

ENERGY FOR TEACHERS RAISES \$3 MILLION

Fund for Teachers hosted a recognition dinner Jan. 13 to honor and celebrate the Houston-based campaign Energy for Teachers' \$3 million contribution to the foundation's overall \$50 million fundraising efforts.

The evening of dinner, dancing and entertainment applauded the campaign's success.

Energy for Teachers, a group of Houston's energy giants, was headed by Leticia and Stephen Trauber, global head of the Energy Investment Banking Group at UBS Investment Bank and Apache Corporation's Steven Farris.

"This was a great collaboration with the entire business community," said Trauber.

Houston Mayor Bill White said, "This energy business has a lot of people with big hearts and open wallets."

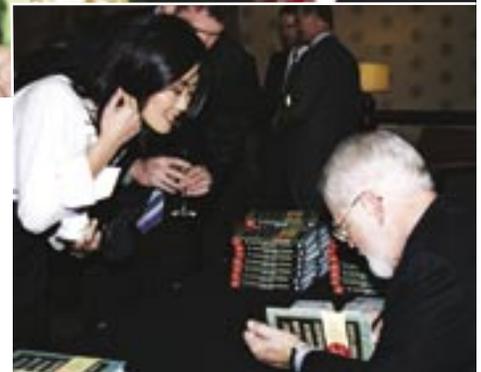
Guests were entertained by a troupe of roaming clowns from the Circus Arts program at Burrus Elementary School. Their teacher, Lynne Bennett, is a former Fund for Teachers fellow and enjoyed showing off the results of her summer sabbatical.

The after-dinner speaker was Robert Fulghum, author of *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*.

Each of the more than 300 guests received autographed copies of his book through the generosity of RBC Capital Markets.



Raymond Plank, above left, Fund for Teachers founder, visits with Linda and Jeffrey Stephens at the Fund for Teachers Recognition Dinner. The celebration honored energy partners who funded \$3 million for this year's campaign efforts. Guest speaker Robert Fulghum, right, autographs his book for Yini Sheng.



DISCOVER WHAT INSPIRATION CAN ACCOMPLISH

Bennett teaches students art of 'clowning around'

Even after locating her intended destination at the University of Wisconsin, Lynne Bennett couldn't believe anyone would give her money to attend clown school.

"I turned in my application, but in the back of my mind, I thought, 'now, really, who would ever give me money to go to clown school?'" she notes.

However, that wish was granted and the Burrus Elementary teacher found

herself immersed in one of the world's top schools for clowning. Today she teaches the art of magic tricks, creating balloon sculptures, constructing parade props and designing clown characters with various make-up applications to children in the after-school Circus Arts program.

Her enthusiasm was rejuvenated and it was contagious. She has watched as shy students have blossomed into performers, behavior problems have vanished and

creativity and imagination have grown in every aspects of the students' lives.

"As an educator, it is my belief that all children can reach their potential if you find the avenue to spark their interest," she said.

I tell my students that you learn to juggle one drop at a time. We all have our challenges, but if you are willing to work hard, and not give up when things

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FUND FOR TEACHERS

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OUR MISSION

Fund for Teachers is a unique foundation whose mission is to enrich the lives of schoolteachers and students by providing recognition and opportunities for renewal to outstanding teachers. Making a difference one teacher at a time, Fund for Teachers awards grants directly to teachers to support professional development opportunities of their own design.

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New Visions for Public Schools
The Public Education & Business Coalition
The Blake School
The Saint Paul Foundation
Tulsa Community Foundation
The Maynard Education Foundation

from the executive director...

Odyssey promotes the journey

Welcome to *Odyssey*, the new Fund for Teachers quarterly publication.

The name was chosen for many reasons. Webster defines odyssey as an intellectual or spiritual wondering or quest. Homer portrayed Odysseus as a skilled warrior and leader of outstanding wisdom, eloquence, resourcefulness, courage and endurance. That sounds like a teacher to us.

Research confirms that teachers are the single most important factor in raising a student's achievement level. American classrooms are filled with children from diverse backgrounds and cultural experiences. Motivated, enthusiastic teachers are the key to maximizing each child's potential.

Most teachers' personal incomes do not afford opportunities for personal and professional development. We want unlimited learning access for our students. We need to encourage teachers, informed and empowered learners, who are committed to making that happen.

Fund for Teachers permits teachers to continue personal learning, recharge their enthusiasm and return to their crucial classroom roles with freshened perspective and broadened experience.

Innovative thinking produces expanded pledge from Halliburton

Halliburton is one of the first companies to come up with an extraordinarily creative method of donating to Fund for Teachers. They provided for auction a \$300,000 credit for oilfield services. That credit could be redeemed by the highest bidder for any oilfield services Halliburton provides.

They invited oilfield clients to join in the effort by offering them the opportunity to bid on the services through a closed bid process.

Anadarko Petroleum Corporation won the bid process, which generated a \$401,500 donation to the Energy for Teachers campaign.

John Gibson, former Halliburton CEO, was the brainchild. He wanted to do something more than hand over a traditional check in the fundraising effort.

Fund for Teachers develops meaningful partnerships within the community to collectively share in the responsibility of our children's education. Corporate sponsors, inspired individuals, local administrative partners and teachers join together to accomplish our mission.



Karen Kovach-Webb
Executive Director

In this issue, learn about Lynn Bennett and her clowns, discover how

Halliburton put a spin on raising endowment funds and see how creatively Boston Plan for Excellence introduced Fund for Teachers grant recipients to their city.

We promote Raymond Plank's belief that by looking into a classroom, we can see the future.

Join me in sustaining this partnership that develops and enhances the future. Your feedback and support is vital. Call or e-mail me with ideas or suggestions.

In the right environment anything is possible. The journey continues.

Bringing the World into the Classroom



CINDY & BILL PARROTT

'I saw some of the most amazing sights and met some of the most interesting people. My experiences greatly benefit my students and revived a sense of what I do each day.'

Catherine Davis
FFT Fellow

Fund for Teachers and its Administrative Partners offer their appreciation to the scores of volunteers who give generously of their time to serve in a variety of capacities — especially the selection committees.

Fund for Teachers offered the opportunity for teachers to apply within 29 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, in 105 cities and 2,385 schools.



LUCY MONTGOMERY

BERIT BOWMAN
JANE OOGA



KATHY RAD



MARY WHITE



CHRISTY HARMON

'I am juiced and it's contagious!'

Harriet Worrell
FFT Fellow

An estimated 83,591 eligible teachers reach more than 1.2 million students.

'I have enormous respect for the work teachers do and have wanted to find a way to recognize it. Fund for Teachers does just that while extending knowledge and encouraging talents. What an inspiration. Thank you for introducing me to it.'

Martin Gordon
Merlin Ranch President



JUDITH IDE



LINDA BECKHAM

Fund for Teachers received 750 applications from individuals and teams throughout the nation. They represented 1,087 teachers from 496 schools. Individual applicants totalled 558 and 192 teams were represented.



Clown camp provides lasting legacy for students

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get tough, the sky is the limit and you can realize your dreams."

She notes one student who went from a behavior adjustment classroom to having the self-esteem to perform for the Shriner's Circus with pride and enthusiasm.

Students from Bennett's program recently entertained guests at the Energy for Teachers recognition dinner.

Her journey of joy began with the Fund for Teachers application form. The rewards will last a lifetime.

Plank Fellowship awarded to fellow making a difference



'What we're looking for in society are those who can make a difference. But first, they've got to make a difference to themselves.'

Raymond Plank

The Raymond Plank Fellowship for Teaching Excellence award was officially unveiled in January.

Raymond Plank, Fund for Teachers founder, was awarded the first honor and will be followed in coming years by the Fund for Teachers fellow who most exemplifies the organization's goals.

Roger Plank, the founder's son, noted his father's ability to turn an "idea into an organization that makes a huge impact on people's lives."

Each year, a smaller version of the plaque will be presented to the teacher who creates the most exciting and meaningful opportunity with the grant. The winner's name will also be permanently inscribed on the larger plaque.

Three-week display at Boston's South Station provides glimpse into Fund for Teachers benefits, rewards

When you want to get your message out to the public in Boston, there's just no better place to go than the mass transit system.

And that's exactly what the Boston Plan for Excellence accomplished with some innovative thinking, exceptional planning and creative displays.

the 2004 Boston fellows was on display for three weeks. It is estimated that more than 210,500 commuters pass through the building daily.

That's a grand amount of exposure and opportunity for the public to learn more about how teachers are provided opportunities through Fund for

Teachers to gain exceptional first-hand knowledge that directly impacts the classrooms

and schools where they teach.

The displays drew the attention of those waiting for connections with buses, trains and trolleys operated by the nation's oldest and fourth largest transit system.



Boston's 2004 fellow displays welcomed commuters to the South Station lobby.



They filled the main waiting areas of the Boston Metropolitan Transit Authority's South Station with photographs, posters, letters and postcards from teachers who enjoyed and learned from summer sabbaticals funded by grants from Fund for Teachers.

The collage of materials collected from

A teacher inspires us to learn — Learning inspires us to dream — Dreams come true!

www.fundforteachers.org



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