

# E-CONNECTED TO SERVICE

## Where Are They Now?

### Tracking the Current Activities of Maryland's Past Service-Learning Leaders

#### *Amber Coffman - Class of 2000, Tree of Life Christian Academy*

Many Maryland service-learning advocates remember Amber Coffman from her days as a student in Anne Arundel County. Amber found her reason for being when she began her service to the homeless at Sarah's House Homeless Shelter - as an eight year old girl! Inspired by the work of Mother Teresa, Amber formed "Happy Helpers for the Homeless" at the age of ten. The mission of this organization is to bring love and necessities directly to the men, women, and children on the streets.



My how they've grown... Amber is now a junior at Pepperdine University in California and "Happy Helpers" is in its 11<sup>th</sup> year, growing by leaps and bounds under the careful watch of Amber's mother, Bobbi. During the past years Amber has served more than 50 different charitable causes, traveled the country for more than 200 speaking engagements, and been featured in two textbooks and six books. This spring she received the greatest honor of her life when she was appointed to the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation. During the next two years, Amber will promote the President's Volunteer Service Awards and encourage American's to serve both their neighbors and their nation. Upon completion of her presidential appointment, Amber plans to enter the Peace Corps where she will continue her service to humanity.

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"Where Are They Now?" is a new feature of *Connected*. We will regularly highlight students, teachers, parents, and other past service-learning enthusiasts who have gone on to do great things as they continue to serve.

Please contact Kim Bellinger at 410-767-0358 or via email at [kbellinger@msde.state.md.us](mailto:kbellinger@msde.state.md.us) to suggest a subject for a future issue.



# Spreading Quality Service-Learning Around the State - and Beyond

## Quality Reviews

MSSA's Regional and Program Coordinators have been busy visiting schools around the state to learn about the strengths and challenges of service-learning implementation as part of our annual Quality Review process. This year, MSSA piloted three rubrics as part of the Quality Review process. The rubrics are tailored for the school district, school building, and classroom levels. All rubrics are in a draft form this year.

The goal of the Quality Review visits is to strengthen service-learning programs around the state by learning what works well and sharing those strategies with other schools and school systems. MSSA is very appreciative of the time that Maryland educators devote to strengthening service-learning in their schools and school systems and their willingness to share their own best practices with colleagues.

A copy of the draft classroom level rubric, *Assessing the Use of the Seven Best Practices of Service-Learning*, is attached to this newsletter. It is a helpful tool for educators to use to conduct self-assessments of their own service-learning practices.

## Voluntary Statewide Curriculum

Although we are now part of the Division of Student and School Services, MSSA continues to work closely with other offices in the Division of Instruction at MSDE. MSSA staff recently helped develop the new "Voluntary State Social Studies Curriculum." Additionally, about one-third of all LEA service-learning coordinators are the directors of Social Studies in their districts. Those Social Studies and Service-Learning Specialists worked hard on the curriculum project. The document will be presented to the State Board of Education this summer.



## National Youth Leadership Conference (NYLC)

This year's national service-learning conference in Minneapolis, MN was outstanding. Many districts from Maryland were represented. Maryland service-learning leaders presented several workshops including:

- "Building Community, Higher Education, and Community Partnerships" Luke Frazier (MSSA), Marian Finney (Baltimore City Public School System), Jinny Howard (Volunteer Central), and Adam Schneider (Student Sharing Coalition).
- "Making Learning Meaningful: Parallels Between Gifted and Talented Education, Service-Learning, and Brain-Based Research" Teresa Berry (Dorchester County) and Madeline Yates (MSSA).
- "Service-Learning as a Curricular Strategy to Increase Student Achievement" - Margaret Lee and Stacey Sisler (both of Frederick County)
- "Smart Growth: Connecting Service-Learning and Environmental Education" - Frank Tippet (Carroll County) and Madeline Yates (MSSA)
- Youth Nurturing Acceptance While Fostering Community Partnerships" - Matthew Lerner, Kelly Subramann, Christina Why, Celia Gotzl, Ramya Ambikapathi (all of Frederick County Service-Learning Advisory Board)

To find out about the 15th Annual Service-Learning Conference in Orlando, Florida on March 28-31, 2004, go to the NYLC website at [www.nylc.org](http://www.nylc.org) and consider submitting a proposal to present!

## Connecting Service-Learning and Cross-Cultural/Diversity Appreciation

Around the state, K-12 schools are using service-learning to enhance cross-cultural/diversity appreciation by developing service-learning projects with an international/cross-cultural focus. If you are interested in partnering with a school from another country or contacting a Maryland school that is already involved in high quality international service-learning projects, please contact Madeline Yates. If you know of an elementary, middle, or high school with strong international projects and programs, please let us know! We are looking for great models!

# Recognizing Maryland's Service-Learning Leaders

*Congratulations!*

## Fellows Retreat - Principal of the Year Winner Announced

MSSA and MSDE honored Mr. Jack Wilson, principal of Pine Grove Middle School in Baltimore County, as "Service-Learning Principal of the Year" during a special ceremony held at the 11th Annual Fellows Retreat on May 28th at the Pikesville Hilton Hotel in Baltimore County. Mr. Wilson attributes his success and this honor as the result of numerous staff members who share his belief about student service-learning and have consistently surpassed expectations to engage their students in high quality learning experiences.

MSSA/MSDE also recognized six more principals who were nominated by their district's coordinator. They are:

- **Deborah Bittinger** Allegany County Center for Career & Technical Education, *Allegany County*
- **Katherine Engel** Carroll County Career & Technology Center, *Carroll County*
- **Denise Fargo-Devine** Frederick High School, *Frederick County*
- **James Fernandez** Julius West Middle School, *Montgomery County*
- **Darlene Lyles** Fairmount-Harford High School, *Baltimore City*
- **Larry Martin** Westlake High School, *Charles County*



## Service Star Awards Held

The Seventh Annual Service Stars Celebration was held on Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at the Phillips Annapolis Harbor Restaurant in Annapolis. More than one hundred students and their guests were on hand for the reception to honor this year's 44 Service Star Award recipients. The afternoon began with musical entertainment from harpist Jamie Famula, a senior at Severna Park High in Anne Arundel County and recent winner of the Baltimore Symphony Young Soloist Competition. During the program we heard from Katie Warner, a senior at C. Milton Wright High in Harford County and Service Star Award recipient from 2002, who encouraged students to shine as service leaders in their communities as they promote service among their peers. Susan Falcone, a teacher at Baltimore County's Perry Hall High and Service-Learning Fellow from the Class of 1994, spoke of the effects she has seen service-learning have on students and commended all of the recipients for this honor. After distributing the awards to the students, Luke Frazier, MSSA's Executive Director, shared some inspirational thoughts and challenged the students to live a life filled with service.

This year's Service Stars Award recipients are:

- *Allegany County*: **Miranda Leighty**, Beall High and **Denise Meade**, Fort Hill High
- *Anne Arundel County*: **Amy Bunch**, South River High and **Keith Greenway**, Chesapeake High
- *Baltimore City*: **Shayla Hunter**, W.E.B DuBois High and **James Wilson**, Carver Vocational Technical High
- *Baltimore County*: **Sarah Bormel**, Carver Center for the Arts and Technology and **Rachel Freeland**, Pikesville High
- *Calvert County*: **Kela Harris**, Calvert High and **Steven Plater**, Northern High
- *Carroll County*: **Dinah Deibel**, Francis Scott Key High and **Jamie Ridgely**, North Carroll High
- *Cecil County*: **Brandon Griffith**, Rising Sun High and **Jeffrey Holter**, North East High
- *Charles County*: **Joshua Swann**, Maurice J. McDonough High
- *Dorchester County*: **LaShonda Dotson**, North Dorchester High and **Sara MacSorley**, Cambridge South Dorchester High
- *Frederick County*: **Ramya Ambikapathi**, Walkersville High and **Matthew Lerner**, Middletown High
- *Garrett County*: **Tina Opel**, Northern Garrett High and **Amanda Ray**, Southern Garrett High
- *Harford County*: **Emily Richardson**, North Harford High and **Mike Stern**, Havre de Grace High
- *Howard County*: **Theresa Karsner**, Glenelg High and **Salmah Rizvi**, Atholton High
- *Kent County*: **Cammay Gray**, Kent County High and **Nicholas Mann**, Kent County High
- *Montgomery County*: **Yusra Farooq**, Watkins Mill High and **Kristen Ion**, Gaithersburg High
- *Prince George's County*: **Shontise Clarke**, Largo High and **Althea Williams**, Parkdale High
- *Queen Anne's County*: **Greg Whitby**, Queen Anne's High and **Mary Wilson**, Queen Anne's High
- *St. Mary's County*: **Jonathan Pease**, Chopticon High and **Tiffenie Shircliffe**, Chopticon High
- *Somerset County*: **Jessica Grangier**, Washington High
- *Talbot County*: **Kristen Shaw**, St. Michael's High and **Edward Stratton**, Easton High
- *Washington County*: **Sarah Dicarolo**, Boonsboro High and **Jennifer Miller**, Hancock Middle-Senior High
- *Wicomico County*: **Kelly Adkins**, Mardela Middle-High and **Alicia Joynes**, Wicomico High
- *Worcester County*: **Stephanie Nicewarner**, Stephen Decatur High and **William Shockley**, Pocomoke High

MSSA again congratulates each of these outstanding students!

**Maryland Student Service Alliance**

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The Maryland Student Service Alliance is now sending the "Connected" newsletter via email. If you know of anyone who would like to receive our electronic newsletter please send their email address to Kim Bellinger.

If you would like your name removed from our mailing list please contact Kim Bellinger.

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## Assessing the Use of the Seven Best Practices of Service-Learning – *Pilot Tool*

School System:

School:

Date:

Visited by:

Course (grade, subject):

Teacher:

Score	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>1. Meets a recognized community need (in areas of health, education, environment and/or public safety)</b>                      A – No need identified                      B – Need identified but its relevance to community is not explored in depth                      C – Need and its relevance are clearly identified and focused upon throughout the project                      D – Recognized need identified through research or a needs assessment</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>2. Achieve curricular objectives through service-learning</b>                      A – No link between curricular objectives and the project                      B – Implied link made to curricular objectives, but not intentionally developed                      C – Demonstrable link made to curricular objectives                      D – Many demonstrable links made to curricular objectives, state standards, core learning goals, and other education reform initiatives</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>3. Reflect throughout the service-learning experience</b>                      A – No reflection evident                      B – Brief reflection evident at conclusion of project                      C – Reflection completed periodically throughout the project addressing root causes of issues                      D – Reflection completed throughout the project addressing various learning styles and exploring causes of need, project impact, and personal and academic growth</p>

<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>4. Develop student responsibility</b>  A – No student responsibility evident  B – Students given some choice in project development  C – Students share responsibility with educator for project development and implementation  D – Students responsible for project creation, organization, and implementation</p>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>5. Establish community partnerships</b>  A – No community partnership made  B – Limited contact with community partner(s) for information and resources  C – Students interact/meet with community partner(s) (e.g. CBO presents to class)  D – Students and community partner(s) collaborate as an action team on project</p>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>6. Plan ahead for service-learning</b>  A – No planning evident  B – Minimal planning evident  C – Adequate planning evident to meet the community need and curricular goals  D – Extensive planning evident to focus the service-learning project on meeting the need and curricular goals (e.g. multidisciplinary initiatives, multiple partners, and school-wide awareness and support of project)</p>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>7. Equip students with knowledge and skills needed for service</b>  A – No attempt made to equip students with knowledge and skills  B – Minimal knowledge/skills provided about the community need and its cause  C – Knowledge/skills provided about the community need, causes, and about civic engagement  D – Students equipped with demonstrable knowledge/skills about the community need, causes, and about active civic engagement</p>	

**Scoring Rubric:**

- A score of B, C, or D on each Best Practice means a project is considered service-learning.
- A quality service-learning project is indicated by a score of C or D on each Best Practice.

- Document based on a rubric developed by S. Falcone as part of the MSSA Training Study Circle Group.