

Urban ↔ Suburban

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Participating Districts:

Brighton
Brookport
Fairport
Penfield
Pittsford
Rochester
W. Irondequoit
Wheatland-Chili

Coordinated by:



Alex Trebek and James Hawthorne, Jr.

We all gasped as we entered the stage. It is much brighter than I had imagined. Seeing it on television, with its electric purples and neon blues and even more colors, electrified pastels, that exist only on a dreamlike plane, it looks almost too fantastic to exist in any other thing than a dream. What's most remarkable about it is that the stage is mostly transparent, and it seems as if standing on it, I was standing on these vivid, moving colors themselves. But yet, every Monday through Friday, I see it, floors and walls lit in those colors, and a pervasive dark blue, as if it were something from the future. And yet, I was there.

If there is any one kernel of knowledge that I hope my dear readers take from this brief piece of writing, (and even as admittedly corny as it is to say), is that one should persevere, even for something as simple as appearing on a television show. For years, I had taken the online qualifying test, and I had thought I'd never appear on Jeopardy! But one fateful day, some weeks after I had taken the last test, I received an email saying that I had been invited to an in-person interview in New York City. While there, I took yet another test, sat for some interviews, and played a mock contest of Jeopardy complete with the actual signaling devices. That process was fun and interesting, even though afterwards, I still was not guaranteed any appearance on the show. After the audition, I once again, had to play the waiting game, and just hoped I'd make it to the show finally. Some months later, I received that call: one of the producers gave me the good news, and I had to make my way to the grand city of Los Angeles to appear on the show.

I have to thank my family for their generosity and for coming with me. My father even remarked it was like a vacation, and my mother said it was, after all, a once-in-a-lifetime experience. On the days of the tapings, I had to wake early to make it to the studio, even though this was easy to do, since I could barely sleep on the nights before. The other contestants and I, had to be led from place to place by someone who works on the show, and we started our day with breakfast, and form-filling-out, and having make-up put on us, and an orientation on what to expect and other legal things. With each further step, like a rollercoaster, I'd get more nervous and then less. It wasn't until we got to the stage, and saw how stunning it was, and got the chance to play some rounds that I finally felt in my element. It was there, standing there, that I remembered that it was, in the end, the same game show I had seen since I was boy, and I had nothing to worry about.

I didn't get to play until the second day of taping, and, in hindsight, I wonder if that was the reason for my not doing as well as I should have liked. Or maybe I didn't do as well because I played against some really good players, and despite my efforts to calm myself, standing there, in front of Alex Trebek, on the stage, in front of a live audience, actually did get to me. I could blame many things for my performance that day, but I think it was such a unique experience, that I'll remember it forever. I would, of course, have preferred writing this as Jeopardy Champion, but, I am happy to have received the kind words of folks I haven't seen or heard from in years, from by-word compliments from family members and even my coworkers of my family members, and even one intrepid doctor from New Jersey, who recognized my Princeton tie and congratulated me--a fellow Princetonian I didn't know until he sent me that note. I thank you all. I especially want to thank the teachers and administrators at the West Irondequoit School District, the Urban-Suburban Program, and my family for giving me the tools to compete.

1999 Urban-Suburban Graduate **JEOPARDY Contestant**

About the Author - James Hawthorne Jr. is an alumnus of the Urban-Suburban Program, having entered in 1988. He is also a 1999 Urban League Black scholar and a graduate of Irondequoit High School, Class of 1999. He holds a Bachelor's degree from the Department of Germanic Languages and Literature from Princeton University, Class of 2003. For four years he was a Special Education teacher in Brooklyn, New York as a New York City Teaching Fellow, and also a graduate student in the School of Education at Long Island University--Brooklyn Campus. For a short time he was the 8th Grade Reading Teacher at Rochester Preparatory Charter School on Brooks Avenue.

Congratulations to the Urban-Suburban 2013 graduating class!

The 2013 graduating class will soon begin the next phase of a magnificent journey. Many will pursue a post-secondary education, while others will go directly into the military or workforce.

** Urban-Suburban Scholarship
Award Recipients, see page 6.*

Brighton High School

Devan Carter

Rutgers University

Major: Business/Finance



Dynell Heath

Alfred University

Major: Athletic Training

Tatianna Munoz*

St. John Fisher College

Major: Biology



Breonna Robinson

Monroe Community College

Major: Pharmacy

Brockport High School

Le'Ron Brown

Monroe Community College

Major: Graphic Design



Naimah King

Monroe Community College

Major: Criminal Justice

Mackenzie Jones*

Ohio State

Major: Mathematics



Shannon Neal*

Finger Lakes Community College

Major: Pre-Law

Chelsea O'Meally*

The College at Brockport

Major: Psychology



Devon Smith

Monroe Community College

Major: Liberal Arts

Michael Shaw*

California State University
at Fullerton

Major: Theater



Kaitlin Woods

The College at Brockport

Major: Biology

Fairport High School

Chantale Allen

Monroe Community College

Major: Psychology



TerranMichael Jackson

Monroe Community College

Major: Liberal Arts

Summer Hills*

Spelman College

Major: Psychology



Jannel Malave*

Monroe Community College

Major: Photography

Nehemiah Hounshell

University of Pittsburgh
at Bradford

Major: Psychology



Irondequoit High School

Kacian Bundah

Monroe Community College

Major: Nursing

Miani Cylear*
Xavier University
Major: Biology



Brianna Martinez-Vega
Monroe Community College
Major: Message Therapy

Charles Jackson
Canisius College
Major: Accounting



Peyton Myles
Mercyhurst University
Major: Criminal Justice

Khadija Jackson*
Johnson & Wales University
Major: Business Marketing



Ashanti Small
Monroe Community College
Major: Liberal Arts

Darien Maharaj
Monroe Community College
Major: Biology



Bakari Smith*
Clarkson University
Major: Electrical Engineering

Jarina Marlin*
Alfred State University
Major: Liberal Arts



Nneka Southwell*
Rochester Institute of
Technology
Major: Chemistry

Jonathan Torres*
Monroe Community College
Major: Engineering



Penfield High School
Anthony Williams*
Monroe Community College
Major: Electrical Engineering

Pittsford Sutherland High School

Kiana Dash*
Hampton University
Major: Biology



Pittsford Mendon High School

Salina Dy
Monroe Community College
Major: Nursing

Kristen Kettles*
Culinary Institute of America
Major: Pastry Chef



Todja Williams
Make-Up Designory School
Major: Make Up Artist

Wheatland-Chili High School

Matthew Cook*
The College at Brockport
Major: History



Milik Ruffin
Monroe Community College
Major: Liberal Arts

Genesis McBride*
Roberts Wesleyan College
Major: Forensic Science



Dasia Taylor-Hill
Monroe Community College
Major: Liberal Arts

2013 Urban-Suburban Scholarship Awards

On April 23, the Urban-Suburban Scholarship Committee awarded a total of \$15,700 in college scholarships to 18 outstanding students. The scholarships awards ranged from \$610 to \$1,170. Many thanks to the wonderful volunteers who took time to select our winners:

Amy Moser and Wade Scott, parents, *Brighton*
Jonathan Claudio, parent, *Brockport*
Janell Bertram, parent, *Fairport*
Desmond Jackson, parent, *Penfield*
Shelia Cotton, parent, *Pittsford*
Ricky Thomas, parent, *West Irondequoit*
Andrea Goodfellow, Counselor, *Wheatland-Chili*
Joseph Fantigrossi, Principal, *Fairport*

The following students received Urban-Suburban Scholarships:

Matthew Cook	Genesis McBride
Miani Cylear	Tatianna Munoz
Kiana Dash	Shannon Neal
Summer Hills	Chelsea O’Meally
Khadijah Jackson	Michael Shaw
Mackenzie Jones	Bakari Smith
Kristen Kettles	Nneka Southwell
Jannel Malave	Jonathan Torres
Jarina Marlin	Anthony Williams

Let’s give the business community a hand for giving the Urban-Suburban Program a hand

It takes a whole village to raise a child, and the businesses of the Greater Rochester Community have generously supported the Urban-Suburban Program throughout the year. The following businesses have gone above and beyond in their support of the program: **Wegmans, Eastview Mall, Kango Play Center, Tom Wahl’s Inc., Clover Lanes, Applebee’s Fairport, Pizza Hut, Papa John’s Pizza, DiBella’s Old Fashion Submarines, Litterio Associates, Wendy’s, Target of Fairport and Berry Consulting Services, LLC.**

Thank you for all that you do!



Urban-Suburban families make donations:

This past January, Program families brought an assortment of paper products to their parent meetings. In February, all the paper products were donated to the Brighton Food Cupboard, located at 2035 Monroe Avenue. Co-Chairs of the program’s Parent Advisory Council, Mr. Felix Davenport & Mrs. Lieselle Taylor (pictured on left) coordinated the donation. The Brighton Food Cupboard was very appreciative of the donation and stated, “Urban-Suburban has provided greatly needed items for many individuals and families who lack the basic necessities in our community. Thank you again for your generosity we really appreciate it.”

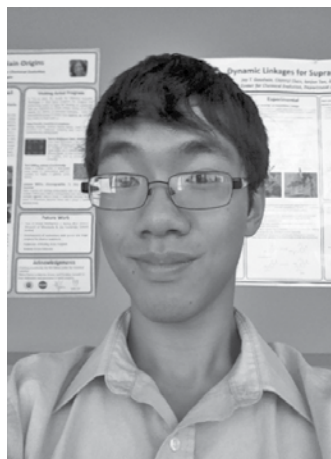
Alumni Highlight

Roger Tieu, Brockport High School, Class of 2011

After graduating from Brockport High School, I was accepted into Emory University where I am currently an undergraduate majoring in biology and chemistry. The experiences I accumulated over the years from my time at Brockport, along with what I learned from my family, friends and mentors, prepared me for the inevitable day of heading off into the big world.

To this very day, I remember the morning I watched the bustling city of Rochester and the cozy suburbs of Brockport gradually disappear off into the distance. I left my home and soon arrived at the next chapter of my life in Atlanta. The transition from high school to college remains as one of my most riveting memories. I hit the ground running during my first year by not only taking an advanced course load including organic chemistry, but also becoming involved in research. I was pushed beyond my limits and forced to think analytically and creatively not only in the classroom but also in life. These experiences have made me stronger and fueled my desire for even greater challenges.

These past two years, I have been blessed with numerous opportunities at Emory. During the academic year, I serve as a teaching assistant for the same professor who challenged me in organic chemistry. Now I act as a mentor for students who are treading on the same path I once traversed, and I aim to push each of them to reach a greater depth of understanding than my own. Outside of the classroom, I have the privilege of carrying out research in experimental immunology and pathology at the Yerkes National Primate Research Center. It is there that I design and construct proteins to enhance the immune system against chronic infections such as cancer. Because of my work and knowledge, I was invited to speak at the Global Health and Humanitarian Summit at the Emory University Medical School. I presented for an audience of researchers, doctors, students, and humanitarians from around the world and brought awareness to my research and its potential to someday create safe and effective therapies for cancer. Even though my passion lies in immunology, I do not allow myself to become engrossed in one research field; rather, I diversify my research interests among immunology, public health, and developmental biology. In my spare time, I work with the Emory Center for the Study of Human Health to investigate the dietary habits and lifestyles of Emory College students in order to implement initiatives to better the lives of the college population. As part of the Center for Visual Science's Undergraduate



Fellowship Program at the University of Rochester, I will be devoting this summer to carrying out research in the mechanism of inner ear development. It is through these experiences and opportunities that rather than just pursuing a medical degree after college, I would like to also take on the challenge of advancing medical research. I believe experimental immunology

carries great potential and I wish to advance this field. I will be at the forefront in the battle against cancer and hopefully someday be there for closing the book on cancer.

In the fall of 2013, I will begin my third year at Emory University as well as my first year of graduate school. Without a doubt, I would not be where I am today without the help and guidance of my family, friends, and mentors. I would like to thank the Urban-Suburban Program for providing me the opportunity to be exposed to an education that allowed me to steer myself in any direction I would choose. I would also like to thank the Brockport Central School District for supporting and believing in my endeavors and always willing to extend a helping hand. I remain forever grateful for the people in my life and I will never be able to repay them back in full. For me, this drives my two main philosophies: be curious and make the world a better place.

Vaughn Boler, Pittsford Mendon High School, Class of 2012 - Vaughn

Boler, a Genesee Community College (GCC) freshman forward and Mendon graduate was named the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division II Region III Player of the Year for men's basketball. Vaughn played in 27 games and averaged 21.1 points, 14th most in the junior college ranks. He also averaged seven rebounds.

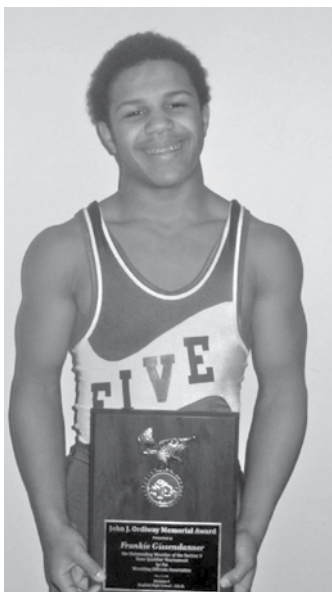


Student Corner

Devan Carter, Brighton High School – A senior, Devan signed his Letter Of Intent to play football at Rutgers University. He originally gave a verbal commitment to Syracuse University, however after Coach Doug Marrone left the Orange to coach the Buffalo Bills, Carter changed to Rutgers, a school he had long considered attending. Carter is the first student from Brighton to receive a scholarship to play football at a BCS (Bowl Championship Series) school.



Frankie Gissendanner, Bay Trail Middle School, Penfield - Since 1st grade, being a program participant has allowed him to grow not only as a student but as an athlete. Athletically he has made tremendous strides ever since picking up wrestling in the 4th grade where he served as the Manager for the Varsity Team. This year he started in the Varsity lineup as a 7th grader for the 126 weight class. He is the first New Yorker and 7th grader ever to win a Top Hat title. He placed first in Counties, Sectionals, and Super Sectionals where he earned the Ordiway Award (Most Outstanding Wrestler) which is usually given to an 11th and or 12th grader. Winning Super Sectionals earned him a place on the State Team for Section V. At states he did not place; he went 1 and 2. He is looking forward to avenging his loss next season.



Epongue Ekille, Martha Brown Middle School, Fairport – Epongue is in the 8th grade and was selected STUDENT OF THE MONTH FOR FEBRUARY by her team teachers. They said, “Epongue is a truly amazing individual. She always puts forth her best effort. Epongue goes out of her way to help and encourage others. Her contributions to class discussions are of the highest quality and inspire the academic growth and participation of all. Her attitude is such an asset to every class she joins. We applaud her effort and accomplishments. Congratulations to you Epongue on this great honor!” Mr. and Mrs. Ekille also received a personal phone call from Mr. Dunn, the principal of Martha Brown Middle School, to congratulate us for Epongue’s excellent behavior, leadership and academic acumen and behavior. “It was very humbling and refreshing to hear those accolades bestowed on our child,” said her father Embola.

TyReek Sizer, Irondequoit High School - TyReek is a freshman at Irondequoit High School and a member of DECA. DECA prepares high school and college students to become leaders and entrepreneurs in careers such as marketing, finance, hospitality and management. This past November, TyReek and a team member (Danny Kalke) competed against nearly 1,000 other teams from across the nation in an on-line sports marketing challenge and took first place. Named the January Business Student of the Month, TyReek was nominated by Mr. DiCesare because of his commitment to applying his knowledge obtained in his Sports Marketing class.



THE FIRST ANNUAL URBAN-SUBURBAN YOUTH SUMMIT WAS A SUCCESS!

The first annual Urban-Suburban Youth Leadership Summit, sponsored by the Urban-Suburban Alumni Association, was held on Saturday, March 23rd. The Youth Summit kicked off with a wholesome breakfast and opening words from Alumni Association chair, Leticia Astacio, Esq. This event was open to students in grades 7-12, and the goal of this experience was to provide students with an interactive leadership opportunity. Each student participated in a total of four workshops, two in the morning and two in the afternoon. Workshop topics included college and careers, leadership, financial literacy, academic achievement, positive self-image and more! Workshops were facilitated by Urban-Suburban alumni and members of the Black Young Professionals.

Congratulations to all students who received awards for their outstanding participation. Be on the lookout for next year's Youth Summit 2014!



Student Participants



Urban-Suburban Alumni Association and volunteers



Did You Know?

Fairport

Assistant Principal Al Scheuer retires from Martha Brown Middle School - After 35 years working in education and his last 23 years with the Fairport Central School District (FCSD), Assistant Principal Al Scheuer is retiring effective June 2013. Mr. Scheuer has served as assistant principal for all of his 23 years at Martha Brown Middle School. FCSD had just started the transition from a junior high to a middle school format when he was hired. He said “it was exciting to assist in creating a middle school.” Though many experiences left Mr.



Scheuer with memories to cherish into his retirement he said, “The highlight of my career was having the entire Martha Brown Middle School staff nationally recognized as A Schools to Watch this past spring. This award acknowledged that we are an excellent model for other middle schools to emulate.”

Reflecting on his career, Mr. Scheuer said “Martha Brown is a family atmosphere, where everyone in the building works together to create a warm, caring environment for both students and staff. I will miss working with such caring professionals and interacting with the students every day, it’s their enthusiasm that helps to keep you young.” Looking ahead into retirement, Mr. Scheuer said he is looking forward to relaxing and spending more time with his wife, Tammy, and children, Kristen and Al. “We plan to travel, I will work on some of the antique cars I have collected, and I will continue to remain active with the Fairport Fire Department,” he said.

Penfield

Peiffer Named Penfield Assistant Superintendent - James R. Peiffer, Jr. has been named the new Assistant Superintendent for Instruction for the Penfield Central School District. Peiffer comes to Penfield from the Starpoint Central School District, where he currently serves as an intermediate school principal. Peiffer also served as an assistant principal in the Starpoint CSD, as well as Coordinator of Instructional Technology Integration, Staff and Curriculum Development at Erie I BOCES, and as an elementary school teacher in the West Seneca School District. Peiffer is certified as a school district administrator and holds a master’s degree in educational administration from Canisius College. He also holds a master’s degree in elementary education from Buffalo State College and a bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education from Daemen College.

“Mr. Peiffer will be an excellent addition to our outstanding team of educational leaders in the Penfield School District,” said Superintendent Dr. Stephen Grimm. “His background, experience, and strategic vision are perfectly aligned with our current instructional needs and we look forward to his arrival,” he added. Dr. Grimm also expressed appreciation to the stakeholder interview team for their commitment to the search process. “I am extremely excited to join the Penfield Central School District and continue the tradition of success and high level of student achievement for which Penfield is known,” Peiffer said. He will begin his new position as of July 1, 2013.



Pittsford

The Pittsford Board of Education accepted retirement letters from three school principals. Those retiring, effective June 30, 2013, include Elizabeth “Liz” Konar, principal of Sutherland High School, Scott Reinhart, principal of Calkins Road Middle School, and Carole Schwab, principal of Jefferson Road Elementary School.

The collective years of service these principals have devoted to Pittsford Schools rounds out to about 70 years. Urban-Suburban is grateful for their dedication to our students and families. They will be missed tremendously.



Elizabeth Konar, Sutherland High School - Principal Konar began her career 38 years ago and started in Pittsford 22 years ago as a Special Education teacher. She has served as principal at Sutherland High School for the past 12 years, watching the school grow and undergo a major renovation. Konar said, “I began my first day of teaching knowing of my good fortune in the career choice I made. I will leave SHS at the end of June truly appreciating my good fortune. I owe all of this to the faculty, staff, students, and parents in our community. You have all taught me well.”

Scott Reinhart, Calkins Road Middle School – As principal of Pittsford Middle School, Principal Reinhart was instrumental in managing the opening of a new middle school, Calkins Road Middle School. He served as principal for 10 years at Calkins Road Middle School and spent a total of 19 years in Pittsford and a total of 37 years in education. “I am grateful to a community that values and supports education. I am grateful to a District composed of Board of Education members, administrators, teachers and staff that always placed the needs of children first. I am especially grateful to the best kids any principal could ever wish for,” said Scott Reinhart.



Carole Schwab, Jefferson Road Elementary School – Following a 29 year career in Pittsford and 38 years in education, Carole Schwab is retiring from the principal’s post she had held for 26 years. Principal Schwab served as assistant principal when the Pittsford Middle School first opened as a 7th/8th grade school, and previous to that vice principal at Spry Junior High School and taught at Ridgecrest School in Webster. Schwab reflected, “Throughout my career I have been so very fortunate to have worked with incredible students, staff, administrators, and parents and for that, as I move on to a new chapter of my life, I am most grateful.”

2013 Urban-Suburban Snapshots



Science Bowl Team



Academic Achievement Awards Recipients



Class of 2013



Urban-Suburban Students



2013 Scholarship Recipients



Twelve Corners Middle School Students

Keep in touch at the Urban-Suburban Program Website:

