



THE *ACADEMIES* AT WHEATON HIGH SCHOOL

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 2

JANUARY 2008

THE ACADEMY PROGRAMS

ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING

(AOE)

INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL

AND

CULTURAL STUDIES

(IGCS)

ACADEMY OF BIOSCIENCE AND
HEALTH PROFESSIONS

(ABHP)

ACADEMY

OF

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(AOIT)

Ms. SANDY SUNDLOF'S COMMITMENT

Ms. Sandy Sundlof, was featured in the Gazette newspaper's December 5th issue. The story was a compliment to Ms. Sundlof's dedication to her students and commitment to teaching science.

The feature article celebrates Ms. Sundlof being named one of the Outstanding Montgomery County Teachers of the Year by the Armed Forces Communication and Electronics Association. AFCEA awards an outstanding Montgomery County teacher each year with \$1,000 to go toward his or her department. Mr. Lowndes stated that Sandy Sundlof's leadership is a

major factor in the increase of student performance on the 9th grade Biology HSA exam. Many of the Wheaton community may be surprised to know that Ms. Sundlof's work with NIH piloting a genetics lesson got her and four Wheaton High School students an



SANDRA SUNDLOF, WHO HAS TAUGHT SCIENCE AT WHEATON HIGH SCHOOL FOR 14 YEARS, HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED AS OUTSTANDING MONTGOMERY COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR BY THE AFCEA .

invitation to the East Room of the White House. There she and her students met both President and Mrs. Clinton during a Millennium Evening featuring 200 guests including James Watson American molecular biologist, best known as one of the co-discoverers of the structure of DNA and Francis Collins, director of the National Human Genome Research Institute. The evening was centered on the theme "Informatics Meets Genomics". We want Ms. Sundlof to know that we are proud of her and that she is treasured here at Wheaton. Congratulations!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Microsoft comes 2**
to Wheaton
- DCC Open House 3**
at Wheaton
- Wheaton Knights 3**
Boys Basketball
- Wheaton creates 3**
Bridges to Success
- Knights of the 4**
Month
- Digital Music 5**
- Knightly News 6**
- What's Happening!**

Message from the Principal

I hope everyone had an enjoyable and restful break. I had a wonderful time with family. It is hard to believe that second semester has begun. I am proud of the students, staff, parents, and the Wheaton High School community. This year we have had students, staff, and programs recognized with awards. Wheaton High School has been selected from a national pool as one of five high schools for the national MetLife BreakThrough Schools award. The Engineering Academy is being recog-

nized by Project Lead The Way as one of the Top Ten Programs in the country. Senior, Karen Smith and Juniors, Ayesha Rahman, Oscar Portillo, and Max Giron won Mark Curtis Awards for Excellence in Humanities. Senior Natasha Haddad, and Juniors Brian Koskey and Angie Onofre were selected to attend leadership seminars at the Embassy of Israel. Sandra Sundlof, was selected Bethesda Chapter of the AFCEA Teacher of The Year Award. Ms. Marie Paul, received her National Board Teacher Certi-

fication. We had more students on the Honor Roll first quarter this year than in the past five years. These are just a few of the awards and recognitions that Wheaton High School's students and staff have accumulated this year. One of my highlights every month is attending the Knights of the Month luncheon. The Knights are chosen each month based on a set criteria determined by each department. Sixty students have been selected so far this year. Congratulations Knights! Our students'

(Continued on page 3)



Microsoft
Silverlight™



MICROSOFT COMES TO WHEATON

Wheaton High School's Academy of Information Technology was selected by the Microsoft Corporation to participate in its "Academic Evangelism" project. [Microsoft](#) wants to help students understand the rich opportunities that await them if they have technology skills. Microsoft Evangelist, Cy Khormae, spoke to students of Wheaton High School's Academy of Information Technology (AOIT). Mr. Khormae and AOIT Academy Head, Dr. Gabriel Kengni, have been working closely to explore new ways to get

students excited about technology. As a direct result of their work, several schools in the Montgomery County School District have shown interest in using XNA, Microsoft's game development platform to help students learn about programming and drive their excitement in technology. Microsoft's Academic Evangelism team works across the world to help students get interested in technology and technology's uses by reaching out to local communities by speaking at local colleges and high schools

and offering their technologies to local schools free of charge through the MSDN Academic Alliance program. On Monday, December 10, 2007, Microsoft Evangelist, Cy Khormae spent the better part of the school day teaching Wheaton Academy of Information Technology students the latest software technology using Silverlight, their latest web application; XNA, Microsoft's game development software; MS Robotics Studio, a platform used for robotic

(continued on page 5)

"Wheaton is definitely my first choice. Everyone I spoke to that goes here, loves it here."

*Parkland M.S.
8th Grade Student*

DCC Open House at Wheaton

On November 15th Wheaton High School hosted its annual [DCC](#) Open House for middle school 8th graders and their parents. This year, over 350+ parents and students attended, far more than in previous years. Each academy program had standing room only in their labs and the media center. Interest in the academies at Wheaton is at an all-time high. Parents were aware of our successes and the new partnerships developed with businesses, universities and organizations. Some parents even brought their Choice application forms in hopes of getting their children into our academy programs early.

The approach this year was to let our students speak for our programs and school. Guest were greeted by student volunteers as they entered the auditorium and listened to video testimonials from ninth grade students. Faculty members, coaches and club sponsors volunteered to host parents at a table fair in the cafeteria where parents and prospective students could meet and talk to their future teachers and coaches about the numerous opportunities here at Wheaton. Students as well as their parents were excited about the academies and extremely impressed by our student volunteers who represented them-

selves with professionalism and spirit. The Open House was scheduled to end at 8 o'clock but many parents and students left well after. "We are very pleased with the turnout. The opportunities here are very hard for students and parents to dismiss and the numbers reflect that." Thanks go out to the SGA, JV Cheerleaders, the Poms and the Wheaton Step Team. A special salute to the AOE, ABHP, AOIT and IGCS students who demonstrated the work they do in their programs. Wheaton academy students are the role models for the future classes of Wheaton High School. So make room and get ready for the class of 2012.

Wheaton Knights Boys Basketball



This year's Knights have started off on a great note. Despite its record of two wins, three losses the Knights are playing with a renewed sense of purpose. Several losses were close and decided by less than five points in

games against some of last years playoff teams . Every game has been exciting and many close. The results are especially impressive since this is the first year for Head Coach, Matt Miller and Assistant Coach, Sharief Hashim. This is also the first year for JV Coach Stephen Marks. Coach Miller and his coaching staff see the potential for an outstanding program both now and in the future. Coach Miller has started to reach out to the DCC middle school programs, inviting potential Knights to come to clinics and games.

On February 4th the Knights will host Kennedy in its season match-up against its biggest rival. All DCC Middle Schools students who wear their school tee-shirt or show their school ID, will be given free admission to join us and "[G-Man](#)" the [Washington Wizards](#) mascot in cheering our Knights to victory.

The basketball coaching staff are also working on a summer basketball camp for kids of all ages to be held here at Wheaton. To keep up with the Knights this season, go to our basketball website, www.wheatonbasketball.com.

**“GO
Knights
GO!”**

Wheaton Creates Bridges to Success

Wheaton High School has looked at various ways of reaching out to our feeder middle schools over the years. The problem has been the “rules of engagement” established by the DCC when the consortium was formed. Recently the principals of all of the DCC middle and high schools met and agreed that high schools should be allowed to associate with their natural feeder middle schools and expose those students to

the various programs each high school offers. Wheaton's natural feeders are [Parkland MS](#) and [Loiederman MS](#). Just before the winter break Mr. Stroup and Mr. Hunt met with Parkland MS to establish a bridge through next years Aerospace Engineering Program. The plan is to have WHS engineering students mentor and support Parkland students through participation in the Robotics Club and the new Aerospace

Club to be formed this summer. Parkland invited Mr. Stroup to become a member of its Business/Community Advisory Committee. Discussions are underway to provide a similar opportunity to [Argyle MS](#) students interested in our AOIT Game Development Club. We hope that by establishing these bridges, students will make more informed high school choices.

Message from the Principal (cont. from page one)

successes reflect the hard work and effort of our dedicated teachers and staff members who work each day to ensure the success of all students at Wheaton High School.

I have a few reminders for the upcoming month. When your child selects courses for the 2008-2009 school year, make sure your child

chooses rigorous courses in which they will be challenged and successful. Encourage your child to try an honors course or advance placement course if they have not done so in the past. For those students already taking honors and advance placement courses it is important that they continue to challenge themselves. Students who have failed a

course at some point in their high school career should enroll in the **High School Plus** program at Wheaton. Students can do this by seeing Mr. Gerber or their counselor. All students need to take advantage of the academic supports Wheaton High School has to offer. My last reminder is for all parents to join us at the PTSA meetings were I update parents about what is taking place at Wheaton High School.



Knights of the Month

Fall 2007

Students who have demonstrated outstanding achievements in academics

ANAJULIA ALMONTE	MONICA GUTIERREZ
SUSY ANDINO	FAYAZ HUSSAIN
WENDY AYALA	ANDREW KIM
JOSEPH BADILLO	MARGARET LOO
SAASINI BENTOTA	SONIA MATOS
WILFREDO BLANCO	JANETTE MAYA
DAVID BLAY	JOYCE MERCADO
KEYONAH BUTLER	IRENE NAEQUAYE
TONY CAFFI CAFFI	CLARENCE PASCUAL
JONATHAN CARTER	JEFFERY PINEDA
KENNETH CARTER	YOSSELIN PONCE
ACHILLE CHARLES	RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ
DARAPECH CHHEAN	ROXANA RODRIGUEZ
JOSE DEL CID	ANNA ROMA
NATHALIE DESTRE VIERA	VANESSA RUEDA TORRES
IRIS DUARTE	ERICA SANCHEZ
YOHANNES EJIGU	JESSICA STEINMANN
MILTON FLORES	KIMBERLY TAYLOR
NOEL FLORES	MEGAN THOMPSON
JAMAHL GIBBONS	

MICROSOFT COMES TO WHEATON (continued from page 2)

control applications. Microsoft will also donate the software to Wheaton's AOIT, to use in teaching developing software technology. Dr. Gabriel Kengni, the AOIT Academy Head and Mr. Jim Lewis, long time Wheaton Computer Science Instructor spearheaded this three year partnership with Microsoft.

WHEATON MUSIC

Greetings musicians! Did you know that the music industry is changing and Wheaton is evolving along with it. According to Lou Allard, musician and entertainment director of the Hilton casino and resort in Reno and Lake Tahoe "...digital music integration is leading us into a new age of musicianship." Starting next school year Wheaton's Institute for Global and Cultural Studies academy, IGCS, will offer a digital music pathway. Using state of the art Apple iMac computers with digital recording hardware in a studio setting, student musicians will be able to expand and enhance their talents.

Students at Wheaton enjoy a vast musical experience. Currently Wheaton has four award-winning music ensembles; the concert band, string orchestra, chorus, and the jazz ensemble. All of our ensembles have numerous performances throughout the year, including our traditional winter and spring concerts and the Maryland District II music festivals. The concert band and string orchestra received superior ratings at their respective festivals in 2007. The pep band performs at all home football games and Friday morning hall marches.

Beginning this spring construction will begin on our Digital Music laboratory. Students and faculty alike are excited about what this new program will bring to our music department. Once construction begins, you may view photo updates on our website at: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/wheatonhs

For more information on the Academies at Wheaton High School or to submit an article to the newsletter

Plases contact :

The Academy Office

Phone: 301-929-2050

Fax: 301-929-2081

E-mail: michael_a_hunt@mcpsmd.org

DIGITAL
MUSIC
**Wheaton
KNIGHTS**



KNIGHTLY NEWS

Wheaton High School is named a National MetLife-NASSP Breakthrough School

01/18/2008 Wheaton High School is proud to announce that it was named one of the [MetLife – National Association of Secondary School Principals, Breakthrough School](#), one of nine secondary schools selected nationally. Wheaton was selected for demonstrating success in implementing strategies aligned with the three core areas of *Breaking Ranks*, collaborative leadership, personalization, curriculum, and instruction and assessment. Breakthrough schools must demonstrate strategies that align with MetLife Foundation priorities including access, opportunity, school/community connections, leadership development and mentoring. Wheaton's staff has worked hard to make the school environment safe and provide and deliver a rigorous curriculum that engages students. Wheaton will receive a \$5,000 grant and will be featured in an upcoming issue of *Principal Leadership*, NAASP's monthly magazine.

MCPS is Committed to Bioscience and Medical Careers at WHS

Montgomery County Schools has agreed to fully fund the design and construction of a new state of the art bioscience laboratory at Wheaton. Wheaton and MCPS identified a need for space due to overwhelming student interest in the Project Lead the Way, bioscience and medical careers academy. Higher than anticipated enrollment and lack of space in the Biotechnology and Biomedicine pathways would have forced Wheaton to turn students away. Identifying the need and opportunity to provide students with a high demand career field, MCPS agreed to expand and redesign existing classroom space. When students return to school in the fall of 2008 they will find a modern lab space equal to the universities they will attend in the future.

ACE MENTORS AT WHEATON

The [ACE Mentor Program](#) of the Greater Washington Metropolitan Area, Inc., registered its inaugural class of youths in November 2000. In the following three years, nearly 100 high school students drawn from the District of Columbia, northern Virginia, and Maryland explored educational and career opportunities in Architecture, Construction, and Engineering with sixteen seniors winning scholarships totaling over \$44,000. Mentors perform multi-disciplinary teams that meet on a bi-weekly basis after school with students. Activities include construction site tours hands-on projects, and team projects. Wheaton would like to thank [Turner Construction](#) and [others](#) for their continued support.

What's Happening at WHEATON!

- **Ms. Eileen Straughan**, President of [Straughan Environmental Services Inc.](#), visited and toured the Engineering Department and proposed supporting engineering students with CAD based knowledge through internships and summer jobs.
- The [Wheaton Chamber of Commerce](#) has offered to provide students with internship opportunities to assist students who need Student Service Learning hours.
- Four Academy of Bioscience and Health Profession students have been invited to the Experimental Biology Meeting sponsored by [Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology](#) which will be held in San Diego, California.
- Yolanda Quartey, Kenneh Koroma, and Ms. Heather Carias were the in the January edition of the [NIH Record](#). The article discussed the [sciLIFE](#) conference they attended in Oct. at L'Enfant Plaza Hotel
- Sixteen Wheaton student members of Brothers and Sisters Inc. , will travel to [New Orleans](#) on January 24th as volunteers for Hurricane Katrina Relief to help residents rebuild their homes. They will be hosted by [the University of New Orleans](#) and [Xavier University](#). The trip is sponsored by the [Collaboration Council of Montgomery County](#)
- AOIT students visited the McLean Virginia headquarters of [Booz, Allen, Hamilton](#), the AOIT business partner. BAH, will host 5 one hour Brown Bags for Academy of Information Technology students from, January 2008 - May 2008 and expose students to topics such as, robotics, biometrics, Security and Intelligence among other topics.
- Members of the Social Studies faculty have been training for the [Street Law](#) project [Deliberating in Democracy](#), which will allow them to have teleconferenced classes next year with [Institute for Global and Cultural Studies](#) students and students in **Romania**.
- **IGCS** will be offering **Chinese I & II** as a language choice beginning of next school year 2008-2009, two years ahead of schedule. [Parkland](#) students in Chinese I will be able to continue the language and have the opportunity to take Advanced Placement (AP) Chinese if they attend Wheaton. All academy students will be able to enroll.