

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

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ALUMNI AND SENIORS TOGETHER FOR ON-CAMPUS INDUCTION EVENTS

The 5E Lesson Plan Model. Jean Piaget's educational theory. Vygotskian Social Learning. Does this all sound pretty familiar?

Making phone calls home. Dealing with unprofessional gossip. Making friends with custodians and copy personnel. Still familiar? When going through the *teach*HOUSTON program, there are some aspects of the teaching field which simply cannot be taught in Farish Hall. These nebulous and often intimidating aspects of teaching are the stuff of the brand new *tH* induction events.

These gatherings, conceived and implemented in large part by one of *tH*'s newest master teachers, Cheryl Latiolais, aim to educate new and future teachers, build community, and to

allow the always-growing army of *teach*HOUSTON graduates to share their experience and skills with



other teachers.

The inaugural induction event on August 8th was facilitated by *teach*HOUSTON graduates Fred Lewis, Jackie Ekeoba, and Keri King. These graduates span three separate academic disciplines (math, biology and chemistry, respectively) and thus had a great variety of skills, experience, and words of caution to their less-experienced audience.

In addition to formal professional development

sessions, the induction team organized a get-together at Star Pizza on September 26th. Through this and the new "buddy" program being piloted this semester, induction is taking off like never before. With the number of *tH* graduates in the Houston area growing as fast as the team can keep up, expect great things to keep happening!



The next induction event is currently being planned for mid-late October. Stay tuned for details!

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NEWS AND SPOTLIGHTS

Alumni Spotlight: Izabel Hlayhel

It was just spring 2009 when Izabel Hlayhel first stepped foot in STEP 1 in the *teach*HOUSTON program. The program was just getting ready to graduate its first teacher, classes were under 20 students a piece, and there were about 5 student workers. In joining *tH*, Izabel was a pioneer of sorts.

This tradition of braving unknown territory is no longer anything new for Ms. Hlayhel. Since graduating from UH in the fall semester of 2011, she has taught biology at



Elsik HS in Alief ISD. In just about a year and a half, she has advanced to nomination by her colleagues as biology team leader, a position which

puts 8 teachers under her leadership.

Izabel knows her way around leadership positions, as she served a long term as president of the *teach*HOUSTON Student Society and currently presides over the WeTeach National Alumni Network.

Team Spotlight: Davis High School

*teach*HOUSTON continues to enjoy ubiquity in the Houston area as more and more schools are beginning to hire multiple graduates from the program.



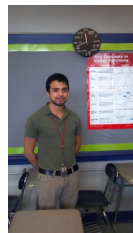
At South Houston HS, a total of five *teach*HOUSTON grads are employed. Now at Davis HS, three grads are changing lives in the *tH* tradition!



Anita Jafferli, Mary Divin, and Rudy Morales are all

introducing inductive, student-centered learning into the school days of hundreds of students.

Unlike the group at South Houston HS, all three *tH* grads at Davis hold degrees in mathematics, allowing them to plan and collaborate in a big way!

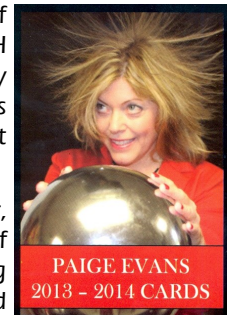


Jhalyssa Williams, a current *tH* senior who is student-teaching at Davis, is also a mathematics major. She is greatly enjoying the mentorship of our three grads!

*teach*HOUSTON Gets its Second Cougar Card!

Each year at the University of Houston, the student body scrambles to obtain those 56 Cougar Trading Cards-including the one coveted RARE card for a \$1000 scholarship.

*teach*HOUSTON itself was given the honor of having its own Cougar Card during the 2012-2013 school year featuring a photograph of our very first *tH* graduate, Ricky Garcia and his famous red shirt and black tie.



This school year, in recognition of her Teaching Excellence Award this past spring, our own Dr. Paige Evans was featured on her own very own Cougar Card.

In true "crazy-physicist" style, Dr. Evans is featured holding onto a Van der Graff generator with her hair standing straight up on end.

Dr. Evans is the Co-PI for the NSF NOYCE Grant for Physics and Chemistry and spent this summer piloting a brand new Science as Inquiry course at UH. Congratulations, Dr. Evans! You make us proud!

"A hundred years from now, it will not matter what kind of car I drove, what kind of house I lived in, how much money I had in the bank...but the world may be a better place because I made a difference in the life of a child." – Forest Witcraft

