

Student overcomes adversity, wins filmmaker award

Andre Woodberry, a former student at Boston Day and Evening Academy, gave voice to his community's homeless.

Woodberry, once homeless himself, produced a documentary film as his capstone project for his Senior Studies class.

Margie Samp, a 2006 Boston Fund for Teachers fellow, taught his class and served as editing consultant.

Woodberry submitted his film, *What It's Like to be Homeless*, to the 2007 Roxbury Film Festival, capturing the Best Youth Filmmaker award.

"He poured his heart and soul into his project," extolled Samp.

"I love watching students come to life as they tell their stories on film."

Samp received her FFT grant to study film production as an educational tool at New York's Digital Film Academy.

"The training I received on my fellowship was relevant to me, our school and students," said Samp.

Samp kept Woodberry focused on college despite his hardships, helping him with the application process and college visits.

Woodberry was selected to receive a James Baldwin scholarship for tuition, room and board. In September, he began his freshman year at Hampshire College.



WOODBERRY

TEACHING THE TEACHERS

Fellow brings educational opportunities to Afghanistan's students, teachers

By Pamela Broussard

There are events that always stand as unforgettable points of our lives.

For me, it was the day I picked up a magazine and read of the Afghan girls risking their lives to attend clandestine schools.

throughout the country need teachers.

When applying for my Fund for Teachers fellowship, my hope was to train teachers so they could, in turn, train other teachers at local schools.

In Afghanistan, schools are run in shifts, often held in tattered tents or under the blazing sun with 80 to 90 students in each classroom.

Many schools don't have books, and the teaching supplies are limited to a worn chalkboard and a piece of chalk.

I met amazing teachers, including some who defied the Taliban and risked their lives to hold secret classes in their homes.



A peace quilt designed by American students was presented to Afghan students.



With tears rolling down my face, I thought, "If they want to learn that badly, let me be their teacher."

During Afghanistan's 30 years of conflict and political unrest, many of the educators have fled or been killed.

More than five million students

It was the teachers of these classes and schools who attended my training sessions. Although I taught them what I knew, they taught me so much more.

Here at home, I worked with art teachers at my school to expose our students

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from the executive director...

Growth, support provides expansion into nation's learning communities

We're thankful —

In its seventh year, Fund for Teachers continues growing and expanding its reach into learning communities across the country in order to make meaningful opportunities available to classroom teachers.

We are committed to strengthening teachers with first-hand, in-depth personal and professional development experiences that directly impact more students.

We continue building partnerships with donors, local education foundations and school administrations working together to foster innovation and diverse learning experiences in American classrooms.

We celebrate —

We celebrate the results of our cadre of teachers' commitment, evident in their schools and apparent in their students.

We highlight Andre Woodberry, a student who created an award-winning documentary with the assistance of his teacher Margie Samp, and the expertise she acquired during her fellowship.

We're pleased to share Kerrin Flanagan's profile. She used her FFT grant to fund her volunteer work with Global Solutions in Ghana. Her current students benefit from an enhanced curriculum, and are encouraged toward multicultural understanding while fostered in the appreciation of their own heritage.

We applaud FFT Fellow Pamela Broussard and her valiant work with Afghanistan's teachers. Her American students benefit from learning and sharing with neighbors across the world.

The peace quilt project, born in a Texas classroom, continues to grow.

We resolve to do more —

Our donors' committed support has honored more than 2,500 teachers as learners.

We resolve, with your help, to make it possible for additional teachers to develop their own talents so they can infuse students with vision and confidence.

We invite you to continue building the momentum.

There are thousands of dedicated teachers throughout our nation. With your help, we will continue nurturing their dreams, providing them opportunities to expand on their knowledge and expertise. We are changing education one teacher at a time, one classroom at a time and one community at a time.



OUR MISSION

Fund for Teachers enriches the personal and professional growth of teachers by recognizing and supporting them as they identify and pursue opportunities around the globe that will have the greatest impact on their practice, the academic lives of their students and on their school communities.

To learn more about FFT and our teachers, visit
www.fundforteachers.org

WHAT AFRICA TAUGHT A TEACHER

Kerrin Flanagan returns with a wealth of ideas for her K-1 class

By Stacy Teicher Khadaroo *Reprinted by permission of The Christian Science Monitor from the August 30, 2007 edition.*

Her students won't step into the classroom for another four weeks, but Kerrin Flanagan is here on a humid afternoon, padding around in flip-flops and contemplating how to make every corner welcoming. One moment she's on the floor filling bins with giant Legos, the next she's pawing through a box, thrilled to discover the small set of wind chimes she uses to get the children's attention.

Now in her ninth year as a teacher at the Patrick Lyndon School in Boston, Flanagan "loops" with her students — following them from kindergarten to first grade. This year she's starting with a new batch of 22 kindergartners.



"I like everything to be organized when the children come in ... and because I want the classroom to be their classroom, we decorate it together," she says in a soft voice that matches her petite frame.

The students create alphabet art and self-portraits for the walls, giving her a chance to get to know each one along the way.

"Children need to feel safe, cared for and heard before they can start learning anything academic. We start out at the very beginning with learning how to be a group, how to listen to each other, how to wait our turn, how to use crayons. I don't give them the rules when they come in. They figure out what they hope to learn

during the school year, what they hope to do. In kindergarten it's usually very simple — it might be I want to make a friend or I hope to paint. And from that, we figure out what our classroom needs to be like in order to achieve those hopes and dreams."

The types of rules that evolve are simple, too.

"We care about each other, we take care of the things in our class, we respect one another and we do our best work. And then, we practice them for a very long time," she says with a laugh.

Like many teachers, Flanagan didn't have much time for vacation this summer, but she did something even better.

She traveled to Ghana through a grant from Fund for Teachers, an education foundation in Houston.



Kerrin Flanagan stamps cloth with adinkra symbols in Ghana and leads classes during her summer fellowship.

For three weeks, she volunteered with a Global Solutions group in the town of Hohoe.

Both Ghana and Japan are part of Boston's first-grade curriculum, as a way to teach children how to compare and contrast.

It's always been easier for teachers to find materials related to Japan, Flanagan says. Now she spreads out the treasure trove of objects from Ghana that she'll incorporate into a curriculum kit for her students and fellow K-1 teachers — wood carvings, musical instruments, colorful strips of kente cloth.

"We've had pictures of people weaving kente cloth, but having the actual kente cloth itself is really important," she says. She tried weaving it when she was there.

In June, when her first-grade class knew she would be visiting Africa, they were "so much more excited about learning about Ghana than children had ever been in the past. They were drawing on everything else we had learned about, [saying,] 'Oh, Ghana's near the equator, you're going to need to bring lots of sunscreen!'"

She also brought back her experience of teaching mentally challenged students in a school in Ghana with hardly any resources.

"I had to be really flexible. I was able to draw on a lot of strengths as a teacher that I didn't necessarily know I had. It makes me feel very different about coming back to school," she says, gazing around at the shelves she's stocking with books and toys.

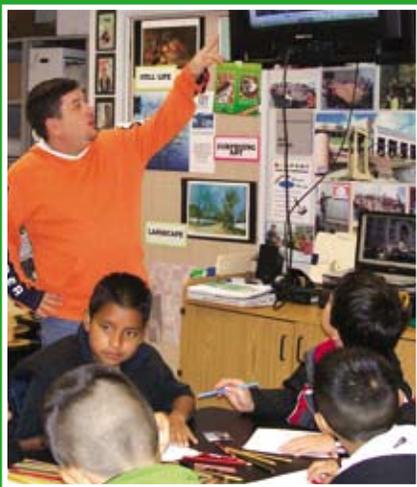
"I realize how much I have here in this classroom."

Do you know a teacher looking for inspiration? Fund for Teachers applications now being accepted for 2008.

www.fundforteachers.org



Anne Ward — Atlanta
I stopped being a teacher merely observing and became a student inspired to learn. I finally fully realized the impact I have on my own students and how important it is. I left for Europe knowing I would return with knowledge, inspiration and experiences. What I didn't expect was the life changing, self validation.



Michael Bourquin — Houston
Since returning from Italy, my teaching has been enriched immensely. My lesson plans are overflowing with content and passion. We have explored art, science and literacy in exciting ways that only a fellowship such as this one could provide.



**Culum Walsh
Denver**
Attending the 14th International Learning Conference in South Africa helped me learn more about teaching literature from a perspective of social justice. I learned that the teacher must be a model in order to inspire students. This was fascinating because I have always considered teaching a calling, so it makes perfect sense that my personal values would become part of my students' classroom experience, and vice versa.

Ashlee George — Oakland
This trip was about transformation. Our team traveled to Venezuela to create a study abroad program for urban teens to allow for educational transformation. We searched for locations to enrich their lives and academic success. Our experience will not end with us. It provides an opportunity for youth to traverse throughout Venezuela just as we did. We paved the way so others may follow.



Matt Edinger — Richmond
The experience of mapping a field, digging in a test pit, unearthing, cleaning and analyzing British-Romano pottery was memorable and priceless. Holding a piece of pottery used in a civilization some 2000 years ago became tangible history. Now I get to put my students through the same learning, wonderment and excitement in our own Schoolyard Archaeology Unit.



Think globally, act locally

Oklahoma fellows Lynn Tilley, Belinda Christ, Rebecca Gilley and Cindy Scarberry joined keynote speaker Fund for Teachers Executive Director Karen Kovach-Webb in a panel discussion at the Oklahoma

Governor's International Education Conference on Nov. 3.

Gov. Brad Henry's goal is achieving an international state in support of economic development.



Get ready to lace up your running shoes and support Houston teachers.

Save the Date!

Saturday, Feb. 9, 2008
7 to 10 a.m.

Registration begins Nov. 30
www.fundforteachers.org



Afghan teachers, students receive handmade peace quilt

Continued From Page 1

to a world besides their own immediate surroundings.

Our students learned about Afghanistan and the education situation there.

They created a peace quilt as a gift from our school to theirs. The students each designed their own squares with images of peace.

The Afghan teachers were touched by the gift, and wanted to put their hands in the center of the quilt, symbolizing that we all want peace for our students, our children and our future.

Today, that quilt proudly hangs in the school's entrance and now, students and teachers there are working on a quilt to send to America.

People have asked what impact this trip makes here in the United States.

At the most basic level within my classroom, my students have a teacher who is fired up and inspired by the people she has met and the students she has taught over the summer.

While teaching others in a different land, I was able to note helpful ideas for immigrants in my new arrival center classes here in the States to make them better prepared, comfortable and successful.

Fund for Teachers gives educators the opportunity to choose the topic that keeps

them inspired and stretches them as learners.

It means much to be given respect as a professional, to be provided the opportunity

to voice what we need, to be handed the tools to get there and to have the actual experience. It is a phenomenal gift to teachers and the students they impact.



Classroom accommodations are primitive. Many teachers have only a chalkboard and piece of chalk with which to teach students.



THE ORIENT EXPRESS

\$1.3 MILLION RAISED BY 250 GUESTS AT ANNUAL HOUSTON EVENT

The grounds of Cynthia and Anthony Petrello's home were transformed into a romantic evening aboard the Orient Express Oct. 5. Guests enjoyed cuisine from Istanbul, Paris, London and Venice, as well as scrumptious desserts, wines and lavish entertainment.



Teachers are an integral part of society in terms of helping us build a better future. Fund for Teachers gives to teachers so that they can inspire and generate future leaders.

Anthony Petrello
President and COO
Nabors Industries Ltd.

Special thanks to Elizabeth and John Gibson, who underwrote our beautiful pre-event gift baskets containing an assortment of gifts for the entire family and the gala invitation.

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With appreciation to our individual and anonymous donors and for those gifts received following our press date.





JONES NEW YORK
IN THE CLASSROOM

Back to School, Back to Style

School makeovers, teacher makeovers and fashion shows across the country created a whirlwind of activity with Jones New York's Back to School, Back to Style initiative. Throughout

October, the clothing company supported education and raised funds for Fund for Teachers and three other organizations dedicated to improving the quality of education.



JoAnn Arlitt



Annamary Johnson



Kay Perry



Jennifer Brown



photos by bill olive photography



Nirmol Lim



Barbara Sanchez

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GoodSearch is a search engine that donates a minimum of 50-percent of its revenue to the charities designated by its users.

Use GoodSearch exactly as any other search engine. Because it's powered by Yahoo!, you get proven search results.

The money GoodSearch donates to your cause comes from its advertisers — the users and organizations do not spend a dime.

Boston Fellow Receives Milken Award

Matthew R. Dugan makes science exciting for students at Madison Park Technical Vocational High School in Boston.

As a Fund for Teachers fellow, his innovative teaching approach has helped improve student test scores in biology, chemistry and physics, and has inspired many students to study science in college.

He used his FFT fellowship to travel to Bangkok and Phuket, Thailand to study real world physics, focusing on tsunamis.

Dugan joined an elite group of 80 educators from the United States in receiving the Milken National Educator Award for 2007-2008. The program strives to attract, develop, motivate and retain talented people to the challenge and adventure of teaching.

The award provides public recognition and \$25,000 to elementary and secondary school teachers, principals and other education professionals furthering excellence in education.



Hamid Gharooni, academic program coordinator for Madison Park High School, right, introduces Boston's Matthew R. Dugan at a press conference.

Halliburton contributes \$500,000 with auction

Long-time Fund for Teachers supporter, Halliburton, came up with an extraordinarily creative way for companies to support the non-profit through normal business activities.

How?

By auctioning services such as fracing, cementing, logging, stimulating and more to their oil field partners.

This year, Peter Bernard, senior vice president of Halliburton's Business Development and Marketing held the third annual service auction, raising approximately \$500,000 for FFT.

'The value of a good education cannot be overstressed.'

The auction is an exciting way for a donor to be involved and with no additional expense to the company, simultaneously make a tremendous difference in the lives of teachers and their students.

"The value of a good education cannot be overstressed," said Bernard. "We believe that next to a child's parent, our teachers play the most critical role in impacting and shaping the next generation.

"Fund for Teachers has taken education to a new level by allowing teachers to travel, experience and expand their professional development in a meaningful way. When we equip teachers, we are leveraging the most valuable resource we have for improving our education system."



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Fellow sharing talents with community

For Colorado English teacher Megan Freeman, last summer proved to be a prolific period for writing.

She was named October's featured poet at the Loveland Museum in Loveland, Colorado, and shared her work on the live television show *Poets' Co-op*.

For her fellowship, Freeman attended the Ouray Writer's Retreat, where she was provided two weeks of uninterrupted writing time.

"My grant from Fund for Teachers mobilized my writing in a way that few professional opportunities have ever done before," she said.

"The retreat was the perfect location to indulge our muses to the fullest. We wrote anywhere from 10 to 12 hours a day, stopping only to eat, sleep and read each other's work.

"The fellowship definitely created a momentum that has led to these latest opportunities to write and share my work with the public."

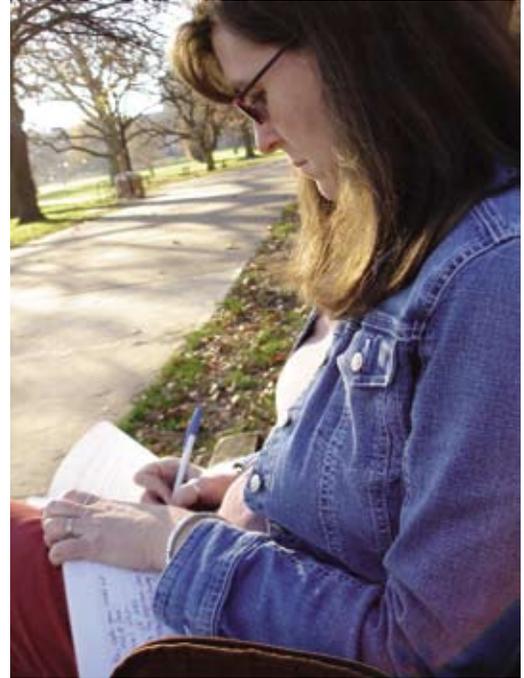
In addition to poetry, Freeman also completed 25 chapters of her new novel.

Her colleague, Kristie Betts,

revised and finished the novel she had been working on for the last two years.

Both fellows have found their successful summer of writing to be contagious at their school.

"Colleagues, parents and students followed our progress by reading the blog we created for the grant," shares Freeman. "Our grant definitely helped us to raise visibility and interest in writing throughout our entire school community."



Megan Freeman writing on her summer retreat.