

# FEF FOCUS

Volume 9, Issue 1 Fall 2010

## President's Message



Dr. Lawrence Morehouse  
President & CEO

Many business, government, and educational institutions respond to severe financial crisis by cutting essential programs and reducing staff. The Florida Education Fund (FEF) chose not to follow that model.

Instead, we chose to reduce costs selectively by focusing more on operational efficiency and finding more effective ways of reinvesting resources to maximize productivity. We chose to move forward with the plan to expand our McKnight Fellows' writing program as well as maintain pre-college program levels.

During the last two years, we have placed greater emphasis on increasing opportunities for our Doctoral Fellows to improve writing skills, complete dissertations, present conference papers, write grant proposals, and publish articles. To achieve these objectives, we not only encourage our scholars to write papers for the MDF Mid-Year Research and Writing Conference, but also to present frequently at national and regional conferences. Our studies show that students who write conference papers have a higher graduation rate than those who don't. Given this important correlation, we have created programs to enhance students' opportunities to write, present and publish.

To provide an efficient, cost effective means to assist students in these areas, we have created online workshops to address writing is-

suues such as thesis and abstract development, cause and effect relationships, and coherence. Now, our scholars may work from their homes in our virtual classroom to improve their skills. They also may use professional editorial services provided by the FEF throughout the year.

These and other services and our conferences also have provided our Fellows greater opportunities to collaborate with peers and other professionals. You will read in this edition of the *Focus* how McKnight graduate Dr. Rheeda Walker became familiar with matriculating Fellow Rosie Hunter's research during McKnight conferences and later collaborated with her on a book chapter.

You also will read about our institutional collaboration at the pre-college level with a Florida school district to help rural students improve academic skills. In the summer of 2010, we formed a new partnership with the Lee County School District to offer three for-credit camps. Our resulting data shows that extending students' classroom hours over the summer improves retention, boosts performance on standardized tests, raises confidence, and helps students develop better mathematics, writing and reading skills.

These stories succinctly illustrate that choosing the path of least resistance diminishes one's capacity to weather the storm. Our steadfastness and willingness to diligently form new alliances, explore different options, and use a creative approach have given birth to our new horizon, allowing us to survive another day.

## Loss Fuels Life's Work of Prolific Scholar Dr. Thomas Joiner

For the past four years, Dr. Thomas Joiner, Distinguished Research Professor and the Bright-Burton Professor of Psychology at Florida State University, has graced the McKnight Summer Research and Writing Institute (SRWI) with presentations on writing, publication, and productivity in academia.

While acknowledging that teaching and service are important, each year he stresses the significance of writing to the careers of young professors. Writing, he says, should be treated as sacred for its role in fostering mental clarity and focus. "Wed yourself to the idea of being a writer," he advises, encouraging students to carry a notebook everywhere to capture thoughts. Students also should attend colloquia in and out of their departments to meet new colleagues and generate ideas and read widely so they're not in a shell. "I always read two books at a time, one not in my field."

In fact, reading extensively led Joiner to identify the subject area that has fueled his life's work. By his third year as a clinical psychology graduate student at the University of Texas, he decided to focus his research on suicide after

a thorough review of the literature indicated it was the least studied aspect of major depression. The year was 1990, and Joiner was



Dr. Thomas Joiner

on a trajectory for success when he learned of his own father's death by suicide. That event changed his life and reinforced his decision to study the topic. The profound emotional issues of losing his father under sudden, mystifying circumstances were compounded by ignorance and stigma surrounding suicide. Surprisingly, some of Joiner's colleagues—mental

health professionals—were among those least comfortable handling his loss.

Joiner confronted the issue of suicide personally and professionally. His examination of the psychology, neurobiology, and treatment of suicidal behavior and related condi-

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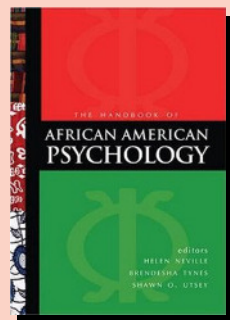
## Alumna Spotlight on Dr. Rheeda Walker

Maybe it was fate that Rheeda Walker and Lora Rose Hunter would work together someday, despite a ten-year difference in the times they matriculated as McKnight Fellows; after all, both chose to undertake rigorous psychology programs at Florida State University. They met at the 2005 McKnight Annual Fellows Meeting, where Dr. Rheeda Walker, a 2002 doctoral graduate and tenure track professor, came to speak and Lora “Rosie” Hunter attended as a new Fellow fresh out of undergraduate school.



Alumna Dr. Rheeda Walker

They grew to know one another casually, but it wasn't until a subsequent MDF Mid-Year Research and Writing Conference that they explored the connections between their intertwined research interests more fully. Walker's primary interest is suicide and depression in African American adults, while Hunter studies cultural issues in anxiety disorders, including the impact of socio-cultural factors on the appearance, study, and treatment of anxiety in African Americans.



Fast forwarding to 2008, they met again at an MDF Mid-Year Meeting, where Walker offered Hunter the opportunity to collaborate and co-produce “From Anxiety and Depression to Suicide and Self-Harm,” chapter 29 in the *Handbook of African American Psychology* by Tynes, Neville, and Utsey (Sage Publishing, 2009). The chapter reviews empirical and theoretical literature on African American anxiety, depression, and suicide, and outlines challenges and directions for progress in these areas of mental health research.

According to Walker and Hunter, anxiety disorders will affect more than a quarter of the population at some time in their lives. Anxiety disorders, characterized by debilitating fear and physical reactions such as trembling, chest pain, and dizziness, include panic disorder, specific phobias, social phobia, generalized anxiety disorders, post traumatic stress disorder, and obsessive-compulsive disorder. Without effective interventions, these disorders—the most prevalent mental disorders in the United States—can escalate into severe depression; with early and untreated onset, the condition can become chronic.

In the chapter, Walker and Hunter also discuss the apparent uniqueness of anxiety pathology in African Americans. For example, they note a seminal 1991 review that showed higher rates of sleep paralysis in African Americans who suffer from panic disorder and reported that African Americans with panic disorder present with greater incidence of post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Additionally, African American veterans with PTSD are more likely to be diagnosed with a psychotic disorder as well. This suggests African Americans may experience PTSD and undergo assessment differently; however, the issue warrants additional research to corroborate these findings.

Indeed, throughout the chapter, on PTSD and other topics, Walker and Hunter point out that some earlier studies failed to use representative samplings of African Americans, including all socio-economic levels and sub-groups such as Caribbean Americans. Both authors intend to help fill this gap with their present and future research, and they plan to write together again on related issues.

Rheeda Walker's work with Rosie Hunter brings her collaborative experience full circle. Walker was on the brink of abandoning her graduate studies when a friend advised her to speak with a new professor at FSU. Dr. Thomas Joiner wasn't accepting new students, but he assigned Walker a writing task that led to her first publication in 1999. She and Dr. Joiner have collaborated on at least ten journal articles since then.

Last May, Dr. Walker and her husband, also a psychologist, both earned tenure at the University of Georgia. They are the proud parents of Kamau Kwabena Obasi, who was born in August.



Fellow Lora Rose Hunter presents at Mid-Year.

Rosie Hunter expects to complete her doctorate in 2013. She has published a number of articles and book chapters, and she plans to offer collaboration opportunities to younger scholars, just as Walker did for her.

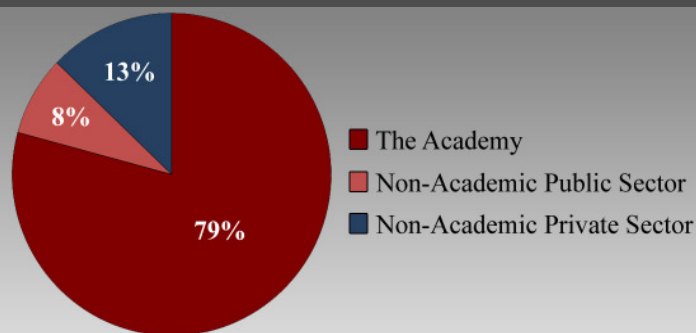
## MDF Graduate Employment Update

In keeping with the McKnight Doctoral Fellowship Program's statutory mandate “to increase the representation of minorities in faculty and administrative positions in higher education and to provide more highly educated minority leadership in business and professional enterprises,” Program graduates for years have worked both within and outside of academia.

Although most graduates land jobs at institutions of higher learning, a number accept positions at institutions as varied as the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, Lucent Technologies, and the Historical Museum of South Florida.

To date, 79% of MDF Graduates serve as assistant, associate or full professors at colleges and universities, while 8% work in non-academic public sector positions, and 13% hold positions in the private sector.

### MDF GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT



## Loss Fuels Life's Work of Prolific Scholar Dr. Thomas Joiner

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tions has produced over 395 peer-reviewed publications, fifteen books, and a new theoretical model that by many accounts has changed the way psychologists think about the issue. Briefly, Joiner's model contends there are three factors common to people who attempt or die from suicide: the *perception* that one is isolated or alienated from others; the *perception* that one is unworthy and a burden to others; and the ability to enact lethal self-injury. The third factor may be learned over time from suffering or witnessing pain or through reckless or dangerous activities that teach one to ignore basic instincts for self-preservation.

While earning international recognition for this theory and his expansive scholarship, Joiner also has garnered awards as a professor, including the FEF's William Jones Most Valuable Mentor Award; directs the Florida State University Psychology Clinic; and was recently named the second most productive clinical psychologist in the world.

In his presentations on achieving productivity, Joiner explains that a scholar who steadily

writes and publishes ideally exhibits traits denoted by "OCEAN," a mnemonic acronym for openness to experience, conscientiousness, extraversion, agreeability, and a low level of neuroticism. He encourages those who lack this profile to heed Shakespeare: "Assume a virtue if you have it not, for use can almost change the stamp of nature," or, in the modern vernacular, "fake it 'til you make it."

As to submitting work to journals, Joiner recommends scholars become familiar with those in which they seek publication. As a graduate student, he says he read his preferred academic periodical, the *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, from cover to cover. "Choose a journal with an impact factor you want and shoot higher," he says, because the better the journal, the more insightful the review you will receive. Then address recommended changes, and keep sending the article in. Volunteer as a reviewer, and use the

opportunity to compare your reviews to others. Joiner also counsels his audience to become accustomed to rejection and reminds them of famous works that were initially rejected, including the Crick and Watson DNA paper, Orwell's *Animal Farm*, Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, and Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*.

Success comes from diligence, "sweat and tears," colleagues, collaborators, and serendipity, Joiner said, adding that students should remember that "chance favors a prepared mind." "Choose to do it and your heart will follow."



Dr. Joiner at the 2008 SRWI

In his 2005 book, *Why People Die by Suicide*, Joiner stated one of the driving factors for his own work: "...tomorrow around eighty families in the United States will lose a loved one to suicide, just like my family did. Improvements in science and clinical work can save lives and reduce the number of bereaved families."

## Fellows Review Copyrights and Responsibilities at the 2010 SRWI

The Summer Research and Writing Institute (SRWI) provides an opportunity for advanced matriculating McKnight Fellows to engage in concentrated and intensive research and writing activities with the aim of producing articles, grants, and dissertation chapters and proposals. The 2010 SRWI proved most effective, as it included an expanded review of STATA and SPSS and offered a more in depth study of the mechanics of writing complex articles and manuscripts, with a specific focus on the social sciences and STEM. It also, for the first time, provided a discussion on copyright, by FEF Vice President & General Counsel Lyra Logan, Esq.

One of the more critical issues for scholars is understanding copyright requirements as they relate to writing and publishing. Authors need to know both how to avoid infringing another's copyrights and how to retain enough

of their own to take advantage of new digital transmission and publishing opportunities.

According to Logan, copyright—a bundle of exclusive rights to copy, distribute, display and perform—protects original "works of authorship that are fixed in a tangible form of expression," with few exceptions. Copyright "attaches to the expression of an idea, not to the idea itself, and shields a work as soon as you produce it in a perceptible form, including in an email message or on the Web."

If scholars plan to incorporate copyrighted material (charts, drawings, photographs, computer programs, music, etc.) into their work, they must (a) make sure their insertions constitute "Fair Use" under copyright law or (b) obtain

permission from copyright holders. Scholars also must carefully manage their own copyrights and ensure they retain necessary freedoms when they enter into arrangements to publish their work.

As to using others' works, Logan explained that scholars' proposed uses often fall within the exception to copyright known as "Fair Use," which typically includes criticism, comment, news reporting, scholarship and research. However, prior to claiming "Fair Use," she cautioned, an author must undertake a serious "good faith analysis" as to whether the exception applies, by weighing factors delineated in the copyright statute.

Unfortunately, Logan noted, the statute fails to indicate exactly how to apply those factors. As a

result, in infringement law suits, courts determine "Fair Use" on a case-by-case basis, which has led to inconsistent application of the law and makes it difficult to determine the scope of a scholar's rights. Logan therefore advised the audience to secure the copyright holder's permission prior to incorporating material, unless a documented "good faith analysis" makes it abundantly clear the use is "Fair."

As to how scholars should manage their own copyrights, Logan discussed the scholar's rights in his or her own material and advised the audience on how to secure those rights. She also reviewed sample publishing contracts and demonstrated how Fellows may modify them to retain freedom to publish on their own Web sites; distribute copies to colleagues and students; post, as often required, on funders' online repositories; and reprint in their own subsequent work.



Lyra Logan, Esq.

## Dr. Allen-Gipson Shares Expertise at the SRWI

As many sources of monetary support for students at the dissertation stage have dwindled, MDF Fellows must make every effort to apply for available grants to support their research. If they receive those grants, they not only will finance their work, but also demonstrate success in obtaining funding and improve their chances of publishing, all of which will enhance marketability in an increasingly competitive academic job market.

That's why, in October of 2009, the FEF Board of Directors approved a new MDF Program Policy that requires each Fellow who begins his or her Ph.D. program in 2010 or later to submit at least one dissertation research grant application after the Fellow's dissertation proposal has been accepted by his or her Committee.

It's also why, throughout each year, the FEF offers grant writing workshops during which grantors usually advise Fellows and graduates on how to apply for awards. At the 2010 McKnight Summer Research & Writing Institute (SRWI), the FEF presented a 6-hour intensive session from a different perspective, that of a successful grantee. McKnight graduate Dr. Diane Allen-Gipson, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, conducted the two-part NSF Doctoral Dissertation Grant Writing Workshop.



Dr. Diane Allen-Gipson reviews a grant application with Fellow Chandre Butler.

A 2000 Florida A&M University Ph.D. graduate in Pharmaceutical Sciences, Allen-Gipson has proved an expert grant writer, securing over \$750,000 to support her research on mechanisms controlling repair of bronchial epithelium, work that has been published in several peer-reviewed publications, including *The Journal of Investigative Medicine*, *The Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics* and *The American Journal of Physiology*. She currently serves as principal investigator for one of her grants from the National Institutes of Health valued at over half a million dollars.

During the SRWI workshop, Allen-Gipson led participants through a hands-on, interactive analysis of funded as well as rejected grant proposals; reviewed the types of proposals NSF funds along with the Agency's selection criteria and proposal guidelines; critiqued participants' drafts; and shared her insights on the distinguishing elements of successful grant applications.



Students participate in the 2010 Summer Research and Writing Institute.

"Previous publications and research matter when applying for NSF grants. They add credibility to proposals by rooting them in sound, peer-reviewed research,"

said Allen-Gipson, as she urged participants to make writing and publication a priority. She also stressed the importance of developing relationships with NSF Program Officers, starting proposals early, writing and rewriting drafts, and clearly articulating a proposal's intellectual merit and broader impact.

## FEF Offers Online Writing Workshops

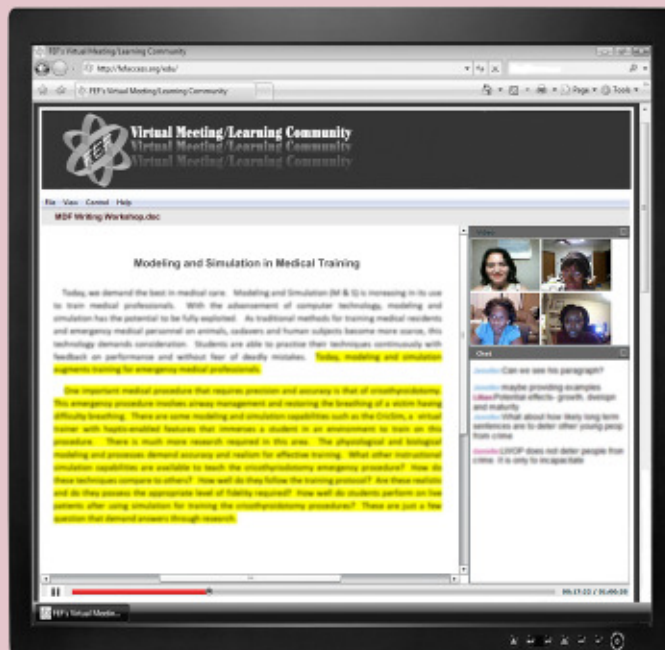
As part of the FEF's commitment to assist McKnight Doctoral Fellows in polishing their writing skills, in Spring 2010, the FEF began offering a series of pilot online writing workshops to complement live sessions presented at conferences throughout the year.

Designed to help sharpen skills by refining current writing projects, the workshops offered opportunities for Fellows to (a) engage in interactive writing exercises in real-time sessions with the presenter and other participants; (b) focus on current writings in one-on-one, virtual face-to-face consultations with the presenter; and (c) pose writing questions to experts at any time they came to mind.

The pilot workshops on "Formulating a Working Thesis," "Developing and Supporting Your Argument," and "Achieving Precision and Coherence in Scholarly Writing" ran from March through July 2010 and employed all manner of online learning and collaboration tools, from forums to wikis to virtual (video and audio) classrooms.

Fellows evaluated the workshops overwhelmingly favorably on organization, content, presentation and effectiveness, citing the group interaction and nurturing atmosphere as the most positive aspects. One participant said, "I valued most the interaction not only with the professor but with peers, the manner in which we all worked together in the classroom editing each others' assignments." Another noted, "the presenter assigned tasks necessary for my current paper. So, the workshop helped me move my project to completion without adding extra work or pressure." Still another wrote, "I appreciated the supportive environment. Here we can expose our deficiencies and know that no one is judging us, everyone wants us to learn and succeed."

Similar offerings on topics pertinent to scholarly authors will continue through 2010-2011. For the workshop schedule and to enroll, email Lyra Logan, Esq., at [llogan@fefonline.org](mailto:llogan@fefonline.org).



Fellows analyze a writing project with presenter Dr. Elizabeth Metzger in the FEFaccess virtual classroom.

## FEF's 25th Anniversary Brain Bowl Competitions

For the 25th year, on April 16, 2010, teams of regional History & Culture Competition winners from around the State met in central Florida to engage in successive duels aimed at ferreting out state champions. Math teams battled as well, for the 8th year, vying for state titles in the 6th-8th, 9th-10th and 11th-12th Grade categories.

This year's winners in History & Culture and 11th-12th Grade Math, the Products of History from the UCF-McKnight COE and the Chargers from the Palm Beach County COE, respectively, will share in thousands of dollars in scholarship prizes contributed by Florida colleges and universities.

The 9th-10th Grade Math victors, the Bermuda Rectangles from the St. Petersburg College COE, and the 6th-8th Grade Math champions, the Pi-Rates from the South Florida COE, won trophies, gift certificates and other prizes.

This year's wins mark the first in History & Culture for the UCF-McKnight COE, the first in 11th-12th Grade Math for the Palm Beach County COE, the third in 9th-10th Grade Math for the St. Petersburg College COE and the second in 6th-8th grade Math for the South Florida COE.



6th-8th Grade Math Champs: South Florida COE "Pi-Rates"



9th-10th Grade Math Champs: St. Petersburg College COE "Bermuda Rectangles"



The 11th-12th Grade Math Champs, the Palm Beach County COE "Chargers," compete as MDF Fellows Calvin Stewart and Christopher Lorschier officiate.



MDF Fellows officiate at the Brain Bowl. From top left: Mr. Orlando Pizana, Mr. Enrique Ortiz, Ms. Lillian Campbell-Wynn, and Ms. Tashana Howse.



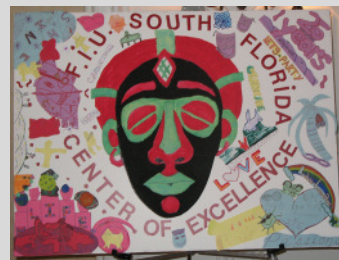
2010 History & Culture Competition Victors: UCF-McKnight COE "Products of History"

## 2010 NAS Summit Celebrates 25 Years of Excellence

On April 17, 2010, the FEF, the Centers of Excellence, and invited guests convened at the Florida National Achievers Society (NAS) Summit to celebrate the Centers' quarter century of success in achieving their mission to "motivate students to subscribe to academic skill development, cultural enrichment, career awareness and increased exposure to higher education."



The celebration began with the Summit's Opening Ceremony, led by NAS State President Jasmine Holmes, during which the Centers congratulated 2010 graduates and highlighted outstanding community service. That service included Achievers volunteering at local food banks, parks, and churches; participating in holiday



Top and left: Art work submitted for the Summit's new Visual Arts Display initiated by NAS President Jasmine Holmes

food and toy drives to benefit families affected by HIV/AIDS; and developing projects to address starvation in Haiti after the devastating earthquake. The Opening Ceremony culminated with the FEF and Centers honoring sixteen men and women who have served illustriously over the past 25 years, followed by a charge to students by FEF President Dr. Lawrence Morehouse, urging all to prepare to address the challenges of an increasingly global society.

After the Opening, students and parents moved to group workshops, where they focused on safety, academic skills and preparing for college and careers. Students in kindergarten through second grade talked about personal safety with South Florida Center Director Dr. Ajamu Banjoko, while third through fifth graders practiced news writing with the *Orlando Sentinel's* Mr. Darryl Owens. Middle school students learned about Internet safety from the FBI's Innocent Images Task Force and explored careers with a dozen Career Fair mentors. High school students met with fifteen college and university recruiters before immersing in a crash course on writing winning resumes and cover letters. Meanwhile, during the annual Education Roundtable,



An FBI presenter warns students about cyberstalking.



3rd-5th Grade Word Wizard Winner Marcus Sutton and 6th-8th Grade Word Wizard Winner Adrienne Hewitt

parents refined their children's pre-college strategies, with counsel from FEF President Dr. Lawrence Morehouse and Polk County Academic Intervention Coordinator Ms. Brenda Kearse.

At the same time, several students competed in the Word Wizard Competitions, from which Marcus Sutton from the Palm Beach County COE and Adrienne Hewitt from the Atlantic Coast COE emerged triumphant.

## 2010 NAS Summit Celebrates 25 Years of Excellence

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NAS State President Jasmine Holmes presents Santa Fe College COE Director John Cowart with the trophies for bringing the largest groups of students and parents to the Summit.



At the end of the day, during the Summit's Closing Ceremony, the FEF presented parent and student awards and recognized Santa Fe College Center Director John Cowart for bringing the largest delegation and largest parent group to the Summit. Students also show-



Tallahassee COE's Martin Williams competes in Talent.

cased their talents, and NAS elected new State leaders, Clark Bogan from the Tallahassee Coalition COE as President, Ashly Andrews from the South Florida COE as Vice President, and Shilah Blakeney from the UCF-McKnight COE as Secretary/Treasurer.

## FEF and the Centers Celebrate 25th Anniversary Pre-College Honorees



From left: 25th Anniversary Honorees Dr. Carl Crawford, Ms. Rose Alexander, Ms. Lauris Page, Mr. Eugene Dixon, Ms. Lynette Brown, Dr. Malinda Jackson, Dr. Mary Lindsey, Ms. Bernice Pressley, and Dr. Lawrence Morehouse.

Acknowledging they owe all accomplishments to the tireless service of many individuals, each Center of Excellence and the FEF specially commended 16 volunteers, parents and staff members for their invaluable contributions to Center programming over the past 25 years.

The Centers celebrated the following individuals:

**Atlantic Coast COE** - Two-term Parent Board President **Mr. Eugene Dixon** for continually securing scholarships and volunteer opportunities for Achievers

**Hillsborough County COE** - Former Board Chair the late **Dr. Sam Horton** for mentoring Achievers and financially supporting the Center since 1985

**North Florida COE** - Brain Bowl Championship coach and FEF FCAT Summer Camp Director **Ms. Bernice Pressley**, who brings hundreds of North Florida students to the yearly Summit, and **Mr. Bernard Scippio**, who an-

nually secures funds to award cash scholarships to Center graduates

**Palm Beach County COE** - Local Urban League Interim President **Mr. Bruce MacDonald**, who reestablished the Achievers Society in Palm Beach, and Attorney **Thomas Montgomery**, who served as Chief Judge for local and State Brain Bowl Competitions for over a decade

**Pasco-Hernando COE** - NAS Alumna and author Attorney **Zainabu Rumala**, who has clerked for a Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice and mentors several at-risk youth

**St. Petersburg College COE** - **Ms. Hattie Mae Robinson**, a parent who recruits potential Achievers and has fully organized several NAS induction ceremonies

**South Florida COE** - Parent Association President **Ms. Lauris Paige**, who has helped organize fundraisers, cultural events, and the local Brain Bowl Competition for over nine years

**Tallahassee Coalition COE** - Center Webmaster **Ms. Lynette Brown**, who trains Achievers to maintain the Website and safely navigate the Internet, and Center Director **Dr. Malinda Jackson**, who continues to direct the Center, even after retirement, and created the "I-10 Connection," a one-day leadership conference for Achievers and Believers along the I-10 corridor

In addition, the FEF applauded **Ms. Rose Alexander**, who has judged the annual Brain Bowl Championships for 20 years; along with longest standing FEF Center Director **Dr. Mary Lindsey**, who expanded COE services to include pre-school and adult literacy programs; and 25-year FEF Board Member **Dr. Carl Crawford**, who has helped mold FEF programs and offered unwavering support to students and staff. The FEF also paid due homage to inaugural president the late **Dr. Israel Tribble, Jr.**, who established the Centers of Excellence, the NAS, and the History & Culture Brain Bowl, as well as current FEF President **Dr. Lawrence Morehouse**, who, since 2000, has established the Mathematics Brain Bowl Competitions and the Word Wizard contests and has expanded FEF's pre-college programs to include statewide SAT strategies courses and annual for-credit summer academic camps for middle and high school students.



Dr. Israel Tribble, Jr.



From left: 25th Anniversary Honorees Dr. Sam Horton, Mr. Bernard Scippio, Mr. Bruce MacDonald, Thomas Montgomery, Esq., Zainabu Rumala, Esq., and Ms. Hattie Mae Robinson.

## 2010 Camps Prepare Students for Scholastic and Career Success

When the FEF offered to conduct an intensive summer academic camp for high school students at East Lee County High School, we received a response from the Lee County School District unlike any we'd encountered before. The District would accept our offer only if we could serve more students by presenting camps at two additional schools at the District's expense. We agreed and began planning the three programs, funded in part by the FEF's first grant from a Florida school district to conduct for-credit summer courses.

After consulting with language arts and mathematics education experts, the FEF developed procedures, schedules, curricula and course material for each camp, all of which the FEF imparted to teachers during a program orientation and SAT review session. Beginning on July 12, 2010, the teachers conducted the camps at Cape Coral High School in Cape Coral, East Lee County High School in Lehigh Acres, and Estero High School in Estero, serving 111 students from all of the County's 13 high schools as well as two private schools.

As in our other 2010 camps in Brevard and St. Lucie Counties, Lee County students received instruction in critical reading, writing, and math; learned test-taking skills and strategies; and sat for simulated, timed SAT practice tests each week. They also planned for college and explored careers during multiple workshop sessions.

### Program Results

As illustrated in the chart at right, 83% of students in all 2010 camps who took pre- and post-tests increased their practice SAT scores. That percentage is up from 67% in 2009, due in part to extended programming that increased the average number of camp hours.

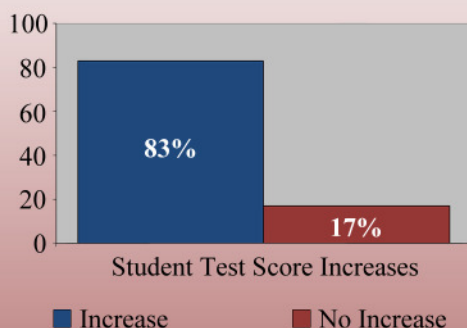
In addition to earning higher scores, on student evaluations 72% of students reported improved reading skills, 75% noted better writing

skills, and 89% acknowledged better math skills as a result of attending the programs. Also, 98% indicated they learned new standardized test-taking strategies, 94% felt they learned more about possible careers, and 90% believed they learned more about how to prepare for college.

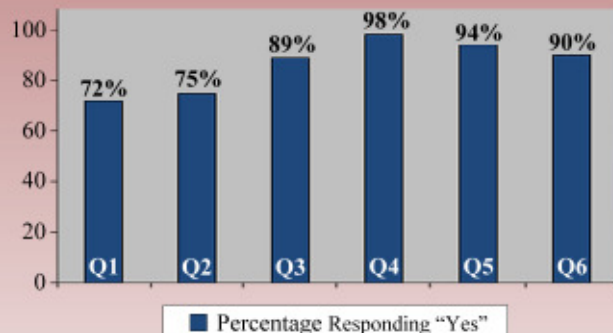
Students also wrote many positive comments about the camps on their evaluation forms, including the following:

- *I gained better focus and improved my writing and math skills. It was a great learning experience!*
- *I learned great strategies for approaching the SAT. I realized I can get whatever score I work towards. The teachers helped me set a goal and work towards achieving it.*
- *The most important knowledge I gained from attending the camp was the different requirements for attending college.*
- *The best thing I gained from attending the camp was learning simple ways to solve math equations and how to manage my time.*
- *The most important thing I gained from attending the camp was the opportunity to meet and talk with a variety of career and college speakers and others to plan for my future.*
- *I learned test taking strategies that benefited me and refreshed my memory about previous material.*
- *The most important thing I gained from attending the camp was learning vocabulary as well as learning how to be a better writer.*
- *Overall, the camp was extremely beneficial. My writing and math skills have definitely improved.*
- *Thanks for this opportunity and for providing this course for free.*
- *Thank you for providing a service like this. I learned so much, and it would be wonderful if more students got to do the same.*

### 2010 SUMMER SAT & COLLEGE PREPARATION PROGRAMS



### 2010 SUMMER SAT & COLLEGE PREPARATION PROGRAM EVALUATIONS



- Percentage Responding "Yes"
- Q1 - Are you a better reader as a result of the Camp?  
 Q2 - Are you a better writer as a result of the Camp?  
 Q3 - Did you improve your math skills as a result of the Camp?  
 Q4 - Did you learn more test-taking strategies during the Camp?  
 Q5 - Did you learn more about possible careers during the Camp?  
 Q6 - Did you learn more about preparing for college during the Camp?

### Upcoming FEF Events

February 25-26, 2011	MDF Mid-Year Research and Writing Conference, Tampa
March 25-26, 2011	26 <sup>th</sup> Annual Brain Bowl Competitions and Florida National Achievers Society Pre-College Summit, Orlando
June 2011	MDF New Fellows Orientation, Tampa
July 2011	MDF Summer Research and Writing Institute, Tampa

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*The FEF's mission is to strengthen the larger community by creating and implementing programs and services that lead to greater educational advancement for historically underrepresented groups.*

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