The Maryland Bulletin

Vol. CXV, No. 4

Maryland School for the Deaf

Senior Issue - 1995



Class of 1995

Front row: Tanzannica Mack, Kimberly Jones, Amy Jubb, Danyell DeShields, Jessica Davis. Second row: Timothy Ehrhart, Robin Perry-El, Donna Crowe, Michael Bowen, Nicole Walker, Julio Montemayor. Third row: Stephen Campisi, Darryl Watson, Shanda Thomas, Larry Summers, Renee Parham, Herbert Bowden, Dennis Dean. Fourth row: Stephen Semler, Rhonda Jackson, Ryan Palmer, Raymond Johnson, John Remick, Jason Lutsky, Philip Bohrer. Absent: Gerald Mackall and Joseph Remick.

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The Maryland Bulletin USPS No. 331-660

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Commencement Address

by Gary Malkowski Member, Provisional Parliament, Ontario, Canada

Transcribed by Richard Medugno

(Commencement Address at the Maryland School for the Deaf, Frederick Campus on Saturday, June 10, 1995)



MPP Gary Malkowski

"Thank you, Superintendent Tucker. What a wonderful, inspiring introduction! Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. It is a big honor for the graduating Class of 1995! Greetings to families, parents, friends, relatives, and friends of the Maryland School for the Deaf, faculty and staff, and Dr. Nancy Grasmick.

I want to congratulate the parents, Dr. Nancy Grasmick, and the Maryland School for the Deaf faculty and staff for giving a wonderful foundation to this Class of 1995 graduates. Congratulations to all of you!

Now, I want to look back at my high school educational opportunities and share them with you. All the experiences I that went through, the many wins and losses. These various situations have given me a wealth of experience, expertise, and knowledge that I want to share today.

I was born deaf. My parents were working class poor. I went to a provincial school for the deaf and they labeled me a slow learner. It was because my speech was not terrific, my lip-reading

skills were not terrific, and my signing skills were not the best. With a minimal language background, I was "labeled." At that time there were no Deaf role models, no Deaf teachers. ASL or sign language wasn't permitted in the classroom. Closed captioning? Communication technology? Computer technology? They did not exist. How could I achieve? How could I gain access to all the information? I envy you. You have wonderful role models, you have Deaf teachers, you have closed captioning, you have TTY's, you have interpreters, you have communication technology. and you have a wonderful school. MSD is one of the best schools in North America serving Deaf students. You have a wonderful opportunity to achieve access to information. While I was growing up, it was so hard. It was like a Berlin Wall in front of me. And I was butting my head against that wall on all sides.

One day, I challenged my principal to give me a chance to take a Gallaudet entrance exam. I wanted to go to Gallaudet. My experiences at Gallaudet University gave me a wonderful educational opportunity. I had access to information within the deaf and hearing world-it was another cultural community, like the black cultural community. What a wonderful experience! Those were the experiences that gave me power and determination to achieve the highest education that I could possibly attain. This inspired me to commit to improve the quality of education. For whom? All deaf children. I am also committed to improve the leadership within the Deaf community.

My first job offer which I received was from the Maryland School for the

Deaf! They offered me my first job. Chad Baker was the one who called and offered me the job. With regret I didn't accept the job. I decided to go to Gallaudet University to receive my M.A. Degree. My debt, or my obligation is gone. I'm here! I've come! I've paid back my debt . . .

The experiences that I've had are very important. My message to the Class of 1995; what you have already is a foundation. You have the experience of learning. Continue learning. And make certain that you use your skills, your knowledge, and your opportunities. Go for it! Grab it! Follow through! Go on that path, those bricks. Achieve the highest education possible. Get the experience. Seek different job opportunites, as many as possible. My first job experience was being a janitor. I was a janitor. That was my first job experience. My highest is having been elected to parliament. That was my best experience. All I had was a vocational certification. I look at you and you inspire me. You have the Maryland State High School Diploma while I received a vocational certificate from my school that wasn't even recognized in Ontario.

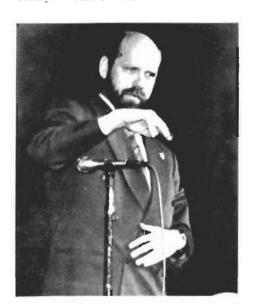
Now, you students: You have many chances and opportunites. I want you to use them to the best of your abilities. Our goals can happen. You have to fight hard. I am going to fight harder to raise the quality of education for Deaf children in Ontario and all over North America, so that they have a brighter future. I don't want to see those Deaf students stuck within that Berlin Wall and have it pulled down on them. It's painful. And it's torturous. It's a terrible experience. My self-esteem was non-

existent. My literacy skills were at third or fourth grade level. But Gallaudet accepted me. I was surprised. Gallaudet picked me up with a helicopter. I got on that helicopter and got out from behind the Berlin Wall. And I escaped. I went to Gallaudet University and I got the highest education.

I bring with me the Gallaudet education and the involvment of the Deaf community, the Deaf President Now movement at Gallaudet University, and the explosion that happened after DPN, Deaf Ontario Now. We have been involved in political process. We are bringing thousands and thousands Deaf people who have been through the educational system. I'm bringing them to the front line of the provincial parliament. I'm shaking them up! And waking them up! They are hearing our cries.

We have been successful in taking down that Berlin Wall . . . Many Deaf people have been freed. Children are free to achieve the highest education that they could possibly attain.

One day my friend who was an M.P.P. was teasing me, "Why don't you run for the parliament? Go ahead!" He was being very sareastic. . . . I thought I am going to capture that idea. "Why not? Why not try? Let me just see what happens? Let me seize this opportunity." I ran. I won.



MPP Gary Malkowski gives the Commencement Address.

And you know what, my first job experience working in the hearing world was that job in parliament. All my life . . . I went to a "deaf" school, I went to Gallaudet University, which is a "deaf" environment. My work was at the Canadian Hearing Society and the Ministry of Community and Youth Social Services. All of that were within the Deaf world. But my first job in the hearing world was being an M.P.P.

It was a double challenge. I was in the hearing world and in the political arcna. That kind of experience has given me what I want to share with you. No matter what you go through, winning or losing, it doesn't matter. You get a wealth of experience. It's very simple for you to say, "How did he make it?"

Two things: try it and work hard. Those are the two lines you use and I guarantee you, the Class of 1995, it will lead you to success. Recently, my experience in the election: I fought hard to win, to gain my re-election. I fought hard, but I lost. Do I regret it? Absolutely not. I am very proud of what I've achieved for my people. My accomplishments are lengthy and I'm very proud of them. You, the Class of 1995, suppose you were in that situation and you lost. Don't be disappointed. Don't. Be proud of your efforts and your hard work. You tried. Always strive and struggle for that goal.

To summarize: I kept my promise to Superintendent James Tucker, I'm here; I paid off my debt to Chad Baker, I am here; and the Class of 1995, you students voted to bring me here and I'm here. I hope you are satisfied with my words of wisdom and with my sharing experiences with you. In the year 2000, you will vote for me. I will be re-elected in the year 2000.

In closing, I wish to congratulate the Class of 1995. You, the graduates, remember to keep trying, and keep on trying. Work hard to receive the highest educational degree you can possibly attain, to strive for the highest employment opportunities you can possibly achieve, and to be exposed to the diversity of experiences of the entire world. Get in the hearing world, the Deaf

world, and the political world. The whole arena! Accept the challenges and strive for "accountability" to make sure that Deaf people receive the best education possible, and get the best employment opportunites. I challenge you to join me . . . and we work together to create a great future for our future generations . . . for the future of Deaf children so that they will be equal to hearing children throughout the world. Congratulations!



Graduate Renee Parham is all smiles as she hugs a friend.



Superintendent James Tucker offers congratulations to graduate Tanzannica Mack.

MSDE Address

By Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick, State Superintendent of Schools Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)

I am delighted to be here on this historic day. I congratulate all of the graduates today who have worked hard and earned their diplomas.

The day has a special significance for the school, for the students, and for me because of three students we honor today: Donna Crowe, Ryan Palmer, and Stephen Semler.

You are the first students at the Maryland School for the Deaf to earn a Maryland High School Diploma.

You have fulfilled all of the same high school course credit requirements, the same functional test requirements, and the same cnrollment requirements that high school graduates across the state have completed.

You join 40,000 other students who graduate from Maryland high schools this year.

Too often the world looks at students who are deaf and sees only disability—you give us all new reason to look at you and see ABILITY. That is important for you and for other students with disabilities.

Our drive in Maryland to ensure academic excellence in all our schools and for all our students is based on the conviction that ALL STUDENTS CAN LEARN . . . Not "all students, but . . ."

The idea that all students can learn is of critical importance to you, to your teachers and others who have worked to support your school's mission, and to



Donna Crowe, Ryan Palmer, and Stephen Semler (first MSD students to receive Maryland High School Diplomas) pose moments before the Commencement Program.

the state and nation who need your talents.

Speaking of those who have supported your school's mission. I commend Mr. Tucker, Superintendent, for his commitment to excellence and his high standards for the students at the Maryland School for the Deaf.

I want to commend the Frederick County Public Schools (and Superintendent Daniel Gadra) for their support of this school.

The school's Board of Trustees have worked hard to ensure a high level of state and local support for the school, I am sure all here today appreciate their work.

And finally, the Frederick community has been supportive in many ways.

The collaboration and coordinated efforts of all members of the Maryland School for the Deaf community is appreciated. Donna, Ryan, and Stephen, our attention today is focused on you and the other graduates here today. This is your day. You have earned your time in the spotlight. Congratulations!

Valedictory Address

Laying Life's Road

by Donna Louise Crowe

The future is a journey on a long, unpaved road ahead of me. It lies there ready to be paved with bricks. These bricks are the choices that I have made and will make throughout my life. A few bricks have already been laid in place—today I graduate, and my first brick is in place. Soon I'll make a trip West where I have chosen to attend Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin. This is my second brick.

Other bricks are stacked nearby and will be laid as I major in Biophysical Environmental Studies with the hope of becoming an environmental engineer. As you can see my future takes me on a path which leads me far from the school that has nurtured me for the last five years.

As my path leads me away from MSD, I realize that you, the Members of the Class of 1995, will make your own paths, too. To you, my fellow graduates, I say follow your dreams for your



Donna Crowe

dreams are the wishes your heart makes. These dreams lead to the bricks with which you shall pave your own road. Your dreams are the Future: tomorrow, the day after, and the weeks, months, and years that lie ahead. Choose to fill your dreams as you will, for the possibilities are endless. The only limitations we have are those we allow others to set for us or which we impose on ourselves. Pursue your dreams of the future, for the long, gleaming road lies ahead just waiting for your bricks. Future bricks will be laid as we go to college, enter the world of work, marry, travel. . . . Remember your dreams are the bricks on your pathway; choose wisely so that path is smooth and not marred by the roadbumps of mistaken choices.

The time will come when today is only a dim memory and our present future has become our past. Who knows what lies ahead or what goals we will make come true because we were willing to chase our dreams? College, a career, marriage, children these may be part of our future. We won't know until our bricks are ready to be laid.

Start today the roads that lead to your dreams! I know I'm ready, my road is started and with graduation your road begins, too. The journey to our future has begun. So, come on, let us roll up our sleeves, and start laying the bricks.

Salutatory Address

Setting Goals

by Stephen Craig Semler

Good morning Mr. Tucker, Mr. Baker, faculty, class sponsors, Honored Guests, Family and Friends.

On behalf of the Class of 1995, I want to thank each one of you for being here with us today.

First, we want to thank MSD's administrators and their staff. We often forget or take advantage of them because they don't work directly with us much. They are always behind the scenes. They have to work with the Governor of Maryland. They have to make sure that we have good conditions here. And they have to make sure we have everything we need for the school. It's important for them to keep MSD running smoothly.

Next, we want to thank our teachers. We see our teachers every day in school. Sometimes we have hard times or disagree with them. But we know you're always there to help us. We want you, the teachers, to know how much we appreciate your time and diligent work with us.

Finally, and most importantly, we want to thank our parents, family, and friends. We want to thank you for your support and encouragement for us to be successful in the real world. You have taught us many things to prepare us for the real world. For example, how to wash clothes, how to budget our money, and how to organize our time. These may seem trivial, but they are important for our future.

The most important thing we have learned from all of you—administrators, teachers, family, and friends—is that we can't succeed in life without goals. Goals have helped us to succeed in high school, and goals will help us to succeed throughout our lives. You taught us four things about goals.

First you taught us that goals must be clear and specific. One example of a clear goal is aiming for a specific grade. I had a difficult time in geometry class. I always struggled with my class work,



Stephen Semler

but I set a goal for myself to get a good grade for that class. I did all the homework. I asked questions in class. I studied hard for tests and quizzes. I didn't always understand, but I kept trying. No, I didn't get an A! I got a B third quarter. That showed me that I was not perfect, but I was succeeding. A good grade shows that you gave your best effort.

Second, you taught us to put forth our best effort and to be patient and steady in order to reach our goals. Our Cross Country coach often told us to be patient and not give up. We had to endure many different kinds of weather-hot and humid, rain, and cold. I hated to run through the rain because my shoes got completely soaked. Wet shoes feel awful! It's hard to keep running. But I remembered that my coach said "don't give up," so I ran through the rain. The coach's goal helped us to improve our running every day. In sports and in life we must keep our eyes on the goal because we want to improve our record in every competition. No matter what the outcome is, we are always winners because we did our

Third, goals cannot be selfish. It's

important to have a team work together. The team should work to reinforce each other to reach their own personal goals. You must always be aware of those around you while achieving your goals. I wasn't running alone in the rain. I was running with the team. We had to encourage each other through any weather.

Fourth, it is important for us to be true to ourselves and to be honest with ourselves. We must be honest with everyone to succeed. You shouldn't copy other people's goals. If you do, you will not be happy later in life. Although at first the coach set the goal, each team member accepted it as his or her own. We wanted to win. You must find your own goals. Each of us has our own responsibility to do what makes us successful and happy.

On this meaningful day, I challenge each and every one of you to set a new goal for yourself. Set a goal that is specific, requires your best effort, requires teamwork, and is true to yourself. You have completed your goals here at MSD. Now you need to set new goals for your future life at college, in technical training, at work, or raising a family.

Remember the past years as your best, even though they were difficult at times. We struggled through problems, but felt good after successfully solving them.

Helen Keller said, "The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or touched. They must be felt with the heart." And so we, the Class of 1995, thank you from the heart. We have been fortunate to have the guidance of administrators, teachers, family and friends to help us succeed in life. The responsibility of life is now ours. Now the decisions are ours. The future lies before us, and may it always hold many happy memories and new dreams.

Last week I received a graduation card which I think summarizes what I am trying to say. Inside were these words: "The world belongs to those who care deeply, who dream boldly, and who work steadfastly." We, the Class of 1995, thank you for making that possible.

The following students have met the Maryland School for the Deaf Graduation Requirements:

Philip Bohrer Raymond Johnson, Jr. Robin Perry-El Michael Bowen Kimberly Jones John Remick Stephen Campisi Amy Jubb Joseph Remick Donna Crowe Jason Lutsky Stephen Semler Jessica Davis Tanzannica Mack Lawrence Summers Gerald Mackall Shanda Thomas Dennis Dean Danyell DeShields Julio Montemayor Nicole Walker Timothy Ehrhart Ryan Palmer Darryl Watson Rhonda Jackson Renee Parham

MSD GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credit Requirements

Subject	Credits
English (Reading/Writing) Mathematics	8 3 (including successful completion of <u>Algebra II</u> and <u>Geometry</u>), OR 4 credits (if other than above)
	3 (one credit must include either Health or Biology)
Electives	9 or 10 (dependent on Mathematics Requirement)
Total Required Credits	28
**********	***********

The following students have met the Maryland High School (Maryland State Department of Education) Graduation Requirements:

Donna Crowe Ryan Palmer Stephen Semler

MARYLAND HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

A. Credit Requirments

Subject	Credits
Mathematics	2 (one must be Biology) 3 3 (American Studies I and American Studies II) 1 1 (Fine Arts) 1
Total Required Credits	20

B. Passing scores on Maryland Functional Tests (Reading, Writing, Mathematics, and Citizenship)

1994-1995 HONOR AWARDS

The annual honor awards night held on June 8 is always a positive influence on MSD students. Award recipients demonstrate highest level of commitment and competency in their work with fellow students, teachers, residential educators, and administrators. They set high standards for themselves and then offer strength and support to other students. Honorees are as follows:

MSD Foundation Outstanding High School Student: (two \$50.00 cash prizes) Donna Crowe and Stephen Semler

MSD Foundation Outstanding Middle School Student: (two \$50.00 cash prizes) Marissa Clopper and Robert Steele

MSD Foundation Outstanding Career and Technology Student: (two \$50.00 cash prizes)

Julia Rae Eichelberger and Dennis Dean

MSD Foundation Middle School Reading Award: (two \$25.00 cash prizes)

Shawn Shannon and Jessica vonGarrel

High School Faculty Pride In Self Award: (two \$25.00 cash prizes)

Carey Knezevich and DeJuan Hamilton

Yvette Benton Memorial: (Middle School-MSD Foundation—\$50.00 cash)

Sharon Duke

Harry Benson Alumni Association Award for Athletics: (two \$25.00 cash awards given by MSD Alumni Association)

Audris Harris and Tyese Gaither

George F. Faupel Alumni Association Award for Drama: (two \$25.00 cash awards given by MSD Alumni Association)

Julie Bourne and Johnny Thuahnai

Drama Award: Most Improved Performance

Roger Spidle

Drama Award: Best Performer in Supporting Role

Janelle Berry

Drama Award: Best Newcomer in Performing Role

Roberta Monroe

Drama Award: Senior Service Award

Donna Crowe, Ryan Palmer,
and Stephen Semler

James H. Behrens Alumni Association Leadership Award: (plaque presented by MSD Alumni Association)

Stephen Semler

Frederick Art Club Award: (two \$25.00 prizes)

Julie Bourne and Sigridur Jonsson (Elementary) Maryland Association of the Deaf (\$100.00 award given by MDAD)

Donna Crowe

PTCA Golden Hands Award: (six plaques)
Danyell DeShields & Dennis Dean (HS)
Martene Smith & Daniel Strasbaugh (MS)

Peggy and Walter Henning Presentation: (two TTYs)

Marlene Smith & Clifton Anthony Johnson

PTCA Rev. Louis Foxwell Award: (plaque presented by MSD PTCA)

Donna Vogeler

Dedication 1995 Cornerstone: Kathy Meagher

Hazel McCanner MSD History Award:

Ist—Timothy Riker—\$75.00 2nd—Shanika Pretlow—\$30.00 3rd—Stacy Nowak—\$20.00

Margaret Kent Scholarship: (\$500.00 awarded upon completion of first semester)

Donna Crowe

Bernice Shockley Scholarship: (\$400.00 award)

Ryan Palmer

Laura J. Struthers Memorial Scholarship: (two \$350 awards)

Stephen Semler and Kimberly Jones

Optimist—"Help Them Hear Foundation" Scholarship: (two \$300.00 scholarships awarded upon completion of first semester)
Donna Crowe and Stephen Semler

Optimist—"Help Them Hear Foundation" Middle School Awards: (eight \$50.00 awards)

Belynda Bailey, Juan Carlos Borrero, Darla Konkel, Conrad Hause, LaToya Plummer, Frank Korpics, Laura Tarbox, Jason Wells



Miss Margaret S. Kent, Principal Emeritus, with Donna Crowe, the 1995 recipient of the Margaret S. Kent Scholarship.



J. R. Hamilton, of the Optimist Club, presented eight awards to Middle School students. Pictured are Conrad Hause, Belynda Bailey, LaToya Plummer, Franco Korpics, Jason Wells. Absent: Darla Konkel, Laura Tarbox, Juan Carlos Borrero.



Recipients of the Optimist Club Scholarships were Donna Crowe and Stephen Semler. Mr. Hamilton, center, presented the scholarships.



Winners of the Hazel McCanner History Contest are pictured with Miss Margaret S. Kent who presented the first place award to Timothy Riker and second place award to Shanika Pretlow. Not pictured is third place winner Stacy Nowak.



Mr. and Mrs. William Struthers presented the Laura J. Struthers Memorial Scholarships to Kimberly Jones and Stephen Semler.



Superintendent James E. Tucker presented the Bernice Shockley Scholarship to Ryan Palmer.



MSD Alumni Association President, Michelle Kelly, presented the Harry Benson Alumni Association Award for Athletics to Audris Harris and Tyese Gaither.



Carey Knezevich and DeJuan Hamilton are the proud recipients of the High School Faculty Pride in Self Award which was presented by Ms. Kathy Meagher.

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