

# GWminute

IN AND OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

MAY 2008

## President Knapp, GW Commit to Climate Action

As part of GW's Earth Day celebration on April 22, University President **Steven Knapp** signed the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, an agreement to reduce the University's carbon footprint. GW is the first institution of higher education in the District of Columbia to sign the commitment, joining more than 500 others across the nation.

Knapp was accompanied by 10 co-signers, including leaders of environmental student organizations and the co-chairs of GW's Presidential Task Force on Sustainability. **George Hawkins**, director of the District Department of the Environment, spoke at the event, commending the partnership between the University and the city on the issue of environmental sustainability. Also in attendance were Washington leaders on sustainability, including Councilmember and GW Law Professor **Mary Cheh**, representing Ward 3, and **Harriet Tregoning**, director of the D.C. Office of Planning.

"Signing this pledge is just one sign of GW's commitment to transform our own institution and to collaborate with the District of Columbia and other partners in addressing this urgent local and global challenge," says Knapp. "We are proud to be the first university in the District of Columbia to join universities around the nation in this important initiative."

## GW Fact

The George Washington University is ranked among the top 50 "Best Values in Private Colleges" by *Kiplinger Personal Finance*. The University was recognized for its academic quality and affordability, including its fixed tuition and guaranteed financial aid program.

## Cancer Institute Gala Celebrates Five Honorees



GW Medical Center Communications

GW Cancer Gala honoree Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu (second from left) is joined by (from left) Steven Patierno, executive director of the GW Cancer Institute; Provost and Vice President for Health Affairs John F. Williams; and GW President Steven Knapp.

The GW Cancer Institute Gala, supported by principal benefactors **Dr. and Mrs. Cyrus Katzen** and **Dr. and Mrs. Bernard Katzen**, took place on May 3 at the National Building Museum. Proceeds will provide funds for critical cancer programs in the D.C. area. GW President **Steven Knapp** joined Provost and Vice President for Health Affairs **John F. Williams** as hosts of the event, while **Diane Robinson Knapp** and **Kimberly D. Russo**, associate administrator at GW Hospital, served as the gala co-chairs.

The highlight of the evening was an awards ceremony that recognized five honorees whose lives and work have had an impact on the community and the world. Archbishop Emeritus **Desmond Tutu**, cancer survivor and Nobel Peace Prize winner, received the Cancer Compassion Award, which is presented to an individual or organization that has exemplified devotion to improving access to and quality of care among medically underserved communities. **Margaret Foti**, chief executive officer of the American Association for Cancer Research, received the Distinguished Public Service Award for her outstanding public leadership in cancer health care and public policy. The Spirit of Life Award was presented to **Sean Swarner**, two-time cancer survivor and founder of the CancerClimber Association. This award is given to an individual whose survival story inspires courage and imparts hope to others battling cancer. Lastly, **Robert Siegel**, GW director of hematology and oncology, and his wife **Paula Siegel**, GW oncology nurse, received the newly established Commitment to Overcoming Cancer Award, which recognizes individuals or organizations that exemplify the GW Medical Center's commitment to overcoming cancer through patient care, outreach, research, education, and/or policy work.

"This year's Cancer Institute Gala was a wonderful success," says **Steven Patierno**, executive director of the GW Cancer Institute. "It was an honor to recognize such worthy individuals for their dedication to the fight against cancer. Our commitment to cancer research and eliminating the cancer disparities in the District is made possible by our benefactors and friends who support the institute and the gala. Without them, we would not be able to have made such significant strides in cancer research and understanding and eliminating cancer disparities."

NBC4 News Anchor **Doreen Gentzler** was the emcee at the event, and Grammy-nominated singer and songwriter **Oleta Adams** provided entertainment. For more information about the GW Cancer Institute and to view photos from the gala, go to [www.gwcancer.org](http://www.gwcancer.org).

# ISCOPEES: Eastern High School

On April 5, students from the Eastern High School Health and Medical Sciences Academy, along with their teacher and director, **Craig English**, participated in a five-hour Passport to Health symposium, coordinated by GW's Interdisciplinary Student Community-Oriented Prevention Enhancement Service (ISCOPEES), a service-learning program composed of graduate health professional students working with community partner organizations. The symposium was the culminating experience of eight months of service for the Eastern High School (EHS) ISCOPEES team.

The EHS ISCOPEES team comprises 13 GW and George Mason University students studying to become physical therapists, public health practitioners, nurse practitioners, and physicians, assisted by faculty members Assistant Dean for Student and Curricular Affairs **Yolanda Haywood** and Assistant Professor of Health Care Sciences **Howard Straker**. EHS' Health and Medical Sciences Academy has approximately 50 students in grades 10 through 12 who are interested in becoming health professionals. The academy specifically focuses on three health professions: nursing, emergency medical technician, and dentistry, but exposes its students to many other health careers. It provides the students with both classroom and field experiences.

Passport to Health featured interactive workshops on topics and activities that the high school students specifically requested, including how to use the Internet to access reliable adolescent health information and research colleges; building healthy relationships; diabetes and heart disease information; physical therapy skills; and a simulation during which the students experienced drawing blood and intubating a patient. The ISCOPEES students designed and conducted the hands-on workshops and provided take home materials for the EHS students.

The day provided a fun and educational experience for all. "The high school students were enthusiastic about what they learned and about their contributions to the workshops," says **Taara Hassan**, a first-year GW medical student team member. **Jalan Washington**, another first-year medical student on the team, says, "The smiles and cheers that we received



Assistant Dean for Student and Curricular Affairs **Yolanda Haywood** assists Eastern High School Health and Medical Sciences Academy students (from left) **Octavia Holt**, **Sierra Boney**, **Jade Fields** (intubating), **Angilise Houston**, and **LaTasha Henderson**.

at the completion of our workshops for the EHS students made this experience worthwhile!"

The members of the EHS ISCOPEES team learned several lessons themselves, including the challenges of working on a community project, the significance of providing service within the community, and the importance of flexibility in working with the community. "ISCOPEES gave us the opportunity to combine the knowledge of several different disciplines toward a common goal," says nurse practitioner students **Jennifer Stuehler** and **Tara Conti**. "It was very rewarding to interact with high school students who were so enthusiastic about health care and disease prevention."