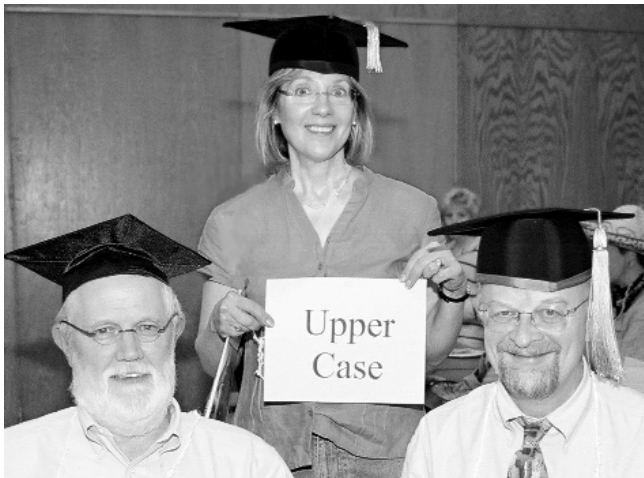


Experience Defeats Youth in 17th Annual Bee!

The 17th Annual Reaching Heights Community Spelling Bee pitted age and experience against youth and energy. Experience won, as the Upper Case team of Case Western Reserve University faculty members defeated a team of Cleveland Heights High School students. Upper Case team members **Pat Crago, Lynn Singer, and Jeff Janata** (pictured below, left to right) correctly spelled *perchlorinate* in the ninth round while the SMRT Team of **Rachael Collyer, Chris Hoffman, and Lewis Pollis** stumbled on *orthorhombic*. The two teams slugged it out for three rounds before the thrilling conclusion. The SMRT Team takes its intentionally misspelled name from *The Simpsons*.



Earlier in the competition, the audience was stunned when two-time defending champions OOPS, featuring members of the Cleveland Orchestra, went out in the first round on *fuselage*. The 17th annual bee involved 24 teams of three spellers each. Team entry fees of \$500 provide funding for the Reaching Heights School Teams Grant program. The friendly competition raised more than \$14,000 that will support CH-UH teachers and staff in their quest to provide excellent instruction to our students.

Big Fun owner Steve Presser again served as emcee for the evening, while Notre Dame College theater professor Tony Zupancic was our pronouncer. Judges for the competition were U.S. Federal District Court Judge Solomon Oliver, CH-UH Superintendent Deborah Delisle, Canterbury Elementary School Principal Kevin Harrell, and The Rev. Dr. Louise Westfall, pastor of Fairmount Presbyterian Church.

Many thanks to our Bee Sponsors: Calligraphy Studio, Dave's Market, Heights Dental Group, Huron Hospital, Marcus Thomas, Restless Coffee, Seitz-Agin Hardware, Stone Oven Bakery, Verne & Ellsworth Hann, Whole Foods Market, and Zagara's Marketplace.

Thanks to our Word Sponsors: Don & Donalene Poduska, Deborah Delisle, Mark Phillips, Becky & Dan Austin, Bruce & Lia Lowrie, Joy Henderson, Malia Lewis & Margot Damaser, Susie Kaeser, Pat McParland, Patrick and Heather Mullen, Marla & Joseph Shafran, Ben DeRubertis, Chuck & Joyce Riley, Daniel & Ellen Worthington, Janet & Craig Hoffman, Kay Heylman, and Beth, Scott,



Pursuing Excellence

by Patrick Mullen,
Executive Director

Teachers are always rethinking their profession. It's in their blood as lovers of learning. Powerful changes in the pursuit of educational excellence are happening right here in the Heights right now. Along with all the wonderful people in our community, they help make this a great time to work at Reaching Heights.

More systematically than ever, our teachers learn from each other as they sift through data gathered from student assessments, and glean insights that will shape how they teach each student, whatever their learning style.

Over the next few years, starting this fall, our middle school and high school students will begin using laptop computers as their main learning tool. By the standards of the working world, this change is way overdue. By the standards of most school districts in the United States, our Cleveland Heights-University Heights school district is way ahead of the curve.

Keeping the best of the past, our teachers and students are learning new ways to do their jobs better. So are we at Reaching Heights. It's rewarding work. In our case, you'll see some of the results when the new reachingheights.org goes live in November. To see some excellence on the part of some of our students, be sure to attend *West Side Story* at Heights High Nov. 6-9. In the meantime, have a great autumn. 🍂

A Circle of Gratitude

Without teachers, we have no schools. They inspire, guide and lead our children to love learning and understand themselves.

Each May and December we ask families to tell us about teachers who made a difference in the lives of their students. The response to our Thank-A-Teacher program is always heartfelt and inspiring. To participate, families send a donation to us and we pass their words on to the honored teachers. Funds raised by the program are used for grants to teachers.

Here is some of what families said about teachers:

- *Thank you for the best class ever and for believing in me.*
- *My daughter walked through the school doors a hesitant 5-year-old and left ready for the rigors of middle school!*
- *I came to you with little things and sometimes real problems and you always helped me. It was truly a very comforting feeling.*
- *I appreciate your willingness to hang in there with my son and demand better work from him. You all joined the village in raising him this year.*

To thank your favorite teacher, please send a minimum donation of \$10 for each teacher to be honored, and your words of thanks, to Reaching Heights, 1991 Lee Rd., #106, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118. 📧

Thank You, Andrea Freeman!

Public school activist Andrea Freeman is the 2008 recipient of the Reaching Heights Friend of Public Education Award, presented annually. Assistant Director Joy Henderson presented the award at the 17th annual Reaching Heights Community Spelling Bee on April 23.

Freeman was recognized for her work as a parent leader in each school attended by her children for the last 14 years and as a founding member of MAPA, Minority Achievement Parents Association. Andrea's guiding philosophy: To whom much is given, much is required. She believes strongly in giving

Continued on Page 3

The Verdict Is In: Heights Summer Music Camp Rocks!



"Heights Summer Music Camp rocks" was the popular sentiment among the 85 young musicians who spent the week of June 15-21 at Wiley Middle School performing in an orchestra and chamber groups; playing jazz, singing or learning guitar; and studying music theory. Campers also described the camp as fun, awesome, a blast, and found the staff of eight music educators, nine college students and seven high school musicians to be phenomenal, cool, funny, the best, friendly and encouraging.



Donations from 10 individuals and the Mollusca Fund supported 29 scholarships which helped the camp achieve one of its goals: to even the musical playing field. Personal attention, a relaxed but demanding environment, and quality music help explain how in four years the camp has become an established part of summer life for Heights

children. Of the 61 campers from 2007 still the right age to come back this year, 40 did! Many attended all four years and plan to return as junior counselors.

The camp reinforces the impact of the Reaching Heights-sponsored scholarship program that provides private music lessons to elementary and middle school musicians with financial need. Campers included 21 of the 35 kids who received scholarships in 2008.

Music teacher and camp coordinator Betsy Neylon has taught music theory at the camp since its inception. She sees a significant increase in the skills and musical knowledge kids bring to camp. As conductor of the camp orchestra for the first time this year, Heights High orchestra director Scott Astey (pictured above) loved the opportunity to help shape future participants in the Heights High Symphony.

The camp is achieving its goal: nurturing the Heights tradition of musical excellence. 📧

Experience Defeats Youth

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Anna, and Maia Wachter. Thanks to our raffle donors: Big Fun, the Cleveland Orchestra, Joyce Collins, Notre Dame College, Maryann Posch, Restless Coffee, Stone Oven Bakery, and Dallas Schubert.

The 18th Bee will take place Thursday, April 23, 2009, in the Heights High auditorium. 📧



Reaching Heights OKs 9 Grants

The Reaching Heights Teacher Support Committee approved seven School Team Grants and two Community Connection Grants for projects taking place during the 2008-09 school year. Here are the highlights:

Mosaic School at Heights High: *Integrating Folk Art and Literacy*, \$140. Twenty 9th and 10th grade students will read and write craft instructions to help improve non-fiction literacy skills. Funds will pay for craft materials. Leader: Donna Feldman.

Legacy School at Heights High: *Preparing our Freshmen to Leave Legacy*, \$500. The grant will provide all Legacy freshmen with binders and other organizational tools. Part of the freshman seminar will be devoted to effectively using these supplies and improving organizational habits. Leader: Karen Kastor

Heights High: *Link Crew Leaders*, \$1,500. Heights High juniors and seniors serving as trained Link Crew Leaders will mentor freshmen to ease the transition to high school. Several activities will link freshman with these Leaders. Funds will pay for distinctive tee-shirts for Link Crew Leaders. Leader: Karen Kastor

Monticello Middle School: *Youth of Promise*, \$1,500. Forty-five boys selected to participate in a mentoring and guidance program to improve student behavior and academic achievement will meet monthly for discussions and guest speakers. Parents/guardians also will take part. Funds will pay for materials and speaker fees. Leader: Sheldon Smith

Gearity Professional Development School: *Digital Technology Studio*, \$1,500. Gearity's art teacher, working with staff, is integrating technology in the classroom. Projects that support literacy, including student-produced raps, are inspiring students to grow as writers. Funds will purchase Macintosh computers, a scanner, digital camera, and other materials for a production studio. A private donor provided an additional \$2,500 grant for this project. Leader: Brian Stern

Boulevard, Canterbury, Fairfax, Gearity, Oxford, Noble, Roxboro Elementary Schools: *Ohio Heroes' Day*, \$2,140. Ohio history author Rick Sowash will spend a day in each elementary school in March 2009, holding all-school assemblies and more focused visits with 4th-graders. Fourth graders will research famous Ohioans and portray them at the assemblies. Content is aligned with the fifth grade Ohio Social Studies Achievement Test. Leader: Sharlene Warner

Canterbury Elementary School: *Inclusion/Co-Teaching Initiative*, \$1,500. Funds will pay for planning and release time for Canterbury special and regular education teachers. The goal is to improve instruction in inclusion classrooms at each grade level. Parents provided an additional \$300 from the Canterbury Inclusion Fund, dedicated to supporting inclusion programs.

Community Connection Grants: One \$250 grant, *English Language Learners*, will help English learners district-wide improve their language skills. Karen Durant is leading this project. The second \$250 Community Connection Grant is *PATH Senior Citizens Days* at the Career Prep program at Heights High. Senior citizens can bring their vehicles to Heights High's Auto Tech department for a checkup, and have their blood pressure checked by Diversified Health students while they wait. The grant will pay for snacks and flowers for senior citizens and lunch for students and teachers. 🏠

Thank You

Continued from Page 2



back to her community and shows it by volunteering countless hours in our schools and community.

"Reaching Heights created the Friend of Public Education Award to call attention to our core belief – that the public is responsible for the success of its public schools and that each of us can contribute to their success," said Henderson.

Freeman is EEO/Affirmative Employment Manager at the Veteran Affairs office in Cleveland and holds a degree in Political Science from Cleveland State University. She has three children: two Heights alumni and a senior at Cleveland Heights High School. 🏠

Hollingsworth Wins Bane Jazz Scholarship; Barnes and Epstein Vocal Scholarships

Reaching Heights congratulates Heights High junior Tyler Hollingsworth, winner of the 2008 James Bane Jazz Scholarship, given to a jazz band member who shows leadership, works hard, and contributes generously to the jazz band. The \$500 scholarship helps underwrite private music lessons. Tyler, a percussionist, took lessons this summer with Steve Enos at the Tri-C Jazz Festival



and deepened his knowledge of improvisation, taking particular delight in "learning more about the Latin and Bosanova groove!" This summer he served as a junior counselor at Heights Summer Music Camp. This school year, Tyler is studying with Heights High alumnus Bill Ransom at the Cleveland Music School Settlement. Tyler plans to try out for one of Ohio's leading drum corps this winter and will seek a college scholarship

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The successful second year of the Patti Family Music Scholarship program was celebrated July 26 at McGregor Home. The event included performances by Patti Scholars and the Cleveland TOPS Swingband, as well as a Mozart quintet performed by (left to right) Brian Patti, Judy Berman, Diane Mather, Marcia Ferritto, and Bruce Patti. The program, continuing this fall, honors Bruce and Brian's father Vince Patti, a longtime music teacher in the Heights schools.

SAVE THE DATE: Please join us for the 2008 Reaching Heights Annual Meeting, Tuesday, December 9 at 7pm, at the Cleveland Heights Historical Center at Superior School. Read more at reachingheights.org

Hollingsworth Wins Bane Jazz Scholarship

Continued from Page 3

using his percussion skills. James Bane was music director at Heights High for 27 years, retiring in 2001. Reaching Heights funds the scholarship.

Reaching Heights also awarded two \$400 vocal music scholarships to graduating seniors, in conjunction with VAPO, the Vocal Arts Parents' Association at Heights High. Brittany Barnes, a University Heights resident, believes her two years as a Heights High Singer helped her come out of her shell and raised her self esteem. Brittany attends Xavier University as a pre law/ political science major, while singing (of course) in the college's show choir. Alex Epstein, a Cleveland Heights resident and three-year Singer, loves the musical theatre. Alex found the place she belonged when she became a part of the group, which she served as a dance captain and vice-president. Alex is attending Marymount Manhattan, majoring in business. 📧

REACHING HEIGHTS

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