



# Educate. Inspire. Empower.

## NEWSLETTER

Spring 2011



### Students Attend Governor's Inauguration



Thanks to the efforts of Representative Brian Clem, two Academy students were invited to the state Capitol on Jan. 10, 2011, to attend the inauguration of Oregon Governor, John Kitzhaber. A junior from McNary High School and a sophomore from West Salem High School were present as the governor was sworn into office during the historical event.

### Students Visit Colleges: Where Will the Class of 2011 Attend?

Willamette Academy's mission is to empower youth who are traditionally under-represented at colleges and universities to advance to higher education. Students who have graduated from Willamette Academy have attended many colleges including: Chemeketa Community College, Clark College, Eugene Lang College – New York, Linfield, Oregon State University, University of Oregon, Western Oregon University and Willamette University.

In order to inspire our students to attend the college or university of their choice we provide tours of colleges and universities each spring. Over 65 percent of our students will have more education than either of their parents by the time they are in the 8th grade. In knowing this statistic, we encourage family members to attend our college tours in order to demystify the college experience. So far this year our students have toured and are considering the following colleges:

Linfield College	Seattle University
OHSU	University of Oregon
Oregon State University	University of Washington
Pacific University	Western Oregon University
Portland State University	Willamette University



## CINCO DE MAYO

### WILLAMETTE ACADEMY BENEFIT

THURSDAY  
May 5, 2011

at Mission Mill  
Doors open at 5 p.m.

#### Music Cuisine Art & More

Join Willamette Academy as we celebrate Cinco de Mayo with dinner, mariachi music, and presentations from Willamette Academy students.

For more info:  
[academy@willamette.edu](mailto:academy@willamette.edu)  
503-370-6085

tickets are \$25, online at:  
[willamette.edu/academy](http://willamette.edu/academy)

Mission Mill is located at  
1313 Mill St. SE, in Salem

Dress is festive casual

We are excited to see where the Class of 2011 will attend. Stay tuned!



## From the Director

We have accomplished quite a lot since last summer at the Academy. We had our first evening fundraising event, "The Golden LEAF Event," we are preparing to

build our new building and we partnered with Marion Polk Food Share to provide after school snacks for our students. We admitted 40 eighth graders to our program last spring which is the largest incoming class to date and makes our total student count at 141. The first class of students who entered the program nine years ago are now seniors in college and will be venturing out into the working world soon. Willamette Academy has a 93 percent success rate in its students attending college and we have 18 more seniors who will be attending colleges or universities this fall. The students who are selected to be a part of Willamette Academy have the will and desire to attend college, but face extenuating circumstances that might impede their success. Ninety-nine percent of our kids are graduating from high school and many of them with honors. The kids are amazing, our staff and volunteers are incredible and I can think of no other place in the world that I would rather be at ... than at Willamette Academy.

Thank you so much!  
Michele Gray



## Willamette Academy Class of 2011 5th Annual Graduation Ceremony

Please join us in honoring the Class of 2011 for their many accomplishments as they graduate from Willamette Academy and high school, and go on to pursue higher education.

**Thursday, May 26, 2011  
6:30 p.m.  
Hudson Hall, Mary Stuart Rogers Music Center  
Willamette University  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

The graduation ceremony will be followed by a reception, also in Hudson Hall. Refreshments will be served.

### Our Volunteers

Isabel Feibert  
Jamel Freeman  
Professor Emily Drew  
Jon Gates  
Jared Green  
Blanca Gutierrez  
Karen Libby  
Cassandra Ross  
Ruth Ubaldo  
Luis Guerra  
Dominique Lomax  
Kristiana Meyer  
Lexi Parsagian  
Chloe Prendergrast  
Nathaniel Quinn  
Elizabeth Sampedro  
Sarah Tapp  
Summer Tucker  
Nati Zavala

### Our Staff

#### Administrative Staff

Michele Gray  
Joshua Bilbrew  
Clarivel Moore

#### Certified Instructional Staff

Rebecca Moore  
Larkin Smith

#### Office Support

Shelby Bailey  
Colby Takeda  
Stephen Yamada  
David Kebekol

### Academic Support

Kali Boehle-Silva  
Maka Chee  
Angela Fujii  
Margarita Gutierrez

#### Tutoring Staff

Octaviano Chavarin  
Lucille Kituku  
Tanor Morinaka  
Sarai Rivas  
Joslin Schultz  
Janni Sun  
Jillian Toda  
Jonathan Harwell  
Charlotte Bender

### Advisory Council

Representative Brian Clem  
Jeremiah Dodrill  
Robert Harrison  
Ronald Kelemen  
Eric Lindauer  
Don Negri  
Kris Nelson  
Linda Pearmine  
Dr. Alex A. Sanchez  
Danny Santos  
Ronnie Soto  
Sheryl Thomas  
Margarita Gutierrez

Thank you for all you do!



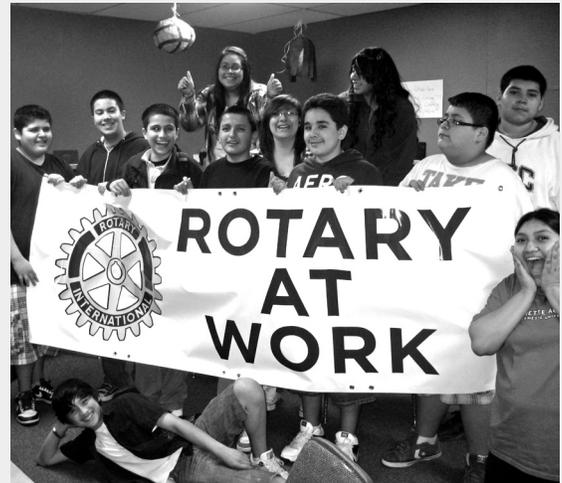
## Gerry Frank Talks to the Students!

Willamette Academy students were privileged to have Gerry Frank as a guest speaker in March. Gerry shared stories with the students of his vast experiences not only with the Meier and Frank retail stores, but as a community member, volunteer and leader. Students were inspired to make their community a better place and to reach for their goals no matter how big. Several students asked Gerry questions about his experiences in attending Cambridge University in England as well as the time he spent helping the poor in India. Gerry held a drawing for one of his famous chocolate cakes and the student who won said “he was going to eat the entire cake himself.” Thank you, Gerry!

## Willamette Academy Chosen as Recipient of the “Good Works Project”

The Salem Downtown Rotary selects one organization annually as its “Good Works Project” and hosts a fundraising event in its honor, with all the proceeds going towards bettering the organization. This year, Willamette Academy was selected as the award recipient. The theme for the service project will be “Technology: Bridges to the Future” and funds raised will go toward purchasing innovative and necessary technology for the Academy. The Salem Downtown Rotary Club is hoping to contribute \$40,000 to the Academy, which will be used for new computers, translation equipment, graphing calculators, hearing impaired equipment, smart boards and other devices that will help students reach their academic potential.

The main fundraising event will be the Good Works Celebration on May 20, and will include dinner, a silent auction, an oral auction and live entertainment. The success of this fundraising event relies on community involvement. Willamette Academy would like to invite you to join us for this celebration and support our students in their pursuit of a better future. If you would like to attend the fundraising event, please contact Michele Gray at [mgray@willamette.edu](mailto:mgray@willamette.edu).



*Willamette Academy Students celebrate Rotary's contribution*

## Students Tour Liberty House

On February 8, several Willamette Academy students took a tour of Liberty House, which advocates for children of domestic violence, offering free services for them and their families. The experience gave students insight into the reality of child abuse and what agencies such as Liberty House can do to better these children's circumstances. In addition to learning about the services provided by the organization, students were introduced to career options in the social service industry and learned about the type of education necessary to work in this field.



## Students Organized Event in Honor of Martin Luther King Jr.

Willamette Academy students celebrated Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s work toward the advancement of civil rights by organizing an event for the Salem-Keizer community entitled, “Education: Have we realized the dream?” on January 26, at the Salem Public Library. The event was well attended by Willamette students and community members and was a part of Willamette University's 2011 MLK Celebration. Willamette Academy students performed a timeline of important historical events in education, a dramatization of a Salem-Keizer school board meeting, and interviewed a panel of community leaders. The panel of speakers was comprised of Eduardo Angulo, the executive director of Salem-Keizer Coalition for Equality, Jean Moule, professor emerita at Oregon State University College of Education, and Benny Williams, the president of the Salem Chapter of NAACP, each bringing a unique perspective on the subject. Through this event, Willamette Academy students were able to inform community members about the deficiencies in the educational system and inspire them to get involved.

## About Our Programs...



### Our After School Program

#### Study Hall

Students attend after-school study hall at Willamette Academy at least twice a week for individual goal planning, academic advising, tutoring and access to technology resources.

#### Workshops

Throughout the year, the Academy offers workshops that enhance students' academic and critical thinking skills. Students are introduced to different colleges and universities and are involved with their community through service opportunities.

#### CORE

CORE (Community of Respect for Everyone) consists of small groups of students that meet during study hall and learn to build relationships and community within the Academy, engage in skill building activities, and develop group and social accountability for attendance and participation at Willamette Academy.



### Our Saturday Academy

During the academic year, our students attend the Academy one Saturday each month for enrichment workshops and skill building. Students work on projects that help them to identify their personal strengths, develop communication, and learn life skills that will help them succeed in college.

#### 8th and 9th Grade

The 8th and 9th grade years can be very challenging for students. Students often find themselves struggling to find out who they are, what they're good at and what group of friends they fit in with. At the same time, classes and teachers can be more demanding. Students discover their individual learning styles and develop skills for dealing with a heavier academic schedule. Our Saturday program helps students learn how to participate in "real-life" activities that enable them to make responsible choices and win the support, understanding and guidance of teachers and parents as well as discover their talents and strengths for their high school transition.

#### 10th and 11th Grade

10th and 11th grade students at Willamette Academy are seeking to excel in high school and be prepared for their college application by having attained the best possible GPA, resume, community service and class courses. Our Saturday program offers students exposure to college tours, college admission prep, essay writing, SAT/ACT prep and study skills. In addition our students take courses in developing life skills which will be needed in a college environment. Students learn about a variety of subjects, including career exploration, taxes, creating a budget, saving money, the importance of building credit, being a smart consumer, buying a car, and renting an apartment.

#### 12th Grade

Taking the SATs is a critical part of the college admission process. Our 12th grade students spend their last year at Willamette Academy preparing for a successful journey to college. Students prepare and practice for their SAT's, improve their GPA (grade point average), write personal and scholarship essays, participate in college tours and meet with admission counselors. Students attend Willamette University courses in logic, research, writing, presentations and develop the vocabulary, problem solving and critical reading skills necessary for success on exams and in college-level courses.





## Our Summer Program

Each summer our students participate in an academic program on the Willamette University campus. The summer program mimics college life as well as promotes and enhances self-esteem, self-confidence and social skills through education, inspiration and empowerment. Summer sessions include:

### Creative Arts

Our Willamette Academy students explore visual arts, creative writing, drama, dance, video and much more. Working with Willamette professors and community artists students are engaged in an encouraging environment that cultivates artistic expression. Student work is then showcased at Willamette University.

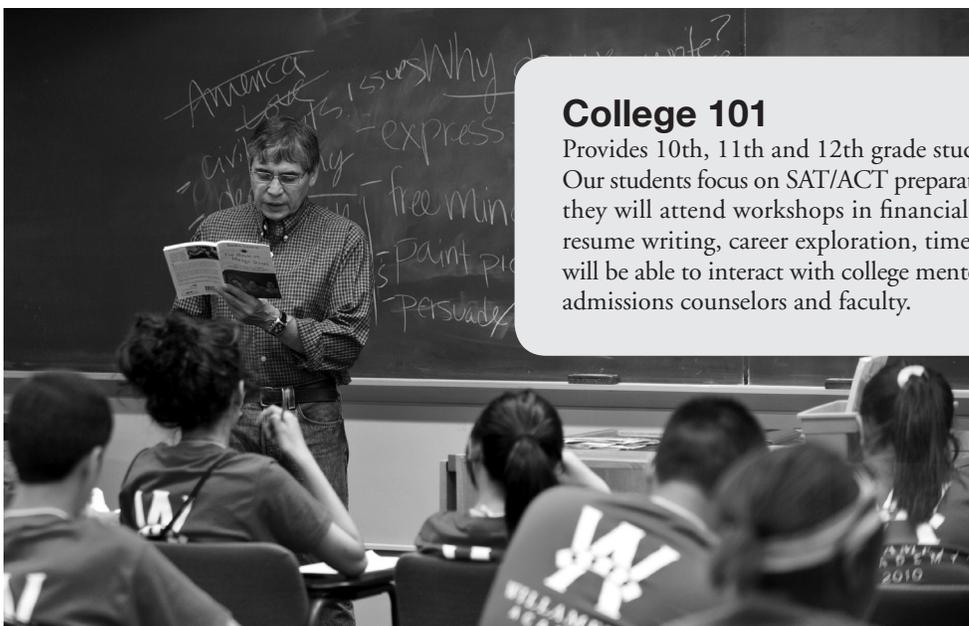


### Reading and Writing

Writing in today's world is increasingly important. High school courses require students to write more often, in more depth, and with more proficiency. Our summer program helps our students improve their writing confidence and skills preparing the younger students for high school and the older students for college. Instruction in SAT/ACT essay writing as well as preparation for college required writing is offered by certified instructors as well as Willamette University professors.

### Math and Science

The issue of only a small number of minority students choosing careers in math and sciences continues to be a matter of national concern. Our summer program strives to develop an interest in these areas for our students. The academic element of the program includes lectures that expose students to ideas in various fields of math and science, hands-on laboratory experience, related discussions for SAT prep as well as featured activities from Willamette University professors.



### College 101

Provides 10th, 11th and 12th grade students with college preparation experience. Our students focus on SAT/ACT preparation and test taking strategies. Additionally, they will attend workshops in financial aid, completing college applications, resume writing, career exploration, time management and goal setting. Students will be able to interact with college mentors and work with Willamette University admissions counselors and faculty.

## Student Gains Professional Experience at Saalfeld Griggs Law Firm

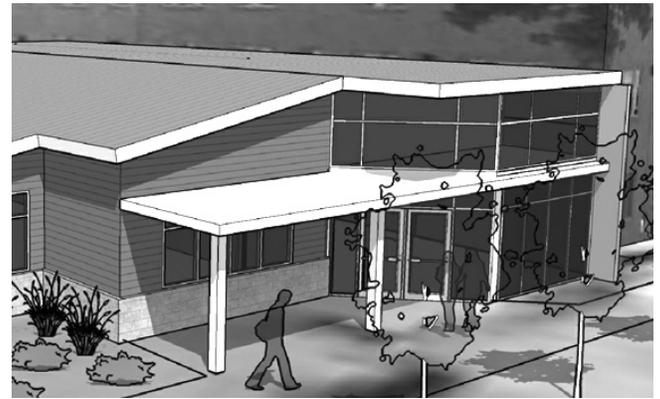
Saalfeld Griggs, one of the most prestigious law firms in Oregon, has hired a Willamette Academy senior to work part time as she prepares for a career in law. She will be working as an office assistant for the firm, which will give her excellent experience for her future career. She will be attending college this fall as she pursues her dream of becoming a lawyer.

## Holiday Gifts Donated to Students and their Families



This past holiday season, organizations and individuals from around the area came together to support Willamette Academy families during the holidays. The Academy is fully funded by grants and donations from the community in order to provide

academic assistance to students; however, many of the students and their families are in need of additional support. Over half of the families of Willamette Academy students earn less than \$25,000 a year, with almost 60 percent living below the poverty line. The Salem community recognized this need and provided families with gifts and food they would not otherwise have been able to afford. These generous donations helped make the holidays extra special for the thankful students and their families.



## Fundraising Begins for New Building

Willamette Academy has begun fundraising to reach a goal of \$1 million for construction of a new building. The students and staff at the Academy are excited to move into the new facility, which will double the square footage of the current building. Along with a bigger space to better accommodate the Academy's 141 students, the expansion will include state-of-the-art equipment to aid students in their pursuit of higher education. The new building, which is anticipated to be completed by summer 2012, will be located at the corner of Cottage and Ferry Streets. Willamette Academy is relying on community support and generous donors to help raise enough funds to make this project possible. "This is a very exciting time for Willamette Academy and its students. With this new Willamette building we will be able to provide a much larger space for our after school, weekend and summer college access program for those in our community who would not otherwise have this opportunity," said Michele Gray, executive director.

If you would like to help support the Academy or have building materials you would like to donate, contact Michele Gray at [mgray@willamette.edu](mailto:mgray@willamette.edu).



## LEAF Resource Team

Willamette Academy's Leaders Enriching our Academy's Future (LEAF) resource team is comprised of business partners who assist with job shadows, volunteer opportunities, supplies and other resources for our students. The LEAF team is committed to educating, inspiring and empowering the youth in our community to achieve higher education.

### LEAF Resource Team Members

Bookbyte  
Croissant & Company  
Kraft Custom Construction  
Saalfeld Griggs PC  
Steven D. Cowgill, DMD

To learn about how to become a LEAF team member contact: [academy@willamette.edu](mailto:academy@willamette.edu).

## Support the Academy

The success of Willamette Academy depends upon a broad base of financial support which includes foundations, businesses and individuals. This support allows us to provide and expand our services that help youth in our community obtain the dream of attending college.

You can make a tremendous difference in the lives of local youth by making a contribution to Willamette Academy. Our students and their families thank you for your support.

**Donate Online** [willamette.edu/academy/](http://willamette.edu/academy/)  
It's easy and secure. Your gift is greatly appreciated.

**Send a check to**  
Willamette Academy  
900 State Street  
Salem, OR 97301

\$3000	Supports one Willamette Academy student for a year
\$2500	Provides funding for our Summer College Readiness Program for 15 students
\$2000	Provides instructors and supplies for one Saturday session
\$1500	Provides for college tours and SAT prep for 10 students
\$1000	Provides after school snacks for one month
\$500	Provides for two weeks of after school tutors and one family FAFSA workshop
\$250	Provides one Academy student with mentor sessions
\$100	Provides one Academy student a college prep workshop

### Empowering Leaders (\$10,000 and above)

Gannett Foundation  
Ron and Kathy Kelemen  
Eric B. and Holly Lindauer  
Maybelle Clark Macdonald Fund  
Sue Miller  
Susan Morrow  
PGE Foundation  
Linda and Larry Pearmine  
The Oregon Community Foundation  
Safeco Foundation  
The Salem Foundation  
Spirit Mountain Community Fund  
Larry Tokarski  
Yahoo!  
Juan Young Trust

### In Memory of

David D. Molinoff

### Inspiring Achievers (\$1,000–\$9,999)

Bank of the Cascades  
Roger and Sandra Colburn  
Ellen and Ami Eisenberg  
Lillian Iwatsuki  
Parviz Samiee  
Alex Sanchez  
Christine Sleeter, PhD  
NW Natural

### Educating Scholars (\$0–\$999)

Gene and Sue Bloom  
Elizabeth Callahan  
Ron and Renee Campbell  
Libby Crom  
Emily Drew  
Lisa Earls  
First Call Home Health

Scott Fuji  
Harvey Gail  
A Brian Gard  
Thomas E. Glass, PhD  
Kristen Grainger  
Larry Gray  
J. Willard Hayden  
Ron and Linda Hays  
Huggins Insurance  
Art and Mary James  
Tristan Knutson-Lombardo  
Andrew McNall  
Dr. Miller and Ms. Wenzel  
Stephen Moe  
Everett J. Mozell, M.D.  
Erich and Heather Paetsch  
Allan and Joshlene Pollock  
Salem Electric  
Danny P. Santos  
Gordon and Judy Sawser  
John and Carole Stockfleth  
Adam Torgerson  
Gary and Linda Wallmark

### Sustainers of the Academy (Monthly Giving)

Judith E. Basker  
Steve Brier  
Linda A. Flamenco  
Ramiro R. Flores  
Keith Grimm  
Gail McDougale  
Dawnn R. McWatters  
Robert Minato  
Sue J. Rauch  
Richard D. Reed  
Jose M. Rios  
Erik J. Schmidt  
Ronnie and Rachel Soto  
Nicholas B. Symmonds  
Ken and Judy VanOsdol  
Amy L. Ereksion Varga  
Stacy S. West

### HOW TO DONATE

To donate, fill out this form with your information, and place donation in an envelope.

Or donate online at: [willamette.edu/academy](http://willamette.edu/academy)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**My tax deductible donation is enclosed: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to **Willamette Academy** and mail to:  
Willamette Academy  
900 State St.  
Salem, OR 97301



WILLAMETTE  
ACADEMY

900 State Street  
Salem, OR 97301

## The Academy's Wish List . . .

Willamette Academy provides our students with access to vital resources to support them in their pursuit of higher education. Consider partnering with us by donating any of the items that we currently need:



### Supplies

Art Supplies  
Paper  
Glue  
Blue tape  
Graphing paper  
Loose-leaf paper  
Rechargeable batteries  
Whiteboard markers

### Other

Gift certificates  
Pizza  
Subway  
Movies  
Board games  
Napkins  
Paper plates  
Plastic cups

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Thank you for thinking of  
Willamette Academy

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[willamette.edu/academy](http://willamette.edu/academy) | 503-370-6103