

Links donates materials, reads aloud to ESL Head Start kids



By Patricia Merritt
Southern Illinois University
Edwardsville

In celebration of the nationwide Read Across America Day and Dr. Seuss' birthday on Friday, March 1, SIUE Head Start and the Gateway Chapter of the Links, Incorporated promoted literacy with the reading of Dr. Seuss' One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish at Head Start's Discovery Center for Little Scholars at the East St. Louis Higher Education Campus.

The Links also donated more than \$1,000 in merchandise to various SIUE Head Start centers throughout St. Clair County. The women's organization gave away tables, soil for gardening, a microwave, a Keurig, a white board and four cozy corner canopies.

"We are a service organization that believes in the importance of literacy and education," said Judith Griffin, chair of the Links' Services to Youth Facet. "We have long contributed to not for profit organizations in Illinois and Missouri. This is not the first time that we've given to SIUE Head Start."

Link member Patricia Wharton, who helped coordinate the donation and literacy event, recommended SIUE Head Start to be a donor recipient. Reading for the day was Link member Bonnie Gipson.

"We were more than happy to coordinate this important event with the Gateway Chapter of the Links," said Heidi Eichenseer, Discovery Center coordinator. "We have coordinators from seven of our Head Start centers today, and each center will receive one of the gifts donated by the Links."

The Links, Incorporated, one of the country's oldest and largest service organizations, is an international, not-for-profit corporation established in 1946. Membership consists of more than 15,000 professional women of color in 288 chapters in 42 states. The key programming initiatives are organized into five facets: Services to Youth, The Arts, National Trends and Services, International Trends and Services, and Health and Human Services. The Gateway Chapter of the Links, Incorporated, was chartered in 1986.

Enterprise awards \$600,000 matching gift for groundbreaking business initiative



At a reception recently in St. Louis, Enterprise Holdings Foundation awarded \$600,000 to The HistoryMakers to help raise the profile and public understanding of African-American achievement in business. The grant will help develop the most comprehensive video recording of the lives, careers, and accomplishments of African-American business leaders.

"We are thrilled that the Enterprise Holdings Foundation has chosen to support our work in this way," said Julieanna Richardson, founder and president of The HistoryMakers. "Because of this generous gift, The HistoryMakers will be able to begin the process of creating the definitive recording of African-American business leaders." Richardson added that the contribution was in response to a 9 to 1 challenge grant from Dorothy Terrell, former president of Sun Microsystems. The HistoryMakers had set a \$1 million goal to establish the "BusinessMakers" segment on its online portal.

The HistoryMakers BusinessMakers category currently includes the interviews of over 300 business leaders in 81 cit-



Top: Steven Roberts, Sr., The Honorable Anne-Marie Clarke, Barrietta Killiebrew, Jamala Rogers, Lois Conley, Alice Windom, Jack Arnett Kirkland, Priscilla Hill-Ardoin (Reception Chair) and Keith H. Williamson.

Left: Alonzo Byrd (Assistant Vice President, Public Affairs, Enterprise Holdings, Inc.), Barbara Taylor, Andrew C. Taylor (Executive Chairman, Enterprise Holdings, Inc.), Priscilla Hill-Ardoin (Board Member, Enterprise Holdings, Inc.) & Julieanna Richardson (Founder & President, The HistoryMakers)

ies and towns. Some of those already featured in the category include recently retired American Express CEO **Ken Chenault**; Merck & Co., Inc. CEO **Ken Frazier**; Johnson Publishing founder **John H. Johnson**; former Xerox CEO **Ursula Burns**; Motown founder **Berry Gordy**; RadioOne founder **Cathy Hughes**; among others.

"The Enterprise Holdings Foundation is proud to help The HistoryMakers tell the untold

stories of both well-known and unsung African Americans in business," said Carolyn Kindle Betz, senior vice president and executive director of the Enterprise Holdings Foundation. "This initiative is a terrific way to recognize African-American business leaders of the past, while encouraging future leaders of tomorrow."

Over the next two to three years, according to Richardson, The HistoryMakers will focus on adding 150 additional

interviews of noted African American business leaders to its collection – increasing its BusinessMakers category to 500. Currently, the history of African Americans in business make up less than one percent of Harvard Business School case studies, and there are no dedicated exhibits or collection of African American business leaders in any of the nation's repositories.

SPRING PRE-VIEW DAYS @ STLCC

St. Louis Community College will host Spring Preview Days for future students and families, area residents and anyone who wants to learn more about the College.

Guests can explore our academic and career programs, take a tour and enter a drawing for a 6-credit hour tuition voucher.

March 9, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Student Center STLCC-Meramec 11333 Big Bend Road, 63122	April 6, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Student Center STLCC-Florissant Valley 3400 Pershall Road, 63135
March 30, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Student Center Cafeteria STLCC-Forest Park 5600 Oakland Ave., 63110	April 6, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Main Entrance STLCC-Wildwood 2645 Generations Drive, 63040

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WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH SERIES

ARETHA FRANKLIN: DEMANDING R-E-S-P-E-C-T FOR ALL

BY: MAGGIE KUTZ '19

Aretha Franklin, the Queen of Soul, created powerful anthems that have inspired people for generations.

Born in Memphis, Tennessee in 1942, her talent was evident from a young age, and she never let anything prevent her from achieving her dreams. Her early career began when she was 14, releasing a gospel album that she had recorded in her father's church. As her career began to rise, it reached a halt when she became a teenage mother. After taking a brief hiatus, she moved to New York, switching to different record labels until she found that one that would best display her talent.

Her music became a symbol for black women empowerment. She committed herself to civil rights activism and became a strong supporter of the Civil Rights Movement. Her most well-known song, "Respect," became an anthem for the cause.

An incredible social justice activist, Franklin performed at Martin Luther King, Jr. rallies and even offered to post bail for activist Angela Davis when she was imprisoned.

Franklin provided a voice for a generation silenced by discrimination and inspired them to demand respect and equal rights. Her powerful vocals reflect the inspiration and faith she has provided for generations. Her voice holds the truth that every person should be treated with dignity.

Winning 18 Grammys and becoming the first woman to be inducted in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, her talent transcends time, race, nations and politics.

Regarding her fame, she once stated, "Being the Queen is not all about singing. It has much to do with your service to people and your social contributions to your community and your civic contributions."

She is a powerful icon of music history and the Civil Rights Movement whose music will continue to inspire dreamers for generations.

Visit sjal840.org or call 314-394-4321 for more information.