

Quantum Quest

Albert Einstein High School PTSA

Dec. 2009/Jan. 2010

A Good News Trend

We end this calendar year and start the next one with the best good news—the successful learning of our students.

Check out two articles by our Vice President of School Improvement, Gordie Brenne. The one on pages 4-5 shows that our first quarter ineligibility is 22%, way down from previous years. The article on page 6 covers several positive trends that have occurred over the past six years.

Keep up the good work, Einstein! *The Editors*

Ineligibility rate is the percent of students with a grade point average less than 2.0, or two or more failing grades or losses of credits. It is the only overall measure of student performance covering all grades and all students. The school system uses the ineligibility rate to measure how effective instructional programs are at increasing attendance and promotion, and in reducing drop outs.

Brighten the Holidays

Principal James Fernandez and school administrators invite school staff and community members to participate in a holiday collection for Einstein students whose families are in need. Donations pay for gift cards to Giant, Safeway, Target and other stores. The effort started a few years ago with a collection of under \$1,000. Last year, the drive collected \$3,668 from staff and community members.

Those who wish to donate should make checks payable to AEHS. There is a box for cash and checks on the window ledge behind Ms. Edith Perona's desk in the main office.

Any amount you choose to give is appreciated, and will help make the holidays brighter for our Einstein families. Thank you! ■

James Fernandez



The Directory is Back Again this Year!!

Students received copies of this year's directory a few weeks ago. Thank you to Nancy Mendez for leading and coordinating this effort and to Alex Colina for his wonderful design and layout. The cover art is by Casey Drogin, VAC, class of 2010. In addition to contact information for all students (except those who opted out), the directory provides a quick guide for parents that covers key contacts, attendance policies, the bell schedule, and report card dates.

The Student Directory is for the personal use of Einstein families only. It is not to be used as a marketing list. Remember to call on those who advertised with us and be sure to mention that you saw their ad in the directory. The directory will need a new coordinator next year. It is a late summer/early fall job that can be done over time from home. Contact Nancy Mendez if you have questions. wrightone@verizon.net. ■

One-Act Plays

Dec. 11 and 12, 7:00 pm, Auditorium

Instrumental Winter Concert and Art Exhibit

Dec. 16, 7:00 pm, Auditorium

Winter Choral Concert and Art Exhibit

Dec. 17, 7:00 pm, Auditorium

VAPA Holiday Performance

Dec. 22, during school

Christmas and Winter Break

Dec. 24-Jan. 4

First Semester Exams

Jan. 15, periods 1, 2
Jan. 19, periods 3, 4
Jan. 20, periods 5, 6
Jan. 21, periods 7, 8

Next PTSA Meeting

Jan. 19, 7:00 pm,

Principal James Fernandez and other administrative staff will give a "State of Einstein" talk.

(No meeting in December)

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

From the AEHS PTSA

Next issue—Feb. 2010

Seniors

FAFSA – A NECESSARY STEP WHEN APPLYING FOR ANY TYPE OF COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID



- The FAFSA is the most important document to financial aid for college. Everyone seeking financial aid or scholarships of any kind must complete the FAFSA.
- Complete the on-line FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov (preferred method) OR submit a paper FAFSA to the processing center.
- **You cannot submit the FAFSA from before January 1st** but if you plan to use the on-line FAFSA, request a pin number (parent and student) **NOW** at www.pin.ed.gov. Without a pin number, you will have to download and return the signature page by mail.
- It can take 3-4 weeks for processing the FAFSA, so complete the process as close to January 1st as possible, or you may miss your college deadlines for receipt of the information.
- List up to six institutions that you want to receive information.

News and Notes from the Counseling Department

Information for Seniors

BY THIS TIME YOU SHOULD HAVE COMPLETED THE “LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL” FORMS AND MET WITH YOUR COUNSELOR to discuss your post secondary plans. If you have not already done so, please make an appointment with your counselor immediately.

Norfolk State University will be at Einstein on December 17th at 6:00PM for an “On the Spot Admissions” event. If you would like to participate, you must see Ms. DeOto in the College and Career Center as soon as possible. You will need two recommendation letters as well as the completed application.

Colleges to which students apply ask to be notified of any schedule changes, such as dropping a second semester course. **These schedule changes may affect a student’s college admission, as may changes in grades or GPA.** Please refer to the letter sent home in September with all graduation requirements. Information on scholar-

ships is sent to parents and students via Naviance/Family Connections (sent to listed email) and the PTSA list serve. If you need help registering on Naviance, see your child’s counselor. For registering on the PTSA list serve, see the PTSA website for information.

As seniors receive notice of college acceptance, they should be reporting all acceptances (whether they will be attending that college or not) to Ms. Perez in the Counseling Services Office. We also need information on where students were not accepted as well so that Einstein can track which schools are most receptive to our students. As you receive scholarships, please give that information to Ms. Perez (the name and amount of the scholarship).

Information for Juniors and Seniors

The Annual Einstein Alumni Day will be held in late December (before winter break)

Einstein graduates from the class of 2009 meet with Einstein students to share their college experiences. We hope to have 20 students from a variety of different colleges speak briefly in an

informal setting and answer questions about the various aspects of college life. Mrs. Melissa Keller is organizing this event for the Counseling Department. If you know of any graduates from 2009 who may want to volunteer, please have them call the Counseling Department at

301.929.2220 or email melissa_s_keller@mcpsmd.org.

Information for Juniors

The Maryland Distinguished Scholarship Program awards \$3,000 per year (renewable each year of college) to Finalists who attend college in Maryland. Maryland high school juniors with a grade point average of 3.7 or higher in academic courses and an appropriate score on the PSAT, SAT or ACT are eligible to be nominated by their schools in February. Students who feel they may be eligible and have not taken any of these tests should register to take the January 23, 2010, SAT immediately. Students interested should see Ms. DeOto in the College and Career Center.

Continued, page 3



Where do Einstein graduates go to college?

Listed below are the colleges that our 2009 graduates are attending this year (number represents number of students attending):

- 142, Montgomery College
- 26, University of Maryland, College Park
- 13, University of Maryland, Baltimore
- 4, Salisbury University
- 4, Virginia Commonwealth
- 3, Allegany College of Maryland
- 3, St. Mary's College of Maryland
- 3, Valley Forge Christian College

1-2 students each:

- American University
- The Art Institute of Washington
- Babson College
- Bard College
- Berklee College of Music
- The Catholic University of America
- University of Colorado at Boulder
- Delaware College of Art and Design
- University of Delaware
- DeVry University
- Dickinson University
- University of the District of Columbia
- Drexel University
- Eckerd College
- Frostburg State
- Full Sail University
- University of Houston

- Howard University
- ITT Technical Institute
- Juniata College
- Liberty University
- Livingston College
- Loyola University New Orleans
- University of Maryland, Eastern Shore
- Marymount University
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Michigan State
- University of Michigan
- Montserrat College of Art
- Morgan State University
- Mount Saint Mary's University
- University of New Hampshire
- University of New Haven
- New York University
- Northeastern University
- College of Notre Dame of Maryland
- Oberlin College
- Penn State, Abington
- University of Pennsylvania
- Philadelphia University
- Reed College
- University of Rhode Island
- School of Art and Design at MC
- Shepherd University
- St. Mary's College of Maryland
- Suffolk University
- Syracuse University
- Temple University
- TESST College of Technology
- Thiel College
- Trinity College
- Virginia Union University
- University of Virginia
- Warren Wilson College
- Washington and Jefferson College
- West Virginia University
- Westwood College, Arlington
- University of Wisconsin, Madison

(Counseling Dept., continued)

Information for Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors

Registration for the 2010 – 2011 school year will begin in January. Please be on the lookout for the registration card (color coded by grade level) and AEHS Program of Studies Guide. The registration card will have teacher recommendations on it. **If** you have questions about your recommendations please contact your current teacher. If you have general questions see your counselor. Counselors will meet with every student to review the card and check graduation requirements.



Juniors: Planning Ahead Can Help Make College Affordable

FAFSA 4caster is a Web site that allows high school juniors to get a preview of their financial situation for attending college or career school. The site allows them to see what types of aid they may be eligible for, which is valuable information for planning ahead. Visit www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov to find out how to finance your child's college education. ■

The registration card requires signatures from the academy head and parent; we will not accept any cards that do not have both signatures. Counselors will also be giving each student a Four-Year Plan form to complete during registration. ■



Gateway to College Program

The Gateway to College program will be holding its next Information Session on Tuesday, December 8th at 6:00 p.m. in room 117 of the South Campus Instructional Building on the Rockville Campus of Montgomery College (MC). To register or for questions, call the Gateway office on 240-567-4052.

The GTC program is targeted at high school students who are at least 16 years old, who are behind in their acquisition of credits by at least 5, and who are at risk to dropout or who have already stopped attending school. The program enables students to earn their high school diploma while also acquiring college credits by taking courses at MC. Almost all expenses for tuition and books are covered.

The GTC is neither a remedial program nor an early entrance program to MC. After spending one semester in a sheltered cohort experience, GTC students take all of the rest of their classes on the campuses of MC. They need to have academic skills solid enough to be polished into shape. The program Web site <http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/Departments/mcmcps/gateway/apply.htm> ■

AEHS Ineligibility Analysis as of First Quarter 2009-10

Freshmen Rate is a Happy Surprise This Year and Ineligibility Achievement Gaps Stabilize

Gordie Brenne

Overall ineligibility was just 22% for the first quarter just ended, continuing a positive trend that began last year. Year-over-year improvements were seen in almost all demographic categories and grade levels. Freshmen were the big surprise this year, and their improvement pushed the school's overall ineligibility down into record territory.

Not only was the freshmen ineligibility rate far below last year (23% vs. 36%), but true freshmen (excludes repeating freshmen) had an ineligibility rate of 19% which was far better than would have been predicted by the incoming share of freshmen at risk due to poor middle school grades (33%). Repeating freshmen had a 67% ineligibility rate which, when blended with the true freshmen rate, yields a combined freshmen rate of 23%, still the best since we started tracking eligibility.

Hispanic, African American and Individualized Education Program (IEP) students all showed strong improvement over last year's first quarter. Since Hispanic students comprise 43% of all students, they also had the largest share of total first quarter ineligibles

(61%). The difference between the Hispanic share of students and share of ineligibles is their "eligibility achievement gap", which is close to where it was a year ago (44% and 60%). African Americans had the second highest rate (25%), but better than the last 3 years. Their share of students (24%) was close to their ineligible share (27%), indicating that their ineligibility achievement gap continues to remain low, as was the IEP student gap (14% vs. 18%).

This data is preliminary and subject to change as parents appeal grades and Loss of Credit. Remember, you have 10 days to file an appeal from receipt of the loss of credit notification letter. The school does make record keeping mistakes. An effective appeal can provide evidence that unexcused absences may have been recorded in error, but you can also make a case by discussing how your student will change his or her attendance pattern, improve performance on class assignments, and follow school policies and procedures. ■



How to Make a Difference

Talk with your student's teachers to get ideas about how to improve academic performance. Make sure your student is taking advantage of the intervention programs offered by the school for any subjects your student is struggling with. These range from lunch time sessions with teachers to after school and Saturday programs. Talk to your student's guidance counselor if you have any questions. The PTSA and African American Parents Group also have ideas that may help and would be pleased to answer questions: Gordie Brenne, VP for School Improvement, gubr@erols.com; Virgie Barnes, Black/African American Parent Council, nikonay@msn.com. ■



AEHS Ineligibility Analysis (Percentages shown are for each sub population)

	1Q06	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q07	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q08	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q09
Total	26%	35	34	25	28	32	29	28	26	29	27	31%	22%
Asian	15%	24	20	18	14	16	15	18	12	15%	12	14	7%
White	12	17	18	9	12	15	12	10	12	11	10	12	7
Af. Am.	28	41	41	28	32	35	35	35	26	32	27	33	25
Hispanic	37	45	45	34	38	44	39	38	36	39	38	43	32
Am. Ind.	33	67	83	67	33	50	60	50	75	67	67	67	33
IEP	26%	35	34	25	49	45	41	35	36	34	34	33	28%
Grade 9	29%	38	37	9	38	47	40	27	36	36	29	36	23%
Grade 10	24	32	33	29	27	28	24	34	26	30	28	32	26
Grade 11	26	35	32	28	23	26	27	29	20	20	21	24	25
Grade 12	25%	35	35	37	22	26	24	29	23	26	27	29	13%

Observations:

Objective - Reducing ineligibility is one goal of MCPS and AEHS.

MCPS uses the ineligibility rate to measure how effective instructional programs are at increasing attendance and promotion and in reducing drop outs.

Measure - Ineligibility rate is the percent of students with a GPA < 2.0, or 2 or more failing grades or losses of credits. It is the only overall measure of student performance covering all grades and all students. Data shown for 1st quarter is preliminary and subject to grade and loss of credit appeals.

Demographics - The overall 1st quarter ineligibility rate is 22%, better than the 1st quarter in the last 3 years. Hispanics had the highest rate this quarter (32%), but did better than the last 3

years. Since Hispanic students comprise 43% of all students, they also had the largest share of total 1Q ineligibles (61%). The difference between the Hispanic share of students and share of ineligibles is the “eligibility achievement gap”. American Indians had a higher ineligibility rate, but represent only 3 students. African Americans had the second highest rate (25%), but better than the last 3 years. Their share of students (24%) was close to their ineligible share (27%), indicating that their ineligibility achievement gap continues to remain low, a trend started last year.

Grade Level - Sophomores had the highest ineligibility rate (26%), followed closely by juniors (25%). These students had elevated ineligibility rates last year, and while their lower performance trend continued, their ineligibility rates have improved this year. For the

first time in recent history, freshmen had a lower ineligibility rate, their lowest in years, and far better than the risk analysis of incoming freshmen would have predicted for this year; 33% of incoming freshmen were classified at risk based on their 8th grade grades. Even taking into account repeating freshmen who had a 67% ineligibility rate, the blended rate was low because true freshmen had an ineligibility rate of only 19%, far below the predicted 33%. This significant improvement is the primary reason the school’s overall rate continues to drop.

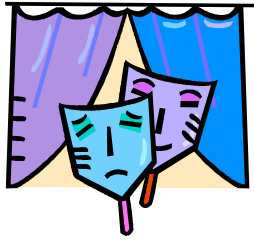
Interventions - Interventions for Math, Reading, Biology and Government will be implemented in the 2nd quarter to improve Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and High School Assessment pass rates. Many teachers are available at lunch time and after school to help.

Sports Safety Net -

School sports are the oldest, largest and most well funded eligibility program. Frequent grade monitoring by coaches continued with spring sports and resulted in all teams maintaining 97% eligibility at the end of the 1st quarter. Other extracurricular activities can be just as effective at helping kids maintain their eligibility. ■

By Gordie Brenne





Winter One-Acts

All of the Einstein community is invited to attend the annual evening of student directed one-act plays – Friday and Saturday, December 11 and 12, at 7pm in the auditorium. Admission is free but donations will be gladly accepted at the door.

The four plays are:

- “Bench 18” directed by Lena Ayechemi
- “Sorry, Wrong Number” directed by Milton Garcia
- “Rapunzel, Uncut” directed by Dan Patrick Leano
- “Dinner With The MacGuffins”, directed by Awate Serequeberhan

All of the directors are Senior IB Theatre students who are fulfilling the requirements of their Independent Projects.

All of the plays are appropriate for all ages. ■

Peter Smeallie
Albert Einstein High
School Theatre Director
 einsteinstage@comcast.net

High School Parent Playbook (or How the Knee Bone of Sports is Connected to the Thigh Bone of Education)

Albert Einstein High School is not affluent (65% “Ever Free and Reduced Meals,” a measure of poverty). Six years ago our school was struggling. Our kids and parents knew it, and faculty and administrators overwhelmed by No Child Left Behind academic goals blamed our kids and parents. Even more obvious, our sports program was shrinking and consequently as we say in the winter: “stinking up the gym.” Parents decided to change the school with the strategy they knew best, sports, hoping everything else would follow.

Sounds crazy, but crazy worked. Because sports has lots of understandable performance measures, we were able to use data to bring parents in all groups together and get them rowing in the same direction. One measure we keyed on was academic eligibility for extracurricular participation (2.0 grade point average—GPA—or better with less than two failing grades). This turned out to be a measure of the entire school’s academic performance as well as a leading indicator of how well our sports program would do. MCPS uses ineligibility to evaluate how effective in-

struction programs are at increasing attendance, promotion and reducing drop outs.

Oh sure, we had some false starts. We went to the School Board, only to be told we had a local problem that had to be fixed locally- good luck because that empowered us. We used our eligibility data to make the case for a new Principal who arrived in the fall of 2004. A new Athletic Director was hired a year after that. Leadership matters and these new leaders envisioned a higher performing school and raised expectations for success among faculty and families.

Today we no longer compare ourselves to just other down county schools, and have SAT and AP scores that rival larger MCPS schools. Our Booster Club is one of the largest in MCPS and annually awards 6 scholarships; our PTSA awards mini-grants to teachers with innovative programs; and our Visual and Performing Arts and Latin Dance parents support first class performances.

Sure we’ve still got lots of heavy lifting to improve graduation rates and college attendance, but we know the secret is parents working together. ■

Gordie Brenne
Vice President for School
Improvement

Einstein Then and Now

	2003	2009
Ineligibility Rate - fall quarter	33%	22%
Fall Athletes	255	309
Head Coach Turnover	50%	12%
Attendance College	91%	95%
Attendance	below 50%	67%

PACE UPDATE

The **Fruit Sale** by the Performing Arts Coalition os Einstein (PACE) ends on 12/1. Fruit will be delivered the week of 12/14 (exact date to be announced). Fruit can still be ordered through the Web site www.doorstepdirect.org using the code MD24815 even after the 12/1 close date.

PACE will be sponsoring a **Cafe Night** in mid-January after exams. Students interested in performing should speak to Mr. Padgett. All students are encouraged to audition. We will be serving desserts and beverages while students entertain. The cost will be \$5 per person at the door. We hope to make this a quarterly event in the coming year.

PACE depends upon these fundraising events to help support the Choral, Theatre, Instrumental Music and Dance departments. PACE helps to fund such items as costumes, instrument repair, sheet music, accompanists, and guest artists. Our next meetings are January 25 and February 22 in room 130 at 7:30. There is no membership fee and your help can make a HUGE difference. Hope to see you there! ■

Judi Sheffer



Way to Go, AEHS Dance Company!

AEHS Dance Company, directed by Ms. Tricia Gooley, will perform an original piece in the Maryland High School Dance Showcase to be held at Goucher College on January 8, 2010. More than 42 pieces were submitted by high schools across the state to compete for the 13 coveted performance spots. The 17 AEHS dancers will participate in a day-long dance intensive prior to the evening concert, which will include two master classes and an informal afternoon concert.

The 21st Annual Maryland High School Dance Showcase is designed to highlight the status of dance instruction in public schools; expose students to dance programs and educators throughout the state; provide high quality master classes to broaden student experience; foster quality

performance in dance as a fine art; and provide professional adjudicators to select All-State Dancers and the Showcase Award for Professionalism and Performance.

Congratulations Dance Company members on your achievement:

Karen Carbajal · Pia Castillo · Jordan Coyne · Kevin Pajarillaga · Ray Paleg · Natalie PerezDuel · Chelsea Taylor · Remy Shoyelu · Kiara Hill · Cynthia Rodriguez · Kami Lapp · Tia Johnson · Rubina Lama · Ryan Miller · Lisa Fuentes · Kathy Nguyen · Sara Gebremedhin ■



Performing Arts Calendar 2009-2010

Even if your child is not on stage, attend these great performances and see what the arts at Einstein are all about.

December 3

Jazz Band & Dance Concert
7:00 pm

December 11-12

One Acts, 7:00 pm

December 16

Instrumental Winter Concert & Art Exhibit, 7:00 pm

December 17

Winter Choral Concert and Art Exhibit, 7:00 pm

December 22

Visual and Performing Arts Academy (VAPA) Holiday Performance
During the school day

March 12-13, 19-20

Spring Musical
7:00 pm

April 3

Swing Dance Concert
7:00 pm

April 22-23

Dance Concert
7:00 pm

April 28

Instrumental Concert
7:00 pm

April 29

Spring Choral Concert and Art Exhibit
7:00 pm

Booster News

The fall sports season was a great success with JV football (its best record in 35 years), boys cross country (9th in the State), and girls tennis having stand out seasons. Other teams put in strong performances as the varsity football team completed a second .500 season and varsity field hockey made it to the regional semi-finals for the first time in four years to name just a few. The Boosters remained active running the concession stand, selling spirit wear at lunch and generally supporting the athletic program at school. Special recognition is due girls volleyball in sponsoring Dig Pink in support of breast cancer awareness; the Boosters were glad to support this worthy event.

The season ended with the fall sports banquet where a record crowd of nearly 300 parents and fall athletes showed up to enjoy a fine meal from Urban Barbecue and to recognize the success of our teams and its athletes. (See the list of honors starting this page.) The Boosters thank everyone for their help in making this banquet a success, from those who bought supplies, helped set-up, sold tickets, served food and helped clean-up. A special thanks to Urban Barbecue for working with the Boosters to supply the delicious dinner.

The other great news about the fall sports campaign was that over 97% of our athletes remained academically eligible with 302 of our 310 athletes able to meet this requirement. This success is owed in large measure to our athletic director Brady Blade and the coaches who took the time and effort to see that our student-athletes stayed focused not only the field but most importantly in the classroom.

Our attention now turns to the winter season and we hope to carry the momentum of success from the fall sports into the winter. The Booster too will be busy not only running concessions and selling spirit wear but starting to make preparations for the annual mulch sale in March and for the awarding of its 6 \$1,000 scholarships. These scholarships are supported by membership in the Boosters and to date we have raised \$4,600. Please help us reach our goal of \$6,000; memberships begin at as little as \$10.

The Boosters want to wish the Titan community a happy holiday season and for those who are in the giving mood please consider giving some of your time to the Boosters as we will be graduating a number of parents this year leaving openings in many critical positions in the organization. Go Titans! ■

Thomas Giblin
Booster Club President

Fall Athletic Honors



◆ **Varsity Cheer / Coach Julie Gstalder**—Most Improved: Analia Beloso, Coach's Award: Karen Crisostomo, MVP: Brianna Leonard

◆ **JV Cheer / Coach Julie Gstalder**—Most Improved: Sandra Duarte, Coach's Award: Samantha Lord

◆ **Boys Cross Country / Coach Eric DaSilva & Kate Ligon**—Most Improved: Julian Erville, Coach's Award: Sam Rivers, MVP: Andrew Ceruzzi

◆ **Girls Cross Country / Coach Eric DaSilva & Kate Ligon**—Most Improved: Sarah McCully, Coach's Award: Sisi Reid, MVP: Caitlin Power

◆ **Varsity Field Hockey / Coach Suzanne Murray**—Most Improved: Sierra Lee, Coach's Award: Meredith Giblin, MVP: Mallory Buckingham

◆ **JV Field Hockey / Coach Lindsey Hightower**—Most Improved: Alexa Mejia, Coach's Award: Carla Sarabia, MVP: Becky Murtha

◆ **Varsity Football / Coach Mike Bonavia**—Most Improved: Karim Wills, Coach's Award: Hamzah Lodge, MVP: Bobby Stouffer

◆ **JV Football / Coach Jermaine Howell**—Most

Improved: Wesley Castellanos, Coach's Award: Danny Stouffer, MVP: Sean Loftus

◆ **Golf / Coach Dave Cannon**—Most Improved: Ben O'Toole, Coach's Award: Bill Sands, MVP: Charlie McGrady

◆ **Poms / Coach Tricia Gooley**—Most Improved: Sindi Flores, Coach's Award: Lydia Tefera, MVP: Sara Gebremedhin

◆ **Girls Varsity Soccer / Coach Joan Rackey**—Most Improved: Krizia Chambers, Coach's Award: Amy Brookhart, MVP: Katie Dunn & Kami Lapp-Kamara

◆ **Girls JV Soccer / Coach Jeff Rackey**—Most Improved: Erika Granados, Coach's Award: Charlotte Sheffield, MVP: Kelsey Anderson

◆ **Boys Varsity Soccer / Coach Adrian Baez**—Most Improved: Oscar Vargas, Coach's Award: Michael Giglio, MVP: Jason Carcamo

◆ **Boys JV Soccer / Coach Jonathan White**—Most Improved: Isaac Futrovsky, Coach's Award: Christian Vasquez, MVP: Marcos Moreno

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"Titanes Salseros" Has Winning Ways

Susan DeFord

Members of one of Einstein's best competitive teams wear sequins and satin, not shin guards or helmets.

Male and female participants practice together after classes, at night and on weekends. They have a reputation to maintain, and would-be challengers, beware.

Latin American Students United, known at Einstein by its acronym LASU, is more than ever at the top of its game. Einstein's Latin dance team, competing as "Titanes Salseros," or salsa-dancing Titans, dominated at a countywide event this fall for dance teams from public schools.

The 10th Annual Montgomery Latin Dance Competition, held Oct. 15 at Clarksburg High School, drew Einstein and six other high schools to perform before a sold-out audience of 900.

The 21-member Titanes Salseros team claimed first place trophies in five of eight dance divisions, and took second place in a sixth division. That brings the total number of trophies won by LASU in nine years of competitive dancing to 49. They're on display in a crowded first floor showcase at Einstein.

"We've brought that many

trophies home in past years, but this year the quality of the dancing was tremendous. It was very distinguished," said Einstein foreign language teacher **Paula Pero**, the group's sponsor. The group's ensemble number, "Greased Lightning," was inspired by the musical "Grease," and won the competition's Best In Show.

Pero, who has overseen LASU for the last 10 years, is coach and den mother, chauffeur, fundraiser and taskmaster. In addition, DC Dance Collective instructor **Alisa Bernstein** this year has become a regular LASU teacher. Increasingly, Titanes Salseros performs throughout the region, dancing at the annual Fiesta DC in September. In October, the troupe danced at the Embassy of Finland in Washington for a celebration of Vida Senior Centers, DC's oldest local Latino organization.

It's a demanding, high-profile schedule for a group that often takes in recruits

with little training. Senior **Cristian Panameno** said he didn't know a single dance step when he joined three years ago. But last month, he and his partners took first place in the bachata and salsa divisions in the county competition.

"I kept on practicing until I

got it right," said Panameno, who talks about starting his own competitive dance team after graduating and pursuing computer engineering in college.

Senior **Johanna Orellana**, a three-year LASU veteran, said the group's work with professional instructors and its participation in major dance events such as the DC Salsa Congress has helped the group's choreography. LASU now has a repertoire of 15 dance arrangements, compared to one a decade ago.

"As a sophomore, we were still iffy about choreography," she said.

Sophomore **David Cuevas** took first place finishes in the cha cha, second in the parent/child dance and first in the Jack & Jill event, in which he danced with a new partner from another school.

It's a turnaround for Cuevas from his freshman year, when he repeatedly missed dance practice and his grades dropped. Cuevas said Pero encouraged him to make a commitment. ■

"LASU helps me stay focused on school work," he said. "I don't want to be the one who messes up."

Freshman **Sheyny Barahona** is a newbie to LASU. On stage at the Clarksburg dance competition, she faced an audience that seemed enormous.

"But then I got up there, and I just had fun," she said. "You dance the way you want to feel." ■

Fall athletic honors, cont'd

◀ **Girls Tennis / Coach Ryan Oben**—Most Improved: Charlotte Wright
Coach's Award: Caroline Jackman, MVP: Janina Staguhn & Mira "Kencho" Gurung

◀ **Girls Varsity Volleyball / Coach Emily Hallam**—Most Improved: Anneri Maduro, Coach's Award: Isabelle Martin, MVP: Tatiana Sanchez

◀ **Girls JV Volleyball / Coach James Chan**—Most Improved: Nobel Abraham, Coach's Award: Claudia Sanchez, MVP: Kristina Li ■

Legacy of Life Scholarship

Endowed by the Leslie Ebert Memorial Fund
www.beadonor.org/scholarship
866-Be-A-Donor

Prizes:

- \$5,000 First Place Scholarship
- \$3,000 Second Place Scholarship
- \$1,000 Honorable Mention - 6 to be Awarded

Deadline: Midnight on Wednesday, March 31, 2010 (Winners only will be notified on or about May 15, 2010.)

Theme: "Organ & Tissue Donation: Persuade Someone to Give the Gift of a Lifetime." Write a 1,000 word persuasive argument on the topic, fiction or non fiction, with sources cited.

Sponsor: Washington Regional Transplant Community (WRTC), the D.C. metropolitan area's organ recovery agency and its Donor Family Council.

Pick up a copy of the Legacy of Life Scholarship Rules from Ms. DeOto in the Career Center! ■



Career Achievement Award for a 1964 Einstein Graduate

In 2009, out of many thousands of lawyers, Robert Michael was chosen by his peers to be named "super lawyer." In 2007, he became a member of the Albert Einstein Athletic Hall of Fame for exploits on the football field and in the courtroom.

Bob earned two letters while playing football as a leading and defensive lineman at Einstein his junior and senior years. He was a member of the 1962 undefeated football team. He went on to play the same positions at Montgomery Junior College for two years enjoying another undefeated season and triconference championship in 1964.

Bob continued his education at George Washington University, earning his J.D in 1971. Since that time he has become a nationally known attorney, recognized as a leading expert in the areas of personal injury and medical malpractice. In addition, Bob has a strong commitment to God and those who are less fortunate. He has organized and led teams of volunteer missionaries to perform needed relief work in Mexico and parts of the United States. His dedication to constantly improving himself and repaying his success

with friendship, kindness and generosity towards others continue to be a hallmark of his professional and personal life.

Bob resides in Gaithersburg, Maryland with his wife Ann. They have three children: Shawn, Erica and Andrew. He is a founding partner of the Shadoan, Michael and Wells law firm in Rockville, Maryland. ■

Joe Monte

IB ON EDLINE

IB is now on Edline. Look under "Clubs", International Baccalaureate Academy". You will find the following information.

- CAS - IB's guide to CAS and the AEHS student manual
- College information - college admission and scholarship information
- Extended Essay - IB's complete EE guide and AEHS student manual
- May 2010 exams - dates and times
- Junior and Senior calendar - calendar of due dates for major IB assignments
- Other opportunities - educational, cultural and travel opportunities ■



ACS Scholars Program

The American Chemical Scholars program is now accepting applications from African-American, Hispanic, and Native American prospective chemistry majors.

Renewable awards of up to \$5,000 per year are given to qualified high school seniors, community college students and college freshmen, sophomores or juniors. Applications will be accepted through March 1, 2010, for the 2010-2011 school year.

Additional information and an online application form can be found by visiting the ACS Scholars Program Web site www.acs.org/scholars or by calling 1-800-227-5558, extension 6250.

Join Einstein's E-mail Lists and Stay Connected

AEHS Discussion

At this virtual gathering place, you can trade tips about tutors, remind each other about upcoming events and deadlines, and clarify Einstein rumors. Einstein staff members join in, too, letting you know about important programs, services, and activities. To join, send an e-mail to einsteinhs-subscribe@yahoo.com.

AEHS Bulletin

You'll receive only e-mail announcements from the school and parent groups on this list. Members cannot reply to or post messages unless they are authorized "posters" for a particular group. To join, send a blank email message to aehs_bulletin-subscribe@yahoo.com. ■

One Semester Course Surveys Construction Specialties

Edison High School is offering a one semester survey course of the five construction specialty areas including



Carpentry, Masonry, Plumbing, HVAC, and Electricity. Upon completion of this one semester course, students choose, in conjunction with their teacher's recommendation, their Construction specialty for next year. Completing three semesters in this pathway does grant career development program completion.... So if you are a junior who still needs a program completer, this is a great option!

If you are interested, see your counselor for an application. Applications are due January 15, 2010. ■

*Melissa S. Keller
School Counselor*

Marriott Scholars Program Is Now Open!

Deadline: February 16th, 2010

Individual Awards: Full Tuition up to \$9,000

Eligibility Requirements – Each student must...

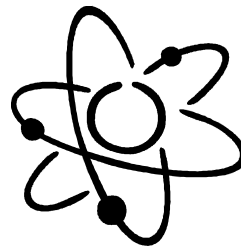
- Be of Hispanic/Latino heritage.
- Be U.S. citizen or permanent resident residing in the United States or Puerto Rico.
- Plan to enroll as a full-time undergraduate student during the 2010-2011 school year in a hospitality management or culinary program.
- Plan to pursue a degree within the hospitality management, hotel management, culinary, or food or beverage field.
- Have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale.



Selected Students Will Benefit from:

- A full renewable scholarship, up to \$9,000 to cover tuition and fees.
- Internship opportunities with Marriott International.
- The opportunity to win a trip to Washington, D.C.
 - Network with influential leaders and executives
 - Learn career skills through workshops and mentoring
 - Attend the Annual Hispanic College Fund Scholarship Awards Gala

For more information AND to apply visit: <http://scholarships.hispanicfund.org/marriott> ■



ESOL Student College Information Night with Montgomery College

*Tuesday, December 8th
6:30-8:00 pm
Northwood High School Auditorium
919 University Blvd., W.
Silver Spring, MD 20901*

Come and learn about :

- ESOL program at Montgomery College
- Admissions process
- Financial Aid

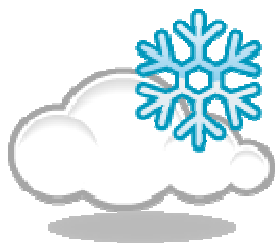
This program is specifically targeted to current ESOL students who would like to continue their education at Montgomery College. Students of ALL grades are encouraged to attend! They will also have translation available in the following languages: French, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Amharic. ■



Calendar

December 2008

- 3 2nd quarter interims mailed
Jazz Band and Dance Concert, 7 pm
 - 11- Winter One Act Plays, 7:00 pm,
 - 12 auditorium
 - 7 Freshmen IB parent meeting, 7 pm
 - 16 Instrumental Music Winter Concert and Art Exhibit, 7 pm
 - 17 Winter Choral Concert and Art Exhibit, 7:00 pm
 - 22 Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) Concert, school day
 - 24- Winter break, no school
- Jan 3



January 2009

- High School Assessment tests
- 11 Biology
- 12 Algebra
- 13 Government
- 14 English
- 18 No school, Martin Luther King Day
- First Semester Exams
- 15 periods 1, 2
- 19 periods 3, 4
- 20 periods 5, 6
- 21 periods 7, 8
- 13 Booster meeting, 7 pm, room 130
- 19 PTSA meeting, 7 pm, cafeteria
- 22 Second marking period ends
- 25 Professional day—no school
PACE meeting, 7:30 pm, room 130

February 2009

- 3 Report cards distributed
- 10 Booster meeting, 7pm, room 130
- 15 No school, President's Day
- 16 PTSA meeting, 7 pm
- 22 PACE meeting, 7:30 pm, room 130
- 23 IB recital, 7 pm



Quantum Quest

Albert Einstein High School PTSA

President: Molly Jackman

Editors: Connie Raab, Emily Ellenbogen,
Nancy Hanlon

aehsnews@yahoo.com

Deadline for the Feb. issue is January 12.

Albert Einstein High School PTSA
11135 Newport Mill Road
Kensington, MD 20895

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