

Fall 2010



# Riverside Review

A publication of Riverside School in Richmond, Virginia

## Leading From the Heart

Inspiring words from bestselling author Tommy Spaulding

“Dyslexic people have a gift of really leading with their heart and serving with their heart. And people follow servant leaders.” This was the message New York Times bestselling author, Tommy Spaulding, brought to the students, faculty and friends of Riverside School during his breakfast and lunch-time presentations at the Jefferson Hotel on Wednesday, October 6.

Spaulding was brought to Richmond by Riverside Board President, Anthony Strange, who was inspired by Spaulding’s story of success despite his struggles with dyslexia. Thanks to the generous support of Advisory Board and Board members, students, faculty and staff from Riverside were special guests at the breakfast event at which Spaulding addressed the students telling them to “never give up” and to remember to “treasure the friendships that they develop at Riverside as they will last them a lifetime.”

Spaulding grew up struggling with dyslexia and learned early on that it would be his talent for building relationships,



Mason Turner, Carly Coyle and guest speaker, Tommy Spaulding at the Jefferson Hotel

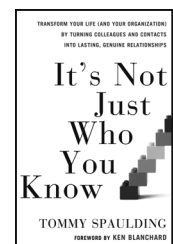
not his academic abilities, that would help him succeed. After graduating from high school, Spaulding joined the international organization, Up With People, and later went on to become CEO of the non-profit organization. He currently runs his own corporation, Spaulding Companies, LLC, a national leadership development, consulting, coaching, and speaking organization.

In August, Spaulding published his first book, *It’s Not Just Who You Know*,

which highlights his experiences in building meaningful relationships and gives insights into how to turn colleagues and contacts into lasting, genuine relationships.



Riverside School has copies of the book for sale for \$20.00 with all proceeds benefitting Riverside School. To order a copy contact the development office at (804) 320-3465 or [development@riversideschool.org](mailto:development@riversideschool.org)



## Mark your calendars!

**Grandparents & Special Friends Day is November 23, 2010!**



## Inside this issue:

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## Head's Up!



A message from the  
Head of School,  
Julie D. Wingfield

“Keeping a healthier lifestyle in mind, students will not only be physically moving, they will be academically engaged by learning about the seven continents of the world.”

With the start of the new school year, we introduced our new theme: *Moving Around the World*. Keeping a healthier lifestyle in mind, students will not only be physically moving, they will be academically engaged by learning about the seven continents of the world. For the next three years our classrooms will be known by their continent names and each month a different class will present information and fun facts about their class’ continent during a special assembly. Parents will also have the opportunity to get involved in our continent days as they present games, food and cultural highlights from the featured continent. During the 2010-2011 school year our students will especially focus on learning about the geography and culture of each continent.

Recognizing the benefits of early identification for students at risk for specific language based learning differences, Riverside added a Kindergarten curriculum/program. We are excited about having our first two kindergarten students this academic term. We are hopeful that in the future, more students will be identified at an early age so that they too can receive the specialized instruction that will help them gain basic skills that they need for later learning.

With 75 students enrolled for the 2010-2011 school year, we are at full capacity. Our intermediate school grew from two to four classes and we have made several curriculum and program improvements to accommodate the needs of all our students. To help with the coordination of the new Intermediate School program, Michele Estes is now our Lead Teacher for the Intermediate School faculty.

Other faculty members in new positions this year include Kathy Consuegra, Dean of Academic & Student Affairs; Cathie Ricketts, L.F. Coordinator; Camp Goodwin, Library Coordinator; Christine Bachmann, Librarian; Heather Mayer, Classroom Support Teacher; Melissa King, LF Teacher; and Tammy Shackelford, Development Coordinator.

This school year, we are looking forward to seeing more parents around our campus. Riverside implemented a new Parent Involvement Program where each family will be contributing a minimum of 10 volunteer hours. This program can only help strengthen our school community and benefit our students by increasing the home-school connection.

We have a busy and exciting year ahead of us and look forward to sharing our progress with you.

*Julie D. Wingfield*

## Faculty Focus: Michelle Estes

*Relationships are the key to her success in the classroom*



Michelle Estes

Middle School teacher, Michelle Estes joined the Riverside School staff as a Language Fundamentals teacher in 2002 and transitioned into a classroom teacher in 2005. Since that time, she has touched the lives of more than 150 dyslexic students here at Riverside.


The key to Mrs. Estes’ success as an educator is the warm and supportive relationships that she develops with her students and their parents. Throughout her career, she has always been willing to provide extra support and time to ensure that her students have what they need to reach their goals.

In the classroom, Mrs. Estes is known for expecting much of her students and for providing individualized projects that are appropriate for the individualized student’s curriculum, interests and educational needs. Her goal is to

present observable progress to both students and parents so that the students’ successes can be celebrated both at home and at school.

One of Mrs. Estes’ great contributions to Riverside is the Essential Skills class. Mrs. Estes created this class to provide students with the opportunity to bring together the language concepts they were learning while incorporating critical skills in keyboarding, information and materials management, and study skills. This unique class is providing our students with the opportunity to become more actively engaged learners.

Mrs. Estes is always one to go the extra mile for the Riverside community. For the past several years, she has been the co-editor of our yearbook and our “official” school photographer.

Thank you, Mrs. Estes for sharing your creativity and dynamic leadership abilities with the Riverside community. 

# 2009-2010 Annual Report

It has been another great year at Riverside School thanks to the tremendous support we received from parents, grandparents, alumni, staff, and our many, many friends in the Richmond community. Through our Annual Fund, scholarship donations and program support we received last year, we were able to include the following programs and initiatives in our curriculum .

- Every classroom is now “Wired for Success” featuring SMARTBoard Technology and laptop computers for every student in our Lower School and Intermediate School classrooms.
- Introduced healthier lifestyle program - *What We Do, What We View & What We Chew*.
- Continued to provide One-on-One instruction in Language Fundamentals using the Orton-Gillingham Approach to each of our students for 45 minutes a day four days a week.
- Provided unique movement opportunities including Minds in Motion, Ballroom Dancing and Latin Ballet.
- Offered an Expressive Arts program including after school pottery classes.
- Sponsored the Riverside School Introductory Course “The Orton-Gillingham Approach to Teaching Dyslexic Children.”



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# 2009-2010 Annual Report

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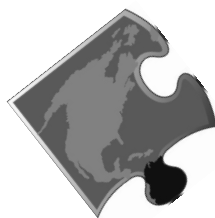
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## You are an **essential piece**!

Riverside School's Annual Fund Campaign 2010-2011 will "officially" kick-off next month. This year our goal is to increase the number of families and friends supporting Riverside. We want everyone to know that they are an **essential piece** of what makes Riverside School a success. No matter what the size of your gift, your participation in the Annual Fund Campaign goes a long way toward helping us make a BIG difference in the lives of our special students.

Thank you for your support of  
Riverside School!