

Fun things we do – 2002 - 2003

Riverfront Classic – September 14, 2002 (See Photo Scrapbook)

The Riverfront Classic is an annual event held in Cincinnati between two traditional black colleges. This year the Cincinnati Youth Collaborative provided complimentary tickets to this event. A few of the mentors and mentees attended the football game between Florida A & M University and Morgan State University at the Paul Brown Stadium.

Annual Holiday Party – Saturday January 18, 2003 (See Photo Scrapbook)

Approximately 35 mentors and mentees attended the first annual holiday party held at Dr. Lim's home in Loveland. It is hoped that this will become an annual tradition. There was a special guest at the party. Dr. Lim met Ms Paulette Meier when she attended the McCracken Peace Awards ceremony. Ms Meier is a singer and songwriter. For 7 years she worked as a peace educator in the public schools. She teaches children how to resolve conflicts that come up in school. She wrote original songs to accompany her lessons. Now she works as an education advocate for children at Beech Acres, a non-profit organization. Although her songs are geared towards younger children, they, like books by Dr. Seuss, apply not only to children but adults as well.

After dinner, everyone gathered around Ms Meier as she sang her songs. She also engaged the audience in a lively discussion about conflicts that arise during the course of the school day and what one could do about them. Many of the mentees left with copies of her CD that she had for sale.

Spring Luncheon – May 30, 2003 (See Photo Scrapbook)

Someone counted and we had approximately 60 students who showed up for our first annual Spring Luncheon! It was a chance for veteran mentors to get together with other mentors and share their experiences. It was also a chance for other students who are considering being mentors to ask questions about mentoring, how it would fit into medical school life etc. Jody Harmeyer, Darlene Bowman and Jennifer Panepinto from CYC were also around to answer any questions.

Tall Stacks Music Arts and Heritage Festival – October 15-19, 2003 (See Photo Scrapbook)

Tall Stacks happens in Cincinnati once every four years. It is a festival that celebrates Cincinnati's historic connection to the river. The riverfront is transformed to resemble the era when riverboats made regular stops in Cincinnati. From the sounds of calliopes, riverboat races, citizens dressed in period costumes, food, arts and music; there was a festive air down at the riverfront. Nineteen of our mentors and mentees took the opportunity to spend the day enjoying the festivities.

A visit to Berea College – October 3 – 4, 2003 (See Photo Scrapbook)

Dr. Lim and Jennifer O'Malley took their mentee, Angela Suesz as well as Jill Klein's mentee, Tashae Gordon to visit Berea College. Angela is a senior while Tashae is a junior in high school. It was a chance for both mentees to experience college life. They had tours of the campus; spoke with counselors at the Admissions and Financial Aid Offices. They attended classes of their choice and ate in the cafeteria. They stayed overnight in the residence halls with a student host. By the time we left on Saturday to return to Cincinnati, everyone was exhausted but excited about the college visit.

Stomp – November 11, 2003 (See Photo Scrapbook)

Stomp, the long awaited special event of the year for the group. Fifty mentors and their mentees spent a memorable evening at the Aronoff Theater. Stomp is a unique combination of percussion, movement and visual comedy. Listen to what the mentors had to say about the evening:

Thank you so much for the STOMP tickets. My mentee really appreciated and enjoyed the show. On our way out, she was clapping and stomping her feet, imitating what she had just seen. I really enjoy giving her opportunities such as this to experience things she otherwise wouldn't.

Chesahna Kindred (2005)

My mentee (4th grade, Taft elementary) loved it. He said he couldn't pick which part of it was the best because it was all so good. There were a couple of times during the performance where he couldn't contain himself and just started clapping even when no one else was! He was all smiles and had a terrific time- thanks for organizing all that,

Jay Augsburger (2007)

My mentee said that she really enjoyed Stomp. She was smiling and laughing throughout the performance. The basketball rhythms were her favorite part, and she wants to try to recreate the Stomp beat at lunchtime with her friends playing the juice box, a brown paper bag, and the lunch table. Watch out Walnut Hills lunch supervisors!

Julie Thistlethwaite (2007)

Thank you so much for arranging the Stomp tickets for all of us, and thanks for sharing your binoculars with ----- and I. We both had a great time. ----- was impressed not only by the beats and all the action on the stage, but he was also wide eyed about the whole experience. His reaction to everything was that of someone who was experiencing something for the first time. From the valet parking in the garage, to the big atrium at Aronoff, to the big crowd of people going to watch an American cultural show, ----- seemed excited about everything. His favorite parts of the Stomp show were when they were making the most sound using the big drums and the trash can lid crashes. I think everyone had a great time, and I know ----- and I are interested in continuing to go to more of these sorts of activities.

Andrew Browne (2007)

When I asked my mentee how she enjoyed the performance last night, she had a big grin on her face and said that she did not have words to describe it.

Wan Lim

The Nutcracker – Cincinnati Ballet – December 19, 2003 (See Photo Scrapbook)

Twenty-four mentors and mentees braved the snowstorm and the blizzard to experience the beauty of the performance of the Nutcracker by the Cincinnati Ballet at the Aronoff. Some of the tickets for the performance were kindly donated to us by the Cincinnati Ballet Company. For many of the mentors and mentees it was the first time that they had experienced this most enduring and favorite tradition.