
PACE IS...

Program for Acceleration in Careers of Engineering

Summer 2001



Students Experimenting at the Princeton Plasma Physics Lab: (l to r) Kaieta Farley, Lab Guide, Charlise Celestine, Sabrina Rencher, Janelle Harrell.

2000-2001: Year in Review

This summer 2001 issue of PACE IS is primarily a review of PACE – Monmouth’s 19th year. As we look forward to our 20th anniversary in 2002, we take a look back on 2000-2001.

Kimberly Johnson reports on the Thinkathon, a fall student competition that tests logical thinking and common knowledge. It’s on page 2.

Brennan Williams writes about the spring college tour to schools in Maryland, Washington D.C. and Virginia. See page 3.

Look inside for more stories and pictures from the past year. ↗

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The Digital Divide

By John M. Jones

Staff

Some of you may have heard the phrase “The Digital Divide”. Initially, this expression referred to the gap between the technological *Haves* and *Have Nots* – those who have access to computers, either at home or in school, and those who do not. Today, however, the computer access gap has narrowed and educators are looking under the surface at issues such as who’s actually using those computers and for what. These observations have led to the belief that there is a *new* Digital Divide that warrants concern.

The New Digital Divide

Research into the new digital divide reveals alarming concerns such as:

- Although low-income, minority students have greater access to computers, many use these merely to play games or chat / e-mail rather than to do research for assignments, perform scientific or mathematical analysis, or create complex, multi-media reports and presentations for school
- Many young women still tend to shy away from technology courses, feeling intimidated by male-dominated classes or being steered away by well-meaning family members or teachers still wedded to traditional views on what careers women should pursue
- Some teachers view computer and internet use as a means of reward rather than a standard learning tool no different from a textbook, pencil, or calculator. As such, they have not taken the opportunity to fully integrate computer use into the classroom

The challenge in overcoming this new digital divide lies in deciding how to effectively use computing resources to maximize learning.

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Message from the Administrator

To the PACE-Monmouth Family,

Here we are at the end of another PACE year. I feel great about the accomplishments and successes of this past year, and hope that you feel the same. Here are some highlights:

- We continued to challenge our students to open and expand their minds through each of the classes offered as well as the variety of eye openers, competitions and learning activities
- A lot of new staff joined our team in September and have remained excited about the opportunities to mentor and instruct our students
- Trips to the Smithsonian Institute and Princeton Plasma Physics lab provided out-of-class learning experiences for all
- We got a chance to spend time with the students and staff of the Newark and Central Jersey PACE branches, both at the September PACE Youth Development Conference as well as the May trip to the Penn Relays
- With the help of the PACE parents, our events went off successfully, including the Kwanzaa celebration, Graduation/Awards Banquet, and College Tour to schools in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington D.C.
- We culminated the year by celebrating our eight graduates who are moving on to the next stage of their academic careers. Journalist and Motivational Speaker Tony Brown reminded us all of the need to lift up others in our community and to support grass-roots programs such as PACE

At the start of this PACE year, and throughout, I challenged all of our PACE students to pick up the leadership mantle and find ways in which to develop and practice leadership skills. I ask you: did you do so? If you did, I congratulate you on seizing the opportunity to grow through experience. If you didn't, what's holding you back? *Self-confidence?* – by taking small leadership challenges and gaining successes, your confidence will grow. Start small by looking for low-risk opportunities to develop your leadership skills. *Concern about what your peers will say if you stick your neck out to demonstrate a take-charge attitude?* – well, don't let the shortcomings and insecurities of others hold YOU back from challenging yourself to reveal the greatness inside of you. *You know you have it in you, now let others see for themselves.*

To the parents and staff in our PACE Monmouth Family I want to thank you for all your efforts to make this past year successful. Whatever your part, great or small, each contribution helps us to deliver value to our students and to become stronger. Please challenge your friends, family members and associates to get involved with PACE or some other volunteer community organization. If **we're** not helping ourselves, why would anyone else? You don't have to teach in a classroom to make a difference. There's much to be done.

To our students, I hope you made at least one new friend and I hope you also struck up a mentoring relationship with at least one staff member. Remember that we give of our time because we care about you, both individually and collectively. We want to assist and guide you just as others did for us. As Yolanda Adams says in her song, *What about the Children?*

"For if not for those who loved us and they cared enough to show us, where would we be today?"

I wish each of you a *great summer* and look forward to seeing you in September!

John M. Jones

2000-2001 PACE-Monmouth Administrator

The PACE Thinkathon

By **Kimberly Johnson**

Student

On Saturday, October 28, 2000, the PACE Monmouth family participated in the annual Thinkathon games. These series of mind challenging games have proven to be successful year after year. While intending to promote mind stimulating fun and entertainment, the Thinkathon also encourages teamwork and communication skills.

PACE students were urged to come in early on the Saturday of the event so that each person could be assigned to one of six teams. Teams were comprised of five or six members ranging from the ninth to the twelfth grade. Six seniors were chosen to be coaches for each of the teams. The coach acted as the team organizer by leading his or her team to each game room and making sure all necessary score papers were signed by the game facilitators. Each team went into a different room where they completed timed, mind challenging problems, games, and puzzles. Points were awarded according to the number of correct problems solved. The team with the most points at the end of all the events won the Thinkathon. The members of the winning team were Fidel Fuentes (coach) Charlsie Celestine, Sabrina Rencher, George Fears, and Randall Blackman. The members of the winning team were handsomely rewarded with Lucent Technologies mugs. This was the first year that prizes were distributed to the winners of the competition.

While some might have considered this a day of competition, many saw the Thinkathon as an opportunity to get acquainted with one another. Students of different ages worked collaboratively and got to know more about each other. Senior Engineering Instructor, Trevlin Blackman commented "It was nice to see all the students communicating with each other and working together as a team."

This event, once again, has proven to be a great success as well as a bonding period between students and the staff, making PACE Monmouth more of a family. There is no doubt in my mind that this event will be just as enjoyable and successful in the future. ☺

Kimberly Johnson graduated from PACE in May and will be attending Rutgers University in the fall.

Thank You to Our Sponsors!

The PACE program would like to thank the following organizations for their support during the 2000-2001 year:

- *AT&T Cares Foundation*
- *Black United Fund of New Jersey*
- *Brookdale Community College*
- *Hewlett-Packard*
- *Lucent Cares Foundation*
- *National Starch & Chemical Foundation*

Essay: What Hispanic Heritage Month Means to Me

By Joanna Aiken

Student

This essay, reprinted here, won first prize in the Prudential Hispanic History Month essay contest last October. The contest was open to all high school juniors and seniors throughout New Jersey.

Hispanic Heritage Month is a month that celebrates our nation's diversity. It is a month to recognize and make known the contributions Latinos have made in our society. It is a month to educate, encourage, and support young Hispanic Americans by revealing to them their heritage and informing them that there were Hispanic people before them who made a difference. This month gives them a chance to follow that lead and do the same.

Hispanic Heritage Month is not only for Latinos, it is for all Americans. I myself am an African-American teenager. Being a person of color, it is easy for me to identify with the needs of our cultural community. If not for Hispanic Heritage Month, how would the general non-Latino public truly understand the rich heritage of Hispanics unless they live in Latino culture or ask the right questions? Most Americans know very little about their Latino neighbors' culture and history. I believe in order to eliminate ignorance in our society, special programs like Hispanic Heritage Month, American Indian Month, and Black History Month are essential to starting the process of valuing cultures other than our own.

Hispanic Heritage Month teaches about many events and people that most wouldn't recognize otherwise. Take, for example, Antonia Novello, Desi Arnaz, and Sandra Cisneros. How many people know that Antonia Novello was the first woman, first Hispanic, and first Puerto Rican Surgeon General of the United States? She led major attacks on the tobacco and liquor industries and fought against inadequate Hispanic healthcare. Most Americans do know who Desi Arnaz was, but what they don't know was that he, along with Xavier Cugat were the first to introduce the African-Cuban conga beats to Hollywood and mainstream American television. His band in the 1930's led to the conga music craze of their time and even opened the door for Latino music in America today. Desi Arnaz was one of the first Hispanics to have a production company, along with his wife Lucille Ball, called DesiLu Productions. They produced four different television shows, including I Love Lucy, which was the first TV show in history

to reach 10 million homes. And how many people know Sandra Cisneros? She was a writer and poet, who later became an activist. Sandra Cisneros wrote short stories and novels such as *The House on Mango Street*. Her works addressed many issues associated with minorities and gave an outlook that revealed feelings unique to Hispanic women. There are so many more Hispanic people who have contributed to our society who, through Hispanic Heritage Month, are being acknowledged.

What Hispanic Heritage Month means to me is recognizing and celebrating the contributions that Hispanics have made for society. Latinos will soon be the largest single minority in the United States. They have enriched the quality and diversity of our culture. I believe we must make known their efforts and accept it as part of our culture.

Joanna Aiken graduated from PACE in May and will be attending Seton Hall University in the fall.

Reflections on the Spring College Tour

By Brennan Williams

Student

This year's college tour got off to a bumpy start when we had to ride back to the bus depot to switch to a larger bus, but in the end the slight delay was all worth it! While we were away for four days we participated in various activities ranging from visiting colleges to meeting new people.

Four great schools we visited were Howard, Morgan, Hampton, and Norfolk Universities. Each college gave us information about what are the requirements in order to attend that school. While we were visiting each college we went on campus tours during which we found out more about each school, such as the student-to-teacher ratio. Aside from visiting colleges we did a lot of fun activities such as visiting the Great Blacks in Wax museum, shopping at the Baltimore Inner Harbor, and going bowling.

The highlight for me during this year's PACE college tour was finding out that there are a lot of scholarships and financial aid help out there to go to college. I also learned that student-to-teacher ratio is a very important factor in choosing a college. Although the bus was crowded at times, and the bus rides seemed a little long, this year's PACE college tour was full of helpful information and we got to have fun at the same time that we were learning. ✍

Brennan Williams will be a junior at Red Bank Regional High School this fall.

What Should the Digital Divide Mean to You?

PACE students, fortunately, should view themselves as better off than many others. Not only do PACE students learn how to make computers “do what you want” through programming and use of web-based technologies, they receive such training from experts working in technology fields. The challenge for the PACE student, therefore, is to take full advantage of these learning opportunities as well as the tools available at home, in school, and at PACE, in order to make himself or herself as technologically competitive as possible. Some possibilities include:

- Use of your home or school PC to create multi-media reports containing text, graphics, sound, and animation, that will truly impress your teachers
- Use of e-mail, instant-messaging, or chat to communicate with teachers, mentors and researchers throughout the country
- Taking advantage of the web to research college and scholarship opportunities, or to make use of online test taking tools to help prepare for SATs, ACTs, AP exams, etc.
- Developing website design skills for personal enjoyment, to show off skills to college recruiters, or to make money designing websites for businesses
- Becoming familiar with data management tools (e.g. files and folders, spreadsheets, databases, etc.) to store research for class projects, job-related assignments, or personal hobbies
- Taking a web-based programming class (for example - Java, HTML, or ASPs / JSPs) to enhance your job and career opportunities
- When on trips to the mall, consider perusing the shelves of the local computer store for software packages or PC accessories that will help you reach your scholastic, career, or personal goals.

Where Does PACE Fit In?

PACE instructors should challenge themselves to find new ways to bring use of technology and computing into their classrooms in order to help students visualize concepts, learn how to perform online research, and gain new technical skills. There are a number of websites available that contain project listings as well as ideas shared by teachers from across the country. Some of these can be accessed via the "Teaching Resources" page available at the PACE-Monmouth website

(<http://www.pace-monmouth.org>) located under “Staff Services”. PACE instructors might also encourage student use of the web by making assignments available via the PACE website as well as highlighting web-based resources that relate to in-class activities. Finally, e-mail-based mentoring (sometimes referred to as e-mentoring) could leverage use of the Internet to supplement the personal contact at PACE. In addition to e-mail or instant messaging exchanges, instructors could forward digital newsletters and other information received from mailing lists that might relate to student career interests.

Summary

Closing the Digital Divide *should matter to us all*. The world of the new millennium is a technological one. Young people coming up in this world must become technologically savvy; no matter what career they choose to pursue. The alternative is to be left behind and considered technologically inept. *☺*

This article highlights several concerns raised in the Technology Counts 2001 issue of Education Week, May 2001. More information on efforts related to closing the Digital Divide can be found at:

<http://digitaldividenetwork.org/> and

<http://www.edweek.org/sreports/tc01/>

PACE students can find website listings for homework help, SAT preparation, college and scholarship research, and more by visiting the “Student Services” page at <http://www.pace-monmouth.org>

John Jones is a PACE-Monmouth Co-Administrator.

FACTS AND FIGURES

In researching information for its *Technology Counts 2001* magazine issue, **Education Week** found that:

- The gap in ratio of students to computers in low-income school districts has significantly narrowed – 5.3 students per computer, as compared to 4.9 for the national average. In New Jersey, the average number of students per instructional computer is 4.6
- The number of women obtaining undergraduate degrees in computer science dropped to 27% in 1998 as compared to 37% in 1984
- In New Jersey, 98% of the state’s schools and 72% of its classrooms have access to the Internet; 80% of New Jersey schools have their own Web sites and 83% of the state’s teachers have e-mail addresses
- In an Education Week / MDR / Harris Interactive poll of students, 88% viewed knowing how to use a computer as important *when you are older and get a job*, but only 40% viewed computers as *important to how well you do in school*

Scenes From 2000-2001



Fall 2000 Thinkathon Champions: (l to r) Randall Blackman, George Fears, Fidel Fuentes (coach), Charlsie Celestine, Sabrina Rencher.



Spring College Tour: (l to r) Chris Ballard, Sharif Gratz, William Portee, Brennan Williams, Joe O'Hearn, Markenya Brown, Gloria Manu-Anno, Charlsie Celestine.



Spring College Tour – Group Picture



Princeton Plasma Physics Lab Trip: Mario Rojas



Kwanzaa – Reading of the Principals: (l-r) Dayon Saunders, Kyla Harrell, Jacobi Mack, Mark Walker



Spring 2001 Math Bowl Champions: (front, l to r) Courtney Pinnock (staff coach), Jessica Napoleon, Dayon Saunders, Onan Rivas. Not shown: Natasha Nelson.

BANQUET AWARDS

CLASS AWARDS

| | MOST OUTSTANDING | MOST IMPROVED |
|--------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ALGEBRA I | Angela Ogunsuyi | Brennan Williams |
| GEOMETRY | Renaldo Sears, Jr. | Jacobi Mack |
| ALGEBRA II | Leah Greene | Charlsie Celestine |
| PRECALCULUS | Gloria Manu-Anno | Alicia Jackson |
| CALCULUS | Jessica Napoleon | Tiffany Johnson |
| INTRO TO ENG | Charlsie Celestine | Angela Ogunsuyi William Portee |
| ELEC ENG | Renaldo Sears, Jr. | Monet Williams |
| COMP SCI | Jose Fuentes Gloria Manu-Anno | Shatiera Portee |
| SENIOR ENG | Kimberly Johnson | Eric Majette, Jr. |

BRIDGE BUILDING AWARDS

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1 st | Charlsie Celestine |
| 2 nd | Brennan Williams |
| 3 rd | William Portee |

ESSAY CONTEST AWARDS

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| WINNER | Joanna Aiken |
| PARTICIPATION PRIZES | Angela Ogunsuyi Brennan Williams Jacobi Mack |

STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARDS

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| STUDENT-RUN EYE-OPENERS | Charlsie Celestine, Jose Fuentes, Kimberly Johnson, Eric Majette, Gloria Manu-Anno |
| LEADERSHIP ROLE AT AN EVENT | Leah Greene, Sean Harris, Eric Majette, Jr. |

STUDENT CHOICE AWARDS

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| STUDENT OF THE YEAR | Eric Majette, Jr. |
| PARENT OF THE YEAR | Phyllis Mack |
| MOST INVOLVED PARENT | Lorraine Fisher |
| STAFF MEMBER OF THE YEAR | Uneeda Williams |

Students Honored at Annual Banquet

Saturday, May 19, 2001 at Lane Hall on Fort Monmouth was the setting for this year's PACE – Monmouth graduation and awards banquet.

This year's banquet featured two speakers: PACE alumna Karen Mitchell from the class of 1985 and inspirational speaker Tony Brown. Known for his PBS television show, *Tony Brown's Journal*, Tony Brown is also an author, film director, and educator.

Entertainment was provided by Thomasina Savage, who sang several songs, and PACE student Ajja Walker who recited a poem by an anonymous author.

Eighteen different students, one staff, and two parents were recognized with awards. Awards for Most Outstanding Student and Most Improved Student were awarded for five math classes and four engineering classes. Winners of class awards received plaques or trophies. A new Student Leadership award category was introduced. Mike Perry presented awards for the Introduction to Engineering Bridge Building contest. First place went to Charlsie Celestine who received \$50. Brennan Williams (\$30) and William Portee (\$20) were the second and third place finishers. Uneeda Williams presented awards for the Essay contest. Joanna Aiken won \$50 for first place. Angela Ogunsuyi, Brennan Williams, and Jacobi Mack received participation prizes.

Eric Majette, Jr. was voted Student of the Year by his fellow students. Other student choice awards went to Phyllis Mack as Parent of the Year, Lorraine Fisher as Most Involved Parent, and to Uneeda Williams as Staff Member of the Year.

(See the sidebar for a complete list of award winners.)

continued on next page

SENIOR DESTINATIONS

| PACE SCHOLAR | PLANS TO ATTEND | INTENDS TO STUDY |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Joanna Aiken | Seton Hall University | Undecided |
| Alicia Jackson | Brookdale Community College, then NYU | Pre-Law |
| Kimberly Johnson | Rutgers University | Pre-Medicine |
| Tiffany Johnson | Hampton University | Business Management and Marketing |
| Eric Majette, Jr. | Morehouse College | Computer Science |
| Tiffany Meredith | The College of New Jersey | Computer Science |
| Jessica Napoleon | Rowan University | Criminal Justice and Criminology |
| Rebecca Watson | Rutgers University | Undecided |

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The banquet concluded with the senior legacy ceremony. Each of the eight seniors, in turn, read their legacy statements (see sidebar) and lit the candle of the next senior. They finally passed the flame onto Angela Ogunsuyi and Jose Fuentes, who accepted the legacy flame on behalf of the junior class. ✍

Twenty Years Strong

The year 2001 – 2002 will be PACE's twentieth year. It will start with the PACE Youth Development Conference on September 8, 2001. The theme is "Reaching Even Higher Heights". The annual all-branches event will be hosted by PACE-Monmouth at Brookdale Community College where it all got started. Register for the conference at www.paceydc.org.

The PACE-Monmouth year starts with orientation on September 15, 2001. Classes begin the following week.

Leading PACE-Monmouth will be the newly elected Governing Body: John M. Jones and Dr. Deborah Harrell, Co-Administrators; Michael Chin, Treasurer; Mary Bass-Robertson, Secretary; Dorothy Bush, Events Coordinator; Mayra Caceres, Eye-Opener Coordinator; Michael Sligh, Math Coordinator; and Courtney Pinnock, Engineering Coordinator.

Learn more about PACE-Monmouth and what's in store for 2001-2002 at the PACE-Monmouth website: www.pace-monmouth.org. ✍

SENIOR LEGACY STATEMENTS

The real tragedy is the tragedy of a man who never in his life embraces himself for his one supreme effort - he never stretches to his full capacity, never stands up to his full stature. (Arnold Bennett)

Joanna Aiken

From what we get we can make a living. What we give, however, makes a life. (Arthur Ashe)

Alicia Jackson

Life is filled with all kinds of obstacles. Through them all, let God be the source of your strength.

Kimberly Johnson

God gave us the knowledge to grow and advance. I hope that every PACE student will continue to grow and advance in their life's endeavors.

Tiffany Monique Johnson

Leaders need followers, followers need leaders, but those who are independent need no one but God!

Eric Majette, Jr.

Education is your passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today.

Tiffany Meredith

No matter how bad life gets, it's always better to live your own rather than hide in the shadow of someone else.

Jessica A. Napoleon

To my fellow PACE students, I would like to leave you each with tenacity and perseverance. Sometimes your journey will get tough, but always remember there's something better at the end.

Rebecca Watson



PACE Seniors Prepare for the Legacy Ceremony: (l-r): Rebecca Watson, Tiffany Meredith, Joanna Aiken, Tiffany Johnson, Alicia Jackson, Jessica Napoleon, Eric Majette, Jr., Kimberly Johnson.



Dance Number at Kwanzaa Celebration: (l-r) Jacobi Mack, two friends, and Ajja Walker.

PACE – Monmouth Celebrates Kwanzaa

The annual PACE – Monmouth Kwanzaa celebration was held on December 9, 2000. Norm Nelson, a PACE parent, Eric Majette, a PACE senior, and Mercedes McElrath, a PACE alumna (class of 2000) served as MCs. Mr. Nelson read several original poems throughout the afternoon.

Students displayed their talents through a fashion show and dance number. Modeling traditional African attire in the fashion show were Kareem Brinson, Shaneale Brown, Charlsie

Celestine, Janelle Harrell, Sean Harris, Jacobi Mack, Gloria Manu-Anno, Natasha Nelson, Dayon Saunders, Ajja Walker, and Mark Walker. Ajja Walker, Jacobi Mack, and two of Jacobi’s schoolmates performed a dance number.

Students played leading roles throughout the celebration. In addition to modeling, dancing, and serving as MCs, they also read the Kwanzaa principals (Nguzo Saba). Doing so were Dayon Saunders, Kyla Harrell, Jacobi Mack, Mark Walker, Kimberly Johnson, Alicia Jackson, and Joanna Aiken. ✍

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|---|---|
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| Eye Opener Coordinator | Mayra Caceres |
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