

# Davenport Schools Foundation NEWS

May 2010 Vol. 10, No. 3

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**Wilson elementary art teacher Jennifer Lanphere received a Tribute to Teachers note in 2009. It stated, "Jennifer is a talented artist and nurturing character who helps students find creative expression."**

## Morale Booster – Fundraiser – Memory Enhancer:

### Please Join Us in Tribute to Teachers - 2010

Imagine a pat on the back, a kind note from the boss and 15 minutes of fame—all rolled into one moment.

For teachers and administrators in Davenport Schools, this moment comes in the form of a Tribute to Teachers note. Each spring the Davenport Schools Foundation coordinates this program to help salute our educators, to let them know they have made a difference in their students' lives.

For a \$25 donation and a few minutes of writing, you, too, can create this huge morale boost for a teacher or coach or administrator. Retirees often hear from colleagues, and current teachers hear from alumni and friends—it's a friendly

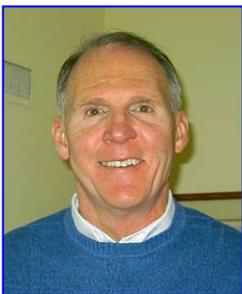
trip down memory lane. And the notes are given to the teachers (when possible) and also archived in the Davenport School Museum, where the sentiments will live for posterity.



Proceeds from Tribute to Teachers go to the Great

Minds enrichment programs for Davenport students. The program extends through May. A Tribute form is on page 4 of this newsletter, or on the DSF Web site at [www.davenportschools.org/foundation](http://www.davenportschools.org/foundation).

Thanks very much for supporting this important campaign!



**Tony Williams, DSF president**

## President's Comments

*by Tony Williams, D.D.S.*

### **Our defining moment ...**

We are coming off our big event of the year, the DSF gala, held April 10 at the Putnam Museum. We increased our visibility in the community, threw a nice party, even made some money for Great Minds. But for everyone who attended, one of the best moments was when CHS grad Julian Vandervelde proclaimed that his Davenport roots—and most importantly his diverse education in Davenport Schools—prepared him for his

moment on the world stage in March. It was then in Iowa City that he sang the national anthem for President Obama, and went back stage to meet the president. We showed Julian our appreciation with a standing ovation.

I would like to offer my own standing ovation for the great teachers and administrators in our system, who readied Julian for that moment.

And thanks to our friends who supported this event as sponsors and patrons. What a special evening!



McKinley Elementary teacher Janet Parker shared an exciting moment with Ethan McDonald, when all the McKinley students went to the Adler Theater in Davenport last winter to see "The Nutcracker." DSF's Great Minds program helped to fund the event.

## DCSD SUMMER PROGRAMS

Davenport Schools summer learning programs include Stepping Stones (K – 5) at five schools. It can accommodate 480 students. The Pathways Program (Intermediate) will also serve five schools, helping 360 students.

## West Students Visit Illinois Holocaust Museum in March

On Thursday, March 4, 60 students and teachers from Davenport West made a three-hour trip to Chicago that many said "changed our lives forever." They spent the afternoon at the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center in Skokie, Ill., seeing exhibits and artifacts about the World War II concentration camps in Eastern Europe.

According to West Principal Nancy Jacobsen, participants included students in the West Business Academy curriculum, who are enrolled in English and history classes that focus on this tragic chapter in world history. She added that the most poignant moment came after touring the exhibits for three hours, when a camp survivor, Henry Stone, addressed the group. "He was a teenager during the war, who recalled how he suffered in the Jewish ghetto and German death camps. It was a

## A Teacher Reflects on Great Minds Project

A teacher from Truman Elementary sent this comment about a student trip to the Putnam Museum:

"I feel as if we created our own stimulus plan to make this project come to fruition. We had to work with the Great Minds staff, the staff of the Putnam, and our PTA to generate the funding to cover everything. Gene Conrad showed such flexibility, and the Putnam was so generous. This was a clear example of it taking a village to fund a field trip. Our second grade team is very grateful for the support of our educational programming from Great Minds."



Holocaust survivor Henry Stone, second from right, told West students about life and death in the WWII concentration camps in Europe.

subdued return trip to Davenport," said Jacobsen. "But just before we left, one of the museum docents (tour guides) came up to me and said how impressed she was with the Davenport West students' behavior during the entire visit. I felt so proud at that moment."

The students raised funds to help pay for the transportation and tickets. The Davenport Schools Foundation also helped pay for the trip through the Great Minds program.

## Birdies for Charity Supports DSF Programs

Our lucky number is 969. When you fill out a "Birdies for Charity" pledge card, please indicate Davenport Schools Foundation and Bird Number 969, to ensure that the foundation gets your tax-deductible contribution. The John Deere Classic puts in an additional five percent to each gift, allowing this charitable giving more "bang for the buck." To learn more, go to [www.birdiesforcharity.com](http://www.birdiesforcharity.com).

Thanks for supporting DSF and the John Deere Classic, July 5-11, 2010.

## “One Step at a Time” DSF Gala Thrills Packed House

On April 10 at the Putnam Museum and IMAX Theater in Davenport, almost 200 guests celebrated the achievements of Davenport students and teachers, enjoyed music and art by high schoolers, and heard two inspirational speakers at the Davenport Schools Foundation’s gala.

Keynote speaker Lori Schneider of Wisconsin encouraged everyone to face challenges head on, as she has done. The 53-year-old mountain climber overcame her multiple sclerosis and personal fears to conquer the highest mountains on all seven continents.

The alumni speaker for the evening, Julian Vandervele, received a standing ovation and a cherished “Golden D” award for his engaging description of how his Davenport roots and diverse education prepared him for challenging academics, Big Ten football at the University of Iowa, and even for singing the national anthem for President Obama last March in Iowa City.

Colorful placemats with the message, “Thank you DSF!” were provided by hundreds of Davenport elementary art students. The proceeds for the evening went to DSF’s Great Minds programs for student enrichment.

As one patron said, “Thanks for a nice event. We enjoyed it and learned more about the Foundation’s important goals.”



Vandervele receives Golden D award from DSF’s Norm Bower. Schneider tells about climbing Mt. Everest. Below, colorful placemats say “thank you” to DSF supporters.



**SPECIAL THANKS**  
The DSF Gala corporate sponsors included:

**GOLD**  
**Iowa American Water Company**

**SILVER**  
**Riverboat Development Authority**  
**Stanley, Lande & Hunter, P.C.**  
**THE National Bank**

**BRONZE**  
**D’Souza – Krutzfeldt Family Dentistry**  
**Lujack’s NorthPark Auto Plaza**  
**Ruhl and Ruhl Insurance**



Gala guests enjoyed displays of student photography and artwork as well as inspirational messages from mountain climber Lori Schneider and student-athlete Julian Vandervele.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Iowa Governor Chet Culver visited West High School on April 9 and signed a law about mixed martial arts safety.

- The 35 DSF scholarship winners will be presented to the Davenport School Board on Monday, June 14, at 7 p.m. at the ASC, 1606 Brady Street, Davenport.

- North High School’s Laura McCreery was named “Life Sciences Teacher of the Year” in Iowa by the Iowa Academy of Sciences.

- Updated “Family and Community Learning Guides” will be distributed to all elementary students before the end of the school year.

**DSF Board: '09-'10**

- Tony Williams
- Tracy Schwind
- John Korn
- Jim Groenenboom
- Manny Fritz
- Bob Cahoy
- Regina Clewell
- Sherry Freese
- Nancy Hayes
- Chris Hester
- Steve Hunter
- Greg Gowey
- Larry Minard
- Cynthia Weeks

**Directors Emeritus**

- Steve Ahrens
- Lisa Arbisser, M.D.
- Beth Dietz
- Penne Duncan
- Lola Fike
- Don Fisher
- Thom Hart
- John Holladay
- Linda Miller
- Dale Paustian

**Development Director**

Norm Bower

**Program Director**

Gene Conrad

**DCSD Liaison**

Rachael Mullins

# Tribute to Teachers Application Form

To honor a teacher or administrator (including the retirees listed here), please fill out the form below and return it to Norm Bower at the Davenport Schools Foundation by May 20. Proceeds will benefit the Great Minds student enrichment program.

**2010 DCSD retirees include:**

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Jill Akers, Central, family/consumer science | Annette Mears, Eisenhower, grade 2    |
| Alice Cordts, West, family/consumer science  | Susan Nelson, Jackson, special ed     |
| Nancy French, Adams, grade 4                 | John Peacock, Walcott, social studies |
| Alan Guss, Sudlow, music-band                | Carole Scupham, Eisenhower, grade 1   |
| Ruth Harrington, Lincoln, kindergarten       | Nancy Shannon, North, special ed      |
| Nancy Keller, North, special ed              | William Sherwood, KCAE, 9-12 at risk  |
| Lynda Kuehn, Truman, grade 2                 | David Vinyard, Smart, social studies  |
| Janet Lloyd, North, Spanish                  | Suzanne Voyles, West, business        |
| Roberta Majors, Adams, grade 5               | Vickey Wisely, Buffalo, grade 2       |

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Enclosed is my Tribute to Teachers donation of

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25    \_\_\_\_\_ \$50    \_\_\_\_\_ \$75    \_\_\_\_\_ \$100    \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation with Davenport Schools: \_\_\_\_\_

Honoree's Name and Reason for Recognition \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Send this form and your tax-deductible donation to:  
Davenport Schools Foundation, 1606 Brady Street, Davenport, IA 52803.*

**Davenport Schools Foundation**

1606 Brady Street  
Davenport, IA 52803

563-336-5004

[bowern@davenportschools.org](mailto:bowern@davenportschools.org)

[www.davenportschools.org/foundation](http://www.davenportschools.org/foundation)



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*The Davenport Schools Foundation was created in 1987 as a 401(c) 3 not-for-profit, tax-exempt organization in order to enhance the educational opportunities and experiences available to students in the Davenport Community Schools.*