

Madison West High School
Class of 1961 Education Foundation, Inc.

Newsletter 2005

Dear Class of '61 Alums...

On behalf of your Education Foundation committee, here is a review of the very successful Camp Everytown project for 2005.

Your Foundation sponsored three very energetic, active and outgoing sophomores-to-be for the one-week leadership and diversity training camp this past summer. The three young delegates represent the great ethnic diversity of Madison West High School as well as it's nationally recognized leadership and scholastic achievements.



Xiao Zhu, recent arrival from China, preparing a dinner with Paxia (Pa) Thao, who spent her first years in a Thailand refugee camp.



Delphine Vakunta moved to Madison from the Cameroon's. Her goal is to attend Stanford Medical School.

Upon their return from Camp, the students created a dinner for some alumni at George and Donna (McDowell) Beestman's home. They shared with us a lively recap and video of the Camp and emphasized the personal changes each had experienced. The opportunity to share with fellow classmates through an active student group was a major goal for their next three years at West.

As exciting as finally having a young core group, is that we have a committed faculty member, Emily Miller. Emily has championed our program with other faculty and will help the students develop a presentation for freshman classes. This will generate interest in next years Camp (our goal is 8 student-delegates) and encourage students to join the leadership/diversity group

We have also had discussions and a meeting at West with Camp Everytown's "Hands Across the Campus" team. They offer support and guidance to the student group in their goal of reaching out to other students. Plus, with approval from the administration, they will work with the school to integrate diversity and leadership training into the curriculum.

Our Fund has exceeded \$15,000 with your generous support. Many classmates have committed to annual contributions while others have sent one-time donations. For this project, the cost per student to attend Camp Everytown is \$500. We have provided 100% of the fee in the past. As we add more delegates, we may consider lesser amounts depending on need. Therefore, every dollar counts in our goal of “giving back” to a high school we were very fortunate to attend.

Comments overheard recently are the Class of 1961 has stepped up and is being noticed. At the West High 75th Anniversary, it was mentioned by Committee members that our Class was a leader in alumni communications and active school support...you are making a difference.

Ed Grob has done a great job in updating and keeping current our excellent web site, madisonwest61.com. Please take a few minutes to see the changes and review the pictures and articles about classmates, teachers and get-togethers. Your input is what makes the site relevant and you are encouraged to provide updates about yourself, family and classmates. The Reunion Committee is still looking for a few “missing” alumni.

We look forward to seeing you at the **45th Reunion** in the fall. You should have heard by now from Karen Hult Scheele (bkscheel@chorus.net) that the dates are **August 4-5-6**...mark it down and plan on attending.

Thanks for your continued support and very best wishes for a happy holiday season.

Let us know of contact changes and email any of us with YOUR email!

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Contributions may be sent to:

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All contributions are tax deductible. This is a 501(c) (3) organization.