

CUSF

Your Education Foundation Supporting K - 12 Public Schools in
Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

Distinguished C-U Public School Alums Have Worldly Experience

On April 23 and 24, 2009, Champaign and Urbana will welcome home two graduates from our public schools. It is with a great deal of excitement

**JOIN US
and celebrate who
we educate at the
5th Annual
Distinguished
Alumni
Luncheon on
April 24, 2009!**

that Sabina Alkire, Central HS, '86 and Nancy Thies Marshall UHS, '75 return for our 5th Annual Champaign Urbana Schools Foundation Distinguished Alumni Luncheon. The festivities include school visits, tours, lectures, receptions and the luncheon itself! This year, for the first time, our partnerships lead us to the University of Illinois where both of our graduates received degrees. Both Ms. Marshall and Dr. Alkire will be in events which are free and open to the public at 7 and

7:30 pm on Thursday, April 23. Ms. Marshall will share her experiences as a female athlete in the 70s as part of a DIA presentation on campus and Dr. Alkire will be participating in a panel discussion on Global Humanitarianism with other U of I faculty at Levis Center on campus. The panel discussion, moderated by Dr. Rajeshwari V. Pandharipande, Professor of Linguistics and Religious Studies, will feature panelists Dr. Robert McKim, Professor of Religion and Philosophy and Dr. Paul McNamara, Associate Professor of Economics along with Dr. Alkire, who is currently the Director of the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, England. Ms. Marshall, returning from Salem, Oregon, will also be presenting a lecture to members of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) on her experiences as the youngest gymnast on the 1972

Olympic Team in Munich and her years of covering the Olympics for NBC. These extraordinary women will be honored by our mayors and alumni associations on Friday at the luncheon that is open to the public with a previously purchased ticket. You can purchase your ticket by going on-line at www.cuschoolsfoundation.org or by calling the CUSF office at 217-384-4332. Tickets for the luncheon are \$30.00 and proceeds go to support the Foundation.

In Memorium

CUSF will also posthumously honor graduate David Foster Wallace, UHS '80 at the Distinguished Alumni Luncheon. A celebrated writer, Mr. Wallace will be greatly missed.



CHAMPAIGN
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FOUNDATION

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Tennis Anyone?



Beth Mears, classroom teacher at King School in Urbana, instructs her 1st graders in tennis!

Beth Mears and Melanie Traxler are both teachers at Martin Luther King Elementary School in Urbana's Unit 116. Beth teaches first grade and Melanie teaches fourth grade. Because the school district does not have physical education teachers for the elementary schools it is up to each individual classroom teacher to plan and teach the physical education curriculum. These teachers noticed that many of the students at school do not have the opportunity to participate in organized sports outside of school or own sporting equipment. They knew firsthand how much the students enjoy and grow from learning to play organized sports during P.E. class. Many students spend a great deal of their free time "playing virtual sports" on video games and watching television where they don't gain the benefit of fresh air or exercise.

Beth and Melanie came up with the idea to provide instruction in basic tennis skills and practice those skills on the tennis

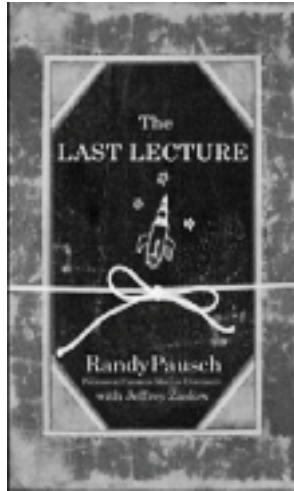
courts at King Park adjacent to the school. They both felt that by participating in tennis it would teach their students to take turns, interact with other children, practice good sportsmanship and improve their physical fitness through outdoor activity.

With the Splash Grant that she received from the Foundation Beth was able to purchase a classroom set of twenty nine tennis rackets, tennis balls and a tennis ball hopper. The equipment will be available to all of the teachers and students at their school, enabling many more children to benefit from this grant and build their fitness skills. Tennis is a great sport to learn early in life because of the lifelong fitness opportunities that it provides. Beth and Melanie are both really excited about getting their students outside and learning to hit the ball over the net. Who knows where the next Pete Sampras or Serena Williams will come from?



Beth Mears and her students proudly show off the equipment she purchased with her CUSF SPLASH GRANT

Franklin Middle School Poetry Café



left: Joy Aulph of Franklin Middle School; right: The Last Lecture by Randy Pausch.

Ms. Joy Aulph teaches Language Arts at Franklin Middle School in Champaign where she is in her third year of teaching. Each spring as part of the Language Arts curriculum the students study poetry. Her students will read, write and listen to poetry as part of this unit of study. Each year a book is selected for the students to read that they use as a guide for writing their own poems and then performing these poems during the spring “Poetry Café”.

This year Ms. Aulph chose a new book called “The Last Lecture” written by Carnegie Mellon University Professor Randy Pausch. With her Splash Grant money, Ms. Aulph was able to purchase 30 hardcover copies. The book is based on the final lecture that Dr. Pausch gave before passing away from cancer. Entitled “Really Achieving your Childhood Dreams”, it is full of short insights on life lessons from which Ms. Aulph feels her students can draw meaning and relate back to their own lives. The students will incorporate selected entries from the book to use as prompts for their poetry writing assignments.

Aulph’s students will learn about character development, the basic elements of poetry such as alliteration, metaphor and how to interpret poetry. Along with that they will also be watching videos of various styles of performance poetry such as Poetry Slams (a poetry slam is a competition at which poets read or recite original work). The 7th graders will be expected to memorize and perform original poetry at the end of the year Poetry Café in front of a live audience of their peers.

CUSF Mission

To enrich its community, the Champaign Urbana Schools Foundation is committed to encouraging educational initiatives and facilitating excellence in education in the public elementary and secondary schools of Champaign-Urbana, Illinois.

Thank you for your support!
We love to have your feedback!
Please call Gail Rost at
217-384-4332 or email at info@CUSchoolsFoundation.org to tell us what you think!
Want off the mailing list?
Contact us and we will take care of it!

Community Advisory Board with Teacher Advisory Board Yet to Come!

CUSF is your organization for investing in our public schools. In an effort to gain guidance from community leaders, CUSF has created its first Community Advisory Board. The CAB had its first meeting in February 2009 and welcomed 17 members. We are grateful for the service of the following community leaders:

Mr. Nathaniel Banks, University of Illinois
Ms. Anne Broom, Incoming CUSF Chair
Mr. Thomas Brown, BHM
Dr. Lizanne DeStefano, University of Illinois
Mr. John Dimit, Unit 116 School Board
Mr. Peter Fox, President/CEO Fox Development Company
Senator Michael Frerichs
Mr. Mike Haile, GM, WDWS/WHMS
Ms. Judy Ikenberry
Representative Naomi Jakobsson
Ms. Mimi Krug, Metritech, Inc.
Ms. Sondra Libman
Mr. Scott MacAdam, Unit 4 School Board
Mr. Dan McCall, President of Bricklayers LU #8
Ms. Mary McGrath, Executive VP, Cozad Asset Management
Dr. Linda Moore, VP, Student Services, Parkland College
Mr. Phil Van Ness, CUSF 2009 Chair

The Foundation will also nominate its first **Teacher Advisory Board** to continue our effort to meet the needs of our community and its public schools. It was through this type of process that we created our current Splash Grant Program. Through Teacher Focus Groups, we determined the need for simple supplies and how to streamline our application process. Then, through a community group, we identified donors looking for a quick impact in the schools. By facilitating the process, we connected donors to the teachers through SPLASH GRANTS! **We are excited that with our two new Advisory Boards we can keep working to support public education in CU for you!**



Frederick S. Green Memorial Scholarship Established

The family of Frederick S. Green, UHS Distinguished Alum 2007, has created a permanent scholarship with the Champaign Urbana Schools Foundation for graduating seniors of Urbana High School. This yearly \$1,000.00 scholarship will support a student entering college who has demonstrated academic and athletic excellence in their years at Urbana High School. This thoughtful endowment will be a lasting tribute to our Urbana High School graduate, Judge Green. For more information, please contact the CUSF office.

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Check our websites:
www.CUSchoolsFoundation.org
www.SplashOnLine.info
www.IDEA-Store.org



Three Central High School students get ready to go to work outside the Jerry's IGA at Round Barn. Maggie Su, Jennifer Kempe and Alice Beberman spent several hours passing out flyers and answering questions about grocery bag re-use. Their goal: change consumer behavior and raise 5 cents per reusable bag used at the register for "Green" projects at our schools! Make sure to tell the checker its for our schools! CHOOSE TO REUSE! Many thanks to volunteer CHRISTINE MAIN for her work on this great project!

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