



# News from The Wade Edwards Learning Lab

*a project of the Wade Edwards Foundation*

[www.wade.org](http://www.wade.org)

December 2010

Happy Holidays

## *Elizabeth Anania Edwards*

The staff, the Trustees, and the hundreds of students who have benefited from the services of the Wade Edwards Learning Lab mourn the loss of our mentor, our champion, and our founder, Elizabeth Edwards. The Learning Lab, established as a memorial for Wade Edwards in the 1990's, has been a force in our educational community that has leveled the playing field for students in need of tutoring, access to technology, and caring staff. We are grateful to the many donors who have made contributions in Elizabeth's memory. We join together in our grief and pledge to continue the legacy that Elizabeth and her family established.



## *Our Board of Trustees*

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*Treasurer*  
Maria Lynch

## **Board of Trustees Welcomes New Members**

In September, Trustees of the Wade Edwards Foundation added seven new members to the board. Among them are six who were friends of Wade Edwards while in high school. They bring to the organization not only their fond memories of Wade but also specific skills from their work and community involvement. We welcome them and look forward to a productive and fulfilling year in 2011.

*Jane Forde* is a history teacher at Broughton High School who is an integral part of the WELL's programs. Her Human Geography class participates in the Link 2 Learn program, and her English as a Second Language students often volunteer on WELL projects. She lives in Raleigh.

*Tyler Highsmith* does business development at Highsmith and Associates Insurance. He is currently enrolled in the Kenan Flagler School of Business, serves on the Raleigh Appearance Commission, and volunteers with Neighbor to Neighbor.

*Michael Lewis* works in Raleigh and volunteers in the local nonprofit Neighbor to Neighbor, a mentoring program that provides tutoring and other services and support. He and his wife are expecting a family addition in January.

*Settle Plyler* lives in Raleigh, is the mother of twin boys and a newborn, and she is a Spanish language dual immersion elementary school teacher.

*Ellis Roberts* graduated from Elon Law School in 2009 and lives in Charleston with his wife. He has worked on numerous political campaigns. He is very connected to Raleigh and envisions returning her in the future.

*Chas Scarantino* is a founder of Magnus Health Portal. Magnus produces an online student medical record that helps schools facilitate the management of student health information and provides students with online personal health records with 24/7 access.

*Peter VanGraafeiland* graduated from Elon in 2001 and received his MBA from Campbell University in 2005. He is the manager of business development at Coastal Federal Credit Union and has a background in corporate consumer finance. His wife is an economics professor at UNC-W.

## Meet the Staff

Ever wonder who's behind the scenes? Take a look at our staff bios and feel free to stop in a say "Hi"!

**Steven B. Killion, Ph.D** - Wade Edwards Learning Lab Director: Before joining the WELL in 1997, Steve served as assistant professor of English at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY. He has over a decade's experience in higher education and instructional technology. Steve received his undergraduate and graduate degrees in English from The University of North Carolina. As the director of the WELL, Steven develops educational programs and oversees program and building operations.

**Sarah Lowder** - Wade Edwards Foundation Director: Sarah is a seasoned nonprofit professional experienced in public and media relations, project management, resource development, and event planning. She worked for six years on capital and annual campaigns for the United Arts Council of Greensboro, was a program director at Wake Education Partnership, and served as the Executive Director of Kids Voting North Carolina/Wake County before joining the foundation in June 2000. She has a bachelor of arts in English from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and completed coursework for a master of arts in English at the University of North Carolina Hill; she also has a certificate from the Duke University Nonprofit Management Program

**Spencer Weeks-Jamieson** – Wade Edwards Learning Lab Assistant Director - Spencer's service at the WELL began in 2001 as a student volunteer. After graduating from Broughton High School in 2004 he joined the WELL's staff and worked in several roles (summer program assistant, lab assistant) over the years before filling the assistant director position. He currently oversees implementation of the WELL's directives and goals, manages staff, and interfaces with students. He also helps coordinate WELL programs including the Chess and Game Club and Film Friday.

**Tristan D. White** - WELL Lab Supervisor and Building Services Manager: Tristan specializes in digital media and serves as the lead instructor for "Hot Wired," a digital music course for high school students. In addition to lab supervision and programming, Tristan maintains the physical plant at the WELL and oversees security of the facility. He graduated from Chatham Central High School and has completed coursework at Wake Technical Community College. Tristan is a DJ and the founder of *Manifest Beats*, a music production enterprise.

**Jim Wallace** - WELL Lab Supervisor: Jim assists high school and adult clients with homework and technological challenges. He offers general program support by monitoring the lab and lobby areas. Jim is a student at North Carolina State University with special interest in biochemical engineering; he provides math and science tutoring for the WELL's student patrons.

## Meet the Staff (continued)

**Tom Edward Gill, III** - Wade Edwards Learning Lab Assistant: Tom monitors the lobby and computer lab areas along with his sister Bri and provides information about WELL programs. Tom is a senior at Broughton High School, where he serves as senior class president. While at Broughton, Tom has been the recipient of many honors and distinctions including Junior Class President, Honor Roll, and Governor's Page.

**Brianne Cherry Gill** - Wade Edwards Learning Lab Assistant: Brianne "Bri" helps to greet WELL patrons and assist students with their lab needs. She serves as president of the WELL's Student Advisory Board (SAB). Bri is a senior at Broughton High School, where she participates in the fashion club as a member of the school's modeling troupe. She enjoys community service activities and serving on her school's student council.

**Rachel Wright** - Wade Edwards Learning Lab Network Assistant: Rachel is the data entry clerk and web administrator at the WELL. She is a senior at Broughton High School, where she coordinates a step team. Rachel spent two years at Wakefield High School before she moved to Broughton High School. She also works part time at Circus Family Restaurant.

**Dakia Davis** - Wade Edwards Foundation Assistant: Dakia "Kia" Davis is a longtime friend of the WELL. She served in several roles (foundation and program assistant, volunteer, lab assistant, etc.) from 2000 to 2005 before going to UNC-G where she obtained a degree in social work. After graduation, Kia worked as coordinator for the Greensboro Hope Project, a youth gang prevention initiative, and served as a volunteer counselor for the Women's Resource Center of Greensboro. She returned to Raleigh this fall to work here until the new year, when she will head for Washington, D.C. to attend Howard University for a master's degree in social work. Kia coordinated WELL Forums and the Student Advisory Board and provides general foundation and program support.

**Jessi Rogers** - Wade Edwards Foundation Assistant: Jessi graduated from the University of North Carolina's Sociology and Latin American Studies programs in May 2010. As a Public Service Scholar at UNC, Jessi developed an interest in volunteer work. She chose the WELL to gain experience in the public sector and after working in the WELL's computer lab, she became a part-time foundation assistant in the summer of 2009. In addition to her part-time work at the WELL, Jessi often oversees a cuddly group of toddler-aged children at the Montessori School of Raleigh. Jessi spent time in Mexico from August to October pursuing her professional interests. In November, she returned a few hours a week to help out during a particularly busy time in the foundation office and continues to help out as the year comes to a close.

### Wednesday Forums Continue to Draw Students

This year, the WELL's Forums are held on Wednesdays at 3:15, right after school ends. We present community members who are role models for young people who explain how they reached their professional goals and what students can do while in school to improve their chances of success in the real world. Speakers share with students information that will tie classroom learning to real world experiences; sometimes our speakers talk specifically about careers, sometimes about topical issues that interest teens. We are fortunate to have many community and business leaders who contribute their time, knowledge, and expertise. Free pizza is provided to participants at the end of each forum.

Our **2010 forums**: Vanessa Budnick of the Wake County SPCA; Larry Larson, founder of Larry's Beans; Gerald Owens of WRAL; Melinda Campbell, Meredith College Basketball Coach; Raleigh Denim owners, Victor and Sarah Lytvinenko; College and Financial Aid with Sarita Broadway, Kevi Dixon, and Danny Bland; Quintin Murphy, Social Justice Community Organizer at South East Raleigh Assembly; Terri Dollar, Artspllosure Program Director; Alexandra Sokoloff, Supernatural Thriller Author; Summer Bicknell, Owner of Locopops; Brian Castelli, an Engineer with EMC Corporation; and Lessons From Vietnam with Ken Cory of Remember Vietnam.

### Enhanced Academic Focus to Begin in January

Beginning January 4, 2011, the WELL will implement some changes regarding student participation in the academic and extracurricular services of the Learning Lab. To create a more "productive, academic environment," students will be asked to create a personalized agenda and actively participate in a program while at the facility.

As part of its academic focus, the WELL offers short-term and intensive tutoring to students as well as homework management guidance. Volunteers from NC Teaching fellows and Broughton Honor Society are available in a variety of subjects. Tutoring activities are currently coordinated by Winifred Cherry, Ph.D. Her 30-year background in education includes teaching English and Latin at Broughton High School. To arrange a tutor, contact her at 919-856-9355 or [wcherry@wade.org](mailto:wcherry@wade.org).

NovaNet software continues to be available at the WELL for use by students and teachers. NovaNet is a comprehensive credit recovery system with interactive online lessons that act as a personal tutor for each student at all different levels. Middle and high school curriculum is available in science, English, math, social studies, and other areas.

*Below:* Jane Forde and her Broughton classes have worked for several years with [Link 2 Learn](#) project manager Karen Noon to teach Raleigh Housing Authority residents to use various computer applications. Pictured are student Stephanie and Carriage House resident Eileen.



Many thanks to Time Warner Cable for sponsoring the popular [Link 2 Learn](#) program.

## Short Fiction Awards

Dr. Steven Killion presented the Short Fiction Awards on October 23<sup>rd</sup> at an awards event at the NC English Teachers Association conference at Wake Forest University. Scholarships and a gift to the first place winner's English Department brought the total amount of recipient prizes to \$10,000. First place (\$5,000) winner **Sarah Stidham**, a student at Broughton High School in Raleigh, submitted *Be Somebody*. Sarah's teacher is Babs Nichols, and her parents are Anna and Fil Stidham. Her school's English Department will also receive \$2,000. Austin Halbert, who attends Cleveland County's Crest High School, won second place (\$2,000) with *Locked Up*. His parents are Buddy and Heather Halbert, and his teacher is David Putnam. *The Visitor* brought a third place (\$1,000) win to Sarah Peters, who is a student of Broughton's Sharon Winzeler and the daughter of Glen and Lynne Peters.

Entries are now being accepted for the **2011 Wade Edwards Short Fiction Award**. The award is given annually to three North Carolina high school juniors who submit the most outstanding original short fiction. The competition, administered and supported by the North Carolina English Teachers Association and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and sponsored by the Wade Edwards Foundation, rewards excellence in creative writing and encourages the contemplation of virtues associated with Wade Edwards: humility, strength of convictions, loyalty, honor, charity, determination, the value of family, and the obligations of friendship and community. Entries must be typed and may vary from 500-10,000 words of original short fiction. More information is available at: [wadeedwardsaward@ncenglishteacher.org](mailto:wadeedwardsaward@ncenglishteacher.org).

## Hot Wired Brings Music to the WELL

Tristan White has launched *Hot Wired* for students interested in music production. Students collaborate with peers to create studio-quality tracks. For more information, contact Tristan at [twhite@wade.org](mailto:twhite@wade.org).

## Student Advisory Board Update

NC State Student and Volunteer Eric Evans and the Student Advisory Board (SAB) have accomplished great things year. They hosted a fall-themed game night at Glenwood Towers and are currently planning an outreach event in collaboration with WELL partner Haven House. To join this outstanding group of young people, contact Eric at [Ericevans17@hotmail.com](mailto:Ericevans17@hotmail.com).

## Fun and Innovative Programs!

Check out our [program list](#) for new and ongoing activities. Link to a printable list at:

<http://wade.org/WELLPrograms.pdf>



A sunny fall day on the WELL's front steps: Former WELL student Alyssia Hammond joins Philo Watezua, Dakia Davis, and Rachel Wright.

## We need stuff you don't want! Check out our wish list:

*Electronics:* scanner, digital video recorder, flat screen monitors, computer keyboards, electronic white board, laptop computers, Neat Receipts scanner, software licenses (Dreamweaver, Publisher)  
*Office supplies:* 8.5 x 11 manila folders, hanging file folders, pens, pencils, paper clips, erasers, tape, rulers, Avery labels, legal pads, presentation folders, 1 & 2 inch notebooks, letter folding machine  
*Ad specialty items:* lanyards, book bags, pens, magnets  
*Furniture:* desk and study hall chairs (blue, black, gray), conference room table and chairs, portable display easel  
*Miscellaneous:* Gift certificate1s and event/movie tickets for student incentives, refrigerator (small or large), printing/copying, pizza and catering, trash cans, stamps

## John Rex Endowment Funds Assessment

A generous grant from the John Rex Endowment will enable the WELL and foundation staff and Trustees to assess organizational structure and programs. Consultant Maggie Clay Love will work with us during the first quarter of 2011 to assess activities and client satisfaction to ensure we are providing mission-related programs with the best outcomes possible. The partnership with the John Rex Endowment provides a wonderful opportunity to evaluate overall effectiveness and determine how we can build on existing strengths and correct any deficits, thus reenergizing our existing organization and programs.

The Endowment also provided a grant designated to professional staff development in 2011.

Pledge to support support activities that encourage all students to strive for excellence!

Cash Donation (please make checks payable to the Wade Edwards Foundation):

I/we pledge to support the Wade Edwards Foundation in 2010 (payable by December 31, 2010)
I/we would like to make a multi-year pledge for 2010 2011 2012 2013

Pledge amount: \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 \$2,500 \$5,000 Other \$

Total pledge \$

Amount enclosed \$

Balance due \$

I will pay this pledge in: Month Please bill as follows:

A matching gift form is enclosed or will be forwarded from

I will pay this pledge in stocks or securities (we have an account with Morgan Keegan for your convenience)

This contribution is a personal gift corporate gift.

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Three horizontal lines for providing name and address for 'in honor of' contribution.

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Three horizontal lines for providing name and address for 'in memory of' contribution.

In-kind Contributions:

Provide an in-kind donation of equipment. (If you have computer equipment, please contact us first.)

Please list item(s) and description:

Name

Company (if applicable)

Address, City, Zip

Day Phone Evening Phone

Fax E-mail Web site

Signature (required)

Please list contributor(s) as follows:

Mail to: Sarah Lowder, Wade Edwards Foundation, 714 St. Mary's St., Raleigh, NC 27605
Phone and fax: 919/856-9233 slowder@wade.org

Or donate here: http://wade.org/donate.htm

The Wade Edwards Foundation welcomes your assistance. The Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization; contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Tax ID # is 56-1970957.

## Contact the Staff

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Dakia Davis/Jessi Rogers, [foundation@wade.org](mailto:foundation@wade.org) , 856-9355, ext. 2

### Wade Edwards Learning Lab at Goldsboro High School

Junius Shealy, [juniusshealy@wcps.org](mailto:juniusshealy@wcps.org), 919-580-3600

#### Visit us:

<http://wade.org/directions.htm>

Call 856-9355, ext. 3 for directions

Just across the street from Broughton High School

Near the corner of Peace St. and St. Mary's St.

Brick building, small blue awning

Parking is available on the street or behind the building

Have ideas for a future newsletter? Email the editor at [slowder@wade.org](mailto:slowder@wade.org) .

Thanks to Kia Davis and Jessi Rogers for their creative technical assistance in creating this one!

[www.wade.org](http://www.wade.org)

<http://wade.org/WELLPrograms.pdf>

**The Wade Edwards Foundation is dedicated to  
motivating, serving, and rewarding our young people.**

**Please let us know if you receive duplicate mailings.**

Wade Edwards Learning Lab

Wade Edwards Foundation

714 Saint Mary's Street

Raleigh, North Carolina 27605

Your **tax-deductible contribution** will help us ring in the New Year with confidence and ensure our ability to continue to provide quality programs for high school students, parents, and teachers as well as the general Wake County community.

