

# BUILDING EXCELLENCE cornerstone

A Publication of the University City Education Foundation

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Summer 2007

## Harriett Woods Honored by UCEF

June 2 would have been the 80th birthday of the late former Missouri Lieutenant Governor **Harriett Woods**, whose career as the first woman elected statewide in Missouri and

lifetime community activist began in University City. When Harriett passed away February 8, **UCEF** was honored to be named by her family as the designated recipient of memorial gifts. Harriett was one of the founding members of UCEF and was active on the board for several years. We credit her with getting us started on the right road!

The Foundation currently gives out money in two formats, Pride Projects and competitive teacher grants (see related articles within). The UCEF board has been talking about another vehicle for supporting innovative education in the district. At our March meeting we unanimously agreed that beginning fall 2007

we will be offering yearly Harriett Woods Awards. These are awards focusing on a positive "change" — a passion of Harriett's — for projects that don't fit in the other two categories.

Any donations received in response to this newsletter (or earmarked Harriett Woods award or memorial) will be used for these awards. Further, the Woods Family has pledged to match these initial designated gifts to the UCEF through the **Harriett and Jim Woods Family Foundation**.

The board is firming up the guidelines for these awards and will announce them through the website (later this fall).



Harriett Woods

### *Memorial Monies Have Been Gratefully Accepted from:*

Elaine Alexander  
Dr. and Mrs. Giuseppe Aliperti  
plus the staff of Midwest  
Therapeutic Endoscopy  
Consultants  
Marian Barnholtz  
June Bartley  
Janet Becker  
Ellen Bern and Barry Mizes  
Stephen and Joyce Best  
Susan Block  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Branom  
Dave Mungenast Automotive  
Fleishman Hillard Inc,  
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Community Foundation  
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Honda North America  
Phil and Randi Klasskin  
Estelle Levin  
Mary Lieber  
Larry and Joy Lieberman  
Joe Lipic  
Ronald Lipovsky  
Carolyn and Joseph Losos  
Jerome Mandelstamm  
Steve and Sandy Marsh

Stuart and Rhea Oelbaum  
Irene and Henry Ordower  
Sam and Jenny Page  
Elaine and Jack Pearlman  
Carol Portman  
Lynn Ricci  
Sylvan Robinson and Family  
Carol and Larry Rossel  
Vivian Schmidt  
Paul and Suzanne Schoomer  
Ken and Mary Schuman  
Verna Smith  
Kristin Sobotka  
Takanori Sonoda  
Tarlton Corporation  
Bonnie Yoder and Peter Burgers

# Spring Grants Were Awarded at an April University City Board of Education Meeting

The exciting spring grants included:



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RECENT WINNERS  
OF THE HERSKOWITZ  
UCHS ALUMNI  
TEACHER'S  
RECOGNITION AWARD

2004  
Dawn Fels  
Peggy Haulter

2005  
Dennis Calloway  
Roberta Stewart

2006  
Andrew Cox  
Awrey Henderson

2007  
Lorraine Eason  
Kevin Stapleton-  
Cloud

## The Wonders of the Great Outdoors

David Gammon  
*Brittany Woods, Grade 7*  
This project provided concrete tables and benches for an outdoor classroom in the courtyard of Brittany Woods Middle School. The students have designed the classroom and will work with volunteers to create the gardens.

## Relating Past to Our Present

Chris Kwiatkowski  
*Brittany Woods, Grade 7*  
This project provided transportation to the 1800's Village of New Salem near Springfield, Illinois as part of a curriculum which includes the study of United States history and culture. The students observed life in the 1800's village where Abraham Lincoln lived before becoming president.

## Pathways to Learning

Tony T. Taylor  
*UCHS Grades, 9-12 Art*  
This project provided a mulched figure-eight path through the planting bed space along the Balson side of the school and a portable display screen that will be used for both teaching on site and displaying of student work. *U. City in Bloom* volunteers will assist in construction; they and students will maintain the area.



PHOTO: COMPLIMENTS OF CAROL ANN COLE

From left to right: Tony T. Taylor, Erin Leigh McAlvany, Chris Kwiatkowski, Mark Bratkowski, David Gammon, Christine Barrios, Jennifer Minnis, Christine Whitehead and Tracy Gengler

## That's Literacy to My Ears

Christine Barrios  
*Jackson Park, Grade 4*  
This project provided CD players and curriculum — reading-level-appropriate CDs with accompanying books — in order to give the students increased exposure to a variety of genres of literature, as well as exposure to proper reading of text. Math-based CD's are also included for the students' use.

## Appreciating ArKIDtecture

Melanie Bloom  
*Brittany Woods, Grades 7-8*  
This project included architectural instructional materials and transportation for a unit on the architecture and cultural history of the St. Louis area. The students took a walking tour of downtown and recorded the information learned throughout the unit into Power Point presentations.

FALL GRANT DEADLINE

September 5, 2007

### **Challenger Learning Center Experimental Space Program**

Michael Heidbreder  
*Jackson Park, Grade 6*  
This project partially funded the sixth-graders' participation in the St. Louis program of the international Challenger Center for Space Science Education. Each student was a part of one of eight crew teams for a simulated mission. Extensive preparation, flight and post-flight curricula are aligned with MO state education standards.

### **Gets Stuck Reading and Writing**

Katina Willis  
*Barbara Jordan, Grade 4*  
This project helped teach organizational skills and note-keeping through the use of sticky notes throughout the curricula.

### **Ancient Roman Coin Excavation, Cleaning, and Mini-Museum**

Jennifer Ice  
*Brittany Woods, Grades 7-8 Latin*  
This project involved an interdisciplinary unit including a simulated archaeological dig. Uncleaned ancient Roman coins were found, cleaned using scientific processes and tools, catalogued and presented in a mini-museum setting at school.

### **Literacy Fun Kits**

Jennifer Minnis  
*Jackson Park, Grade 1-4 ESOL*  
This project provided English Language Learner students with literacy skill-based board games which may be checked out and taken home. The games will help increase students' reading comprehension at the same time their families become a part of the school-based learning process.

### **Technology for Engaging All Learners**

Tracy Gengler and  
Christine Whitehead  
*Jackson Park, Grades 3-4*  
This project involved the students' use of technological tools including a data projector and speaker system to research the functions of the three branches of U.S. government. The third/fourth grade partners presented culminating PowerPoint presentations of the results of their explorations to all students.

### **A Professional School Newspaper**

Mark Bratkowski  
*UCHS English/Newspaper*  
This project provided the news-paper class with additional digital cameras and more up-to-date publishing software in order to allow a more professional product and to encourage more participation in the course. More advanced journalism tools will provide better training for the students who use them and provide a publication of which all students can be proud.

### **Second Language Real Life Experiences**

Patricia Powers  
*UCHS, Grades 9-12 Japanese*  
This project provided bus transportation for field trip and supplies for classroom activities in order for the students to sharpen their language skills and cultural knowledge of the Japanese communities. They worked with a teaching assistant from Japan who led these activities.

### **Comparative Anatomy Dissection**

Erin Leigh McAlvany  
*UCHS, Grades 9-12 Biology*  
This project provided additional specimens, tools and supplies for a more comprehensive hands-on comparison of anatomical and physiological features of a broad range of animal phyla. Dissections followed class discussions and led to group PowerPoint presentations at the end of the unit, with each student keeping a lab journal of the processes.



## *How the Grant Process Works*

The Foundation continues to award grants to teachers and staff members throughout the District who participate in the grant process. Educators throughout the District are actively encouraged to submit grant applications. After the application deadline, volunteer readers receive copies of all applications and spend many hours going over them to see which ones best meet the mission of the Foundation. Grants are awarded through a "blind" process, meaning that the readers do not know which schools or teachers have submitted the grant proposals. Once the committee meets and reaches consensus, the applicants are notified of the committee's selections. Those who do not receive grants receive suggestions on how to improve their proposals, and many are encouraged to make changes and resubmit their applications in the next grant cycle.

# 2006-2007 Pride Projects

Each year UCEF presents every school throughout the district with a Pride Project, (\$1000 per school/\$500 for the Alternative School newly named the Lieberman Learning Center). These are the approved projects for the 2006-2007 school year.



## **Delmar-Harvard Elementary School**

- All K-2 students will receive two reading- and interest-appropriate reading books.
- Grade 3-6 students will receive the next-year-level copy of *Brain Quest*.

## **Jackson Park Elementary School**

- Grade K-6 Students will experience the wonderful and timeless book *Charlotte's Webb* as a total school project.

## **Brittany Woods Middle School**

- Funds will support team development of ideas and strategies to improve the climate of school during the MAP testing period. These strategies include snacks throughout the day, reward tokens for attendance and recognition for focus during testing. These strategies look to improve test scores and attendance.

## **Alternative School Program**

- The grant will provide each student with a dictionary to use for the year. If the student (or family) would like to keep the dictionary at the end of the year they could then purchase it for the discount cost of \$5.95 and we would then use the money to purchase more the following year.

## **Nathaniel Hawthorne Elementary School**

- Teachers will be able to check digital cameras out from the media center. Various lesson ideas will be included on use of cameras for instruction. Staff members from Creve Coeur Camera will provide photography classes for students as well as ongoing training for the staff.

## **University City High School**

- A new scrolling message board will be used to announce and highlight important messages during lunch times such as: ACT sign up deadlines, Sports and Arts events, School Clothing or Blood Drives, Deadlines for class changes, Dance ticket sale information etc.

## **Flynn Park Elementary School**

- Students will work with a glass artist to make glass tiles to be fused into large pieces of glass in order to construct a series of eight panels to be displayed outside of Flynn Park. The students will also make individual practice tiles, which they will take home.

## **Pershing Elementary School**

- An assortment of books from various African American authors will be used to enhance the student's curriculum. The books will be used to guide the students through the reading process, enabling them to use inquiry and other reading strategies to evoke thoughtful questions and meaningful discussions.

## **Julia Goldstein Early Childhood Education Center**

- Students will be photographed showing appropriate behaviors — catching them being good — while they engage in constructive play. This will assist in promoting and enhancing preschool as well as Kindergarten readiness and help with the visual reminder of appropriate socialization skills.

## **Barbara C. Jordan**

- Funds will be used to enhance the capacity to use existing VCR/DVD players, in addition to increasing technological resources. Books will be purchased for the library to update non-fiction books, periodicals and multi-media materials. An assortment of bean bags, oversized pillows, plants figurines and posters will be added to highlight reading areas in the library.

*Since Brittany Woods and University City High School have significantly more students than any other schools, and because they serve the entire community, UCEF will offer \$1,500 for Pride Projects to Brittany Woods and \$2,000 for Pride Projects at UCHS beginning this 2007-2008 school year*

# Great Lion Safari

Although the numbers were small, a great time was had by all at the first Great Lion Safari which was held April 28. The Great Lion itself (a \$500 cash prize) was underwritten by **Enterprise Bank and Trust**. Other sponsors included: **Bob and Nancy Baglan, Bob and Sally Elgin, Law Office of Rory Ellinger, Steve and Sandy Marsh, and Jon Mendelson Realtors.**

We want to thank all those who attended as well as **Ron Aiken** and the fabulous staff at Ruth Park, **Jayson Meats, Gatesworth** and everyone else who donated their gifts of food and door prizes.



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**Above:** Tom Campbell and others take a look at the door prize table

While we raised less money than hoped for (just under \$2200), we were all excited about the event and plan on repeating it next year. A big thank you goes to **Carmen Hemphill Collins**, our board member who chaired the event, as well as to her main committee: **Traci Moore Clay, Sarah Hanly, Sandy Marsh, Steve Norkaitis** and **Yolanda Williams**. It was so much fun that Carmen has already agreed to chair the event again!



**Upper right:** Event Chair Carmen Hemphill Collins and her family

**Lower right:** Frank and Jane Ollendorff, Yolanda Williams and Ruth Park Golf pro Ron Aiken

## U. CITY LION SCULPTURES

FOR SALE AT \$175 PER PAIR



INSPIRED BY GEORGE JULIAN ZOLNAY'S  
**"GATES OF OPPORTUNITY"**  
 THIS ORIGINAL ART BY BRIAN BURNETT WAS  
 COMMISSIONED BY THE UNIVERSITY CITY EDUCATION  
 FOUNDATION IN 2005

### Only Five Left!

Call Sandy Marsh at (314).726.6737. Local delivery is available.



# UCEF Donations

December 2006 through June 2007

## *In Memory of*

### **In Memory of**

#### **Jim Baskin's Father**

Ellen Bern and Barry Mizes

### **In Memory of Carolyn Bates**

Calla and Ted Smorodin

### **In Memory of**

#### **Tom Campbell's father**

Bonnie Yoder and Peter Burgers

### **In Memory of**

#### **Richard Chases' Mother**

Bonnie Yoder and Peter Burgers

### **In Memory of**

#### **Stanley Coleman's Mother**

Jacob Bashkin and family

### **In Memory of Charles Gouaux**

Sarah Hanly and Alex Babich

### **In Memory of Lois Hachtmeyer**

Joy and Larry Lieberman

Ilene Murray

Paul Wagman

### **In Memory of Amy Hackett**

Brian Hackett

Sarah Hanly and Alex Babich

### **In Memory of Katie Lindsey**

Calla and Ted Smorodin

### **In Memory of**

#### **Steve Marsh's Father**

Bonnie Yoder and Peter Burgers

### **In Memory of Norma**

#### **Muroz-Colon**

Barb Shapiro

### **In Memory of Ted Smorodin**

Ellen Bern and Barry Mizes

Mary Ellen and Tom Campbell

Rory Ellinger and Linda Locke

Nova Felton

Dan Glazier and Nancy Snow

Sarah Hanly and Alex Babich

Phil and Randi Klasskin

Joy Lieberman

Steve and Sandy Marsh

June Miller

Tom Peters, Terry Crow

and family

Carol Portman

Barb Santoro

Paul and Suzanne Schoomer

Barb Shapiro

### **In Memory of**

#### **Avery Watson's Father**

Ellen Bern and Barry Mizes

U. City School Board

## *In Honor of*

### **In Honor of "The Lunch Bunch"**

Barbara Santoro

### **In Honor of Carole Niere**

Barb Shapiro

### **In Honor of Alan and**

#### **Molly Portman**

Carol Portman

### **In Honor of Robert and**

#### **Charla Portman**

Carol Portman

### **In Recognition of Barbara**

#### **Santoro's Service to the**

#### **University City School District**

Anonymous

### **In Honor of Deborah and**

#### **Terry Taryle**

Carol Portman

### **In Honor of the Directors**

#### **-serving on the University City**

#### **School Board**

Derrick and Maryanne Coley

### **In Honor of Dr. Victory, Joylynn**

#### **Wilson, Charles Nicastrò,**

#### **Scott Hafertepe, Judy Sclair**

#### **and Charlotte Tatum**

Derrick and Maryanne Coley

### **In Honor of Ester Zuckerman**

Carol Portman

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Joe Adams

Andrea and Garry Aronberg

Bob and Nancy Baglan

Ellen Bern and Barry Mizes

Stephen and Joyce Best

Tom and Mary Ellen Campbell

Susan Carlson and

Gerry Greiman

Traci and Stacy Clay

Terry Crow and Tom Peters

Ian and Joanne Cruickshank

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Terrance Egan and

Rosalie Uchanski

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Rory Ellinger and Linda Locke

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Sarah and John Kissel

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Alan Lyss

Rose Malt

Steve and Sandy Marsh

Maria and Constantine

Michaelides

Wanda and Tim Michels

Dori Miller

Audrey Mishow

Eric and Heidi Morgan

Constance Mueller and

Kim Portnoy

Sarah Nadler

Mary Neal

*(continued on next page)*

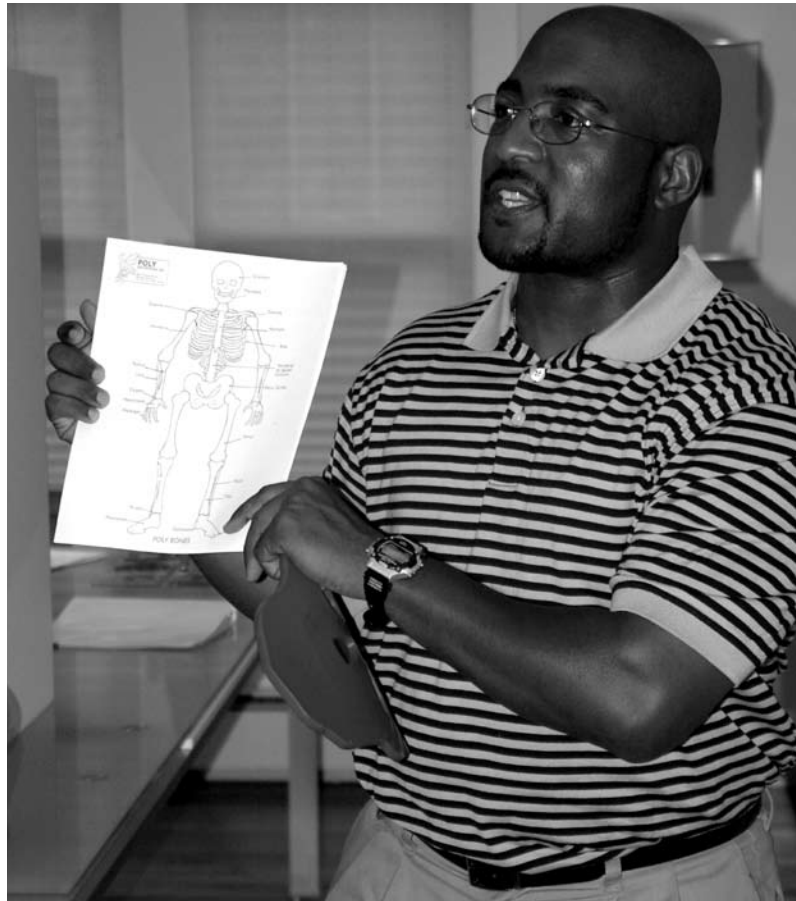


# Annual Meeting Highlights

The annual meeting, once again generously hosted by **Miriam Wilhelm** and **Eric Friedman**, was held on Wednesday, May 8. We thanked outgoing board members **Traci Moore Clay**, **Susan Carlson** and **Bob Wagner** and welcomed new board members **Ken Wilson** and **Cyndee Montes**.

The highlight of the evening is always the presentation by some of our grant recipients explaining their innovative projects to us. The photo is of the Nathaniel Hawthorne gym teacher **Brian Rogers** presenting his program; Brian was a fall grant recipient.

We also take time for business and are pleased to say that after 11 years, the Foundation is a vibrant, healthy organization with a committed volunteer board.



## *UCEF Donations* (continued from previous page)

Colin and Diana Nichols  
Juel Niland  
Darlene and Willie Norfleet  
Steve and Shelly Norkaitis  
David and Jitka Olander  
Margret O'Neall  
Robert Oppliger  
Kathryn Render  
Ed and Sigrid Renner  
Linda and Jim Riles  
Eleanor Safe  
Barbara Santoro  
John and Fay Scandrett  
Mary and Ken Schuman  
Genice and Larry Self  
Richard and Mary Ann Shaw

Michael and Margaret  
Sherraden  
Theodore and Beth Slegesky  
Bill and Cathy Smith  
Ted and Calla Smorodin  
Kristin and Lee Sobotka  
Tony Taylor  
Robert Vickers  
Bob and Nancy Wagner  
Robert and Nancy Wagoner  
Susan and Daniel White  
Miriam Wilhelm  
Sandra and Gerald Wool  
John and Sylvia Wright  
Joanne Zach  
Jane Zeni

## *Herskowitz Teacher Award Donations*

**In Memory of Jean Isenberg**  
Reida and Irwin Herskowitz  
**In Memory of Fred R. Jacobs**  
Reida and Irwin Herskowitz  
**In Memory of David Seidman**  
Reida Herskowitz  
Mara Herskowitz  
Robert Oppliger  
Staff of Neurological Services,  
Framingham MA

I would like to contribute to the University City Education Foundation and have my name added to the list of supporters.

Gift responses to this newsletter will be earmarked for the Harriett Woods Award.

**I am enclosing:**

\$10       \$25       \$50       \$100       Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like my gift to be:**

In honor of:       In memory of:       On the occasion of:

*(Please attach address of those you are honoring so we may let them know of your gift.)*

Please contact me to determine how I can best assist the Foundation to meet its goals.

My company makes matching investments. Please contact me for further details.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

**Return this form with a check made payable to:**

University City Education Foundation (UCEF), 8136 Groby Road, University City, MO 63130

Thank you for your generous support. UCEF is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation.

Your contributions are deductible under the tax laws.



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c/o School District of University City  
8136 Groby Road  
University City, MO 63130

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**mission statement:**

The University City Education Foundation is an agent for excellence in the University City public schools, stimulating innovative, exciting approaches to education, with measurable results, that can be broadly applied. The Foundation will accomplish this by raising and distributing private funds, engaging the community in school issues, and collaborating closely at each step with our public schools.