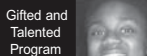


EDUCATION

Student perspective:

An intellectual lethargy among high school students



Gifted and Talented Program
By Brandon Hill
Eden Prairie High School

I have always been instructed to aim toward the sky and to accomplish the loftiest aspirations. I was taught early on

that education was essential to success and that it must be prioritized above any triviality. With this instilled in me, I rigorously pursue academics and seek stimulating intellectual activity regardless of the sentiment of my comrades. I see school as an opportunity for one's mind to open and seize its potential; a tail wind in which one may open his or her wings to take flight in mental fortification. I am a student at Eden Prairie High School, and I am involved in the Gifted and Talented Program.

I have made morbid observations about some of my fellow students' scholastic habits. Some of my peers have skewed interpretations of their duties and

I HAVE MADE MORBID OBSERVATIONS ABOUT SOME OF MY FELLOW STUDENTS' SCHOLASTIC HABITS.

responsibilities as scholars; the purpose of school, and the consequences of an early intellectual ineptitude in society

today. I have noticed among some students that the popularity of "being smart" is dwindling, while wallowing in silliness is rewarded with praise. I have seen that

academic challenge is vanishing, but teenage frivolity is flourishing. It seems as though one's social standing carries more

significance than one's grade-point average; that the party on Friday night contains more value than the examination on Monday morning.

In conclusion, I hope that we will soon correct this fatal problem. Proper education should always reign supreme, because, to be honest, it is impossible to major in Partying, or receive a PhD in MTV. We, as students, are obligated to aim toward high objects and to use wisely the four years we are allotted here. Intellectual lethargy among high school students must be exterminated. Remember, fun is tolerable, but prioritization is essential.

Brandon Richardson Hill is 15-years-old. He is the oldest of three children. Brandon has a sister 12-years-old, Taria Hill and a 10-year-old sister, Naya Hill. Brandon is the proud son of Leon and Tori Hill of Eden Prairie, MN. He and his family are members of Pilgrim Baptist Church in St. Paul, MN.

U of M announces SEED Award winners

The Office for Equity and Diversity at the University of Minnesota has announced the recipients of the 2008 Scholarly Excellence in Equity and Diversity (SEED) awards to 11 undergraduate and two graduate students. The 13 students received their awards at the recent first annual University of Minnesota Equity and Diversity Breakfast.

This is the first year of the SEED Award program, which is designed to honor high-achieving diverse students at the University of Minnesota. SEED Award recipients must demonstrate impressive academic achievement and leadership in community outreach and activism, in addition to a deep understanding of and commitment to issues of equity, diversity and social justice. The recipients' awards range from \$1,000 to \$2,500.

"We created the SEED Award program to honor the achievements of outstanding diverse students with a wide range of backgrounds, identities, interests, and accomplishments," said Nancy "Rusty" Barceló, the university's vice president and vice provost for equity and diversity. "This year's recipients are a truly outstanding group, both in their academic strength and their collective passion for community service and social justice," Barceló added.

"The applicant pool for this year's SEED awards was very strong," said SEED selection committee chair Karl Lorenz, who is the Director of Diversity Programs for the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences.

THIS YEAR'S SEED AFRICAN AMERICAN SCHOLARS ARE:

Graduate school scholar:
Trecia Pottinger is a Ph.D. candidate in American studies and holds a 2008-09 Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship. Her thesis topic is "Rethinking Race, Class, and Space on Philadelphia's Main Line: Black Suburbanization in Ardmore, PA." Her research focus includes U.S. urban and suburban history, city and regional planning history, and the dynamics of race, class, and immigration in U.S. metropolitan areas.

Undergraduate Scholars:
Dionne Dillard is a junior majoring in political science and African American and African studies in the College of Liberal Arts, where her studies merge political science with issues of race, social structures, equity, and diversity. She participates in both the Multicultural Civic Engagement Program and Martin Luther King Jr. program, and also works for the Urban League, where she is the head of a program on cultural awareness in the community and helped to create a charter school. Her career aspiration is to become an attorney.

Angela Haeny is a junior majoring in psychology in the College of Liberal Arts. Her academic work is focused on clinical psychology, with additional focus in addiction studies and youth studies. Haeny is very involved in the local community by being a Waite House activity leader where she helps diverse Minneapolis youth understand the importance of education and service work. She also coordinates a youth leadership class at an alternative school and volunteers at Healing House, a domestic inpatient treatment



U of M SEED Scholars at the Diversity Breakfast. Front row: Eikoku Ikeno, Judith Chan, Angelina Nguyen, Anh Tran Second row: Aeleah Soine, Jasmine Omorogbe, Sarah Choy Third row: Dionne Dillard, Daniel Martig, Jesus Estrada-Perez Back row: Desiree Abu-Odeh, Angela Haeny. Not pictured: Trecia Pottinger.

Photo: Tim Runnelhoff

center in Minneapolis.

Jasmine Omorogbe is a junior in the University Honors Program majoring in communication studies in the College of Liberal Arts. She is a Student Ambassador for both the Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence and CLA. Omorogbe is vice president of Voices Merging, a student organization dedicated to the art of spoken word and promoting the urban arts in the Twin Cities. She has performed and taught workshops throughout Minnesota, inspiring youth and adults to express themselves through written and performance art.

United Negro College Fund partners with American Legacy Magazine

NEW YORK, NY—American Legacy Magazine, the premier source for African American history and culture, announced last week that its Spring 2009 issue will feature a special advertising section highlighting UNCF—the United Negro College Fund—the nation's largest and most effective minority education organization. UNCF will celebrate its 65th anniversary in 2009, and a portion of the advertising proceeds from the special section will benefit the 60,000 students who attend UNCF's 39 member private historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and receive UNCF scholarships.

"American Legacy Magazine is honored to partner with UNCF for this special advertising section," said Rodney J. Reynolds, founder and publisher, American Legacy Magazine. "With college funding cuts a looming threat during this economic crisis, our HBCUs are bracing for the worst. However, this is a creative way for our existing and potential advertisers to support higher education."

American Legacy and UNCF encourage companies to support UNCF by advertising in the Spring issue of American Legacy Magazine. UNCF provides operating funds for its member colleges, making it possible for these small institutions to offer their students 21st century academic programs while keeping

their tuitions far below the average of other private colleges.

UNCF is also the nation's largest private provider of minority college scholarships, awarding scholarships to more than 8,000 students each year under more than 400 scholarship programs.

"UNCF is pleased to partner with American Legacy Magazine as we celebrate our 65th Anniversary," said UNCF president and CEO Michael L. Lomax, Ph.D. "UNCF is building on its historic past to meet the needs of the students of today who are the leaders of tomorrow. This partnership with American Legacy Magazine is a great opportunity to let a national audience know where we came from, and where we're headed."

American Legacy Magazine is distributed nationwide to over 2 million readers through Black churches, educational and cultural institutions. Celebrating its 14th year, American Legacy Magazine is available on newsstands and through paid subscriptions; American Legacy is a joint venture between RJR Communications Inc. and Forbes Inc.

UNCF's mission is to increase minority degree attainment by providing financial support to its 39 member institutions, reducing financial barriers to college and serving as a national advocate for minority education.



Photo: NMPA
Rodney J. Reynolds, founder and publisher, American

UNCF institutions and other historically Black colleges and universities know where we came from, and where we're headed." UNCF administrators more than 400 programs, including scholarship, internship and fellowship, mentoring, summer enrichment, and curriculum and faculty development programs. Today, UNCF supports more than 60,000 students at over 900 colleges and universities across the country. UNCF's recently redesigned logo and brand identity feature UNCF's torch of leadership in education and its widely recognized motto, "A mind is a terrible thing to waste."

Learn more at www.UNCF.org.

Direction for life.

Nick Gigliotti '10, Physical Therapy major
Virginia, Minnesota

Open House Program in Duluth
Sunday, Feb. 1 12:30 - 4 p.m.
(optional overnight program)

Contact the Admissions Office
800-249-6412
E-mail: admissions@css.edu
Register online at www.css.edu/visit.xml

The College of St. Scholastica
Learning to Touch the World
1200 Kenwood Ave., Duluth
admissions.css.edu
An equal opportunity educator and employer.