

Historic Dunbar High Reopens to Enthusiastic Students

*Paul Laurence Dunbar Community High School for Health Professions
Determination, Dedication, Dependability
Home of the Poets
MCMXXV A.D.*

On Monday morning, August 31, hundreds of students, former alumni, and well-wishers packed the front of Paul Laurence Dunbar Community High School to hear Governor Martin O'Malley, Mayor Sheila Dixon, city schools CEO Andrés Alonso, American Federation of Teachers (AFT) President Randi Weingarten, and others speak words of praise on the reopening of the Baltimore institution considered a beacon of education in the East Baltimore community for nearly 85 years.

The renovation took two years and \$28 million for the city to complete and is part of the AFT's Back-to-School Tour '09 (an affiliated international union of the AFL-CIO) to encourage the work



educators and elected officials are doing to improve teaching and to praise programs that can be replicated at other schools.

"It's not about bricks and mortar," said Dr. Edgar E. Roulhac, vice provost for academic services at JHU. "It's about students" and being able to "go into the university and college of your choice."

Dixon talked about students who were following in the footsteps of Dunbar alumni who went on to prominent leadership roles in the city. Weingarten mentioned renovations at other schools across the country and made special mention of Dunbar, saying, "This is an incredible school named after an incredible poet."

She also added, "Baltimore has said loud and clear: Education is important!"

One of the highlights was Dr. Benjamin S. Carson, pediatric neurosurgeon at Johns Hopkins Hospital, who talked about his youth and how easy it is to get caught up in "cool versus nerd" and being ruled by peer pressure. He spelled out the word:

"P-E-E-R. Peers stands for People Encouraging Errors, Rudeness, and Stupidity. Make sure you don't align yourself with that negative group," he said. "Determine your success."

Carson said that students should set their goals very high. "You should try, even if it hasn't been done before." The way city officials and community organizers worked together was gratifying to Carson who was once told that renovations would never happen because of people's egos. Said Carson: "I'm very high on Baltimore." Later that morning AFT officials also visited Dr. Bernard Harris Elementary and Dr. Rayner Browne Elementary/Middle Charter Schools to enthusiastic students.

Dunbar's programs include biotechnology, Emergency Medical Technology (EMT), Accounting, and Nursing and Health Care Delivery Systems. They also have highly regarded athletic programs.

Originally opened as Dunbar Elementary, No. 101 in 1918, it emerged as Dunbar Junior High, No 133 in 1925, and by 1940 it was a full-fledged high school for African-

American students. The school was named after Paul Laurence Dunbar, a highly regarded African-American poet who died in 1906. The title of Maya Angelou's autobiography, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, comes from the third stanza of Dunbar's poem "Sympathy."

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FALL 2009

WOW!! Three Years in a Row! 1st Place 2009 Science Fair Winner—Dr. Bernard Harris, Sr. Elementary School

The Johns Hopkins Health System Office of Community Services recently hosted its third annual Science Fair. Students from East Baltimore schools submitted a total of 15 science projects that were judged by Johns Hopkins scientists and professors, NASA employees, and Baltimore City Public School System staff. Dr. Rhoda Alani, Associate Professor in Johns Hopkins Oncology, provided the opening remarks, and Dr. Chi Dang, Johns Hopkins Vice Dean for Research, provided the welcome.

For the third year, Dr. Bernard Harris, Sr. Elementary School 5th graders won first place, collecting a trophy, a monetary gift, and the opportunity to present their winning projects to Johns Hopkins Medicine Leadership. The titles of the winning projects were:

- What is the effect of temperature on the growth of bacteria?
- Is a fish's respiration rate affected by a change in water temperature?
- How does a person's lung capacity before exercise compare with the capacity after exercising?

On June 3, 2009, Dr. Bernard Harris Elementary students gave a special presentation of their winning projects to Johns Hopkins Medicine executives in the Broadway Research Building. After the presentation, the children took pictures with Dr. Edward Miller, Dean and CEO, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.



Pictured above: Councilman Bernard "Jack" Young, JHU President Ronald Daniels, JHH President Ronald Peterson, Dr. Charles Simmons President, Sojourner-Douglass College.

East Baltimore Community Forum: Opening a Dialogue

On July 23 and September 8, 2009, representatives from East Baltimore community organizations, businesses, schools, churches, and government were invited to meet incoming Johns Hopkins University President Ronald Daniels. The events, the first, hosted by Dr. Charles Simmons at Sojourner-Douglass College on N. Caroline Street, and the second, hosted by Edward Sabatino, Executive Director of HEBAC (Historic East Baltimore Community Action Coalition) at their East Baltimore Technology Resource Center on N. Milton Avenue, represented a joint initiative between the Johns Hopkins Institutions Office of Government, Community, and Public Affairs, and the Johns Hopkins Urban Health Institute.

Participants included representatives from EBDI (East Baltimore Development Inc., the non-profit organization managing the \$800-million revitalization of more than 80 acres in East Baltimore); SMEAC (Save Middle East Action Coalition); and Councilmen Bernard "Jack" Young and Warren Branch.

After addressing the assemblies of over 100 participants, President Daniels heard from each group about their unique perspectives, insights, and hopes for their

New Home Rises in Historic Community



With the family advocate's arm around the Williams family, saying "We're going to make this right. We're going to make this right," EBDI was there at the start of the planning process for the family to get their home back.

"It took about three months to be at ease—until we came back to the house to see how much damage had been done," says Lorraine Williams. "We knew the house would eventually get done, but not how long it would take...We had done some things in a few rooms before the fire."

It would take a year and a half.

They were relocated to an apartment in Northwest Baltimore for the duration. However, with \$110,000 for the renovations from EBDI,

People saw smoke coming out of the two-story row home in the 1700 block of East Chase Street on March 12, 2008. Edward "Sonny" Williams, a retired medical technician, was driving by and saw what was happening. His wife Lorraine and grandson Khalil were on the second floor. Lorraine was almost overcome by smoke inhalation, when Williams ran inside the home, where he had been born and now lived, grabbed their year-old grandson and helped his wife out onto the street. The cause was an electrical fire.

The Williamses were lucky in some ways: Their home is in an historic preservation district. And they happened to be across from East Baltimore Development Inc. (EBDI), a nonprofit group partnering with local foundations and agencies whose goal is the revitalization of East Baltimore. However, a tragedy such as this can leave many open questions.

"The Williamses wanted to come back," says Sheila Young, EBDI Vice President, Resource Development and Investor Relations.

they were able to choose a contractor based on federal guidelines. Because of the extensive damages to their home, a full rehab was in order; yet, they also had a say in the renovations when working with the contractor. They were able to request a few changes, including moving the entrance from the side to the front and expand the basement. Begun in April '08, construction finished in mid-August '09.

"Well, this is totally, totally different," says Lorraine. "It's a totally new feel...I had in mind what it would turn out to look like, but once I got in here, it exceeded way, way beyond my expectations."

"I never wanted to leave East Baltimore. This is where my kids grew up," she says, assuming one might think the offer to move to a new home in another community was a better or easier option.

"And once everything became finalized I knew it was time to come home."

EBDI plans to renovate at least 65 more homes in preservation districts in the project area starting in September.

P.U.L.S.E. and Community Partnerships

"Everybody gets a chance to give,"
says Samuel Redd Jr.

When Operation P.U.L.S.E. (People United to Live in a Safe Environment) was created in 1992 for C.U.R.E. (Clergy United for Renewal in East Baltimore), a unique situation was born: a partnership with the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions. In the last three years, says Redd, director of P.U.L.S.E., Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health associate dean for student affairs Mike Ward, VP of Corporate Security Harry Koffenberger, and the Johns Hopkins Black Student Union joined together with P.U.L.S.E. to partner with community members, local businesses, associations and, particularly, the international students of Johns Hopkins University, to conduct a variety of crime prevention programs for city schools.

This interaction shows city kids of middle school age how other black Baltimoreans have succeeded in the medical and other fields—but it is also a benefit for students from other countries who get to see the difference they can make in the lives of city kids.



P.U.L.S.E. coordinates the donation of school supplies to various middle and high schools in the city, usually coupled with art, photography, and writing projects. At a yearly back-to-school hip-hop/gospel concert, volunteers gave away 400 bags of supplies, with the help of about 30 students from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health.

During Black History Month this year, the organization distributed disposable cameras to Mt. Zion Middle School students to photograph their environment. They visited

historical sites in Baltimore city where well-known African-American artists and musicians got their start. Students then incorporated other sites, such as the Thurgood Marshall statue, the Reginald F. Lewis Museum, and the Orchard Street A.M.E. Church (now the headquarters of the Greater Baltimore Urban League), into a photographic journal.

"It's a win-win situation for everyone involved," says Redd. "[These events] show younger kids a different type of role model, besides an athlete or rap singer, and help to focus on a career and goals. Some students from Johns Hopkins have come from a similar environment." Redd adds that the interaction with city kids "is an education for some of the Johns Hopkins students, also, because these are the types of kids they may be helping or dealing with in the future."

Each year Redd meets with School of Public Health students to discuss new ideas and projects for the upcoming year. P.U.L.S.E.'s goal is to find ways to encourage financial and material donations from local associations and businesses that might provide such items as school uniforms, sports equipment, and supplies. Getting various associations and local companies to participate in a community fair is one such idea. Future thoughts include planned yearly events, such as National Night Out and a huge block party like the one recently thrown in August.

Note: As of press time, P.U.L.S.E. offices were broken into and supplies destined for local schools were stolen. Redd says he is determined to continue his work.

Dialogue ... continued from page 1

relationship with Johns Hopkins in the East Baltimore community.

"I'm here to listen and to learn simply how we can move on building on the best of us." Daniels said.

Daniels emphasized a sense of solidarity between Johns Hopkins and the East Baltimore community, pointing out that "Johns Hopkins is deeply committed to the thriving community emerging in East Baltimore. It is remarkable that when the call goes out, there are so many constituencies that are here and are committed to East Baltimore and achieving its total possibilities."

Changing Lives, One Student at a Time: The City Springs Mentor Program

The people of Johns Hopkins strive to make a difference every day, not only in their careers, but also in the local community through their volunteer and outreach efforts. The City Springs Mentor Program at City Springs School in East Baltimore is truly indicative of this Hopkins trait. Originally a community initiative, the City Springs Mentor Program fell on difficult times in recent years, suffering a loss both in staff and organization. In 2009, the Johns Hopkins Health System Community Services Office, in partnership with City Springs school administration and the Baltimore Curriculum Project, stepped in to breathe new life into the program, which focuses on developing close mentor/mentee relationships for children in grades 2 to 7. They are partnered with Johns Hopkins mentors who help to support, guide, and keep students focused in school while exposing them to new educational or cultural experiences.

"We're like a little family," Hopkins mentor Cathryn Kabacoff says about the pro-

gram, as she and her mentee talk about the beginning of the school year and plans for outings. Their mutual affection is obvious and the benefits are clear through their smiles and easy laughs. Cathy, like the other Hopkins mentors, meets with her mentee at the school on the third Wednesday of every month during her lunch hour, and spends time taking her mentee out on varied excursions. Expectations are that the program will continue to expand successfully, since the City Springs Mentor Program embodies a simple, yet effective strategy for creating a supportive environment.

If you would like more information, please email Christine Kavanagh at christinekavanagh@jhu.edu.



Johns Hopkins partners with Bluford Drew Jemison Academy

This Spring, Johns Hopkins Health System, Office of Community Services, partnered with Bluford Drew Jemison Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (STEM) Academy East to tour the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory robotics facility in Laurel, Maryland. The school selected 21 seventh grade students from their Army Corps of Engineers program to participate in the tour. In April, BDJ Academy's robot-

ics team placed first at the Atlantic Coast Vex Robotics Design Championship held at Coppin State University.

BDJ-STEM, with academies in both East and West Baltimore, is an all-male Baltimore City public charter school from grades 6 to 8. The Academy's Web site states: "The BDJ-STEM strives to develop male scholars grounded in positive attitudes and strong leadership, who have mastered advanced educational skills that will enable them to be witnesses of hope in their families,

communities, and neighborhoods. The BDJ-STEM recognizes that each male scholar is unique, and through developing a positive self-image, each one can experience his individual worth and dignity as a human being."

