



**YES Prep**  
Public Schools



### **100% of our Graduating Seniors Head to College!**

The 2006-07 school year is officially over and we thought it was a perfect time to send out one more newsletter before summer vacation is upon us. Last Friday, nearly 2,000 people joined us to celebrate as our seventh class of YES seniors graduated. Once again, **100%** of our graduates have been accepted to four-year colleges and universities across the country.

As we finish our ninth year of operation, we are proud to be serving more students than any year in our history. The highlights below say it all—from offering unique service trips to meeting the former head of the United Nations—we are giving our students opportunities and experiences that would otherwise not exist. As we prepare to open our fifth campus this summer, we want to thank you for making our expansion and these opportunities possible. Together, we are making a difference in Houston. Enjoy reading more about our students and our mission!

### **YES Prep is a Newsweek Top 100 School. Again!**



Once again, YES Prep has made *Newsweek's* annual list of the top 100 public schools in America. We've moved up 50 places to 38th on the list and YES is highlighted in the feature article. YES is the **ONLY** Houston school in the top half of the list; the rank is particularly impressive, since YES is open enrollment and serves a greater number of low-income students than most schools on the list. To read excerpts from the article, [click here](#).

### **Senior Signing Day: A HUGE Celebration**

In late April, we hosted our annual Senior Signing Day where seniors declared their college choice to a packed audience of classmates, family members, and friends. It was an emotional experience as the students signed their letters of intent with their parents standing proudly behind them. This year's seniors earned over \$3 million in scholarships and financial aid and have gained acceptance to 80 schools nationwide, including Stanford, Yale, Vanderbilt, Smith, Tufts, Notre Dame, Boston University, Texas A&M, and the University of Texas. Over **90%** of the students will be the first in their families to attend a four-year college!



## YES Prep Lee: Innovative Partnership to Start this Summer

In April, the HISD School Board approved a proposed partnership to begin a new YES Prep campus inside Lee High School this fall. This partnership is the first of its kind in Texas. YES Prep Lee will occupy a wing of the high school and begin with 140 students in 6th grade. The school will grow by a grade level each year under the direction of the school director, Mr. Bill Durbin. This will give YES and HISD an opportunity to share best practices and create a partnership model that can be replicated at other schools in Houston and across the country. To read the full article featured in the Houston Chronicle, [click here](#). There are still a few student openings remaining; you can find out more about our enrollment process by [clicking here](#). YES Prep Lee will open with Summer School on July 11th.

## Friends of YES Art Show Draws a Crowd

In early May, over 100 guests joined students and staff for “Deconstructing Voice,” the 3rd Annual YES Art Exhibition and Auction. [Bering and James Gallery](#) graciously donated their space and food was generously provided by [Joyce’s Ocean Grill](#). While enjoying the delicious food and unique martinis, guests had the opportunity to bid and purchase over 60 works of student art. The evening raised nearly \$5,000 for college scholarships—a record-breaking night for the YES art department. The event was hosted by Friends of YES, an exciting new group of volunteers that are committed to spreading the word about YES in the community. Be sure to join us for our next exciting evening!



## YES Students Make a Difference at the MS-150



YES stands for “Youth Engaged in Service”. YES Prep’s goal is to change Houston by creating a critical mass of college graduates who have a commitment to serving our community. In late April, eight students, along with their teachers, YES board members, and friends of YES Prep, exemplified that mission by completing the MS150 bike ride. The students trained for 6 months, and together they raised over \$3,500 for MS research! **All** of the students finished the 160 mile bike ride successfully. We are very proud of their accomplishment!

## YES Students Spend Unique Evening with Kofi Annan



On an evening in late April, YES students attended 'A Conversation with Kofi Annan' hosted by the Brilliant Lecture Series at the Hobby Center. This was a historic event, as it marked the first public appearance by Annan since he left the United Nations. Two of our students posed questions to Annan during a Q&A session immediately following the lecture. They represented 2 of only 8 people selected from the city to interview the former Secretary General. Special thanks to the Education Foundation of Harris County who underwrote the tickets for YES to attend. Here, students and staff pose with Arthur and Philamena Baird, EFHC board members.

