

# Think Big!

Carson Scholars Fund Newsletter



June, 2011

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**July 8, 2011**  
Payout Request  
Forms due

**July 18, 2011**  
Payouts mailed to  
colleges

**July 31, 2011**  
Summer Scholar  
Celebration!

**Late October, 2011**  
Carson Scholar  
Recognition  
applications mailed to  
scholars' homes

**Early November,  
2011**  
Carson Scholar new  
applications mailed to  
schools

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305 W. Chesapeake  
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410.828.1005  
[www.carsonscholars.org](http://www.carsonscholars.org)

*The 2010-2011 school year has been a busy one for the Carson Scholars Fund! With one thousand 2011 Carson Scholars, five new reading rooms, and a slew of banquets and other events, we are thrilled to update you on everything that's been going on.*

## Wrapping up the 2011 Banquet Season

Between April 10 and May 15, the Carson Scholars Fund held seven awards banquets across the country, honoring scholars in front of their families, educators, and communities. Awards banquets were held in: Baltimore, MD; New Haven, CT; Lee County, FL; Atlanta, GA; Battle Creek, MI; Pittsburgh, PA; and Santa Ana, CA.

In Baltimore, the fifteenth annual event welcomed nearly 1,400 guests. In addition to scholars, the Baltimore banquet honored Jim Sinegal, CEO of Costco; Roland Betts, Founder and Chairman of Chelsea Piers; Dr. Francis Collins, Director of the National Institutes of Health; and John Harbaugh, Head Coach of the Baltimore Ravens. These successful honorees spoke to our scholars about being innovative and maintaining their intellectual curiosity, giving back to others, and always supporting their peers.

In Lee County, the Foundation for Lee County Public Schools organized a fabulous event and made sure each of their 54 new scholars had a moment in the spotlight. Dr. M. William Frey spoke of the importance of education, and continued his push to help get every elementary school in Lee County an endowment.

In Atlanta, scholars from Atlanta, Chattanooga, and other southeastern states joined together at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Delta, Verizon, the Mountain Education Foundation, and the Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga all contributed to this banquet. The banquet also honored Ed Bastian, President of Delta Airlines, for his commitment to the Atlanta community.



*Scholars process into the banquet hall at the Baltimore banquet*

*Continued...*

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## KEEPING UP WITH OUR CHAPTERS

It's been a busy year at all of the CSF chapters across the country.

Washington, DC Metro and Philadelphia both held their first fundraisers and Pittsburgh held its seventh annual fundraiser.

We can't wait to see what next year brings!

To learn more about our chapters, visit our website, go to about us, and then chapters.

Want to learn more about the Carson Scholars Fund? Friend us on facebook!

[www.facebook.com/carsonscholarsfund](http://www.facebook.com/carsonscholarsfund)

## Wrapping up the 2011 Banquet Season, *continued*

In Battle Creek, a continued relationship between the Battle Creek Public Schools and the Kellogg Company honored 42 scholars from across Michigan. The banquet was also a chance to show-off the newly remodeled Battle Creek Central High School. John Bryant, CEO of the Kellogg Corporation, encouraged all of the scholars to look towards the future and always dream big.

In Pittsburgh, the Costa Land Company flawlessly hosted the second-largest awards banquet of 2011, with more than 125 scholars and their families in attendance. The Pittsburgh banquet honored Dr. Peter Salovey of Yale University for his leadership, innovation, and creativity.



*Scholars and their families meet the Carsons at the Pittsburgh banquet*

In California, Union Bank helped us recognize 40 scholars from across the West Coast. Speakers from the University of California – Irvine and Cal State Fullerton spoke to the scholars about their options for the future and how to get the most out of their college education.

In New Haven, an intimate event hosted by Yale University honored scholars from across Connecticut.



*West Coast scholars at the California banquet*

With seven wonderful banquets down and one more to come – Indianapolis this fall – the 2011 banquets have helped us to honor more students and reach more areas than we ever have before. Thank you to all of the banquet and scholarship sponsors, our volunteers across the country, and our scholars and their families for joining us to celebrate some remarkable young students.

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## DID YOU KNOW?

Ninety cents of every dollar donated to the Carson Scholars Fund goes directly to our educational programs.

One way we are able to keep overhead costs low is through the amazing dedication of our volunteers. For example, we rely on volunteer judges to help read and score scholarship applications every winter – this year, more than 75 volunteers came to our office to help process, read, and score applications.

Thank you again!

Can't get enough of the Carson Scholars Fund? Follow us on Twitter!

[www.twitter.com/caronscholars](http://www.twitter.com/caronscholars)

## The 4th Annual Ben Carson Celebrity Golf Tournament

On Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011, friends of the Carson Scholars Fund met at the famous Robert Trent Jones Golf Course in Manassas, Virginia, for the Ben Carson Celebrity Golf Tournament. The Tournament raised over \$200,000, and fifteen celebrities were in attendance to support the Carson Scholars Fund. Thank you again to all of the funders and celebrities who supported this event!

## W.K. Kellogg Research Study—Special Preview

In 2010, the Carson Scholars Fund received a grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation to conduct a 10-year, longitudinal study of our scholarship and reading room programs. In early 2011, we kicked off this study and are currently awaiting results from our alumni survey, reading room survey, and current scholar survey. We expect to have a full report available in the fall, but in the meantime, here's some of what we're learning so far:

- **Carson Scholars are taught early to excel** – 78% of alumni say that the scholarship made them feel someone believed in them, which encouraged them to achieve academically.
- **The scholarship helps Carson Scholars to believe in themselves** – 81% said that receiving the scholarship increased their self-confidence, which led them to try for leadership positions and harder classes.
- **Now in college, Carson Scholar alumni are still getting A's** – in the most recent school year, 68% were still getting A's, and 98% had either A's or B's. 0% had below a C.

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## ALUMNI

Are you a Carson Scholar alum?

If so, we want to hear from you! Email [erin@carsonscholars.org](mailto:erin@carsonscholars.org) to tell us what you're up to now, and to learn more about upcoming alumni events in your area.

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## Alumni Spotlight: Inaugural Scholars

In honor of the Carson Scholars Fund's 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we tracked down some of our Inaugural Scholars – the organization's first class of scholars who earned their medals in 1996. Just as we suspected, our CSF Alumni have grown up to be even more successful than they promised back in '96. Thank you to our Inaugural Scholars for their continued support and for setting the bar high for generations of Carson Scholars to come!

### ***Amay Champaneria***

Software engineer for Google

*Hometown:* Delaware, Seaford Senior High School '97

*College:* Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) - Computer Science & Management Science

*Grad School:* Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) - Electrical Engineering & Computer Science

### ***Alexandria Carroll***

Equity research associate at Goldman Sachs

*Hometown:* Washington, DC, Benjamin Banneker Academic High School '99

*College:* Stanford University - Civil Engineering

*Grad School:* University of Pennsylvania – Master of Business

### ***Brittany Parrish DeFrehn***

Founder of SweetBee

Photography

*Hometown:* Germantown, MD

Class of 2003

*College:* McDaniel College - Political Science & International Relations

### ***Joy Oliver Hunt***

Markets pharmaceuticals for NovoNordisk

*Hometown:* Delaware, Seaford Senior High School '97

*College:* University of Delaware – Economics/Political Science

*Grad School:* University of Delaware – Urban Affairs & Public Policy



*The first Carson Scholars Fund banquet—1996*

*Continued...*

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## Alumni Spotlight: Inaugural Scholars, *continued*

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We can't wait to see what next year brings!

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#### **Charles Prah**

Analyst for the United States government  
*Hometown:* Cambridge, MD  
*College:* Georgetown – Foreign Service  
*Grad School:* Georgetown – Security Studies



Joy Oliver Hunt, Alexandria Carroll, and Charles Prah at the Baltimore banquet

#### **Kerwin Speight**

Morning Executive Producer at WTAE-TV Pittsburgh  
*Hometown:* Washington, DC, H.D. Woodson Senior High School '98  
*College:* American University – Broadcast Journalism

#### **Millicent Thomas**

Student Services Counselor at East Carolina University  
*Hometown:* Baltimore, MD, Henry E. Lackey High School '97  
*College:* University of Maryland Baltimore County – Interdisciplinary Studies  
*Grad School:* East Carolina University – Instructional Technology

#### **Henderson Wade**

Actor/Model  
*Hometown:* Washington, DC, St. Johns College High School '02  
*College:* Syracuse – Television, Radio, & Film



Kerwin Speight at the Pittsburgh banquet

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Thank you again!

## Find us online!

[caronscholars.org](http://caronscholars.org)

[caronscholars.org/blog](http://caronscholars.org/blog)

[facebook.com/caronscholarsfund](https://www.facebook.com/caronscholarsfund)

[twitter.com/caronscholars](https://twitter.com/caronscholars)

[youtube.com/caronscholars](https://www.youtube.com/caronscholars)

## Reading Room Spotlight Jacksonville Elementary School

On September 24, 2010, Jacksonville Elementary School in Phoenix, Maryland opened its Ben Carson Reading Room. The Jacksonville Reading Room was the first of five rooms to open during the 2010-2011 school year, and the fiftieth Reading Room to open in the history of the Ben Carson Reading Project.

The Jacksonville Reading Room was sponsored by Proctor & Gamble, the latest installment in a long-standing relationship between the company and the CSF (in addition to sponsoring reading rooms, P&G volunteers spent nearly 100 hours assisting with the scholarship program this year!). P&G representatives Marilyn Glen and Qadira Wagstaff attended the opening ceremony, and engaged the students in an interactive poem about reading.

The Jacksonville Reading Room itself is has an outdoor theme, including Black-Eyed Susans, a fountain, and inspirational quotes on the wall. It is also the only Reading Room to feature a room-within-a-room, so that the space can be used for both read-alouds and independent reading.

The other Reading Rooms to open during the 2010-2011 school year were at Youth's Benefit Elementary School (September 27), Mary Ann Winterling Elementary School (October 27), Magnolia Elementary School (November 5), and George Washington Elementary School (November 8). Thank you and congratulations to all of the schools, funders, and volunteers who have worked hard to make this year's class of Reading Rooms a success – especially Youth's Benefit Education Foundation, Bank of America, and Stack & Store Mini Storage.

*Looking ahead:* As amazing as 2010-2011 has been, 2011-2012 is looking even better! We have 14 Reading Rooms scheduled to open in Denver, Atlanta, Alexandria, and throughout Maryland. Thank you to Excellence in Giving, Delta, the Salvation Army, Allegis Group, Stack & Store Mini Storage, The Friedman Charitable Foundation, Bank of America, The Fine Foundation, and the Carson Scholars Fund Washington, DC Metro Chapter for your commitments!



*Students enjoy the Jacksonville Reading Room*

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