

Xtra-curricular

NEWSLETTER OF THE **SOUTH COUNTRY EDUCATION FOUNDATION**



From the Helm



I am pleased to report the activities of the South Country Education Foundation to you, our supporters. The foundation uses our resources to enrich the education of our children by supporting programs which we feel will improve their educational experience and enrich their lives.

The foundation supports programs at all grade levels in all the district's schools. We also support community based educational activities. As I write this, we have just finished our annual grant process. We will fund over \$31,000 in grants to our teachers, student groups and community organizations.

The foundation is supporting music education through the Becker/Gambles Music Fund. We have an Instrument Donation Program to accept donations of musical instruments for use in our schools and we provide scholarships to students for summer study. This summer we will support summer study for music students for a total of \$4,000.

The proceeds from the Clipper Classic Race and Fun Walk support scholarships for our graduating student athletes. This event is a highlight of the summer in our community.

Our upcoming activities include our Annual Auction/Cocktail Party on July 8th and the Clipper Classic Race and Fun Walk on July 9th. Please make plans to attend these events and enjoy them.

The foundation is always searching for other ways to use our resources so we can continue to enrich our children's education. All of our activities depend upon your support. We know that the times are difficult financially, but we hope that the quality and quantity of our efforts will encourage you to continue your support.

Please consider using the form on the last page to make a donation to the foundation. In these difficult financial

times, our children need all the support they can get. Please help us to continue to enrich their education. Thank you for your continuing support of our children and their education.

—GENE WESTHOFF, *President*

South Country Lions Club Supports SCEF

The South Country Education Foundation is pleased to accept a \$500 donation from the South Country Lions Club to support the upcoming Drew Petersen concert at Bellport Middle School. Sponsored by the foundation's Becker/Gambles Music Fund, proceeds from the concert will support summer music study scholarships for students in grades 4-12 in our district.

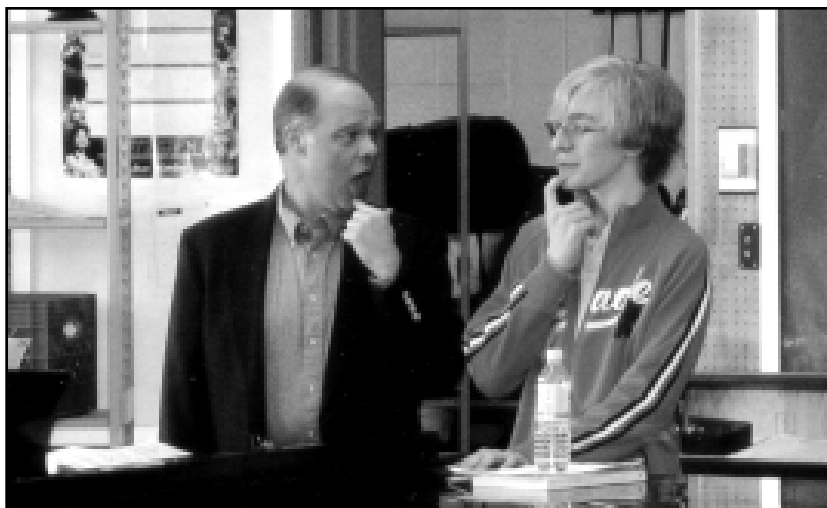
"The Lions Club is a service organization and we are excited when we find people working to help kids. We support music and are proud to help bring the Music Festival of the Hamptons to Bellport", remarked Ken Searles, president of the SC Lions.

Pictured accepting the donation are Karen Rowley, music fund committee member and member of SCEF's Community Advisory Council, Ken Searles, who is also a member of our CAC, and Leigh Powell, SCEF treasurer.



Operatic bass Michael Douglas Jones helps Kenny McAleese prepare for his NYSSMA solo in Mr. Desiderio's chorus class at Bellport High School. Sponsored by SCEF, this master class was one of three conducted at the high school this spring by doctoral candidates from SUNY Stony Brook.

In addition to providing individual coaching and instruction, the classes gave our students an overview of various instruments and musical genres.



The Daedalus Quartet's Triumphant Return

The Daedalus Quartet returned to Bellport on March 3rd. The musicians conducted master classes with the orchestra students at Frank Long Intermediate School, Bellport Middle School and Bellport High School. That evening the quartet performed a concert at Bellport Middle School.

The master classes revealed that the members of the quartet are not only extraordinary musicians but that they are also marvelous teachers. The students at all levels responded to them enthusiastically and learned a great deal from them.

The evening's concert was a tour de force of musicality. The members of the quartet, three of whom are alumni of the South Country Schools, presented a concert that was just wonderful to experience. Min-Young Kim, class of '88, Kyu-Young Kim, class of '90, Raman Ramakrishnan, class

of '94 and Jessica Thompson are world-renowned musicians who delight in coming "home" to present concerts and interact with the students. We are pleased that they are willing to grace us with their presence and music.

During the introduction to part of the concert, Raman reflected on what the education he received in South Country meant to him. He alluded to lessons learned in the very auditorium where the concert was being performed and dedicated the piece to his wonderful teacher the late Jack Coral. The value of the message that these successful alumni deliver to our students is incalculable.

The quartet will be returning during the 2006/07 school year to again perform for us and work with our music students.



At left, Dr. Perea prepares his students for a visit by the Daedalus Quartet at Frank P. Long. Above, the quartet rehearses for the March 3rd concert.

SCEF Participates in a National Endowment for the Arts Grant

This year, the South Country Education Foundation is the recipient of a presenters grant issued in conjunction with the National Endowment for the Arts. The grant is in recognition of the work that the Becker/Gambles Music Fund does in presenting music to our students and the community.

The Daedalus Quartet and its manager Besen Arts supported our application. The quartet presented a wonderful concert on March 3rd and did a series of master classes in our schools on the same day. The grant covered 25% of the fee for those activities. The grant will help us provide scholarships for summer study for music students in Frank P. Long Intermediate School, Bellport Middle School and Bellport High School.

We are thrilled to be recipients of this grant.

Concert Pianist Drew Petersen Plays in Bellport



Young piano phenomenon Drew Petersen will play one concert at the Bellport Middle School auditorium on Sunday, June 25 at 2 PM. This will be a joint effort of the Becker/Gambles Music Fund of the South Country Education Foundation and the Music Festival of the Hamptons.

The Music Festival of the Hamptons is in its eleventh season, and this concert marks the first time it will conduct a concert away from its home in Bridgehampton. We are pleased that they will share this young talent with the foundation and have agreed to donate proceeds from this concert to support our summer music scholarship program for students in the South Country School District in grades 4 through 12.

At twelve years of age, Petersen has toured Europe and the United States, has been the focus of a Plum TV documentary and has been featured on WQXR's program From the Top. He currently attends the Manhattan School of Music Pre-college Division in New York City where he studies with Miyoko Lotto and is the youngest student ever to have been accepted into the conducting program.

Tickets to the concert are \$25 for adults, children under 16 are free. They may be purchased at the door or by calling 286-3760. For more information on the entire concert series, see www.musicfestivalofthehamptons.com.

Video Conferencing

The video conferencing grant provided by the South Country Education Foundation to 4th Grade teacher David Perkins last fall enabled two classes at Frank P. Long to communicate with each other from two different classrooms. Students were able to see and hear each other and discuss various topics. Some of these were:

g Should students who are very good for their age in a sports league be able to move up to a higher league level?

g The pro's and con's of bringing up the sunken Titanic.

g What are some of the biggest problems today that are facing students around the world?

These were just some of the great discussions. During each session students were open-minded and listened to other opinions. Next year, this project is expected to branch out to other schools within the district. This means elementary classrooms can be connected to teachers or students in the high school to discuss various experiments, events in history, or any other subject which might arise.

Goodbye Winter, Hello Spring!!

The following article and picture were sent to us from students who took part in a grant given last spring to the third grade teachers of Verne W. Critz Elementary School. Thank you for your feedback!

On Thursday, March 30th, 2006 the third graders of Verne W. Critz Elementary School celebrated spring with a day called "Good-bye Winter, Hello Spring". They started off with some hot cocoa and a Reader's Theater. All the kids wore comfortable clothes like t-shirts, bathrobes, sweat pants, and slippers. The kids went room to room doing spring activities like gardening, making a rainbow out of hand prints, making solid figures out of marshmallows and toothpicks, writing poetry, chewing bubble gum for a science project, and graphing and eating jelly beans. All the activities had to do with math, science, and reading. Everyone had a cozy day!!!

—(students) CASSIDY, JESSICA, AND JECENYA





Formerly of Brookhaven Hamlet, Amy Starke is a 1994 graduate of Bellport High School. She earned her nursing degree at SUNY Brockport and a Masters in International Public Health at Tulane. Ms. Starke worked for the Peace Corps in Africa and in the Congo with Doctors Without Borders. She is now in India with that same program.

g What is your most vivid memory of Bellport High School?

The last day of school of my senior year walking out to the parking lot after the final bell rang. We were all jumping around and having fun celebrating. It was a strange feeling of elation that I was graduating but mixed with other emotions—sadness that my high school days had come to an end, fear of moving away from home to start college, and missing my friends even though I hadn't even left yet. It was a very bittersweet moment.

g What was your favorite class?

Survival for Life with Mrs. Robbins.

g What are some of your more recent activities?

I am currently working as a nurse with Doctors Without Borders. I have been with the organization for about a year

and a half, and I'm now in India. Doctors Without Borders, also known as MSF (for *Médécins Sans Frontiers*), was started in the early 70's by a group of French doctors to provide medical care to where it is most needed: areas of conflict and natural disasters. For my first mission, I worked in the Republic of Congo, not to be confused with it's neighboring country the Democratic Republic of Congo or the DRC.

Congo has had several civil wars in the past 12 years and the health system is in turmoil. MSF supported an 80-bed hospital where we provided services such as emergency and elective surgery, internal medicine, maternal and child health, tuberculosis treatment, outpatient clinic, etc. I organized mobile clinics in rural communities, 30 kilometers (about 19 miles) from the hospital to provide primary health care to the population. Most health centers in these areas, although present, did not function because of no staff or medical supplies or both.

I stayed for a year in Congo and came home in November just in time to spend the holidays with my friends and family I left for India in February and I am based in Assam, a state in the Northeast of the country. MSF is running a project providing primary healthcare to internally displaced people in camps scattered throughout the northwest portion of the state. There has been a history of ethnic conflict in this area for several decades and several thousands of people have lost their homes as a result of these disputes.

We run clinics in 6 different camps and treat a lot of patients with malaria (tropical illness transmitted by infected mosquitoes) and respiratory infections. We also provide reproductive and child health which is the portion of the program that I am responsible for. This involves providing prenatal care to pregnant women, checkups for newborns and moms who have recently given birth, family planning, childhood immunizations and health education.

I love my job as it is very rewarding, challenging and I'm always learning new things everyday.

2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, June 25 / Drew Petersen Piano Concert, BMS, 2pm

SATURDAY, July 8 / Eighth Annual Cocktail Party and Auction, 5pm

SUNDAY, July 9 / Annual Clipper Classic 5K Run & 1.5M Fun Walk

**For details on events and updates on activities, see our website:
www.scefonline.org**



A reception was held in the garden of Barbara and Ed Knowles in early June to congratulate the winners of this spring's grants. Those attending were (left to right) Carol Herrmann, Suzette Fandale, Frances Cornacchiulo, Crista Hasler, Twana Patterson, Peter Cisek, Tanya McKay, Henry Finnegan, Stephani Callender, Michele Stiriz, Gabrielle Coyne, Aimee Altman and Trudi Milian.

g How did Bellport prepare you for your life and profession?

Being a part of the track and cross-country teams definitely has been a part in "shaping" my life. I have many memories (which made it difficult answering the question about my memories of BHS) of meets, practices, awards dinners, etc. Having to be part of a team and be a team player was a start in having to be part of a team in most jobs that I have had. I worked as a nurse in a hospital for a few years and teamwork was definitely make or break especially on very busy nights (and we were frequently short staffed). Working for MSF is a complete team environment as I work AND LIVE with my colleagues. I also learned to not "throw in the towel" when the going gets tough. That last lap or half mile of the infamous Sunken Meadow course was always tough, no matter how much I practiced. When my legs were burning and I was so tired and out of breath, I just wanted to stop but I wouldn't let myself. Instead I pushed myself to the finish line faster. In the end I'd cross the finish line and the burning pain turned to a feeling of elation and a sense of achievement. I still have that way of looking at life. When things are getting tough, I know the

finish line will be there and I just need to run through the burning legs and shortness of breath. Certain things in my life bring me to the finish line: a child who gives me a smile while waiting for malaria treatment, handing a woman a small, well-wrapped gift for her baby who was finally born alive. (Women who don't have access to emergency obstetric care may end up with a stillborn baby since they are in labor for days and days if their pelvis is too small for the baby to pass naturally)

It is in moments like these that make me happy in what I do despite the far distance from home and living outside of my own, comfortable environment.

g What is your advice to BHS students?

Follow your heart and follow your dreams, always. You can do anything you put your mind to. I think that sometimes people let excuses get in the way too easily to not do what they want to do. Just let go and you can do it. It may not be the easiest but in the end it will pay off and you will feel so much accomplishment.

—DIANE ZANAZZI



Dear South Country Education Foundation~

Thank you for supporting our first Family Math Day. Your generous donation allowed staff, MS/HS students, and community members the opportunity to work together for the benefit of the children in the South Country School District. You'll never know how much one day made a difference in the life of a child.

—THE FAMILY MATH DAY COMMITTEE

SOUTH COUNTRY EDUCATION FOUNDATION, INC. GRANTS AND AWARDS—SUMMER 2005 THROUGH SPRING 2006

In the last year, the South Country Education Foundation has awarded over \$54,000 in grants and scholarships to individuals and groups within the South Country community. We appreciate the generosity of our donors who have given their time, efforts and financial contributions to help us fulfill our mission. The following list includes the grants given since our Fall 2005 newsletter. Thank you.

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| Reading Olympics, \$1500
<i>SDM Committee: Parents Debbie Uhrie and Nicole May and school librarian: Lynn Cullen</i> | This is a Parents as Reading Partners program at Verne W. Critz. Students will read with their parents 20 minutes a day. Activities include a library kick-off, ongoing incentives and a closing ceremony. The highlight of the closing ceremony is a stunt performed by the building principal if the school meets its quota. |
| Teaming Up with a Good Book, \$1550
<i>Carolyn MacLellan, PTA President</i> | This program is similar to Reading Olympics but will be held at the Kreamer Street Elementary School. It is being organized by the PTA and concludes with a Family Fun Night. |
| Cultural Beautification Project, \$650 <i>Juliette Marotta</i> | Senior students at Bellport High School will re-create, in spaces around the high school, specific works of the great masters of art. Grant money pays for materials. |
| Family Support Center, \$2600 <i>Carol Herrmann</i> | The center is hosting a series of academic workshops open to all residents of the district. |
| Power Hour at the Boys and Girls Club, \$2500
<i>John Norris, President</i> | The foundation will fund a homework assistance program designed to increase the academic proficiency of participants between the ages of 6 and 18. This program is held Monday to Thursday from 3 to 5 p.m. Power Hour was begun in 2003 with support from the foundation. |
| Scrim Curtain at BHS, \$1315
<i>Suzette Fandale</i> | SCEF will purchase a scrim curtain for Bellport High School to be used in future theatrical productions. The curtain will be used to create unique visual effects and will enhance the school's theatrical program. |
| Readers Earn an "Authors Day", \$2500
<i>Frances Cornacchiulo and Aimee Altman</i> | An award-winning author will visit the Frank P Long Intermediate School and will interact with students there. The goal of the program is to inspire students to enjoy good literature and to gain insight into writing for a specific audience. |
| Woodworkers Club, \$1000
<i>Peter Cisek</i> | This club serves approximately 135 students at the Frank P. Long Intermediate School who have crafted birdhouse and sitting benches while learning the practical application of measurements and other math skills. |
| Garden Club, \$1500
<i>Peter Cisek</i> | Twenty students at the Frank P. Long Intermediate School participate in this club. They meet before the start of the school day and are responsible for beautifying the school's courtyard. This year the club hopes to add new gardens on the west side of the building. |
| "Put Yourself in My Shoes", \$2000 <i>Trudi Milian</i> | This project is a three-part assembly program taught by a character education specialist who teaches self-respect, respect for others and conflict resolution. The program will be brought to students in grades 4 through 8. |

Dance, Dance Revolution, \$2999.62 <i>Trudi Milian</i>	This grant will enhance the level of physical fitness in an upbeat social environment through the purchase of a lighted dancing apparatus.
Saturday Learning Academy, \$3000 <i>Gabrielle Coyne, Crista Hasler and Tim Maher</i>	This program will address the needs of 24 struggling Middle School students. The program will use the concepts presented in the book "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens."
The Yale Whiffenpoofs, \$2000 <i>Michele Stiriz</i>	The all-male Yale Choir will perform for all students in grades K to 3. The group will entertain and educate students about the elements of music.
Pan Caribbean Music Fest, \$2000 <i>John Norris</i>	The foundation will help fund a trip for the Boys and Girls Club Steel Drum Band. The band will travel to Virginia Beach, Va., to participate in a special music festival.
Chorus Cares, \$800 <i>Stephani Callender and Henry Finnegan</i>	Students in the Third Grade Chorus at Brookhaven Elementary School will share their talents with residents of the Bellhaven Nursing Home. The grant money is used to hire buses to transport students to the facility.
Carmans River Maritime Center, \$2000 <i>Ralph Maust</i>	Parent/child teams demonstrating a financial need will receive funding through this grant to purchase kits used in the construction of a wood kayak. Application of math skills as well as basic hand and power tool use are benefits of this program.
Feel Good Fund, \$300 <i>JKen Rizzo, Sallie Bennett, Kyle Bollar and Carol Mitchell</i>	Seed money will be provided for this project. The fund is used to supply school clothing and hygiene items to needy students at the Bellport Middle School.
Landscape Photography, \$1750 <i>Suzette Fandale</i>	Bellport High School photography students will work with an alumnus who will demonstrate landscape photography techniques using digital cameras and unique Photoshop techniques.
Bellport Film Society, \$700 <i>Jeff Korn</i>	Grant to cover the showing of Mad Hot Ballroom, a film about children in a New York City school dance program.
Family Math Day, \$6500 <i>Connie Havens and Matt Murphy</i>	District wide event to celebrate mathematics. Mathemagic show and support materials provided.
Summer Music Study, \$4120 <i>Becker/Gambles Music Fund</i>	Twelve students from Frank P. Long and Bellport Middle School receive grants for summer music lessons. Six Bellport High School students receive funds for music lessons and tuition for summer music camps. The funds for these grants are raised through donations and proceeds from SCEF concerts.
Daedalus Quartet, \$1000	The foundation supports visits by the quartet to Frank P. Long, BMS and BHS orchestra classes for performances and master classes for students in these schools.
Master Classes, \$1000 <i>Becker/Gambles Music Fund</i>	Doctoral candidates from SUNY Stony Brook in voice, strings and woodwinds hold master classes with BHS students and perform for classes.
Clipper Classic 5K Race and Fun Walk Scholarship Awards, \$5000 <i>Lori Klamut, Race Chair</i>	Ten graduating senior athlete awarded scholarships to further their higher education-funded annually. Funds for these scholarships are raised through race registrations and sponsorships.

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WITHOUT *YOUR* HELP**

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Robin Young Roe, Editor
JoAnne Powell, SCEF logo art
Barbara D. Knowles, Design & Production
Searles Graphics, Printer



South Country Education Foundation, Inc.
Post Office Box 512, Bellport, New York 11713

SCEF Mission Statement

The South Country Education Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit organization committed to improving educational opportunities for all students in the South Country School District. Its mission is to promote and enhance educational initiatives by providing supplemental financial support for projects and programs that are outside of the South Country School District budget.

HELP US INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF OUR CHILDREN

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