

ShopTalk



June 8, 2007, Vol. 33 No. 19

Editor, Mario I. Oña, x4-6803

Eastern High School and The Post Celebrate 20 Years Together

The final Eastern 500 Club luncheon of the academic school year is usually reserved to honor and bid farewell to the graduating club members from Eastern High School, but on

May 17 it was the seniors who did the honoring.

Seniors along with Eastern 500 alumni gave testimonials with such

poise and confidence that they reassured everyone present that the program had done its job in preparing them for college, the working world and adulthood. They struck a tone of gratitude towards Diane Prentiss—their 500 Club director at Eastern—and Chairman **Don Graham**, who envisioned

the program.

Graham, who served as a patrolman with the Washington Metropolitan Police's Ninth Precinct shortly after returning from Vietnam, formed a bond with the Northeastern D.C. community he served, including Eastern High School. Eventually, that bond helped him create the 500 Club with **Dr. Vincent Reed**, former vice president of The Post. The club provides students with \$500 towards college for every semester at Eastern that they earn all As and Bs.

Ruth Hughes, a 2003 graduate, pointed out to the underclassmen that although the money is invaluable, they have to take advantage of all the 500 Club benefits, including the free Kaplan SAT prep course, the career-building workshops and the mentors they are assigned.

Artilli Wright, an Eastern alumni and recent Princeton University



Eastern 500 alumnus and Post intern **Emil Robinson** presents Diane Prentiss, Eastern High School's 500 Club program director, a bouquet.

graduate, emphasized the importance of networking and staying in contact with mentors and other people at The Post. "These folks can be crucial in helping you land a job or giving you sound advice," she said.

The students presented Graham with a cake and then Prentiss, who was noticeably moved, said, "Don Graham... you are our hero. These kids are yours." Prentiss was then presented with a bouquet and some words by Eastern alumnus **Emil Robinson**. He said, "You have always been there for us. You have always answered our questions



Chairman **Don Graham** blows out the candles on a cake presented to him by the Eastern 500 Club students to celebrate his 20-year commitment (and counting) to Eastern High School.



Eastern graduating senior and 500 Club member **Jamilla Jones** gives a testimonial about the benefits of the club.

The Post Sponsors and Participates in the Komen Race for the Cure

The Post was once again a local sponsor for the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure on June 2. The event, which aims to raise money to eradicate breast cancer, consists of thousands of people walking, jogging or running a 5K race through downtown D.C. The Post had a team of over 40 people made up by employees and their families and friends. The Post team proudly displayed their signature blue T-shirts that contrasted against the pink T-shirts worn by cancer survivors. **Ruben Rodriguez**, Public Relations, said, "It was very moving to see all these folks who had beaten cancer participating in this event."



PHOTO - ROBIN BURTON

Most of The Post's Race for the Cure team stop for a photo on the steps of the Northwest Building.



PHOTO - AURORA GONZALEZ

After the race, **Diane Haith** (left), Advertising, with her brother **George Haith** and **Scarlet Maith**, also from Advertising, take a breather.

First Quarter Advertising and Marketing Awards



PHOTO - MIKE SHENK

(Left to right) First Quarter Advertising and Marketing Award winners **Elizabeth Ruhl**, **Wendy Chen**, **Brian Wohlert** and **Julie Perlstein**.

Get the Scoop on The Post's New Employee Orientation and 'Onboarding' Program

Starting a new job can be difficult and stressful. Regardless of position, new employees need to feel welcome and have access to information that will help them get up to speed quickly.

The Post's new employee "onboarding" team recently completed a program to meet these needs and will deploy it on June 11. The Scoop is a three-part program designed to seamlessly acclimate employees to their new work environment and immerse them into The Post's culture.

The first part of the program occurs before the employees report for their first day of work. The newly hired employee is able to visit a website to print and complete employment forms and review important company information.

Part two of The Scoop entails a six-hour orientation offered on Mondays. During this session, the new employee is officially welcomed to The Post. They also learn about the company's culture and receive information to help them transition into the company.

Additionally, they also receive their identification badge, an employee benefits overview, a tour of the Northwest facility and a summary of The Post's past, present and future vision.

The third part is a high-energy session offered on the first Wednesday of every month. During the session, the new employees participate in activities designed to provide them with more in-depth knowledge about The Post's culture and its most important processes.

At the beginning of the orientation process, the hiring manager and new employees receive orientation tools, including a hiring manager's checklist and a new employee guidebook.

In the past few weeks, managers had the opportunity to attend various information sessions that provided a preview of The Scoop. Managers still interested in previewing the program are welcome to drop by Training. For more information, please contact **B.J. Johnston** at x4-5135 or johnstonjb@washpost.com.

and steered us in the right direction.”

Robinson, who openly admitted that public speaking for him “just wouldn’t have happened a few years ago,” also addressed the graduating seniors and said, “You are your own person now. No one will hold your hand. No one will care if you go to class or not. No one will make you do anything. It’s all up to you.

You are now grown-ups.”

Public Relations Director **Eric Grant** said, “When I met some of these kids, they would look down and not make eye contact when talking to you. Now, watching them walk with confidence and address an auditorium full of people is a great thrill.”

In the program’s 20 years, close to \$2.5 million have been awarded in scholarship money to 1,259 students. ■



During the icebreaker organized by **B.J. Johnston**, Training, Eastern 500 Club members had to survey the room and match people with various descriptions. Here, Chairman **Don Graham** confirms that he “plays bridge” for graduating senior **Cierra Hunter**.



(Left to right) Eastern High School’s 500 Club program director **Diane Prentiss** and guidance counselors **Carolyn Murrell**, **Azeal Wilson** and **Stephania Myrick** were also recognized for their dedication to their students and the 500 Club.



Chairman **Don Graham**, surrounded by students, listens to Post Music and Dance Scholarship Award winner and accomplished singer **Katrina Bellow** dedicate “Hero” to him.

Eastern 500 Club Protégés and their Post Mentors

Protégé

Adegbemisola Ademisoye
 Sandra Briscoe
 Denisha Dempster
 Stephanie Fraley
 Janay Galloway
 Shaquanda Humble
 Tiffany Hunter
 Talia Johnson
 Vernisha Jones
 Christian Loggins
 Lakia Meriwether
 Milton Meza
 Delonte Moore
 Rachele Oyebayo
 Samantha Palmer
 Jamela Shaw
 Ebony Tate
 Tiara Thompson
 Cortanai Wright

Mentor

Athelia Knight
 Robin Wilkerson
 Brenna Nielsen
 J. Wong and R. Okumura
 Arthur Fuller
 Jamie Ward-Black
 Jennifer Brown
 Christopher Janson
 Jennifer Brown
 Lisa Heidemann
 Athelia Knight
 Mario Oña
 Lionel Neptune
 Renate Brevard
 C. Rucker and D. Booth
 Galen Derry
 Tanya Loving
 Treyci Waters
 Charmieka Pinkney



Eastern 500 Club members **Mia Washington** and **Garrick Cornish** present a gift to **David Jones**, Public Relations, for his commitment to the club.



Vice President **Lionel Neptune**, Affiliates, congratulates and presents each graduating senior with a gold pin to be worn during their upcoming high school graduation ceremony.

PHOTOS - RUBEN RODRIGUEZ



Sam Diaz and Bill Webster, *News*, shred it up during a recent playful, but extremely serious competition of *Guitar Hero* in the fifth floor Business section conference room. The *Business Foursome* team took Metro's Fourth-Floor All-Stars in a grueling, guitar-dueling video game melee that had all the elements of the fiercest of rivalries including husband **Justin Rude** duking—er guitaring—it out with wife **Andrea Caumont**. Not that anyone is being a sore loser or anything, but a Metro source who spoke on condition of anonymity said, "We are resisting the temptation to cite *Business's* home court advantage."

ShopTalk Moving from Thursdays to Fridays

ShopTalk will now be published and distributed on **Fridays** instead of Thursdays.

Recognize Your Employees or Colleagues in ShopTalk

ShopTalk can be a tool for any Post manager or supervisor to

highlight the achievements of an employee or a colleague. Please submit the name of anyone who has been promoted or achieved something important in their job or community. Send an email to shoptalk@washpost.com or onom@washpost.com. Include: person's name, department, job title and what they accomplished.

ISO Graduates

If you or a Post co-worker recently earned a degree or professional certificate, let ShopTalk know by emailing: shoptalk@washpost.com or onom@washpost.com.

New Benefit for Post Newspaper Employees: Electronic Edition Available At No Cost

Newspaper employees will have free access to the electronic edition of The Post, which is distributed by NewspaperDirect.

A few weeks ago you should have received an e-mail

with a link to the front page of our most recent electronic issue. To login, enter your Post e-mail and temporary password: welcome1.

Contact NewspaperDirect customer support at thewashingtonpost@newspaperdirect.com with any questions.

PostPoints Employee Giveaway (Deadline TODAY!)

Win 10,000 PostPoints and a VIP giveaway. Visit *Intraned* or **Candy Lee's** office on 7th floor for details and entry forms. Deadline: **Today, June 8.**

Events Calendar

June 9: *Freddie Mac's Hoops for the Homeless**

June 15, 22 and 29: Weekend's Weekends Summer Concert Series

June 26: *American Red Cross Blood Drive at The Post**

For more information and additional events visit *Intraned*.



* denotes PostPoints earning event (usually 25 points for participation)

Marketplace

FOR SALE: New condo for sale at corner of V Street and 11th Street near the popular U Street corridor. It is a 1040-sq. ft., 1-bedroom and 1.5-bath, boutique-style condo with a den in a building with only 45 units designed by famous architect Suman Sorg and about 2 blocks from U Street Metro. The price of \$560,000 includes one parking space. Contact Ron Russell at x4-6431.

FOR SALE: Want to get free pizzas and help Rwandan widows restore their lives? Twenty "buy one, get one free" Papa John's pizza specials are available for only \$10 each. All proceeds will go towards a laptop to support Rwandan small business projects for the women of Inyakurama, Rwanda. Contact Stacey at x4-6675.

FOR SALE: Apple Select 360 Laser Printer and brand new toner cartridge, \$150 obo. Nordic Track, hardly used, \$150 obo. Computer Table on casters: 28"d, 33"w, 27"h, \$75. Contact Jessica at x4-5650 or 301-270-4714 (evening).

FOR SALE: Men's Kenneth Cole black dress shoes. Size 15—never worn. Paid \$145. Will sell for \$50.00. Contact Heniretta at x4-7089.

FOR SALE: Toshiba 20-in. diagonal standard TV with grey exterior. Excellent condition and seldom used! Front AV input accommodates camcorder, cable or gaming consoles. Also has rear AV connections. Great for small spaces or children! Only \$50 or best offer. Contact Derik at x4-5156.

FOR SALE: Vacation week in Villas at The Boardwalk. This is a beautiful ocean-front resort in Virginia Beach. Check-in on Saturday, Aug. 8 and check-out on Aug. 15. One bedroom, two sofas and kitchen; sleeps up to six people. Amenities include: indoor pool, Jacuzzi, gym and restaurant. Asking for \$650. Contact Trinh at x4-4021 (leave a message between 7-11 p.m.).

FOR RENT: Beach townhouse in Corolla (North Carolina's Outer Banks) for first week of June or last week in August. Three bedrooms, two baths. Deck/porch with Adirondack chairs and great ocean view. Newly-renovated and only two-minute walk to beach. Five minute stroll to new supermarket and shops. TV, wireless internet, etc. Bargain price. Here's the link: <http://www.sunrealtyinc.com/house/SLV-24> or contact Mike at x4-7346.

FOR SALE: Moving sale: Sleeper sofa in great condition only \$250 and comfortable reading chair only \$50. Dining room table with four matching chairs only \$100. Prices are negotiable. Contact Jennifer at 703-201-8106.

NEW MARKETPLACE DEADLINE: Noon THURSDAYS. Please include your name, extension and phone number. Ads are for Post employees only. Send ads to ShopTalk, seventh floor, or call x4-6803. To send ads via fax dial x4-4963 or to email send to shoptalk@washpost.com or onom@washpost.com. Ads run for two issues unless otherwise requested. One ad per employee. ShopTalk reserves the right to publish and edit all ads.