

# *It's Academic*

*The Newsletter of The Advanced Academy of Georgia*



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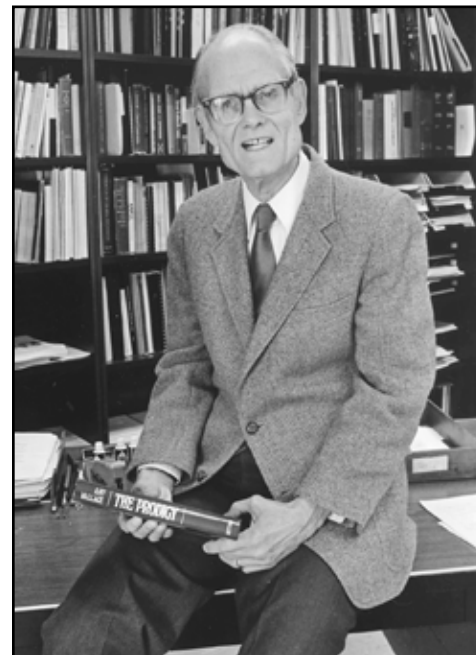
## **The Advanced Academy Remembers an Academic Legend**

The Advanced Academy students and staff, along with numerous other people within the world of academia, are mourning the loss of a man who was known worldwide as “a much needed friend of the gifted.” On August 12, 2005, Dr. Julian C. Stanley passed away in Maryland of pneumonia, which was related to his long-term battle with cancer. He was 87 years old. Around the world, Dr. Stanley was a renowned academic scholar and professor who served as a staunch advocate for the advancement of gifted students’ educational pursuits. However, for the faculty, staff, and students of the University of West Georgia, Dr. Stanley was a special person for reasons beyond his fame. Dr. Stanley was an integral part of the University of West Georgia family both as an alumnus and as one of the driving forces behind the launch of the Advanced Academy of Georgia in 1995. Dr. Stanley’s relationship with The University of West Georgia began in 1934 when he enrolled in the institution as a freshman. At the time, the University of West Georgia was a two year school named West Georgia Junior College. After graduating in 1936 with a college diploma, Dr. Stanley taught high school science and mathematics in the public schools of Atlanta, Georgia, for nearly five years before leaving the classroom. He then served a little less than 4 years in World War II as a member of the Army Air Corps Chemical Warfare Service. Following World War II, Dr. Stanley continued his pursuit of education by enrolling at Harvard University and receiving a Doctorate in Experiential and Educational Psychology in 1950. Dr. Stanley returned to the classroom, but this time in a higher institution setting. He served as a professor at several colleges worldwide, including Newton Junior College in Massachusetts; Harvard University; Vanderbilt College; the University of Hawaii; the University of Wisconsin; Shanghai Teachers University; the University of Science and Technology of China; the University of

Texas; and Johns Hopkins University, the college where Dr. Stanley worked for more than 30 years and retired.

During the 50 years he served in institutions of learning across the world, Dr. Stanley gained fame as an outstanding educational statistician. In the early 1970’s, he began using this talent to enhance the education of academically gifted pre-college students. In 1971, Dr. Stanley founded the Study of Mathematically Precocious Youth (SMPY) at Johns Hopkins University. The program aims to utilize research to effectively identify students who have exceptional mathematical talents and aid them in getting the accelerative educational opportunities Dr. Stanley felt students “richly deserve.” Eight years after launching SMPY, he continued to revolutionize the education of the gifted by launching another program at Johns Hopkins: the Center for Talented Youth (CTY). The purpose of CTY is to identify top academic students from second through eighth grades and provide them with challenging educational programs through their 10th grade year. Students from an estimated 10,000 schools apply annually to be apart of this exceptional program, which allows gifted students opportunities to participate in academically strenuous activities such as summer or online courses and academic conferences.

In addition to the two programs he started at John Hopkins, Dr. Stanley also founded the Duke University Talent Identification Program and was a co-founder of the Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science at the University of North Texas, the state’s earliest state-funded, residential early entrance college program, launched in 1988. It is reportedly the largest early entrance program at any public and private school within the United States. Moreover, a little less than a decade later, Dr. Stanley served as a consultant during the establishment of our very own Advanced Academy of Georgia, providing invaluable



*Dr. Julian Stanley*

advice and contact information, along with financial resources during the creation of the program. Dr. Stanley served as the first chairman of the Advanced Academy’s Board of Trustees in 1997, a position he held for four consecutive years. Dr. Stanley continued to support the Advanced Academy with monetary gifts and advice until his passing. In addition to the instrumental role that he played in creating numerous well respected college-based educational programs for young and gifted students, Dr. Stanley was a respected author within the academic world, having written or edited 19 books and more than 500 articles in professional journals.

Indeed, Dr. Stanley was a great man and an inspiration to the world, and his legacy continues to live through many gifted students around the world, including those here at the Advanced Academy. Dr. Stanley is survived by his wife, Dorothy Fahey Stanley, a daughter, a grandson, and a sister.

# Timeline of Academic Excellence

- 1918 ..... Julian C. Stanley born in Macon, GA
- 1933 ..... West Georgia Junior College established
- 1934 ..... Julian Stanley enrolls in West Georgia Junior College
- 1937 ..... Julian Stanley begins teaching high school
- 1944 ..... Julian Stanley begins serving in World War II, a duty that lasted for 44 months
- 1950 ..... Julian Stanley receives a Doctorate Degree from Harvard
- 1958 ..... Dr. Julian Stanley spends a year in Belgium as a Fulbright Act Research Scholar
- 1971 ..... Dr. Stanley starts the Study of Mathematically Precocious Youth at Johns Hopkins University
- 1979 ..... Dr. Stanley begins the Center for Talented Youth at John Hopkins University
- 1988 ..... Dr. Stanley is a co-founder of the Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science at the University of North Texas and serves on TAMS' Advisory Board
- 1995 ..... The Advanced Academy of Georgia is founded with consultation from Dr. Stanley
- 1997 ..... Dr. Stanley serves as first Chair of Academy Board of Trustees and continues to serve on Board after his term as Chair expired
- 2005 ..... Dr. Stanley passes at the age of 87

## Reflections of a Legacy

“It was an honor to know Julian Stanley, a true pioneer, whose contributions to the field of gifted education in America stand alone. At UWG, we were blessed to have Julian as an alumnus, a strong and avid supporter, our first Chair of the Academy Board, a friend, philosopher, and a guide. When Julian spoke, we listened.”

Dr. Beheruz N. Sethna  
UWG President

“His passing is a great loss to gifted and talented youth anywhere, to all of higher education, and in particular, to the Advanced Academy of Georgia. We will miss him very much.”

Dr. Donald Wagner  
Dean, Honors College

“Dr. Julian Stanley was truly ‘the epitome of a scholar and a gentleman’. With magnificent worldwide status, this beloved teacher was never too proud, especially toward his young pupils. He was caring and gentle, yet determined to achieve his “fondest mission” to help the young and gifted – a minority population that is too often neglected in the midst of academic politics. Dr. Stanley represents the ultimate embodiment of the Advanced Academy of Georgia: cherishing, indulgent, and loving.”

Cathy Tran  
Student

## A Victorious Homecoming for Gunn Hall

The 2005 homecoming at the University of West Georgia was not only an exciting time for the school’s football team, which beat the West Alabama Tigers 41-0 during the homecoming game in early October, but also a victorious time for the Advanced Academy’s Gunn Hall. During this year’s annual homecoming competition, which pitted the university’s residence halls against one another in a variety of contests, Gunn Hall residents scored a clean sweep, winning all of the contests in which they participated. Gunn Hall was named the event’s Grand Champions and Best Novelty Group. They also won three other first place honors in the Side Walk Chalk, Float, and Banner competitions.



Nicole Bradley and Karl Cepeda, both second year students in the Advanced Academy, served as the coordinators for Gunn Hall’s homecoming projects this year. Both students say they had a great time preparing for the competition and are thrilled with the multiple honors that Gunn Hall won. However, Cepeda says he was surprised by the win because he initially thought that Gunn Hall was competing against all of the other student organizations at the school, not just the residence halls. Because of this, Cepeda says he was a little doubtful that Gunn Hall would win anything after seeing other student organizations’ intricate creations. Talking about this hesitance, Cepeda says, “When we hung our banner, we saw our competition’s elaborate banners and were a little worried. And when we were in the parade, some organizations had tractor-trailers, and we

felt a little discouraged. Perhaps we should’ve read the rules more clearly, as we won everything in our category.”

Scoring such a major win does not come without some effort and planning. Bradley and Cepeda both say they spent nearly two weeks preparing for the homecoming competition. Moreover, Cepeda says, “Our careful planning, organization, and structure let us finish... ahead of time, letting us balance homecoming and our real lives.” Bradley says this was a very different scenario from

last year’s homecoming when, she says, “We had a lot of people working on the float, stuffing chicken wire with tissue paper, way past curfew on the two nights before the parade.”

Ahead of this year’s homecoming celebration, Bradley says that she and Cepeda started preparing for the competition by posting an elaborate calendar in Gunn Hall that outlined all of the preparation activities that would occur during the two weeks leading up to homecoming. Bradley also says, “We put deadlines on project designs and designated specific times that things needed to be started in order to finish them in an adequate time.”

While Cepeda and Bradley ended up with time to spare, the one thing they wished they had more of in preparing for this year’s homecoming was more people to help. Bradley states, “We were disappointed at the lack of overall interest in the homecoming activities this year.” But, she says she sends



# Alumni Spotlight

For students who attended the Advanced Academy during the 1999-2000 and the 2000-2001 school years, William Presswood was not just an average Resident Assistant to the Academy students at the time, but a responsible and fun loving role model. It has been 4 years since William Presswood said goodbye to the residents of Gunn Hall, so some former Advanced Academy students may wonder what he has been doing since his departure from the University of West Georgia. The staff of the Advanced Academy recently caught up with William Presswood to talk with him about his current accomplishments and future goals, as well as his fond memories of being a Resident Assistant at Gunn Hall.

**Q: Where do you currently live and how long have you been there?**

**A:** I live in Miami, Florida. I have been here for a little less than a year. Prior to moving to Miami, I lived in my hometown of Murray County, Georgia, for 3 years and worked at Murray County DFACS as a foster care and adoption case manager.

**Q: Why did you choose to head south to Miami?**

**A:** I moved to south Florida for several reasons. First, I moved to change careers. I now work for Spectrum programs in the Federal Bureau of Prison system. I also made the move because I felt there were more job opportunities in Miami than in Georgia, and I also wanted a change in scenery.

**Q: What is your current occupation?**

**A:** I am a Special Projects counselor. This job requires me to plan and implement special programs for inmates such as parenting programs, wellness programs, and family orientation programs. I also do some case management and conduct women's counseling groups, anger management groups, diversity counseling groups, and drug aftercare counseling groups for people who have overcome drug addiction.

**Q: Do you intend to remain in this occupational field for the long term? Why or why not? If not, then what field do you want to work in later in life?**

## What Ever Happened To: William Presswood?

**A:** I want to stay in corrections for the long term; I like working with the prison population. I feel there's a lot of potential for change in the inmates because the prison atmosphere is such a structured environment that fosters change. In comparison, I did not see this potential for change while working with a social service agency.

**Q: How has your life changed since leaving college?**

**A:** My life is a lot different from when I was at West Georgia. I have exposure to different types of people in terms of diversity. It's really a growth experience. I have seen a lot of bad situations with the state and the prison system. As a result, I have learned how to deal with emergency situations and difficult people. This has definitely made my life more real than when I was at West Georgia.

**Q: What skills do you feel like you learned at the University of West Georgia that have helped you since leaving college?**

**A:** I learned how to deal with different people at West Georgia, which has helped me to accept the diversity I am encountering. I also learned that sometimes the things we want are not the things we really need. This has helped me to be more realistic in my life after college. It has also helped me to put things in perspective. However, the most important thing I learned at West Georgia that has helped me is that I learned to deal with change.

**Q: Do you miss your college years?**

**A:** Yes. I miss college everyday of my life. I was used to a different way of life that was less tense before entering the real world, and I miss it. College was the best time of my life.

**Q: What were the best parts about being a Resident Assistant?**

**A:** The best parts were living with different people and feeling like I was playing a vital role in a community. I also loved the fact that I could help people in this way.

**Q: What are your fondest memories from your days at Gunn Hall?**

**A:** I will always remember Gunn Hall as a warm place in terms of support and love. It definitely was a warm place when the outside was cold.

## Introducing ... Gunn Hall's Newest Resident Assistants!

There are a few new faces amongst the leadership at Gunn Hall this year. Who are we talking about? The answer: Gunn Hall's newest Residents Assistants. They are five outstanding individuals who have accepted the very special challenge of caring for and guiding the Academy students as they adjust to their home away from home. Because of their significance to these students, the Academy staff would like to take time to say "Welcome" to the new RA's of Gunn Hall who include:

- **Mary June Bishop**, a junior early education degree major, who serves as a Community Service Advisor in Gunn Hall and aspires to become a homeowner, a mother, a teacher and attain a Masters level degree by age 30.

- **Sheila Esuzor**, a sophomore nursing major, who serves as a Community Service Advisor in Gunn Hall and aspires to attain a Masters degree and become a successful career woman and mother by age 30.
- **Marcus Heard**, a sophomore business management major, who serves as an Intramural Committee Advisor in Gunn Hall and plans to attain an MBA and become a business owner by age 30.
- **Matthew Noland**, a sophomore English major, who serves as a Quiz Bowl Committee Advisor and aspires to be working on a PhD in literature by age 30.
- **Stephen Prohaska**, a sophomore biology pre-med student, who serves as a Resident Hall Council Advisor in Gunn

Hall and aspires to become a dentist and own a house and yacht by age 30.

- **Caleyann Richardson**, a junior early childhood education major, who serves as an Intramural Committee Advisor in Gunn Hall and plans to attain a Masters level degree, get married, have children and become a teacher by age 30. Caleyann is also a past Academy student.

*We would like to acknowledge the creative work of Donjanae Fletcher, graduate student in the Counseling and Educational Psychology Department, who worked in the Honors House fall semester 2005 and was responsible for creating and writing this newsletter.*

## Need \$\$\$ For College...Check Out These 10 Cool Sites:

**CollegeBoard.com Website:** [http://apps.collegeboard.com/cbsearch\\_ss/welcome.jsp](http://apps.collegeboard.com/cbsearch_ss/welcome.jsp)

**Fast Web Website:** [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

**Fin Aid Website:** <http://www.finaid.org/scholarships/>

**Scholarship.com Website:** <http://www.scholarships.com/>

**College Connection Scholarships:** <http://www.collegescholarships.com/>

**Guaranteed Scholarships Website:** <http://www.guaranteed-scholarships.com/>

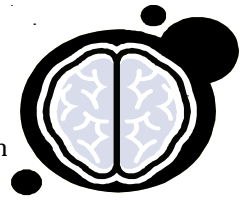
**Scholarship Experts Website:** [www.scholarshipexperts.com](http://www.scholarshipexperts.com)

**College Funds Website:** <http://www.collegefunds.net/>

**Club Scholarship Website:** <http://www.clubscholarship.com/>

**Scholarships For You Website:** <http://www.scholarships-4u.com>

## Tease Your Brain



See if you can figure out the following trick question. The answer is also below, but don't look at it until you have come up with your own.

**Question:** How quickly can you find out what is unusual about this paragraph? It looks so ordinary that you would think that nothing was wrong with it at all, and in fact, nothing is. But it is unusual. Why? If you study it and think about it you may find out, but I am not going to assist you in any way. You must do it without coaching. No doubt if you work at it for long, it will dawn on you. I don't know. Now, go to work and try your luck.

**Answer:** In the whole paragraph, there is no letter E used. This is an example of a lipogram, a piece of writing that omits a particular letter or letters of the alphabet.

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### Homcoming, *continued from page 2*

out a heartfelt thanks to those Academy students who were willing to donate their time and talents. In particular, she mentions three students who played a special role in helping to make this year's homecoming competition a success: Reba Cox, who was in charge of the Sidewalk Chalk design and drawing; Will Fisher, who served as head of the Novelty Group; and Boris Kovalenko, Vice President of the Gunn Hall Residence Hall Council.

Despite the challenges that Cepeda and Bradley faced in preparing for the competition, they say it was all worth it. Moreover, Cepeda states, "We both felt responsible for representing not only the Academy, but the Honors College and our building. We had a reputation of winning to uphold and made sure that we did our best to continue it." Cepeda says this is the second time in the history of the Advanced Academy that Gunn Hall has had a clean sweep during the homecoming competitions.

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