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# PACE IS...

Program for Acceleration in Careers of Engineering – Monmouth Branch

August 2004

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Keynote speaker Dr. Lenworth Gunther, Ph.D.

## Annual Banquet Celebrates 22 Years of PACE

By Judith Wheeler

*Staff*

The 22nd Annual Graduation & Awards Banquet was held on May 15, 2004, at the Holiday Inn in Tinton Falls. The banquet featured keynote speaker - Dr. Lenworth Gunther, Ph.D., noted Historian, Author and Educator, alumni speaker - Orville Murray, and singer - Jamillah C. Joseph. Dr. Webster

Trammell, Vice President - Planning, Development and Governmental Relations, brought welcoming remarks on behalf of Brookdale Community College.

Dr. Gunther is a native of Jamaica, West Indies, who moved to the United States when he was child. Dr. Gunther spent thirty-five years of his life in Harlem. A graduate of New York's public schools, he is the recipient of five college degrees; four of which he earned at Columbia University. Dr. Gunther's professional journey has taken him from the classroom, community, corporation and civic arena to the media. He has been a college professor for more than 33 years. In his keynote speech, he focused on raising consciousness. He began by acknowledging the anniversary of the Brown decision, and continued by sharing his philosophy that our students are the "manufacturers of change", and that the result of mankind sitting alongside of each other in the same room was due to past struggles and pioneering endeavors. Dr. Gunther dared the students to be different, to continue their education, to soar like eagles, to baptize themselves in education, and not to follow the crowd nor listen to negativity from others, but rather to dare to turn corners where nobody else has gone before. He spoke of students turning their mountains into roadmaps, of setting their standards high, and not accepting mediocrity. He explained the importance of young men pulling up their pants to prepare themselves for battle in the journey of going to places where no one has dared to go. His advice to youth included the concepts of looking the part, making themselves marketable, and working twice as hard as the individual that is not of color. He encouraged them to examine where they are going and to continue their journey to learning. He dared them to supercede his own accomplishments. He spoke of inner strength as the 'spiritual lamp' that is inside of us all, and encouraged students of all ages to reach inside and tap that strength within. He made reference to our students being descendants of greatness, like: Charlotte Ray, first African American female attorney; David Peck, first African American to practice medicine; and Mary Jane Patterson, the first African American to obtain her Master's Degree.

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## Annual Banquet Celebrates 22 Years of PACE

Dr. Gunther compared the PACE Program to a mother bird, explaining that the mother bird looks back, gives back, and does not leave until she has fed her young.

According to Dr. Guther, this is what the PACE Program does: They develop a sense of community, shared goals, shared opportunity and commonality while bettering the community. He explained the importance of individuality, stating that ‘imitation’ is suicide. The act of imitating people kills a person’s uniqueness, creativity and individuality. He spoke about the inner man making the difference, and that each person should follow their passion, and ‘education’ being a passion, not an event. He went on to say that the students are the real American Idols -- the stars. They should stand together, work together, and not compete against each other. Together, they can make a difference because everything affects the heart. He looks forward to the day when Asian, Latino, African American, and Whites sit together to build our society together.

Alumni speaker, Orville Murray, spoke about overcoming road blocks, staying focused, and never giving up on one’s dreams. He encouraged PACE graduates to utilize the knowledge that the PACE staff has to offer. Also, to apply what they have learned. Without application, knowledge is dead. He emphasized the importance of utilizing the PACE teachers as their first source of networking, and keeping in touch -- never forgetting to give back to their community.

### Acknowledgments

The PACE program would like to thank the following organizations for their support during this 2003-2004 year:

- *Amersham Biosciences Corp.*
- *AT&T Caribbean Club*
- *AT&T HISPA*
- *AT&T Pioneers*
- *Brookdale Community College*
- *From the Heart Workshops & Seminars*
- *National Starch & Chemical Foundation*

### PACE – Monmouth Calendar

September 11, 2004	Youth Development Conference
September 18, 2004	Orientation & 1 <sup>st</sup> Day of Classes
October 30, 2004	Thinkathon Contest
November 13, 2004	Fall Engineering Trip
December 11, 2004	Kwanzaa Celebration

## Message from the Co-Administrators

Dear PACE-Monmouth Family,

We once again find ourselves at the conclusion of another PACE program year reflecting on all the exciting happenings that went on during 2003-2004:

- The 3 PACE branches – PACE-Monmouth, Newark-PACE and PACE YDC - Central Jersey – got together several times during the year for networking and shared learnings. We first came together at the start of the year for a day of workshops during the September 2003 PACE Youth Development Conference. The conference theme was Raising Your Game: Developing a Spirit of Excellence. We challenged the students to set the bar high for themselves and aspire to attain high goals. We got together twice more for the Joint Bowlathon and the Summer cookout.
- Mother Nature tried to keep us from having our Kwanzaa Celebration this past December, throwing back-to-back snowstorms at us just before the celebration. But with the perseverance of our PACE parents and students - and the assistance and flexibility of High Technology High School - we were able to reschedule the celebration (twice!) and still had a good turnout and a great time.
- This year’s College Tour was long – 6 days and 5 nights! But it was a very successful tour of several colleges and universities in Virginia, No. Carolina and Atlanta, Georgia. We spent a lot of time together on the bus, which allowed for new and reinforced friendships to be formed. The students learned a lot about college admissions requirements and got to see some of the nation’s premiere historic higher learning institutions.
- Once again our Thinkathon and Math Bowl student competitions were great successes that generated a lot of excitement! And with 9 project presentations this year, held on 2 separate Saturdays, the Science Forum continues to grow in success. Within each of the math and engineering classes our instructors equipped students with new skills and provided them with challenging projects and assignments.
- We challenged the students this year to focus their student-run event on a community service activity; hoping to underscore and emphasize the importance of giving back. We were happy to see the students work with the Asbury Park Boys & Girls Club to plan a day of digging and raking, as the students helped to create a new flower and vegetable garden that would be enjoyed by the Asbury Park Boys & Girls Club community.
- At the Graduation & Awards Banquet we concluded the year

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# Staff Profile: Katina Reece



By Judith Wheeler

Staff

Katina Reece has served in multiple roles in PACE since she started in 2001. She began as an Algebra 2 instructor, worked on the board to organize the Youth Conference (2 years), chaired the Scholarship Committee, and has given an eye opener as well.

Ms. Reece testifies to the importance of giving back and that having the right mentors/guidance is definitely the key to success.

Katina grew up in the small town of Macon, MS, where she attended Noxubee County High School. In junior high school she was a cheerleader and a clarinet player. Her enthusiasm for music and socializing poured into high school, where she became the clarinet section leader in the Noxubee County Marching & Concert Band, a member of the Student Government Association, 4-H Club, Math Club, and the Technology Student Association (TSA). It was here as a member of TSA through a course known as Diversified Technology at the Noxubee County Vocational Center that her interest in Computer Engineering was spawned. Katina was also voted as “Most Friendliest” and “Homecoming Queen” during her high school tenure. Katina received various high school honors, including Salutatorian of her class.

Katina initially only received a \$500 scholarship to attend her undergraduate school, Mississippi State University (MSU), but this was not going to prevent her from obtaining her goal. Katina attended a program known as Increasing Minority Assessment for Graduate Education. (I.M.A.G.E.) during the summer prior to her first semester at MSU. This program surrounds you with great mentors, exposure to technology and college-prep courses. The advisor of this program, Mrs. Mary Jasper, indicated that if Katina would obtain a 4.0 her first semester, she would see to it that Katina’s education would be funded throughout her undergraduate studies. With only a verbal agreement, Katina was motivated and accomplished the goal. She then received numerous scholarships from various sponsors along with her I.M.A.G.E stipends.

In addition, to the scholarships, Katina completed her first paid summer internship at Exxon Company U.S.A., in Houston, TX. She then returned to complete a three-year paid rotation cooperative education program with the National Security Agency (NSA), where she also received a stipend towards books. Katina received an honor award for her work at NSA. Katina definitely wants to stress the importance of being aware of all your options regarding obtaining money for education. There were definitely many semesters where Katina made money from these various sources of income. ☺

While attending MSU, Katina was affiliated with many organizations, including, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), Institute of

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by celebrating our 8 PACE-Monmouth graduates as well as all our academic, leadership and attendance award winners. Dr. Lenworth Gunther delivered a keynote speech that was truly inspiring and particularly noteworthy as he “commanded” the graduates to applaud the parents and PACE volunteers for helping to get them this far in their lives.

PACE continues to grow and succeed because of the untiring commitment of our staff; many who have been with the program for 10, 15 and even 20 years! But PACE also succeeds because of the involvement and sharing of talents by the active PACE parents who show care and concern not only for their own individual sons and daughters, but all the sons and daughters of PACE.

It is the individual and heroic efforts of our staff and active parents, along with the partnership of guest speakers, workshop facilitators and institutions such as Brookdale Community College, that enable us to create the positive and nurturing environment the is PACE-Monmouth. Such efforts and partnerships will enable us to succeed in creating the next generation of science & technology leaders. Each of you is playing a key role in helping to carry out our mission and we can only but Thank You wholeheartedly and stand to applaud the unselfish giving of yourselves.

*Deborah P. Harrell and John M. Jones*

*2003-2004 PACE-Monmouth Co-Administrators*

Electrical and Electronics Engineers (I.E.E.E.), and many other societies. She was awarded the presidential award several times during her undergraduate tenure. She also received an award for having the highest GPA in engineering for minority students two consecutive years. Katina’s advice would be to enjoy your college life, keep a balance, but always keep your eye on your sole purpose for being in school. She graduated Magna cum Laude in Computer Engineering with a minor in Mathematics.

Ms. Reece presently works as a Member of Technical Staff in the Next Generation Networking (NGN) Demonstration and Testing Department at Lucent Technologies in Holmdel, NJ, since February 2001. She has also worked as a member of a Bell Labs Research department. She has been actively involved in the Alliance for Blacks at Lucent Employees (ABLE) while at Lucent Technologies.

On a spiritual level Ms. Reece has been actively involved in various ministries at First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens, pastored by Rev. Dr. DeForest B. Soaries, Jr since September 2000. These ministries include an Adult leader of Jesus And Me (J.A.M.), Netcare Sorority and Fraternity Group, and the Technology Advisory Board.

Her personal interests include spiritual development, attending musicals and plays, and starting her own business in the area of

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“Motivating People to Live Healthier Lives”. Katina also enjoys dancing, playing tennis, softball, traveling, and exercising. She has participated in the 10-mile fitness walk of the 2003 NJ marathon and she ran the 5K NJ Race for the cure on Oct. 19, 2003.

Katina owes much of her life’s accomplishments to her family. Her father received his Masters degree and Education Specialists’ degree in Agriculture Mechanics. Her mother received her Masters degree in Home Economics. Both have retired from the Noxubee County School system. Her oldest sister, Phyllis received her B.S. in Computer Integrated Manufacturing from Alcorn State University; and her youngest sibling, Jennifer received her B.S. from her alma mater in information Systems. She also has a niece, Sabrina Reece, who is a key motivator in her life.

One of Katina’s ultimate goals in life is to “make God happy by sharing her knowledge and experiences”. One of her most popular quotes that she wishes for all students to remember and apply throughout life is: “Pay Me To Learn...for Life” ❖



Katina Reece (2<sup>nd</sup> left) along with PACE Book Grant recipients (L-R) Alexander Merced, Brandon Batista and Timothy Lee.

## Senior Destinations

PACE SCHOLAR	PLANS TO ATTEND	INTENDS TO STUDY
Brandon Batista	Columbia University	Electrical Engineering
Christopher Findlayter	Undecided	Electrical Engineering
Janelle Harrell	Brookdale Community College	Education
Timothy Lee	NJIT	Electrical Engineering
Alexander Merced	Rutgers University	Electrical Engineering
Keosha Pointer	Brookdale Community College	Psychology
Sabrina Rencher	Stevens Institute of Technology	Bio-Medical Engineering
Erica Ricks	Kean University	Education & Art

## Announcements

### PACE-Monmouth Accepting New Student Applications

PACE-Monmouth is accepting applications for its upcoming 2004-2005 program year. If you will be a High School student this upcoming Fall and are interested in science & engineering as a possible career path, you might want to apply. Applications can be downloaded from – <http://www.pace-monmouth.org>

### PACE Youth Development Conference to be held Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup>

This year’s PACE Youth Development Conference will be held at Brookdale Community College on Saturday, Sept. 11th. This year’s theme is: It’s not about Me, but We ... United to Build a Better Tomorrow.

### PACE Graduate Receives Honors for Research into Photovoltaic Devices

2004 PACE-Monmouth Graduate, Brandon Batista, was awarded first place by the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA) this past May for his paper on "Extracting Internal Photovoltaic Physical Parameters - A Mathematical Point of View". Brandon also made a presentation on this topic at the Annual Summer Meeting of the Mathematical Association of America. The presentation took place at the Rhode Island Convention Center. Finally, Brandon also received award nominations from the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) for his work in this area.

### PACE Students Participate in VIEW Program

PACE Monmouth students Sidharth Kapoor, Patricia Samuels and Michelle Wheeler recently participated in the Penn State Visit In Engineering Week (VIEW) program. VIEW is a summer engineering program for high school freshmen, sophomores and juniors. Participants get involved in hands-on design activities with emphasis in leadership qualities, interpersonal skills, and creative problem solving.

### PACE Monmouth Seeks New Volunteers

PACE-Monmouth is looking to grow its teaching staff and fill vacancies in key administrative functions. If you are a community member or workforce professional who is interested in giving of your time to today’s youth and helping us to create new technical leaders for tomorrow, you should consider volunteering. We are particularly interested in volunteers willing to help out in our math classes as well as to assist students with hands-on technical projects. To volunteer or inquire further, send email to [recruitment@pace-monmouth.org](mailto:recruitment@pace-monmouth.org).

# The V.I.E.W Program

By Michelle Wheeler

*Student*

The V.I.E.W. program is a program designed for high school freshman, sophomore and junior minorities who are interested in becoming engineers. The participants of this program recently got together and organized a class trip that focused on the value of teamwork. The goal of the day was to group together to construct a gravity car, which would have the ability to travel at least twelve feet, and present it to our families on the last day of the program.

The V.I.E.W. program took place at Penn State which gave me a great exposure to college life. There were many engineering students available to respond to our questions. The students explained to me that in order to become an engineer, you must be committed and be willing to work hard. They stated how difficult this area is. They also mentioned that they usually do not have time for extra curricular activities. In order to get accepted into Penn State's engineering program, one's SAT scores must be a minimum of five hundred points in math, with a range total of twelve hundred.

When I first heard about the engineering project, I thought it would be impossible to build a wooden car that would move by gravity. My group and I stayed in the lab for hours, thinking of a way to make this car move. We were the last ones in the lab and last to finish with everything. However, the hard work paid off. My team won first place in the gravity car competition.

In conclusion, the V.I.E.W. program was a great experience. I met new friends, learned to focus in a group environment, and was exposed to the engineering arena in a college setting. The V.I.E.W. program taught me a great deal about the value of teamwork. Our success as a team bolstered my confidence, increased my communication skills in a group atmosphere, increased my sense of trust in others, and taught me the importance of tenacity. I learned to never give up.

*Michelle Wheeler is a Junior at St. Rose H.S.*

## SENIOR LEGACY STATEMENTS

My fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country. JFK

*Brandon Batista*

The will to overcome challenge, the desire to excel, the urge to reach your fullest potential - these are the keys to unlock the doors of success. Reach for the stars.

*Christopher Findlayter*

If you think education is expensive, try ignorance.

*Janelle Harrell*

Don't be a thermometer, idly reflecting the temperature. Be a thermostat - make an impact, change the temperature, and you will go far, and that is a fact. Don't hold back because you might regret it. You've got nothing to lose, so step up and don't look back because everyone's hindsight is 20/20.

*Timothy Lee*

Gloria Steinem once said, "The future depends entirely on what each of us does every day ... a movement is only people moving." She was referring to the Women's Rights Movement, however it is still valid to this day. I feel that everyone can relate and assimilate this into their current life or situation. If we each as a person feel like doing something, changing something, or just making a difference, it is our responsibility to do all we can do and not give up until we finish what we set out to do.

*Alexander Merced*

If you create an act, you create a habit. If you create a habit, you create a character. If you create a character, you create a destiny.

*Keosha Pointer*

Find something deep inside yourself that you love. Guide it, shape it, mold it, then run with it to the highest place that you can take it. And on that journey, cradle the "thing you love", whether it be a talent or a dream; hold onto it strongly and never let anyone take it away from you.

*Sabrina Rencher*

Work joyfully, and peacefully, knowing that right thoughts and right efforts will inevitably bring about right results.

James Allen

*Erica Ricks*

# Banquet Awards

## CLASS AWARDS

	MOST OUTSTANDING	MOST IMPROVED
Algebra I	Greg Etienne	None
Geometry	Grace Lee	Jonathan Peña
Algebra II	Vanessa Kelly, Wariz Anifowoshe	None
Pre-Calculus	Sidharth Kapoor	None
Calculus	Sabrina Rencher	Timothy Lee
Intro to Engineering	Natividad Olivera, Raquel Smith, Greg Etienne, Vanessa Kelly	Jeff Louisius
Electrical Eng.	Grace Lee, Josué Martinez	None
Computer Science	Edgar Etienne	Nasikar Lezeau
Senior Eng. & Leadership Dev't	Janelle Harrell	Erica Ricks

## BRIDGE BUILDING AWARDS

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Jeff Louisius
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Christine Wallen
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Raquel Smith

## LEADERSHIP AWARDS

STUDENT-RUN EYE-OPENERS	
Fall Eye-Opener	Jonathan Edwards, Kyla Harrell, Brittany Leonard
February Eye-Opener	Christine Wallen, Christina Ladouceur, Patricia Samuels, Michelle Wheeler, Janelle Harrell, Geonna Morrison
Student Take-Over Day Eye-Opener	Wariz Anifowoshe, Simone Perry
EVENTS	
Banquet (Student MCs)	Alexander Merced, Sabrina Rencher
Student-Run Event (Event Coordinator)	Jonathan Edwards
Kwanzaa (Student MCs)	Jonathan Edwards, Geonna Morrison
PARTICIPATION	
Class Instructor (Student)	Brandon Batista
All-Around Leadership	Jonathan Edwards

## STUDENT CHOICE AWARDS

Most Involved Student	Jonathan Edwards
Favorite Staff Member	Uneeda Williams

## ATTENDANCE AWARDS

Perfect Attendance	Edward Areus, Greg Etienne, Christine Wallen
Exemplary Attendance - Absent only Once	Jonathan Edwards, Jeff Louisius, Natividad Olivera
Exemplary Attendance - Absent only Twice	Edgar Etienne, Vanessa Kelly, Nasikar Lezeau, Jonathan Peña, Raquel Smith



Graduates: Front (L-R) Sabrina Rencher, Janelle Harrell, Erica Ricks. Back: (L-R) Alexander Merced, Timothy Lee, Christopher Findlayter, Brandon Batista. Not pictured: Keosha Pointer



Alumni Speaker Orville Murray



Jamilla C. Joseph provides entertainment



Favorite Staff Member, Uneeda Williams & 2004 Graduate, Sabrina Rencher

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Banquet MCs, Sabrina Rencher & Alex Merced

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Most Involved Student, Jonathan Edwards

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Eye Opener Award Recipients. Back (L-R): Patricia Samuels, Jonathan Edwards, Michelle Wheeler, Janelle Harrell. Front (L-R): Brittany Leonard, Christina Ladouceur, Christine Wallen

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Bridge Contest Participants (L-R): Mike Perry (Instructor), Christopher Reeves, Greg Etienne, Raquel Smith, Vanessa Kelly, Natividad Olivera, Christine Wallen, Jeffrey Louisius, Uneeda Williams (Instructor)

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PACE Staff, Students and family members

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PACE Parent Volunteers

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PACE-Monmouth P.O. Box 493 Lincroft, NJ 07738 <a href="http://www.pace-monmouth.org">www.pace-monmouth.org</a>	
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