



LIFE HAS OPTIONS

3920 NORTH KERBY AVENUE PORTLAND OR 97227 TEL (503) 249-1721 FAX (503) 249-1955 www.selfenhancement.org

Self Enhancement, Inc.'s Seniors Celebrate Graduation



SEI Senior, Brandon Lincoln of Jefferson High with Tamra Hicock, Lincoln's former SEI Coordinator. Lincoln will attend the University of Oregon on an athletic scholarship to play basketball this fall.

On Wednesday, May 15th, over one hundred fifty SEI students, parents, siblings, and staff gathered to celebrate the upcoming high school graduation of over thirty SEI Pamplin Fellows and High School Seniors. The event captured the essence of what SEI seeks to do – help youth realize their full potential. Emotion-filled speeches were delivered by students and staff alike which conveyed a sense of pride and gratitude for the support SEI has brought to each of the graduating seniors. Javonne Tucker, a Pamplin Fellow from Grant High School, shared, “SEI has taught me the real meaning of ‘Life Has Options.’”

Options are not lacking among these ambitious young people. Throughout the evening, personal remarks were made about each student including what lies in the future for each of them. More than twenty of the graduates will go on to pursue college studies at institutions including Alabama State University, Howard University, Johnson C. Smith in North Carolina, Portland Community College,

Portland State University, Spelman College, Tennessee State University, the University of Oregon, the University of Portland, and Weber State University. Several students will attend on full or partial academic and athletic scholarships including Omari DeGruy who will attend Howard University on a full academic scholarship.

SEI President Tony Hopson congratulated the graduating seniors to start the evening's ceremony. He began his remarks by thanking the parents and staff for the hours of support they've given towards the positive development of the young graduates. To the students he gave four pieces of advice – think about the repercussions of what you do before you do it; make smart decisions; be willing to pick yourself up and try again; and never, ever quit.

At SEI we are proud of the decisions our graduating seniors have made so far and wish them the best of luck in their pursuits this fall.

CORPORATE SPOTLIGHT:

State Farm Insures Our Success

When State Farm Insurance says “Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there,” they really mean it. SEI has been privileged to have State Farm as one of its Corporate Partners. State Farm provides SEI with a grant that helps fund our Post High School program. This program helps young people, 18 to 25, apply to college, secure financial aid, and obtain family wage jobs.

In the summer, State Farm employees volunteer in SEI's lunch buddies program which provides our summer school staff with a much needed midday break, and gives the State Farm employees an opportunity to build relationships with SEI students.

In the last year, State Farm has generously supported a radio media campaign with Infinity Broadcasting that provided ads to celebrate SEI's Twenty-Year Anniversary. These ads, which got significant air-time, boosted the community's awareness of SEI and resulted in new friends and contributors.

We couldn't ask for a better “neighbor” than State Farm Insurance. Our thanks to Becky de la Cruz, Bryan LeBerge, and countless other State Farm employees who help our kids. To learn more about SEI's Corporate

Community Partnerships, please contact Lisa Manning at (503) 249-1721, ext. 241 or lisam@selfenhancement.org.



Letter from Tony



Dear SEI Supporter,

I want to take this opportunity to say **THANK YOU**. Thank you for supporting SEI during this school year that began with September 11th and continues to prove challenging as the nation pulls itself out of recession.

Like most non-profit organizations, SEI is working hard to balance our budget and still provide excellent services to our children and families. Our corporate community partners continue to be generous, and we appreciate their tenacious support. With the dwindling number of businesses headquartered here, it is up to individuals like you to sustain the many worthy charities in our community.

We work hard every day to prove ourselves worthy of your charitable investment. The successes of our young people make our case. Of the 26 students who participated in SEI's in-school programs during high school, 21 are graduating on time and two will finish their education at an alternative school. We're proud of the students' hard work and the role our staff played in helping them achieve their goals.

Through your support of SEI, you've shown our young people that **LIFE HAS OPTIONS**, and they've opted to be high school graduates.

Tony Hopson
Founder and President

SEI Kicks Off Alumni Association

On the evening of April 12, 2002, the newly formed SEI Alumni Association held its first "Alumni Gathering." The Gathering, held in the auditorium at the Center for Self Enhancement, was a chance for SEI Alumni to get together and lay the groundwork for future alumni activities. Students from as far back as the first Self Enhancement Camp in 1981 to recent high school graduates had a good time catching up with old friends, and talking about how they can connect with the next generation of SEI Alumni.

In addition to being a fundraising body for SEI programs, the Association would like to see its members take on a personal mentorship role with current SEI students. Aaron Bell, a participant in the first SEI camp and supervisor of SEI's elementary program, is one of the organizing members of the Alumni Association. "We can all look back and think about where we'd be if Mr. Hopson and the SEI program hadn't been a part of our lives. We must carry the torch to the next generation".

The Alumni Association will host another gathering in June to welcome home SEI college students. If you know of students who may have participated in the SEI program, please have them contact Lisa Manning at SEI, (503) 249-1721 ext. 241.

SEI welcomes Meadows as Board Chair

SEI would like to welcome Rhonda Meadows as the new Board Chair of SEI's Board of Directors. Rhonda began her new role on April 1, 2002 and has already shown great commitment to carrying out the mission of SEI. We extend warm thanks to Bill Whitsell for the wonderful leadership and generosity he demonstrated as the Chair of SEI's Board of Directors over the last two years.

New offices have also been taken by Doug Harrower and Phil Robinson as Board Vice Chair and Board Secretary respectively. Special thanks to Carolyn Lewis who finished her term as Secretary and to David Lotking who continues as Treasurer. Welcome to our newest member, Maisha Taylor. We are grateful to all those who serve on SEI's Board of Directors. We couldn't do it without you!

Imagine the Possibilities: 2002 Portland Rose Festival Ambassador Court visits SEI



Vernonia Elementary fourth graders, Briana Robertson-May (left) and Dea'Naisa Willingham (right), pose with Benson High School Ambassador, Shauncey Mashia. Mashia, an SEI Pamplin Fellow, will attend Spelman College this Fall.

On Wednesday, May 8th, SEI welcomed the 2002 Portland Rose Festival Ambassador Court to the Center for Self Enhancement. The Ambassadors were warmly greeted by elementary students and SEI staff. Over forty elementary girls joined the Ambassadors for refreshments and conversation. Congratulatory comments were made by SEI president, Tony Hopson. Congratulations to Marquita Graves of Jefferson High School and Shauncey Mashia of Benson High School! Both young women are SEI seniors who were selected as Rose Court Ambassadors this year.

CORPORATE SPOTLIGHT:

TARGET Corporation "Hits the Mark" as new SEI Corporate Sponsor

What began as an informational tour of the Center for Self Enhancement with Target Store Team Leader, Vincson Green, has evolved into a new Corporate Community Involvement Partnership between Target Stores and Self Enhancement, Inc.

SEI's partnership with Target will include workshops led by Target employees to educate SEI students on future careers in retail. It may also result in summer employment for some of SEI's students at area Target stores.

"As Target expanded its local operations, it was incumbent on us to connect with the communities in our new neighborhoods" said Vincson Green. "Our new Jantzen Beach store will draw folks from this community, and we wanted everyone to know that we support the good work of Tony Hopson and SEI. It's a phenomenal program, and the partnership is a win-win for us."

Target representatives presented the check for the \$10,000 donation to Tony Hopson at the Grand Opening of the Jantzen Beach Target on March 5, 2002. The SEI Steppers were a highlight performance during the Grand Opening. "This is a great opportunity for SEI" Tony said. "There's no way you can lose having a partner like Target on your side. I say, 'welcome to the family!'"



SEI hosts Second Annual Senior Dinner



Over one hundred area senior citizens joined SEI students and staff for the Second Annual Senior Dinner at the Center for Self Enhancement on Wednesday, February 27, 2002. Above Burnett Austin, Nathan Jackson, Lois Jackson, Paul Knauls and Geneva Knauls (left to right) enjoy the evening's food and entertainment. The food was artfully prepared by Joyce Smith and SEI's own Marietta Callier-Wells (Parent Coordinator) and David Proby (Facilities Manager).

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING EVENT SPONSORS:

Ebony Rosecity Travelers ~ Cortlandt Cuffee & Jefferson Smith ~ Inncity Scholarship Commission ~ Peaceful & Recreational League ~ JP Framing
PJ Morgan ~ Terrell Brandon Foundation ~ Albina Community Bank ~ The Red Fig Restaurant ~ Marcy Bradley ~ Robin Robinson & Kimberly Williams ~ Anthony Deloney & Richard Fortson ~ David Allen, Aaron Bell & Phil Hopson ~ Safeway United Salad ~ United Grocers ~ Lippmans

SEI to culminate 20th Anniversary with community celebration

Save the date! On Saturday, August 3, 2002, from noon - 6 p.m., SEI will culminate its 20th anniversary with a community celebration. The event will be held at the Center for Self Enhancement.

The event will feature musical entertainment provided by local musicians and talented SEI students. There will be games and activities for kids and adults and free food for all. Please mark your calendars and help us celebrate our 20 years of providing hope to this community!

Last Thursday at Talisman Gallery to benefit SEI

Talisman Gallery, a cooperative fine art gallery located in the vibrant Alberta Arts District, will host a silent auction to benefit SEI on the opening night of their new fall show August 29, 2002 from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. Talisman Gallery is located at 1476 NE Alberta Street. 100% of the evening's proceeds will go directly to SEI. Professional artists to be featured will include Miriam Badyrka, John McAnulty, Raina Imig, and Dean Shapiro. We hope to see you there, and bring a friend! For more information, please see the Talisman Gallery website (www.talismangallery.com) or contact Raina Imig of Talisman Gallery at (503)335-6958.

SEI Family Center presents Latino Resource Fair

On Saturday, June 1st from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m., SEI held its first Latino Resource Fair at the Center for Self Enhancement. The fair featured presentations by immigration attorneys who addressed how immigration laws effect Portland's Latino community. The featured speakers were available to answer questions following their presentations. The fair was open to the entire family and included food, games for children, prizes, and informational resources from SEI and other Latino Community organizations.

Elementary Students Spell S - U - C - C - E - S - S



Top Notch Spellers: Kenaesha Henry (left) and Mikesha Terrell (right) celebrate after winning the Spelling Bee.

On March 20th, 2002, over thirty elementary students participated in SEI's Second Annual Spelling Bee. Nearly two hundred students and staff sat quietly to observe the intense competition between the Spelling Bee contestants. Several staff were on hand to judge the students' efforts and eliminate contestants as words were spelled incorrectly. Emotions and expectations were high among contestants and the audience alike.

Ms. Genia Adair, SEI's librarian, read off words such as "luxury" and "technique" towards the final round of the competition. In the end, three young women from SEI's elementary program were awarded with the top prizes - gift certificates to Barnes and Noble. In first place was Mikesha Terrell; second, Kenaesha Henry; and third, Brittnie Marcell (winner of last year's Spelling Bee). Congratulations to all!

At SEI Reading is Fundamental

On April 17th and 18th, SEI elementary and middle school students once again enjoyed choosing a book to have for their very own as part of SEI's Reading is Fundamental (RIF) program. Students were dressed as their favorite fictional character to celebrate the day. Snow White and ByeBi of the "Serpent Slayer" were seen at the book tables. Center based fifth grader, Amber Hurst, shared about RIF days, "Reading is the key to succeed. I love seeing fellow SEI members be happy about reading. It's a delight."

Reading is Fundamental is a federal program which helps educational organizations purchase books for distribution to students. The goal of RIF is to connect youth to fun activities related to reading and literacy.

SEI students receive three RIF books per year as part of the program. To encourage reading at home SEI Librarian, Genia Adair, has organized Family Reading Nights at the Center for Self Enhancement for all members of the family to enjoy the world of reading. The last Family Reading Night on April 24th drew over twenty people of all ages. SEI Librarian, Genia Adair, was elated with this turn-out and plans to continue the reading events in the Fall.



Above, SEI library volunteer Larry Miller helps students choose a RIF book of their own.



Levertt Robertson, a grammar teacher at SEI, points students to other books.

CENTER STAGE: SEI's Drama Program

In an emotion filled voice, SEI Coordinator Renee Davis reads her poetry to a room full of engaged teenagers. Thanks to Ms. Davis and other dedicated staff members, SEI has created an outstanding drama program.

On Tuesday and Thursday evenings, Ms. Davis inspires a small group of high school students to write their own poetry and develop dramatic skits about topics that are of relevance to their lives. She says, "Our class goes deeper than the surface of creative writing and acting. Each scene we create as a class is designed to motivate the audience to think about and discuss subject matter that is relevant to their generation, community, and world. Students are encouraged to develop scenes that inspire, not just entertain."

Take the skit about a father who returns to make peace with his two, almost-grown daughters because he is dying of cancer. This emotional skit mirrors some of the real-life experiences of the students. It's well written, beautifully acted, and for some kids, very emotional. "These students are writing powerful words," comments Tony Hopson, President of SEI.

Ms. Davis, the instigator behind getting the drama program off the ground, is proud of the accomplishments her class has achieved. Although for most of the students, this is their first time acting, the artistic director from the Oregon Children's Theater recently noticed their great potential and diverse skills during a class visit. The Director has since awarded scholarships for professional acting to four SEI students.

When asked about the drama program, Ms. Davis shared, "I believe this is the beginning of a long awaited breakthrough for our community. With school budget cuts happening, performing arts classes are scarce in public schools. SEI is providing our students with an opportunity to cultivate their talents."

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

Marquita Graves

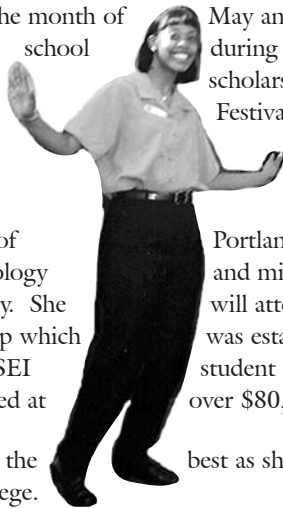


Multiple congratulations are in order for Ms. Marquita Graves, a senior at Jefferson High School, this spring.

Marquita, an honors student and secretary of the student council, was chosen as the Portland Rose Festival Ambassador for Jefferson High School earlier this Spring and was also awarded with the University of Portland's scholarship for an SEI student.

To be selected as a Rose Festival Ambassador, Marquita had to be a full-time, graduating student, with a grade point average above 2.75, and a good attendance record. She also had to demonstrate good character and citizenship.

As an ambassador, Marquita has participated in numerous community events in the month of May and will continue to represent her school during June. Marquita will receive a \$3,000 scholarship from the Portland Rose Festival Association courtesy of Randall Realty Corp. as part of this honor.



At the University of Portland, Marquita plans to major in psychology and minor in music composition and theory. She will attend the U of P on a full-ride scholarship which was established by the University for an SEI student annually. The scholarship is valued at over \$80,000.

We wish Marquita the best as she pursues her goals and dreams in college.

"What SEI means to me..." *according to 2002's graduating seniors*

"SEI pushes you to do things beyond the norm. I'll never forget what I've learned at SEI."
- Shakiyla Harris, Benson High School

"SEI is nothing but a family to me"
- Marcus White, Jefferson High School

"Life has options depending on the choices you make throughout life. SEI gives us the opportunity to broaden our horizons. In 1981, God blessed our community with an opportunity that has opened doors for all young minority children. By them being here, they have given us a chance to make a choice that would lead us in the right direction, and make our future the way we want it.

To some they are our backbone, but to me they became my friend and welcomed me into their family with a smile and a handshake. I am honored and proud to be apart of something special because we have the opportunity to start off life with an even playing field. SEI enhances our talents so that when we make mistakes or fall down, we will be able to pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, say 'it's okay' and keep on going."
-Lacey Johnson, Jefferson High School

"SEI has taught me the true meaning of 'Life Has Options.'"
- Javonne Tucker, Grant High School

Look where SEI Seniors are going to college...

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Alabama State University | South Plains Community College |
| Howard University | Spelman College |
| Johnson C. Smith in NC | Tennessee State University |
| Lane Community College | Texas Southern University |
| Mt. Hood Community College | University of Oregon |
| North Carolina A&T | University of Portland |
| Pierce College | Weber State University |
| Portland Community College | Western University |
| Portland State University | Western Nebraska College |
| South Eastern Community College | |

CONGRATULATIONS TO SEI ALUMNI

- AARON MILES - MICHAEL LEE (KU)
 FREDERICK JONES (U OF O)
 BOOMER BRAZZLE - CRAIG LEWIS (PEPPERDINE)

FOR OUTSTANDING PLAY IN THE
NCAA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

PROVIDERS OF OPTIONS

SELF ENHANCEMENT, INC. WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE DONORS LISTED BELOW WHO CONTRIBUTED DURING THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 15, 2001 AND APRIL 15, 2002.

The SEI donor categories are named after the seven principles of Kwanzaa, the African American holiday taken from African tradition where people come together as a community to celebrate the harvest of the first crop, or in America, the principles of living.

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(Faith)

\$500,000+

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(Self Determination)

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(Purpose)

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(Unity)

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Mark your calendars for SEI's 10th annual Community Golf Challenge sponsored by NIKE at The Reserve Vineyards and Golf Club. Ken Ackerman from Good Day Oregon will be the emcee for the auction.

AUGUST 3RD

SEI will conclude its 20th Anniversary with a celebration at the Center for Self Enhancement. (See story on page 3)

OCTOBER 12TH

The 9th annual Art&Soul event will be held on October 12th at The Center for Self Enhancement. Brenda Braxton will be mistress of ceremonies. This year we have partnered with the Pacific Northwest College of Art.

Contact SEI or visit
www.selfenhancement.org for more
event information.

JOIN US ON A TOUR

Beginning August 1st, SEI will be hosting tours open to the community on the first Thursday of every month. Tours will begin at 4 p.m. and last about an hour.

We invite you to come see the latest activities at the Center for Self Enhancement. Please RSVP to Lisa Manning at (503) 249-1721, ext. 241 or lisam@selfenhancement.org.

BUILD SEI'S FUTURE

Contribute to SEI's endowment, name SEI in your will, or donate non-cash assets such as stock. As of June 30, 2001, SEI's endowment balance was over \$6 million. Our goal is to have a balance of \$10 million by June 2003. You can help us get there!

Contact Carolyn Becic, Development Director, for more information.

SEI'S WISH LIST

Gift certificates
for student incentives



Books and Books on Tape
for the Library



Cameras, 35 mm
for program staff



Inexpensive Cassette Players



Patio furniture for upstairs patio



Play clothes for children
ages 6 to 10



Sound system upgrade
for the gymnasium

Call Kelly Mohr, 249-1721 ext. 263, if
you would like to donate
an item from SEI's Wish List.