



Golden Apple



TRANSFORMING TEACHERS AND TEACHING

News | June 2011

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**July 26 – 29**

Join Teaching Scholars and peers from across Illinois at Chicago's St. Xavier University. Trade ideas. Explore teaching technology. Build content knowledge and classroom management strategies. [Learn more](#) about the 2011 CORE program.

#### Connect with Golden Apple

Golden Apple's website experienced a temporary disruption in mid-May. We're back at [www.goldenapple.org](http://www.goldenapple.org). (And all staff emails reach us @goldenapple.org.) Stay connected with all of our latest news and events!

## Meet Our Newest Fellows, Surprised with Golden Apple Awards

Television crews, education leaders, and local media celebrities helped Golden Apple surprise 10 outstanding teachers with Golden Apple Awards May 9 - 10. The honorees, all 4th - 8th grade teachers, were selected from a pool of more than 600 nominees. On May 19, these 10 teachers were officially inducted into the Golden Apple Academy of Educators, a group that contributes talent and passion to our mission and programs on an ongoing basis.



- **Judy Choi**, City Charter - Bartolome de Las Casas, 4th Grade: a caring teacher with high expectations who was one of the first teachers at this small charter school in Pilsen.
- **Ronald Hale**, City Charter - Chicago International Charter (Avalon), 7th and 8th Science and Character Education: a graduate of Chicago Public Schools who sees himself as a student advocate and loves to collaborate with other teachers.
- **Marc Hans**, Chicago Public - Hanson Park School, 6th Science: a dedicated instructor who provides after-school science mentoring to at-risk youth and started his own [not-for-profit](#).
- **Arleta Ingram**, Chicago Public - Carnegie Elementary, 5th to 8th Science: a teacher leader who serves as her school's unofficial science coach, sharing resources and building outside relationships that enrich academics.
- **Gerard Kovach**, Chicago Public - Rubén Salazar Bilingual Education Center, 8th Language Arts and 6th to 8th Science: a National Board Certified Teacher with a visible commitment to bilingual communication and the Latino community.
- **Kyle Radcliff**, Chicago Public - Newberry Math and Science Academy, 5th and 6th Math: a math enthusiast who created a school math night to put students in the spotlight and connect teachers, students, and community.

- Visit [Golden Apple's Facebook page](#). "Like" us to see our news in your News Feed.
- Follow [Golden Apple on Twitter](#). If you get tweets by phone, you'll see ours there.
- Visit Our [Blog](#). Enter your email to get notified of new posts.
- Visit Golden Apple's [YouTube Channel](#). Subscribe to get notified of new videos.
- Check out our photo albums on [Flickr](#).
- Access and share [Best Practices from Golden Apple Teachers](#). 2010 Fellow Rosalind Kline-Thomas, a math department chair, recently shared her algebra lesson plans.

### New Cubs Pitcher?

Golden Apple's own Dom Belmonte will throw out the first pitch on June 15 as part of Teacher Appreciation Night at Wrigley Field. Watch Dom—and the Cubs vs. Brewers—at 7:05 pm. Teachers can [purchase discounted tickets here](#).

- **Eliza Ramirez**, Chicago Public - Emiliano Zapata Academy, 7th Reading and Writing: a teacher who challenges her students with difficult questions and credits her own education with lessons of diversity, humility, work ethic, inquiry, and collaboration.
- **Michael Sementa**, Mundelein Public - Carl Sandburg Middle School, 6th to 8th Science & Technology: a champion of students who insists on high performance and forges positive relationships between community and school.
- **Carla Stone**, Evanston Public - Nichols Middle School, 6th Math: a former semi-pro basketball player for the Canadian National Team who models and instills teamwork, positive thinking, and goal achievement in the classroom.
- **Howard Templer**, Highland Park Public - Braeside School, 4th Grade: a leader in instructional pedagogy and interactive classroom technology who shares with colleagues and connects with students.

Congratulations and welcome to these exceptional educators, who will be honored at our 26th annual Golden Apple Awards on October 21. Each teacher also receives a spring sabbatical at Northwestern and \$3,000. [View media coverage](#), including videos and articles.

### Thanks to All for Celebrating Excellence

All 31 finalists for the 2011 Golden Apple Awards exemplify high-quality teaching and merit recognition. Thanks to the finalists, family members, and Golden Apple supporters who attended our April 16 Celebration of Excellence. Special thanks to MC Marti Jones, keynote speaker Cheryl Watkins, the Providence St. Mel School Choir, Dr. David Baar, and the Mather High School "Dream Girls" performers.



### Summer Study Ahead for Scholars

Summer is an enriching time for Golden Apple Scholars—a critical part of the exceptional preparation that Golden Apple provides to these future teachers. Based on their program year and specialty, Scholars will participate in one of several experiences combining learning and teaching.



- At the 2011 residential DePaul Summer Institute, June 18 to July 23, first- and second-year Scholars will learn best practices from Golden Apple Fellows and staff, participate in team-building activities, and gain teaching experience with primary and secondary students in area summer programs.
- At the IMSA Summer Institute, June 19 – July 22, Scholars pursuing math and science specialties will work with Golden Apple and the faculty and resources at the Illinois Math and Science Academy. Scholars will be delivering science- and math-based lesson plans to two groups of students in the East Aurora schools.
- At the Kohl Early Childhood Summer Institute, Scholars in early childhood education will expand their knowledge and hands-on

experience with the resources of Golden Apple, the Kohl Children's Museum, and National-Louis University. Kohl Scholars will visit and connect with early childhood centers throughout Chicago.

- Third-year Scholars will undertake a teaching, counseling, or camp experience that furthers their interests and abilities. This year's experiences include working with students in Chicago museum camps, the Kupugani Multicultural Summer Camp, YMCA Camp Duncan, The American Indian Center, and in CPS turnaround schools.
- At the 4th Summer Institute, held on the Elmhurst College campus for Scholars entering their fourth years, participants will prepare for student teaching roles and future employment. Scholars will take part in mock interviews with school administrators, tutor in area schools, and become certified in CPR.

Thanks in advance to all Golden Apple teachers, staff, and partners who will share their expertise with Scholars at these upcoming events.

## New Scholar Will Haley in the Spotlight

Will Haley is one of Golden Apple's 110 newest Scholars, part of the 2011 class who will attend the upcoming DePaul Summer Institute. This future teacher grew up in Chicago's notorious Cabrini Green housing project and is now determined to be a positive influence in similarly challenged communities. Golden Apple is proud to be preparing students like Will to succeed as teachers in high-need schools. [Read Will's story in the Chicago Tribune.](#) Find out about [opportunities to support the Golden Apple Scholars program.](#)



## CPS Teachers Engage in Summer Inquiry

More than 100 Chicago Public School teachers, principals, Area science coaches, and museum educators will participate in Golden Apple Inquiry Science Institute seminars this summer, part of a two-year program to improve science teaching and learning in 18 partner schools.



Approximately 30 teachers will attend Introduction to Inquiry, held the last week in June at the Museum of Science and Industry. Some 60 other teachers, who attended last summer's introductory session, will study Advanced Inquiry the third week of July. Chicago science institutions hosting Advanced Inquiry sessions include The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Shedd Aquarium, and the Museum of Science and Industry.

Participants range from science specialists to primary grade classroom teachers, who can use inquiry practices to engage students in science and other subjects. Initial ISI plans included five teacher participants from each partner school. Several principals have since asked to send additional staff, evidence of what Principal Robert Deckinga at Byrne Elementary calls a "great experience" with the Inquiry Science Institute.

## Spring Sabbaticals Feature Storytelling, Technology, and More

Golden Apple's 2010 Fellows ended their spring sabbaticals at Northwestern University on June 1. Following Golden Apple tradition, several Fellows took the highly regarded Storytelling class taught by Theatre Department Chair Rives Collins. Fellow Jacob Gourley and 9 classmates in a Supreme Court class traveled to Washington, D.C., met with Justice Sonia Sotomayor, and heard oral proceedings in a case they studied in class.

At weekly Golden Apple Seminar meetings, Fellows focused on innovative instructional uses for technology and shared their lessons and strategies. Jungsun Moon gave an interactive presentation on how his students use Google docs for peer review of their writing. Aaron Reedy illustrated how technology enabled his students to study the egg-hatching habits of a species of lizard, producing and working with data that is advancing scientific understanding of the topic. 2008 Fellow Carol Broos, an instructional technology expert, shared dozens of web 2.0 applications with the group.

Anthony Curtis praised the Seminar experience and described his sabbatical as a "great time of growth." Susan Harsa called the experience an "amazing journey...truly life changing."

Fellows have the option of taking additional summer classes at Northwestern before returning to their own classrooms in the fall.

## Education Experts Gather at Forums

Golden Apple's Dom Belmonte was among seven panelists participating in an April 29 discussion of *What's Next for Chicago Public Schools*, the first in a series of education forums sponsored by National Louis University, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, and



Golden Apple. A second forum on May 9 focused a panel of new and veteran reformers on the question *What Keeps School Reformers Going?* Issues discussed in both forums included the importance of community involvement in improving schools, culturally relevant teaching, and the lack of material resources in high-need schools.

[Watch What's Next for Chicago Public Schools?](#)  
[Watch What Keeps School Reformers Going?](#)

Three [planned fall forums](#) will conclude the series.

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