



Rupert Murdoch, left, News Corporation CEO, Peter Boneparth, center, Jones Apparel Group CEO and Raymond Plank, Fund for Teachers founder, are shown May 8 in New York recognizing the combined donation of \$1.8 million to Fund for Teachers.

News Corporation, Jones Apparel donate \$1.8 million

News Corporation and Jones Apparel Group jointly announced a \$1.8 million grant to Fund for Teachers May 8 in New York.

News Corp pledged \$1.5 million to enable New York City teachers the opportunity to pursue self-designed professional development in Asian countries.

“We are proud to sponsor a program that prepares students to face the challenges and opportunities of a globally-connected world,” said Rupert Murdoch, chairman and CEO of News Corp.

See Grants, Page 6

Roberts named 2006 Plank award recipient

Matthew Roberts has been selected as the 2006 Raymond Plank Fellowship for Teaching Excellence winner.

Roberts teaches global history and geography at South Brooklyn Community High School. He traveled to China in 2005 for his summer professional development.



ROBERTS

The award was officially unveiled last year, as a tribute to Raymond Plank, Fund for Teachers founder.

Subsequent awards honor teachers who most exemplify the Fund for Teachers mission.

To learn more about Roberts’ fellowship, click on “About Us” at www.fundforteachers.

Halliburton’s Tourney Awards \$50,000



Dave Lesar, left, Halliburton chairman, president and CEO, presents a \$50,000 check to Fund for Teachers staff members, left to right, Perrin Worrell, Stephanie Ascherl and Jenny Hsu at the close of the May 12 Halliburton Golf Tournament. The event was emceed by Jim “Mattress Mac” MacIngvale, shown in the background.

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from the executive director...

Growing our mission

Fund for Teachers continues to grow our mission-driven program — the creation of purposeful opportunity and a structure to support teacher engagement in professional growth and lifelong learning.

This year, 585 teachers from 389 schools were awarded more than \$2 million in grants. They are traveling and studying in 61 countries on seven continents, with a common goal — complex, rigorous and integrated project-based learning. Classrooms across the country will be transformed.

Building a globally-reaching program requires support. Working with our administrative partners, we have been able to share and institutionalize best practices. Summer plans include the annual Partners Retreat and Planning Session in August. It is our own professional development opportunity.



KAREN KOVACH WEBB
Executive Director

Thomas Payzant has led Boston Public Schools, a district nationally recognized as a model for urban education reform, for the past 11 years. This summer, he retires. His enthusiastic support of Fund for Teachers has led the community to embrace us.

Our partnership with Boston Public Schools and the Boston Plan for Excellence, to date, has allowed 184 teachers from 103 schools to receive more than \$591,000 in grants. We're pleased to be part of the Payzant legacy, and wish him the best.

The foresight and generosity of donors make teachers' dreams and aspirations become reality. In this issue we shine the spotlight on a few stars.

Rupert Murdoch believes in the need for children to face the challenges and opportunities of a globally-connected world. Read about the newly-established News Corp Asian Grant Program, started with his \$1.5 million contribution.

Our partnership with Jones Apparel Group and CEO Peter Boneparth's interest in the region, prompted him to make an additional donation to fund curriculum material development for the Asian program.

It wasn't quite summer yet, but on a balmy evening in May, Cynthia and Tony Petrello opened their Houston garden to more than 300 supporters. Eugene Isenberg was the man of the evening. His challenge of \$500,000 resulted in more than \$2 million raised. It sends an encouraging message to teachers that their goals are not just dreams.

Fund for Teachers' momentum has never been stronger. With your continued support, we can realize our mission of inspiring teachers through the potential of their personal and professional learning, to foster better teaching and turn that promise into practice.



JONES NEW YORK
IN THE CLASSROOM

*Fund for Teachers is proud to be partnered with
Jones New York in the Classroom.*

The Pure Life: Costa Rican Style

“Hola, Jess,” exclaimed Rob Cho as I arrived in the Costa Rican community of Monteverde, following a 3,000-mile plane trip and much slower 250-mile road trip.

What a bizarre sensation to be greeted by my colleague in a strange land.

We planned our trip and applied for a Fund for Teachers grant together. Due to differing schedules, Rob arrived in Costa Rica two weeks before me.

In that time, he had undergone a transformation. He was tranquil and relaxed, surrounded by new friends, and, he was speaking Spanish.



After arriving, there was only time for a quick hello before being whisked away to my first class.

During the next three weeks, I was also transformed to the same state of mind I had witnessed in my colleague.

Costa Ricans constantly use a phrase *Pura Vida*, which translates to “pure life.”

I was puzzled by this translation at first. What was the pure life? What had put that glow and smile on Rob’s face?

It didn’t take long to understand.

Nestled in the greenest mountains, life feels different than in big cities. Constantly surrounded by spectacular nature, you feel different.

My Tica family shared a warmth that made their home cozy and inviting. I spent many nights sharing stories, feeling more like old friends than house-guest and hosts.



Jessica Penchos and Rob Cho teach at Timilty Middle School in Boston.

The community of Monteverde welcomed me graciously as well.

A special treat was an annual week-long festival. An entire community celebrating was magical. Children were bursting with excitement over the two small rides set up on the main square and the magician who performed.

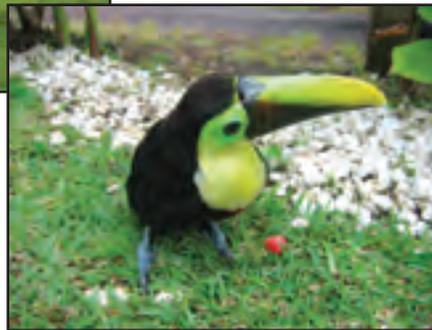
In Costa Rica, I learned Spanish, studied the rainforests, hiked to the Continental Divide, photographed countless species, watched a volcano erupt at night, snorkeled in the Pacific Ocean and bonded with an entire community and way of living.

I have traveled before, but never with a purpose of such magnitude — to absorb as much information and experience as much as possible to share with my students.

This past year, Costa Rica has often been discussed in my classroom. I use pictures and stories with lessons. My inner-city eighth graders ask questions about Costa Rican life and about the rainforests.

It pleases me to know I am an extension whereby they realize that places like this exist and are accessible.

I also gained a new sense of what life



is like in a Latin American country, from where many of my students’ families have come.

Fund for Teachers made it financially possible for Rob and me to take this trip, and they also gave me a new outlook on exploring the world and sharing it with my community.

As Rob and I have passed each other in the hallway this year and seen the familiar look of stress on the other’s face, “Pura Vida” is all we say to make the other smile and remember how pure life can be.

Petrellos Host Gala

Mix an elegant garden transformed into five continents, the gracious hosting of Cynthia and Anthony Petrello, 300 generous guests, fabulous fare and exuberant entertainment by Chaka Khan, and what do you have?

An Evening Garden Party benefitting the 2006 Fund for Teachers campaign to the tune of more than \$2 million. This year's crusade was headed by Robert Peebler, president and CEO of Input/Output.

"He has volunteered tirelessly this year," said FFT Executive Director Karen Kovach Webb. "Without his leadership, we would never have enjoyed such success."

Eugene Isenberg, Nabors Industries chairman and CEO, kicked off the fund-raising with a \$500,000 donation. His challenge was met by a multitude of individuals and businesses from the greater Houston area.

A live auction netted more than \$285,000, with magnanimous guests winning and returning the prizes to be auctioned again.

"Teachers are probably the most integral part of society in terms of helping us build a better future," said Anthony Petrello, "and my wife and I were pleased to host the event."



Guest of honor Eugene Isenberg, left, and his wife Ronnie are greeted by gala hosts Cynthia and Anthony Petrello.





Welcome New Partners

Fund for Teachers welcomes the addition of two new administrative partners, Wilmington Education Foundation and Achieve! Minneapolis.

Follow a Fellow

Don't wait until fall to hear about our fellows' journeys. Several online journals are featured at www.fundforteachers.org. Follow daily encounters as they travel around the world to enrich themselves personally and professionally.



Project Descriptions

For a complete list of project descriptions, visit www.fundforteachers.org and click on "Fellows."

Makeovers Continue

Our partnership with Jones New York In The Classroom continues with teacher wardrobe and classroom makeovers. Nominate your favorite teacher from Northern California, the New York Metro area, Atlanta, Chicago, Minneapolis or St. Paul to go back to school in style at www.jnyintheclassroom.com.

Aeros Recognition

Fund for Teachers and Houston area teachers were recognized at an Aeros ice hockey game against the Peoria River Men April 1. Ken Double, KNTH-AM 1070 announcer, is shown interviewing Fund for Teacher staffer Perrin Worrell during the game. It was a great way to help raise Fund for Teacher awareness.



Teeing off for teachers

Everyone wins as golfers tee off Aug. 14 at the Trump National Golf Club in New Jersey at the Jones Apparel Group Charity Golf Classic. Fund for Teachers is one of the charities benefiting from tournament proceeds.



photo courtesy of joann dost

Grants provide opportunities

Continued from Page 1

"We picked Asia because it has never been more important on the world stage," continued Murdoch. "It is crucial that we educate our teachers and students on the cultures and languages of the region."

The News Corp Asian Grant Program is managed by New Visions for Public Schools, Fund for Teachers' New York area administrative partner.

initiative," explains Peter Boneparth, CEO of Jones Apparel Group.

"Anything we can do to help our teachers introduce innovation in the classroom is valuable, and the Asia program is a part of that."

In 2005, 36 teachers traveled to Asia. This summer 40 teachers are traveling to countries such as China, India, Thailand, Vietnam and Japan.

Raymond Plank, Fund for Teachers' founder, hopes fellows

This summer 40 teachers are traveling to countries such as China, India, Thailand, Vietnam and Japan.

Additionally, Jones New York In The Classroom pledged \$300,000 to enhance summer sabbaticals of fellows traveling to Asia.

Funds will be used to develop materials that aid grant recipients in transferring their newfound knowledge of Asia to American students.

"The Asian Grant Program dovetails nicely with the Jones New York In The Classroom ini-

return with a broader understanding of Asia, and act as a bridge between the two cultures.

"The world is a much smaller place than it once was," notes Plank, "and our children need to have a more global perspective, particularly with regard to Asia as a global leader in commerce.

"Children need to understand and embrace the global environment to survive as adults."

Meeting the children and teachers in Thailand and Cambodia will have a lifelong impact on my career as an educator and social advocate. I am dedicated to the education of children, in my classroom and globally. I want my students to know they are not too young to make a difference.

Claire-Michelle Tesh
Washington, D.C.



This grant is a jewel for educators, for it provides us with the opportunity to grow. I am very excited about spending most of my summer in France—absorbing its culture, the language I teach and meeting other educators to improve my teaching strategies.

Desire Adomou
Los Angeles



Fund for Teachers awarded more than \$2 million to 585 teachers who represent 389 schools across the United States. These teachers are traveling to 61 countries this summer.

AREAS OF STUDY

Language/Cultural Immersion	23%
Science	17%
History/Social Studies	15%
Advanced Education/Leadership	14%
Visual/Performing Arts	11%
Literature/Writing	6%
Literacy	5%
Math	4%
Other	3%
Kinesiology	1%

AREAS OF TRAVEL

North America	51%
Europe	24%
Africa	8%
Asia	7%
South America	6%
Australia	3%
One fellow travels to Antarctica.	

Every day when I walk into my classroom, I give my heart and soul to the youth who sit before me. As a humanities teacher, it is my responsibility to help young people see the lessons that history has to teach us. Venezuela is in the process of revolutionary changes and it is this living and unfolding history I wish to share with my students.

Trevor Gardner
Oakland



Are you one of the 2,911 visitors who read the latest Fund for Teachers news in May? Keep in touch at www.fundforteachers.org.

Your support makes a difference

Can you recall a teacher who made a lasting and positive impression on your life?

She might have encouraged you when you failed in a task, or he might have opened your mind to new ideas and dreams.

Now, through Fund for Teachers, you can say thanks to a teacher who is challenging, enriching and educating children around the nation.

For a tax-deductible contribution, you can provide recognition and an opportunity for renewal to an outstanding teacher.

Fund for Teachers awards grants to teachers supporting professional development opportunities of their own design.

The rewards go far beyond the teacher's experience. It impacts the world, one classroom at a time.

To provide your assistance, clip and mail the attached form with your payment, or simply visit our Web site at www.fundforteachers.org.



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

www.fundforteachers.org



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