

# GOLDEN APPLE UPDATE

October 2005

## Future teachers well prepared during summer

By Dom Belmonte

Director of Teacher Preparation

This summer was once again a very active and vibrant one for Golden Apple's teacher-preparation programs, including the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois, the CORE conference for teaching Scholars, and the GATE program of alternative certification for mid-career adults.

At DePaul University, 175 Scholars of the 2004 and 2005 classes gathered for five weeks of instruction and internship under the theme, "Believe! All Children Deserve Excellent Teachers!" Thirty-three Chicago public and private schools hosted the Scholars for their on-site internship activities in the mornings. Thirty-five Golden Apple Fellows, who have received the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching, presented over 40 master-class sessions on teaching methodology and preparation for the Scholars in the afternoons.

The Summer Institute was visited by a team of observers from New Mexico, including a state legislator and the assistant superintendent for education, to observe the program so they may seek to replicate it in that state.

Across the Midwest, over 70 members of the Scholars class of 2003 were attending to their third-summer pursuits, ranging from camp counseling to docent activities. At Elmhurst College, 85 Scholars of the Class of 2002 met for their fourth Summer Institute, which prepares them for the student-teaching experience.

The CORE conference at Saint Xavier University was a rousing success, with over 70 teaching Scholars and Fellows meeting to further their understanding of teaching in a loving and congenial setting.

The eighth annual chapter of the GATE program began this summer with 44 mid-career adults beginning new careers as high school math, science or elementary teachers.

In total, more than 440 current or future teachers gathered together this summer under the banner of the Golden Apple Foundation. This is why we love the summer — constant motion, concern and delight at the successes of those on the teaching journey.

## Dear Friends,

We have had an eventful and successful summer at Golden Apple, as the reports in this Update will attest. Now we move freshly into our 21<sup>st</sup> school year, when we will work once again to find Golden Apple Award winners of excellence and new classes of Scholars and GATE interns.



At the same time, we will continue to support those who are studying to be teachers with mentoring and workshop activities, and provide assistance and positive feedback for practicing teachers. We are preparing some exciting ways to do so including the start this year of the Teacher Excellence Network, a website being designed to provide an on-line community for educators, and expanded workshops that will prepare teachers to make good use of storytelling techniques and inquiry based science in their classrooms.

We are also updating our strategic plan to focus our efforts in the coming years. In doing so, the Foundation is collaborating with key constituents so that our combined work will have the maximum impact on teachers and students. We look forward to sharing outcomes of this plan with you and are excited to continue our partnerships with Illinois' educational communities.

Shorter-term plans are in process for our annual year-end fundraising campaign and for the Golden Apple 5K Run on Sunday, November 6 (see our website for details). Once you have set aside your running shoes, you may want a new pair of dancing shoes for the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Golden Apple Awards Ceremony and Gala, which will be held Saturday, May 13, 2006, at the Hyatt Regency Chicago hotel, just off Michigan Avenue in the heart of the Magnificent Mile.

We have made great strides at Golden Apple in the past year and the past 20 years. With your continued support we will carry on our commitment to our basic belief that all children deserve excellent teachers.

Elaine M. Schuster, PhD  
President and CEO

Golden Apple Scholars Idalia Gutierrez, Juan Rodriguez, Adyna Jackson, Jean Chung and Amy Burns attend Summer Institute



## Workshops and Alphabet Bus get top grades

By Penny Lundquist  
Director of the Academy

Golden Apple's inquiry based Science Workshop has gained the attention of Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, NM. Sandia sponsored five New Mexico teachers to participate with 40 Illinois educators in this summer's workshop at Benedictine University. Bruce McClure, Sandia's manager of community involvement, was here for the last few days of the workshop to consider its possible replication in New Mexico next year. Locally, Lombard and Glen Ellyn schools districts have sponsored groups of teachers from their schools because teacher feedback and student achievement results have been so positive. The workshop was taught by Bill Grosser (Golden Apple Award winner in 2004), Jim Effinger ('92) (pictured at right with Scholars at Summer Institute), John Lewis ('92), Louise Huffman ('02), and Wayne Wittenberg.



## Alphabet Bus earns kudos

The verdict is in. Researchers from National-Louis University, led by Dr. Susan Jungck, recently completed a six-month evaluation of the Alphabet Bus program and concluded that it is "a robust, well-received, and professional model well worth emulating at both the regional and national levels." The researchers found that the goals of the program — to develop in children a love of reading, to model and encourage best practices in emergent literacy, to foster a parental sense of responsibility to read to their children, and to address a critical community shortage of early childhood literacy programs — are all being met. The program's impact is also extending into classrooms at the partner sites, where teachers are adopting Bus practices to enrich their own curricula.

## Golden Apple Scholar gets fire-education award

Jeanne Andersen, a 1999 Golden Apple Scholar, was presented a certificate of appreciation from Chicago Fire Commissioner Cortez Trotter "for teaching students to honor fire fighters and enhancing fire safety education." Andersen's 5th-graders at Schubert School had made thank-you cards for Chicago firefighters on the anniversary of Sept. 11. The commissioner's daughter, Coi Trotter, is a 2001 Golden Apple Scholar, who recently graduated from DePaul University.



## Save the Date

Saturday, May 13, 2006

21<sup>st</sup> Annual Golden Apple Awards Ceremony  
& Gala, Hyatt Regency Chicago hotel

## Storytelling expands to Lake County

With support from People's Energy, the natural gas service, Golden Apple was able to expand its popular Storytelling Workshop into Lake County, whose growing Mexican population gives added meaning to our focus on Mexican culture and history. With the enthusiastic support of local officials and businesses, the workshop debuted in Zion-Benton in early August. Several Lake County recipients of the Golden Apple Award were on the faculty, including Fellows Tom Clark ('91), Barry Gold ('96), Jennifer Santo ('03), and Tom Beck ('03). Workshop co-director Rita Arias-Jirasek (right) also taught sessions. Like its partner workshop in Chicago, this new Golden Apple offering was a big hit with teachers, who wrote on their evaluations: "What a wonderful gem you have shown our school district" and "By far this was the most informative and life-giving workshop I have attended in 11 years of teaching."



## Golden Apple Awards nominations are open

Nominations are open through December 1<sup>st</sup> for the 2006 Golden Apple Awards for Excellence in Teaching. To be eligible for the 21<sup>st</sup> annual awards, nominees must be full-time classroom teachers currently teaching in grades pre-kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> at a public or non-public school located in Cook, Lake or DuPage counties of Illinois. Nominees also must be committed to continue teaching in Illinois for at least two years after receiving the award.

Ten award winners will receive a paid sabbatical to study tuition-free at Northwestern University, an Apple computer, \$3,000, induction into the Golden Apple Academy, and recognition in May on a one-hour prime-time WTTW/11 TV program.

Award finalists will be announced in January; the 10 winners will be named in March.

Nomination forms are available at the Golden Apple website or by calling 312.407.0433 ext. 108.

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All Children Deserve Excellent Teachers