

Cornwell Talks Diversity

When Johns Hopkins Medicine's Diversity Committee wanted to focus on the relationship between the community and the health care delivery system, its clear choice to lead the effort was Edward Cornwell, professor of surgery and an innovator in medicine and community endeavors. As a co-chair of the Johns Hopkins Patient and Community Subcommittee, Cornwell has the passion and tenacity to get the job done. He also enjoys the respect of all concerned—JHM administration, faculty and the community.

Cornwell's diverse upbringing played a role in his ongoing efforts to improve inclusiveness. He attended an integrated elementary school, was one of only a few students of color in his high school and graduated from a predominantly African-American medical school. In Los Angeles County, where he did his residency, he met Latino patients, half of whom did not speak English. Spanning a cross-culture of America, his background exposed him to the divide that still exists. "We are still largely a segregated society," he says, "and many people's views of other ethnicities are impacted by what we see on television."

Cornwell peppers any discussion about diversity with poignant quotes and stories of historical events concerning race relations that he has collected throughout his life. He approaches his latest challenge of helping to change the cultural attitude of Johns Hopkins Medicine with the recognition that the task is enormous. "Increasing diversity amounts to changing the culture of an institution. Change of this nature is disconcerting and will only happen when the dominant members of the culture are convinced it is in their best interest," he says. "I don't believe 'white guilt' or political correctness has enough staying power to effect permanent change. I feel blessed that my life experiences are an ever-ready testimony to the strength of diversity and availing yourself of the widest possible talent pool. I sometimes feel that others with a more homogeneous background end up pursuing diversity out of good will, a leap of faith, or even sometimes because they believe they are doing a favor."

Johns Hopkins Medicine has already made a significant gesture toward recognizing the importance of this issue: Its mission statement has been reworded to reflect diversity and inclusion as core



values. Goals of the Patient and Community Subcommittee, co-chaired by Ken Grant, Hopkins Health System vice president of general services, include developing an internal education curriculum and collecting data from patients about their satisfaction and respectful treatment. One of the committee's first accomplishments is the publication of a new community services directory, which describes more than a hundred of Johns Hopkins' community initiatives and programs.

Even with his busy schedule of faculty responsibilities, community initiatives and family obligations, Cornwell believes that it's important to make time to participate in strategies that create an inclusive atmosphere for employees and patients. The Community Services Directory may be found at <http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/communityservices/>

...Last Beam

(continued from cover)

By the end of the summer, East Baltimore residents will be moving back into the residential part of the complex, and by spring of next year, the first of five planned life sciences buildings and retail space will be fully operating. In the future, the biotech project will provide 2,200 new and rehabbed homes, geared toward a mix of incomes and households, 1.1 million square feet of lab and office space, a 7-acre community school campus and 6,000 to 8,000 new jobs. This newest six-story life sciences facility will be leased by the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine's Institute of Basic Biomedical Sciences and private biotech companies.

More information can be found on the developer's Web site at <http://www.forestcityscience.net/hopkins/>



The JHHS Division of Community Services welcomes and encourages all Hopkins faculty, staff and students to volunteer for community activities. If you would like to be included in our community events, please call 410-614-0744.

...Perfect Chord

(continued from cover)

All the major planning began shortly after winter break. Turovskaya and Srivastava looked for local talent by putting up flyers in the East Baltimore area and in local schools. They also worked with SOURCE (Student Outreach Resource Center) which had great contacts with community organizations. On March 1, when the curtain went up in Turner Auditorium, there were eight acts in all, including a dance troupe, rap groups, a skit, instrumentals and a group of first and second-year medical students who sang a capella.



A PUBLICATION OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT, COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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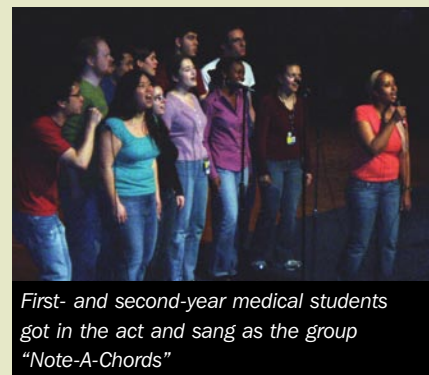
SUMMER 2007

Med School and Music Strike a Perfect Chord

When Yana Turovskaya came to Hopkins to attend medical school, the last thing on her mind was organizing a talent show. Soon after arriving in Baltimore, she learned that the East Baltimore Talent Show has become a traditional responsibility of the first-year medical students, so she and classmate Siddharth Srivastava volunteered to spearhead the annual event. "The second-year students who organized it last year had a lot of great things to say about it," Turovskaya explains.

Over the last three years, the East Baltimore Talent Show has evolved into a fun and casual way to establish and improve relationships with Hopkins' neighbors in the East Baltimore community. "It's a great partnership," says Turovskaya. "The vision is for Hopkins to provide the organization of the event and the facility to host it and the community provides the talent."

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First- and second-year medical students got in the act and sang as the group "Note-A-Chords"



City, state and federal officials join Johns Hopkins and biotech leadership to celebrate a \$6,000 donation to the Dunbar High School Science Club from the 855 Wolfe Street construction team, which was presented to students at the topping off event.

EBDI Update The Last Beam

The Science and Technology Park at Johns Hopkins reached an important milestone recently when the final beam in the first life sciences building at 855 N. Wolfe St. was signed by attendees and hoisted into place at a ceremonial "topping off" event.

Congressman Elijah Cummings, Mayor Sheila Dixon, Johns Hopkins Medicine Dean and CEO Edward Miller, Johns Hopkins Hospital President Ronald Peterson joined other city, state, federal and local leadership in applauding the craftsmen who have worked diligently to make the vision a reality. EBDI Board Chairman Joseph Haskins began the ceremony by stressing that the community is the true foundation of the project, and partnerships have been the key to its success. "This is not just a physical redevelopment of a community," Haskins said, "but of a community that represents people."

The \$800 million community development project will feature a complex of five

life sciences buildings, office space, new and rehabilitated residential housing, new retail space, commercial development and green space. Encompassing 80 acres north of the Johns Hopkins medical campus, it will be an economic force for the city. Forest City – New East Baltimore Partnership, LLC, master developer of the project, along with its general contractor and subdeveloper have proudly enlisted the help of local minority- and women-owned businesses for 40 percent of work that has been completed so far.

"The whole revitalization of this part of town will change the makeup of all of Baltimore," said Mayor Sheila Dixon. "It is not about the building, it is about changing people's lives forever."

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JOHNS HOPKINS
M E D I C I N E

Building Hope from Tragedy

Few people will forget the horrific news of the fire at the East Baltimore home of Carnell and Angela Dawson in 2002. It was unthinkable that a drug dealer would intentionally set a blaze that killed the Dawsons and their five children. It was hard to imagine that anything good would ever happen in that house again. But through hard work and determination, that building has become a lasting tribute to the Dawson family.

For over three years, the charred shell of the house on the corner of Preston and Eden Streets was a sad reminder of the loss of innocent life, but hope for other East Baltimore families has been built in spite of that tragedy. "I was there that night," said Reginald Scriber, Baltimore City's deputy commissioner of community services. "I saw them remove the children's lifeless bodies and I never forgot about it."

In the aftermath, Governor Martin O'Malley, then mayor of Baltimore, assigned Scriber to manage the purchase and rehabilitation of the Dawson property. O'Malley's vision was to build a safe haven where all children in the neighborhood could go after school, and he wanted to save as much of the original structure as possible—a task that was nearly impossible because the joists and beams were all destroyed by fire. When all was said and done, the total project cost more than \$1.5 million, contributed by Baltimore City, the state of Maryland, the federal government and Johns Hopkins Medicine.

Today at the Dawson Safe Haven Community Center, what remains of the original house is the front of the building and the sound of children inside. Now, in only its eighth week of operation, the center averages 18 to 30 neighborhood children—from the Oliver Community in East Baltimore—who go there each day after school until 6 p.m. "The first order of business is homework," says Pamela V. Carter, director of the center, "after that they can do arts and crafts, reading or sometimes we'll watch a movie." Children age 9 and up can spend time in a computer lab on the third floor, which is outfitted with equipment donated by Johns Hopkins Medicine.

Across the street from the center is the Dawson Family Memorial Garden. There are plans to design mosaics to represent the parents and each of the children. "The garden will also be a learning process for children who attend the center," says Carter. "They will take part in the landscaping process and maintenance."

The work for Scriber and Carter is not finished. There are more plans to expand the center's services to a Dawson Annex within walking distance at the Oliver Community Association building, which will serve some of the needs of adults and contribute to the stability of families in the area. Scriber says this is a much-anticipated change for the community: "The Dawson family made the ultimate sacrifice, and they will have an everlasting effect on us."



Pamela Carter (far right) helps students in the computer lab. Saul Stoogenke, Staff Photographer, Baltimore Housing.

HEBCAC News

Summer Gardening

HEBCAC is collaborating with several community organizations to convert a vacant lot at 2300 Chase St. into a Faith Garden to be enjoyed by all.

Chesapeake Habitat for Humanity, Peace By Piece, Baltimore Civic Works, East Baltimore Historic Library and other community organizations and residents are planning the garden, which will include chess tables, horseshoes and a vegetable garden. Volunteers planted trees recently at a kickoff ceremony.

Looking Ahead

If you would like to contribute or volunteer, please call Anita Stewart-Hammerer (HEBCAC) at 443-524-2800, or Nikiea Redmond (East Baltimore Historic Library) at 410-276-6667.



More HEBCAC information may be found at <http://hebcac.org>

Safety On the Move CARES Safety Center

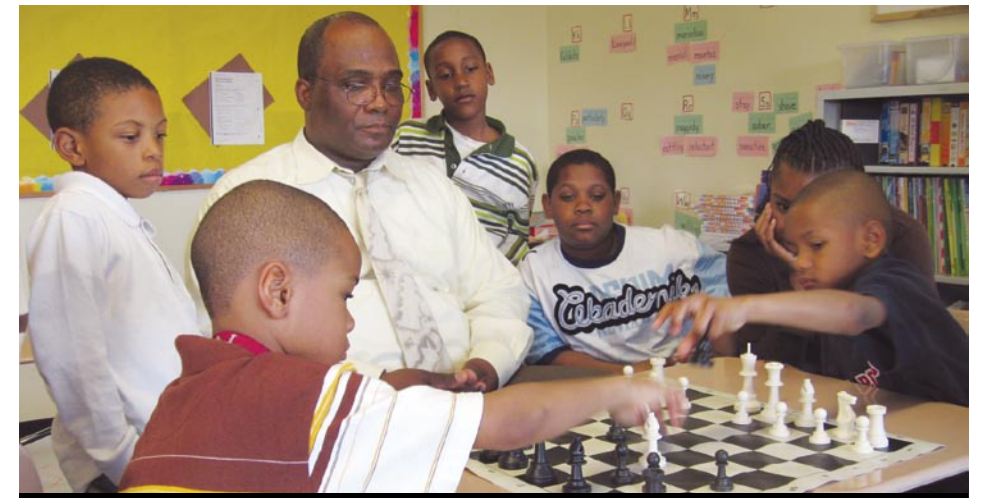
The number of preventable childhood injuries is staggering. More than 1,000 children are hospitalized each year here in Baltimore as a result of house fires, burns, poisonings, falls and traffic accidents. That is about three children every day. These injuries are the leading cause of death for children in this country, and many parents are astounded to learn that the incidents are preventable. Addressing the need for injury-prevention outreach in the community, Children Are Safe (CARES) Safety Center is taking the message to the street to show parents how to make their home safer for little hands and feet.

The CARES Safety Center, a collaboration of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, the Baltimore City Fire Department and other organizations, is a 40-foot-long house-on-wheels that makes regular stops at the East Baltimore Medical Center and travels to schools, churches, shopping centers and other places throughout the community. Children and their parents can go into the truck, talk with

East Baltimore's Chess Champions

Julius Wade teaches chess using basic rules of strategy and manners: Sit up straight with elbows off the table. Shake hands with your opponent, never back down and do not, under any circumstances, look at your opponent during the game. Following Wade's instructions and some other "secret strategies" helped the chess team at Dr. Rayner Browne Elementary School beat 60 other primary school teams and become the first city school to ever win the state chess championship.

Before reporting to work on the night shift as a support associate in the Johns Hopkins Hospital neonatal intensive care unit, Wade spends 20 hours per week after school with the Browne team—seven boys and a girl, grades K to 4—and additional time at another chess program at Curtis Bay Elementary School. He also takes the team, whose members he has given nicknames like "Tank," and "Rook Master," on trips to the Fells Point Chess Club, where they regularly beat other players who are more than twice their age. Some of these activities are paid for with help from the YMCA BOOST after-school program, but Wade covers many of



Julius Wade (center) with the team at practice

them with his own funds. He has registered all eight team members in the United States Chess Federation—a requirement to compete—and he pays some of the tournament fees each time they compete, which can cost up to \$150 per tournament. He's also bought several chess boards for the team as well as two laptop computers so that the children can practice using special chess software.

Wade became a chess enthusiast as a Marine in Korea and has remained active in the game or decades. He was teaching chess at Curtis Bay Elementary School when he was recruited by After-School Program Director Collin Nole to coach at Rayner Browne, where both of his sons, Ronald and Jordan—also team members—attend school. "This is another great way to spend quality time with my sons and be an example of giving back to the community, he says." "There is a myth that our kids have lower-rated intelligence, it is wrong and I'm proving it."

Chess is not "just a game" with Wade in charge. To play on the team, each member must learn both the long history of chess and math equations that most second-graders do not know. During practice, Wade quizzes them sporadically. "Where was chess invented?" In unison they respond, "the continent of Asia, the country of India." "What is X times X?" he asks the group. "X squared," their enthusiastic voices answer.

Wade says one of his goals is to improve math scores for the group. "If you teach a child chess, they will breeze through algebra and geometry and develop problem-solving skills."

Being part of the team has not only helped improve the children's grades, behavior and attendance records in school, it's opened

their eyes to other opportunities. "Playing chess has exposed the children to a whole world outside of East Baltimore," says Nole. "It gives them the chance to leave this neighborhood and come in contact with other cultures."

When Wade recently took them to a tournament on Maryland's Eastern Shore, it was the first time the kids had gone over the Bay Bridge. The team has also been to City Hall for a reception honoring state champions and been invited to another upcoming reception for Baltimore City school champions. They are frequently the only African-American team at many of the tournaments, so they have experienced the unfortunate reality of racism in the not-so-fun side of this complicated world.

The chess coach has also become a father figure in these children's lives. He has visited their homes, and the kids call him regularly on his home number which they've memorized. He has even, at times, made sure that they've had a hot meal.

Wade says he learns from the kids too. "If you only knew what they have to go through just to play outside," he says. "They know about so many things that kids their age shouldn't know." Through chess, Wade is hoping to give these children skills to win the game of life.

FIND US ONLINE AT
www.hopkinsmedicine.org/communityservices
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