their names are: **Norman Cotton III, Terrion Johnson, Robert Wilson, LaDarren Foughter, Deidre Powell, Danyale McKinzie, Shavon Rogers, LyShanae Scott, Retunda Jackson, Cameron Meeks, Harvey Binford, and Yoshimik Wayne.**

Faculty/Administrator Recognized for Outstanding Service



WAY TO GO MR. YOUNG! SIUE East St. Louis Charter School's very own **Mr. Willis Young** was recently recognized for his outstanding service to the Charter School. Mr. Young continues to go the extra mile when it comes to helping students and supporting faculty. He is always willing to do something “EXTRA” which is what makes him an “EXTRA” ordinary team player. Hats off to Mr. Young. Staff and parents are encouraged to drop him an email and let him know how much you appreciate his leadership. You may email him at wiyoung@siue.edu.

Meet the Community Advisory Council

Anita Brandon

Student Services Specialist/Counselor
Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market

Stephen R. Colbert

Director, Educational Opportunity Programs

James Lewis

Executive Director, East St. Louis Board of Elections

George A. Mitchom

Lillian Parks, Ph.D.

Marvin Parnell, Sr.

Parent Representative

Donna M. Powell

Parent Representative

Jerome A. Rogers, Sr

Pastor, Shining Light Missionary Baptist Church

Rev. James Voelker

Pastor, St. Joseph Catholic Church

Anne Walker

Barbara Washington

Parent Representative

Give Respect...Get Respect

The words "give respect, get respect" appear to have become the fabric of dialogue of school faculty and administrators when speaking with students. This program, Give Respect/Get Respect, now in its third year, provides students from 20 schools the opportunity to come together monthly to share experiences and talk about differences. Students are able to socialize quarterly by attending sporting activities such as pro hockey, baseball, and football games. The program is totally free to students. This year students Ryan Vaughn and Floyd Wilson, both freshmen, are part of the program and represent the Charter School.

Junior Achievement Available to Student

For your information: Mr. Ron Ford, Junior Achievement Executive has informed us that space is available for new enrollees. However, there will not be space on the same night for everyone. If you are interested, you may report on October 17 through October 19. More space is available on Monday and Tuesday. The place is the cafeteria at East St. Louis Senior High School; time 6-8:30p.m. You should arrive at least 15 minutes early. Parents should go in with their children for registration. If you join JA you must participate fully. The following students have joined: **Deidre Powell, Alexis Luster, Norman Cotton III, and Courtney Jackson.**

IMPORTANT DATES

October 27 Parent/Teacher Conferences
3 – 6pm
November 1..... Parent Meeting, 5:30pm
November 11.....Veterans Day
No School
November 24-25 Thanksgiving Holiday
No School
December 6..... Parent Meeting, 5:30pm
December 19-30 School Closed
January 3, 2006 Classes Resume
January 16 Dr. M. L. King, Jr. Birthday
No School
January 20 Parent/Teacher Conferences

Don't Forget!

If a student is sick or will be late, it is necessary that you call the school before 8:00 a.m. You may reach the Charter School by calling (618)482-8370.



SIUE East St. Louis Center for Performing Arts
And
SIUE East St. Louis Charter School

Annual Food Drive

For the less fortunate



Donate canned goods and all staple foods. Please have all donations in by November 15, 2005.

Free Computer Classes

Free computer classes are being offered for all East St. Louis residents. This opportunity is provided by the SIUE East St. Louis Center through Illinois funding through the Bridging the Digital Divide Grant.

The youth class is for students ages 12 to 17. The adult class is for students age 18 and older. The training will be in Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint and how to search and research on the Internet. The locations of the classes are:

Phoenix Courts Center 7750 Marybelle Avenue East St. Louis, Illinois	Helen Davis Center 109 North 13 th Street East St. Louis, Illinois
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Residents may start immediately (classes are open until filled). Daily class times are:

Monday through Thursday – 5pm to 9pm
Saturday – 9am to 1pm

For additional information call (618)646-7398 and (618)646-7396.

KWANZAA PROGRAM

By Gregory S. Carr
Faculty Associate, Fine Arts

The Kwanzaa/Christmas Holiday Program will be held at the Stites Civic Community Center, 500 Washington, Brooklyn, IL, Friday, December 9, 2005, at 6:00 p.m. For more information, please contact **Andrea Smythe** at (618)482-6979.



For information regarding the Thanksgiving Food Drive, please contact either **Earl Wilkes** at (618)482-6996 or **Jack Williams** at (618)482-6977.

WINNERS!



Three Charter School students took 1st Place awards in the Essay/Poetry contest for Partners Reception. The contest is sponsored by the SIUE East St. Louis Center. *Congratulations!* to **Alexis Harper**, Freshman/Sophomore Essay Division; **Robert Wilson**, Freshman/Sophomore Poetry Division; and **Jamya Dallas**, Junior/Senior Essay Division.

The winners received a \$25 cash award and will read their writings at the Annual Partners Reception to be held October 25, 2005.

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