



# The Valley Voice

A publication of the USPA developed by parents and staff to provide information of interest and import to US families

## Opportunity for a Gap Student from Kenya

Parents and students will recall that at our opening school assembly and then again on Curriculum Night, I showed images and offered a few comments from our trip to Africa last June. Among the number of schools we visited, I profiled one school in particular, the Starehe Boys' Centre, which is located in Nairobi, Kenya. Comprised almost entirely of orphans and boys from destitute circumstances, it is one of the elite schools in the country.

While some of the schools we visited could potentially host our students in an exchange relationship yet to be developed, Starehe probably would not. Nairobi has seen better days, and the school is in a tough part of the city. Still, since my visit, I have been struck by the opportunity we have to make a difference there.

We remain committed to making a difference in Cleveland, and with our REACH program, our strong financial aid budget, and our growing service programs that reach into the city, our commitment has never been stronger. At the same time, for a tiny investment, we can have a lasting impact on boys' lives in another part of the world as well.

For a surprisingly small amount of money, for example, we can endow

## Clothing Drive for Honduras Children

Four Hunting Valley students will be spending part of their spring break helping orphaned, abandoned and abused children in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Ricky Morgan, Fitz Stueber, Thomas Boyd and Brandon Jackson will travel to Honduras for a week over spring break with three Shaker Campus faculty and four students. Each traveler will check two bags filled to the 50-pound limit with donated clothes for the very poor children.

Start your spring cleaning early and

a scholarship at Starehe forever. I plan to run a small fundraiser later this winter and into the spring with this goal in mind, and I will be in touch before long about that. In addition, I have made an inquiry to the director of the school, Professor Jesse Mugambi, to see if he would be willing to send us a gap student to attend University School next year before applying to an American college. I have had experiences with several of the post-graduate students from Starehe. They are extraordinary young men from a highly selective institution. I believe the benefit to our school would be enormous. Not only would this visitor broaden our connections with the outside world, but he would enrich our community by adding the viewpoint of an individual who comes from a remarkably different circumstance.

When I hear back from Professor Mugambi, and assuming he will take us up on the offer of a spot for a boy, I will be getting back in touch with the entire parent community. We will need to find a family willing to host a young man for at least part of the year if not the entire year. I believe this represents a great opportunity for US, and I will keep you posted on this initiative!

*Stephen S. Murray*

remember these children. We are looking for summer clothes for boys or girls, from baby to high school age. Suggested donations are shorts, tee shirts, baseball caps, boxers, socks, shoes, sandals, light jackets or sweat-shirts. These children have very little, so anything would be appreciated.

There will be a box in Ms. Kalman's reception area marked Honduras donations. We will be collecting until a week before spring break. Thank you for your help!

## Future Dates

### Tuesday, February 27

- Sherman Prize Speaking Contest 8:00 a.m. in Gund Auditorium
- Spring Sports Parent Meeting 7:00 p.m. By invitation only. (See article)

### Monday, March 5

- Faculty Work Day ~ No Classes

### Tuesday, March 6

- Diversity Workshop 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. (See article)

### Thursday, March 8

- Winter Sports Dessert 7:00 p.m. in the Stouffer Dining Hall

### Friday, March 16

- Spring Break Begins After Last Class

### Monday, April 2

- Professional Development Day ~ No Classes

### Tuesday, April 3

- Classes Resume

### Wednesday, April 11

- Cum Laude Investiture 8:05 a.m. in Gund Auditorium

### Friday, April 13

- US Film Festival – Time TBA

### Saturday, April 14

- Parent/Sponsor Conferences 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. by appointment

### Tuesday, April 17

- USPA General Meeting 8:05 a.m. in the Lecture Room. (Immediately following assembly) Mr. Obel-Omia with reflections on the year.

### Friday, April 20

- Swim for Diabetes 5:30- 8:30 p.m. (Weatherhead pool on the HV Campus)

### Saturday, April 21

- Swim for Diabetes 12:00- 3:00 p.m. (Weatherhead pool on the HV Campus)

### Saturday, April 28

- Benefit "Celebrating US" 6:30 – 11:00 p.m. (HV Campus)

## Senior Section

### Wednesday, April 11

Cum Laude Investiture 8:05 a.m.

### Friday, May 4

Last Day of Classes for seniors

### Saturday, May 5

Junior/Senior Prom

### Monday, May 7

Senior Experience begins

### Wednesday, May 23

Senior Breakfast is organized by the senior parents. Paula Polakof needs volunteers and donations of food. Contact her at 216-464-6682 or [ppolakof@yahoo.com](mailto:ppolakof@yahoo.com)

### Tuesday, June 5

Senior-Parent BBQ

### Friday, June 8

Commencement 10:30 a.m.



## Junior Section

### Friday, March 9

Registration deadline for the April 14 ACT test

### Thursday, March 29

Registration deadline for the May 5 SAT test

### Monday, April 16

CCIS College Program 6:30 p.m. at the Upper Campus of Hawken School  
For Sophomores, Juniors and their parents. Approximately 110 college and universities in attendance.

### Friday, April 27

Registration deadline for the June 2 SAT I & II tests

### Saturday, May 5

Junior/Senior Prom



## Freshman Section

**Freshman Parents:** White pants are needed for Blue Blazer sale at Shaker Campus. Collection bin is located in the main lobby entrance at the HV Campus during the last week of February.

## Diversity and Inclusion Workshop

The Hunting Valley campus community is co-designing and participating in a Diversity and Inclusion Workshop on March 6. During the event your son will engage in workshops and discussions designed to elicit his ideas about pertinent issues, increase his awareness about diversity and inclusion, and enhance his willingness and ability to communicate across boundaries.

If you have suggestions for topics or issues to address on that day, please share your ideas with Mrs. Mason, Mr. Murray, or me, and we will convey them to our facilitator, Dr. J. Goosby Smith, president of D.L. Plummer & Associates. Informed by 12 years of teaching, research, and consulting experience, Dr. Smith brings to our workshop a deeply rooted commitment to improving

organizational performance by facilitating the creation of organizations with inclusive, generative, diversity-friendly climates. Dr. Smith has been an assistant professor of management at Pepperdine University in Malibu, California where she served as inaugural co-chair of the University's Diversity Council and guided assessment on the Seaver College Diversity Council. In August of 2006, Dr. Smith relocated to Indianapolis where she is a faculty member at the College of Business Administration at Butler University.

We are understandably excited about this opportunity, and we thank you in advance for helping to make our workshop a success.

*Michael Obel-Omia*

## Stay Tuned for the Car Clinic Dates...

The response to the Car Clinic survey was overwhelming. More than 40 people responded that they would be interested (the limit is 40/session). The clinic dates and sign up procedure are in the process of being arranged. Just a refresher about the clinic:

The New Driver Car Control Clinic for parents and new drivers is a two-part driving clinic consisting of an hour and a half of classroom time on a Friday evening followed by a four-hour actual behind-the-wheel driving session on the following Saturday or Sunday a.m. or p.m.

The clinic attempts to prepare the driver mentally and physically to react to surprises with skill and precision. The clinic focuses on teaching parents and teens critical accident avoidance maneuvers and defensive driving skills such as eye management (judging spatial relationships), steering management, and brake management.

The cost is \$159.00 per parent-teen team. Contact Amy Becker at [beckerajbm@aol.com](mailto:beckerajbm@aol.com) with any questions.

## Reminders from Ms. Kalman and Mr. Obel-Omia

PLEASE remember to call or send a note to Ms. Kalman any time your son misses school, leaves school, or is late to school for any reason. In addition, your son must sign out any time he leaves campus for any reason. DO NOT believe your son when he says there is no need to call in!

parents that doctor and dentist appointments should be scheduled during vacations and after school hours whenever possible. On those occasions when appointments must be scheduled during school hours, please let the school know well in advance. It is the student's responsibility to contact his teachers and classmates concerning assignments.

Mr. Obel-Omia would like to remind

## Community Service

Community Service Day will take place this year on May 1. Although the particular activity has not yet been determined, the house prefects are working to obtain a site and organization at which their respective houses will provide service. In the past, activities have included working at various places such as Habitat for Humanity, senior citizens' homes, special camps for children with disabilities, Holden Arboretum, Cleveland Metroparks, Cleveland inner city schools, Cleveland Food Bank, Hitchcock House, and the Salvation Army. Our students have performed various services such as cleaning, painting, and fixing up the grounds at a blind children's camp; unpacking and sorting food at a food bank; painting and lawn care at a home for recovering drug and alcohol patients; power washing wheelchairs and cleaning windows at a nursing home; raking, planting, and general grounds cleanup at the

## Estate Planning Seminar

A seminar about the current trends in estate planning and charitable giving will be presented by University School's Advancement Office on Wednesday, April 25. The seminar will be open to all parents and alumni and will be held at the Shaker Campus. There will be a continental breakfast served

## Looking for a few good men...

Who are speeding, driving unsafely, and not stopping at stop signs: the Hunting Valley police would love to ticket you. Please remind your son to drive responsibly. Stopping at stop signs is not optional, driving too fast is ir-

responsible, wreckless driving is just plain dangerous, say nothing of driving without clearing your windshield of snow! The school will revoke on-campus driving privileges if they see your son being irresponsible, and the Hunting Valley police will gladly give your son a moving violation ticket for the same type of driving. License suspension, increased insurance costs, and perhaps an accident are obvious consequences. **DRIVE RESPONSIBLY AND ABSOLUTELY NO GHOST RIDING THE WHIP!!**

Each house (40 students and 5 faculty) will report to their site and work from approximately 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. All students will report to school at the normal time and return between 2 and 3 p.m. Look for a letter from Mr. Obel-Omia with the details as May 1 gets closer!

The new moderator of Community Service is Spanish teacher, Mr. Dave Cicerchi '02. Mr. Cicerchi is a seasoned service advocate, having spearheaded several events while at US and during his college career. Mr. Cicerchi plans to mentally prepare the students ahead of time so they see the day as an opportunity for personal growth through service. Afterwards, he will conduct a group reflection so the students can derive meaning from their work in the context of their lives and society as a whole.

in the Barry Gallery at 7:30 a.m. followed by the presentation at 7:45 to 9:30 a.m. The presenters are parents Greg Althans, Tim Clements, Rich Stovsky, and Neil Waxman, all members of US's Planned Giving Committee, along with parent Jeff Wasserman. RSVP by April 10 to Marcia Grant at 216-831-2209 or [mgrant@us.edu](mailto:mgrant@us.edu).

Now for parents: your job is to be a good role model. No double and triple parking when picking up your son after school, NO unattended vehicles in the fire lane, no parking in handicapped spaces without a permit, ETC., ETC., ETC!!

Get it? Got it? Good!

## School Closing Due to Weather

A question asked of Mr. Obel-Omia... What is the secret logarithm to school closure in cold weather??

It is fairly simple: when Shaker Heights and Cleveland Heights both close, taking away our buses and our ability to transport our boys safely, we are compelled to think seriously about closing. Since a majority of our students come from these communities, we need to respect the decision of those school communities. Having school with 40 percent to 45 percent of the student body absent or arriving late hinders our ability to conduct meaningful classes and run productive extracurricular activities.

True, our boys are old enough to bear up under the inclement weather, but when 90% of the county's schools are closed, what statement are we making when we open our doors -- that we are stubborn? That we have some outdated code of machismo that governs our decisions? Our first responsibility is to keep our children safe to the best of our ability. Closing school due to weather is a very difficult decision, and each decision in the future will be made with extreme care and with great thought.

### Parent/Sponsor Conferences

Parent/Sponsor Conferences will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, April 14

The deadline to schedule an appointment for a half-hour time slot is Wednesday, April 11 by the end of the school day

Call or email Ann Frieberthausner 216-831-2200 ext. 7358 or [afrieberthausner@us.edu](mailto:afrieberthausner@us.edu)

## Spring Cleaning Tips

1. Turn and face the closet
2. Open door
3. Search for blue blazers, white pants and khakis
4. Close door

Voila, now you have the secret of closet cleaning. Seriously, if you have blue blazers, white pants and/or khakis in good condition, they will be graciously accepted for the US Blue Blazer Sale. The sale is not until the fall but donations are taken all year. Drop your donations off with Ms. Kalman, Mr. Starrett (Advancement Office) or at the Prep Shop. Please mark any items with its size.

### After-Prom Needs

\$10 - \$25 Gift/Gas Cards From Best Buy, Fast Food, Clothing, Home or Audio Stores

To Support After-Prom

Deliver to Ms. Kalman at the Reception Desk

Thank You!

## Why shop at the Prep Shop??

*A little tutorial on the Prep Shop:*

The Prep Shop has been around for a long time, although no one can really remember exactly how long. However, just last year under the USPA presidency of Dale Naylor the Prep Shop changed from "a parent-staffed/managed operation where all proceeds support the school" to "a parent-staffed/managed operation where all proceeds support USPA functions." Before last year, USPA functions were funded by the school. Mrs. Naylor led a charge to more directly link the significant parent involvement in managing all aspects of the Prep Shop (e.g., ordering, marketing, sales, inventory control, etc.) with the funding to support USPA activities.

Supported USPA functions include the new family and welcome back coffees/program, the materials used by the talented school decorating committee, Sunshine Committee activities, all the USPA meetings and January Coffees (those delicious cookies and the accompanying bottled water and coffee), the class-specific treats for the boys over the course of the year (e.g., cider and donuts, bagels and OJ, senior Chipotle lunch, etc.), International Dinner, and miscellaneous incidentals like underwriting certain aspects of the welcome reception for the head of the Hunting Valley campus.

The Prep Shop will sell approximately 200 sweatshirts, 100 hats, 90 sweatpants, and 50 flannel pants (based on last year's sales). It has already sold 30 letter jackets. So who does all of this work? The Prep Shop consumes an enormous amount of volunteer hours. This year there are 70 volunteers who operate the shop on a daily basis, each putting in approximately two hours on one of their six shifts per year. (Total = 840 "mom/dad hours" just to keep the shop open!) This excludes the countless hours of the two chairwomen, Olivia Demas and Kelly Biggar, who are the CEOs and COOs combined. They plan, order, execute, sell, and account for all of the merchandise in the Prep Shop. Typically, the Prep Shop has a profit of \$4,500 to \$5,000. The budget for this year's USPA expenses is \$4,700.

So, in a nutshell, the Prep Shop not only supplies us with all things US, but also is the single reason for the success of most USPA functions. So, congratulations go to Olivia Demas and Kelly Biggar for succeeding in such a daunting task and for all of their predecessors/ visionaries who worked equally as hard in their day.

### ANNUAL "FUND" FACTS

#### Did You Know?

Annual Fund participation from Hunting Valley families is currently at 62%.

A gift from you today will move us that much closer to our goal of 100% participation!

We're very close to our dollar goal for Hunting Valley families, too.

To date, \$110,759 has been raised toward our campus goal of \$115,191. Please donate today and put us over the top!

There are many ways to give a gift today:

- Online - go to [www.us.edu](http://www.us.edu) and click on the "giving to US" link
- By phone - call Sue Slovich at 216-831-1984 x7314
- By mail - University School 2785 SOM Center Rd. Hunting Valley OH 44022
- In person - stop by the Office of Advancement on the HV campus

Thank you for helping excellence thrive at US!

## A Word (or Two) About Spring Sports

There will be a varsity spring sports parent meeting on Tuesday, February 27 at 7 p.m. PLEASE NOTE attendance at this meeting is by invitation only. Families that need to attend will receive an invitation from the athletic department. Parents of freshman and JV athletes need not attend.

Some sports will have practices over spring break. The days and times follow:

JV and Varsity Baseball: Both weeks, Monday - Friday from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 - 11 a.m.

Freshman Baseball: First week of break, practices only on Friday, March 23 and Saturday, March 24 from 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Second week of break, Monday through Saturday practices will be held from 9 - 11 a.m. each day.

Lacrosse: Other than for those team members going to Florida, there are no practices scheduled during either week of spring break for JV or Varsity lacrosse players.

Track: Those team members not in Florida will have practice the first week of break on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 3 - 5:30 p.m. All team members will have practice during the second week of break Monday - Friday from 3 - 5:30 p.m.

Tennis: No practices during spring break for JV or Varsity.

## Summer Programs at US

University School's summer programs are among the best in the area and offer a variety of terrific activities for boys (grades K-12) and girls (grades 4-12). All camps and classes are taught by US faculty and coaches.

Programs on the Shaker Campus include Boys' Day Camp, coed Space Science Adventure, Advanced Space Science Week, and Comp-Unique.

The outstanding athletic facilities of the Hunting Valley Campus are used for a variety of sports clinics, some of which are coed. In addition to the sports offerings, the Hunting Valley Campus offers academic programs designed to help high school boys and girls prepare and review a variety of subjects, and some even offer University School course credit. There is something for everyone!

Brochures have been mailed to all US families and information is also available on the US website: [www.us.edu](http://www.us.edu). Be sure to register early, as some programs fill up quickly.

### The Valley Voice

#### University School

2785 SOM Center Road  
Hunting Valley, Ohio 44022  
216.831.2200  
<http://upper.us.edu>

#### Editors:

Nancy Kramer  
[nancy@nancykramerlaw.com](mailto:nancy@nancykramerlaw.com)  
Deborah Little  
[Millitt@aol.com](mailto:Millitt@aol.com)  
Deborah Perkins-Boyd  
[deborah\\_e\\_perkins@fanniema.com](mailto:deborah_e_perkins@fanniema.com)  
Betsy Stueber  
[stueber4@aol.com](mailto:stueber4@aol.com)

#### Distribution:

Lynn Katz Danzig  
Joan Finnell

#### Staff Support:

Marcia Grant  
James Reeder  
Sue Schervish