



**NEWS FROM THE
GRADY HIGH SCHOOL
FOUNDATION**

May 2010

**Grady Writing Center
cover story**

**Foundation Notes
from the Board Chair
page 2**

**Grady Achievements
Grady Gourmet Knights
page 3**

**Grady on the Bricks
Join the Foundation
page 4**



© GHSF May 2010

GRADY WRITING CENTER TAKES OFF

by Riki Bolster

"My world is happier because of you! Thank you very much," the simple note with sunny daffodils said. She had just passed the GGT Writing test on her first try.

Her English was deeply accented and she had been in the States for barely a year when she and her sister began coming to the Grady Writing Center (WC) this fall. They and several other eleventh graders became regulars, practicing over and over again the structure of a basic essay. They determinedly waded through essay topic after essay topic: mandatory school uniforms, voting age, same sex schools, ecology. They returned in December to tell of their success. More success stories have been coming forth as the students who worked on their college essays in the Writing Center also are returning with good news of college acceptances and scholarships.

What is the Writing Center? One student described it this way: "It is an environment for kids to be able to work on any academic assignments and to be privileged to get a snack or two while Ms. Bolster and a volunteer assist kids to become better writers." Three afternoons a week in the Grady Writing Center, students sign in, slough off their backpacks, grab a few cookies or maybe a tangelo, pull out their writing and begin talking.

The students come to use computers after school hours to write their papers or do research; they come to receive a bit of one-on-one consultation about the direction of an assignment or their college application essay, or sometimes they come to just sit and read or write. By the middle of this school year, the Writing Center has had almost 500 visits.

The Writing Center, created by the Grady High School Foundation, organized several essay writing workshops last year in addition to afternoon hours. Thanks to the co-sponsorship of the Boys High School Alumni Association (BHSAA) this year, the WC for its second year of operation, expanded its programs. In addition to two college essay writing workshops, the WC also offered a poetry workshop and a scholarship essay workshop, and took workshops into the classroom on resume writing and sports writing.

In October and again in December, the Writing Center collaborated with the *Unmasking*, to sponsor two writing competitions: short



CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

FOUNDATION NOTES FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

by *Anne McGlamry*

Remember us? It's been a long time!

Several years ago, we stopped publishing our periodic newsletter updating you on the Foundation's various activities in support of Grady, its students, faculty and staff. Our goal was to replace the expensive printing and mailing costs with an e-mailed version. Unfortunately, we ended up losing touch with many of our wonderful alumni members and business and community contacts.

But now we're back – new and improved! With this edition, we're reviving the newsletter both in electronic and hard copy in the hope that through targeted distribution we can reach as many members of the Grady High School community as possible.

We hope you enjoy this update and that you will help us in our efforts by sharing this newsletter with anyone you think might enjoy hearing about what's going on at Grady. You can either forward via e-mail or visit our Web site and provide us with contact information where we can send a hard copy.

The Foundation has been actively working to fulfill its mission to catalyze and fund innovation at Grady. While we cannot take credit for the many and varied accomplishments of Grady's incredible student body, teachers and staff, the Foundation is proud of the support it has given to Grady in the past and of the many ways in which it continues to support Grady at present and in the future.

Among our projects over the past several years, we have provided significant financial support to the 9th Grade Transition Program in which more than 100 rising freshmen spend a week in

the summer participating in activities designed to help them learn about Grady while developing skills necessary to successfully navigate high school.

We have also provided support for Grady's Peer Leadership Program and the Summer Literacy Enrichment Program designed to strengthen the reading and interpersonal skills of at-risk students. In addition, we've partnered with the Boys' High School Alumni Association to facilitate a program for teachers who seek professional improvement by enrolling in education courses related to Advanced Placement classes.

And as you've already read, last year we launched our most ambitious project to date by opening the Writing Center. It is the realization of a dream for many on the Foundation.

To make all of these efforts possible, we've hosted signature fundraisers, including "Jazz on the Bricks," a lovely evening of food and entertainment held in the Grady Courtyard. This fall, we hosted our first Grady Gourmet Knights dinner. *AJC* columnist Jay Bookman joined Grady teacher Larry McCurdy to create a gourmet meal for nearly 100 guests at Stone Soup Kitchen where we honored Boys High alumni Leon Eplan and raised more than \$5,000.

We hope this newsletter brings you back into the fold of the Grady High School Foundation – and we look forward to seeing you soon at our next fundraiser or event. Keep an eye on our Web site to see more pictures, make a donation or sign up for news and alerts.

Be a part of "Grady Forever!"



Larry McCurdy and Anne McGlamry

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

GRADY HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION

Anne McGlamry
President/Chair

Anna Okula
Vice President

Jamie Murdoch
Treasurer

Sarah Rick
Secretary

La Ronda Barnes
Brian Bishop
Jennifer Cohen
Kim Eccles
Leon Eplan
Barbara Feinberg
Larry McCurdy
Dr. Vincent Murray
Jessica Musick
Paul Nicolson
Nathaniel Smith
Carolyn Wood

**Grady High School
Foundation**
PMB 438
931 Monroe Drive NE
Suite 102
Atlanta, GA 30308

GradyHSFoundation.org
info@GradyHSFoundation.org

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

The Grady Grey Knights football team once again made the state playoffs. Coach Ronnie Millen and senior Damien Swann were named Georgia All-Star Coach and Player of the Year.

The speech and debate team, known as "The Jesters," competed at the Georgia Forensic Coaches Association State Championships where they were named state champs!

Grady won the business case competition at the 21st Century Leaders 2010 Teen Leadership Summit held by Emory's Goizueta Business School.

The Southerner and Grady News Network (GNN) were named Pacemaker Award Finalists by the National Scholastic Press Association.

Sergio Rodriguez, Grady's orchestra director, was the guest coordinator for the National Philharmonic Orchestra in Honduras during the summer of 2009.

Grady was named "Best Private-School Education for Public-School Cost" in the September 2010 "Best of Atlanta" edition of *Creative Loafing*.

The mock trial team won its 4th state championship and is headed to nationals in Philadelphia this May.

Student Michael Barlow was selected from all APS JROTC cadets to be promoted to the position of Brigade Commander. This was an historic event, as Michael was the first 11th grader to be selected for the program.

Six students will represent Grady at the 2010 Governor's Honors Program: Kenneth Cochran and Ben Gittleson, communicative arts; Samuel Weinstock, social studies, Kamania Ray, design; Alex Fritzinger-Pittman, design; and Ethan Campbell Taylor, Latin.

Student Tiffany Vernon was named one of Atlanta's "20 Under 20" leaders by the *Atlanta Business Chronicle*.

GRADY GOURMET KNIGHTS

November 7, 2009



Top: Boys High School alum and honoree Leon Eplan (left) and Dr. David Propst; middle: the decor at Stone Soup Kitchen set the stage for a great evening; bottom: GHSF Board member La Ronda Barnes helps out in the kitchen.



GRADY WRITING CENTER CONTINUED

stories and poetry and a third writing competition is on the way. Writers in the community volunteered to judge the competitions. A total of 110 students have participated so far.

A repeat of last year's highly successful Playmakers Workshop, led by Grady alumna Megan Cramer, involved about 50 individuals as student playwrights, volunteer typists, professional actors, and audience, in March. Over a day and a half, each student participant created a two-character, one-act play, which was then read on stage by professional actors. "I literally enjoyed every second and every word of that day! If they are the next generation of people who will produce, write, perform in, and create...I am truly excited about the future of theater," wrote one of the volunteer actors.

Another addition to the Writing Center is a permanent display kiosk filled with writing guide sheets that are available at any time in the school's Media Center in the new wing at Grady.

All the activities are not solely for students. Writing Center Coordinator, Riki Bolster, put out a call for the creation of a monthly book club – for adults only. FAO Grady Book Club has been meeting since last March to discuss a variety of books selected by the group of Grady parents and community members.

"I know there are many talented Grady alumni out there, and I welcome their passing on their knowledge to the next generation," declares Bolster. If you have some time to offer, contact Ms. Bolster at bolsteerr@bellsouth.net.

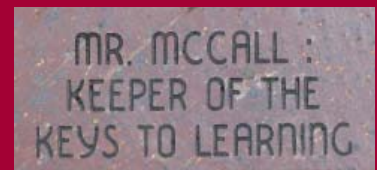


Join the more than 650 memories engraved in brick at the Grady Courtyard.

Order your brick today! For only \$55, you can be part of Grady forever!

It's also a great way to honor teachers and remember alumni no longer with us.

Visit GradyHSFoundation.org and look for the Grady on the Bricks link!



Give to Support the Grady High School Foundation

I want to support Grady High School by contributing to the Grady High School Foundation.

Please check your level of support:

- \$5,000 and up Leadership Circle
- \$2,500 – \$4,999 Benefactor
- \$1,000 – \$2,499 Sponsor
- \$100 – \$999 Patron
- Up to \$99 Donor

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Checks to the Grady HS Foundation can be mailed to PMB 438, 931 Monroe Drive NE, Suite 102, Atlanta 30308. Donations can also be made online at www.GradyHSFoundation.org.