



The Newsletter of SELF ENHANCEMENT, INC.

YOUTH POTENTIAL REALIZED

Fall/Winter 2005

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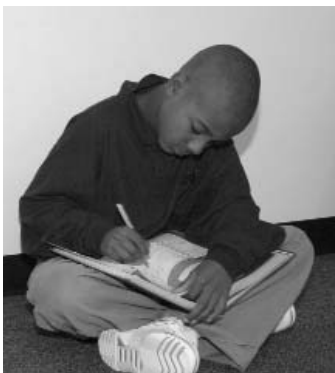
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Studying at the SEI Academy



SEI Drum Line at Boise-Eliot Summer program

SEI SUMMER SIZZLES ...Into Fall

Every year, the SEI Summer Program gives kids an academic jump-start to the year, keeps them safe and supervised, engages them in the community, and gives them a taste of the working world. This year it went above and beyond, and kept going.

ELEMENTARY

SEI partnered with Boise-Eliot Elementary and the Comcast Reading Network to focus on developing reading abilities over the summer. Sixteen special reading teachers and nineteen high school coaches worked with over 300 SEI students and 60 additional Boise Eliot students. This had a huge impact. In just six weeks, reading scores improved across the board, and half the second grade students had reached 90% of reading benchmark or higher, compared with only a quarter of the students at the beginning of the program. At the end of the summer, SEI elementary students had the reading adventure of their young lives when SEI Librarian Genia Adair arranged for them to visit the North Portland Branch of Multnomah County Library to hear none other than James Earl

Jones reading live and in person (see page 8 for details). This was the last of many exciting summer fieldtrips for the youngsters; they also visited OMSI, the Children's Museum and the Zoo, and went skating and bowling - new experiences for many of them. And these 8 through 11 year olds are not too young to be giving back to the community: every Friday SEI elementary students visited with elders at the Irving-Covington Retirement home, reveling in weekly games of bingo and dominoes.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Middle school students are not too young to be thinking about college: SEI middle
(continued, page 8)

**JAMES EARL JONES and
COACH CARTER- p. 8**



Message from the President

This newsletter comes on the heels of much to be proud of and yet so much to be concerned about. We at SEI consider ourselves the best youth program in the nation. Our 98% graduation rate and 85% college entrance rate, our \$3,000 annual cost per child, our 2,000+ kids served per year, and our 81 cents on every dollar going directly to services set us apart from other similar organizations.

90% SEI students come with challenges: attendance problems, behavior problems, academic problems, gang involvement, single parent and/or dysfunctional households, and basic poverty. We see these challenges as hurdles to success, not excuses for failure. Our belief that all kids can learn and be successful is a direct result of the thousands of lives enhanced by SEI programs since 1981. No program stands alone and no child makes it by themselves; we are only as good as the support given to us. Your good work allows us to do our good work. We make a difference together. This difference speaks directly to the concerns raised by Hurricane Katrina. Neither poverty nor government assistance should ever be the difference between life and death. To that end, with your help SEI will teach, support, and grow positive, contributing citizens who would not likely need government to save them. Everyday gives us another chance to get it done, and gives you another chance to make a difference.

-Tony L. Hopson, Sr.
President and CEO

All the Way Through

SEI students graduate from high school and go on to college in unprecedented numbers. But success doesn't stop there. They continue to reach for their dreams - for jobs, families, and even playing in the NBA.

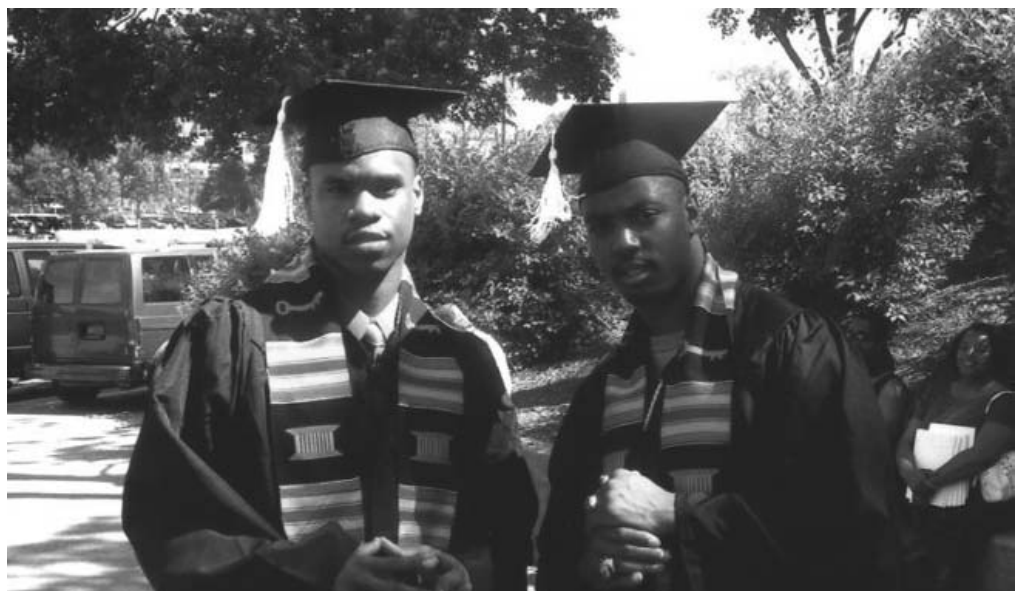
SEI's post high school program supports the 130 SEI students currently enrolled in higher education, providing academic advising, help with financial strategies to bridge the gap between scholarships and the full costs of college, and the steady reassurance of someone who knows them, believes in them, and knows how to navigate the complexities of the educational system. SEI students tend to dream big and to be resilient in overcoming obstacles. So if the door to college closes, they find another path to success. With SEI's support, our students have gone on to be health care professionals, business managers, social service workers, and more. Over the years, many have returned to SEI as staff. The stories of Aaron Miles and Ashli Harmon illustrate two very different inspiring paths of SEI students establishing successful adult lives.

This November, SEI alumnus Aaron Miles realized his dream of playing in the NBA.

He was supported all the way by his family, by SEI, by his own positive decisions, and by his close friend **Michael Lee**. Aaron and Michael began playing sports together in 4th grade, with their fathers as coaches. SEI Coordinator Troy Hollis began working with the boys in 7th grade. Mr. Hollis recalls, "Even though they had strong families, they also had negative examples around them. But they kept making positive choices. They were able to resist negative peer pressure because they had each other." And they had SEI. Mr. Hollis continued, "If they weren't playing sports, they *(continued on p. 10)*

Ashli Harmon's path took many unexpected twists and turns,

but her determination and flexibility, plus the support she received from SEI, carried her through. Ashli had started out an indifferent student but gradually realized that she was capable of more. She became an honors student and developed a passion for writing poetry in high school. Her life became more complicated when she became pregnant and had a baby in her senior year. Undaunted, Ashli graduated with high honors from Jefferson High School in 2001. Further challenges arose when her mother, who had been a key support in her life, suddenly died, shortly after her graduation. Ashli had planned to attend college, but with her *(continued on p. 10)*



Aaron Miles and Micheal Lee graduating from the University of Kansas in June.



Student Success

There have been many success stories of SEI Academy students: a girl who improved five grade levels in reading in her first year; two students who faced the death of a parent and were supported to move through their grief; a boy learning to trust his teachers and make an academic effort for the first time; several students who were in constant fights but learned to check the impulse to strike out with fists or words, and even went a step further to build understanding and become good friends with former adversaries.

Aaryan Wilson had a different set of challenges. His parents felt that the structure and philosophy of the Academy would fit his needs. However, entering 6th grade, Aaryan discovered he was the only white student in a predominantly African American school. It was a big adjustment at first. "He tried so hard to be liked, but his efforts kind of put the other kids off," recalls Academy Principal Natasha Butler, "He didn't give up though. He learned to relax and be himself." With the encouragement of Academy staff, Aaryan involved himself in every school project he could, and developed a solid circle of friends. Aaryan's determination and engagement has meant steady academic progress as well. "Aaryan is really focused," notes Academy Teacher Carl Reinhold, "and that has led to dramatic improvements in many skill areas."



SEI Academy Report Card - Year One

The first year of the SEI Academy charter middle school was a successful experiment in learning for students and staff alike- and the second year looks even more promising.

The Portland Public School district evaluation states that by the end of the 2004-05 school year, the Academy had become a "highly functioning charter school..., further along than many others across the country that have been operating for several years". An impressive one third of the inaugural class of students advanced two or more grade levels in reading and or/math. At the beginning of the year, less than 50% of students met benchmark in math and less than 30% met benchmark in reading. By the end of the year, scores had improved so that 82% met benchmark in math and 57% met benchmark in reading. In addition, the school achieved a 94.5% attendance record and retained 90% of students initially enrolled.

Running an all-day school program was a new project for SEI, and it took some adjustment.

Behavior issues were especially tough in the first semester, with extra chaos in the halls of the Center for Self Enhancement and frequent conflicts between students. SEI staff throughout the building focused on "catching students doing something right" and the Academy focused more resources on students' interaction skills. By the end of the year, Academy students had learned to respect and support each other and wowed adult visitors by greeting them formally with handshakes and helping them find their way in the building.

The school caught the attention of neighborhood families so that in spite of school district changes that reduced the overall number of local middle school students (many elementary schools changed to K-6), SEI Academy reached full enrollment for the 2005-06 school year, adding a 6th grade class of 47 students.

The Academy is well underway for 2005-06. It began with students in crisp new uniforms *(continued, page 7)*

Art and Soul 2005

Fundraising records fall in a night of vibrant performance and generous philanthropy.

SEI reached another fund-raising milestone Oct. 8 when we raised over \$2.7 million at the 12th annual art + soul Gala. The results break last year's \$2 million record as well as all known records for any single night fund-raising event in Oregon. A sold-out crowd of more than 500 patrons packed the Center for Self Enhancement gym, which was converted into a ballroom for a magnificent evening of food, philanthropy, art, music, and dancing.

The evening showcased the talent and experiences of youth participating in SEI programs, including a riveting performance from the SEI Drum Line; moving personal stories and poetry from high school and college students; the magic of SEI's 65-voice Sound of Soul choir; pulsing African dance from the SEI SUN School program; and academic displays from

the SEI Academy charter middle school. The audience was moved by the performances. One art + soul guest remarked, "If I was dying and I had one last wish, it would be to listen to that choir."

SEI's "Life Has Options Award" was presented to US Bank for its long history of supporting SEI. The award was accepted with grace and humor by US Bank President Malia Wasson.

As is the tradition at art + soul, the program was paused midway through the evening to let guests donate directly toward student sponsorships. \$2,000,000 was raised during this portion of the evening, with pledges led by local business leaders, philanthropists, and longtime SEI supporters Howard Hedinger and Eli Morgan. Major gifts given during the night included those from Alonzo Mourning

Photos: Left panel: checking in for the evening; Hors d'oeuvres, visiting with SEI Academy students, SEI student Leily Vilella speaking at the dinner. Below: co-chairs Jan Turner and Linda Wright; SEI alumnus Terrel Brandon and mother, and the Sounds of Soul Choir.



Charities, presented by the NBA All-Star's wife Tracy Mourning; from retired NBA player Terrell Brandon, a Portland native and SEI alumnus; and from former Portland Trailblazer Damon Stoudamire. Thanks to all a + s donors.

Following a silent auction and four-course dinner, the oral auction featured works from regional artists such as Alexander Rokoff, David Schwarz, Lorenzo Ghiglieri, Arvie Smith, and Max Grover, as well as exciting vacation packages to Italy, Argentina, Hawaii, New Zealand, Peru, Turkey, the Galapagos, the San Juan Islands, the Canadian Rockies, California Wine Country, and the Exclusive Resorts residences around the world.

The evening ended with stirring salsa music and dancing and a Starlight Cigar Bar on the balcony.

Many thanks to returning co-chairs for the event: SEI Board Members Linda Wright (V.P. and NW Regional Manager of US Bank), and Jan Turner (J.T. Designs), and to the art + soul committee and table hosts. Thanks also to major sponsors Providence Health Systems, Nike, Exclusive Resorts, and Rombauer Vineyards.



PHOTOS: Above:SEI Drum Line. Left corner: US Bank President Malia Wasson feel the weight of the LHO Award presented by Tony Hopson, Sr. Below: Tony Hopson, Tracy Mourning, and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Blank; the SEI SUN School Dancers; and after hours salsa dancing.





Children's Investment Fund (CHIF)

In 2002, Portland voters responded to children's needs by creating the Children's Investment Fund. The Fund provides \$8.5 million a year for five years to support organizations that "help children arrive at school ready to learn through early childhood development; promote academic achievement with after-school and mentoring programs; and strengthen families with child abuse prevention and intervention assistance." Thus far, more than \$16 million has been invested in 60 different programs throughout the city, reaching some of Portland's neediest children - including SEI after-school students in grades four through eight. "SEI is a stellar example of a nonprofit making a dramatic and immediate difference in the lives of Portland's children," says City Commissioner Dan Saltzman, who spearheaded efforts to create CHIF and oversees its administration. "We support SEI's efforts in giving hope and opportunity to thousands of youths, and we thank voters for their commitment in improving the future for the city's children."

Golfing for SEI

Every year, SEI is fortunate to be the beneficiary of two golf tournaments: our own Golf Challenge generously assisted by NIKE, and the prestigious JELD-WEN Tradition

SEI Community Golf Challenge 2005

SEI's thirteenth annual Community Golf Challenge was held Friday, August 19, a sparkling summer day at the Reserve Vineyards and Golf Club in Aloha. Players shopped for the latest Nike gear (generously donated by Nike) before a full eighteen holes and a series of special contests. The day was topped off by a dinner of philanthropy and inspiration from SEI President Tony Hopson and SEI graduates, with KATU News Host Ken Ackerman adroitly playing the role of emcee. SEI graduates Terese Brazzle and Andre Lawrence addressed the crowd, explaining how SEI had helped them get through the rough spots (see photo, p. 10). The event raised \$87,000 for SEI's programs. The first place teams were: PBH, Inc. (Peter Hoffman, Barry Randall, Doug Strand, Bill Swindells), Gross; and Miller Nash (Brian Doherty, Paul Havel, Tom Sand, Justin Sawyer), Net.

Special thanks to sponsors:

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Washington Trust Bank
Deep appreciations also go to the 2005 Golf Committee: Doug Harrower (co-chair); Charlie Theuma (co-chair); Mary Lee Alder; Mark Hudspeth; Tony Johnson; Cynthia Johnson-Harris; Carol Langer; Greg Nared; Steve Neiger; Justin Sawyer; Brian Stewart; and Matt Swaim.

The 14th Annual Community Golf Challenge will be on Friday, August 11, 2006. If you are interested in being on the 2006 Golf Committee, please contact Claire Baker at 503-249-1721 x244.

JELD-WEN Tradition

For one week at the end of August, Jeld-WEN held their annual golf tournament to benefit local charities. SEI was fortunate to join with Boys and Girls Clubs and SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) as one of the top three recipients of funds. SEI students and staff volunteered at the tournament and a Harley Davidson motorcycle was raffled off for a little extra excitement.



The Washington Mutual Team at SEI's Golf Challenge

Oregon Young Scholars Program

Preparing for College from Age 12

SEI is involved in a groundbreaking partnership with the University of Oregon to prepare at-risk students to attend four year colleges and universities.

In June, SEI Support Services Outreach Coordinator Gloria Fluker traveled to Eugene with five SEI students in between 8th and 9th grades to support their participation in the first phase of the Oregon Young Scholars Program (OYSP). For one week OYSP students tasted campus life. They lived in a college dorm and took part in intensive academic programs in Writing, Arts and Human Values, Business, Health, and Urban Planning. At the end of the week, each gave a presentation to show what they learned (for example, Urban Planning students presented their design for a new city park play area). In the evenings, students experienced a performance of the Pacific International Children's Choir, a presentation on tools for success from former NFL player and current business owner Tracy Porter, and special social outings.

Ms. Fluker noted that the students "learned so much: how you work *(continued, p.10)*



Academy, continued from p.3

parading into the building to enthusiastic staff and parent applause. At the first assembly, the line of staff expanded across the length of the auditorium, dotted with new faces. New to SEI teaching are Tricia Halonen (science) fresh from teaching in the Bronx, New York; Denise Boston (math) from Tubman Middle School; Keylah Boyer (language arts) from Astor Elementary School; and Sascha Archer (Spanish) from SEI's after-school program. SEI also added a Program Manager, James Broadous, who comes from Friends of the Children, and two of SEI's most committed and capable youth staff, LaShawn McCarthy and Miki Hunnicutt, have moved into the roles of In-School Coordinators for the Academy. These three new positions give Academy students further support in setting and reaching goals and upholding higher standards of safety, respect, and responsibility.

The Academy also begins the year with new equipment: computers and microscopes. The Beaumont Foundation awarded a grant of 15 wireless laptop computers. These will be used by students during classroom time and teachers will receive professional development in using laptops in the classroom. And Academy

students are getting their first glimpses of paramecium through the lenses of three compound light microscopes purchased by SEI.

Learning at the Academy, as with the rest of SEI, does not stop at the doors to the Center for Self Enhancement, but extends into the community and to supporting each other through the challenges and even the tragedies of life. Academy student Kawontaye Bell's mom was killed in a drive-by shooting last year, and not only did Kawontaye help to organize a community 'Stop the Violence' march in early October, but he was joined in the March by 20 other Academy students.

One of the innovations of the 2005-06 school year is that the Academy students will have access to professional counselors who can help them get through the deaths of family members and other major challenges that are so common in their lives. And there is plenty to look forward to in 2005-06: the publication of the 6th grade poetry book, the formation of a student council, a school science fair, a new program for talented and gifted students, new community service learning projects, and much more.





Meeting Role Models James Earl

Jones and Coach Carter

Multnomah County Library hosted renowned actor **James Earl Jones** to read to and speak with elementary school children in the North Branch Library on August 16.

Although SEI's summer program ended August 12, SEI Librarian Genia Adair learned of this unprecedented opportunity and quickly arranged to bring 30 SEI elementary students. Students listened wide eyed to Jones reading 'The Other Side', a story concerning two girls, one black and one white, defying their families to become friends. Jones also shared some of his own experiences overcoming racial segregation, and students received a copy of the book as a memento of the experience.

In September, Warner Pacific College hosted **Coach Carter**, whose story of requiring discipline and academic achievement from high school basketball players was recently made into a feature film. Warner Pacific head coach Bart Valentine invited SEI students to hear Carter's talk and meet with him in a small group afterwards. Carter spoke about his philosophy of character building and the success of his students: 100% have gone on to college on scholarship. Carter fielded questions from SEI students and generously gave new uniforms to the SEI Basketball program.

Summer Sizzles Into Fall continued from page 1

school students visited local campuses and met with college students and staff. A smaller group of middle school students enrolled in the inaugural year of the University of Oregon's Institutional Equity and Diversity Program, which is designed to help them understand and prepare for college life. (See sidebar, opposite page) Middle School students also explored the great outdoors, including a field trip to try windsurfing, and practical and fine arts including cooking and African dance (in which they were joined by high school students).

HIGH SCHOOL

High school students had more options than ever this summer. Some enrolled in the Summer Education Academy to enrich their English, math, and overall study skills. Freshmen took part in fire prevention and criminal justice mini-courses and provided community service, often working with younger kids in Portland parks. 100 juniors and seniors were employed by SEI as part

time tutors, program assistants, and coaches for younger students. Pamplin Leadership Fellows participated in ToastMasters, debate groups, and time management and event planning classes.

FALL

There have been many highlights of the early fall. They included an opportunity for SEI students to meet the real Coach Carter (see sidebar left), a journey for four SEI drum line students and Coordinator Durelle Singleton to hear the Grambling State band perform at a Grambling-University of Washington Football game (see opposite page) a SUN School parent workshop on 'How to Help Your Child Succeed', new monthly employer presentations for SEI high school and college students looking for work, a new grief counseling program for SEI students, the opening of the second year of the SEI Academy (see p.3), SEI college students organizing a cross-country filmmaking and life-learning adventure (see opposite page), and the annual Harvest Party.



Photos: Top: flying in SEI's summer dance concert. Bottom left: learning to roll out dough in cooking class. Bottom right: reciting the SEI Standards at Boise Elementary School.

SEI Hosts HIV/AIDS Conference

By Ray Shellmire, Clinical Supervisor Family Services, SEI

On July 15th and 16th, 2005, the Center for Self Enhancement hosted the third annual African American Community Symposium on HIV/AIDS. The mission this year was to educate and empower the African American community to end HIV/AIDS and to support and embrace those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

The Symposium Objectives were to provide youth-specific components, increase participation among stakeholders, advance knowledge within the community, and to get people tested and taking action during the event.

This year's keynote speakers were Ron Herndon, the Executive Director of Albina Headstart and Dr. Wilbert Jordan, a well known HIV/AIDS clinician at Martin Luther King Medical Center in Los Angeles California. Both speakers were wonderful as they shared their perspectives and gave information on how to accomplish our mission.

The community partners and supporters who planned and participated were Abbott Laboratories, Basic Rights of Oregon, Brother to Brother, Cascade AIDS Project, Gilead Pharmaceuticals, KB00 95.7 Radio, The LINKS of Portland, Love Makes a Family, Multnomah County Health Department, Oregon Department of Human Services, Our House, TDC/Innergy, Inc., and Urban League Multi-Cultural Senior Center.

Workshops were presented by local physicians, social workers, and AIDS advocates. Workshop titles were: 'What Youth Need to Know'; 'Living with HIV in Oregon'; 'When Whoopie Turns to Whoopsie'; 'HIV 101'; 'What's Love Got to Do With It- Women' (continued, p. 11)

Cutting Across America Tour

Four SEI college students found a unique way to discover and share the realities of poverty in America: conducting a free barber shop and interviewing customers on film on their way to the Million More Movement event in Washington, D.C. in October. The young men plan to wrap up their adventure by making a four part documentary film.

DeGroove - formerly known as Omari DeGruy, whose poetry performance was featured in last spring's 'Youth Potential Realized' production - served as the primary spokesman for the group and outlined their motivation: "When we came back home from college, we really felt a lack of leadership in the youth of the community. We want to show people you can be positive and cool, and we want to learn more about what we have to do as men to stand up and help our people." As for their tactics, he explained, "The barber chair is where people connect - and we're all barbers." The four young men: DeGroove, Xavier Friday, Tim Washington, and Tunde Sobemehin: raised the funds for the journey themselves. They went door to door and asked advice from SEI staff on shaping their message to media and the public. DeGroove notes, "We came to Mr. Hopson about what works for SEI, helping it work for us." The project received positive coverage in *The Portland Observer*, on KB00 Radio, and on the Portland Cable Access channel. The young men, calling themselves 'The Portland Inspiration Project', had planned to drive to Washington and stop in major cities along the way, but their van broke down in California. Fortunately, they were able to fly to Washington, D.C. and conduct their interviews in the D.C.-Baltimore area. DeGroove's thank you e-mail to supporters sums up their experience: "As you may have heard by now, our Cutting Across America Tour was



extremely successful. We had an opportunity to interview over 150 people, ranging from drug dealers to cab drivers; homeless people to businessmen. Regardless whether our interviewee was a 15 year victim of gun violence or a nationally recognized radio personality, they all agreed that our urban communities are filled with both tragedies and triumphs, and there was something to be said to the next generation. The process of interviewing people and attending the Millions More Movement was inspirational to each of us that attended, but furthermore, it is our goal to make it inspirational to the viewers of our work and our documentary. We can't thank you enough for your prayers, your finances, and your words of encouragement. Your support is priceless. May God bless each one of you."

SEI Drummers Glimpse the Future

At the end of September, four middle school SEI Drum Line students got a new perspective on their future when they traveled with SEI Coordinator Durrelle Singleton to hear the Grambling State college band play in the Grambling/ University of Washington football game. Grambling is a historically black college in Louisiana, and its band has a national reputation for excellence. The drummers were wowed not only by the impressive performance of the college band, but also by the crowd's reaction. The band's half-time show was given a standing ovation and almost the entire crowd stayed after the game for an additional concert. Durrelle Singleton noted that for the first time these students saw drumming as being on par with or even above sports as a road to success for themselves. "They were really excited about getting music scholarships to go to college," Mr. Singleton marveled.

Oregon Young Scholars Program continued from p. 7

with instructors and with peers, negotiate what you need to progress in different areas, manage your time, be consistent... They're starting to get an understanding of what it takes to enter college and stay in college."

OYSP students continue to prepare for college through monthly check-ins with University of Oregon Assistant Vice Provost and OYSP Coordinator Carla Gary. They are expected to work towards their full potential: to build positive relationships with teachers and peers, let staff know their difficulties and ask for help meeting their needs, communicate with their parents, engage in community service, and make satisfactory academic progress. Students met again at the Ashland Shakespeare Festival and will be reunited for several other events this year, such as a trip to the Oregon coast Aquarium in Newport. The Young Scholars will return to the University of Oregon next summer, where they will participate in the next level of the OYSP program and act as mentors to a new group of students. Ms. Gary has high hopes for the program. "I wanted to establish a program that would work with these young people to help them learn critical skills to become both competitive for college admissions, and involved community leaders... I believe the true meaning of life is to plant a tree under whose shade you do not expect to sit. We have a lot of planting to do. I am confident that then we will truly be blessed when we (or others after us) reap what we have sown."

Aaron continued from p.2

were at SEI. They respected SEI's mission and loved their community."

Both students made the honor roll in high school and were star athletes who didn't smoke or drink. Aaron was student body vice president in his senior year (2000-01), and both young men received basketball scholarships to attend the University of Kansas. Both graduated this summer with high grade point averages and excellent athletic records. And more importantly, Mr. Hollis says, they are role models for their community. Aaron and Michael "recognized the privilege of being in SEI, that there were expectations to uphold. Now they receive and give respect from and to everyone from gang members to city leaders."

Aaron was invited to try out for the Golden State Warriors and played in his first NBA game with the Warriors on November 1st. Michael continues his pursuit of a professional basketball career and expects to be playing in leagues outside the US, probably in Europe or South America. Mr. Hollis glows when he speaks of seeing the boys grow up. "It's so special for me as Coordinator to see a child's dream come true. I remember Aaron when he was on a swingset in the 8th grade, saying "I want to be an NBA player, and then 9 years later, seeing him play in his first NBA game."



SEI Alumni Andre Lawrence speaking of the support he received from SEI at the SEI Golf Challenge.

Ashli continued from p.2

changed circumstances felt that she could not adequately care for her young daughter and meet the academic and financial demands of college. Instead, Ashli followed in her aunt's footsteps to complete a short course in cosmetology. Ashli enjoyed the experience of working as a hairdresser but realized that the job didn't really fit her interests. "I got to know some wonderful people, but I don't even like to comb my own hair," she jokes. Glumac International a locally based engineering firm, came to SEI looking for qualified employees. Ashli interviewed and happily accepted a position as Construction Administrative Assistant. She has been working at Glumac for two years and is doing quite well. Ashli now has her own 2 bedroom apartment, with plans for purchasing a house in two years. Her daughter, Jaliyah, just began school this fall, and Ashli plans to begin volunteering at SEI in the near future. Ashli still keeps her mom close to her heart. "She raised us to be strong, so that we could handle the many obstacles that life would throw our way," Ashli says. With SEI in her corner, she plans to continue aiming high.



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PRESIDENT

Updates

Comcast Reading Hours

There have been two readings since the last newsletter. On May 16, Orgegonian Columnist Jonathan Nicholas read Roald Dahl's fanciful book, 'The Minpin's'; and on November 16, Portland Mayor Tom Potter read 'Stone Soup', a timeless fable about sharing. SEI elementary students were entranced with both readings. Following each story time, Comcast volunteers read one on one with the students. For further information, contact Lisa Manning at 503-249-1721, ext. 241.

SEI Student Ronnie Trammel's Film on OPB TV

SEI College Sophomore Ronnie Trammel's first film, 'Comfort in the Circle', was shown on Oregon Public Broadcast Television (Channel 10 in Portland) on August 8. It had previously been featured at the Wilamette Week's Langbaugh Film Festival.

New Development Director

Former SEI Development Director Carolyn

Becic left to take a position as Executive Director of Oregon Mentors. SEI's new Development Director, Sandra Koelle-Stewart, comes to SEI with broad experience, including as Director of Development with the Children's Cancer Association.

HIV/AIDS Conference continued from p. 9

and HIV'; 'HIV/AIDS: Another Hard Thing to Talk About with Your Children'; and 'What's Up With the Brothers?'

We felt we were able to accomplish all our goals and objectives this year of providing youth specific components, having youth participation, increasing stakeholder participation and planning, getting people tested and taking action.

Ray Shellmire is one of several SEI staff who are deeply involved in addressing the problems of HIV/AIDS in the North Portland Community, beginning with age appropriate prevention education for SEI students.

Questions/Comments about this edition of the newsletter?

Contact Susal Stebbins at 503-249-1721, ext. 209 or susals@selfenhancement.org

Photographs in this edition provided by:

Troy Hollis, Carla Gary, Katie O'Dell, Tunde Sobemehin, and Susal Stebbins.

Life Insurance: Another Way to Support SEI

While SEI can't forecast tomorrow, we are certain we will continue to be called upon to assist children and young adults for many years to come. Life insurance is an excellent example of charitable giving that can ensure that SEI will be able to meet the needs of the future. And, life insurance may allow you to make a much larger gift to SEI than you might otherwise be able to afford. Although the cost to you is relatively small, the amount SEI will receive, and the impact on our work, can be quite substantial. Life insurance gifts also have certain income tax benefits.

There are several ways to give life insurance to SEI.

1) Name SEI as beneficiary on your current life insurance policy. This is the easiest way. You, as owner of the policy, simply designate SEI as beneficiary.

2) Donate an existing life insurance policy to SEI. In order to donate an existing life insur-

ance policy to charity, you must assign all rights in the policy to SEI. You may be able to take an income tax deduction equal to your basis or the policy's fair market value.

3) Donate a new life insurance policy to SEI. Using this approach, you would purchase an insurance policy, and immediately assign all rights in the policy to SEI. You would pay the premiums, and if structured properly, be able to take a charitable deduction for those premiums.

If you would like more information regarding life insurance gifts or other giving options, please contact Sandra Koelle-Stewart at (503) 249-1721, ext. 264.

This is not legal advice. Any prospective donor should seek the advice of a qualified estate and/or tax professional to determine the consequences of his or her gift.

SEI Tours

Last Thursdays
4:00 - 5:15 PM

The Center for Self Enhancement will be open for public tours throughout the year on the last Thursday of each month. SEI staff will conduct your tour through this wonderful facility and you will have an opportunity to interact with SEI students during our After School or Summer program.

Please call Kelly Mohr at 503-249-1721, ext. 263 at least 24 hours before to confirm the tour date.

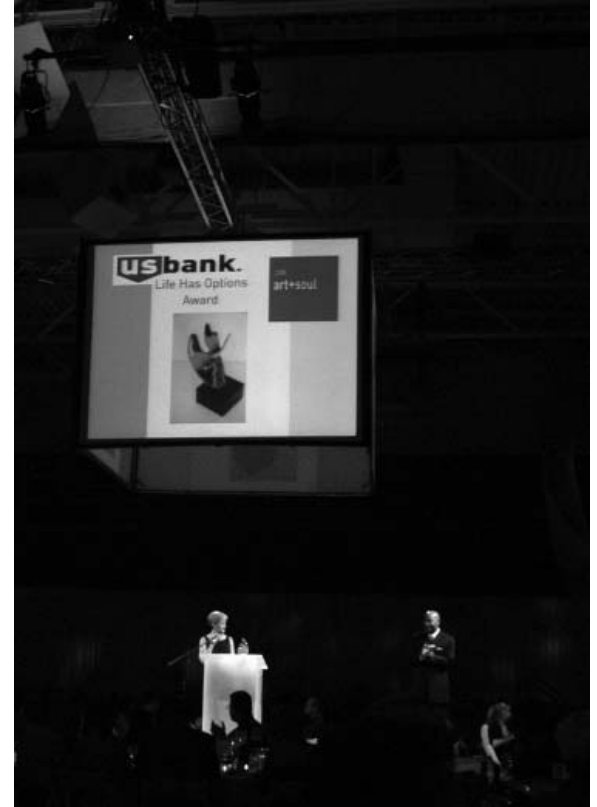
AWARDS

SEI's 'Life Has Options' Award Presented to US Bank

The LHO award was presented at the annual art + soul gala October 8, in recognition of US Bank's longterm financial leadership and support of SEI. US Bank gave the lead corporate gift to establish the Center for Self Enhancement in 1994. The LHO award was accepted by US Bank President. Malia Wasson.

Light a Fire Award Given to SEI

SEI appears in the November issue of Portland Monthly Magazine as one of the recipients of the first annual 'Light a Fire' awards. SEI is being recognized for "Inspiring the Next Generation". Forty different organizations were recognized in eight different categories.



SELF ENHANCEMENT, INC.

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