

# The Accolade



TOWANDA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT EDUCATION FOUNDATION • SUMMER 2011

## Foundation Reaches Out to Reunion Planners

The Towanda Area School District Education Foundation is searching for the organizers of upcoming class reunions scheduled for 2011 and 2012. Generally, alumni are organized every five years to meet and enjoy memories of their alma mater at a local establishment. If anyone knows the contact person for any of the following Towanda Area High School graduating classes please contact Diane Place, Superintendent, at 570-265-9894 or [dplace@tsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:dplace@tsd.k12.pa.us)

**Classes of 1941, 1946, 1951, 1956, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006.**

The Foundation has people who are available to give tours as part of a class reunion celebration.



Any and all of the buildings operated by the district can be toured at the convenience of the reunion organizers.

The Foundation is gathering physical and email addresses of alumni to share information about current activities and events that are being hosted by the alma mater. We welcome all graduates to connect and stay in touch with friends and classmates from such an important time in your life! You may also contact the TASDEF by emailing your own contact information by emailing [foundation@tsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:foundation@tsd.k12.pa.us) or by calling 570-268-2003.

*The Towanda Area School District Education Foundation presents the*

## 2011 Black Knight Alumni Week

**Friday, September 30th**

***Homecoming Football Game***

7:00 p.m.

*Check out the Alumni Tent*

**FREE ADMISSION  
with  
Golf Tournament  
Participation**

**Saturday, October 1st**

***7th Annual Golf Tournament***

9:00 a.m. Breakfast

10:00 a.m. Shotgun Start

***3rd Annual Alumni & Friends  
Party @ The Towanda Elks Club***

6:00 - 10:00 p.m.

***Heavy Appetizers, Beer, Silent Auction, Music***

*Please RSVP and purchase all tickets by September 23rd*

**570-268-2003 • [foundation@tsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:foundation@tsd.k12.pa.us)**

**web: [www.tsd.k12.pa.us](http://www.tsd.k12.pa.us) • email: [foundation@tsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:foundation@tsd.k12.pa.us)**

# Education Foundation Awards Grants

Several Towanda Area School District educators have been awarded Venture Grants from the Towanda Area School District Education Foundation (TASDEF). Seven teachers were able to design and implement "Dream Activities" in their classrooms enabled by the Venture grants.

The Venture grants reward the development of innovative and creative educational ideas in the classrooms. They are competitive and must enhance the curriculum. The program was initiated

in the 2005/2006 school year. It has been gaining popularity with more teachers applying for the grants each year.

Grants have been awarded to diverse areas, including K-4, third grade, high school health and physical education, the English Department, and the technology education class. Each grant recipient may receive up to \$1,000 in funding. In the past several years, numerous classroom educators have received these grants to enhance and "electrify" the education in their classrooms.

## Third Graders Visit Hot Spots of Towanda

The Towanda Education Foundation recently funded, through a venture grant, a community project that Towanda Elementary third grade students participated in called "Hot Spots of Towanda." The social studies curriculum in third grade reviews the concept of community. Studying a unit on Towanda gave the students knowledge about their hometown in the areas of geography, government, history, and businesses.

The unit of study ended with a walking tour of Towanda and visiting the places the students think are "hot spots," or places they would recommend others to visit. On this year's tour, the students visited the Bradford County YMCA, River Walking Trail, Weigh Station Café/ PA Artisan Center & Store, Keystone Theatre, Bradford County Historical Museum, Bradford County Courthouse, Towanda Public Library, the Flying Cow Bakery, Endless Mountains Sports Complex, and Towanda Area School District primary, elementary, and high schools. At each stop on the tour, the students learned about the location, discussed why they would recommend someone to visit the location, and had their class picture taken at the location.

After the tour, the students worked together to write persuasive and informative paragraphs encouraging others to visit each location. The pictures and paragraphs were then organized and edited into a "Hot Spots of Towanda" book. Each student will receive

a colored bounded copy to keep as a souvenir from the community unit. The students

worked very hard on this project and greatly enjoyed the experience.



*Third grade students from the classroom of Mrs. Kristine Watkins, are pictured above in front of the YMCA building in Towanda, one of the "hot spots" they visited. All of the third grade classrooms participated in the project.*

## Towanda Education Foundation to Fund Two Programs Annually



After reviewing several venture grant applications and interviewing many applicants, the Towanda Education Foundation has decided to fund two grants on an annual basis.

Free Instruments for Students, proposed by Duane Smith, elementary music/band

teacher, is one of those grants. The goal of the project is to make the musical training and experience of the band program available to students who express an interest in playing in band but are unable to purchase or rent an instrument of their own. Through venture grants, the Foundation has purchased five instruments over the past two years for this purpose, including a French Horn. All previously purchased instruments are in use at this time. By funding this proposal annually, the Foundation is providing an opportunity for more students to learn an instrument and be a part of the band.

The second grant to be funded annually by

the Foundation is the Academic Recognition Program proposed by Dennis Peachey, high school principal. Through this program students in grades 8-12 who perform well academically (honor roll status or achieving advanced or proficient in math and reading on the PSSA) during the previous school year would be rewarded with certificates, vouchers for the school store, and recognized at an evening program where refreshments will be provided for the students and their families.

The funding of these two programs annually helps to increase student motivation, increase student achievement, and broaden student interest.

# The Ultimate Experience: Kan-Jam at the Towanda Area High School Physical Education Classes

## The first Kan-Jam unit at Towanda High School is in the books!!

The Towanda Education Foundation recently funded, through a venture grant, a project which Towanda High School physical education classes participated in called "Kan-Jam." Physical education teacher Mike Geurin created the program promoting knowledge, awareness, and understanding of lifetime sports and the awareness of fitness.

Through the use of teamwork in recreational games, students were engaged in

critical thinking environments that utilized kinesthetic learning and strategies which are crucial to success in the real world. Through this process, Mr. Geurin's expectation was that students would improve PSSA test scores by boosting their higher order thinking skills.

Players in each physical education class played many games with different teammates that incorporated competition as well as cooperation. During the Kan-Jam unit, every student had some level of success and enjoyment. Kan-Jam was the culmination activity for the Frisbee sports unit. Ultimate Frisbee was the first unit completed in the

fall, which was followed by Kan-Jam. Kan-Jam will be utilized for many physical education classes in the future.



## Surviving the Obstacles

The Towanda Education Foundation recently funded, through a venture grant, a project which Towanda High School students participated in called "Survival." A group of Towanda Area High School students recently learned numerous things about themselves, each other, and how to overcome various obstacles in life. These students participated in a course directed by physical education teacher, Keith Brown. Mr. Brown wanted to increase students' knowledge, awareness, and understanding of the outdoors while promoting lifelong



fitness, self-confidence, and accountability to one's self.

This year the survival class has learned about tracks, traps, first aid, orienteering, and how to survive natural disasters. They have completed team building activities, learned how to collect water, and how to build a fire without matches. On the culminating weekend, the students will be taking their final. They will be stranded in the woods for 3 days and 2 nights with only what they can fit in an altoids can. No matches, no lighter, no problems. Students will improvise, adapt and overcome any tests, obstacles, or hardships that they may encounter.



# Towanda K-4 Teachers Promote Vocabulary Development

The Towanda Area School District Education Foundation, through the Venture Grant Program, funded a grant for K-4 teachers Cindi Webster and Sally Burlingame, which enabled them to purchase classic fairy tales and folktales related to read-aloud books. This project and grant funded materials will enhance the early childhood program and curriculum.

Teachers know that there is a strong relationship between early language development and reading ability in the primary grades. Vocabulary development is a key ingredient in the learning-to-read process. When children are surrounded with more vocabulary and opportunities to use language at a young age, they are more readily able to start recognizing words. The whole process is the focus of this grant. It is an important investment in our young students' future.

Students are enjoying classics such

as; *Henny Penny*, *Peter Rabbit*, *Aladdin and the Enchanted Lamp*, *The Bremen Town Musicians*, *Thumbilina* and many more. The teachers were able to purchase approximately 80 books. K-4 students were busy completing numerous extended thinking literacy activities such as comparing and contrasting a toy and real bears. They learned about "hibernation" by bringing stuffed teddy bears to school to hibernate for several weeks. When the bears woke up a teddy bear picnic was held.

Other essential ideas students have learned through the stories deal with the



importance of honesty, rhyming skills, and facts and vocabulary about shepherds, sheep, and wolves. They have also read several versions of some of the stories. All of the activities encourage students' desire to identify words and read.

## Home Repair/ Vehicle Maintenance - Skills for Life

### Venture Grant Enables Life Skills Education

Do you know how to install drywall, frame a room, or change a tire? Several students that participated in a class titled Home Repair/Vehicle Maintenance, Skills for Life now do. The class was made possible through funding from a venture grant obtained by technology education teacher, Eric Crompton, from the Towanda Area School District Education Foundation.

High school students, grades 9-12, had the opportunity to take the course. The students in the course learned several important home repair skills such as basic wiring and plumbing, along with several vehicle maintenance skills, like how to check fluid levels, change oil, and change brakes. These skills obtained by the students will help them to save money later in life, be more self reliant, and may also help some students gain interest in learning a trade.

## Foundation Supports English Department through Venture Grant

Towanda Area School District Education Foundation recently provided a grant to the Towanda Area Junior/Senior High School English Department. The grant will support the cost of approximately 200 7th-12th grade students to attend the Bradford County Regional Arts Council Schooltime Youth Series during the 2011-2012 school year. The grant will be used toward covering the cost of tickets and transportation to local theaters to attend various plays. The grant will give students an opportunity to see drama performed. After attending the plays, the students will engage in discussions analyzing how the scrip writer's use of words creates tone and mood, and how choice of words advances the theme or purpose of the work. These skills will help the students address the Pennsylvania Department of Education Academic Standards for reading, writing, speaking, and listening.



## There's No I in Team Venture Grant

Recently, Mr. Keith Brown, physical education teacher, was able to purchase supplies and equipment to be used to help promote team building and cooperation skills. The funding for this purchase came from a venture grant awarded to Mr. Brown through the Towanda Area School District Education Foundation. Mr. Brown is intending to use the equipment in his physical education classes to help build social skills and develop cooperation and trust among students. The supplies will

also be available for all teachers from grades 7-12 to use to improve instruction and place students in situations where they must work with other students to accomplish a common goal. Teaching students cooperation, communication, and teamwork is crucial to their overall development and will not only benefit students in high school, but also as they advance through college and in to the work field.

# TASD Foundation Scholarship Recipients 2010 - 2011

As part of the Foundation's mission to help support our schools and students, scholarships have been set up to be awarded to seniors who display a high level of character and citizenship. This year's recipients of the Towanda Area School District Education Foundation Scholarships were:

## **Florence Place Memorial Scholarship**

**Jesse Olsen**

*University of Scranton, Pre-Med*

## **McCarthy Family Scholarship**

**Cassandra Benjamin**

*University of the Sciences,  
Pharmacy*

## **Kelly Laderer**

### **Memorial Award**

**Zachary Sandfort**

*Lincoln Technical Institute,  
Electrician*

## **The DuPont Sciences, Engineering & Mathematics Scholarship**

**Cassandra Benjamin**

*University of the Sciences,  
Pharmacy*

## **Joel Christian**

*Haverford College,  
Physics or Chemistry*

## **Melinda Haggerty**

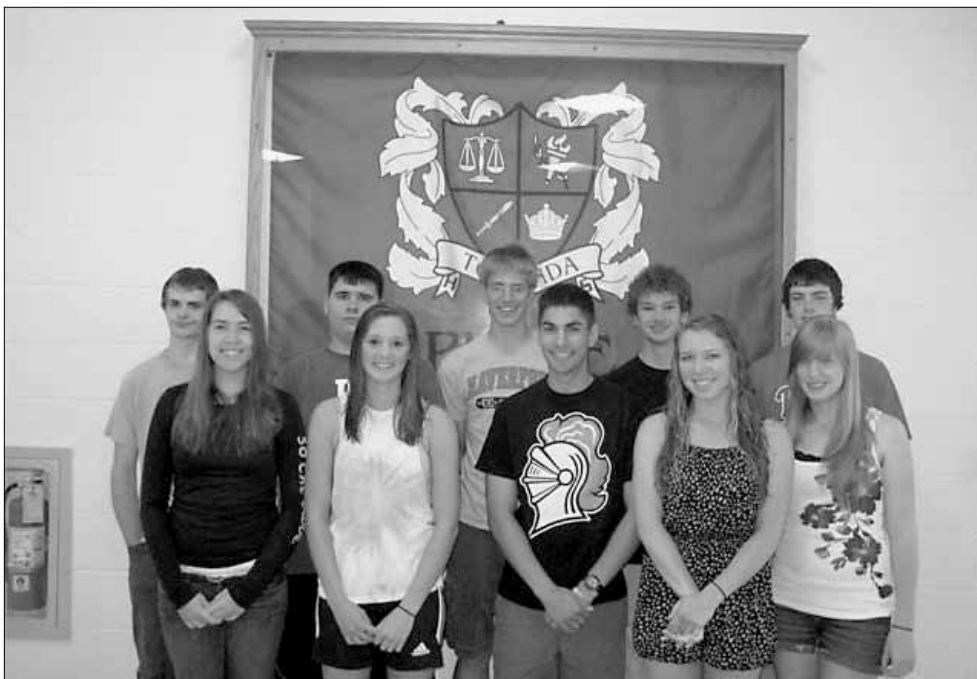
*Pennsylvania State University,  
Engineering*

## **Jesse Olsen**

*University of Scranton, Pre-Med*

## **Myriah Sutton**

*Mansfield University, Undeclared  
with hopes to pursue medicine*



*Back row L-R: Zachary Sandfort, Dillon Benjamin, Joel Christian, Jesse Olsen, Troy Gordon. Front row L-R: Myriah Sutton, Cassandra Benjamin, Kameron Kang, Melinda Haggerty, Caitlin Blackman*

## **Outstanding Student Award**

**Myriah Sutton**

*Mansfield University, Undeclared  
with hopes to pursue medicine*

## **Spirit of the Community Award**

**Kameron Kang**

*Valley Forge Military College,  
Business*

## **Troy Gordon**

*Elmira College, Business*

## **Caitlin Blackman**

*Tompkins Cortland  
Community College,  
Photography or Journalism*

## **Betty Morris & Joey Herman Scholarship**

**Dillon Benjamin**

*Lock Haven University,  
Sports Administration*

## **Betty Morris & Joey Herman Scholarship**

**Zachary Sandfort**

*Lincoln Technical Institute,  
Electrician*

## **Recognition System for Lifetime Levels of Giving**

\$1 to \$99

*Black Knight Bronze*

\$100 to \$499

*Black Knight Silver*

\$500 to \$999

*Black Knight Gold*

\$1,000 to \$9,999

*Black Knight Platinum*

\$10,000 & up

*Black Knight Champion*

When the \$100 to \$499 level and each above it are reached, a certificate of acknowledgement and appreciation will be sent in the name of the donor.

# Towanda Education Foundation Holds 2nd Annual Alumni & Friends Party

The Towanda Education Foundation hosted its second annual Black Knight Alumni Party on Saturday, October 16, 2010 at the Weigh Station Café. The party was well attended with 60 alumni from a variety of graduating classes enjoying the evening. Heavy appetizers, drinks, and music were provided. Attendees participated in a fun Chinese Auction with many

wonderful prizes donated by local supporters. Great high school memories were overheard being shared throughout the evening. The Foundation is looking forward to expanding this event year.

The Towanda Area School District Education Foundation was established in May of 2005. The mission of the Foundation is to raise money for the school district to assist

in the development and improvement of our area schools. Projects include the creation of a sports complex, assisting teachers with discretionary funds for educational projects, scholarships to graduating seniors, and many others. The goal of the Foundation is to involve as many alumni as possible. For more information log on to [www.tsd.k12.pa.us](http://www.tsd.k12.pa.us).



## Towanda Education Foundation Wish List

If anyone would like to donate any of the following wish list items please contact Doreen Secor, Foundation Treasurer, at 570-265-9154 or via email at [dsecor@tsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:dsecor@tsd.k12.pa.us) Your donation will be tax deductible through the TASDEF Foundation. Thank you for your consideration.

\* *Nine (9) Black and Orange Flags that spell Black Knights on the flag poles located at the top of the home bleachers.* Cost \$75 per flag.

\* *Four (4) Video Recorders and Tripods to record video of exemplary teaching practices for use by new teachers as a professional tool.* Cost \$327 per set

\* *Guided Reading Book Library for Spe-*

*cial Needs Students to assist with increasing student interest in reading.* Cost \$300

\* *The Special Needs students at the high school like colored index cards and colored dry erase markers.* Cost \$200 or donation of the markers and index cards.

\* *The elementary music department needs a Sonor Palisono Tenor/Alto Diatonic Xylophone Cost \$725, Sonor Palisono Soprano Diatonic Xylophone Cost \$530, 20 Rhythm Band Soprano 8 note Diatonic Glockenspiels with mallets Cost \$280 and on-stage Universal Sustain Pedal Cost \$40*

\* *The high school math department is looking for materials to assist with their new resource materials, "Big Ideas in*

*Math."* Cost \$1200

\* *There is a need at the track for a timer platform with roof at the finish line.* Cost \$3000.

### Mission Statement...

The Towanda Area School District Education Foundation was established in April of 2005. The purpose of the Foundation is to support the education of the children of the Towanda Area School District by promoting academic excellence at every level through the funding of educational programs, scholarships, student activities and improvements for the school. The goal of the Foundation is to involve as many of the alumni as possible. Your support is greatly appreciated!

## CALLING ALL THS ALUMNI

**IS YOUR GRADUATING CLASS HOSTING A REUNION THIS YEAR?**

**WOULD YOU LIKE A SCHOOL BUILDING TOUR?**

**THE TOWANDA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT EDUCATION FOUNDATION WOULD LIKE TO CONNECT WITH YOU!!**

**WE WOULD LIKE A MAIL OR EMAIL LIST OF YOUR CLASS MEMBERS**

Please email Diane Place at [dplace@tsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:dplace@tsd.k12.pa.us)

or

Doreen Secor at [dsecor@tsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:dsecor@tsd.k12.pa.us)

# Class of 1966

## Donates to Foundation

At its 45th class reunion on July 23rd, the THS Class of 1966 voted to donate money to the Foundation to be used to purchase musical instruments for the school's elementary music program. The class voted to retain a small balance in its treasury and after all reunion expenses were paid and to donate the balance of the funds to the Foundation. According to class officials, at least \$700 will be donated to the Foundation for that purpose. The District will use the money to purchase one (1) sonor palisono xylophone and twelve (12) rhythm band glockenspiels with mallets. Foundation directors and officials would ask other classes to consider making such gifts to the Foundation in honor of its class and reunion, that positively affect students enrolled in the district.

## Foundation Management

President. .... Mark Gannon  
Vice President..... Marshall Dawsey  
Secretary. .... Gary Seymour  
Treasurer. .... Doreen McCarthy Secor  
Executive Director..... Diane McCarthy Place  
Directors: Mark Gannon, Marshall Dawsey, Gary Seymour, Maggie Reuter Huber, Kevin Barrett, Charlotte Smith Sullivan, Randy Williams, Hank Dunn, Paul Manchester, Andy Ripic, Gary Baker, Rev. Tom Blackall, Jim Rodenhizer, Tony Ventello, Irma Hensen

## Giving Opportunities...

Alumni and friends can make contributions to the Foundation. The Foundation offers the opportunity to make straight gifts, endowments, bequests, and sophisticated tax-favored giving such as charitable remainder trusts, private annuities and charitable lead trusts.

Methods of giving include...

- 1.) Cash 2.) Appreciated Securities 3.) Real Estate 4.) Tangible Property 5.) Life Insurance
- 6.) Testamentary Trust or Annuity Bequest 7.) Bequests 8.) Corporate Matching Gifts
- 9.) Life Income Plans or Living Trusts 10.) Charitable Remainder Trust

For more information about how you can contribute to the Foundation, contact Doreen Secor at [dsecor@tsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:dsecor@tsd.k12.pa.us) or 570-268-2003.

## Towanda Education Foundation Hosts Alumni Golf Tournament

Twenty two area teams were the "Knights to remember" as area golfers rallied their support for The Towanda Education Foundation. The Towanda Education Foundation hosted the annual homecoming weekend Alumni Golf Tournament. Prior to the shot gun start, teams arrived to enjoy a breakfast buffet. The high school band volunteered its efforts to play at the course while participants went to their starting destination.

Bright orange golf balls were seen soaring over the course, as participants found packages placed in their carts. Members of the 1st place team included; Hank Dunn, Tom Brecher, Dave Packard, and Gary Wilcox. The winning team donated its prize back to the Foundation. The 2nd place team included; Jerry Shaffer, Travis Shaffer, Todd Shaffer, and Casey Watkins. The 3rd place team included; Kevin Clark, Mark Munkittrick, Tim

Watkins, and Rich Franklin. Other awards were given for Longest Drive won by Joe Bowen for the men, and Kelly Black for the women. Closest to the Pin was won by Tim Farley. The Towanda Area Education Foundation will be planning another golf tournament Saturday, October 1 after homecoming 2011. Watch the web site for information on this and other events at [www.tsd.k12.pa.us](http://www.tsd.k12.pa.us).



## **Venture Grant for Teacher Program**

### **The Program**

The Towanda Area School District Foundation rewards creative, innovative and standards-based education ideas through the Venture Grant for Teachers Program. Grants of up to \$1,000 are awarded to enable unique teaching strategies to become a reality.

### **The Mission**

Venture grants awarded by the Towanda Area School District Education Foundation are in place to provide teachers with financial support to bring new and creative resources to their classrooms. Inspiring ideas bring vitality to the students via the teacher's innovative steps to enhance his/her PA standards-based curriculum.

### **Grant Recipients for the 2010-2011 School Year**

The following teachers were awarded Teacher Venture Grants during the 2010-2011 school year.

**Duane Smith** - Instruments for Economically Disadvantaged Children

**Dennis Peachey** - Academic Recognition Project

**Kristine Watkins, Cathy Orshal, Carrie Smith,**

**Shawna Wygrala, Josh Streeter** - Hot Spots of Towanda

**Keith Brown** - There's No I in Team

**Keith Brown** - Survival Above and Beyond

**Tammy Templeton** - Schoolttime Youth Series

**Sarah Burlingame** - Using Classic Children's Literature to Increase Vocabulary in the Early Childhood Classroom

**Mike Geurin** - Kan-Jam, The Ultimate Experience

**Eric Crompton** - Home Repair/Vehicle Maintenance - Skills for Life

# Auditorium Seats

*Honor a loved one!*

*See their name engraved on a nameplate.*

*Make their memory last a lifetime!!!*



[www.tsd.k12.pa.us](http://www.tsd.k12.pa.us)

The seats are located in the new auditorium at the high school.

Complete the Purchase Form and Notification Form from the district web site, if applicable, and send to  
PO Box 231 Towanda PA, 18848

Cost \$100.

If you have questions, call Doreen Secor at 265-9154.

*Sponsored by the Towanda Education Foundation*