



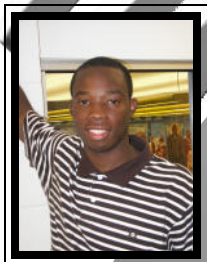
Summer 2010

*Changing Lives "One Child At A Time"*

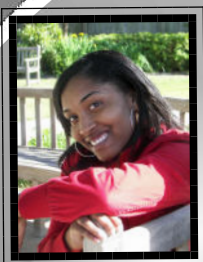
# P.A.R.K. PROGRESS

Donald W. Reynolds Facility

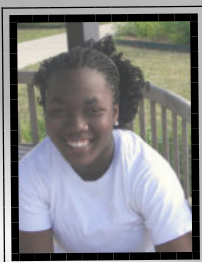
## The Class of 2010



Deshawn Brown



Cambria Bush



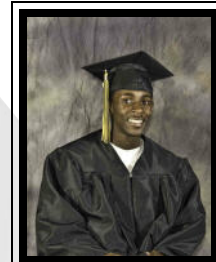
Lacey Cross



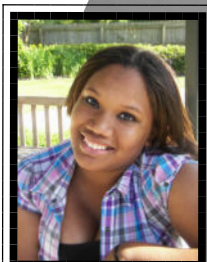
Ebony Ellison



Marcus Gilbert



Derrick Goodman



Erica Guy



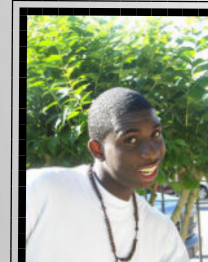
Diamond Harper



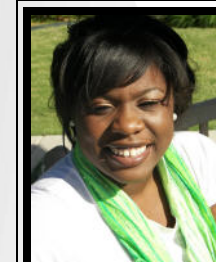
Andrea Harris



Brandon Jenkins



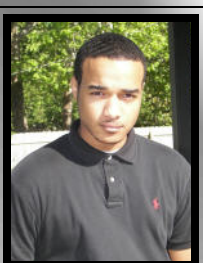
Marcus Jordan



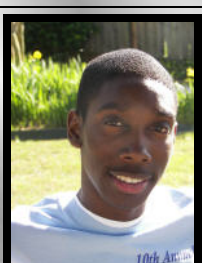
Shakyla Martin



Devonte Miller



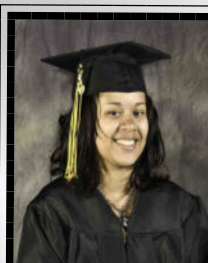
Brandon Mitchell



Ryan Norfleet



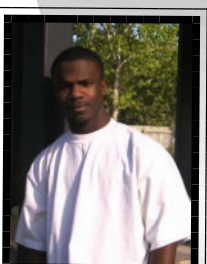
Lequan Parker



Cynthia Penn



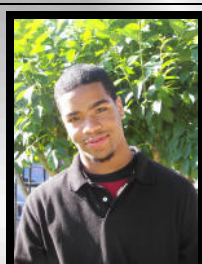
Timothy Roddy



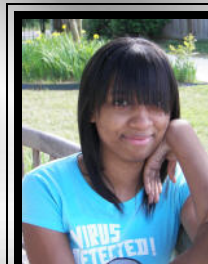
Demetrius Singleton



Jonathan Stewart



Blake Vines



Brianna Wade



Jesse White



Kenneth Williams



Victor Williams



Traylon Young

### No Photos

Dominique Bingham  
Vanchanza Cardinali  
Xavier Collier  
Julian Dumas  
Rasean Irby  
Chris Morris

Jeremy Myles  
Kathy Santana  
Anthony Vines  
Shaela Williams



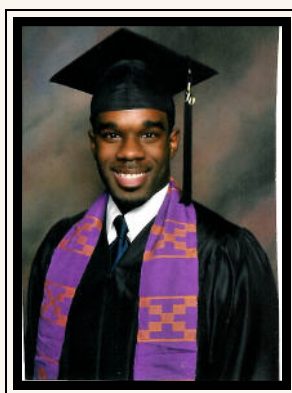
# COLLEGE GRADUATES SHINE



Kelley Neasley  
Pulaski Technical College



Denico Wallace  
Remington College



Joshua Williams  
University of  
Arkansas Fayetteville

## *P.A.R.K. Foundation Board*

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J.D. Simpson, III  
Isaac Smith  
Bud Whetstone  
Alonzo Williams, M.D.  
Andrew Turner, Emeritus

## A Graduation to Celebrate

by Monique Hickman, Education Outreach Coordinator

Each year as the school year winds down, P.A.R.K. revs up. May is a busy and celebrated month at P.A.R.K. This year was no different. On May 20, 2010, P.A.R.K. celebrated its 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Graduation and Recognition Ceremony. That evening 36 graduating seniors from various high schools were honored for completing five years in the P.A.R.K. program as well as graduating from high school.

During the ceremony we honored the high school graduates; the 2010 Volunteer of the Year, Mrs. Karen Swinton; and the 2010 Educator of the Year, Mr. Elliot Johnson from Forest Heights Middle School, as well as nonimees Ms. Donna Duer from McClellan High and Ms. Vickie Dinges from Little Rock Central High.

After all the awards were handed out, the speaker for the hour, Mr. Reggie Whitten, co-founder of the Whitten-Newman Foundation and Pros for Africa, took the podium. His practical advice on the importance of education and giving back to the community inspired all in attendance.

Students that graduate from the P.A.R.K. program have an opportunity to receive scholarships to attend college and further their education. The class of 2010 will be headed off to Arkansas Tech University, Henderson State University, Ouachita Baptist University, Philander Smith College, Pulaski Technical College, University of Arkansas, University of Central Arkansas, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff to continue their academic pursuits. With the addition of this class, P.A.R.K. has graduated 249 from the program.

That evening we witnessed the evolution of the sowing of academic seeds into these young people. Carrying flags that represent the universities and colleges from which P.A.R.K. students have graduated three new young men and women were inducted into an elite club - the P.A.R.K. college graduates. Our 2010 College grads were Kelley Neasley, Pulaski Technical College; Deniko Wallace, Remington College; and Josh Williams, University of Arkansas.

Congratulations Class of 2010! Continue to pursue excellence!

## *P.A.R.K. Inc. Board*

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Junious Babbs  
Mark Fortune  
Marcus Guinn  
Andrew Harper, Jr.  
Colette Honorable  
Melanie Jackson  
Mark Leverett  
Evangeline Parker  
Dwayne Stuart  
Wes Sutton  
Ty Warren  
Estel Jeffery, Jr. Emeritus  
Andrew Turner, Emeritus

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Mancel Linton, Program Director Cynthia Hall, Chief Operating Officer Tamra Brown, Curriculum Coordinator Monique Hickman, Education Outreach Coordinator  
Melanie Jackson, Community Outreach Coordinator  
Elvin Jackson, Maintenance Supervisor Lakisa Vaughn, Chief Student Life Manager  
Chris Rudley, Student Life Manager  
William Young, III Student Life Manager  
Eric Breedlove, Maintenance Support  
Cassandra Roston, Receptionist  
Stacie Hightowe, President Assistant



# Summer 2010- No Thank You, I'm Staying with Jesus



P.A.R.K.'s 2010 summer program let students know that it was okay to stick to their guns and say no to situations that could be harmful. The theme of the summer was, "No Thank You. I'm Staying with Jesus."

Saying no sounds easier than it really is, especially when it comes to peer pressure. No one wants to be looked down on as an outsider

or the party pooper, so we give in.

As teenagers, peer pressure is prevalent. If it's not the pressure of skipping class, it's the pressure of trying drugs or sex, or joining a gang. Whatever the pressure may be, kids find it difficult to stand up for what they know is right in order to try to preserve their so-called friendship or swagger.

The theme of the summer was visible throughout the building and even outside of the building on Friday free-day fun trips. It was a requirement for the students to wear their summer theme shirts on Friday, not only to represent what they stood for, but for P.A.R.K. staff to easily recognize our students.

Bible lessons, speakers, and role playing were all a part of the effort in making kids see the importance of making the right choices.

## Funding helps provide a successful summer program



Keith Jackson with Marcus Guinn, Vice President of USbank and Michael Shelley, President USbank



Donnie Cook, President of Bank of America with Keith Jackson and students participating in the Summer Enrichment Program

The 2010 Summer Enrichment Program was a huge success thanks in part to donations from Bank of America and USbank. The funding allowed P.A.R.K. to provide a fun-filled educational safe-haven for the students in the program.

Thank you for believing in the vision and for your continued support through the years.



Each year at P.A.R.K. the graduating class sits down with Rex Deloney, an art instructor at Central High School, and discusses what P.A.R.K. means to them, who had the greatest impact on their lives, what they will take from their five year experience, and some of the lasting impressions of the program.

After listening to the students and writing their thoughts down on paper, Mr. Deloney takes everything said into consideration. Compiling all the thoughts and ideas, he then turns words into a masterpiece on the wall of the gymnasium giving all who see its unveiling a sense of awe.



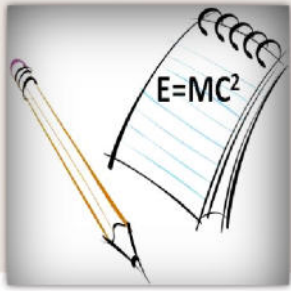
Rex Deloney

## On Track for a Great School Year

P.A.R.K. starts the 2010/2011 school year on a great note-receiving grants from the Roy and Christine Sturgis Foundation and Entergy Arkansas.

The Roy and Christine Sturgis grant of \$50,000 allows P.A.R.K. to re-vamp its computer labs, bringing them up to standard. The \$20,000 donation from Entergy Arkansas is being utilized in the day-to-day operation of the after school ministry.

P.A.R.K. continues to hold strong its promise to make a difference, "One Child at a Time," thanks to everyone's contributions.



Tamra Patterson-Brown

Albert Einstein's equation above displays how a small amount of matter can release a huge amount of energy. The same can be said of the summer program offered to our students each year. Six weeks worth of academic investment can make a huge impact on our students' future scholastic endeavors.

This summer students got the opportunity to build foundational academic skills in the areas of: **English**-with a focus on reading analysis; **Mathematics**- with a concentration on building basic math skills including multiplication & division, fractions & decimals, and algebraic equations; **Scientific Reasoning** using the scientific method; **basic Spanish**; **Computer and Study Skills**. Also added to this summer's curriculum was a college freshman simulation course called **College Skills** led by a college professor. This class reinforced for students the need of the education

gained in the other summer, as well as school year, courses in order to be successful in their college studies.

Our upper level students preparing for college and life after high school participated in accelerated curriculum including **financial literacy, ACT Prep, and scholarship and college readiness**. These students also gave up their lunch time once a week to attend college question-and-answer sessions led by a college professor.

What were the results of all of these educational pursuits? All of our classes saw increases during the summer. Specifically in the subjects where we have seen the highest deficiencies in our students there was significant improvement. English, where our focus was reading analysis using the book Who Moved My Cheese?, had an increase of as much as 29% from pre- to post-testing. Mathematics scores rose as much as 31% throughout the summer. Our Study Skills class, which offered our students tools to enhance their retention of materials covered in every subject, had the highest increase with a 40% improvement over the course of 18 academic days.

With results such as these, our students are sure to have a successful school year!



Christopher Rudley

With a real knack for kids, you will see Chris surrounded by them. Chris began working as a Student Life Manager for P.A.R.K. almost two years ago and has had a great impact on the staff, students and parents. His comic relief is a welcome addition, especially when things are bit hectic.

Chris says P.A.R.K. is important to him, because he loves inspiring young people. "I push them, or better to say, motivate them to accomplish their goals and dreams." He added, "Therefore P.A.R.K. has impacted me by allowing me to come into a world that only thinks of young people. I have the ability to motivate them through God's word."

This single youth evangelist at Full Counsel Metro Church in North Little Rock, enjoys dancing, acting, writing, comedy, and cooking.

## Marquis Willis



Marquis Willis is a former P.A.R.K. student who is now giving back. He has become P.A.R.K.'s personal volunteer videographer. Prior to this past summer, Marquis could be seen ducking in and out of the different rooms in P.A.R.K. with video camera in hand, filming any and everything the kids did. His frequency in the building

had many wondering if he was on staff.

As the summer program began, Marquis was back in stride with his camera. There weren't many moments that didn't get captured on camera. From the moment the new students arrived, he was in their faces all the way to the last day of the program where he had produced a summer video that was shown as a wrap-up to the summer.

"Volunteering at P.A.R.K. allows me the opportunity to give back to a program that gives so much to its community," said Willis. He added, "This program serves as a guiding light in trying times, and it provides hope to situations that seem hopeless. This program makes a difference, and I hope that by donating my time, I can make a difference too."

Marquis' talents are not just being used for P.A.R.K.. The Media Director for Longley Baptist Church and owner of Insert Adjective Multimedia LLC has plenty to do, yet he chooses to give of his time when time permits.

When asked about the importance of P.A.R.K., Marquis said, "Two things are obvious when you walk through the front door of P.A.R.K. One, this organization promotes education. Two, this program is built on biblical principles." Willis added, "God's word and education are two key components needed to cause positive change. P.A.R.K. impacted me by reminding me how important those two things are to success."





# *'Tis the Season to Park a Gift under the Tree*



The holidays are just around the corner. Yes, I know school just began, but that does not stop the retail stores from putting out the scarecrows for Halloween, the poly-filled turkeys for Thanksgiving, and certainly the never ending Christmas trees and trimmings. Everyone is trying to get ahead for the season.

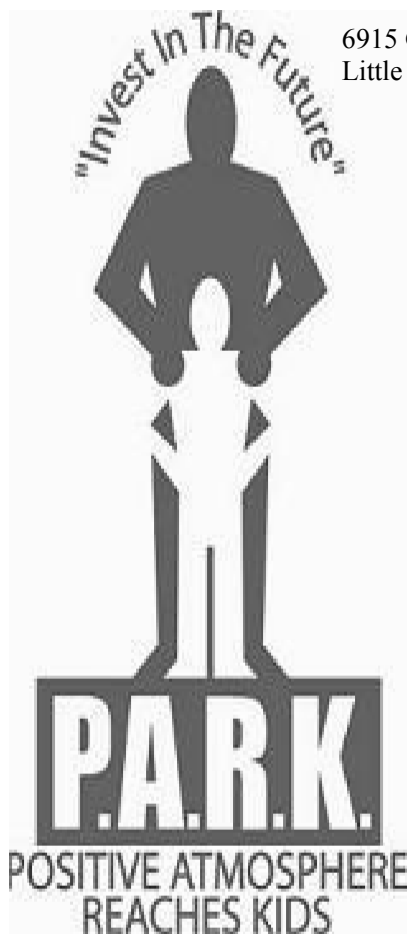
Well, so is P.A.R.K.. We had seven Park a Gift under the Tree parties during the Christmas season last year in an effort to raise funds for the upcoming year. The parties were successful raising just over \$90,000. At these parties, guests were invited to peruse the gift information boards for services and items needed for P.A.R.K. students. The gifts were purchased in honor of a

family member, friend, or themselves. Guests were also treated to hors d'oeuvres and a brief update on P.A.R.K's status and accomplishments by Keith Jackson, P.A.R.K's president and founder.

This year we wanted to give more people an opportunity to Park a Gift under P.A.R.K's Educational tree by placing the gift wish list in the newsletter with the hope of reaching more to receive more.

With many items to be gifted, it is P.A.R.K's Christmas prayer that when shopping for the holidays P.A.R.K. will be on your list.

Program Expense	Description	Amount
Skills Tutor	Software that acts as a personal tutor for each student. It diagnoses and identifies gaps in a student's knowledge.	\$6,000.00
Textbooks	Includes all books needed for students to use and study while at P.A.R.K.	\$8,000.00
Learning Center Supplies -	Includes all the supplies students need to effectively learn	\$9,100.00
Learning Materials	Worksheets, books, memory sheets, workbooks, and CD's	\$3,600.00
Benchmark Prep	Study materials needed to prepare students for the Benchmark exam	\$600.00
Game Room	Video game consoles, video and board games as well as pool table refurbishing	\$1,100.00
Theatre	Movies - PG & PG-13 & Karaoke machine	\$500.00
Snack Bar	Paper products, kitchen supplies and utensils	\$2,600.00
Medicine/First Aid	All items necessary to care for students sick or injured	\$1,100.00
Community Service	Water for students as well as supplies for different service projects	\$700.00
Student Incentives 3.0+	Gift cards, award dinners and plaques/trophies	\$5,500.00
Birthday Parties	A Celebration for students every four months	\$1,200.00
Auction	An opportunity for students to use the points they earned during the school year to bid on items such as Ipods, laptop computers, cameras, etc., at the end of the school year.	\$7,200.00
Family Connection	Creating a bond between staff & parents	\$400.00
Field Trips	Summer rewards for students accomplishing their assigned tasks	\$14,000.00
Men of Blessing	Boys learning to become men through guidance, lectures, and outings	\$3,000.00
Project Get Fit	Girls learning to become ladies through guidance, lectures, and outings	\$3,075.00
P.A.R.K. Ambassadors	P.A.R.K. student leader group	\$1,500.00
L'Oreal Women's Center	Where girls hang out to talk, do full makeovers, and be girls	\$500.00
Gym Equipment	Everything from basketballs to yoga mats	\$1,750.00
Learning Center Tutors	Tutoring hours @ \$10 per hour 250 students @ \$4,000.00	\$90,000.00
Graduation Ceremony - Rings	Students receive a P.A.R.K. ring upon graduating from the program @ 300.00 ea.	\$13,200.00
Black History	Black history materials and celebration	\$500.00
ALC Learning Materials	Accelerated Learning Center practice packet, workbooks and worksheets	\$600.00
ACT Registration Fees	Four times a year @ \$32.00 per student taking exam	\$2,100.00
ACT Prep	Materials needed for study prior to exams - 4 times a year	\$2,100.00
College App Fees -	Up to \$50.00 per student applying	\$900.00
Seminars/College Tours	Funding for transportation to and from plus food	\$1,000.00
Dreambuilder	For seniors only. Opportunity to win their dream prize by completing community services, workshops, grades maintenance, and a written essay	\$1,500.00



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*From the desk of Keith Jackson*

## He's not heavy, he's my brother!

P.A.R.K.. This life changing program has impacted families all over central Arkansas by helping at least one child in that family go to college. Many times those kids are the first in the family to attend college, therefore, creating a ripple effect of generational proportion. It's been proven that if a student breaks the cycle of ineptness and goes to college or some form of secondary education, then most likely their children will follow in their footsteps through the doors of an institution of higher learning.

P.A.R.K. has in the past affected more than one sibling. Notably, Rachel Williams, a 2000 P.A.R.K. graduate and 2004 Ouachita Baptist University graduate, and her brother, Joshua Williams, a member of P.A.R.K.'s class of 2006 and 2010 graduate from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.

Robert Irby and Rasean Irby is another set of P.A.R.K. sibling graduates, with Robert graduating in 2000 and Rasean in 2009. Robert earned his bachelor's degree in 2006 from Arkansas State University, while Rasean is currently attending the University of Arkansas, Monticello.

Lauren Gilmore didn't mind that she would have to be on the same campus with her big brother Marvin because she had walked on to the basketball team. Marvin, a 2007 graduate of P.A.R.K. is currently a Ouachita Baptist University Junior, while Lauren, a 2009 P.A.R.K. graduate, unfortunately only made it to a few classes on campus. Lauren was killed in an automobile accident just one week into school.

Then you have the Stewart brothers, Timothy, who is attending Philander Smith College, from the class of 2009 and his brother, Jonathan, joining him at Philander Smith from the class of 2010.

La familia, it's all about the family! P.A.R.K. continues to impact so many lives through this educational ministry. It's because of the overall family: the board members, the staff, and the donors that it works! Together we do make a difference.