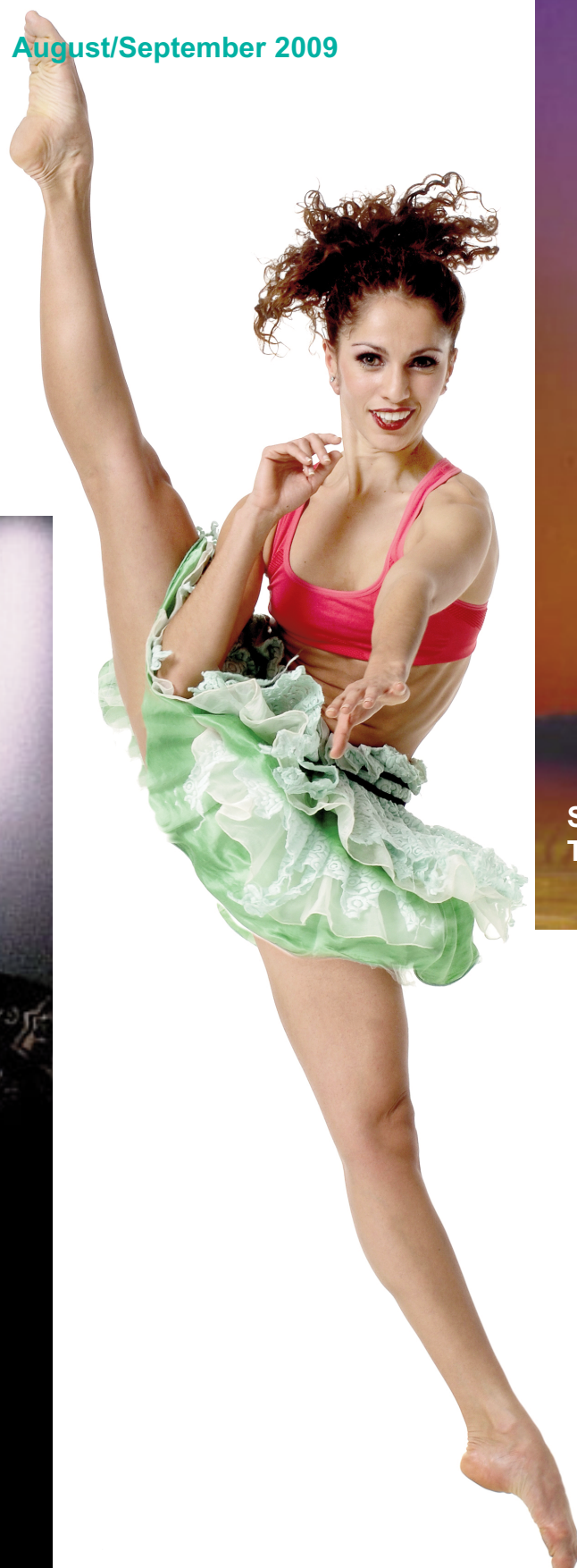


# Unity First

Volume 15 Number 6 August/September 2009



Remembering  
Michael Jackson



Sade Murray in  
The Lion King

**Angelica Burgos of  
Ballet Hispanico**

will perform at Jacob's Pillow  
(August 26-30)

*(photo by Eduardo Patino)*

*D.R.E.A.M Studios Summer Series*

*presents*



# *This Is It!*

*A Tribute to*

*Michael Jackson  
The King of Pop*

*August 29, 2009*

*City Stage*

*1 Columbus Square  
Springfield Ma*

*3pm matinee and 7pm evening show*

*Tickets in advance*

*\$10.00 for Balcony Seating*

*\$15.00 for Orchestra*

*\$20.00 for V.I.P*

*Dance Factory  
2009*



[UnityFirst.com](http://UnityFirst.com)



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*(413) 739-1500*

*or visit us at*

*[www.dreamstudios.org](http://www.dreamstudios.org)*



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## Finding success in a tough economy

In this very tough economy and during some of the most uncertain times ever, you must remain focused on your destination: **SUCCESS**.

As you read this issue and attend some of the events listed, take the time to appreciate the talents of those who make us believe in the power of our talents and the strength of our ability to persevere.

Even as we remember one of the most powerful and passionate performers of our time, Michael Jackson, let us also salute everyone who has a dream and a goal to achieve -- and encourage them to stay focused and positive on their path to greatness.

Author Sharon O'Brien has researched many successful people across all walks of life and charted their secrets to success. Over the years, O'Brien discovered that most successful people share 10 traits that help them meet their goals and turn their dreams into reality.

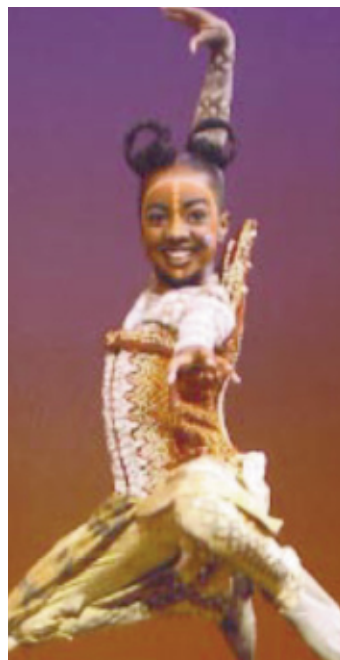


### 10 secrets of success

**1. How you think is everything.** Remember to "think positive" at every opportunity. Visualize success, not failure. Avoid negative environments and people. You are what you think. In fact, a study shows that positive thinking actually increases longevity.

**2. Decide on your dreams and goals.** Be specific about your goals. For example, say "I am taking a cooking class next month," rather than "I would like to take a cooking class sometime." Create a plan to reach your goals, and stick to it.

**3. Take action.** Goals alone have no meaning; you need to take action to make them real. Don't let fear hold you back. "Just do it."



**4. Never stop learning.** Take classes, go back to school, read books, join a discussion group. If you are interested in a subject, make time to learn about it. Keep acquiring new skills. For more information, read *The Benefits of Lifelong Learning for Older Adults*.

**5. Be persistent and work hard.** You've probably heard the expression, "success is a marathon, not a sprint." Keep your eye on the goal, and keep working toward it. Don't give up.

**6. Learn to analyze details.** Get all the facts, and ask for input. This will help you make wiser decisions.



Acknowledge your mistakes, but don't beat yourself up. Learn from your mistakes.

**7. Focus your time and money.** When you believe in something, put your attention and energy there. Don't let people or things distract you.

**8. Don't be afraid to innovate; be different.** Be true to yourself, and have your own ideas. Following the crowd is a path to mediocrity.

**9. Communicate with people effectively.** Remember that no person is an island. Communicate your thoughts and desires honestly, and encourage others to communicate honestly with you. Practice understanding and motivating other people.

**10. Be honest and dependable; take responsibility for what you do.** Never cheat or lie. When you make a promise, keep it. When you screw up, admit it. Without honesty, dependability and responsibility, the other nine secrets of success don't add up to much.



Tom and Janine Fondon, *UnityFirst.com* Founders

# Race vs. Class

By Dedrick Muhammad and Barbara Ehrenreich

To judge from most of the commentary on the Gates-Crowley affair, you would think that a "Black elite" has gotten dangerously out of hand. First, Gates (Cambridge, Yale, Harvard) showed insufficient deference to Crowley, then Obama (Occidental, Harvard) piled on to accuse the police of having acted "stupidly." Has the injuries of class trumped the grievances of race?

Left out of the ensuing tangle of commentary on race and class has been the increasing impoverishment --or, we should say, re-impoverishment-- of African Americans as a group. In fact, the most salient and lasting effect of the current recession may turn out to be the decimation of the Black middle class.

According to a study by Demos and the Institute for Assets and Social Policy, 33 percent of the Black middle class was already in danger of falling out of the middle class at the start of the recession. Gates and Obama, along with Oprah and Cosby, will no doubt remain in place, but millions of the Black equivalents of Officer Crowley - from factory workers to bank tellers and white collar managers - are sliding down toward destitution.

For African Americans -- and to a large extent, Latinos -- the recession is over. It occurred between 2000 and 2007, as Black employment decreased by 2.4 percent and incomes declined by 2.9 percent. During the seven-year long Black recession, one third of Black children lived in poverty and Black unemployment-even among college graduates-- consistently

ran at about twice the level of white unemployment. That was the Black recession. What's happening now is a depression.

Black unemployment is now at 14.7 percent, compared to 8.7 for whites. In New York City, Black unemployment has been rising four times as fast as that of Whites.

Lawrence Mishel, president of the Economic Policy Institute, estimates that 40 percent of African Americans will have experienced unemployment or underemployment by 2010, and this will increase child poverty from one-third of African-American children to slightly over half. No one can entirely explain the extraordinary rate of job loss among African Americans, though factors may include the relative concentration of Blacks in the hard-hit retail and manufacturing sectors, as well as the lesser seniority of Blacks in better-paying, white collar, positions.

### "Wealth gap"

But one thing is certain: The longstanding racial "wealth gap" makes African Americans particularly vulnerable to poverty when job loss strikes.

In 1998, the net worth of white households on average was \$100,700 higher than that of African-Americans. By 2007, this gap had increased to \$142,600. The Survey of Consumer Finances, which is supported by the Federal Reserve Board, collects this data every three years -- and every time it has been collected, the racial wealth gap has widened.

To put it another way: in 2004, for every dollar of wealth

held by the typical White family, the African American family had only 12 cents. In 2007, it had exactly a dime. So when an African American breadwinner loses a job, there are usually no savings to fall back on, no well-heeled parents to hit up, no retirement accounts to raid.

### Mortgage meltdown

All this comes on top of the highly racially skewed subprime mortgage calamity. After decades of being denied mortgages on racial grounds, African Americans made a tempting market for bubble-crazed lenders like Countrywide, with the result that high income Blacks were almost twice as likely as low income white to receive high interest subprime loans.

According to the Center for Responsible Lending, Latinos will end up losing between \$75 billion and \$98 billion in home-value wealth from subprime loans, while Blacks will lose between \$71 billion and \$92 billion. United for a Fair Economy has called this family net-worth catastrophe the "greatest loss of wealth for people of color in modern U.S. history."

Yet in the depths of this African American depression, some commentators, Black as well as White, are still obsessing about the supposed cultural deficiencies of the Black community. In a December op-ed in



Henry Louis Gates

the Washington Post, Kay Hymowitz blamed Black economic woes on the fact that 70 percent of Black children are born to single mothers, not noticing that the white two-parent family has actually declined at a faster rate than the Black two-parent family. The share of Black children living in a single parent home increased by 155 percent between 1960 to 2006, while the share of white children living in single parent homes increased by a staggering 229 percent.

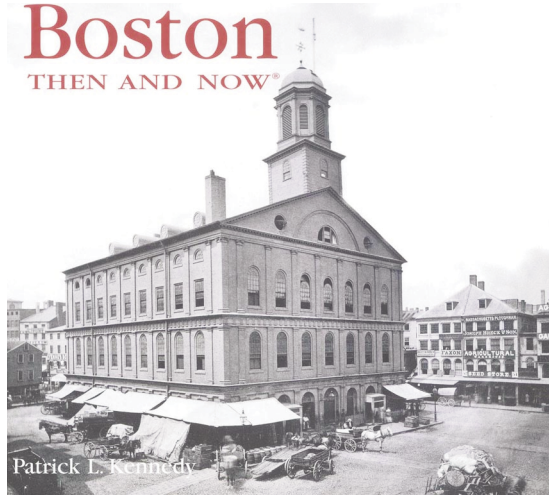
We don't need any more moralizing or glib analyses of class and race that could have just as well been made in the 70s. The recession is changing everything. It's redrawing the class contours of America in ways that will leave us more polarized than ever. The depression being experienced by people of color threatens to do something on an entirely different scale, and that is to eliminate the Black middle class.

Nearly everywhere you look in Boston, you'll discover fascinating old-meets-new juxtapositions—some of the greatest landmarks of American history sit side-by-side with icons of modern American life.

Discover America's oldest major city, its legendary locations, colorful neighborhoods, and thriving history in this newly updated second edition of the best-selling book, "Boston Then & Now" by Patrick Kennedy. This is a great book for historians, educators and families who want to see how communities have changed over the years.

Specially commissioned contemporary photographs, including some previously unpublished images, are paired with archival images of the same locations for a unique tour of Boston over the centuries and neighboring communities beyond downtown.

The book shows great then-and-now photographs of historic sites --- such as the Old North Church, where two lanterns were seen blazing from the steeple on April 18, 1775, essentially signaling the start of the American Revolution. Built in 1723, the Old North Church remains Boston's oldest stand-



Patrick L. Kennedy

ing church.

The book also highlights the Old South Meeting House—the planning venue for the Boston Tea Party of 1773. Today, it's flanked by architecture spanning three centuries and continues to be an important gathering place for Bostonians.

Fenway Park—home of the Red Sox—is also documented. See America's oldest operating baseball stadium back in its heyday, and how it looks today having survived many attempts to build a New Fenway Park.

In the book, take a look at the Paul Revere House, still standing at 19 North Square and check out the Bunker Hill Monument and U.S.S. Constitution, "Old Ironsides," berthed in Boston Harbor.

Author and Boston native Patrick L. Kennedy, says, "I really enjoyed working on this book and showcasing important points of Boston's history."

"It was also great to show areas like Dudley Square and even the Malcolm X home, which is now an historic site."

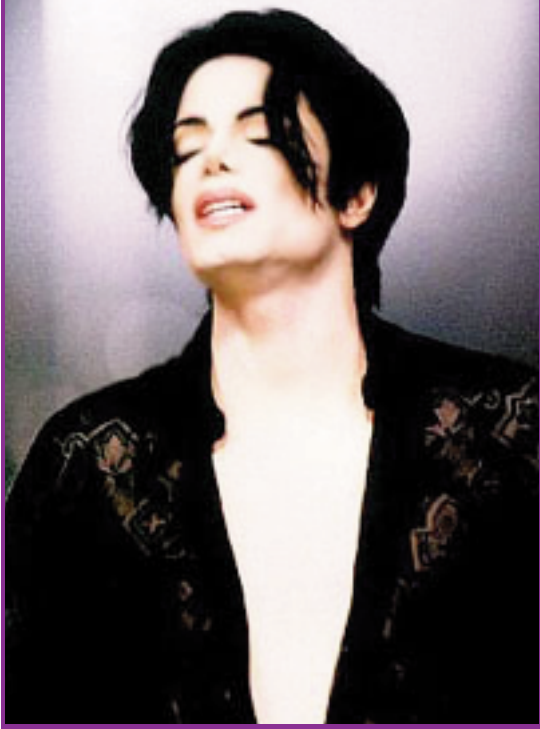
As noted in the book, "Malcolm X (born Malcolm Little) lived in a home on Dale Street in Roxbury as a teenager with his sister, Ella Little-Collins, during World War II. In his autobiography, Malcolm X described a stratified Roxbury of native "Black Brahmins," Southern transplants, and Jamaicans.

"Malcolm X led Temple Eleven in Roxbury—with a young Louis Farrakhan as

understudy—until 1957, when he went on to Harlem and a larger role in the movement. After moderating his rhetoric, Malcolm X was assassinated in 1965. Ella died in 1996, but the Little-Collins family returned to Roxbury and restored her old property.

"In 1998 the private home officially received landmark status, exemplifying how "the city's racial and ethnic diversity is increasingly recognized in historical writing and preservation efforts," notes historian Lawrence Kennedy. "The designation of an 'ordinary-looking Roxbury house [as] a historical landmark by the Boston Landmarks Commission is remarkable 'and evinces' a more inclusive understanding of the past."

### Dream Studios to salute Michael Jackson, Aug. 29

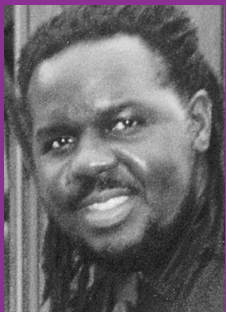


# Success

## Sade Murray in The Lion King



D.R.E.A.M. Studios, a performing arts school in Springfield, MA, will hold its 2009 Dance Factory concert and tribute to Michael Jackson -- "This Is It." The show will feature 62 dancers and singers from across Springfield and surrounding cities performing live on August 29th at Springfield's City Stage.



Benjamin Smith

Originally, "This Is It" was a planned series of concerts to be performed by Michael Jackson and held in London. D.R.E.A.M. Studios' director Benjamin Smith, a life-long Michael Jackson fan, was so deeply moved by this event that he knew he had to dedicate Dance Factory 2009 to the King of Pop.

D.R.E.A.M. Studios' "This is it" is a celebration of the life of Michael Jackson on his birthday August 29th. This celebration will feature dancers and singers paying homage to Michael's creativity through the vision of the director, and producer. This concert is sure to be a musically captivating presentation from D.R.E.A.M.'s Dance Intensive students as well as from their team of choreographers. D.R.E.A.M. welcomes their guest choreographers Akia S. Flemming and Jared Lewis from New York to be a part of this monumental event.

(For ticket info, see ad on page two of this publication.)

Sade Murray, daughter of Quentin and Nancy Murray and sister of Sinead, is having the time of her life traveling with the Broadway favorite -- The Lion King. Sade, who has played young Nala in the show since April 2008, is currently under contract until January of 2010.

Sade, of Springfield, was a student at D.R.E.A.M. Studios when cast as part of the show during one of the New York audition trips facilitated by D.R.E.A.M studios.

During her years with The Lion King, Sade has traveled around the world and as of this writing she was headed to Calgary and later Alaska. Along the way, she has met celebrities such as John Legend and others who encourage young performers to pursue their dreams.

The Murray family is a great example of pursuing dreams. Nancy Murray, who travels with Sade says, "This is an unbelievable experience for the whole family."

Sinead, Sade's sister, has even been able to spend some time on the tour and Dad, Quentin, joins them when he can.

Congrats to the whole family team!



Sade with John Legend



Dad with Sade (left) and Sinead (right)



Mom with Sade (center) and Sinead (right)



## How are our kids doing?

The 2009 KIDS COUNT Data recently revealed that Massachusetts improved on four of ten Measures affecting child well-being, including: child death rate, teen death rate, teen birth rate, high school drop out rate.

The teen birth rate and the high school drop out rate continue to decline.  
 --Between 2000 and 2006, the teen birth rate in Massachusetts decreased 10%, from 26 births per 1,000 females ages 5 to 19 to 21 births per 1000. This is half the national teen birth rate of 42 births per 1,000 and ranks Massachusetts second among all the states.

--The percent of teen dropouts declined from 8% to 5%

between 2000 and 2006.

### Massachusetts can do better

Yet on three other measures conditions got worse for Massachusetts kids: 1) Percent low birth weight babies, 2) Infant mortality, and 3) Percent of children living in families where no parents has full-time, year-round employment.

**Child Poverty:** Child poverty is still unacceptably high for the Commonwealth. Despite Massachusetts high per capita income, there are still 184,000 children, or 13 percent

of the state's children living in poverty. The 2009 Massachusetts Kids Count report to be published in Fall 2009 will focus on three communities where poverty has been entrenched for decades: Springfield, New Bedford and Lawrence.

**Parental Employment factor** Share of children without secure parental employment rises: In 2007, nearly one-third (32%) of children in Massachusetts lived in families without secure parental employment, up from 30% in 2006. Nationally, Massachusetts fell from 14th to rank 20th on this indicator. There were 453,000 children in Massachusetts who lacked

secure parental employment in 2007.

**Percent low-birthweight babies increases:** In 2006, low-birth-weight babies were 7.9% of all births in Massachusetts compared to 7.1% in 2000. This represents an 11% increase, higher than the national average, which increased 9% in this period. Massachusetts had 6,138 low birth weight babies in 2006.

**Teens not attending school** On two measures, percent of teens not attending school and not working and percent of children in single-parent families, conditions remained unchanged.



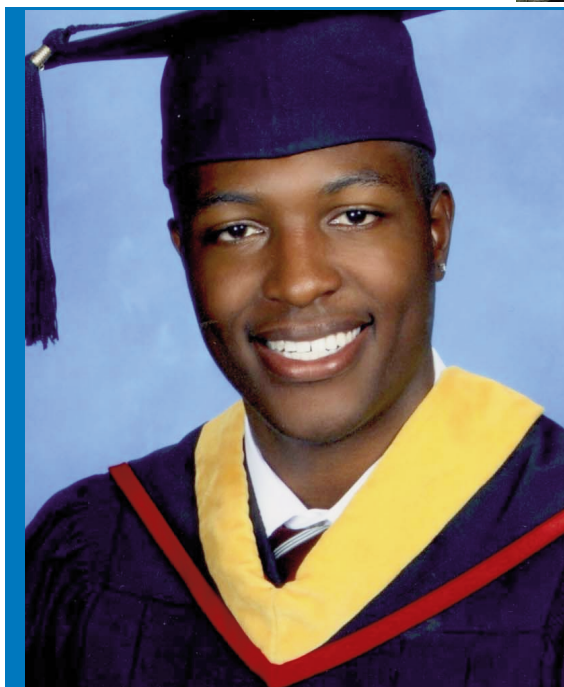
## Focus on college

### Simmons College is one of the best -- and students agree

Simmons College in Boston has been named one of the nation's "Best 371 Colleges" in the Princeton Review's newly published 2010 college guidebook, an honor held by 15 percent of four-year colleges in America.

The Princeton Review editors said the schools in their 2010 guidebook "The Best 371 Colleges" are considered "academically outstanding," but offer varying campus cultures and offering. Inclusion was based on the editors' survey of more than 122,000 students attending the colleges (about 329 per campus average). The 80-question survey asked students about the schools' academics, administration, campus life, and student body, and about the students themselves.

The guidebook quoted Simmons students as saying that they get "a lot of opportunity to work closely with faculty," praising the college's "excellent facilities, including an amazing library and the large career resource department," and appreciating "small classes that allow great discussions, because those who walk the talk have the opportunity to do so." Students also report that Simmons "classes are teaching-based, and life on campus revolves around schoolwork."



### Bucknell University

*Congratulations to Jeremy Edward Hollins who graduated from Bucknell University with a bachelor of science degree in Computer Science. Hollins' mother attests to Jeremy's hard work and diligence --- leading him to overcome many obstacles and experience success beyond the odds. You will hear more about Hollins in the upcoming issue.*

## Principal-Counselor relationship key to student achievement

A strong relationship between school principal and school counselor is integral to improving student achievement, especially for students from low-income, first-generation and other traditionally underrepresented populations, according to a new two-part report that examines effective principal-counselor relationships. The report was released this week by the College Board's National Office for School Counselor Advocacy, the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) and the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP).

Based on interviews of seven highly effective principal-counselor teams, the report "Finding a Way: Practical Examples of How an Effective Principal-Counselor Relationship Can Lead to Success for All Students" tells the stories of principals and counselors who have formed strong partnerships to overcome challenges and prepare students for college success. A Survey of Principals and Counselors explored their perceptions about this important relationship.

One major theme common to all survey groups is that they understand and respect their counterparts' roles within the school. The report

illustrates the broad areas critical for the development of an effective principal-counselor relationship: mutual trust and respect, communication, shared vision and decision-making.

The survey results show that while principals and counselors are in close agreement about the major issues relating to their professional relationships, the two groups perceive these issues differently, and principals are considerably more likely than counselors to believe that the components

necessary for an effective relationship are present in their schools. A follow-up study of award-winning principals and counselors shows that these educators recognized for their success have found ways to bridge the gap between principals and counselors and create effective working relationships. The teams in the study come from both rural and urban schools, and from all areas of the country.

Also, both groups see improving respect as a major

goal. However, principals seek respect for their goals and vision, while counselors are more likely to seek personal respect. Both groups consider lack of time as the biggest barrier to effective collaboration. Principals and counselors report that the most important role for principals in education reform is "leader," while the most important role for counselors is "advocate."

## COMMONWEALTH SCHOOL



Photo by Layla M., Class of 2011

## SHARP MINDS & GENEROUS HEARTS



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# Another Voice

## Parent to Parent

Empowering parents to help prevent their children from drugs or substance misuse.

Mable Lene Sharif

Parents it is your responsibility to make sure your children get off to a healthy start in life.

Teach your children, by example, the importance of living a healthy life style with integrity, dignity and respect for themselves and others.

You as parents must learn about the various drugs available today, their affects on children and some of the consequences of the misuse of drugs. Drugs or substance use in this column include legal and illegal (tobacco, alcohol and some



home cleaning products) substances that can become addictive.

By the time most children enter preschool they would have seen adults smoking cigarettes or drinking alcohol either by their own parents, friends or an adult on television. Usually

the first drugs children are exposed to are tobacco and alcohol. Both are legal and often lead children to begin using illegal drugs.

Talk to your children about the effects of drugs on children and some of the consequences, such as losing friends, family and life threatening health problems.

Parents do and can make a difference in the choices children might make. It has been said time after time that parents are their children's first teachers. If that statement is true, and I believe it to be, parents have a head start in influencing their children's behavior. Parents must instill in their children at an early age what they would like for their

children to become as an adult.

So, build a good relationship with your child and get to know your child's friends. If you are working, and many parents do and must work, provide some alternative activities for your child in a supervised organized program.

Usually organized programs help to instill a child's developmental, self-esteem and self confidence skills. Ask your child what she/he enjoys doing and try to match them where they will be happy. After all some children might use drugs because they have nothing better to do or to cover up their pain.

Mable Lene Sharif



## Get Movin', Get Groovin and Go Active"

The Springfield Girls' Club Family Center in Springfield, MA recently participated in "Go Active with Ronald McDonald", a 40-minute physical activity program that uses storytelling, magic, music and games to encourage kids to "Get Movin', Get Groovin', and Go Active!"

This program is sponsored by the Connecticut and Western Massachusetts McDonald's Owner/Operator Association with support from the Connecticut Library Consortium.

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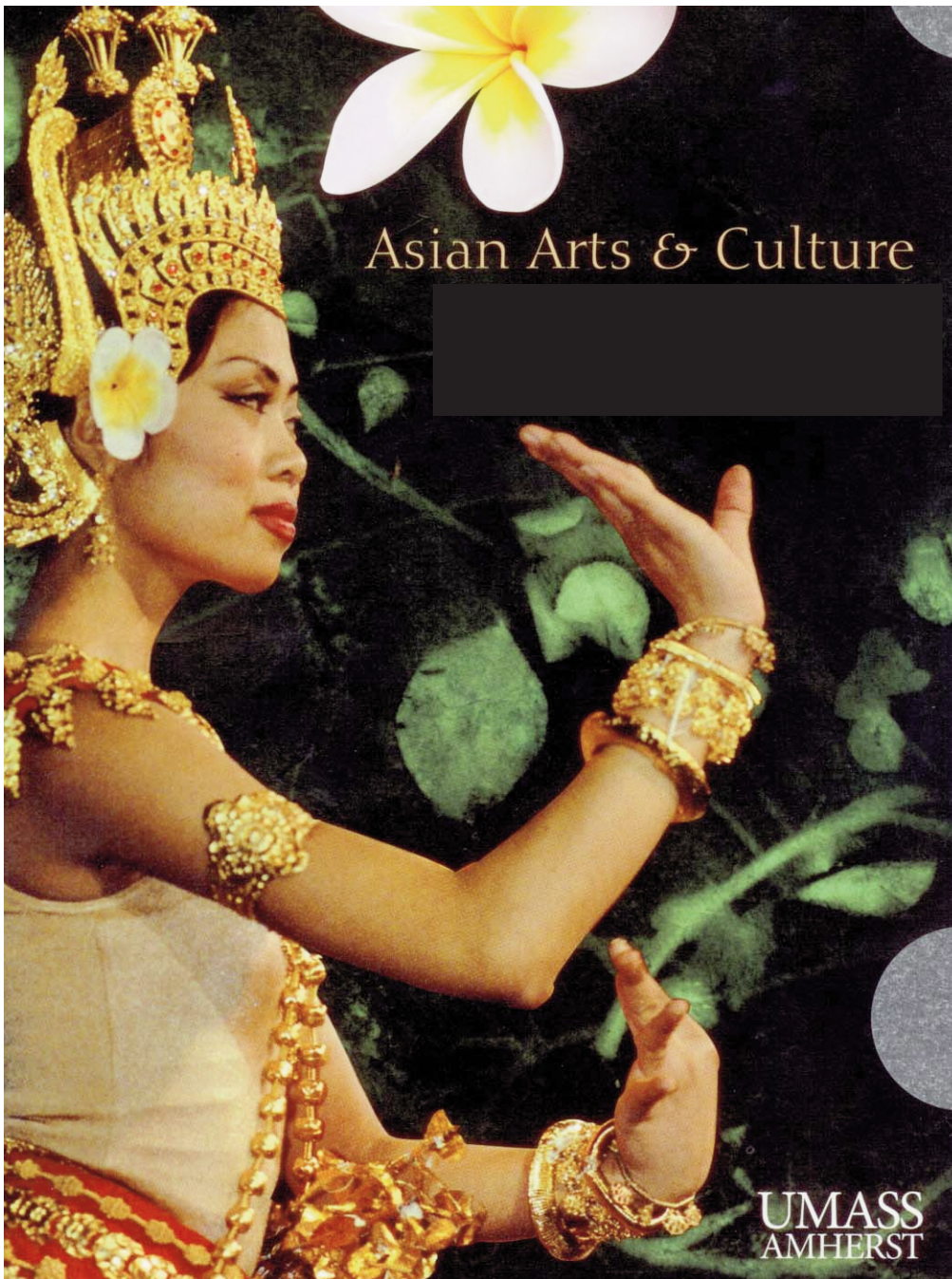
## Cultural Connections

Check out the Asian Arts and Culture Programs at UMASS Amherst. For more information send email to: [aacp@acad.umass.edu](mailto:aacp@acad.umass.edu).

Check out the upcoming film series and other events:

**Film: Vanaja**  
**New Asia Cinema**  
**Wednesday, September 9**  
 School of Management Rm. 137  
 7:00 pm  
 Free and open to the public.  
 In Rajnesh Domalpalli's debut feature, *Vanaja*, a lower-caste teenage girl in Southern India, aspires to be a dancer.

**Film: Flower in the Pocket**  
**New Asia Cinema**  
**Wednesday, September 23**  
 School of Management Rm. 137  
 7:00 pm  
 Free and open to the public.  
 Filmmaker Liew Seng Tat presents a quirkily endearing story of a preoccupied single father and his two little boys, their tomboy friend, and a stray puppy.



The Oscar Michaux Family Theater Program presents  
**"Telling the History of Triumph Over Adversities"**

October 16th 2009 (7:15PM) -  
 Boston College's Robsham Theater

Featuring some of Boston Best Talents....  
**Singing and Dancing**

Ruby Hill, Fadil Hanley, Jr, Irene O'Bannon, Milton L. Wright, Jr., Joe Banks, Selena Smith, Linda Henderson, Alex Newell, Wanda Perry Josephs, Maurice Smith, Angel Dublin, Sidney M. Bowden, Stanley Everette, Belinda McIvaine, Chemi Kadete, Catrina Andrae, and David Bowden

Director: Lee Smith and Music Director: Adonis Martin  
 Dance by: Stajez Center for the Arts

For Ticket Information Call: (617) 238-2460 - General Admissions \$20



## Cultural Connections

### BALLET HISPANICO CLOSES THE 2009 JACOB'S PILLOW SEASON WITH LATIN FLAIR

Closing out this year's Festival season in the Ted Shawn Theatre is the highly regarded Ballet Hispanico, a prominent American ensemble devoted to exploring, preserving, and celebrating the beauty and joy of Latino dance and culture.

Led by newly appointed Artistic Director, Eduardo Vilaro, the company fuses classical ballet, modern, and Latin dance to create a distinctive movement repertory that includes more than 90 commissioned pieces from acclaimed choreographers worldwide.

"When Ballet Hispanico's dancers take the stage, watch out," proclaims New York Newsday. "No one struts, kicks, spins, leaps and gyrates the way they do. Their joy is infectious."

This Pillow engagement, August 26-30, will feature the world premiere of *Locked Up Laura*, a new work by choreographer Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, the Jacob's Pillow premiere of *Destino Incierto* by choreographer Carlos Sierra-Lopez, *Goodnight Paradise*, *Tito on Timbales*, and *Club Havana*, a signature work in the Ballet Hispanico repertory. This Pillow engagement will be the company's first under the helm of artistic director Eduardo Vilaro, who assumed his position on August 1.

To purchase tickets by phone, call the Box Office at 413.243.0745. To order online: [www.jacobspillow.org](http://www.jacobspillow.org).



**Ballet Hispanico**

### Boston's "The Word" celebrates its 5th anniversary

On July 16, 2009, The Word celebrated its 5th anniversary. In honor of this milestone, a VIP Reception and Anniversary Gala will be held Saturday, September 12, 2009 at William Reed Auditorium/Prince Hall, 24 Washington St. in Dorchester, Massachusetts.

The reception will begin at 6:00 p.m. and the gala will take

place from 8:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. As you may already know,

The events listed in The Word are culturally and racially diverse and cover free, low-cost and paid local and national events.

Over the past year, The Word has expanded and now includes reviews of Boston's hottest new restaurants as well as some of city's hidden gems; a monthly column that gives readers useful and timely financial information; and a column which offers advice on job and

career counseling.

The Word is not only the talk of the town but preferred reading for many urban and suburban professionals who want to know what's happening in Boston and beyond. We invite you to join The Word in celebrating the first five years and look forward to making significant community contributions in the future.

For more information, call (617) 775-4273 or email [pat@thewordboston.com](mailto:pat@thewordboston.com).



# Destinations

## Life-changing trips at a bed and breakfast

*Diana Henry, Inkeeper, Lathrop House in Springfield, MA. Credit: BnB Finder.com*

Family vacations, holiday breaks and weekend getaways are nothing new, but a life-changing trip can be a trip of a lifetime. Whether you're seeking an exploratory, spiritual, holistic, volunteer based or simply an empowering experience, at BnB Finder.com, you can find bed and breakfast specials that lets you discover who you are and what you want. You'd be surprised how many fun activities you can do at a B&B such as music or art lessons, yoga, white-water rafting, etc.

In Touch – Mind and body join as one at The Inn & Spa At Cedar Falls in Logan, Ohio. Sign up for “The Nature of Life: Inner Voice-Inner Light,” a two day retreat that begins with yoga and meditation followed by poetry and writing. A father and daughter team will lead the workshop and take you on a path to self-discovery with inspiring poems and personalized attention. Package includes an overnight accommodation, gourmet lunch, dinner and a book of poems from the instructor.

Helping Hands – Giving

always yields a higher return. At the Springfield, MA Lathrop House, a grand Victorian home built in 1899, you can contribute to your stay with the permaculture gardening spe-

cial. Learn about the inn's permaculture practices such as composting, mulching and gardening followed by an eco-friendly and educational “treasure hunt” in the 735 acre

Forest Park across the street. Guests may also hike, bicycle or jog in Forest Park across the street.

For more life-changing trips worth taking, look under spe-



## Get to know: Communication Management Inc.

by Joe Perkins

Employees - the single largest resource that most organizations have for advancing initiatives, promoting key messages and reinforcing their reason for being.

Some employees associate mostly with external customers, some with vendors, and others with specialized constituencies. All employees have dealings with internal clients and associates.

In many of these interactions, conveying information concisely, accurately, and in most cases persuasively is a vital skill. In a buyer's market like the one we are in now, these proficiencies underlay the ability to create "demand" as well as build and retain relationships.

Communication Management, Inc. is a consult-

ing and training organization. We help business professionals maximize their skills in organizing and delivering information effectively.

Our training focuses on activities that are critical to relationship building-formal and informal presentations to large, small or virtual audiences, and all forms of written correspondence, reports, emails, technical publications, and performance appraisals.

Messaging, structuring critical information, creating interest, connecting with audiences, building confidence levels and achieving outcomes are ways that CMI provides value. Our services are available through traditional workshops, individual coaching sessions, self-paced online offerings, as well as a blending of various formats.

The beneficial insights of



*Communication Management, Inc. (CMI), founded by Joe Perkins (shown above) has been providing business communication solutions for almost two decades.*

experienced instructors, useful opportunities to practice techniques, invaluable constructive feedback, relevant and engaging curricula as well as practical reference materials are all designed for one objective-improve the communication

skills of your professional team.

Skill building is an ongoing process. Sometimes it is accomplished through an organization's internal resources. At other times, external sources are called upon.

When your needs require an outside source, know that CMI will ensure a strong return on your training dollar investment. We will work closely to identify and evaluate key needs, create custom solutions and implement initiatives on schedule and within budget.

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## Christian Economic Development Association engages businesses and professionals

Jesse Jeter founded a not-for-profit organization entitled the Christian Economic Development Association (CEDA). CEDA, a multi-cultural, multi-racial, interdenom-

inational faith-based financial concepts organization, was organized to help businesses and individuals increase their financial value.

The CEDA organization is



*Shown above (left to right) is Jesse Jeter, his wife, his mom and legendary business owner Darlene Jeter, next generation entrepreneur Lisa Guscott and UnityFirst.com CEO Janine Fondon.*



governed by a board of directors and advisors, whom like Jeter, give of their time, talent and resources on a volunteer basis. Today, the CEDA organization host three annual events and services the varying needs of its constituents during the course of the year.

The last event, the

Business to Business conference for "Savvy, Success Business Women" shared resources for women as well as men.

Shown above is speaker and author Dondi Schumaci who is an expert in professional and personal development.

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# INspire

*All photographs are by Christopher Duggan, courtesy of Jacob's Pillow.*



On August 8th Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival hosted a PillowTalk (free and open to the public) with Rachel Maddow, host of top-rated programs on MSNBC and Air America. The talk was held on the Pillow's Inside/Out stage, an outdoor performance space where thousands of people attend free performances every Festival season. The PillowTalk, was moderated by Scholar-in-Residence Suzanne Carbonneau, noted dance critic and historian.

Rachel Maddow began the talk by declaring that she is not

a dance expert:

"I know nothing about dance. I am a fan. I am a fan of dance and of Jacob's Pillow and a fan of people who know nothing about dance going to see dance."

Throughout the hour-long conversation, Ms. Maddow and Ms. Carbonneau discussed many topics including the arts, education, society, politics, policy, and the role of the arts in society.

She said, "Sometimes we choose to serve our country in uniform, in war. Sometimes in elected office. And those are

the ways of serving our country that I think we are trained to easily call heroic. It's also a service to your country, I think, to teach poetry in the prisons, to be an incredibly dedicated student of dance, to fight for funding music and arts education in the schools. A country without an expectation of minimal artistic literacy, without a basic structure by which the artists among us can be awakened and given the choice of following their talents and a way to get to be great at what they do, is a country that is not actually as great as it

could be. And a country without the capacity to nurture artistic greatness is not being a great country. It is a service to our country, and sometimes it is heroic service to our country, to fight for the United States of America to have the capacity to nurture artistic greatness."

"Not just in wartime but especially in wartime, and not just in hard economic times but especially in hard economic times, the arts get dismissed as 'sissy.'"

"Dance gets dismissed as craft, creativity gets dismissed as inessential, to the detriment of our country. And so when we fight for dance, when we buy art that's made by living American artists, when we say that even when you cut education to the bone, you do not cut arts and music education, because arts and music education IS bone, it is structural, it is essential; you are, in [Jacob's Pillow founder] Ted Shawn's words, "you are preserving the way of life that we are supposedly fighting for and it's worth being proud of."



# Going Global



A special thanks to all of the young people who are making a difference in this world. Youth Action for Rural Africa, which is highlighted on this page was founded by Roland Fomundam who was born in Cameroon, West Africa. After graduating from high school, he came to the United States in November of 2003 to pursue his college education at Bristol Community College in Fall River, Massachusetts. He graduated with an Associate's degree in Math and Science and transferred to Northeastern University where he earned his Bachelor's degree in Biology and minor concentrations in International Affairs and Business Administration. Roland formed YARA, Youth Action for Rural Africa as a way to give back to communities in Africa.

## Youth Action for Rural Africa Inc.



### **MISSION** **ALLEVIATE POVERTY AND IMPROVE HEALTH CONDITIONS IN AFRICA THROUGH EDUCATION**

#### VISION:

To eradicate Africa's myriad crises of health and poverty, making the continent a better place for all. YARA believes that the key to alleviating Africa's myriad crises is through youth involvement and education.

and share innovative ideas geared towards addressing crises in Africa while challenging – and changing – their own lives. Group members also have the opportunity to acquire invaluable field experience that will help mold them into culturally competent global ambassadors and future leaders.

ally and internationally. The Organization has a long-term goal to form partners and chapters to serve in all of Sub-Saharan Africa.

#### BOARD OFFICERS

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**WILLIAM TIGA TITA, PH.D**

##### PRESIDENT & CEO:

**ROLAND FOMUNDAM**

##### VICE-PRESIDENT:

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##### SECRETARY / TREASURER:

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##### DEVELOPMENT:

**BETHEL ALEMU**



Education being a key determinant of the social, economic and political status of individuals, both in their community and, on a larger scale, in their nation.

YARA brings to the table a unique forum wherein youth are provided the opportunity to learn, to express their thoughts

To achieve this, YARA is initially, focused on developing partnerships with existing organizations in target areas in Africa and assist them increase their productivity. YARA is also concentrated on developing, through grass-root movements, chapters in colleges and universities across America in order to expand the reach of our vision and message. Our goal is to reach as many youths as possible in various institutions, communities and countries in order to create a model for learning, researching and sharing ideas. These ideas will then be linked with hands-on projects that others will emulate nation-



#### History

YARA was founded in 2005 by Roland Fomundam who is currently the President & CEO of the organization. The organization was later incorporated in 2007 and became recognized as a tax exempt organization in July 2008.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- YARA Inc.  
[www.youths4africa.org](http://www.youths4africa.org)

(Check our website for more information; how to become board member; become a volunteer; form a branch; how to donate as we seek to expand in many areas.)

- Ph: (617) 966- 9956

#### YARA'S PROJECTS

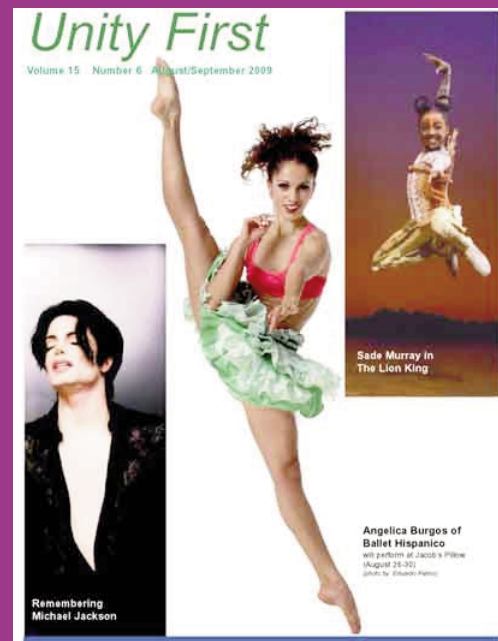
- Created a computer training school in South Africa that offers free basic computer training to the citizens of South Africa.
- Partnered with Fobang Foundation in Cameroon to foster its ongoing research on Malaria, TB and HIV ([www.fobangfoundation.org](http://www.fobangfoundation.org))
- Partnered with Excellence for Development group (X4D) in Cameroon to foster collaboration amongst community groups in Ku - Bome, Mbengwi, Cameroon. Following our partnership with this group, community clean-up programs were created to drain or otherwise reduce nearby mosquito-infested ponds.
- Formed YARA branches in Gettysburg College, PA and Northeastern University, MA.
- Hosting first African Carnival event in Boston, MA on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

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