



## News from The Wade Edwards Learning Lab

*a project of the Wade Edwards Foundation*

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

December 2009

Happy Holidays

### Volunteer Profile: Man on a Mission

by Katherine Messenger

Joe Mabiala speaks quietly to one of his students, and in an instant she is laughing and nodding her head. He moves on to the next student, praising him for the unique way he found to display his spreadsheet information, shares a joke, then moves on down the row. The computer lab at the Wade Edwards Learning Lab (WELL) is full of hardworking men and women, all eager to learn MS Office software from a master of the trade. They are enrolled in a series of computer training classes, provided through the International Free Computer Training and Charitable Center (IFCTCC), led by Joe Mabiala, initially supported by Edenton Street United Methodist Church and now by the Wade Edwards Foundation. The Foundation provides computers and space in the WELL as in-kind support, and Joe offers his services gratis to any one who is interested. The classes are filled each session with a variety of people, including some who are interested in furthering their careers and others who want to keep their skills sharp. The WELL is a great facility for Joe's efforts – centrally located with the latest technology and equipment. The ten-week classes are held in the evenings, perfect for those working during the day and/or those that can trade off with another family member for childcare.



Joe pauses in front of the WELL before class begins. Contact him at 919-881-9020 or [jmabiala2001@yahoo.com](mailto:jmabiala2001@yahoo.com).

A native of Central Africa, Joe is fluent in four languages. Having lived in the United States for fifteen years, his English is flavored with hints of French and Swahili along with a Southern twang. With his laid-back demeanor and vast knowledge of computers and software, Joe makes the material easy to understand and very applicable to real-life business situations. Joe's teaching style is relaxed, and he offers praise, advice and gentle reminders while delivering the information in a deliberate, concise format.

One of his fifteen students this session, Valecia Scott, is hard at work on an Excel spreadsheet. She discovered Joe's class through a flyer at the public library. She wants to start a home business, and this class will help her reach her goals. "I've learned a lot in this class in a relatively short period of time," Valecia explains. "Joe is a great teacher, and I will definitely sign up for the next level."

Joe has come a long way since his early days in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The fifth of seven children, a group of Methodist Missionaries selected him for mentoring at a young age. They sponsored him to attend elementary and secondary school and even college. Just weeks from completing his degree, however, civil war broke out in his country. The missionaries and the United States Consulate gave him safe passage to the United States. He was able to transfer most of his credit hours to the Methodist College in Fayetteville, where he completed his degree in criminal justice and pre-law. Joe hopes to attend law school in the near future.

After arriving in Raleigh, Joe sought employment through Manpower and was placed at Nortel where he learned a variety of skills. He was particularly adept with computers. His strong work ethic and personal philosophy helped him grow from a part-time forklift driver to a full-time customer service analyst. Joe settled in Raleigh, where is also busy with his three young daughters – a ten year old and twin nine-year-olds.

Joe's interest in offering free computer training stems from his wish to give back to his community. He is grateful for the opportunities provided him, and it is his wish to help others as a way to "repay" the people that provided for his education and journey to America.

*(continued)*

## Joe Mabiala (continued)

“God gives you blessings and you do not know why,” he says. “You should use these blessings to empower someone else.” He credits God with his good fortunes and with leading the way to help others. “God even showed me how to give back,” he explains. “I had a dream in which I saw a big building filled with computers and knew that teaching others what I have learned was the next course for my life.” Through his computer courses, he reaches out to people who are less fortunate – “for example, those who, like me, are from another country but may not have the resources that I had or can’t afford the education right now. I can help them learn skills that will qualify them to get a better job and be productive citizens.”

Joe distributes flyers about the courses on cars in parking lots, at the library, and through the PTA of Wake County Schools. The students in attendance tonight are here to learn the basics. Joe has divided the class into two groups - beginner and advanced - and gives an assignment to all based on real information the class has provided – address book information, class rosters, client lists, etc. He answers questions as the students delve into the work. There are no lectures or made-up examples. Joe provides real, hands-on experience, tailored to each person’s needs. He is quiet yet bursting with happiness and gratitude, eager to teach and reach out to others. He regales his students with tales of Africa and intersperses his lessons with hilarious jokes and colloquialisms. Throughout the evening, there is much laughter, the quiet clack-clacking of computer keys and exclamations of, “Oh! Now I get it!” Joe offers lessons on all the packages under the Microsoft Office umbrella, as well as web design and other skills the students request.

After God, family and work, Joe’s passion is singing. In fact, his musical interest at Edenton Street Methodist Church led him to the WELL. One of his first friends at the church and his choir buddy, Ellan Maynard, is on the foundation’s board of trustees. When Joe had the idea for the computer class, he talked it over with Ellan. They presented the idea to the Mission Committee, whose members gave him the green light and a place to offer his first classes. Later, Ellan introduced Joe to Sarah Lowder, and they in turn struck up a friendship and a business agreement. Joe moved his classes to the WELL and was able to increase his class sizes and broaden the scope of his lessons.

Sarah Lowder, director of the Wade Edwards Foundation, notes that Joe has recruited numerous other volunteers over the years, in particular Jim Russell, to help teach the IFCTCC classes. She remarked that Joe and Jim are two of the most dedicated and resourceful volunteers she has met in any setting during her career.

## Joe Mabiala (continued)

On this particular night, Joe and his students worked a little on lessons, then had a group discussion about translators, green cards, ESL classes, and where to get the best sandwiches in Raleigh. It was a lively, informative conversation, led by Joe, who engaged everyone with his quick wit and contagious smile. Then the group got back to business, working on spreadsheets into the night. The classes seem to offer many things to many people – computer basics, real world information that can be indispensable to some of the attendees, and fun stuff, delivered “Joe” style.

“I’m thankful,” Joe says with an easy smile. “Through God’s grace, I am here in the U.S. meeting good people, experiencing things I never knew possible. I am truly blessed.”

Joe hopes to help many people through his classes, and computer skills are only a part of how he helps others. He takes the time to care about his students and makes a difference in each person’s life. The WELL and its staff and volunteers are fortunate to be a part of Joe’s dream.

*Many thanks to volunteer Katherine Messenger for her superb interviewing and writing skills!*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Sunday Afternoon Yoga Class

In 2010, the WELL will continue to host yoga classes in the downstairs study hall starting at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoons. Dr. Steven Landau, M.D., RYT, oversees the yoga program and its capable instructors. There is **no fee** for the class. Teachers, students, and other interested participants are invited to attend on a weekly or drop-in basis. The class is offered to people at all levels of experience and ability. Wear comfortable clothing, bring water, and bring a towel or yoga mat if you wish. Our newest instructor is Craig Winter, who is certified in Integral and Kundalini yoga styles and will begin in early January. Many thanks to Teresa Washburn, who has been teaching a popular class since March of this year.

Dr. Landau offers a teacher training course from 5:30 to 9:30 pm on Sunday evenings for those interested in more detailed yoga instruction. This course includes music, kirtan, meditation, philosophy, anatomy, physiology, and food. All are invited, even those not interested in becoming teachers. Dr. Landau is registered as an instructor with the Yoga Alliance and as a teacher trainer. For more information, contact him at [pashupati@bellsouth.net](mailto:pashupati@bellsouth.net) or 868-4729. You can also leave a message at 856-9355, extension 4.



### **We need stuff you don't want! 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, etc.

#### *Furniture*

Ergonomic desk and study hall chairs - blue, black, or gray to match the lab; storage cabinets, conference room table and chairs, portable display easel/board

#### *Miscellaneous:*

Gift certificates and event/movie tickets for student incentives, refrigerator (can be large or small), printing/copying services, pizza and catering, fish tank supplies, trash cans (large or small), stamps

### **Students Teaching Students: Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> Graders, Please Mark Your Calendars**

The principal project of The Wade Edwards Foundation, the Wade Edwards Learning Lab (WELL) is an after-school computer lab and academic support facility located across from Broughton High School. Each summer, student staff members teach Jumpstart technology classes to Broughton rising ninth graders. This past summer, student instructors included Spencer Weeks-Jamieson, Nikolai Lifanov, Tom Gill, Brianne Gill, Rachel Wright, Adam Clark, and Jessi Rogers. WELL Director Steven Killion oversees the workshops and develops the curriculum in collaboration with Broughton faculty members.

The workshops introduce new students to resources available at the WELL and to some of the technology tools they will need to succeed at Broughton, where teachers increasingly use the Internet and computer applications in their assignments. Students collaborate to develop a multimedia project that will introduce them to Broughton High School's curriculum. Each workshop takes place three hours a day for two days, for a total of six hours per student. This is a great opportunity to meet and work closely with a group of fellow ninth-graders and the very cool WELL staff!

*Below:* Jane Forde and her Broughton classes have worked for several years with [Link 2 Learn](#) project manager Karen Noon to teach Glenwood Towers residents to use computer applications.



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

## 2009 Wade Edwards Foundation 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Short Fiction Awards

Dr. Steven Killion presented the Short Fiction Awards on October 17<sup>th</sup> at an awards dinner at the NC English Teachers Association conference in Lenoir, NC. 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 **Jonathan Blake Willis**, a student at Burke Middle College in Morganton, submitted *The Awakening*. Jonathan's teacher is Anna Moose; his mother is Tonia Denise Elliott. His school's English Department will also receive \$2,000. Amanda Carringer, who attends Watauga High School in Boone, won second place (\$2,000) with *Patchwork*. Her parents are Don and Laura Carringer; her teacher is William B. Watterson. *The Mourning Dove* brought a third place (\$1,000) win to Emma Seagle, who is also a Watauga High School student in Boone and the daughter of Steve and Laura Seagle.

Entries are now being accepted for the **2010 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. Wade was a talented high school student whose life ended tragically at the age of 16.

The deadline for entries is **April 15, 2020**. Entry length may vary from 500-10,000 words of original short fiction. The entry must be typed and saved in electronic format.

Email one copy of the entry form and entry to [wadeedwardsaward@ncenglishteacher.org](mailto:wadeedwardsaward@ncenglishteacher.org).  
Mail one copy of the entry form and writing submission to Elaine Cox, 7891 Old Hwy. 16, Crumpler, NC 28617 ([elaine.cox@ashe.k12.nc.us](mailto:elaine.cox@ashe.k12.nc.us)).

For more information on entries:  
[http://www.ncenglishteacher.org/pdf/wadeedwards\\_info.pdf](http://www.ncenglishteacher.org/pdf/wadeedwards_info.pdf)

## WELL Wednesdays: Forum Tradition Continues Strong

This year, the WELL's Forums are held on Wednesdays at 2:30, right after school ends. We wish to thank the many community and business leaders who contribute their time, knowledge, and expertise. The programs are open to students, teachers, and parents in Wake County schools. Free pizza is provided to participants at the end of each forum. Speakers in 2009 have included: Broughton Principal Steve Mares; Walye Rasulala; *Dance Forum* with Marcus McLeod; Interact's David Farrell; *Comic Artist* forum with Dan Johnson and Louis Small, Jr.; College Financial Aid Forum with Sarita Broadway and Danny Bland; *Owning a Restaurant* with Angela Salamanca of Dos Taquitos Centro; *A Poet's Presence* with Jaki Shelton Green; and a *Staying Healthy Flu Forum* with Wake County Schools nurse Nancy McMillan. For more information, please contact Jessi Rogers at 856-9355, ext. 2 or [jrogers@wade.org](mailto:jrogers@wade.org).

### Upcoming Winter/Spring 2010 Forums

January 13 – Vanessa Budnick, SPCA  
February 17 – Larry's Beans (local coffee company)  
March 17 – Gerald Owens, WRAL  
April 14 – Kathy Farrish, Resume Building  
April 28 – Melinda Campbell, Meredith BBB Coach  
May 12 – Raleigh Denim (local jeans business)  
May 20 – Gene Hughes, Interact

### Broughton Student Art Graces WELL Walls

Thanks to art teacher *Cathy Rush* and her students, who continue to brighten the WELL with a multicolored display of computer artwork.

### NovaNet Software

NovaNet software is 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.

### Honor Society Tutoring Schedule

The Broughton Honor Society volunteers every week at the WELL, with regular tutoring as a walk-in service from 3:15-4:15 on Mondays and Wednesdays. For more information, contact Steven Killion at [skillion@wade.org](mailto:skillion@wade.org) or 856-9355.

## PLEDGE TO HELP TODAY

I/We want to 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

\_\_\_\_\_ 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.

This contribution is given in honor/memory of (please include name and address for acknowledgment):

### In-kind or Volunteer Contributions; request for information or tours

\_\_\_\_\_ Provide an in-kind donation of equipment or services. (If you have computer equipment, please contact us first). Please list item and description: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Volunteer at the WELL (front desk, administrative, mailings, technology, etc.).

\_\_\_\_\_ Join the WELL Student Advisory Board.

\_\_\_\_\_ Tutor math, language arts, science, social studies, foreign language, or study skills at the WELL.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to visit the WELL for a tour.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please send me more information about the Wade Edwards Foundation and the WELL.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Address, City, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Web site \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (required) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please list contributors as follows:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:** Sarah Lowder, Wade Edwards Foundation, 714 St. Mary's St., Raleigh, NC 27605

**Phone:** 919/856-9233 [slowder@wade.org](mailto: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**

### **Wade Edwards Learning Lab, 919-856-9355**

Steven Killion, [skillion@wade.org](mailto:skillion@wade.org) , 856-355 ext. 1

Tom Gill, [tgill@wade.org](mailto:tgill@wade.org)

Brianne Gill, [bgill@wade.org](mailto:bgill@wade.org)

Patrick Royal, [proyal@wade.org](mailto:proyal@wade.org)

Spencer Weeks-Jamieson, [sweeks-jamieson@wade.org](mailto:sweeks-jamieson@wade.org)

Tristan White, [twhite@wade.org](mailto:twhite@wade.org)

Rachael Wright, [rwright@wade.org](mailto:rwright@wade.org)



### **Wade Edwards Foundation Offices, 919-856-9233**

Sarah Lowder, [slowder@wade.org](mailto:slowder@wade.org) , 856-9233

Jessi Rogers, [jrogers@wade.org](mailto:jrogers@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) .

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

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.

**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