

NEWSLETTER

Community Partnerships Academy
Berkeley High School



April 2007

website: <http://www.bhscpa.org>

CPA Seniors Leave us Stronger

By Susannah Bell,
CP Academy English Teacher

I have taught the CPA Class of 2007 every year since they were freshmen. Never in my eighteen-year career have I taught the same group of students over a four-year period and never before has teaching a group of students make me sincerely feel that they are my family.

Next year, the seniors will be attending UC Berkeley, Morehouse, Laney College Biotech Co-op, UC Santa Cruz, Beloit, Loyola Marymount, Spelman, UC Davis, UC Riverside, UC San Diego, Cal Poly, SF State, University of San Francisco, Northeastern University, St. Mary's College, Holy Names University, and many others. Some have earned scholarships.

The list of college acceptances is impressive, but more impressive to me is the fact that as second semester seniors, they have the largest number of students among all four grades on the CPA honor roll. As second semester seniors, the majority of them have never worked harder in their high school careers. They have internalized the admonition to "keep up their habits" so that they don't just get into college, they succeed once they are there. Their work ethic and enthusiasm for learning is contagious. Many of my students who struggled in past years are now succeeding, largely because of the inspiring hard work of their classmates.

They are the last class in our small school before the "small school lottery" required an even mix of students from all socioeconomic levels. Thus, as ninth graders, all of these students lived in neighborhoods of mid- and lower-income socioeconomic levels. Yet 85% passed the Exit Exam on their first try as tenth graders. So a commonality of this class is that they are relatively high achieving in spite of the obstacles they have faced. And they have faced obstacles. Most of them are children of single parents. Many will be the first in their family to attend college. Many have had to play the role of parent

to their siblings. Some have had to fend for themselves at some point in their lives. Nearly all have, in their short lives, suffered the losses of close friends and family members. Some have experienced brushes with death themselves, due to illness and violence.

They may not look like a diverse class, but they are. This class is comprised of many East Bay natives, but also first and second-generation immigrants from Germany, Nigeria, Mexico, Peru, Belize, Ethiopia, Japan, India, Yemen, Pakistan, the Philippines, China, Kenya and El Salvador. They are Protestant, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist and athiest. In the same class are the son of a Black Panther and the great-granddaughter of famed Depression-era photographer Dorothea Lange. These students are BHS student government officers (the president and treasurer of the senior class), cheerleaders, yearbook staff (including the editor), football and lacrosse players and Youth Together officers. They are students in CPA's first AP English class, but they are also students in AP Calculus, AP Latin, AP Statistics, AP Environmental Science, AP Spanish, AP Chemistry, and AP Biology. Some of them are among the most talented writers I have ever taught.

These students also give of themselves. They have educated their classmates on immigrant rights and African history; they have traveled to Native American Reservations to teach Aztec Dance; they have fed the homeless at the holidays and raised money to buy poor children Christmas presents; they have privately attempted to raise money for a scholarship fund so that their classmates can attend college; they have taught elementary school children how to read.

Yes, I am proud of this group of seniors and yes, I will most likely be a mess at their graduation, but when they walk across that stage, it will be a good day for all of us. This group leaves us at CP Academy a stronger school for their example and though it may sound cliché, I wholeheartedly believe they will create for us a hopeful future.

CP Academy Honor Roll 3rd Quarter

(3.0 and above grade averages)

12th Grade

Serah Blackstone-Fredericks
Jenovah Carlisle
Samy Ephraim
Kai Garcia
Freya Gereke-Couacaud
Anthony Green
Gabriela Guerrero
Sandra Gutierrez
Franklin Harris
Monica Johnson
James Lee
Genay Markham
Sean Michaels
Powan Pal
Lindy Perrin
Clarecia Philyaw
Josie Prizmich
Maria Rodriguez
Netza Romero
Graham Rogers
Xiomara Ruiz
Diana Salem
Ivoryana Valentin
Allyssa Villanueva
Jasmine Walker
Kenneth Watts

11th Grade

Marshall Aden
Teddy Bekele
Tyler Bremer
Alicia Campos
Louis Davis
Christina Durniak
Klara Esch
Eddie Essien
Vanessa Flores
Sandra Garcia Velazquez
Ben Hamilton
Elijah Hemphill
Lamontica Jackson
Yelitza Lua
Aron Martinez-Shipp
Sofiya Mcguire
Shantel Mitchell

Geneva Moore
Sylvia Moreno
Chinyere Okereke
Shyloe Pollard
Lashawnda Thompson
Alex VanBrunt
Victoria Veitch
Zoe Wotton

10th Grade

Ali Alwasim
Christina Arellano
Cydnee Clomon
Cierra Ford
Chelsa Greene
Alicia Maciel
Courtney Moore
Kimberly Moreno
Lily Owens
Sirin Ozturk
Nichelle Pete
Kenji Quides
Noel Russell
Salma Salem
Nicholas Suess

9th Grade

Violetta Alaiyan
Yvonne Arellano
Noah Brozosky
Evan Cohen
William Friedman
Diego Guerrero
Marina Hunt
Shiela Johnson
Ethan Jones
Kiran Logan
Maria Marquez
William McAdoo
Cleveland Mitchell
Kimberly Scott
Jacob Shaddock
Victor Velazquez Aguilar
DeVonte Wallace
Taylor Wallace
Angel Wanag

Counselor's Corner

by Caren Ohlson


Families of Juniors: Congratulations, you are almost through high school! Next year will be an exciting year. To prepare, please make sure your student has done the following:


⌘ **Signed up for the SAT. The remaining test dates this year are May 5 and June 2. Deadlines for registration are April 11 for the May 5 test and April 27 for the June 2 test.** *If you qualify for free and reduced lunch, you will qualify for a SAT fee waiver. Fee waivers can be picked up in the College/Career Center. Also, if your child receives special ed services or has a 504 plan, s/he qualifies for test accommodations. You can pick these forms up in my office – D149.*

⌘ **Signed up for a one-on-one appointment with a College Advisor.** At this appointment, students will be able to generate a list of schools that match her/his interests and ask any questions about the college application process. To sign up, just go to the College/Career Center!

If you would like to make an appointment with me, please call 510-644-8987 or email caren_ohlson@berkeley.k12.ca.us.

Announcements

 The 16th Annual College Fair for Students, Parents, Counselors & Teachers is Saturday, April 28, 2007 at Saint Mary's College. Admission is free and you will be able to meet representatives from over 150 colleges and universities. For more information, see the enclosed flyer.

 The next parent meeting is Thursday, April 19th from 7 pm to 9 pm in the College and Career Center on the 2nd floor of the D building. Please come. If you would like a ride, call Marty Downey at 644-1219 or email her at Peterd1143@aol.com.

