



# News about...

June 2011

## Urban **US** Suburban

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#### Participating Districts:

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

Coordinated by



### Urban-Suburban Science Bowl Teams excel at local competition

By Coach Kelvin Knight

The Urban-Suburban Science Bowl Teams made great strides in our third season. If life experience outside of school is the greatest teacher, students on the team have grown by leaps and bounds. I am very proud of all the team members!

Our recruiting efforts this year proved to be very fruitful. In addition to our original high school team, we organized a middle school team. New students from Calkins Road Middle School (Pittsford), Martha Brown Middle School (Fairport), Bishop Kearney and Aquinas Institute joined our teams this year.

In preparation for the February 2011 competition, the teams met weekly at the University of Rochester for practice. In the course of practices, students focused on math and science subject matter, while broadening their vocabulary and improving their memory recall and test-taking skills. Team members worked very hard, but also had fun together. During the U of R's homecoming weekend, team members explored the WRUR radio station, the dormitories, the gym, and the student union, Wilson Commons.

The Urban-Suburban high school team consisted of four students from three different schools. The team captain, Roger Tieu, is a senior at Brockport High School. Roger has plans to study biology at Emory University. He surely will be missed by all.

There are also two juniors from Pittsford Mendon High School on our team, Shaquanda Stubbs and Imani Rice. They represented the team last year at the Science Bowl Nationals. This year, college-bound Bishop Kearney senior, Coby Loury, joined our team. The high school team won second place and the middle-school team dominated most of the early rounds and just missed entering the finals.

As the coach, it was a great experience watching the middle school students personally grow from wide-eyed, willing volunteers to visibly confident competitors. Our team captain, Epongue Ekiller, is a sixth grade student in Fairport; Jasibel Claudio is a seventh grade student in Brockport; Peter Mizes is an eighth grade Pittsford resident; and Kelvin Knight, Jr. is a seventh grader from Aquinas. Each student brought their own special academic talents to the team.

At the NOBCCHE Science Bowl Award Ceremony, the NOBCCHE leaders gave both teams special mention for their outstanding performances. Joining the Science Bowl Team is a great extra-curricular activity and can also enrich students' social and academic experience while in the Urban-Suburban Program.

For college-bound students, it can add to your academic resumé for summer internships, scholarships, college essays and application. All are welcome to join us next year! For more information, contact Coach Kelvin Knight at (585) 256-1471 or [Kelvin.knight@rocketmail.com](mailto:Kelvin.knight@rocketmail.com).



Clockwise from top: Kelvin Knight, Jr., Roger Tieu, Peter Mizes, Imani Rice, Epongue Ekiller, Jasibel Claudio, Shaquanda Stubbs, and Coby Loury.

## Evelyn Scott, former program director, passes away

It is with great sadness that we notify our readers of the passing of Evelyn Scott, on March 14, 2011. One could attempt to describe Evelyn as a mentor, community leader, educator and parent with a vision for quality education for our children. One could say that the Urban-Suburban Program became the vehicle to accomplish her vision in the Greater Rochester Community.

What a fantastic collision of program and personality occurred. Fortunately for Rochester's children, the beginning of a legacy of well-educated young people occurred. When one looks back at the originators and Dr. Norman Gross (first Director), it would appear that they had Evelyn in mind when they created Urban-Suburban. Through the years, the Urban-Suburban Program and Evelyn Scott were synonymous.

Her passion gave her the strength to continue her focus on quality education. The children were always paramount with Evelyn. Her belief, commitment, and vision always provided a balanced view of the future. This was evident in Evelyn's communication style. You should never doubt it, "This Lady" was passionate about the program and the children.



When talking about someone in the past tense you usually look for something profound to remember them by. Evelyn Scott leaves hundreds of well-educated, inspired young people and grateful parents that will keep her kindly and lovingly in their thoughts and prayers.

## Did You Know?

### Fairport

#### **Marty Cardona retires from**

**Brooks Hill School** – It is difficult to imagine that I am leaving the very best job in the world, that of principal of Brooks Hill School in Fairport, when I retire this June. It has truly been a privilege to work with the many supportive colleagues and families that I have encountered in my thirteen years on the job here. One of the highlights of my career in Fairport has been the opportunity to welcome the very first Urban-Suburban elementary students to Brooks Hill School. Our school is richer because we are part of this program. I am always humbled by the trust of Rochester parents who allow their children to travel to a new community to enroll in our school at such a young age. Thank you for the strong partnerships, the wonderful memories and the gift of knowing and teaching your children. I will miss you all and treasure the memories we made together.



My first exposure to the program was in West Irondequoit. I was the assistant principal of Dake Junior High School, and we had Urban-Suburban students participating in the program move through our school. The district was enriched by the culture and experiences that came with our Urban-Suburban students. It meant so much to the success of the program and the success of the students when the student's family embraced the concept and were committed to the school. In addition, the Urban-Suburban students also found changes in the suburban school environment that were different and enriching for them too.

Now as a principal in Fairport, we had the opportunity to open our community to the Urban-Suburban Program. The district is young in its commitment but fully immersed in the concept. Once again, I have been so impressed with how our youth so comfortably come together to learn and share cultures and respect diversity. The family commitment is still a critical component. The children that manage the changes the best also have a committed family behind them. It is so impressive how our Urban-Suburban families commit to evening program meetings, school events and conferences.

#### **Patrick Moriarty's reflection on the Urban-Suburban Program** –

I have had a wonderful career in education over the past 33 years. Now that I am retiring and have the opportunity to reflect on meaningful experiences in education, my involvement in working with students in the Urban-Suburban Program stands out.



The Urban-Suburban Program has had the consistent leadership of Theresa Woodson and Marlene Allen. They have been tirelessly committed to the success of this program, and we are so proud of the students who have benefitted from their extraordinary work. The value

## Did You Know?

of this program reaches beyond just bringing children together. The value lies with our youth learning together to experience all of the wonderful connections that come with accepting and respecting diversity. This is a learning experience which our youth will carry with them for life.

### Pittsford

#### **Park Road Elementary Principal retires**

— After an impressive 37 years in education, Principal Deborah Rose is retiring. She has served as principal of Park Road Elementary School for the past 11 years. She also served as a principal in the Gates-Chili School District and before that, she taught elementary school in Batavia and Pittsford. “Debbie has made many valuable contributions and will be missed by her colleagues, students and parents,” said Mary Alice Price, Superintendent of Schools. “Among her achievements is the prestigious U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon School Award in 2007.” “I am proud of the work we’ve done at Park Road Elementary School including a strong focus on academic excellence,” said Deborah Rose, Principal, Park Road Elementary School. Rose lives in Victor with her husband and has two sons, Timothy and Christopher. She plans to spend her retirement watching her second son play quarterback for SUNY Cortland, building an Adirondack cottage, traveling, hiking, gardening, reading and snowmobiling.



#### **Board accepts superintendent’s recommendations for two appointments**

Effective July 1, 2011, Mr. Michael Pero will begin serving as Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Mrs. Melanie Ward as Assistant Superintendent for Instruction. Superintendent Price stated, “I feel confident that we have selected outstanding candidates for these key leadership positions and hope you will join me in congratulating and supporting them in their new roles.”

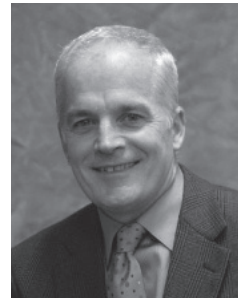
These new appointments create two new openings within the District. Since 2005, Mr. Pero has served as principal of Barker Road Middle School and Mrs. Ward has served as principal of Mendon Center Elementary School. The district will begin to work on filling these positions immediately.



### Wheatland-Chili

#### **The Urban-Suburban Interdistrict Transfer Program... A True Partnership**

by Tom Gallagher, Superintendent,  
Wheatland-Chili Schools



My involvement with the Urban-Suburban Program began in 1991 when I was an Elementary School Principal and continued as Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, and now as Superintendent of Schools. I have seen its impact on students who I have watched mature from the primary grades through graduation and beyond. It has been a privilege to see many young men and women become adults as part of this unique and long standing program in our community.

The mission of the program is to voluntarily reduce racial isolation and segregation of academic opportunities in schools, and to enhance racial/ethnic awareness and sensitivity. This mission is one that goes beyond words and becomes real in the daily actions of those who participate each and every day in this program.

The journey begins with parents committing to enhanced expectations for their children. The family that decides to enroll and accept this path makes a conscious decision to provide an environment that demands more connections, extra hours of time at school, more active communication with a wide group of people, and the support for their child in this endeavor as their needs and interests change over time.

The commitment of the families as a unit is what makes this program successful and distinctive. It has proven to be a recipe for success for students while they are in school. More importantly however, it is a model that is helpful throughout their lives. Students observe that when a family makes decisions and then supports one another to be their best; they can accomplish whatever challenges they choose to take on.

Wheatland-Chili has a long history with the Urban-Suburban Program that has benefitted our community as it will continue to do so in the years to come. As I leave Wheatland-Chili, I will fondly recall the experiences for me personally and professionally to be associated with a program that promotes positive connections among students, family and community.

# Congratulations to the Urban-Suburban 2011 graduating class!

The 2011 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 workforce.

## *Brighton High School*



**Taryn Burris\***  
SUNY Geneseo  
Major: Early Childhood Education



**Evan Douglas**  
Monroe Community College  
Major: Chemistry



**Samuel Fuentes\***  
Monroe Community College  
Major: Computer Aided Design



**David Kelley**  
Monroe Community College  
Major: Sports Medicine



**La'Brea Phelps\***  
Kent State University  
Major: Nursing



**Niyat Siyoom**  
Tompkins Cortland Community College  
Major: Creative Writing



**Tanavung Tim**  
SUNY Cortland  
Major: Business Management



**Shaquia Williams\***  
St. John Fisher College  
Major: Biology



**Rohan Willis\***  
SUNY Morrisville  
Major: Criminal Justice

## *Brockport High School*



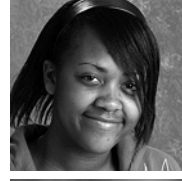
**Kiera Austin-Reffell\***  
Hampton University  
Major: Business Administration & Marketing



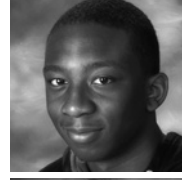
**Rashaad Brown\***  
Monroe Community College  
Major: Emergency Medical Technician



**Alexis Collington\***  
Finger Lakes Community College  
Major: Nursing



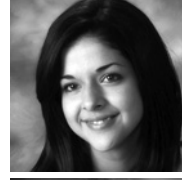
**Jasmin Jones\***  
Buffalo State College  
Major: Early & Special Childhood Education



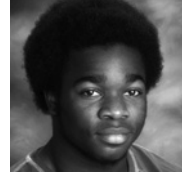
**Alexander Kellum**  
Entering the workforce



**Mary Lugo**  
Nazareth College  
Major: Business Administration



**Rebeca Martinez\***  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
Major: Business



**Brian Miles**  
Monroe Community College  
Major: Liberal Arts



**Nyashaia Smith**  
Niagara University  
Major: Social Work



**Roger Tieu\***  
Emory University  
Major: Biology



**Matthew Williams**  
Alfred University  
Major: Criminal Justice



**Anthony Tirado\***  
West Chester University of Philadelphia  
Major: Marketing

***Irondequoit High School***



**Bibi Amin\***  
Monroe Community College  
Major: Nursing



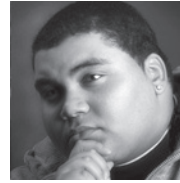
**Roxanne Cosme**  
Monroe Community College  
Major: Liberal Arts



**Christopher Gamble**  
Monroe Community College  
Major: Automotive Technician



**Justina Garcia\***  
University of Buffalo  
Major: Psychology

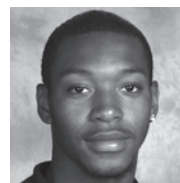


**Travis Traywick-Gibble**  
Entering the workforce

***Penfield High School (continued on page 4)***



**Brittini Brown**  
Monroe Community College  
Major: Business



**DiVante Byrd**  
Monroe Community College  
Major: Heating & Ventilation



**Myia Eaton\***  
Monroe Community College  
Major: Nursing

***Fairport High School***



**Sean Beaty**  
ROTC Marine Corp  
Major: Psychology



**Jasmine Chastine**  
Laboratory Institute of Merchandise  
Major: Fashion Merchandise



**Jacqueline Cook\***  
Buffalo State College  
Major: Computer Forensics



**Shelanise Daniels\***  
Monroe Community College  
Major: Graphic Design



**Jasmine Gomez**  
Finger Lakes Community College  
Crime Scene Investigation



**Onwaniqua Heard\***  
Hamilton College  
Major: Biochemistry



**Frankie Hernandez**  
Finger Lakes Community College  
Major: Communications



**Tiara Stephens**  
Finger Lakes Community College  
Major: Theater & Drama

\*Urban-Suburban Scholarship Recipients

# Congratulations 2011 graduating class!

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## *Penfield High School (continued)*



**Alexandra Powers**  
Alfred State College  
Major: Education



**Amber Poole\***  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
Major: International Business

## *Pittsford Mendon High School*

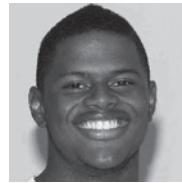


**Jeremy Adams\***  
Nazareth College  
Major: Political Science

## *Pittsford Sutherland High School*



**Kevonna Davis\***  
Niagara Community College  
Major: Criminal Justice



**Bryan Flagg\***  
Alfred University  
Major: Nursing/Criminal Justice

## Alumni Spotlight

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### **Christine Kennedy, Wheatland-Chili High School, Class of 2005**

Since graduating from Wheatland-Chili High School, I have attended Monroe Community College and graduated from SUNY Cortland with a Bachelor of Arts in Kinesiology-Exercise Science. While at MCC, I was involved in the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP) and was a Resident Assistant. CSTEP is a program that works to increase minority representation in medical, health, math, science, and engineering careers. Through this program, I received an internship at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, where I worked with the CSTEP sister program called Science & Technology Entry Program (STEP). STEP targets local high school minority students and helps prepare them further for their education in the same career paths as CSTEP. One of the responsibilities I had while attending STEP was starting and organizing the STEP database. This information was used to help the STEP Director receive more funding from New York State. In addition, CSTEP provided me with the chance to conduct scientific research at Binghamton University. I was then selected to present my research finding and to represent MCC at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students in Anaheim, California.

While at Cortland, I went to El Salvador for two weeks with Habitat for Humanity to build a house for a local family. I also participated in an internship for the National Football League New York Jets during their summer



training camp, and I currently work for the Jets during the regular football season and at events held by the organization. Presently, I am in my first year at Seton Hall School of Medical Sciences working on my Master's in Athletic Training and doing clinical work at Rutgers University with their sports teams. After graduating, I want to work for a Division I School as the head Athletic Trainer for a Women's or Men's Basketball Team.

The Urban-Suburban Program prepared me in so many ways for my future. As a student-athlete during high school, my time management skills were tested many times with the challenge of maintaining good study habits. These are skills that I use today to help me manage my schoolwork, my job, and the extra activities that I need to get through on a daily basis. The faculty at Wheatland-Chili also provided me with the tools I needed to maintain good grades in college and to interact on a professional level with professors, co-workers, and professional athletes.

Most importantly, the Urban-Suburban Program provides an opportunity to prepare all students for the future by placing minority students in real world situations. As students in the program embark upon a higher education or other professional goals, you quickly learn and see how minorities are under represented. Graduate school at Seton Hall is a perfect example; I am one of only three minority students in a class of 21 in the Athletic Training Program. Since working with the New York Jets, I have only seen one minority working in their front offices. The Urban-Suburban Program gives students a professional start by allowing us to become comfortable in a suburban setting. It also teaches students

# Alumni Spotlight

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at a young age how to conduct themselves and how to interact with all people regardless of the backgrounds.

Even though there were times when I did not understand why my parents were sending my brother Harry, Jr. and me to Scottsville, I have learned to appreciate the wonderful experience that the Urban-Suburban Program and Wheatland-Chili Central School District provided for me.

## **Harry Kennedy, Jr., Wheatland-Chili High School, Class of 2009**

After graduating from Wheatland-Chili, I was accepted at The Ohio State University where I am an undergraduate student in their Electrical Engineering Program. The transition from high school to college was rough but a true learning experience. I quickly realized that studying was a **must**. The hardest part of college for me was incorporating schoolwork into my daily routine. I learned the hard way by getting some bad grades on important tests, but I improved my work ethic and started to see the results that I wanted. My work ethic has rewarded me with opportunities that I would have never imagined at this age. I have been an active member of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) where I am the newly-elected Vice-President. NSBE is a global organization and is represented at nearly every college. It is a great way to learn professional development, to begin networking with businesses, and to gain support from other black engineers. I have also worked with other engineering organizations that are on campus, but none have been as rewarding as the work with NSBE.

Since January 2011, I have been working for General Electric Aviation in Grand Rapids, Michigan. I interviewed for the position through NSBE at one of their fall conferences. I spend my time working on automating a report that shows the Lean Six Sigma Green Belt statistics of different departments. The Green Belt initiative helps General Electric and other companies save money by inspecting their daily actions to eliminate time lost from tasks like sending papers around for signatures. I also am working to document and test software that the engineers want to start using. Engineers have to document everything about software that they want to use because they are held responsible for anything that could go wrong with the products that they ship. The work requires me to put in extra hours, but my hard work never goes unnoticed. General Electric has taught me a lot and has been an excellent opportunity for me to network with other interns and employees. It has opened my eyes to the global options



available to all students if they are willing to work hard.

I've been blessed with a lot of opportunities at my age, and it has taught me three major things. The first is to work hard. You have to take your future into your own hands, and take it seriously. Do not let apathy be the reason that you don't meet a personal goal. The second thing is to be passionate about what you do. Until somebody finds the line that divides being cool from not studying, and being poor from not studying, it's best to work hard now and not have to deal with the trouble later. Finally, make sure you do something that you love, but be the best at what you do. Money is important, but it isn't everything. If you're proficient in what you do, the money will come because people will want you to work for them.

The Urban-Suburban Program was an invaluable asset to my success. I can't repay them financially (yet), but I am an example of the character that the program develops.

## **Alexander Williams, Wheatland-Chili High School, Class of 2008**

I attended Monroe Community College after I graduated from high school where I majored in biology and also played basketball. After attending MCC for a year, I transferred to St. John Fisher College where I switched my major to Psychology and continued to play basketball. St. John Fisher is a great college and the lessons I learned there definitely mirrored the lessons that I was taught at Wheatland-Chili; however I realized Psychology was more of a hobby than a career choice for me, so I went back to Monroe Community College where I graduated with an Emergency Medical Technician certification in December 2010.

Currently, I am on call (since January) with Rural/Metro Medical Services; however I hope to be one of their full time employees in the near future.

The Urban-Suburban Program has, without a doubt, shaped me into the person I have become today. The program's life lessons and experiences were priceless, especially being exposed to a slower pace of life that Wheatland-Chili offered me. I would like to thank everyone involved in my education because they have had a tremendous impact on the choices I have made in order to get me to this point in my life. By early summer I expect to be riding with Rural/Metro Ambulance and helping my community as Wheatland-Chili and the Urban-Suburban Program taught me.



## Student Corner

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**T'Yanna Kendrick**, an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student in Brighton, was a Junior Varsity Cheerleader this past school year. The Brighton team placed 1<sup>st</sup> in a competition in January 2011. "We are so proud of her and very excited to share this news with all your readers," stated her parents Lee and Darrell Kendrick. "Our family wants to thank the Urban-Suburban Program for giving our daughter such a wonderful opportunity to experience all this. She loves Brighton and enjoys going to school everyday!"

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**Harmonie Williams**, a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student at Park Road Elementary School in Pittsford, was a winner in the school's poetry contest. Her poem entitled "Afraid" was read at the school's spring concert in May. Congratulations, Harmonie.

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**Dekovas Finley**, a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student that attends French Road Elementary School in Brighton, participated in the All-County Chorus concert this past spring at Roberts Wesleyan College. Dekovas is also very active in the Greater Rochester Soapbox Derby. He only has to win one more race or accumulate enough points (out of 12 remaining races) this season in order to earn a spot to race in the Championships in Akron, Ohio on July 23, 2011. In addition to driving in the derby, Dekovas was a recipient of the Tony Jordan Youth Sports Foundation Student/Athlete Award. He received his award at a dinner on March 31, 2011.

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### **Graduating senior from Pittsford Mendon participates in exchange program**

Amber Poole, a graduating senior from Pittsford Mendon, went to Oakland, California for two weeks in February 2011 through a program called Network of Complimentary Schools: a student exchange program that sends students in America to different states and allows them to live the life of an exchange student within

America. This experience was made possible through a grant from the Network of Complimentary Schools.

Before Amber made the trip, she was connected to her host family, the Smiths, by her counselor, Mr. Vince DiGiacomo. She then went to Facebook to contact the family. Upon arriving in Oakland, she was greeted by the family, warm weather and breathtaking scenery. During the two weeks, Amber went to school with Lena, the Smiths' daughter, and on the weekends, the family visited tourist attractions such as the Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz and China Town. Amber also rode a trolley for the first time!

All in all, Amber said, "I had the best time of my life, but it wouldn't have been remotely possible without the support of the Pittsford Schools and the Urban-Suburban Program, which has opened up a new world of possibilities for me since I began my education there as a first grader."

To learn more about the Network of Complimentary Schools visit their website at <http://www.netcompsch.org/HOME.html>

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### **Presentation to Penfield Board of Education**

In March 2011, a program alumnus, Evan Logan (Class of 2009) and his parents, Frank and Anne, addressed the Board regarding their experience in the Penfield School District via the Urban-Suburban Program. The family spoke of the interaction their family had with district residents, the excellent education that Evan and Bryant Logan (Class of 2007) received and the life-long friends they have made. They shared their appreciation for the program and district staff including the tremendous impact that both had on the family. "We are forever grateful and indebted to the teachers and staff of the Penfield School District," stated Frank Logan. Bryant Logan graduated from Fordham University this past May, and Evan Logan will begin his junior year at the University of Rochester in September 2011.



Visit the Urban-Suburban Program Web site at:

[www.monroe.edu/US](http://www.monroe.edu/US)

