



# The Riverside University High School Foundation

Serving alumni, friends, and families of Riverside University High School

## SUMMER 2009

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## 2009 Foundation Scholarship Recipients

**Foundation General Scholarships** – These scholarships are intended to reward students who have worked diligently to maintain the high academic standards of Riverside University High School. Recipients must also demonstrate an active involvement in school extracurricular activities as well as service to their community. The 2009 recipients are:



(left to right) Front Row: Chee Yeng Her (\$500), Charles Sinhda (\$500), Ia Moua (\$1,000) and Brandi Collins (\$500). Back Row: Reid Van Dunk (\$500), Jennifer Donahue (\$1,000), Sam Loveland (\$500) and Jordan Chevako (Kate Windorski Scholarship) \$750.



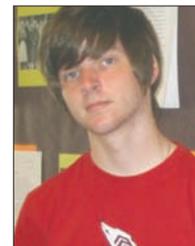
Tiara  
Anderson  
(\$1,000)



Maria Montoya (\$500)  
and Samantha Heaton  
(\$500)



Tim Her  
(\$500)



Alex Kostal  
(\$500)



Kathleen  
Tanner (\$500)

The following **Foundation General Scholarship** recipient profiles are representative of the qualities and achievements of all of these distinguished students:

**Chee Yeng Her** intends to major in civil engineering and communications at one of several universities at which he has been accepted. Chee excelled in five different Advanced Placement courses while at Riverside and still achieved a 3.6 overall grade point average. In addition, he was active in the Upward Bound Math and Science program, National Honor Society and the Chess Club. He participated in Riverside's blood drive, was a volunteer for

the school's parent open house night and helped raise funds through the Hike For Hunger. His Social Studies teacher, Mr. DeVorse had this to say about Chee, "During my twenty-one years as a social studies teacher, I have encountered few students who possessed the combination of intelligence, motivation and leadership skills so evident in Mr. Her.

Continued on page 4 & 5

## From the President

Jan Gibson

I taught physical education and health at Riverside from 1963 to 1998. I have continued to be involved at Riverside as a program grant coordinator, substitute teacher and member of the Riverside Foundation Board of Directors. I have seen first-hand the dedication and professionalism of Riverside teachers and staff as they continued the long-standing tradition of high academic standards for Riverside students. In recent years, I have seen how hard these teachers have struggled against enormous odds to maintain this tradition. When Riverside became a college-preparatory school in 1984, its high academic standards and record of achievement by its graduates made the school extremely attractive for college-bound students. Riverside and Rufus King High School became the "places to be" for highly motivated students of all nationalities and races. Riverside became an urban high school success story. Its ethnic and social diversity became an enviable asset as it continued to produce outstanding students who were highly cherished recruits at all of the best colleges and universities.

Today, in this age of "bottom line" education funding, Riverside is struggling to maintain its high academic standards. The administration and teaching staff are forced to accept a higher number of students, whether they meet the school's academic standards or not, because the school's funding is based on the number of students enrolled, not the educational needs of those students or the quality of the program that the school wants to provide to those students. Every high school in Milwaukee receives the same amount of money per student from the School District. Each high schools' annual budget must pay for all of its staff salary and benefits costs, program costs, program-support costs (central

office services), technology costs, routine building maintenance (heat, lights, electricity) and repair (broken windows, vandalism, etc.) costs, extracurricular costs and most of its own transportation costs.

I would say that it is a miracle that the Riverside staff is able to do the remarkable job that it does under the worst possible financial circumstances, but I know that it is no miracle at all. The fact that the Riverside staff continues to maintain high academic standards for its students results from their professionalism, compassion and dedication to their students who are still excelling. Look at the list of Foundation scholarship winners elsewhere in this newsletter. The average four-year grade point average among these students is 3.6 out of a possible 4.0 which two of the recipients, Jennifer Donahue and Ia Moua were actually able to achieve. These students did not exactly take easy courses either. They took the most challenging Advanced Placement courses offered by the school. Riverside has one of the most comprehensive AP offerings among any school in the state, public or private. In the great tradition of Riverside, these students also participated in a wide variety of the many extracurricular activities offered by the school. They were also deeply involved in community activities as youth leaders, tutors, food drive volunteers, as participants in walks to raise money to combat hunger and Aids or the Special Olympics and, blood drives.

I worry about the future of Riverside though. I am worried that the severe shortage of funds will lead to reduced course offerings, larger class sizes and the lowering of staff morale. I worry that reduced entrance requirements will lead to reduced academic achievement standards and fewer opportunities for the students in the city who have college potential,

of which there is no shortage. I worry that Riverside, one of Milwaukee's most successful and exemplary high schools, will become just average. I worry most however, about the students who will not be given the challenging and nurturing high school education that will allow them to become productive, thoughtful and compassionate citizens in the future.

We simply cannot give up on our school. Alumni, friends of the school and local philanthropists are going to have to step up on behalf of our students. 2010 will be the 95th anniversary of the opening of the current Riverside building. I believe that it will also be the year when outside funding sources will have to be found to protect and enhance the physical structure of the school. Students need more computer and printing stations in the building. The school needs remodeling to create more teaching stations. The windows need to be restored with energy efficient glass that will once again allow more natural light into the building as was the case for so many years. The list goes on but nothing will happen without your support.

I also believe that by the Centennial anniversary of the school in 2015, if not before, the school will need financial help just to protect the current college-bound programs that are offered. A teacher simply cannot teach 35 students in an Advanced Placement Chemistry, Calculus, or U.S. History course as effectively as they can teach 20. If one-half of the total student enrollment does not meet reasonable college preparatory standards, how can the school continue to effectively offer a college preparatory program. Again, the alumni, friends and local philanthropists who care about Riverside are going to have to respond to these funding challenges.

*Continued on page 3*

**From the President,**  
*continued from page 2*

How can you help? Support the Foundation so that we can support Riverside. Your donations are all tax deductible. For those many of you who have been long-time supporters of the Foundation, please try to increase your support. Include the Foundation as a beneficiary of your estate. Endow a specific school need such as replacing windows, remodeling classrooms, upgrading technology,

retaining a teacher, reducing class sizes, or upgrading the school auditorium or the band/orchestra instructional area. If you would like a specific list of the schools capital improvement needs, write or e-mail us and we will get it to you.

I still believe in Riverside. When I am at school, I still see the excitement in kid's eyes and hear it in their voices when they achieve something new and challenging. I still hear the dedication and com-

passion in teacher's voices as they encourage students to pursue their academic dreams. I still believe that Milwaukee's kids need Riverside. I still believe that the City of Milwaukee needs Riverside. I know that many of you share these beliefs. Help us preserve Riverside as a beacon of success in MPS.

Thanks For All That You Do For Riverside Students!



Mr. Sepulveda

## **Riverside Teacher Wins National Award**

The Society of Manufacturing Engineers Foundation and 3M presented a 2008 Building the Future award to Mr. Ulices Sepulveda, a Riverside University High School mathematics teacher. **Mr. Sepulveda** was one of only fifteen educa-

tors from across the entire country to qualify for one of these prestigious awards.

The Building the Future Awards recognize teachers for outstanding efforts in inspiring students to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math. **Lauren Baker**, MPS Coordinator of Career and Technical Education, had this to say about Mr. Sepulveda: "Mr. Sepulveda is truly a remarkable teacher, very deserving of this award. In his Digital Electronics class students are working on complex projects requiring very advanced levels of math and technology. Yet, his students make it look so easy, so approachable. Mr. Sepulveda's leadership, teaching and mentoring of his students all make that happen".

Winners of the Building the Future Awards received \$1,000 and 3M donates a 3M Digital Media Systems projector and a 65-inch 3m Digital Board for each instructor's classroom.

Mr. Sepulveda is one of many highly qualified teachers who work at Riverside. He earned his B.S. Degree in Electronic Engineering at URBE in Venezuela and his Masters in Education at Loyola Marimount University in Los Angeles and is a member of the National Council of Teachers of mathematics.

## **Riverside Grads Receive Black Excellence Awards**

1990 Riverside University High School graduate **Dr. Demond Means** and 1968 RUHS graduate, **Mazie Jenkins**, were recipients of the 24th Annual Black Excellence Awards. Dr. Means is a Riverside University High School Foundation Board member and Superintendent of the Thiensville-Mequon Public School System. Ms. Jenkins is a teacher in the Madison, Wisconsin Public Schools.

A dinner honoring all of the award recipients was held at the Italian Community Center in February and the keynote speaker was **Leroy Butler**, legendary Green Bay Packer defensive safety. The theme of the awards presentation was "Mentoring For Excellence, Putting together the Pieces For Our Future". Congratulations to Dr. Means and Ms. Jenkins.

## **Maintaining Your Legacy**

YOU have had a direct impact on building Riverside's reputation as one of Milwaukee's top high schools. Today, we need your support. Your gift to the Riverside University High School Foundation provides teachers and students with the tools they need to continue achieving and building on generations of success. Your gift will be used to provide college scholarships to deserving graduates, to provide technology assistance for classroom teachers and to otherwise support the rigorous academic program at Riverside in ways deemed to be of high priority by the administration and staff.

## Scholarships, continued from page 1

I have observed his performance as a student of Advanced Placement U.S. and Politics and I cannot help but describe him as truly representative of the highest purposes and ideals established by the Milwaukee Public Schools for our students"

**Jennifer Donahue** will start out pursuing a mathematics major at UW-Madison. Although she took just about every Advanced Placement course offered at Riverside, she clearly has a passion for mathematics as reflected in the following comments by her AP Calculus teacher, Ms. Kiblawi; "I have never met a student so enchanted by mathematics and have the prerequisite to comprehend it. She can easily connect calculus topics with previous subjects as well as themes outside the classroom. Jennifer does admirably well in anything she attempts, intellectually and socially." Jennifer says this about her own love of learning: "It seems the more I learn, the more I love learning. I plan to discover what I truly aspire to do in college. I want to find out if I want to be an astronomer, a mathematician, or something else I've yet to learn about." This 4.0 grade point average student was also active in the school's Astronomy and Robotics Clubs while also volunteering as a peer tutor, reading to children as part of a Milwaukee Bucks program, supervising special Olympics bowling activities and raising funds to fight hunger and aids.

**Ia Moua** is the other perfect 4.0 grade point average student among this year's Foundation Scholarship recipients. Ia is the fifth oldest of eight children in a Hmong family where neither parent finished high school but the oldest child has already completed college and the other three are in college. The commitment to education in her family is evident in the academic success that Ia has enjoyed at Riverside. Her goal is to obtain Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Nursing at UW-Madison and then either continue on to obtain her PH.D or find a

nursing position in hospital. A notable example of Ia's involvement in school activities outside of the classroom is her involvement with the science department's S.M.A.R.T Program: "Students Modeling A Research Topic". In 2008, the SMART group constructed a model of a farnesyl transferase inhibitor, and enzyme that would block the development of Hutchinson's Gilford Prgeria, a genetic mutation that causes rapid aging in children. The group's work was so credible that they were asked to present their model at the Experimental Biologist Conference in San Diego and to the Medical College of Wisconsin.

### Kate Windorski Memorial Music Scholarship Fund

Ms. Windorski taught vocal music at Riverside for many years. She was instrumental in re-establishing the annual school musical production as well as the swing choir and the madrigal choir. She passed away in 2006. Her family, friends, colleagues and former students established this scholarship fund in order to honor her memory. It is intended to assist students who intend to pursue their interest in music at the higher education level. In addition to Jordan Chevako pictured with the group of Foundation Scholarship recipients on page 1, the 2009 recipients of these scholarships are:



*Ruben Flores (\$750) and  
Bridgette Spiegel (\$750)*

**Ruben Flores** arrived at Riverside as a Freshman knowing how to play a little bit of piano by ear but was unable to read any music. In just two years, he went from a beginner piano student to playing Class A pieces. His Riverside piano teacher, Mrs. Walker, calls Ruben "one of the hardest working students I have ever had". She goes on to say "Ruben works diligent-

ly to perfect his musical talents, practicing hours every day. His musicianship is extraordinary; he plays with incredible passion as well as precision. Through his piano classes and lessons, he has competed and received first place on his Class A solo for the Wisconsin State Music Competition two years in a row. Ruben sets an example as well as leads in class. Many students look up to him". Ruben will be attending Milwaukee School of Engineering where he will study computer engineering and software engineering while also pursuing a music major.



*Brad Mier  
(\$750)*



*Imani Estese  
(\$750)*

**Imani Estes** is an outstanding musical talent as described by her vocal music teacher, Mrs. Walker, who is also the school's theater director. Mrs. Walker had this to say about Imani: "Imani began in the Gospel Choir. In that choir, she stood out as an eager, vivacious participant. I asked her to move to a higher level by auditioning for the Madrigal Choir because of her lovely soaring soprano voice. She began taking voice lessons and her bubbly personality started shining through. The following years she has been a star in the Swing Choir. Imani is a great asset in my choirs; she has a lovely voice and just glows on stage. She has such personality and exuberance on stage that she steals your attention. You just can't take your eyes off of her. Imani has been an active participant in our school musicals. She has had the main lead two years in a row. She was born to be on stage. She is a very accomplished actress and dancer who is able to take on a variety of roles from comedy to drama. This year, I asked her to take a leadership role and choreograph some of the numbers. I was equally impressed by her amazing choreography as I was with the professional

*Continued on page 5*

manner in which she taught her peers." Imani will be attending UWM where she will pursue a degree in musical theater and film.



Jessica Jimenez-Rico (\$750)

**Quiles Brothers Scholarship Fund**

Three Quiles brothers, all of whom attended Riverside established this scholarship fund to honor what they describe as a "sibling legacy" where an older sibling attended Riverside and positively influenced a younger sibling's Riverside experience. Rudy ('90), Nic ('92) and Israel ('98) Quiles raise money for their scholarship fund through charity runs and personal donations. The 2009 recipients of these scholarships are: **Jessica Jimenez-Rico** (pictured above).

**Elizabeth Montes**

will be attending either Loyola University of Chicago or UWM in the Fall. She intends to study forensic engineering and become an immigration lawyer. She feels that her experience as a student at Riverside has prepared her well for her future law career: "My long term goal has always been to become an immigration lawyer ready to sacrifice anything to help the Hispanic community. Typically a lawyer has



Elizabeth Montes (\$750)

to have a strong character and be able to defend statements with evidence. Overall, my experience at Riverside has taught me how to express both traits." Elizabeth took three years of full AP and honors courses at Riverside and earned a number of college credits along the way, all while achieving a 3.7 overall grade point average.

**Joan Crisostomo Marathon Scholarship Fund**

Ms. Crisostomo is currently the Director of Guidance at Riverside. Beginning in 2007, she decided to combine her decision to run a full marathon race with her desire to assist a deserving Riverside graduate attend college. She raises money for her scholarships through tax-deductible pledges from Riverside staff, family and friends. The 2009 recipients are **Damaris Hurtado Camacho, Sam Loveland** (\$1,000) who was also a Foundation General Scholarship recipient pictured above and **Jessica Jimenez Rico**.



Damaris Hurtado Camacho (\$1,000)

**Bookstore Service Scholarship Fund**

- This fund was established by Ms. Lori Burgos, Riverside's bookkeeper, to honor students who have demonstrated a high degree of school service through their volunteer work in the School Bookstore. The 2009 recipients are Consuelo Moreno, and Andrea Minter.



Consuelo Moreno (\$1,000)  
Andrea Minter (\$1,000)

**Drew-Washabaugh School Newspaper Scholarships**

Cathy Washabaugh and Mike Drew, the co-founders of this Foundation Scholarship Fund, are pleased to announce this year's Drew/Washabaugh Family and Friends Newspaper Scholarship winners. They wish to thank all their many friends and family members who contributed and made these awards possible. Due to the generosity of these donors, seven scholarships were awarded for a total of \$7,200. Two top winners received \$1,600 amounts and the other five students received \$800 each. These awards will go directly to defraying the cost of tuition and will be sent directly to the schools in which the students enroll.

*See picture at bottom of page*

Establishing a scholarship fund through the Foundation is a wonderful way for alumni to "give back" to Riverside. Anyone interested in doing so should contact the Foundation President, Jan Gibson for more information. She can be reached at 414-291-9076 or by E-mail at gibsonj5@aol.com.



*Drew-Washabaugh School Newspaper Scholarships*

*From left to right: Teacher Jason Orozco, Charmyse Tillman, Britney Donald, Emma Weiss-Burns, Sylvia Hersh, Breonna Stone, and Newspaper Scholarship Sponsors - Mike Drew and Catherine Washabaugh. (La-Shauna Wint could not be present for the photo.)*

The RUHS Student Newspaper "Word On The River", under the guidance and instruction of Mr. Jason Orazco, provides an excellent opportunity for the school's talented students to practice their writing, editing and publishing skills. The following article, written by reporter Breonna Stone describes this year's Riverside musical performance, "Disco Inferno":

## **RUHS Disco Inferno Is All About Soul**

*By Breonna Stone*

Riverside's presentation of Disco Inferno brought down the house through four fulfilling nights of non-stop ooh's and ahh's and ongoing laughter!

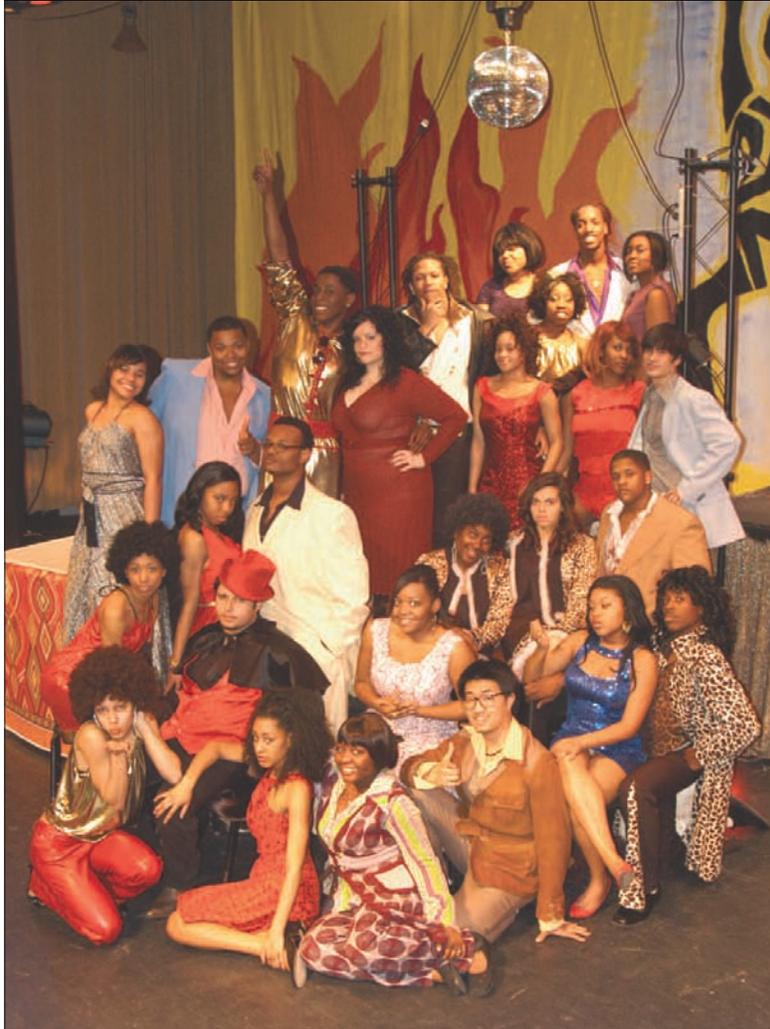
Under the direction of Ms. Walker, student teacher Ms. Schlect, senior Imani Esteese and Ashley Carter, the choreography, acting and singing came through beautifully.

Many audience members were astounded by the talented actors and actresses. This play proves that Riverside houses some of the most talented youthful souls. Many in the crowd left wanting to be graced by the performers yet again. Not wanting to leave, many waited in the hallway after the play in order to meet some of the actors and actresses.

Larry Brewer, a senior, was one of these people, stating, "Man...I want to see it again!"

Theresa Bell, also a senior, said, "The play was really good. I especially loved the acting of Erikka Strong and many of the outfits were cute."

The play and performers were not only worth the money, but touching in their message of, "It's all about soul."



The play used different combinations of rock, with songs like Disco Inferno, Hot Stuff, and Pop Musik. Many people in the crowd could be seen bobbing their heads and tapping their feet.

Erikka, a leading actress playing "Lady Marmalade," a soul-stealing devil's assistant, stated, "I loved this year's cast! The experience got a little confusing and frustrating at times, but we all came together as a cast."

Erikka is one of the many experienced actors and actresses and has been a RUHS player for four years. Her acting won't stop here. She stated, "Acting is a part of me, I'll never give it up."

Damarkus Tatum, a senior who played the devil, said that this experience has been a great one. This is his second play and, he said, "It just keeps getting better!"

Darrell Henning said, "I really had a good time working with Adalis Rivera and the rest of the cast. The overall experience was mind-boggling in a way that kept me on my toes! I really enjoyed it."

# Class Reunion Notices

**Class of 1959** – September 26, 2009. Contact Greg James at 262-569-1516 for more information.

**Class of 1969** – August 14, 2009 at Irish Fest. See “riversidehsfriends 1969” on Facebook or [www.riversidehs1969@gmail.com](mailto:www.riversidehs1969@gmail.com).

**Class of 1979** – In the planning stages. Need updated E-mail addresses. Contact [riversidetigers.1979@gmail.com](mailto:riversidetigers.1979@gmail.com).

**Class of 1984** – In the planning stages. Contact Margaret Schmidt Dess at [m SchmidtDess@gmail.com](mailto:m SchmidtDess@gmail.com).

**Class of 1994** – In the planning stages. Go to our Website for more information: [www.classcreator.com/Milwaukee-WI-Riverside-1994](http://www.classcreator.com/Milwaukee-WI-Riverside-1994).

**Classes of 1948 and 1949** - The Riverside Classes of 1948 and 1949 jointly held their 60th Reunions last September. In fact, many members of those two classes meet every other month or so on the third Saturday of the month at 10:00 a.m. at the Bluemound Gardens restaurant. Anyone wishing to join them should call either Arlene (Schiedemeyer) Doleschy at 414-421-7861 or Carol (Diehl) Chernoff at 414-352-8746.

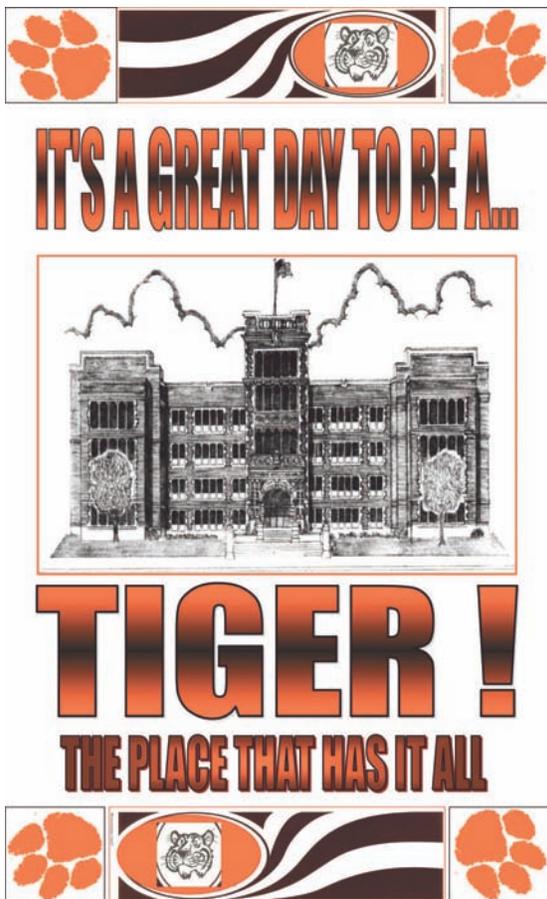
If you are planning a reunion, we can get you started with a copy of the Foundation's database for your graduating class (except for 1998, 1999 and 2000). We can also arrange a tour of Riverside as part of your reunion activities. See our web site: “[www.riversidefoundation.com](http://www.riversidefoundation.com)” for more information.

## Desktop Publishing Artist Skills

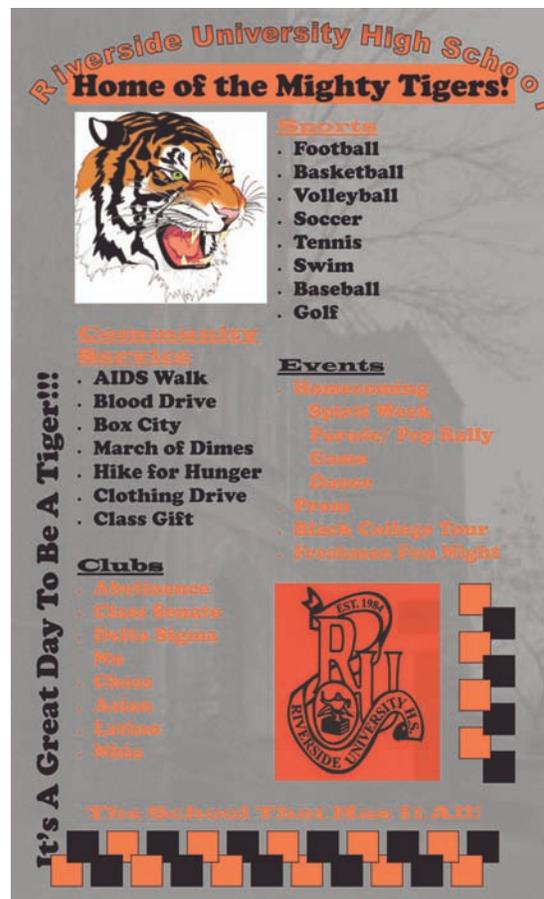
Riverside has a tradition of academic excellence but its students are also provided a whole host of optional classes and activities that allow them to develop

self-esteem, leadership skills and to express themselves artistically. Here are examples of the artistic skills of Riverside students.

*These two posters were submitted as part of a Desk Top Publishing Class taught by Mrs. Linda Eisenzimmer one of Riverside's Computer Technology instructors.*



Patrick Vang – 11th Grade



Audreana Rembert – 12th Grade



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**The Riverside University High School  
Riverside University High School**

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## First Annual Riverside University High School Golf Fundraiser



The Foundation's first annual golf fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, **August 29, 2009** at New Berlin Hills Golf Course. All Riverside alumni, families and friends are encouraged to save this date. The format will be a four person, 18-hole scramble with foursomes teeing off at pre-assigned times between 9:00 a.m. and 11: a.m. Groups will include men's foursomes, women's foursomes and mixed foursomes. The entry fee is \$75 per person of which \$25 is tax deductible. This includes all green fees, a cart, a sleeve of balls and a sandwich/beverage served at the turn. Prizes will be awarded. A cash bar and free buffet will be served after the outing at Halliday's Bar, 1729 N. Farwell Avenue in Milwaukee. Entry forms can be obtained at Halliday's Bar or by E-mailing the Foundation at [www.riversidefoundation.com](http://www.riversidefoundation.com). Please include your name and address in the e-mail.

Summer 2009 Donation Form

### **The Riverside University High School Foundation**

(PLEASE PRINT)

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Email \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Riverside (Please check one)

Alumnus—Year Graduated \_\_\_\_\_

Staff     Retired Staff     Friend of Riverside

Enclosed is my donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to

**The Riverside University High School Foundation**

and mail it in the enclosed envelope. Mail to:  
1615 East Locust St., Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211.

Remember, all contributions are tax-deductible as provided by state law.

*Thank You!*

Your Continued Support of Riverside Is Greatly Appreciated.