

Featured Presenter

Chelonnda Seroyer



Chelonnda Seroyer is a high school English teacher in Madison, Alabama. She used Dr. Wong's book, *The First Days of School*, as an "instruction manual" to set up her classroom. At the end of her first year of teaching she was awarded the "Bob Jones First Year Patriot Award". At the end of her second year of teaching she was awarded the "Patriot Award." This award is given to a faculty member in recognition of valuable contributions, dedication, and service to the educational community. At the end of her fourth year of teaching, the first year that she was eligible because she was newly tenured, she received the "Teacher of the Year" award. Chelonnda is also an executive member of the Madison City School's New Teacher Induction Team where she, along with central staff personnel, coordinates the induction program for new teachers coming into the school system.

Along with her school based contributions, Chelonnda also works with universities in the community. The University of Alabama in Huntsville has selected her to be a member of the Education Department's Community Advisory Council. This committee serves as a sounding board and advisory group for issues related to the preparation and support of highly qualified teachers.

In 2007 Chelonnda received the Toyota International Teacher Award. This award was presented to 40 teachers from around the country. The teachers traveled to Japan for an educational study tour of the country and its educational system. While in Japan, she was featured on the Japanese national news station while discussing her plans to bring the Japanese culture into her classroom.

Chelonnda has presented with Dr. Harry Wong for organizations such as, the New Jersey Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD), the Texas Teachers Alternative Certification Program, the North Carolina Model Teacher Education Consortium, and the International Center for Leadership in Education's Model Schools Conferences. She is one of the featured teachers in Dr. Wong's online classroom management course and her complete story was featured in a February 2005, www.teachers.net column. Chelonnda is also featured on a DVD in the new 4th edition of *The First Days of School*.

She has done solo presentations both nationally and internationally for various school districts including Puerto Rico, St. Thomas, St. Croix and Canada. She has also worked with new teacher programs such as the National Aeronautics Space Administration's (NASA) Pre-Service Teacher Institute and the Miami-Dade County School District's Summer Inservice program.

Due to the successful implementation of classroom management techniques in her own classroom, Chelonnda Seroyer has also assisted other teachers by going to schools in New Jersey, Ohio, and Louisiana observing individual classrooms and working one on one with fellow teachers to assist them as they create their own customized and highly effective classroom management plans.

Special Guests

Evening Guest Speaker

Joseph Butler, IV

Joseph Butler, IV is the 11 year old son of Mr. Mrs. Joseph Butler, III. He has one brother, Johnathan. He attended Forest Heights Academy of Excellence for five years (5) where his love and fascination of the arts developed. While Joseph excels in visual art, dance, vocal and instrumental music, he is particularly successful in drama. Joseph enjoys basketball and mimicking professional actors around the house. He has played major roles in Cinderella Christmas, The Lion King, Grease Elementary Style, The Aristocats, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, and Seussical, Jr. Joseph was selected as Forest Heights Academy 2009 Wall of Fame Student. Joseph will be entering McKinley Middle Magnet School in the fall of 2009.

Poetry Slam Artists

Poetry Slam Club Description

Poetry Slam Club (PSC) is a unique organization which students channel and utilize their creative writing, speaking and performing skills. The allure of the PSC is that students have a healthy outlet to communicate or vent many hard to articulate inner feelings, emotions or anxiety. The words and sentiments that these students expound are nothing short of breathtaking, ingenuous, moving and powerful.

Joshua Pitcher

This young man is BEYOND REMARKABLE. The lyrics and the sheer depth of his poetry are perplexing. He will always give you food for thought with his poetry pieces. He is the master of using his metaphors and similes strategically. He also uses a lot of personification, hyperbole and most of all imagery. Finally, he has the ability to invoke emotion even out the most casual of listener. In short, he can move mountains with his words. Josh will also serve as captain of Istrouma High School Poetry Slam club 2009-2010 school year! Josh is going to be in the 11th grade in the fall at Istrouma High School. Josh also enjoys playing in the band.

Marcus Nalls

This young man is a natural poet. Marcus can be characterized as a thought provoking. Many times after you hear one of his pieces, the listener will leave asking themselves questions. He does this intentionally and for whatever reason, it works. He really puts in a lot of time into each word, each syllable and each line. He is also a very rhythmic poet. Most of his poetry marches to a certain beat primarily because he is the lead snare drummer in the IHS Marching Band. His second love behind poetry of course. Marcus will be in 11th grade in the fall and he will work very closely with Joshua as Co-Captain.

Panel Facilitators

Michael Terry

Michael Terry is the Senior Project Director for the Turnaround Specialist program. Mike brings 35 years of experience and expertise to the Partnership, gained while serving in Virginia's Charlottesville City Schools. During his tenure as an administrator, Mike took a strategic approach to improving student

achievement, focusing on curriculum development, revision and alignment, as well as using data analysis to identify curricular problems and solutions. He also spearheaded efforts to provide staff development opportunities focused on improving student achievement. Most recently, Mike helped to develop and implement a scorecard version of a school improvement plan for Charlottesville High School where he served as an administrator. Based upon these efforts, at the conclusion of the 2005-2006 school year Charlottesville high School met the state accreditation standards and the federal standards for adequate yearly progress (AYP) under No Child Left Behind for the first time in both areas.

Emma Jones

Emma Jones is the librarian/teacher at Sunset Elementary in St. Landry Parish which has students from grades Pre-Kindergarten through eighth grade. She is a LaLEAD Cohort III 2009 Honoree and has been St. Landry's District President of the Librarians Association for eight years. Ms. Jones has been in education for 32 years and holds degrees in Speech and Library Science as well as a Masters in Administration and Supervision from Southern University. A nationally recognized inspirational speaker, she recently spoke at the Women's Conference on the ULL campus. Having served as chairperson of her Sunset's School Improvement Team for eight years, raising literacy for all students is her top priority.

Ike DeLee

Ike DeLee is the Executive Director of the Louisiana Association for Personal Financial Achievement, a nonprofit organization dedicated to financial literacy. This organization provides resources and workshops to help people reach their financial goals. In a relaxed classroom environment, we teach the concepts that will enable each of us regardless of age to achieve the level of understanding necessary to make progress toward our financial goals.

Debbie Lapeyrouse

Debbie Lapeyrouse is the Vice President of Marketing for La Capitol Federal Credit Union and has been with La Cap for 39 years. The credit union's mission in servicing their members includes assistance in financial management and financial education. We partner with groups to offer financial education workshops that cover a variety of topics that affect personal finances. These workshops are held in the workplace, in the classroom and in communities.

Ernise Singleton

Ernise Singleton, PhD, is an Educational Technology Consultant for the Louisiana Department of Education. She coordinates online and face-to-face professional development for Louisiana educators. A native of Louisiana, Ernise earned degrees from the University of Louisiana-Monroe, the University of Houston-Clear Lake, and the University of Georgia. She has conducted extensive research in the arena of online education from the faculty perspective and mathematics professional development while at the University of Georgia.

Carolyn Sessions

Carolyn Sessions is the Standards and Curriculum Projects Coordinator for the Louisiana Department of Education and also serves as the State Supervisor of Mathematics. She holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees from LSU-Baton Rouge. Carolyn is a recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics Teaching, the National Tandy Technology Scholar Award, and the Louisiana Association of Computer Using Educator's (LACUE) Outstanding Teacher Award.

Sandra (Sam) Johnson

Sam has served as the District Literacy Coach for Tangipahoa Parish for five years. Working closely with the Language Arts and RTI Coordinators, Sam mentors eighteen school literacy coaches and assists with coordinating literacy interventions in primary, middle and high schools. Sam is a national board certified speech-language pathologist and also works collaboratively with the Speech Pathology Coordinator in Tangipahoa to bridge the speech pathology and literacy/numeracy RTI programs. She is a trainer of trainers for DIBELS (*Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills*) and LETRS (*Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling*) Foundations in Louisiana. Prior to coaching in literacy, Sam worked as an instructor and clinical supervisor at Southeastern Louisiana University, a district specialist/coach in the Ysleta Independent School District in El Paso, Texas in the special education program, a special education teacher, an early childhood teacher, and as a speech therapist in clinical, school and private settings.

Being a native of Louisiana, Sam is passionate about building and fostering the best education for our children. Sam holds a Master's of Science in Speech-Language Pathology from the University of Texas at El Paso and a Bachelors of Arts in Speech, Language and Hearing from Southeastern Louisiana University. Sam's husband, Brad, is a retired Army officer and currently works as a change management consultant. Sam and Brad have three children, Ian, Amelia-Kate and Clairanne.