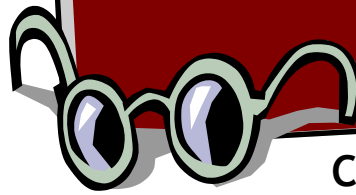




**CUYAHOGA VALLEY  
CAREER CENTER**

Career Development Department

Volume 4, Issue 1  
September-December, 2010



**SNEAK A PEEK**

**Career Development  
Events in Your Schools**

**Garfield Heights City School District**

**AUTHOR OF "BENJAMIN SAVES THE BOOKS" JOINED CLASS FOR VISIT TO CVCC**

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2011 CVCC Coming Events

Christy Semple, (seated center front row) author of "Benjamin Saves the Books," joined Ms. Sarah Memen-towski's 3rd grade class from Elmwood Elementary School for



their visit to CVCC on October 22nd and signed the children's books. The class also spent time with CVCC's Teaching Professions and Graphic Imaging program students, playing games and learning about the printing process. Students printed their own scratchpads and silkscreened a t-shirt.



At left, a student from CVCC's Teaching Professions program guided the 3rd graders in a word-building game. At right, students in CVCC's Graphics Imaging program explained the printing process and helped the class print their own scratch pads and silk screen a t-shirt. "The Books are Alive" is a literary program that also creates an appreciation for the printed word. Thanks to CVCC instructors Josephine Everhart and Bill Delgado and their students for making books come alive!

## WHAT'S AN EWOW?

Students in each of CVCC's eight districts in grades ranging from third to fifth complete an early career assessment known as an EWOW. EWOW stands for Exploring the World of Work. It's an easy and fun way for students to begin to understand how their skills and interests can lead to a rewarding career.

Students are asked to mark career pictures either green (like), yellow (not sure) or red (do not like) based on their feelings. They are encouraged to think about the things they like to do and what they are good at when making their choices. Once they have marked their forms, students tally their colors and complete a simple pie graph that represents career clusters.

Students can then easily see which "pie" has the most green, indicating the cluster they may be interested in exploring further. This activity precedes discussions about career choices, college requirements and non-traditional careers. The EWOW forms and crayons used to complete the activity are provided by CVCC.



A student colors career pictures to indicate things he likes or is good at in a career assessment conducted at district elementary schools in third grade.

## PARENTS MAKE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO CLASSROOM LEARNING



Dr. Vincent Granito, psychology instructor at Lorain Community College, discussed his career and talked with students about parts of the brain, how we learn and optical illusions.

Each fall, Community Participation Profile forms are sent home with each student in the district asking for parent involvement with the school's Career Education Program.

Participation can be through classroom speaking engagements, mock interviews or job shadowing projects. Parent participation in the program is a vital piece linking school with the career world.

## GARFIELD HEIGHTS STUDENTS VISITED CVCC FOR "IT'S FOR GIRLS"



See article on activities in which girls participated at "IT's for Girls" on Page 5.

### 3RD GRADE CAREER DAY AT WILLIAM FOSTER ELEMENTARY



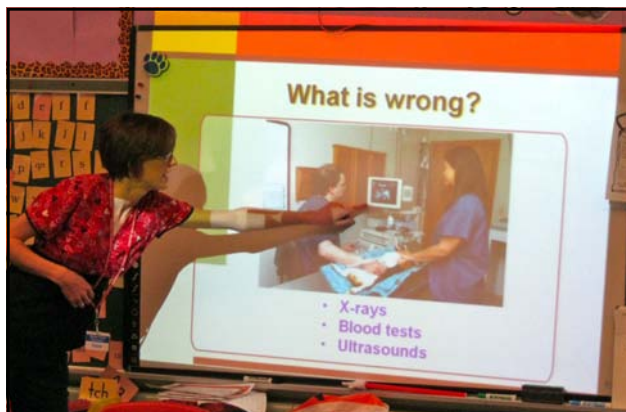
Inspector Joe Rody, Garfield Heights Fire Department, talked about the responsibilities of a paramedic.



Shelly Blankenship, with the Radiology Department of Marymount Hospital, told students about being an x-ray technician.



Trooper Senghor Hobbs I shared his career as an Ohio State Trooper with the students.



Amanda Butts, Instructor of Veterinary Technology at Stautzenberger College, told students how a veterinary technician uses technology to diagnose a problem.



Gary Tesmer, from First Energy, warned the class about the danger of downed wires and being safe where electricity was involved.

#### CAREER SPECIALISTS AT WORK IN YOUR SCHOOLS



**Becki Brehmer**



**Michele West**



**Kelli Buccini**

**Becki Brehmer** works with elementary school teachers to include career professional speakers in the classroom who enhance students' lesson plans with real-world experience.

**Michele West** works with middle school students to prepare them for a future in the working world.

**Kelli Buccini** prepares high school students for post-secondary education and future careers with portfolio preparation and hands-on practice in job shadowing and interviewing.

## FIFTH GRADERS AT MAPLE LEAF LEARNED ABOUT LANDFILLS BY BUILDING THEIR OWN



On December 9th and 10th, Kathy Rocco from Cuyahoga County Waste Management visited with 5th graders at Maple Leaf Intermediate School. She talked about the three R's, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, and about proper landfill construction.



Students then made their own landfills with materials from clay, plastic, sand, limestone, gravel and dirt. Water was poured on the landfills to represent the garbage. Students were able to discover who designed landfills that didn't leak.

## NATURALIST TIED BOOKS TO REALITY FOR 5TH GRADE STUDENTS

Naturalist Stacey Allen from the Garfield Heights Nature Center spoke to the 5th grade students in Mrs. Lisa Mullins science classes on November 12th. She talked about plants, adaptations and the deciduous forest.

She tied together the information she presented to the book "My Side of the Mountain" that students had been reading.

## FIRST GRADERS LEARNED ABOUT THE LIBRARY

First graders at Elmwood Elementary School walked to Garfield Heights Library on September 13th and 15th to find out what a librarian does.

They learned how to get a library card, how to check out books and about all the special events and activities offered at the library.

## SOS CLUB STUDENTS PROMOTED COMMUNITY SERVICE TO MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Students of Service (SOS) Club members from Garfield Heights High School met with 8th grade middle school students on December 9th and 16th. Students in Mrs. Bailor's and Mr. Sledge's Social Studies classes participated in the sessions.

SOS students talked about their experiences and stressed the importance of community service.

Pictured at right are Ryan Outler, President; Terrez Sanders, Vice President; Ta'meetria McGee, Public Relations and Imani Yahya, Secretary. Also participating was Kelley Curley, Executive Board.



## HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES IN CVCC'S STEM-RELATED CLASSES INTRODUCED GIRLS TO IT CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

On December 10th, Career Development sponsored its third annual "IT's for Girls" event. The event provides middle school girls with information and incentive to pursue their interest in STEM-related (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) subjects and discover how much fun IT (information technology) can be.

The participants took home free gifts provided by several of the IT professionals who joined the girls for lunch, as well as software that will reinforce their interest and help them define potential career pathways and curricular options as they prepare for high school.

CVCC students and several guests from industry assisted the middle school girls as they learned how technology is used in a variety of different professions. Greg Schalmo, Customer Solutions Engineer from Cisco Systems, partnered with Lorraine Pruitt, Computer Networking Academy instructor. Jennie Zamberlan, Avantia, Inc., teamed with Programming & Software Development instructor, Heidi Grivas.

The entire program was funded by private organizations and grants. Sponsors that provided funding, materials and instructors for the 2010 event were National Girls Collaborative Project, which is funded by the National Science Foundation; Children's Technology Workshop; NEOSA (Northeast Ohio Software Association); the COSE Technology Network and NEOSIM (Northeast Ohio Society for Information Management).



Industry professionals joined the girls for a Bingo game icebreaker that got everyone acquainted and chatting.



CVCC Computer Aided Design (CAD) students in Mr. Niinisto's class helped visitors design the 3D keys they had pre-produced for the girls.



The girls enjoyed sharing lunch, prepared by CVCC Culinary Arts students, with industry professionals to learn about their jobs and career paths.



Learning computer binary codes using M&M candies proved to be easy and fun. The session was led by Ms. Nonno, CVCC Math instructor.



A student from Mrs. Grivas' Programming & Software Development class helped girls learn basic animation using Alice software.



The girls learned how to take their pictures with a flip camera and email video messages home to their parents in Ms. Pruitt's Computer Networking classroom.



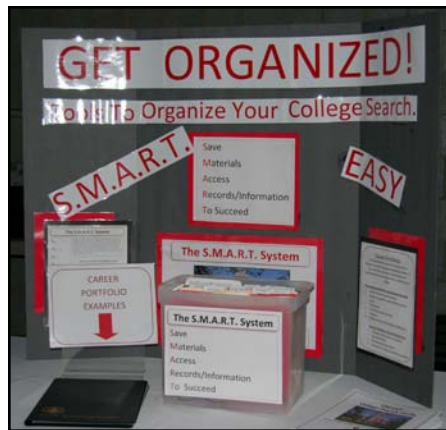
Cheryl McConnell, Children's Technology Workshop, helped the girls create a variety of fashions from a single model using digital design software — a technique used in the fashion design industry.

Girls from North Royalton who participated in the event are pictured on Page 2.

# EVENTS AT CUYAHOGA VALLEY CAREER CENTER

## College & Career Planning Seminar for Parents/Students

Even in the best of times, planning for life after high school is challenging. In these difficult economic times, it is all the more important to ensure that high school students and their parents have the tools and resources to make informed college and career decisions. When students graduate and parents transition from “guardian” to “guide,” many critical decisions that impact students’ career success will already have been made.



Darden Blake introduced her “Smart System” concept as a tried-and-true method of organizing the college search process and tracking progress. Elements of the Smart Box are shown on the right.

To help parents (and students) with these important decisions, CVCC sponsors an annual seminar, “College & Career Planning,” held in 2010 on November 10th. This event provided two panels of experts to answer questions and provide tips on how to navigate through the maze of college admissions, financial aid, and career choices. Nearly 200 parents attended the seminar, many of whom brought their sons and daughters with them. In fact, several seniors attended on their own this year!

Attendees were able to hear from a panel of experienced professionals representing an array of educational institutions from high school to two- and four-year colleges. Some of the topics discussed were: Developing a Self-Reliant Student, Creating a Solid Academic Portfolio, Earning College Credit in High School, What To Do in the Last Two Years of High School, Finding the Right-Fit College, and Scholarships and Financial Aid.

The feedback received from those in attendance was very positive and complimentary. In addition to the practical information received, attendees commented that they appreciated all the handouts and information sheets provided to help them in the college search process.

### EVENTS AT CVCC ARE GENERATED AND IMPLEMENTED BY CAREER DEVELOPMENT STAFF



**Thressa Brown**  
Trainer



**Patricia Coyne**  
Program Developer



**Nanci Coleman**  
Community Liaison  
North Royalton  
Revere

**Darden Blake**  
Community Liaison  
Brecksville-  
Broadview Hts.  
Independence



**Marie Elias**  
Community Liaison  
Nardon Hills  
Twinsburg



**Bridget Murphy**  
Community Liaison  
Cuyahoga Hts.  
Garfield Hts.



## "Soup with the Supe" Hosted Job Seekers December 3rd



Guest speaker Tina Romano-Allen shared information on penetrating the job market.

Adult job seekers in the process of career transition shared soup, salad and dessert in CVCC's Valley Inn Restaurant on December 3rd.

Tina Romano-Allen, SPHR-certified human resources professional with experience in career transition and career path development, provided information on how to penetrate the job market. The luncheon also offered the opportunity to network with other job seekers, meet Roscoe Schlachter, CVCC Superintendent, and discover the wide range of continuing education programs and services available at CVCC.

Job Seekers were also invited to a "Soup with the Supe" luncheon on October 9th for networking and to learn about statewide workforce development plans.

Additional "Soup with the Supe" luncheons were held on November 5th for area realtors and on November 30th for members of the community and area businesses.

## Job Seekers Workshops Provided Information and Hands-On Experience to Adults in Career Transition

A panel of local recruiters met with the workshop attendees on September 25th to provide information on what they are looking for when they conduct initial phone interviews and first meet potential candidates.

They also discussed follow-up on networking referrals, how they review online applications and resumes, ask behavior-based interview questions, raise questions about previous jobs and receive an applicant's follow-up call or email.

The September workshop was the first in the Saturday series, open to adults in career transition. Additional workshops on October 16th and November 13th offered open labs with CVCC Career Specialists on hand to help attendees with their resume development, career assessments, LinkedIn profiles and Internet career searches.

The 2010 series culminated with the "Lunch and Learn" luncheon on December 3rd.

## 2010 High School Teacher Externs Experienced a Variety of Real World Careers

(Back Row) Todd Goodman, Brecksville-Broadview Hts.; John O'Brien, Nardon Hills; Jennifer Mackey, Independence; Linda Weigand, Revere (Front Row) Cheryl Carano, Garfield Hts.; Donna Houston, Twinsburg; Linda New, Brecksville-Broadview Hts. (Not Pictured) Craig Taylor, Twinsburg



Continued on Page 8

## EIGHT HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS SHARPENED THEIR SKILLS DURING SUMMER EXTERNSHIPS IN THE 'REAL WORLD'

The “Teachers in the Workplace,” externship program offers high school or middle school teachers an opportunity during the summer break to spend 40 hours with business hosts related to the subject they teach. In addition to the current technology used by their host, teachers see how critical collaboration, flexibility, research and innovation skills are used in the workplace. They incorporate the development of these skills—all of which are included in Ohio’s “Framework for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning”—in their subsequent teaching plans.

As a part of the program, teachers are required to create two career-based lesson plans to share

with their classes. In some instances, their hosts will visit students for class presentations and assist with implementation of the lesson plans.

Business hosts and district administrators attending the luncheon at CVCC in November were fascinated by the externs’ presentations and amazed at the amount and variety of knowledge they will share with their students as a result of their experiences.

The Teachers in the Workplace program is a win-win situation for both teachers and business hosts, with students being the ultimate beneficiaries. It provides teachers with real-world answers to students’ eternal question, “Why do I have to learn this?”

## HIGH SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER DISCOVERED HOW HISTORY DEGREES LEAD TO MEANINGFUL CAREERS

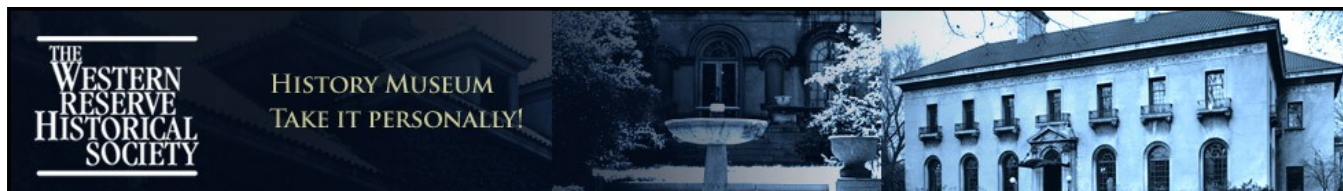
**Cheryl Carano**, one of the 2010 summer externs, is a Social Studies teacher at Garfield Heights High School. When her students ask her what careers they can pursue that require a degree in history, Cheryl now has the answers!

She visited with a librarian in the History Department at Cleveland Public Library, a curator at Case Western Reserve Historical Society and with several lawyers at Robert L. Tuma & Associates. Employees at each of these hosts shared with Cheryl how their knowledge of history is used in their jobs.

Her lesson plans will help students discover the processes that librarians and museum curators use to organize and display books, maps, antiquities and other historic artifacts. Another lesson plan challenges students to decide whether a legal case should be classified as civil or criminal.

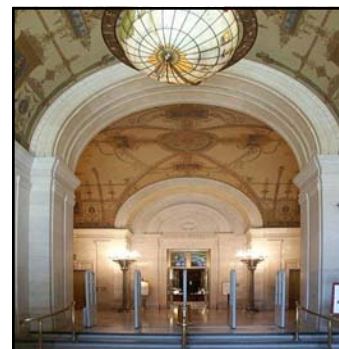


Cheryl Carano experienced careers that utilized a degree in history.



Cheryl visited the History Department at the Cleveland Public Library during her summer externship where she was able to view historical collections and photos. At the Western Reserve Historical Society, she learned how the curator helps teachers use the museum’s materials to plan interesting lessons for their students.

A collection room at the Cleveland Public Library.



**Career Specialists in Your Schools**

**Elementary**

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**Middle School**

Michele West—mwest@cvccworks.com

**High School**

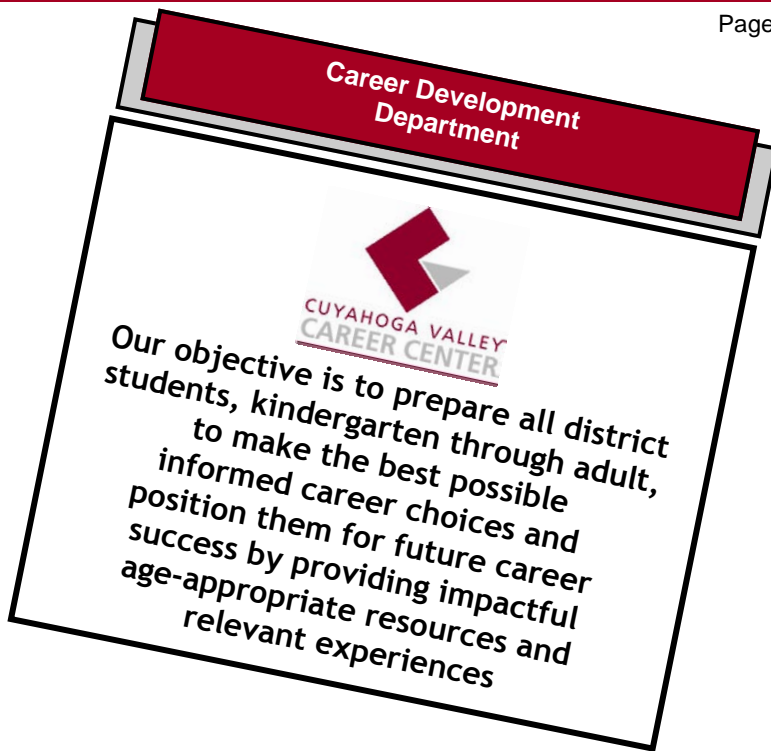
Kelli Buccini—kbuccini@cvccworks.com

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**CVCC 2011 Coming Events**

**Job Seekers - Saturdays, 9:00-Noon**

February 26 and March 19-Open Computer Lab: Resumes, Career Assessments; LinkedIn Profiles

April 16-Job Fair Boot Camp-9:00-11:00 a.m.

**Parent Seminars**

April 27, 7:00-9:00 p.m.-College Survival Skills 101

**Student Job Fair**

March 10, 3:30-6:30 p.m.

**Health Career Expo**

May 4-3:30-6:00: Career and educational opportunities

**Soup with the Supe - Fridays, Noon-1:00 p.m.**

February 25-Middle School Parents

March 18-Cuyahoga Hts./Independence Residents

April 15-Brecksville/Broadview Hts. Residents

May 6-Nordonia Hills Residents

**Summer Career Camps**

June 13-17 and June 20-24; Register online beginning February 7

Semi-annual *Sneak-a-Peek* newsletters are published in September and February. Newsletters are edited and produced by Donna F. Hessel, Career Pathways Specialist.

**For more information on any of the coming events and to opt in for monthly email updates, please check the CVCC website: [www.cvccworks.com](http://www.cvccworks.com)**