

# Michigan Reach Out!

*Linking College & Community  
Mentors with Youth*

*Promoting Math  
& Science Literacy*

December 2003

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## *Camp Discovery: Learning to fish at Meeks farm*



## *Camp Discovery*

In July of 2003, fifteen elementary students and many volunteers each spent two days “on the farm” during three sessions of Camp Discovery. The point of camp is perhaps best illustrated by the camper who expressed alarm at the thought of swimming in a pond before we had caught all the fish living there! Camp Discovery is intended to close the experience gap a bit, to open many windows on the world for children who do not have the richness of experience to draw upon that upper-middle-class youngsters enjoy. We provided them with good times, congenial company, and plenty of new experiences to think, talk, and write about.

We spent our first day at the Burkhardt farm exploring crafts and critters. We met four horses (two of them miniature), two donkeys, a fainting goat, cats, dogs, a rabbit, and even a hedgehog. The animals really liked it when we fed them apples, although some of them were tall enough to steal them right off the tree. Many of us had a chance to ride the donkey, some of us learned how to play the banjo, and others climbed trees for the first time. We finished off the day making dream catchers out of horseshoes.

For our second day, we were off to the Meeks farm for some fun with fishing. Many of us learned how to hook a worm or release a fish for the first time. Then we took a little break from fishing to do a nature scavenger hunt and make bookmarks out of leaves and flowers. When we got hungry, we cooked hot dogs, fish, grilled cheese sandwiches, s’mores, pies, and even popcorn on the campfire. The perfect end to our day was taking a dip in the pond to cool off.

Our free summer day camp was conceived of by *Reach Out!* members Debbie McCartney and Aarti Raheja in 1999. They raised funds; arranged transportation, tours, and

*(Camp Discovery continued on page 5)*

Visit our Web site!

<http://www.reachoutmichigan.org>

## 2003-2004 Sites and Leaders: Scarlett Middle School Academic Mentoring



### Rachel Burkhardt

Rachel (at left, above) is an adult volunteer who has gotten more involved with each passing year. Besides hosting half of our Camp Discovery sessions on her Manchester farm, she has taken over part of the coordination duties at Scarlett.



### Sarvin Kashani

Hometown: Tehran, Iran  
Major: Math degree; now pursuing a teaching degree

Year: Senior

"I guess I could say that *Reach Out!* found me. I came across a flyer from Scarlett Middle School. It said that they were in need of

mentors for a volunteer program. I worked with *Reach Out!* for a year before accepting Jeannine's offer to become a site leader. The program has helped me more than I could ever have imagined."



### Gwen Hekman

Hometown: Holland, Michigan  
Major: Economics  
Year: Junior

"I really enjoy mentoring.

It gives me an opportunity every week to leave campus, which I love, and to do something completely different. I need this to stay sane at school! At the same time, I feel like I am being useful, and that the connection I can make with my mentee is priceless. School came very easy to me in middle school. I was completely unaware of how real the struggles are for kids in learning even the basics that are crucial to their continuing and having success with education."

## Reach Out! Alumnae Updates

**Grace Kim** (1995–98), still in Kansas City, finishes her MBA this month.... **Alicia Pinderhughes** (1995–97) is planning on a PhD in either neuroscience or immunology, somewhere in the northeast.... **Aarti Raheja** (1996–2000) is doing her pediatrics residency at Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor.... **Debbie Hamann**

(1996–present), *MRO!* Elementary Program Coordinator, is expecting her first child in January 2004....

**Karyl Shand Askew** (1997–2000), after working for Sylvan Learning Centers in Atlanta, is now applying to educational psychology master's programs in Virginia.... **Roselle Herrera** (1997–2001), after working last summer for a federal court judge in Laredo, Texas, will finish law school at MSU next May.

## 2003-2004 Sites and Leaders: Bryant Community Center Science Club



### Arielle Davis

Hometown: West Bloomfield,  
Michigan

Major: Communications

Year: Junior

"I discovered *Reach Out!* through the *Phi Sigma Theta* Honor Society during my sophomore year, and have been a volunteer

ever since. This is my first year as a site leader and I enjoy it a lot more than being a volunteer, because I have more input in the types of projects and activities we do with the children.

"This program has allowed me to 'reach out' to a community outside of our campus—a community very different from our own, and one we may not see or think about very often on campus. Over the past year and a half, I have made solid relationships with children I would never have met if I were not a member of *Reach Out!*, and that means more to me than any other form of immediate gratification felt when we volunteer."

Bryant is a City of Ann Arbor Recreation Center that serves the Forest Hills and University Townhouses subsidized housing cooperatives.

### David Podein

Hometown: Grand  
Rapids, Michigan

Major: Honors  
Political Science

Year: Junior

"I found *Reach Out!* while searching the University of Michigan's website for a

volunteer opportunity. I volunteered at both Pattengill and Bryant, and I am beginning my second year as site leader at Bryant.

"*Reach Out!* has represented a great opportunity to learn outside of the classroom in an interactive manner. I enjoy working with and helping the children throughout the semester."



## More Reach Out! Alumnae/Alumni Updates

**Ben Kaufman** (1998–2000) is a GM engineer and VP of the *MRO!* Board of Directors (and expecting his first child in January)... **Amy Marcotte** (1998–2000), after two years with Teach For America in North Carolina, is in her first year of med school at MSU.... **Reulonda Norman** (1998–2000), after teaching in Atlanta, moved last summer to Jacksonville, Florida, where she teaches third grade and is planning a March 2004 wedding.... **Stephanie Steele** (1999–2002) is doing Teach For America in Baltimore.... **Dave Coleman** (1999–2003) has joined the family business in Chicago ... where **Geoffrey M. Dietrich** (*below right*, 2002–03) is doing Teach For America.

### Reach Out! Accomplishments 2002-2003

	Fall 2002–Spring 2003			Summer–Fall 2003		
	Clubs	Mentors	Children	Clubs	Mentors	Children
Science Clubs	15	70	204	7	57	133
Camp Discovery				3	9	15
Scarlett Mentoring		56	55		55	57
Science Fair help			53			
Kids-Fair (one-time)			1,000			
Campus Day (one-time)			120			
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>1,432</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>195</b>

### Send us YOUR news!







## Pfizer Support

We have been pleased to receive significant support during the past year from The Pfizer Foundation and from Pfizer Global Research & Development, through the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation—\$25,000 each for our elementary and secondary programs. Also, in October 2003, some fifty *Reach Out!* children, mentors, parents, and grandparents enjoyed the special Pfizer-sponsored exhibit on the human brain at the Detroit Science Museum. This support for K–12 science literacy and for the individual mentoring that supports teens in academics and in career planning is a model of corporate involvement in improving community life.

*Salary for Elementary Programs Coordinator Deb Hamann (left) was largely paid by Pfizer this year.*

## Meet Our 2002-2003 Mentors!

Newaj Abdullah	Jamie Coleman	Talia Glasberg	Danielle Kinkel	Jerry Nordblom	Danielle Sgambati
Dave Anderson	Laura Coleman	Jonathan Golden	Kristen Klanow	Laura Ochoa	Ardaman-Pal Shergill
Kelly Anderson	Kathryn Cuneaz	Julianne Gonda	Alison Kolody	Yetsy Olusanya	Henry Shih
Brook Anton	Carol Colner	Beth Gove	Jacqueline Kontry	Lisa Oshinsky	Mimi Shih
Jennifer Anzo	Eli Cooke	Steve Graves	Candice Korkis	Laura Padalino	Meghan Shilts
Derreck Asante-Addae	Rachel Craft	Katherine Gregg	Jennifer Koshorek	Stanley Palmer	Rolf Sievers
Brian Bailey	Nicole Crane	Thomas Grisoni	Brandon Kote	Tony Palmer	Stephen Sinas
Mike Bakun	Emily Criste	Sandra Haber	Ron LaSovage	Abhaya Pandit	Gabe Slabosky
Michael Barbieri	Lauren Cubbin	Tahee Han	Jane Lee	Neal Patel	Richard Smith
Andrea Begnoche	Angeli Dahiya	Laura Harley	Angie Leenhouts	Lisa Payton	Stefanie Stachura
Beth Belloli	Anya Dale	Charles Hatt III	Brandon Levey	Jackie Perun	Megan Stech
Goral Bhatt	Arielle Davis	Lei He	Miriam Levine	Jessica Petrus	Kallie Steffes
Caren Bierterman	Glen Deese	Gwen Hekman	Amanda Lindow	Prasad Phatak	Mitchell Stempien
Mike Bishop	Andrea Deline	Eileen Helm	Scott Littlefield	Kyle Pine	Jasmine Stone
Diana Blazar	Geoff Dietrich	Lauren Hewell	Christopher Lott	David Podein	Brad Taube
Casey Bourke	Ralph DiLisio	Ramona Hicks	Sam Lulla	Marta Poleszczuk	Jesse Tevelow
Justin Bright	Ashleigh Dowell	Lauren Hirt	Melissa Lounsberry	Germain Pollack	LaTasha Thompson
Bridget Briley	Eric Elsholz	Mark Hodges	Angela Maile	Natassia Polyne	Suzanne Torrenga
Nick Brown	Lisa Emery	Jenny Huang	Sumona Majumdar	Julia Power	Louise Turner-Peterson
Amber Burkhardt	Tulga Ersal	Karen Hwang	Augustus Makris	Keesha Pulse	Doug Urquhart
Rachel Burkhardt	Shawn Eskow	Felicia Inchauste	Andrew Manser	Bren Quilter	Tara van Schaack
Laura Butler	Christopher Fecteau	Adam Johnson	Maggie Master	Priya Rao	Jennifer Vassil
Marci Cane	Jane Fischer	C.J. Johnson	Colleen McDonough	Brandon Refabsells	Brian Vincent
Benjamin Carney	Robert Fowler	Becca Juliar	Meaghan McElroy	David Reiss	Jane Viventi
Hyewon Chang	Nora Fox	Rachel Karabenick	Megan Milazzo	Jennifer Remias	Jill Vrabel
Jodie Chasteen	Katie Francis	Sarvin Kashani	Peter Moes	Charisa Roy	Shaan Wadhwa
Ruth Cheng	Nicole Fretter	Ben Kaufman	Jon Monger	Teri Russiel	Andrew Warren
Shara Cherniak	Brianna Fritz	Emily Kennedy	Priscilla Moseley-Atchoo	Kirk Rzasa	Kim Weinberg
Naomi Chetcuti	Courtney Fritz	Jordan Keoleian	Eddie Muransky	Todd Sarbaugh	Kevin Whitcomb
Chung Cho	Chris Gibson	Zak Kielytyka	Paul Nahas	Amy Schaldenbrand	Kristin White
Phil Choi	Michelle Gilmore	Shravya Kidambi	Charu Nautiyal	Jeffrey Schattner	Mina Yang
Jennifer Christenson	Stefania Gismondi	Audrey Kim	Emily Newell	Bill Schultz	Jessica Yurasek
David Coleman	Ina Gjeci	Robin Kim			

*Please tell us if we missed you!*

## Website Usage

During the past year (December 2002 through November 2003) our site recorded 10.9 million hits. Nearly 700,000 unique users made more than a million visits, requesting more than 5,000 separate pages each month. Fewer than 3% of users find us through our home page. About 10% come to us through our *Lessons by Age and Subject* page; another 11% go directly to a page within the site, indicating that they have searched for a particular topic; and 5% come in through our child-oriented portal. Users come from a monthly average of 111 countries, from .ae (United Arab Emirates) to .zm (Zambia).



*Scarlett Middle School students explore careers that use applied math at the Ann Arbor Airport*



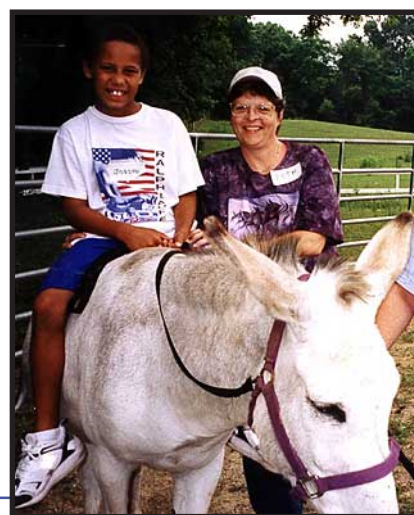
## Camp Discovery *(continued from page 1)*

demonstrations; recruited and trained volunteers; solicited food and material donations; and oversaw the implementation of their plans. They chose to work with youngsters from Ann Arbor public housing sites, treating them to a week of enriching experiences on the UM campus and at local parks. We have continued this model every summer except our first as a non-profit organization—when we missed it.

Camp Discovery was our first completely (UM) student-driven program, and it exemplifies the *Reach Out!* model of empowering young adults to take on leadership roles. The two directors dealt with typical program planning obstacles and difficulties: the weather, discipline problems, respect and attitude problems, partners who changed their minds about contributions, liability issues, medical care concerns, and general

health and safety issues. They developed daily assessment and program evaluation components. Once again, it was driven home to us just how capable and responsible young adults can be. Coordinators and volunteers reach new levels of commitment and resolve to better their communities, now and in the future; they obtain a visceral understanding of some of the obstacles faced by children of another economic class; and they gain assurance in their ability to plan and run programs of real responsibility.

We recognize this year's volunteers on our "2003–2004 Mentors" page. Even though their service was short, the relationships with children were intense and personal—characteristic of true mentoring.



## Our Mission and Goals

*Michigan Reach Out!* is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that links college and community mentors with children and teens and promotes math and science literacy by

- Offering children opportunities to experience hands-on science learning—to spark interest, to build confidence, and to promote deep understanding through the application of scientific principles,

- Helping young people to explore exciting careers—which can motivate them to work at learning, to take the tough courses necessary for technical careers, and to take responsibility for their lives and futures, and
- Directly supporting their learning with individual, long-term mentoring and, when feasible, with individualized and application-oriented classes outside of school.

## 2003-2004 Sites and Leaders:

### Pinelake Village Community Center Science Club

Pinelake Village is a subsidized housing community center on Ann Arbor's west side.

#### Germain Pollack

Hometown: Ann Arbor,  
Michigan

Major: Electrical  
Engineering

Year: Senior



"I got involved with *Reach Out!* because I wanted to make learning fun for kids, and I saw the booth on the diag during FestiFall. I have been a volunteer at Pinelake for the past two semesters and now co-lead at the site.

"*Reach Out!* has given me an opportunity to show kids some of the cool things you can do with science in this world. It is always refreshing to see how curious the kids are, and every week it helps me keep perspective while going to school."



#### Ralph DiLisio

Hometown: Bloomfield  
Hills, Michigan

Major: History

Year: Senior

"Germain told me about *Reach Out!* and I was a mentor at Pinelake all last year.

"I look forward to Mondays at Pinelake every week. It's such a great break from the stress of school to come and hang out with kids. They are all so much fun and I really enjoy working with them."

### Arrowwood Hills Community Center Science Club

Arrowwood is a subsidized housing community center on the north side of town.

#### Sam Lulla

Hometown: Lake Zurich,  
Illinois

Major: Business

Year: Junior



"I learned about *Reach Out!* through a friend and decided to seek out information about it at FestiFall. I joined Arrowwood site as a mentor and became very excited about the program, and then I decided to try to become a site leader. This is my second year as a site leader and my first year as a *Michigan Reach Out!* board member."



#### Stanley Palmer

Hometown: Houston, Texas

Major: Economics

Year: Junior

"I was in search of an organization that could satiate my volunteer needs because I really like to volunteer, especially with youngsters. One day I

was telling my buddy Sam about my dilemma and he suggested that I take a look at *Reach Out!* I checked it out, was pleased with what I found, and that's how the story goes.

"*Reach Out!* has allowed me to share my time with individuals who might want my companionship. It has allowed me to act as a mentor and grow quite fond of the kids. It has been an enriching experience, although sometimes we as mentors can be tested. However, our success conveys the dedication of our mentors towards the kids."



## 2003-2004 Sites and Leaders: Pattengill Elementary School Science Clubs

We run fifteen separate clubs per year at Pattengill Elementary School. We have also helped hundreds of children with their Science Fair projects and with Fifth Grade Campus Day.

### Nick Brown

Hometown: Pittsburgh,  
Pennsylvania

Major: Accounting/  
Finance

Year: Senior



"I signed up for *Reach Out!* in the Diag in the fall semester of my freshman year. I've mentored at a variety

of sites, including Pinelake, Hikone, and Pattengill (where I was a site leader for the 2002-2003 school year). To me, *Reach Out!* is a wonderful way to help out less fortunate kids and get them excited about learning. Additionally, I enjoy being a role model for these children, who may or may not have appropriate role models at home."

### Bridget Briley

Hometown: Rochester,  
Michigan

Major: Sports Management,  
Psychology,  
and Film

Year: Fourth year



"I got involved as a mentor at Bryant in freshman year. The next two years, I was a site leader

at Arrowwood and Pattengill. In 2002, I became Secretary of the *Michigan Reach Out!* Board of Directors. *Reach Out!* has meant an opportunity to work within Ann Arbor just not as a student but as a member of the community. The people and the children I have met have given me a feeling of doing something positive while I am here outside of simply earning a degree."

## Hikone Recreation Center Science Club

UM's *Pi Kappa Alpha* fraternity adopted the Hikone site several years ago and still provides the majority of the volunteers there. The children at this subsidized housing community site have come to depend upon their "big brothers" for science learning and fun.



### Todd Sarbaugh

Hometown: Crystal Lake, Ill.

Major: Economics

Year: Junior

"I got involved when members of my fraternity noticed that I had a strong desire for community service and introduced me to *Reach Out!* I have

been involved for two semesters, first as a mentor and now as a co-leader. *Reach Out!* has let me do more than just give back to the community; it has allowed me to touch children's lives and to give them a positive atmosphere in which to learn and grow."

### Peter Moes

Hometown: Holland,  
Michigan

Major: Architecture

Year: Senior



"I got involved at Hikone through my fraternity and a good friend. I started by helping out with some of the field trips, then I mentored for a semester, and now I've been a site leader for two years. *Reach Out!* has given me much more than I could ever have expected. It has opened my eyes to a different way of life and learning, as well as provided me with a wonderful feeling of warmth each time I walk in and see the young children's faces come to life. I have also learned quite a bit about science myself while coming up with lessons for each week."

# Who Stands Behind Us

## Our Contributors, Nov. 2002-Dec. 2003

**Foundations:** **\$170,000**  
Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation  
Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation  
Ann Arbor Public Schools Educational Foundation  
Grove Family Trust  
Pfizer Foundation  
J. & E. Slavik Foundation

**Businesses:** **\$26,300**  
Pfizer (through AAA Community Foundation)  
Pfizer (employee gift match)  
The Accounting Office  
Meeks & Zilberfarb Orthopedic Associates, PC  
Tom Mac's Photography

**Service Organizations:** **\$2,600**  
Downtown Ann Arbor Kiwanis  
The Rotary Club of Ann Arbor

**Individuals:** **\$10,325**  
Gerald & Margaret Amodei  
John Barfield  
James & Susan Bennett  
Faye Booker-Logan  
Jim & Sue Bristol  
Serina Brown  
Rachel Burkhardt  
Linda Chapekis  
Andrew & Pamela Chapelle  
Ron Clement  
Gary & Carol Coburn  
David H. Coleman  
Jane H. Dornbrock  
William & Amy Downs  
Kathy Fojtik-Stroud  
Charles Graham  
James & Susan Graham  
Mary Elizabeth Graham  
Rial & Margery Hamann  
Jerry Hartweg  
Stephen & Kathleen Jaskiewicz  
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Don & Marie Olsen  
Dick & Mary Parks  
Brendon & Mary Quilter  
John Quilter  
John & Carolyn Sampsel  
Edith Semark  
Dennis & Susan Shackelford  
Clifford & Ingrid Sheldon  
Dan & Tracey Stephenson  
Max & Sue Supica  
Rosanna Toth  
Joan M. Toy  
Lura Williams

## Our Board of Directors

**President:** Barry Borgerson, founder and president of Complete Leadership, Inc., which provides individually tailored transformational coaching for executives to enable the achievement of peak performance. Dr. Borgerson is a past and current fundraiser for MRO! and sponsors our Web site.

**Vice President:** Ben Kaufman, manufacturing engineer, General Motors; University of Michigan graduate; past site leader; UM Reach Out! alumnus

**Secretary:** Bridget Briley, University of Michigan student; past and current site leader

**Directors:** Tom Flynn, manager, Chelsea Proving Grounds Wind Tunnel, DaimlerChrysler Motors; past and current career resource provider; past program sponsor

Sam Lulla, University of Michigan student; past and current site leader

Bill Schultz, professor of mechanical engineering at University of Michigan; leader at past and current sites; faculty advisor to UM Reach Out!

**Student Auxiliary:** **UM Reach Out!**

**We are seeking board members and partners to help us raise sustaining funding**

**Michigan Reach Out!**  
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Ann Arbor Area  
community foundation  
For good. For ever.



The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation