

## Fellow finds success with children's book

*Substitute Groundhog*, the first children's book by Pat Miller, arrived in bookstores last November. Two months later, it was named book of the month by the Junior Library Guild.

Her selection as a 2006 Fund for Teachers fellow coincided beautifully with her publication deadlines.

"Two months before I heard about Fund for Teachers, an editor from Albert Whitman & Co. called to tell me they wanted to publish *Substitute Groundhog*," recalls Miller.

"The grant from Fund for Teachers allowed me to visit the publisher and meet my editors, art director and others who would be involved in bringing my book to its readers."

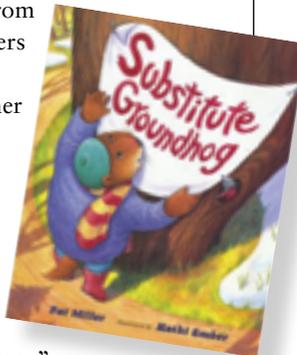
The ability to complete her book was only part of her objective as a grant recipient.

Miller also attended the Chautauqua Institution in New York, an intensive writing workshop.

She was in the company of 100 writers and 25 faculty members who are leaders in their fields of writing, illustrating, editing and publishing.

"The peek into other writers' lives has given me encouragement and a willingness to persevere in my own writing life," explains Miller.

See AUTHOR, Page 7



## Oklahoma trio named Plank Award recipients

A trio of Oklahoma teachers have been named as the second recipients of the Plank Fellowship Award.

Cindy Scarberry, Lani Garner and Stefani Stuemky, from Monroe Elementary School in Norman, Oklahoma, exemplified the Fund for Teachers' mission, according to their nomination.

"They traveled to Zimbabwe, where they gained firsthand knowledge about the culture and educational system," said Dayna Rowe, program officer for Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence, the local Fund for Teachers partner.

"Our visit was indescribable," explains

Garner. "We fell in love with the people, the simplistic way of life and the joy they share while living in such harsh surroundings and poverty."



Lani Garner expresses joy as the Zimbabwean children relish in simply touching her.



Cindy Scarberry becomes the student as local women teach her traditional dances.

"Our trip was a life-changing event that will impact the lives of many students here and abroad," continued Scarberry.

Scarberry and Garner are no stranger to African marimba music. For eight years, they have been teaching African drumming as part of their music curriculum.

On their trip to Mhondoro, Zimbabwe, See ZIMBABWE, Page 6

## Boston Fellows Launch Pilot School

Armed with grit, determination and hands-on research, the Gardner Extended Services School staff transformed its campus into a pilot school, one of only 20 in the Boston Public School system.

The monumental transformation, requiring three years of dedicated efforts, led six teachers to apply for a 2004 Fund for Teachers fellowship.

Erica Herman, Kathy Morancy, Kathleen Gillespie, Elsa Meuse, Carol Spina

and Centhelia James located several extended-service schools in California with similar philosophies.

Their site visits aided them in acquiring information about scheduling, curriculum and governance at pilot schools.

"Our teachers persevered because we knew this was best for our students," explains Herman. "We would not give up."

See PILOT, Page 7

*Our teachers persevered because we knew this is what was best for our students.*

## FUND FOR TEACHERS

2000 Post Oak Boulevard, Suite 100  
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www.fundforteachers.org

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*from the executive director...*

# Great expectations for this year's fellows

It's spring. Next stop, summer.

At Fund for Teachers we support the development and retention of an inspired, dedicated and highly qualified teaching force. We have witnessed phenomenal results from teachers given the opportunity to customize summer projects to match their personal goals.

There are great expectations for our 554 new fellows, selected with the help of 285 volunteers across the country. A fellowship transforms a teacher, class and community.

In this issue, we feature articles about a sprinkling of our fellows. If you have enjoyed the sheer pleasure of learning from a great teacher, you will enjoy their stories.

We highlight the 2007 Plank awardees, three Oklahoma teachers who embody our founder's notion that a lifetime devoted to learning is a life well lived.

We are proud to showcase a Fund for Teachers fellow, Adele Bravo, who was named Colorado's Teacher of the Year, and her opportunity to meet President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush in the White House Oval Office.

In order to grow our organization as a premier provider of teachers' professional development opportunities, we rely on our donors' financial and intellectual support.

Through strategic partnerships with programs such as the JNY In the Classroom and corporate and individual supporters, who use their business skills to maximize the value of their philanthropic investments, we are able to award nearly \$2 million in grants for 2007.

Peoples Gas hosted supporters at the Adler Planetarium in Chicago, where guests could see the stars in the sky and meet Fund for Teachers classroom stars.

A blustery morning in February brought more than 1,000 people out to participate in the 2nd annual Fund Run for Teachers in Houston. Leaders such as Walt Smith, managing director of Baker Botts, John Gibson, Paradigm CEO and Bob Peebler, Input/Output CEO, set fine examples for their teams.

Corporations and individuals, through their financial contributions and volunteer hours, generate the type of community participation critical to the growth, implementation and impact on our mission of supporting teachers and education.

Every project begins with an inquisitive spirit. Visit [www.fundforteachers.org](http://www.fundforteachers.org) and follow a fellow as they navigate this summer. Watch as, with your help, our outreach grows.



**Fund for Teachers staff members, left to right, Stephanie Aurelio, Karen Kovach-Webb, Jenny Hsu, Stephanie Ascherl, Candace Beverly and Perrin Worrell were exhilarated by support at the 2nd Annual Fund Run for Teachers.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Karen Kovach-Webb'.

## 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.

[www.fundforteachers.org](http://www.fundforteachers.org)

# THE LEARNING CONNECTION

## Cuban study leads to Venezuelan experience applied to Oakland community

In 1978, Jonathan Kozol, one of the United States' most widely-recognized educational journalists traveled to Cuba to document the revolutionary changes brought about by the Great Campaign.

His study of the impact of the literacy campaign produced the book, *Children of the Revolution*.

I read his text as I began learning about the Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela and, specifically, the process of transforming their educational institutions.

Reading the book inspired me to learn more, and to conduct similar research.

Last summer, I spent five weeks learning from, interviewing, building community and living with people impacted most by the new Bolivarian Educational System.

Classes contained a 75-year-old grandfather, who had learned to read only three years previously, who discussed the political necessity of literacy with a 15-year-old high school drop out caring for her two-year-old daughter.

Many late nights were spent with teachers volunteering four to five days weekly at Misión Ribas, discussing the roles that inclusion, liberation and community play in the education of a people.

It is one of the three adult literacy projects set in motion in an attempt to eliminate Venezuelan illiteracy.

As a teacher at a small public high school founded three years ago, East Oakland

Community High School in Oakland, California, I understand the effects of educational exclusion and marginalization.



By Trevor Gardner  
2006 Oakland Fellow

My trip was designed for discovering effective Venezuelan programs and solutions which are applicable to teaching in Oakland.

During almost every conversation, interview, classroom visit and observation, my

mind exploded with information and possibilities.

We are currently moving forward on two projects borne by my Fund for Teachers fellowship.

The first is the creation of a community partnership in Sanare, Venezuela and its adult education.

Just recently, a delegation of 12 students from East Oakland Community High School visited Sanare for eight days.

Students participated in classes and connected with high school and adult students, met community leaders and people responsible for running the educational Misiones, gave presentations that reflect the realities of Oakland education and participated in a community service project alongside Venezuelan students.

The ultimate outcome is to establish an ongoing relationship with Sanare schools and students that allows us to return with a new student delegation yearly.

The second project involves and impacts our community and students.

Working with several students, we are beginning an adult English language tutoring program for parents.

Beyond helping parents develop language skills, the program's goal is to develop stronger relationships and partnerships with parents and families — making "community" an integral aspect of East Oakland Community High School.

## A+ Making the Grade



### HASLER-REID RECEIVES TOP TEACHER AWARD

Linda Hasler-Reid, a teacher at Muskogee Public Schools, was recently named the 2006 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year by State Superintendent Sandy Garrett.

The prestigious ceremony was held in Carriage Hall at the Oklahoma State Fair in Oklahoma City. The event was attended by 2,000 educators, supporters of education, friends and relatives.

During her 12-year career, Hasler-Reid has taught Spanish, English and journalism at the 7th and 8th Grade Center.

As a Fund for Teachers fellow, she attended a three-week intensive Spanish immersion program at the Forester Institute in San Jose, Costa Rica.



Linda Hasler-Reid, right, is named Teacher of the Year by State Superintendent Sandy Garrett.

### COLORADO NAMES BRAVO TEACHER OF YEAR

Adele M. Bravo, a 15-year educator, was named 2006 Colorado Teacher of the Year. She has taught first and second grade, as well as multi-age classes at Louisville Elementary School in the Boulder Valley School District.

Bravo met with First Lady Laura Bush and President George W. Bush in the White House Oval Office in April.

For her 2006 Fund for Teachers fellowship, Bravo participated in the Project Zero Classroom at the Harvard School of Education to foster critical thinking skills in her students.



# Kick off rallies Fund Run support

Baker Botts encouraged its lawyers and staff to trade in suits and ties for track pants and sneakers Jan. 17, as the Houston-based firm threw a kick off party to rally its employees to participate in the 2nd Annual Fund Run for Teachers.

“We have an obligation to give something back and make contributions,” explains Walt Smith, Baker Botts managing partner and Fund for Teachers board member.

The firm not only sponsored the event, but also donated entry fees for all employees and their family members.

“I was struck by Fund for Teachers’ direct, straightforward approach to revitalizing and reinvigorating teachers,” he said. “It makes sense and works.”

Smith recognizes how one teacher can create a lasting impact. To this day, he remembers fondly Sister Mary Lewis, his seventh and eighth grade teacher.

“You think about all you have learned, and realize that teachers are the ones who whet the appetite for a lifetime of learning,” reflects Smith.

Another Baker Botts partner, Charles Szalkowski, also believes in recognizing outstanding teachers.

“Fund for Teachers improves teachers and rewards those with initiative,” he said. “These talented and dedicated teachers should be encouraged and applauded.”

Partner Felix Phillips comes from a family of teachers, and fully comprehends the value of self-designed professional development.

“It’s important to fund something that is interesting to them and opens the eyes of their kids,” said Phillips.

“They can visualize their student’s excitement, and it gives the teachers an incentive for building their knowledge base.”

“Baker Botts wants to help raise the profile of Fund for Teachers. We don’t just want to write a check; we want to get runners out there to show our support,” says Cristina Rodriguez, partner.



# Corporations

With an outpouring of support from Houston-area businesses, the Second Annual Fund Run for Teachers blossomed, to more than 1,000 participants lacing up their running shoes Feb. 10 for the 5K and 1K Run/Walk.

This annual event raises funding for Houston-area teachers’ fellowships.

Fund for Teachers meets the need of “individualized” learning by supporting professional development and grants directly to teachers, supporting their professional learning during the summer.



Left: Steve Farris, Apache Corporation president and CEO, officially starts the 5K.



Right: John Gibson, chair of the Fund for Teachers Houston Leadership Committee and Paradigm CEO, leads the KidsK.



Above: School children begin the walk with stretching exercises.



Right: Baker Botts, an event sponsor, also provided a multitude of runners and walkers.



Left: Sisters Karen Gilligan, left, and Colleen Gilligan Gilbert added fun with grasshopper head gear.



Right: A large contingent was on hand from corporate sponsor, Input/Output.

# lace up for second fund run event

“Participation more than doubled this year,” said Karen Kovach-Webb, FFT executive director, “and we are extremely appreciative of the support and acceptance we have received within the community.

“This year’s corporate sponsors — Baker Botts LLP, Apache Corporation and Input/Output — not only supported us financially, they also brought a combined total of 625 registrants.”

She also notes that several school groups included teachers and students, as well as family members supporting them.

“It was incredibly rewarding to see the camaraderie created from participating in the event,” explains Becky Hoyt, Apache Corporation corporate vice president and controller.

“You could feel the energy building during the weeks leading to the run.”

This year’s Fund Run also greatly benefited from the Galleria Chamber of Commerce endorsement. As a business alliance representing more than 750 members, its blessing was crucial to securing the 5K route in the Galleria, one of Houston’s

largest and busiest commercial districts.

John Gibson, Paradigm CEO and chair of the Fund for Teachers Houston Leadership Committee, believes it shouldn’t be a surprise to see businesses stand behind the professional development of teachers.

“The value proposition of invigorating teachers is clear,” said Gibson. “One inspired teacher inspires hundreds of students.”

Top 5K finishers were John Rainbolt, male division and Heidi Hullinger, female division.



Right: John Gibson, Paradigm CEO, left, and Walt Smith, Baker Botts managing partner, right, create fun with Apache Team Captain Becky Hoyt.

Above: Williams Elementary School teachers and Get Fit Panthers Running Team members were on hand for the day.

Left: Runners from Boston Consulting Group pose for the camera.

Below: Apache Corporation produced a large group of participants.



## School celebrates as Dr. Seuss book turns 50

Students entered the colorful and mischievous world of Dr. Seuss March 2 at Woodland Acres Elementary in Galena Park, Texas, as they joined the National Education Association's *Read Across America* celebration held in conjunction with the 50th birthday of the beloved children's book, *The Cat in the Hat*.

Former First Lady Barbara Bush, along with business and community volunteers, read their favorite Dr. Seuss books to students, and discussed the importance of reading.

Velma Lloyd, school librarian and 2004 Fund for Teachers Fellow, helped coordinate an exciting student costume contest, where children dressed as their favorite Dr. Seuss character.

Students learned more about connecting with books they read by bringing the characters to life in the classroom. They not only dressed as a Dr. Seuss character, but were ready to answer questions regarding their character's role in the book.

Lloyd has always been dedicated to persuading her students that reading is fun.

This desire inspired Lloyd to travel to Dublin, Ireland to attend a librarian conference and learn the art of storytelling in order to better engage her students.

**ON THE RIGHT:** Former First Lady Barbara Bush visits with Woodland Acres Elementary School Librarian Velma Lloyd.



**BELOW:** Students learned more about Dr. Seuss books by dressing as their favorite character and telling about their role in the children's classics.



## Zimbabwe children connect with Oklahoma students

Continued from Page 1

they spent hours each day learning traditional songs, games and dances.

The trio also visited neighboring schools, where they taught music and shared gifts brought from Norman students.

"The children are very accepting, and were extremely pleased with the gifts we brought," said Garner. "Their playground is a sun-parched field with tires partially buried in the ground as playground equipment."

Back home, these teachers incorporated a day of activities based on knowledge acquired in Zimbabwe for students.

"We played games of net ball, which is similar to basketball, an African form of hopscotch and dodge ball. Perhaps the most fun for children is the hand-clapping songs and games," she said.

They also have shared footage of the trip and created a Web site, complete with photos and explanations.

Garner said her students were curious



**ABOVE:** Stefani Stuemky presents simple toys to children in Mhondoro villages, who normally use wadded up string as balls.

about a place that is so diverse and wondered if the children are happy without the toys, playground equipment and homes that are commonplace to them.

Perhaps one of the greatest offshoots of this Plank Award fellowship is that several people have become sponsors for individual Zimbabwean students, which provides a much brighter future for the entire village.

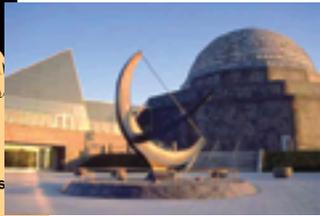
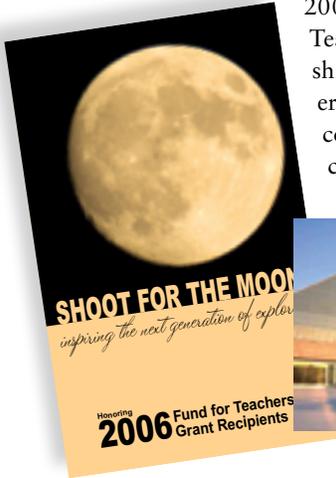


**RIGHT:** Students perform music with crude instruments created out of wood.

# Chicago reception honors 51 FFT fellows at Adler Planetarium

Guests were enthralled by the Adler Planetarium setting and the program as they attended the Shoot for the Moon reception Jan. 19 honoring 51 Chicago Public Schools teachers as recipients of the

2007 Fund for Teachers' fellowships. The teachers traveled to 18 countries and six continents.



Sponsored by Peoples Gas, representatives of Fund for Teachers and its local partner, Chicago Foundation for Excellence, honored the teachers.

Michelle and Dan Greenfield, teachers at Armstrong International and Eberhart Elementary schools respectively, inspired attendees by recounting their personal

experiences after being on hand for a space shuttle launch at Cape Canaveral, as well as touring NASA and participating in an astronaut training simulation.

Also providing a powerful presentation was Juanita Douglas Thurman, a Lincoln Park High School teacher, who traveled to Ghana to explore the slave routes and visit cultural and historic landmarks.

Arne Duncan, CEO of Chicago Public Schools, noted that the recipients are role models for students and fellow teachers, and added his appreciation of how these grants recognize and help retain teachers.

"With so much pressure on test scores, and accountability and the daily complexity of working in urban schools," said Kris Reichmann, executive director of CFE, "we woefully underestimate the power that pursuing dreams can have on our students.

"Fund for Teachers' fellowships have not only electrified and renewed the passion of our city's most exceptional leaders, they have transformed instruction, inspired new curricula and innovative school-wide programs, and produced examples that dreams really can come true."

## Gardner model for other districts

Continued From Page 1

Ultimately, the proposal was approved by the Boston Public Schools, Boston Teachers Union and Boston School Committee.

"The visits helped us shape a new vision for our school," said Gillespie.

"I came back energized by the shared vision and leadership among parents, staff and administration."

"This is great news for the Gardner school community and for Boston's families," said Mayor Thomas M. Menino.

"The Gardner School is a model for other

district schools in terms of providing a full range of services to students and families," said former Boston Public School Superintendent Thomas W. Payzant.



Throughout the three-year project, Fund for Teachers fellows never gave up their dream. Shown left to right are Kathy Morancy, Elsa Meuse, Carol Spina, Kathy Gillespie, Erica Herman and Jeannie James.

creatively about the needs of our diverse students."

## Author

Continued From Page 1

"It was an incredible rush to talk about writing and share our works for days. The extended community of writers was a powerful energy that still powers me."

Miller's students are another source of motivation.

She hopes to encourage them to fight past the moments of writer's block, and incorporate creative writing into their daily lives.

"Now they can see how their ordinary librarian, someone they've seen with puppets on her hands and unfashionable shoes on her feet,

writes and gets published," said Miller.

"They can see how my book went from my rough notes through a long process of revision to the copy they hold in their hands.

"I am proof that you don't have to be famous, nearly dead or brilliant to put thoughts into words. If I can do it, they can too."



Pat Miller

Get connected.  
Join the  
FELLOWS FORUM.  
It is a perfect way  
to share grant experiences  
and teaching practices.  
Log onto  
[www.fundforteachers.org](http://www.fundforteachers.org).

# Grants awarded to 554 teachers representing 363 schools

*One teacher can impact as many as 3,000 students in their career.*

This summer, 554 teachers representing 363 schools from around the country have the opportunity to make their dreams come true.

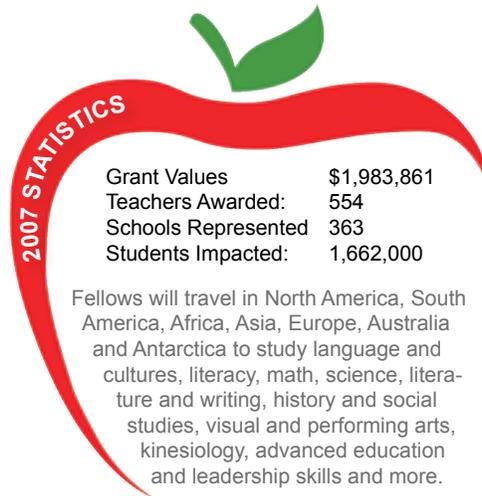
They come from cities in 20 states including Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, New York City and Oakland.

Fund for Teachers provides an opportunity for teachers to open the world to their students, enhancing education and providing inspiration to the country's most important asset, its children.

To date, Fund for Teachers has awarded more than \$8.5 million to 2,600 teachers nationwide.

It provides grants supporting teachers as they pursue opportunities that have the greatest impact in the classroom, on their students' academic lives and on their school communities.

"Teachers pass on knowledge that will be used in ways both they and their stu-



dents never imagine," said Patricia Graham, Fund for Teachers board mem-

ber and former dean at Harvard's Graduate School of Education.

"One teacher can impact as many as 3,000 students in their career, and those students impact countless others."

"The best way for a child, or anyone, to learn is through real-life connections – this is exactly what our grants provide," explained Karen Kovach-Webb, Fund for Teachers executive director.

"We live in a global society, a global economy. However, many students never experience far-reaching places.

"Through our grants, countless students receive an insight and knowledge they would not ordinarily have. It encourages them to dream and explore beyond the parameters of their own environment."

For more information about this year's fellows, visit [www.fundforteachers.org](http://www.fundforteachers.org).

**EVERYONE HAS A FAVORITE TEACHER. NOMINATE YOURS TODAY!**

Log onto [JNYINTHECLASSROOM.ORG/BACKTOSTYLE](http://JNYINTHECLASSROOM.ORG/BACKTOSTYLE) to nominate your teacher to go back to school in style! Teachers with the most moving nominations will receive a wardrobe makeover and have their classrooms redone from drab to fab!

Back to School, Back to Style is a program of Jones New York In The Classroom designed to transform teachers and their classrooms with support from Jones New York, Macy's, Lowe's and Valpar.

\*See website for official rules and for participating makeover areas.

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