

Students Become Scientists At IBM Workshop



Daniel Farrell and Tucker Wiseman engineer a spaghetti bridge during an IBM TryScience workshop. (D. McCoy photo)

“What does a scientist do,” asked Teacher Dennis Moulton. “Try again and again,” came one enthusiastic answer from the group of middle school students. Clarke School students in grades 5–8 embraced that spirit of scientific exploration by taking part in a special Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (S.T.E.M.) workshop sponsored by IBM.

Clarke Science Teacher Bob Storm collaborated with IBM Outreach Coordinators Donald McCoy and Millie DesBiens to plan the three-day event, which focused on hands-on experimentation and problem solving skills. Through its Global Workforce Diversity program, IBM conducts similar workshops at schools throughout the country and

abroad. IBM supplied all the needed materials including prizes for the young scientists.

Students participated in six IBM “TryScience” activities, including Lego Robotics, ice cream making, building “puff mobiles,” learning about binary numbers and computer memory, building bridges out of marshmallows and uncooked spaghetti and engineering paper airplanes. “I liked making stuff and being creative,” one student said after the workshops. A student opinion survey showed that building robots was the most popular activity. “I wish we could do this every week,” wrote one fifth-grader.

Mr. McCoy offered guidance and support to Clarke teachers who led the activities and interacted with the

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New Fund To Honor President Gjerdingen

Clarke President Dennis Gjerdingen will retire this June after leading Clarke for 26 years. Through his commitment to innovation and growth, Clarke has expanded to include the Center for Oral Education, four additional schools in Boston, Jacksonville, New York City and Philadelphia and the new Family Center on our Northampton campus. To honor his visionary leadership, the Clarke Board of Trustees has established the Gjerdingen Fund for Children and Families, which will support deaf children and their families and the professionals who serve them. Our Trustees will host a Benefit Dinner honoring President Gjerdingen on April 21st.



“Dennis’ impact on auditory/oral education and on Clarke will be admired for years to come,” said

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Devoted Family Has Colossal Commute

For Sandra and Frank O’Kane, traveling to Clarke School for the Deaf is well worth driving 200-plus miles a day.

This December, the proud grandparents were there to watch their granddaughter, Amanda Skocik, 12, recite a poem. It was during the Poetry Cafe event where fifth- through eighth-graders participate in singing, dancing and poetry readings. It always draws a crowd of the family and friends of the profoundly deaf students who attend the school.

The O’Kanes made the drive from their home in Brookline, which isn’t that far away considering that Clarke draws children from all over the world. But the O’Kanes are not occasional visitors. They make the 226-mile round trip every weekday to take their granddaughter, who is a day student, to and from school.

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Frank O’Kane, with his granddaughter Amanda Skocik, drives over 200 miles each day so that Amanda can attend Clarke School. (C. Lollis photo)

Internship Brings St. Louis Graduate Students to Clarke

See page 6.

Links to Literacy on Five Campuses

See pages 4 & 5.



Alumni Families Celebrate in New York

Hugs, smiles and abundant laughter filled a very special weekend at Clarke School-New York. The first annual Alumni Family Reunion proved to be a huge success with 25 families on hand to share their children's progress. Each of the graduating classes since 2001 was represented. Alumni and parents enjoyed seeing old friends and meeting some very young new siblings.

Children and adults chatted as they played with beads, board games and spin art and decorated ginger bread houses. Our alumni were eager and happy to see their former teachers, and they shared many stories about their new schools and friends. Clarke School-New York Director Teresa Boemio said, "It's very rewarding to hear how well the children are doing in

their ongoing schools and to know that Clarke played a special role in preparing the children for successful transitions to more challenging academic settings." ●



Clarke School - New York alumna Christine Serame and her father, Waking, begin a craft project at the Alumni Family Reunion, the first reunion for our 8-year old school. (T. Boemio photo)

Clarke School East Accredited by OPTION Schools International

Clarke School East recently became the first school to be accredited by OPTION Schools International, a network of private schools dedicated to the provision of the highest quality oral deaf education. OPTION is developing an accreditation process specifically for oral deaf education programs, and Clarke School East was one of three schools selected to participate in a pilot program which laid the initial groundwork for this process.

Clarke School East undertook an intensive self-study to evaluate a variety of focus areas within the school program. Based on this self-study, Clarke submitted an application to OPTION which included self-ratings in each

of the focus areas, narrative responses and supporting documents. After reviewing this application, an OPTION accreditation team visited Clarke School East for several days to observe classes, evaluate facilities and meet with parents, staff, collaborating audiologists and special education liaisons from public schools.

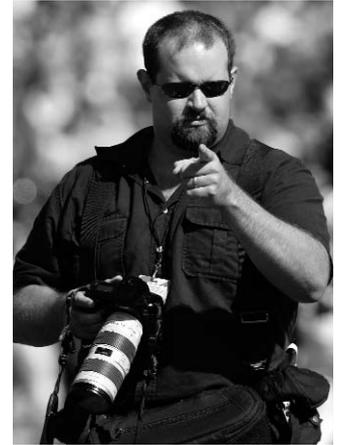
"This was a great experience for us because what we discovered about our own program has not only benefited our students, but was helpful to OPTION Schools in designing and developing their accreditation process, which will benefit many children in the future," said School Director Cara Jordan. ●



Supporting Families

Clarke offers early intervention services for deaf and hard-of-hearing infants and their families at our Northampton Family Center and our schools in Boston, Jacksonville, New York and Philadelphia. Above, Clarke Pennsylvania Early Intervention Coordinator Jeana Novak offers guidance to a new father. (J. Spirakis photo)

ALUMNI ID



Mike Pimentel CS '90

San Francisco photographer Mike Pimentel CS'90 made history in 2004 when he became the first deaf photographer to cover the Olympics. He captured the US Women's National Soccer team gold medal victory in Athens and cemented his place in the highly competitive world of sports photography. This was only two years after his first professional photo was published.

Sports Illustrated has published Mike's photos 53 times, and *ESPN Magazine* has used his work over 100 times.

Mike exclusively takes digital photography and is completely self-taught. He built up his portfolio by shooting high school and Little League sports and soon got his first big job, covering the San Jose CyberRays, part of the now defunct Women's United Soccer Association.

He has covered Major League Soccer teams around the country as well as professional football, basketball, tennis and motorsports. He is always looking for a new challenge and will begin his third year of photographing Major League Baseball this spring.

He attended California State University, Northridge and holds an associate's degree in liberal arts and computer science from Anza College in San Jose.

Mike believes the education and confidence he gained at Clarke have been essential to his success. "The bottom line is, if it wasn't for Clarke School I wouldn't have gone this far," he said.

In fact, Mike took his first and only photography classes at Clarke School with teacher Winchell Moore.

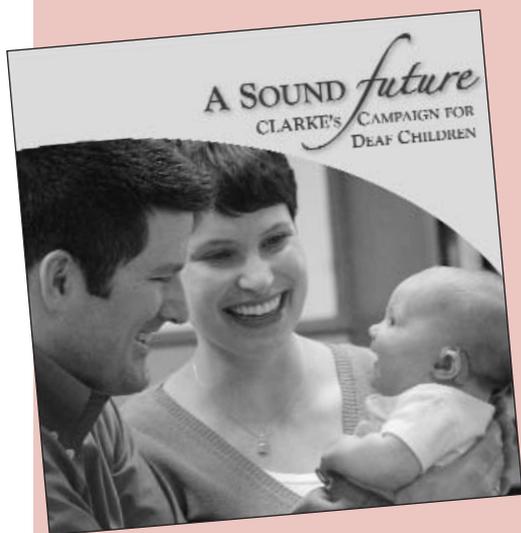
Mike is currently co-Team Photographer for University of California, Berkeley Sports. His portfolio can be viewed at www.michaelpimentel.com.

CLARKE LAUNCHES NEW DVD

Clarke is proud to announce the creation of a new DVD, "A Sound Future," which presents a meaningful snapshot of Clarke's mission and work. The 10-minute DVD features footage from all five schools, including interviews with parents, students, teachers and staff. Produced by Warner and Company of Portsmouth, NH and filmed over a two-month period, the DVD illustrates the positive change that Clarke is making in the lives of thousands of deaf children each year.

"The response to the DVD has been tremendous," said President Dennis Gjerdigen. "It illustrates the breadth of our impact in a very powerful way and serves as a valuable tool in telling the Clarke story."

For a free copy, please contact the Development Office at (413) 582-1189 or develop@clarkeschool.org.



IBM WORKSHOP continued from page 1

students. On his first visit to an auditory/oral school, he was immediately impressed with the way he could directly engage with Clarke students. "I was simply amazed," Mr. McCoy said. "The students clearly connected with their teachers. Clarke's leadership team is truly like none I have ever worked with before."

"Working with IBM on this project was a great experience," Mr. Storm said. "It offered a change of pace for the students and gave our teachers the opportunity to teach outside their usual topics and classrooms. The diverse activities greatly enriched our curriculum."

Based on the experience gained this year, Mr. Storm hopes to make the S.T.E.M. workshop an annual event.



Cougar Pride

Lower school students Justina Wood, Xin Qi Wang, Alexandra Kalmore and Ashley Mills cheer the Clarke Cougars to victory. Clarke's basketball and soccer teams compete interscholastically. (K. Kodadek photo)

COLOSSAL COMMUTE continued from page 1

All the driving - since 2001 - means an oil change every two weeks, new tires every six months and a new car every two years, Sandra O'Kane said. But, the couple said, it's worth it for their granddaughter, who, like her mother, Susan Skocik, was born deaf. Amanda and Susan, who works for the merit rating board at the Registry of Motor Vehicles in Quincy, live with the O'Kanes.

Amanda's deaf education started when she was just 18 months old at an oral education nursery school in Boston. When Amanda was 6 years old, she received a cochlear implant, making it possible for her to hear to a greater degree. Because she received the implant late in life for a deaf child, doctors gave Amanda a 50/50 chance of being able to understand what she would now be able to hear.

Amanda started at Clarke School East in Boston, which offers preschool and kindergarten. During her two years there, Amanda developed a hearing understanding rate of 22 percent. "The minute she was plugged in, she took off," Frank O'Kane said. "She flew."

After kindergarten, Amanda attended another school for one year, where her understanding rate remained stagnant, Frank O'Kane said.

Her family wanted her back at Clarke. Because of her age, Clarke's Northampton campus was the only other option in the state. But there was one problem: there was no way for her to get to Northampton each day. Boarding at Clarke wasn't an option, Sandra O'Kane said, because Amanda's mother "couldn't bear to part with her."

Her grandfather came up with a quick solution. Almost immediately, Frank O'Kane signed his retirement papers after working as a Brookline police officer for 35 years. He would drive her the 226 miles himself. Amanda has been attending the Clarke School on Round Hill Road since 2001.

After her first year, her understanding rate more than doubled to 60 percent. Now, Amanda can understand 99 to 100 percent of what she hears, her grandfather said.

"Before we started, what was it, every fifth word you could understand," said Frank O'Kane. "Now, she's as clear as a bell."

O'Kane recalled one experience where he realized Amanda was really starting to understand what she was hearing. It was autumn,

and the pair were raking leaves in the yard. A crow cawed loudly overhead. She asked her grandfather what the noise was. That was a crow, he told her.

"I thought all birds went tweet, tweet," she replied.

Because that's what she had been told, she had never heard for herself the different sounds birds could make.

Now, during their long car rides together, Amanda reads road signs to him. And she always wants music playing on the radio, instead of the talk radio that her grandfather likes to listen to. She also learned recently how to talk on a cellular phone.

Frank O'Kane said Amanda takes the opportunity during the morning drive to catch a nap on the way to school. But on the way back, "she talks my ear off all the way home," he said.

The rides have also given the grandfather and granddaughter precious time together.

"She's really developed a special bond with her grandfather," Sandra O'Kane said.

To cut down on daily trips, Frank O'Kane used to spend the school day on the Clarke campus to prevent two road trips per day from becoming four. He would read outside or in the lounge, use the school's exercise equipment, or walk from the school to Cooley Dickinson Hospital and back to pass the time. Looking ahead, O'Kane said he wasn't sure what he would do in the winter.

"I said, I can't sit out in the car all winter, I'll freeze to death," he said. So, a Clarke employee set him up with a part-time job working with the school's grounds crew about six weeks after Amanda first started there.

"It keeps me busy while I'm up here," he said. It gives him some peace of mind, too. "I'm right here if something happens."

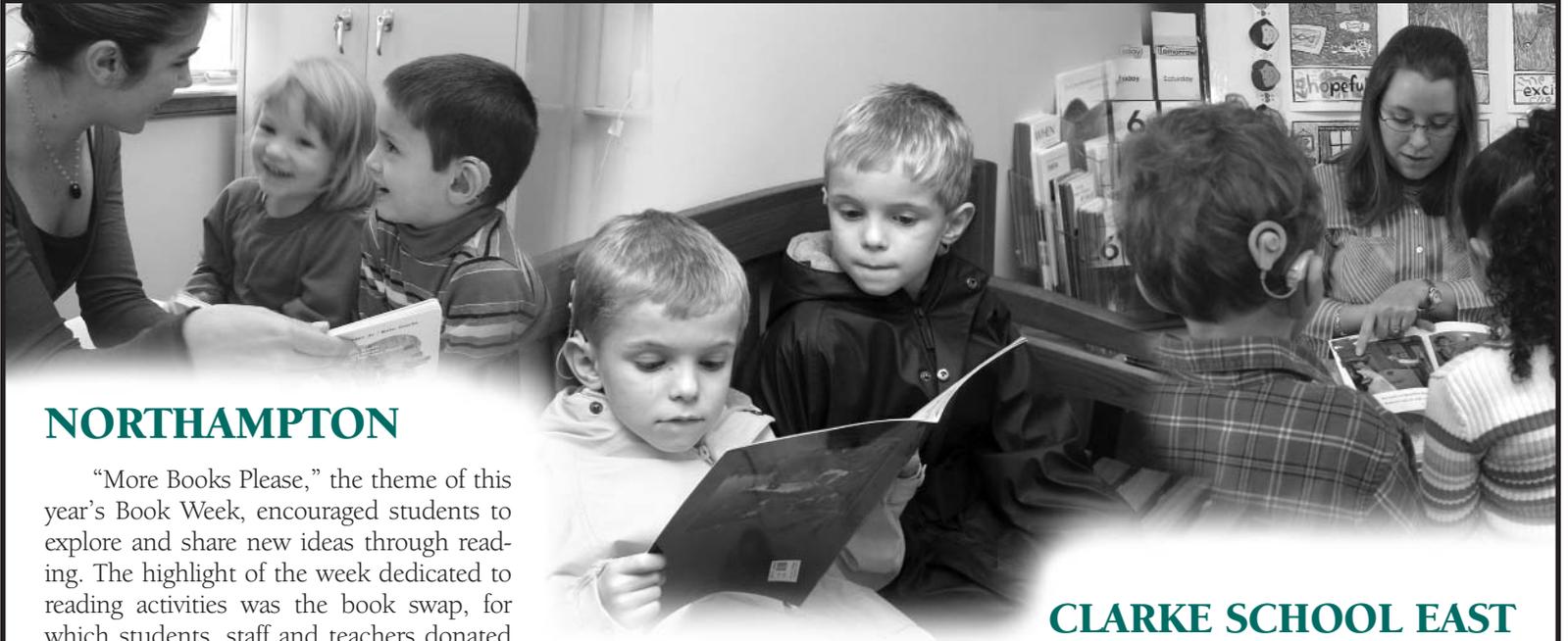
Amanda's grandparents credit Clarke School for her vast improvement in understanding what she hears and communicating clearly.

"It was Clarke that brought her over the top," Sandra O'Kane said. "It's absolutely worth the drive."

"I could keep you going for three hours about what they've done with Amanda," Frank O'Kane told a reporter. "We're lucky to have it in this state." ●

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Links to Literacy on Five Campuses



NORTHAMPTON

“More Books Please,” the theme of this year’s Book Week, encouraged students to explore and share new ideas through reading. The highlight of the week dedicated to reading activities was the book swap, for which students, staff and teachers donated gently used books. Middle school students helped sort and arrange the books by grade level and helped the younger students select “new” books to take home. The book swap was buzzing with energy as children and adults eagerly browsed through the possible selections and discussed potential reading choices.

Staff and middle school students also read aloud to lower school students throughout the week. “I liked reading to the kindergarteners,” said sixth-grader Abdul Alsalem. “And it was fun to get new books.”

“We try to extend the idea of donating books by sending some of the books to others in need,” said Clarke Librarian Donna Meehan. “We have sent books to soldiers in Iraq and school libraries affected by Hurricane Katrina. The book swap brings a sense of activity and sharing to reading, which is so often viewed as a quiet and personal experience.”

CLARKE JACKSONVILLE

“What do we do at Clarke School,” asked Director Susan G. Allen. “Read!” came the resounding answer from an eager group of Clarke Jacksonville students. Ms. Allen then introduced Jacksonville Mayor John Peyton, who has been reading to young children at schools throughout the city. His first time in an auditory/oral school, he was impressed with the commitment of the teachers and the students’ ability to listen and speak. As he read “If you Give a Mouse a Cookie,” he encouraged the children to help him tell the story.

CLARKE SCHOOL EAST

Clarke School East joined schools across the country in celebrating the joy and importance of reading. As part of “Read Across America,” Clarke School East hosted several guest readers including Butch Stearns, sportscaster from Fox25 News; Laura Carlo, Classical WCRB Announcer; Canton Police Chief Ken Berkowitz; Paul Foster of Reebok International; Sal Salvatori, Canton Selectman; and Brian Voelkel, Assistant General Manager of Brockton Rox, an independent minor-league baseball team. Ryan Rockett, a 6 year-old alumnus of Clarke School East, also read aloud to students.

“Early exposure to reading fosters auditory, speech, vocabulary and language development in deaf children, which is important for future academic success.”

“For children who are deaf, reading is one of the best ways to expose them to language structures and vocabulary. Acquisition of early reading skills better prepares students for the mainstream. Knowing how to read can help fill in gaps that might occur in verbal language.”

“It opens up a whole world. With current technology - so much of communication is print.”

ASK THE PROFESSIONALS

Why is reading important for deaf children?



Dianne Fanelli
Teacher of the Deaf
Northampton



Alisa Beard
Speech/Language Pathologist
Clarke Jacksonville



Kelly Hulse
Teacher of the Deaf
Clarke School East

Links to Literacy on Five Campuses

(Continued from page 4)



CLARKE SCHOOL – NEW YORK

Clarke School-New York has taken great pride in building a lending library for students. New books, a barcode system, a computer and modifications to the library space were made possible thanks to federal funding from the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Many more titles will be added to the collection over the next few months. “The kids are reading more at home, the parents love the library and everyone wants the kids to take out more books each week,” said School Director Teresa Boemio.

“Many parents have spoken about the lending library and have told me that they love sharing books with their children,” added Teacher Melissa Arnott. “What a wonderful way to provide parents with the tools necessary to promote early reading!”

“Enhancing life experiences, increasing language skills and creating meaningful contact with print provide our students with a foundation for literacy.”



Melissa Arnott
Teacher of the Deaf
Clarke School - New York

CLARKE PENNSYLVANIA

Clarke Pennsylvania held a two-day professional workshop for teachers and a parent support group meeting featuring Mary Ellen Nevins, EdD, a national expert on education for deaf children. The workshops, entitled “Talking to your Children: For Reading Sake,” explored the relationship between spoken language and literacy and the factors that contribute to reading achievement. Parents talked with Dr. Nevins about strategies for increasing children's language base, vocabulary and critical thinking skills.

“As with hearing kids, a strong foundation in pre-literacy skills provides the framework needed to become fluent readers, spellers and writers.”



Janice Egan
Communication Coordinator
Clarke Pennsylvania

PHOTOS: J. GIPE, T. HENRY, J. PEMBERTON AND J. SPIRAKIS

Speaking of . . .

Clarke School teachers **Kim Szakalun** and **Eleanor Jones** and school psychologist **Cindy Forsythe** attended a seminar, “Educating the Heart and Mind,” presented by the Committee for Children, which focused on the Second Steps violence and bullying prevention programs. Clarke in Northampton uses Second Steps as part of a school-wide program of Social Emotional Learning to enhance our students’ abilities to recognize and manage their own emotions, to appreciate the feelings and perspectives of others and to develop social problem-solving skills.

Thank you to Robert Cahillane, Area Chair for the Massachusetts Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, who attended meetings of the USS Northampton Reunion Association in Gaithersburg, MD and brought back several pieces of memorabilia for our USS Northampton Room, including the ship’s wheel and bell and brass plates from the USS Northampton CLC-1.

The October issue of *Arts and Activities*, a highly respected educational magazine, featured an article by Clarke Mainstream Writer and artist **Claire Blatchford**, which included photos of paper “stained glass” windows created by Clarke students.

John Hagar, United States Assistant Secretary of the Office of Special Education Programs enjoyed talking with Clarke Pennsylvania students, touring the school and visiting classes. This was Secretary Hagar’s first visit to an auditory/oral school for deaf children.

The Clarke Mainstream Center will host a day-long workshop, “If I Got a Summer Job, You Can Too,” on Saturday, April 28, 2007. This workshop for high school students in the mainstream will feature Clarke alumni John McGinty CS’02 and Hannah Bartini CS’04 and offer practical advice for finding both paid and volunteer summer jobs. For more information call (413) 587-7313 v/tty.

Internship Brings St. Louis Graduate Students to Clarke



Graduate students from St. Louis participated in a 4-week internship at Clarke. Director of Auditory Oral Communication, Allison Holmberg (c) with Fontbonne students Katie Lemke, Stefanie Meert, Jamie Bailey and Nina Jansson.

In January, Clarke hosted four visitors from Fontbonne University in St. Louis, MO. Katie Lemke, Nina Jansson, Stefanie Meert and Jamie Bailey are graduate students in Speech Pathology, with a special emphasis in deafness. Through a professional training partnership with Clarke, they spent three weeks on the Northampton campus experiencing the full range of Clarke programs through an intensive practicum and internship.

“The head of the deaf education program at Fontbonne, Susan Lenihan, and the head of the speech pathology program, Gale Rice, are longtime friends of Clarke,” said President Dennis Gjerdingen. “We have been a part of urging them to offer this specialty in deafness and are pleased to offer a practicum opportunity to their talented graduate students.”

The students conducted individual speech sessions with Clarke students, led oral communication groups in the classroom, observed classroom teaching and audiology sessions and spent a day at Clarke School East, our Boston area campus. Clarke Director of Auditory Oral Communication Allison Holmberg coordinated activities for the Fontbonne students and offered support throughout their visit.

At our Family Center, they watched an infant hear sound for the first time through his cochlear implant. “I think this was something we could only get at Clarke,” Ms. Meert said. “The collaboration between the audiologists and other staff members as they counseled and supported the parents and being able to

see how the child experienced the process – this is something unique.”

The four students lived in Clarke’s dormitory and enjoyed meals in the dining hall with Clarke students. They assisted students with homework during evening study hall and even joined a weekend Ski Club outing. The Fontbonne students were immediately struck by the confidence of the Clarke students they met and their knowledge of pop culture and world events.

“These children aren’t defined by their hearing loss,” said Ms. Bailey, who was impressed by the number of extra-curricular activities available to Clarke students. “Whether its sports teams, drama club, school newspaper – there are so many opportunities to develop their personality and character and give them a chance to be leaders.”

Another experience that proved quite useful involved spending time with Clarke Audiology Technician Frank Lepine, who introduced them to different types of hearing aids and implants and offered advice on troubleshooting the equipment problems students might experience. “I definitely feel much more comfortable with the technology now,” said Ms. Jansson.

When they return to Fontbonne, our friends will share their new knowledge and experience with their classmates and professors. “All the teachers and therapists here are so talented. Everyone has gone out of their way to welcome us and provide a learning experience for us,” Ms. Meert said. ●

NEW FUND *continued from page 1*

Board Chair Harley Sacks. “This special fund will continue the important work that he has nurtured and promoted—supporting deaf children and their families and teaching children to listen, talk and prepare for future success.” Gifts to the Gjerdingen Fund may be sent

to the Development Office, 47 Round Hill Road, Northampton, MA 01060. You also may make a gift at www.clarkeschool.org. For more information about the Benefit Dinner, please contact Development Associate Kelly Kodadek at (413) 587-7345 V/TTY. ●

USS Northampton Friend Remembered

In November, we were saddened to lose Earl Kelley, 85, of Long Beach, CA, a dear friend and strong supporter of Clarke children and families. Mr. Kelley, who served on the first USS Northampton (CA-26) during World War II, nurtured a relationship with Clarke School that began in 1955, when men of the USS Northampton CLC-1 read a news article about Clarke School children and decided to adopt the school. As secretary and treasurer of the USS Northampton Reunion Association, Mr. Kelley helped to establish the USS Northampton Endowed Scholarship Fund in 1991, by raising an initial \$10,000 in gifts. To this day, families and members of both ships support this permanent scholarship fund that provides a solid Clarke education to deaf children. On Mr. Kelley’s last visit to Clarke School, he talked to his family about the fund and the ships he loved: “To me it is a way to keep the name alive. What better way to do that than to give to students who can use it toward their future.” ●

STUDENT *Speaks*



Teenager

By Kelon Phillips, Age 13

- What is being a teenager?
- Watching PG-13 movies.
- Going out on your first date.
- Learning how to drive.
- Going shopping without a parent at the mall.
- Flying by yourself.
- Having your own cell phone but not being responsible for paying the bill.
- Having your own way.
- Going to the prom.
- Wondering when your voice will change.
- Learning how to cook.
- Spending a little more time in the bathroom to look your best.
- Arguing with your parents.
- I can’t wait to be a teenager.

Presented at December 2006 Poetry Cafe

REMEMBERING FRIENDS

Memorial gifts offer ways to recognize special people in your life and in turn to assist the children of Clarke. The names of those being remembered appear in bold and are followed by the names of those who made the gift. In recent months (August 31, 2006-January 29, 2007) gifts have been received in memory of:

Patty Ackal
Mr. and Mrs. Jon Bayouth
Warren L. Brown, III
Helen Chapman
Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Clark
Creative Video Productions
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Fanelli
Mr. and Mrs. Robert M.
Francez
Mr. and Mrs. Charles T.
Goodson
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Halphen
Mr. and Mrs. Benny Homsey
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Malynoski
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Inc.
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Samara
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Juanita Wehba

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Doris Blanchard

Lisa Botti
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Mr. and Mrs. Stuart J. Estes,
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Donald Wade

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Mr. and Mrs. Peter Kusulas
Melinda Micciola
Iris Scott Newman
Beverly A. Weise

Miriam LaPlante
Mr. and Mrs. Francis A. Botti

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Patrick B. Lavelle, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick B.
Lavelle

Jalmar and Olive Lehtomaki
Mr. and Mrs. Bernard H.
Gronowicz

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John McKissick
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John Ouimet
Mr. and Mrs. Gregory
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Barbara Richmond
Anonymous

Florence and Waldo Ries
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Kathleen S. Collins

John Klish
Karen Fehringer

Danielle Krueger
Mr. Samuel Zweig and Mrs.
Florence Zweig

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Mr. and Mrs. Douglas M.
Major
Mr. and Mrs. Scott A. Major

Austin Moorehouse
Sonja Larson

Ryan Patenaude
Mr. and Mrs. Ray Patenaude

Mr. and Mrs. Ioannis G. Pavlakos
Mr. and Mrs. William Bagby

Amelia L. Ragis
Mr. and Mrs. Fred D. Knittle

Jordan Sacks
Dr. and Mrs. Steven Sack

Mr. and Mrs. James H. Sanborn
Christina Sanborn

Nicole Marie Shimukonas
Mr. and Mrs. Morton C.
Kramer

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Dr. Joan Luckhurst

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Martin Stone
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Mr. and Mrs. Scott A. Major

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Wolford
Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Teagle

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Shawn Lavelle Endowed
Scholarship Fund

Lukas-Ragis Endowed
Scholarship Fund

Karen Marvelli Fund

McMahon Family Fund

NSNEW Endowed Scholarship
Fund

Elizabeth Partin Sloan
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Contact Susan Frost, Vice President for Development, The Clarke School for the Deaf, 47 Round Hill Road, Northampton, MA 01060-2199, (413) 584-3450 V/TTY, (413) 584-3358 FAX, e-mail: develop@clarkeschool.org.

To make a gift using your credit card, call Melanie Gulow in the Development Office at (413) 582-1189 or **give online at www.clarkeschool.org**. Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law. **Thank You!**

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To learn more, contact the Program Information Office at
(413) 584-3450 V/TTY
(413) 584-8273 FAX
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www.clarkeschool.org

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Clarke's 25th Summer Adventure Features Music

Join Clarke School for an exciting summer adventure! From July 8–20, Clarke School for the Deaf in Northampton, MA, will host its 25th annual two-week summer program for deaf and hard-of-hearing children ages 9–12. For students who want to learn new skills, make new friends and explore the world around them, the program offers recreation, arts and crafts, academic sessions, computer instruction, outdoor exploration and field trips. Summer program activities, led by experienced teachers of the deaf, encourage leadership and independence, while enhancing listening, communication and social skills.

This year's theme, *Summer Jam*, will introduce students to instruments, musicians and dance from around the world. Plenty of hands-on activities will encourage children to explore and experience the power of music!

Students stay in a modern, air-conditioned dorm with a family-style dining room and have use of computers with adult supervision. Each student will be given a Clarke e-mail account, making it easy to communicate with family and friends at home.

"For a quarter century, we've seen extraordinary friendships form when deaf children come to our campus from all over the United States," said program director Michael O'Connell.



"Students in this age group are beginning to explore their identity and question their place in the world. Clarke offers a unique opportunity for them to share their experiences with other children who understand where they're coming from. For students who may not have other deaf children in their school, this can be a very empowering experience."

Visit www.clarkeschool.org for more information about Summer Adventure 2007 or contact the Program Information Office at (413) 584-3450 V/TTY or email info@clarkeschool.org.



For 25 years students have explored the outdoors, while building friendships and confidence at Clarke's Summer Adventure. (W. Moore photo)

Alumni Reunion Set for June 30th

Our Northampton campus will be hopping this summer with more than 400 alumni expected to celebrate Clarke Day on Saturday, June 30th as part of the Clarke School Alumni Association (CSAA) Reunion Weekend. Alumni will celebrate Clarke's 140th anniversary and honor President Dennis Gjerdingen in celebration of his quarter century of leadership.

Every five years, the Clarke School Alumni Association holds a large, 4-day reunion, varying the location from year to year. The last big reunion on the Northampton campus was 15 years ago in honor of Clarke's 125th anniversary.

Clarke Day is free to Clarke School alumni, with the exception of a small fee for lunch. Alumni will enjoy a class parade, class photo sessions, tours, games, children's activities and a special drop-in "young alumni" reunion at Bell Hall.

In addition to Clarke Day, the reunion plans include a President's Reception on Thursday honoring CSAA president Rodney Kunath CS '58, a general membership meeting and barbeque at the Look Park Garden House on Friday, a banquet at the Log Cabin restaurant on Saturday night and a farewell brunch at the Union Station Restaurant on Sunday. Registration forms, which have been mailed to alumni, give more information and list the costs for these events.

"We warmly invite all alumni to come and enjoy the 'new' Clarke," said Clarke Day Coordinator Kevin Nolan, Sr. CS '63. "So much has changed at the campus over the years. New classrooms, facilities, curricula and technological advances abound. Many of our alumni will be amazed at the changes," said Mr. Nolan.

For more information about the CSAA Reunion, please contact Reunion Chair Ted Lord CS '66 at deafump@aol.com.

Clarke admits students of any race, gender, color, national or ethnic origin to all its programs.

Clarke does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration of all its programs.