



HARLEM CHILDREN SOCIETY

'The purpose of souls is to assist each other.'

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“A NIGHT OF STARS” TO CELEBRATE HARLEM CHILDREN SOCIETY’S INNER-CITY SCIENCE PROJECT: *EXPERIMENT WITH A DREAM**

***Students and Mentors to Be Honored;
Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author Frank McCourt and Chancellor Joel Klein to Attend***

NEW YORK, NY (November 12, 2003)...The Harlem Children Society’s “A Night of Stars” will celebrate the achievements of 17 inner-city high school students who have participated in the organization’s *Experiment with a Dream* science project at top research laboratories throughout New York City. The event will also recognize the scientist-mentors, principals and science teachers who have contributed to the realization of the summer internship program, from its inception in 2001 through 2003. “A Night of Stars” will take place Wednesday, November 19, 2003, at Rockefeller University’s Casper Auditorium, from 5:00 to 7:30pm.

Ellis Rubinstein, CEO of the New York Academy of Sciences, will open the ceremonies. Pulitzer Prize-winning author Frank McCourt (“Angela’s Ashes”), New York City school teacher of 30 years, will address the gathering. Chancellor Joel Klein of the New York City Department of Education will join New York State Senator Liz Krueger, UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization) senior information officer Ms. Suzan Bilelo and the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce president, Mr. Lloyd A. Williams in honoring those students who have completed the internship program. Tshaka Cunningham, distinguished graduate fellow at The Rockefeller University, will welcome the guests on behalf of the institution.

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* [THIS PROGRAM IS SUPPORTED BY A GENEROUS GRANT FROM AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY’S PROJECT ‘SEED’

"A Night of Stars" award recipients will be introduced by the program's director and Harlem Children Society founding president, Dr. Satyajit (Sat) Bhattacharya, research scientist in pathology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. A number of the program's participants will speak about their *Experiment with a Dream* experiences, followed by a live performance by the *Dancing Through Barriers Ensemble*[®], the performing arm of the Dance Theatre of Harlem School.

The *Experiment with a Dream* program, which teams student interns with some of the best researchers in their fields, is carried out at major research institutions around New York City including Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center; The Rockefeller University; Columbia Presbyterian Hospital; Columbia University; Columbia University, College of Physicians & Surgeons; New York University; and Hunter College of the City University of New York. Scientists volunteer their time and expertise to mentor the students throughout the summer internship, which includes laboratory work, seminars and written reports.

The Harlem Children Society's *Experiment with a Dream* project selects young people living and attending schools in under-resourced urban communities and engages them in hands-on scientific work-study at major research institutions. The project, funded by a grant from the American Chemical Society's (ACS) Project SEED (Summer Experience for Economically Disadvantaged Students), is designed to expose inner-city high school students to educational experiences that will encourage them to pursue advanced studies and career opportunities in the sciences.

"It is thrilling to give the gift of hands-on learning to young people, and to see them share in the excitement of discovery. If we are able to bring science out of the academic stratosphere and

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give it a context which attracts and inspires young people, we are accomplishing a great deal. If we insure that that context is inclusive of all young people – exclusive of none – then we will have succeeded," said Harlem Children Society president and CEO Dr. Sat Bhattacharya.

"We view our involvement with these communities as an experiment and as an enterprise – an enterprise for generating hope and for arming young people with the skills and knowledge that will propel them into the future," Bhattacharya added. "These awards come after long hours of challenging work. The determination of these young people is evident. I am very proud of my students; their families, teachers, mentors and communities should also be very proud."

The many achievements of *Experiment with a Dream* alumni to date include: American Chemical Society four-year scholarships, New York Times scholarships; first place in the New Jersey Biomedical Cancer Research Symposium at Rider University; the New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research Award for Scientific Excellence in Research; silver medal in Medicine & Health at the Hudson County Science Fair, Hudson County, NJ; and United States Army, Navy, & Air Force Certificate of Achievement awards. Four of the past participants in the Harlem Children Society's *Experiment with a Dream* project are presently attending Dartmouth College, Penn State University, Rutgers University and Swarthmore College, while another has been accepted at the seven-year, combined undergraduate and medical schools of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

The Harlem Children Society is dedicated to promoting innovative science education programs to children and youth living in under-resourced and underserved communities and school districts. The organization seeks to engage learners in a healthy enquiry of the world, and to expose

them to opportunities available in the field of science that might be otherwise out-of-reach. The pursuit of higher education and career achievement is emphasized by providing students with knowledge, skills, guidance, encouragement and understanding. The Harlem Children Society is a private, not-for-profit organization, recognized by the city, state and federal governments.

Donations to the Harlem Children Society are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

For more information on the *Experiment with a Dream* project, contact Dr. Satyajit (Sat) Bhattacharya, Harlem Children Society, 536 East 82nd Street (Suite 5F), New York, NY 10028; Telephone: (646) 643-8563; e-mail: bhatacs@mshcc.org. Additional information is available online at: www.harlemchildrensociety.org.

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HARLEM CHILDREN SOCIETY: PARTNERSHIPS

Sigma Xi Society

Sigma Xi was founded in 1886 as an honor society for science and engineering. Today, it is an international research society whose programs and activities promote the health of the scientific enterprise and honor scientific achievement. There are more than 70,000 Sigma Xi members in over 500 chapters at colleges and universities, industrial research centers and government laboratories. The Society has its headquarters in North Carolina.

In addition to honoring scientific achievement, Sigma Xi also endeavors to encourage support of original work in science and technology and promote an appreciation within society at large for the role research has played in human progress. Over the course of the Society's distinguished history, nearly 200 members have won the Nobel Prize and many more have earned election to the National Academies of Sciences and Engineering.

The New York Academy of Sciences

Founded in 1817, the New York Academy of Sciences is one of the most prominent and enduring organizations in the international scientific community. Its members have included such notable individuals as U.S. Presidents Jefferson and Monroe, Charles Darwin, John James Audubon and Albert Einstein. Independent and nonprofit, the Academy currently numbers over 23,000 Members in more than 150 countries. The Academy's mission is "to advance understanding of science and technology" by focusing on science across disciplines and nations, and by building bridges between society and science.

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HARLEM CHILDREN SOCIETY'S *EXPERIMENT WITH A DREAM* **Student Information**

Name of Student	School/Center
1. Mr. Trayvone Anderson	Frederick Douglas Academy
2. Mr. Swapan Bhuiyan	Manhattan Center for Science and Math
3. Mr. Willie Collado	East Side Community High School
4. Ms. Sheveen Green	Frederick Douglas Academy
5. Mr. Paulo Lizano	Union Hill High School
6. Ms. Yvonne Owusu-Sarpong	Thurgood Marshall Academy
7. Ms. Sobella Quezada	Academy of Mount Saint Ursula
8. Ms. Christina Romero	Frederick Douglas Academy
9. Mr. Pankaj Saha	Manhattan Center for Science and Math
10. Ms. Karen J. Salgado-Dennery	Union Hill High School
11. Ms. Rebecca Santiago	High School of Fashion Industry
12. Ms. Maria Scata	Union Hill High School
13. Mr. Louis Shackelford	Frederick Douglas Academy
14. Ms. Rina Shah	Union Hill High School
15. Ms. Francesca Torres	Frederick Douglas Academy
16. Ms. Krystal Xylina Vera	East Side Community High School
17. Ms. Annie Yveliz Velez	Thurgood Marshall Academy

High Schools Served (2001-2003)

Frederick Douglas Academy

2581 Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Boulevard
New York NY 10039
Physical Location: West Harlem
Total Number of Students Selected for Internship: 5

Thurgood Marshall Academy

6 Edgecomb Avenue
New York, NY 10039
Physical Location: West Harlem
Total Number of Students Selected for Internship: 2

Manhattan Center for Science and Math

East 116th Street & FDR Drive,
New York NY 10039
Physical Location: East Harlem
Total Number of Students Selected for Internship: 2

Academy of Mount Saint Ursula

330 Bedford Park Boulevard
Bronx, NY 10458
Physical Location: Bronx
Total Number of Students Selected for Internship: 1

East Side Community High School

420 East 12th Street, New York, NY 10009
Physical Location: Lower East Side
Total Number of Students Selected for Internship: 2

Union Hill High School

3808 Hudson Avenue, Union City, NJ
Physical Location: Jersey City
Total Number of Students Selected for Internship: 4

Asphalt Green

555 East 90th Street, New York, NY 10128
Physical Location: Upper East Side
Total Number of Students Selected for Internship: 1
in Association with Academy of Mount Saint Ursula

High School of Fashion Industries

225 West 24th Street, New York, NY 10011
Physical Location: Lower West Side
Total Number of Students Selected for Internship: 1

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Participating Mentors

Dr. Arleen D. Auerbach, *The Rockefeller University*

Dr. Luis Avilla, *Columbia University*

Dr. Sat Bhattacharya, *Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center*

Dr. Mike Draine, *Hunter College, City University of New York*

Dr. Sylvia Etesko, *Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeon*

Dr. John Sanil Manavalan, *Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons*

Dr. Katia Manova, *Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center*

Dr. Madhu Mazumdar, *Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center*

Dr. Roberta Rivi, *Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center*

Dr. Jaya Satagopan, *Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center*

Dr. Paul Weiss, *Asphalt Green*