

Scholar Spotlight:



Darlyn Reaves

Darlyn Reaves is a three-time Carson Scholar who is currently a ninth grader at Pittsburgh Perry Traditional Academy High School. Darlyn's teachers describe her

performance in challenging advanced coursework as "imaginative, industrious, and gifted." While maintaining a 4.0 grade point average at school, Darlyn is also active in her church as an usher and youth choir member.

Inspired by Dr. Carson's award of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Darlyn wishes to make the world a better place through community service. She regularly visits patients from local hospitals to uplift their spirits and provide companionship. Believing that community service is a way life, Darlyn also tutors younger students, assists in neighborhood cleanups, and provides childcare to her neighbors. In the future, Darlyn hopes to be a lawyer or social worker to continue helping her community.

Belmont Reading Room *continued*



Belmont Elementary Students celebrate the opening with a good book! The room is sponsored by Bank of America.

On the way to the Reading Room, we passed by the library with its circular stage and aquarium motif that inspires visitors to explore the wonders of the ocean through the wall mural, a painting of various species of aquatic creatures in their natural habitat.

Upon cutting the ribbon and entering the Reading Room, we were dazzled by the huge framed scenes of Baltimore City's special sights. Comfortable kid-friendly seating, loads of colorful books and decorations make this Reading Room a fabulous place to visit.

Belmont is our 40th Reading Room!



Save the Date

June 10, 2009

Colts Celebrity Showdown
Indianapolis, Indiana

July 7, 2009

Senior Send-off and Alumni Party
Baltimore, Maryland

October 11, 2009

Pairings Party for the 3rd Annual Ben Carson
Celebrity Golf Tournament, Baltimore Country
Club—Roland Park Clubhouse

October 12, 2009

3rd Annual Ben Carson Celebrity Golf
Tournament
Five Farms, Baltimore



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Think Big!

Carson Scholars Fund Newsletter

April 2009

Lights, Camera, Action!



Dr. Ben Carson with Cuba Gooding, Jr. at the world premier of Gifted Hands.

On February 2, Johns Hopkins was the scene of a uniquely amazing event . . . the premier of *Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story*. For the first time in the history of Johns Hopkins, a movie about "one of their own" had its world premier on the very premises where it actually took place! Guests were greeted with roaming searchlights as they strolled on the red carpet on the plaza to the largest venue on the medical campus, the auditorium in the Turner Building. Upon entering the building, flashes from the cameras of paparazzi dazzled as guests were paused by the Hollywood backdrop for photo ops.

This premier was really special because guests could actually meet several of the people whose lives were portrayed in the movie. Dr. Carson and his family were present, as well as Dr. Donlin Long, then Chief of Neurosurgery, Dr. John Freeman, then Chief of Pediatric Neurology, and Dr. George Udvarhelyi, the interviewer responsible for Dr. Carson's acceptance into the Johns Hopkins Neurosurgery program.

Producers Margaret Loesch and Dan Angel had traveled from California for the event to field questions from the media in the press conference prior to the screening. Their company won an academy award for another made-for-TV movie, *Door to Door* starring Bill Macy.

Adding more fun to the evening was the silent auction which included items like a clinical lab coat autographed by Dr. Carson and a baseball bat autographed by Cal Ripken, Jr. However, the live auction was even more spectacular. It included dinner with Baltimore Raven two-time pro-bowler, Michael McCray and his wife, Mary, a visit to the set of "Inside the NFL" hosted by sportscaster of the year and multiple Emmy Award winner, James Brown (JB), Dinner at the Carsons' and a script autographed by the lead actors accompanied by a tour of Sony Pictures near Los Angeles with round trip airfare. Sony Pictures had purchased the MGM Studios a few years ago, and the tour includes such sets as the ones where Jeopardy and Wheel of Fortune are still taped, as well as many sets of award-winning motion pictures. Auctioneer Joe Hogan of Hogan Auctioneering in Hunt Valley kept the live auction really live! And award-winning script

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Alumni Scholar Spotlight:

Daniel Patrylak



Growing up, one of Daniel Patrylak's role models was Dr. Carson. He admired how Dr. Carson touched the lives of children both inside and outside of the

Johns Hopkins Children's Center. Dr. Carson's example is one of the reasons this five-time Carson Scholar recipient decided to pursue a career in the nonprofit sector working with children.

Currently, Daniel is a Junior at Towson University and an intern in the Public Relations and Marketing Departments at the Casey Cares Foundation which provides programs to critically ill children and their families, many of whom Dr. Carson has operated on. The internship has made Daniel realize "a lot of people have lost sight of the fact that we were put here to help each other." At Towson University, Daniel is pursuing a major in Mass Communications in PR and Advertising within the Honors College. He is also a member of the Golden Key Society and National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

The Carson Scholars Fund, Inc., aims to recognize and reward students in grades 4-11 who are outstanding academic achievers and role models with college scholar awards. The Fund also promotes Dr. Ben Carson's THINK BIG philosophy to encourage people of all ages to strive for excellence.

Reading Rooms

Meadowdale Elementary School Reading Room Opening

On Wednesday December 3, after Principal A. Blaine Hawley opened the program, the Meadowdale Mustangs gave community guests their traditional rousing welcome by singing their original welcome song. While the elementary students sat in neat rows on the floor of the gymnasium in class groups, visiting dignitaries viewed the program from special seats near the entrance of the gym. Each grade had prepared a special presentation, from poetry recitations and songs, to reading the meaning of the THINK BIG acrostic. Some students even performed a skit to celebrate the event. With minimal props, the life of Dr. Ben Carson unfolded from early childhood to the present. It turns out that the student who portrayed Dr. Carson's mother, Sonya, is a former patient of his, and even wore Sonya's favorite thing of all on her dress....a butterfly!

Harford County Executive David R. Craig shared a few words, as did Candy Carson, on reading and its importance to success. Havre de Grace Mayor Wayne H. Dougherty provided a video taped message. After the program, photos were



Meadowdale educators and students enjoy their new Reading Room.

taken and students distributed mustang-shaped chocolates to all the visitors. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was shared with each classroom via a live feed. Principal A. Blaine Hawley and several students held the larger-than-life scissors and did the honors.

Stacy MacBurney, founder and owner of Artistic Expressions and a parent at Meadowdale painted the full-length wall mural of horses peacefully grazing in the countryside. Since the school mascot is the mustang, it's easy to understand why! The comfy bean-bag chairs and colorful decorations make this Reading Room another winner.

The Meadowdale Reading Room was made possible by Louis and Phyllis Friedman and is sponsored by Stack & Store Mini Storage.

Belmont Elementary School Reading Room Opening

The auditorium of Belmont Elementary School in Baltimore was packed with standing room only on Tuesday, December 16 at 9:15am. It still amazes the listener when a principal gets up in front of the students, calls for order, and receives a resounding response to her "good morning" with several

hundred children in unison, "Good morning Mrs. LaMartina!" A thrilling song was presented by the fifth graders and several other students wore the letters THINK BIG, while their partners recited the meaning behind each of the letters.

Brooke Hodges, Senior Vice President and Market Development Manager from Bank of America, would not let a cast on her leg prevent her from attending and participating in the festivities. The importance of encouraging our youth to develop a love of learning is simply too important! Candy Carson and Amy Warner also participated in the program. And as with all Reading Rooms, Tammy Blazenyak and Jo Weisgal did a marvelous job of facilitating.

READING ROOMS
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Ben Carson Reading Day is a Hit Again on Monday, November 17

For several years, Ben Carson Reading Day has been a hit at local schools. Held in conjunction with American Education Week, the day encourages students to develop a love of learning by having guest adult readers from the community share their favorite stories. Traditionally the schools where this special event takes place are schools with Ben Carson Reading Rooms. Each reader selects an age-appropriate book and literally brings the book to life, with sound effects, wonderful voice inflections, and thoughtful pauses. This year Storyteller Ann Loar Brooks, US Army Master Sergeant Paul Blitz, and Candy Carson read at Arlington Elementary/Middle School while Bob Smith, the Griot, wove words into inspirational stories for children at Coldstream Park Elementary/Middle School. The children were spellbound! How exciting it is to see young people so enthralled with reading!



U.S. Army Veteran Paul Blitz reports for reading duty at Arlington Elementary/Middle School.

Donor Reception at the BMA

The historic architecture and enchanting artwork of the Baltimore Museum of Art provided a fabulous backdrop for the Carson Scholar Donor Thank You Reception on the afternoon of Sunday, January 11, 2009. Several scholars were on hand as resources, and donors had the unique opportunity to stroll through the whole museum by themselves at their leisure until the program began at 6pm at Gertrude's Restaurant. A scrumptious meal in a style that is unique to Gertrude's was followed by gourmet miniature desserts that tastily teased the palate!

Four-time Carson Scholar Winner, Andrew Greene of Broadneck Senior High School, regaled us with his excellent piano renditions after which he spoke on what being a Carson Scholar entails. Melanie Hardy of Institute of Notre Dame, a three-time Carson Scholar, gave us further insights into what it is like to win this award. Chairman of the Board Lee Warner spoke on the history of the fund and Ben Carson spoke on its future.

Many donors were present to enjoy the ambiance of one of Baltimore's best events, including: Mr. & Mrs. Vince Alcarese, Chuck Bender, Grace Bender, Karen Blake, Mr. and Mrs. Vic Broccolino, Muriel Botwionik, Mr. and Mrs. Steven Brooks, Michelle Castillo, Dr. & Mrs. Charles Castoro, Shanda Coley-White, Dr. Randy Davis, Fannie DeCateur, Dr. & Mrs. Joshua Dee, Darlene DuBose, Judy Fida, Allison Friert, Victoria Fox, Debbie Greene, Mr. & Mrs. Wes Guckert, Renee Guckert, Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Harris, Mr. & Mrs. Neil Katz, Terry Kelly, Jennifer Knight, Dawn Lewis, Betty Loafmann, Aida Martin, Michael Martin, Dee McCreary, Natalie McGrath, Jacquelyn Miles-Humes, Mary Anne Rishebarger, Amberlee Rust, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Seadler, Jan Sherry, Richard Silberstein, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Smelkinson, Mr. & Mrs. Graylin Smith, James Smith, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Smyth, Nancy Trimble-Oliver, Lee Warner, Keon White, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wilson and Pete Zebdelsi.

Special thanks to our student stars and their families: Tobias Beuhner, Rachel Brown, Melanie Hardy, Darius Moore, and Michael Monaghan and Chelsi Scott.

Baltimore School for the Arts Presentation

Every spring, the Baltimore School for the Arts' students put on a musical theatre program which is the culmination of focused study in performance in various genres. This spring was no exception. However, this particular program was preceded by a special presentation.

Mr. David Modell and his lovely wife Michel with their history in the arts, (David in theater, and Michel in visual arts) were on hand to announce the creation of the Michel and David Modell Fund for Education Endowment at the Baltimore School for the Arts. The event was marked with the presentation of a Bronze Plaque acknowledging permanent funding for an annual Carson Scholarship at the school. First-time Carson Scholar recipient, Jesse Carey-Beaver, gave a stellar performance as a vocalist and dancer as well as choreographer. He will be attending the School of Drama at Carnegie Mellon University in the fall. Alexandra Linn, a straight "A" student in the visual arts program at the Baltimore School for the Arts was also recognized as a 2008 Carson Scholar that evening by Mrs. Candy Carson.

Pittsburgh

The 5th annual Pittsburgh fundraiser was an evening to remember as over 300 civic minded fans headed to the posh Bossa Nova to celebrate with the Pittsburgh Steelers! At 7pm the autograph session began with more than 13 Steelers players generously donating their time to interact with fans and sign sports memorabilia.

The night featured meaningful remarks from the President of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Carson Scholars Fund, Dr. Alfonso Costa, followed by inspiring comments from "the Bus" Jerome Bettis. An exciting auction capped off the evening with all proceeds benefiting young scholars in Pittsburgh and surrounding areas.

Our deepest gratitude to all the Steelers who were present, including Willie Parker, LaMarr Woodley, Deshea Townsend and Hines Ward and the Costa family and Costa Land Company for their roles in this special evening. Sincere thanks to S&T Bank, Dr. Gerald Loyacona, SW Jack Drilling and all of our dedicated sponsors.

Lights, Camera, Action! continued



Hooray for Hollywood! The inspiration behind Gifted Hands, Dr. Carson, his mother Sonya and his wife Candy.

writer John Pielmeier (*Agnes of God* and *The Memory Keepers Daughter*) gave insights into his part in making the movie successful, spurring the live auction as well.

Then came the one we'd all been waiting for! Principal actor and award-winning star of the movie, Cuba Gooding, Jr. (*Jerry Maguire*, *Men of Honor*) came to the stage under thunderous applause. He shared his thoughts on what it was like to portray a caring physician at Johns Hopkins and the challenges and enjoyment he had in bringing the script to life. Dr. Carson also shared a few thoughts on the process of getting the book *Gifted Hands* to the screen.

The screening began after the lights dimmed, and we were all totally engrossed in the story until the very end. After a moment of pure silence, the entire audience of approximately 700 rose to its feet and gave a standing ovation of no less than 5 minutes! Tears were in the eyes of many in response to the moving message of the movie.

Viewers retired to the promenade level of Turner for the reception following the movie screening to participate in a question and answer session led by Dr. Carson. The made-for-TV movie's first public showing was scheduled to air on TNT Saturday, February 7 at 8pm.



Candy Carson reads to a student in the Meadow.

Amazing Golf Experience to Benefit Carson Scholars Fund

Be a part of the 3rd Annual Ben Carson Celebrity Golf Tournament at the exclusive Baltimore Country Club. Don't miss this once in a lifetime opportunity to experience the remarkable course that plays host to the Senior Players Championship. The Pairings Party is Sunday Evening October 11th and the Tournament is Monday, October 12th. For sponsor information contact Amy Warner at 410-828-1005 or awarner@carsonscholars.org. All proceeds benefit the scholarship program.

