

# The PREP Press

The official newsletter of the YES for PREP Community

Volume 1, Issue 3

November 2006

## YES for PREP Seeks to Add New Partner School

On October 5, **Julia Richie**, President and CEO of The YES Foundation®, entered a new frontier for YES for PREP: she flew to Boston to visit Phillips Academy, Andover. Mrs. Richie aims to expand YES for PREP's partner school list by including out-of-state boarding schools as additional options for YES for PREP graduates.

Mrs. Richie loved her visit to Phillips Academy and remains excited about the idea of creating a partnership with the school. Her student guide, **Nkem Oghedo**, proved very informative and helpful.

On November 6, Phillips Academy Admission Counselor **Teri Moss-Tyler** plans to visit and host a reception for YES for PREP students. The reception for Cohort III members and their families will be held at The Skillman Foundation (100 Talon Centre Drive). Even students not considering boarding school will benefit by listening to the presentation. This will help them to start thinking about what is important to them when investigating high schools and later, colleges.

**Celeste Mahabir**, YES for PREP Program Director, said 3 PREP students who took the time to do some research into the boarding school will interview with Ms. Tyler before the reception.

She explained, "I am very excited for the students. They are truly embracing the mission of the program by taking time to explore all of their options and to consider the long-term benefits for their futures. They may or may not attend Phillips Academy, but I appreciate their desire to seek out more information."



Phillips Academy student Nkem Oghedo pictured with Admission Counselor Teri Moss-Tyler.

### Andover Student Shares Her Experience

*My name is **Nkem Oghedo**. I am from Queens, NY but my family is originally from Nigeria. This is my third year here at Phillips Academy Andover. I was interested in boarding schools in junior high, so my eighth grade guidance counselor gave me a list of schools to look into, Andover being one of them. I chose PA because when I came up for my tour and interview, I felt very comfortable on the campus. I could really see myself walking the paths and getting involved. It was a great choice. I love it here.*

—Nkem Oghedo

## Community Beat

*News & Notes from the YES for PREP Community*



Alumni, current students, and parents:

Do you have something you want to announce to the YES for PREP Community?

We want to hear about the great things you are doing in your school and community.

Please visit The PREP Press on the Web at

[yesforprep.org/newsletter](http://yesforprep.org/newsletter)

to complete our online form, or download our printable form.



- **Raymond Brown (Cohort I/ Bates Academy)**, a sophomore at University Liggett has been working hard on the set of *Bus Stop* and he has gotten involved with the Reuniting the Children of Abraham conference at Cranbrook.
- **Aya Waller-Bey (CII/Hally)**, a freshman at Renaissance, is the representative of her homeroom. She is very excited about studying German and she is looking forward to Oktoberfest at the Dakota Inn.
- **Carnisha Gilder (CI/Ann Arbor Trail)**, sophomore at Cass Tech, finds the time to maintain excellent grades and do all that she does including working to fight Lupus, and being involved in DECA, an organization for business oriented students.
- **Marcel Hite (CII/Ludington)** is truly enjoying his freshman year at Roeper and found the assignment of making cameras out of oatmeal cans particularly unusual.
- **Derek Dunlap Jr. (CII/Hally)** is also a freshman at Roeper and he has been elected vice-president of the freshman class. He has been cast as a Montague in the school's production of *Romeo and Juliet*.
- **Britany Hamilton (CII/Bates Academy)** is doing the tech work for the Roeper production, and has become an active member of the school's pep squad.
- **Raven Fisher (CII/YMCA Service Learning Academy)** and **Damiana Sorrell (CII/Hally)** are having a great time as freshmen at University Liggett and they are actually doing some activities together. Both students participate in Casa Maria- a group that holds parties for children, and the Radicals- a math club. Raven is a student officer for the freshman class and Damiana is a part of Fuzion, the dance club.
- **Evelyn Galvan (CII/Chandler Park Academy)** took a bold step as a freshman at Detroit Country Day and joined the Mountain Biking team. Evelyn earned her varsity letter and is looking forward to volleyball and theater in the winter.
- **Silver Moore (CI/David Ellis Academy)** and **Blendia Hubbard (CI/Blackwell)** are a part of UMOJA, a diversity group at Roeper. Both sophomores will be working through Roeper with The YES Foundation® to help first graders learn to read at Von Steuben Elementary school.
- **Imani Sims (CI/Nsoroma Institute)** presented her People to People experience at the Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church on October 29.

## A Day in the Life: Blendia Hubbard

Well, as some may know by nature alone or by some prior knowledge given, I am Blendia Hubbard and I'm a sophomore at The Roeper School. I hear there're some people who'd like to know what it's like to be a Roeperian for a day. Well, my best suggestion would be to come visit us! We'd love to see you here, plus there are no better experiences like firsthand right? Until then, let's explore what it's like to be a true Roeperian, with a tad bit of background to stand on.

I transitioned over to The Roeper School my freshman year and wow was it a tremendous difference. The first day was only semi-strange; all these different races and interests, that would seem to clash, mixing together and mingling, people with Mohawks dyed hot pink and purple and a million chains hanging off their clothing, students and teachers hanging around outside on the grass chatting about summer. You know the normal, everyday stuff.

This is the kind of thing that an onlooker coming from where I grew up would be suspicious of or turn their nose up at, and since the movie came

out, call it "The Stepford School". That's not it at all. Day-to-day living is like living in a very stable, diverse family situation. The directors, Emery, Gregg and Randall, are like the fathers and the office administrators, Roberta, Pat and Julie, are like the mother figures. They simply keep you on your toes and provide good info for the soul in the morning and can always be found somewhere near the kitchen and/or coffee machine; always with something on their mind, most likely beneficial to you.

Then, of course you have the teachers who are more similar to older siblings. They nag, annoy, laugh and joke, tackle and goof off, and most of all you learn wisdom tales from each other and grow as a family because of it. Going to class is like going to a roundtable of family members. Most of the time, depending on the 'sibling' in charge, there's a broad topic that will be more defined towards the end and an open discussion surrounding it. It's exciting to learn something new in class.

—**Blendia Hubbard**

## Book Review: *Shadow Divers* by Robert Kurson

*Shadow Divers* was a very interesting book about a dive group that found a U-boat or submarine that nobody knew about. It was a very interesting book because it described what the divers went through in detail, and it even included pictures! The book was also informative, because it gave information about different German U-boats, and what happened during World War II. This is a must read for anyone who likes

to read mysteries. It may even keep you up until the early hours of the morning.

Rating: ☆☆☆☆☆

—**Kwabena Nuamah** (Cohort III/  
Bates Academy)

*Shadow Divers* by Robert Kurson was published by Random House on June 29, 2004.

### What is a day in *your* life like?

The PREP Press is seeking students from Cohorts I, II, and III to write about their experiences in YES for PREP and preparatory high schools. We hope to feature one student from each cohort in future installments of *A Day in the Life*.



Roeper sophomore,  
Blendia Hubbard  
(Cohort I/Blackwell)

If you want to share a day in your life or a book review with us, please call (248) 646-2203 or e-mail [cmahabir@theyesfoundation.org](mailto:cmahabir@theyesfoundation.org).

## New Academic Director Selected

In September, Marygrove College proudly announced the selection of **Dr. Pamela Wilkins** of West Bloomfield as the Academic Director of the YES for PREP preparatory component.



Dr. Pamela Wilkins  
YES for PREP  
Academic Director

A recent retiree from Detroit Public Schools, Dr. Wilkins served as the principal at K o s c i u s k o Elementary school since 1989. Dr. Wilkins earned a Doctorate in Education from Wayne State University, and has been an instructor at the University of

Phoenix since 2003. Throughout her career, she worked on various curriculum teams, and is very proud of her school's designation as a High Performing School by the Skillman Foundation in 2006. Before moving into administration, she spent several years as an elementary school teacher.

**Martha Soleau**, Assistant Dean of the Division of Continuing Education & Community Service and member of the YES for PREP leadership at Marygrove College, is "delighted to have found Dr. Wilkins. She is a well known educator in the City of Detroit and brings depth and breath to the YES for PREP academic program." **Celeste Mahabir**, YES for PREP Program Director, said, "Dr. Wilkins

brings an enthusiasm and a desire for high expectations to the table that is at the core of the vision of YES for PREP."

Since September, Dr. Wilkins has been spending time in the classrooms to get to know the students and the teachers in the YES for PREP program. As Academic Director, she will review and enhance the curriculum of the 14-month preparatory component. In particular, she wants to develop the writing and computer applications preparation that the students receive in the program.

"I am very passionate about this program and I want to see our students develop strong math and writing skills," stated Dr. Wilkins. By working with her former colleagues in the Detroit Public School System, she hopes to recruit even more students to the program. Dr. Wilkins went on to say, "I am terribly excited to be a part of this marvelous opportunity for students. YES for PREP is an awesome program that will be of tremendous educational value for the student's entire academic career. I am passionate about the success of all of the students in this wonderful program. I am happy to be here to assist the Cohort 3 students and their parents."

—Staff Writer

## PREP Parent Network Adds Coordinator

Each year, the size of the YES for PREP community grows; this year, The YES Foundation® is pleased to add **Ms. Kelly Stupple** to its staff as the PREP Parent Network Coordinator. Ms. Stupple joins YES for PREP after working in the Jersey City Public Schools and at PREP for PREP in New York.

Ms. Stupple, who resides in Ann Arbor, is originally from southeast Michigan. She received her MEd in Guidance and Counseling from Hunter College and her B.A. from Harvard University.

“We are thrilled to have Ms. Stupple as a part of our team.” said **Celeste Mahabir**, “She brings experience and understanding to the program that can help our parents be better advocates for their children as they enter our partner schools.”

Ms. Stupple is coordinating

programming at least once a month for parents of all cohorts. She believes that “Providing access to high quality education for everyone is one of the deepest challenges to social, economic and racial justice in our society. Those of us who have been given the blessings of a great education have an obligation to widen the circle and help to create opportunity for others.” She hopes that to share this passion in her work with YES for PREP parents.

The PREP Parent Network meetings primarily take place on Wednesday evenings in coordination with the current programming for Cohort III. Parents and guardians of all cohorts are invited and encouraged to attend the meetings.

—Staff Writer



Interested in the  
PREP Parent  
Network?  
Contact  
(248) 646-2203

PREP Parent Network  
Coordinator  
Kelly Stupple

## Alumni Association Meets, Plans Board Election

The YES for PREP Alumni Association held its first meeting of the academic year on Saturday, October 14, at Kerby’s Koney Island in Southfield. Students from Cohorts I and II mingled with their peers and shared stories of their new adventures at their respective high schools.

**Celeste Mahabir**, YES for PREP Program Director, led the meeting, but she also announced that this would be the last significant agenda that she would generate as the Alumni

would be creating its own board. A general poll of interest was taken among the students and several appeared to be interested in running for a position on the board. Interested students submitted self-nominations via e-mail by October 25, 2006. Board elections take place at the next Alumni Meeting on December 20, 2006, in conjunction with the Holiday Community Potluck for all cohorts. Alums who cannot attend the meeting may vote

*(Continued on page 6)*

**MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS!**

**December 20:  
1st Annual  
Holiday Potluck  
Celebration &  
Alumni Board  
Elections for all  
cohorts and  
families.**

Alumni can find more information about upcoming events at [yesforprep.org/alumni](http://yesforprep.org/alumni)



CASH Prizes available!

Visit [www.yesforprep.org](http://www.yesforprep.org) for complete details!!!



Cohort IV Talent Search:

Parent Information Meetings: Dec. 5, or Dec. 9.

Qualifying Tests: Jan. 13, 20, or 27.

### Alumni Association Meets, Plans Board Election, continued...

electronically by contacting [yesforprep@theyesfoundation.org](mailto:yesforprep@theyesfoundation.org). **Julia Richie**, President and CEO of The YES Foundation®, also attended the meeting. She discussed the Cohort I East Coast College visit taking place in the spring, and she brought samples

from Sweet Potato Sensations and Shatila to kick off the fundraiser. Alumni also volunteered to participate in recruiting Cohort IV of YES for PREP.

—Staff Writer

### Second Writing Contest Topic Announced

YES for PREP announces the second topic for the ongoing writing contest open to students in Cohorts I, II, and III. Cash prizes are at stake for all students who meet the writing standards and submit an integrity statement.

happening regarding this issue and what the debate is surrounding this issue. In your opinion, how should the government deal with this specific issue? To support your argument, you must include specific examples and supporting evidence.

Please visit [www.yesforprep.org/resources](http://www.yesforprep.org/resources) for complete details, including overall scoring, standards, and objectives for each assignment.

Please submit your essay to The YES Foundation® office no later than December 31, 2006.

For the second essay:

Mail essays to :

November is election month. Select an issue that was of particular importance to voters. Explain what is currently

YES for PREP Writing Contest  
The YES Foundation®  
30600 Telegraph Road, Suite 2181  
Bingham Farms, MI 48025

### Cohort IV Talent Search Begins

Believe it or not, it's time to find talented students to enter Cohort IV! This year, students from Detroit, Pontiac, Highland Park, and Hamtramck may take the qualifying test.

the University of Michigan- Dearborn Fairlane Center North Building (Hubbard Drive).

Level I qualifying tests takes place on January, 13, 20, or 27, 2007.

Do you know someone who could be a great fit for YES for PREP? Tell them to call the office, or send us an e-mail so we can send them information!

—Staff Writer

Interested families may attend an information meeting on December 5, from 6-8 PM at Marygrove College or on December 9, from 10 AM- 12 PM at

Current 7th graders who are interested in becoming candidates for YES for PREP should contact The YES Foundation at (248) 646-2203 or [yesforprep@theyesfoundation.org](mailto:yesforprep@theyesfoundation.org)

### Free ACT Preparation Available!

Intellectual Minds Making a Difference (IMMAD), a student organization at the University of Michigan, offers free ACT preparation and practice exams during the fall and winter. Several sessions are scheduled for November, December, January, and March.

Students in Cohorts I and II are

strongly encouraged to contact IMMAD for complete details.

For more information, contact :

immadcore@umich.edu  
Ashley Amye: (248) 931-0155  
Ashley Thomas: (248) 910-9358  
Victoria Cohen: (313) 618-0653

The YES Foundation® fundraiser benefits YES for PREP's Student Support Fund and features delicious desserts from local bakeries.

Baklava from Shatila Bakery and Cafe



Cookies and pie from Sweet Potato Sensations



### The YES Foundation® Kicks off Sweet Fundraiser

**Julia Richie**, President and CEO of The YES Foundation® certainly has a sweet tooth, but that has had little to do with her recent trips to find yummy treats at local bakeries. Instead, she has created a collection of sweet treats, including sweet potato pies, cookies, cheesecakes, and a variety of baklava, for The YES Foundation®'s new fundraising effort.

Current and former YES for PREP students are taking up the charge to

sell the treats and raise money for The YES Foundation® Student Support Fund. Through fundraising initiatives, Mrs. Richie plans to create a source of funding for students who need supplemental money for trips, books, athletic supplies, uniforms, and other expenses.

The YES Foundation® will establish specific requirements for receiving aid from the Student Support Fund.

—Staff Writer

Donate to The YES Foundation®  
Thank you for helping The YES Foundation® support education.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Gift amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Please make checks payable to: The YES Foundation®)

Please direct my gift toward  the Student Support Fund

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Complete, cut, and return this form and your donation to:

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Bingham Farms, MI 48025



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Bingham Farms, MI 48025

Phone: 248-646-2203

Fax: 248-646-6197

E-mail: [yesforprep@theyesfoundation.org](mailto:yesforprep@theyesfoundation.org)

We're on the Web!  
[www.yesforprep.org](http://www.yesforprep.org)

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