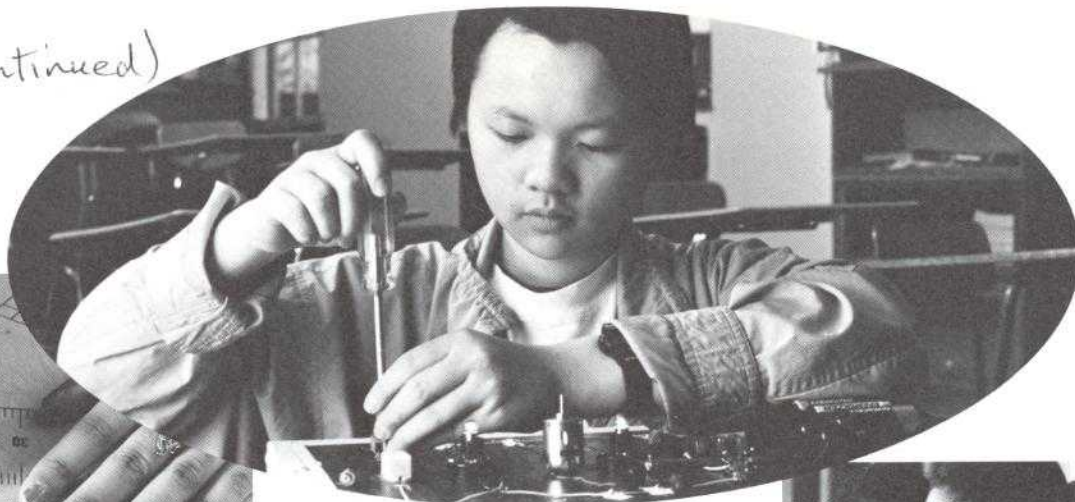
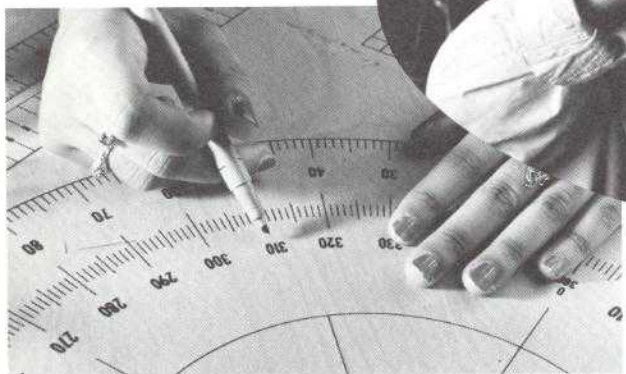


TODAY

Aug 1991 (continued)



## Volunteers At Jefferson: Another Door To Opportunity

WHEN IT COMES TO volunteers at Jefferson Junior High, Assistant Principal and Volunteer Coordinator Pat Edwards has one guiding philosophy: "Every time we can bring another opportunity to our students, we do it."

The result is a list of nearly a dozen businesses and government agencies working at the school today. Add Jefferson's dedicated parent volunteers to those from outside organizations and you get a wonderfully diverse pool of talent. For students, that spells opportunity to get to know and learn from people from a variety of fields and backgrounds, all of whom come to the school because they are interested in seeing students succeed.

"Our volunteers contribute immensely to Jefferson," said Edwards. "They go beyond what our teachers can offer to students during a regular school day. They're able to give students an extra boost with personalized attention and exposure to new possibilities. Everything they do here is a

great gift."

COMSAT volunteers are helping launch a Boy Scout troop and a Ham Radio club. On a field trip to COMSAT in Clarksburg, students learned videotaping techniques they'll use to produce their own news program.

Jefferson's faculty gives high marks to the help their students get from COMSAT. "There was a 100 percent improvement in students tutored by COMSAT volunteers," said Science Teacher Faye Holden.

This past year, COMSAT employees assisted students on science projects, while others judged. One employee helped prepare students for a foreign language competition. (The team took first place in the District-wide event.) Volunteers from COMSAT also made many of the arrangements for Jefferson's community-wide health fair this Spring.

Although the Jefferson Volunteer Program is vigorous, Ms. Edwards said there is always need for more involvement. That's where the COMSAT

connection has helped in another way. With the presence of a high-visibility company like COMSAT getting involved at Jefferson, it's been easier attracting others to volunteer at the school. Here is an overview of some of the other major actors involved at Jefferson.

### Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Some 85 HUD volunteers tutor seventh graders in math, algebra, reading and geography two days each week. Volunteers tutor subjects in which they feel comfortable. Generally, they work with the same student throughout the year. A special interest on the part of one HUD employee this year led to Jefferson's first cheerleading squad, now 35-girls strong and outfitted with special uniforms purchased with funds they raised themselves. Under the volunteer's direction and enthusiasm, the team entered its first competition this year.

### Department of Labor (DOL)

Labor Department volun- ▶

**"COMSAT is making an exemplary effort."**

*Carnegie Institution of Washington*

teers work with Jefferson students through two programs. One, similar to HUD's involvement, brings some 40 DOL employees to meet with eighth graders every other week, either as mentors or tutors. The other, a 5-week summer program called Project TEAM will host some 25 Jefferson students, ages 12-14. They will spend their days at DOL locations studying math, reading and computer science. The project is structured to reinforce the successful personal and work behaviors - self-management, discipline, good appearance and decorum.

**Naval District of Washington**

Members of the U.S. Navy, volunteering at Jefferson for the first time last year, are now working with ninth graders in a full-scale tutoring program. The U.S. Navy Band is also making a unique contribution: offering instrumental music instruction to 35 Jefferson students who will form the school's first marching band. Navy volunteers first surveyed student interest in music, then inventoried available instruments and helped with repairs. Instruction began in March. The hard work has already paid off: three students

performed with the Navy Band when they visited Jefferson during the PTA's Spring Festival in April.

**Georgetown University - Best Friends**

Providing positive role models for young girls is the emphasis of Best Friends, a mentoring program for some 45 Jefferson students. Volunteers plan a variety of activities for the students. Monthly meetings feature prominent women speakers (including Barbara Bush, Marilyn Quayle and Alma Powell) as well as cultural outings. In addition, each participant interacts with a "big sister," someone on the staff who acts as a mentor.

**U.S. Department of Justice**

A newcomer to Jefferson, the Justice Department and lawyers from its Criminal Justice Division this Spring helped launch the school's Young Lawyers Club, designed to appeal to students with an interest in law. They also held a career seminar on law for the club on Law Day, May 1.

**C&P Telephone**

C&P Telephone, a long-term supporter of Jefferson, invites

students to "shadow" its employees to learn about jobs, careers and the world of work. In addition, C&P provides funds to the school earmarked for assisting students in buying supplies for science projects.

**Delta Sigma Theta Sorority**

The Washington Alumnae chapter of this sorority offers Jefferson students an ongoing program called Self-Awareness, Self-Esteem (SASE). Through workshops, students learn how to achieve feelings of greater self-worth.

**Potomac Chapter of Links**

Forty seventh-grade girls at Jefferson regularly participate in Saturday activities sponsored by this social organization. Arts and crafts, intercultural exchange and volunteer service are frequently the focus of their activities.

**Georgetown University Integrated Computational Educators**

Georgetown students regularly visit Jefferson for one-on-one and group tutoring in math and science. But the real focus of their interest is exploring the excitement of computers. ©

**COMSAT Presence a Motivator for Students, Parents and the Southwest Community**

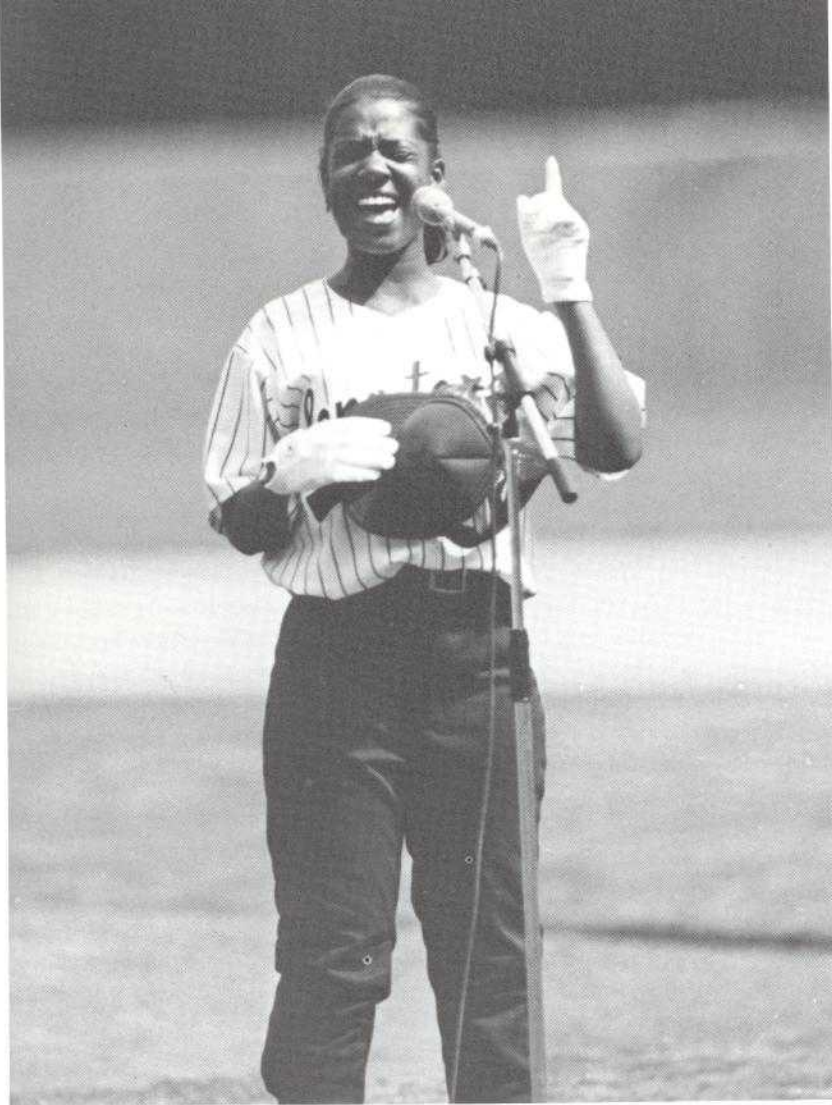
TO MOLD A "SCHOOL OF DISTINCTION" it takes more than computers, and lab equipment. It takes motivation and a can-do attitude. According to the faculty at Jefferson, it's a feeling that's sweeping students, their parents and all of Southwest D.C.

Much of that new attitude can

be traced directly to the founding of the COMSAT-Jefferson Alliance. "The people at COMSAT make our students feel good. The contact our students and teachers have with the people at COMSAT is giving us a glimpse of what we are educating them for," said Jefferson Principal Vera White.

"The Alliance is giving our students an opportunity to listen to people in business and industry and hear about what they do," said Alicia Slocumb, a math teacher. "What we do as teachers has definite relevance."

COMSAT has helped "create an atmosphere of concern about learning. Something is



**"If more companies took the step that COMSAT has taken with schools, we would have a much better educational system in this country."**

*Robert Dilenschneider  
President & CEO  
Hill & Knowlton*

## **Jefferson Student Sings Her Heart Out for Stadium Crowd**

ROBIN WILLIAMS, a June graduate of Jefferson, leaves the school with a particularly pleasant memory of COMSAT. The 15-year-old was selected to sing the National Anthem before the Saturday, April 6, COMSAT Baseball Classic game. She was selected from among 75 contestants at the National Anthem Contest at RFK Stadium in March. Her award winning performance was featured on several local television stations. Robin, known to her friends as "Sugar" was also interviewed on WKYS-FM Radio about her performance. If the crowd's reaction is good gauge for Robin's success, she has a bright future ahead of her. ©

happening on the inside here at Jefferson," said Rodery Webb, another math teacher.

Parental involvement is on the rise as well. This year COMSAT introduced JJHS News, a newsletter targeted at parents and aimed at getting them involved further in their children's education.

Community outreach is also vital to the plan. In support of that COMSAT sponsored a community-wide health fair at the school this spring.

"The community definitely knows about this school. Competition has increased, and it's raised the caliber of the kids we see at Jefferson," said Math

teacher Jeff Chopin.

Since becoming principal at Jefferson, White has always taken an active interest in community affairs. By her reckoning, just having the name COMSAT associated with Jefferson has raised community awareness and involvement. ©

## Jefferson Students Crack Books In Summer To Get Ready For The SAT

THE SCHOLASTIC APITUDE TEST (SAT): the one exam millions of American high school students have learned to dread. And no matter what any college admissions counselor may tell you, the SAT still weighs heavily in the decision on whether or not to admit a student to college.

At Jefferson this Summer, 50 eighth grade students will start preparing for that test, a full three years before any of them will take the test for the record.

"We can talk all we want about preparing children for careers in math and science," says Jefferson Principal Vera White. "But it won't mean anything if our kids don't get into college. High performance on the SAT is the first step."

The course is anything but easy. The students will be in the classroom five days a week from 8:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M. Monday-Thursday. Students will attend classes to sharpen their skills for the Math and Verbal sections of the test. Students will study Latin to help improve their vocabulary, and get intensive practice in problem solving for the math section.

Friday will be set aside for computer-aided instruction, field trips, and book discussions. The program will also encourage recreational reading as a way to help prepare for the reading comprehension section of the exam.

During the school year all students in the Summer program will be enrolled in advanced math and English classes. Preparation for the SAT will continue throughout the school year.

This is the second year Jefferson students have prepared for the SAT, and the improvement in scores has been phenomenal. Normally the SAT isn't taken until the first half of the Junior year of high school. Many students enrolled in the program have scores high school students would envy, and they'll only "continue to improve," says White. ©

### Computers Become A Key Motivational Tool

ASK ANY TEACHER at Jefferson Junior High School what the most obvious manifestation of

COMSAT's involvement at Jefferson is, and you are likely to get the same answer every time.

"I'd say it was the computers."

"Well, the kids love the computers."

"Those Macs are a godsend."

"If it weren't for the computer lab some of these kids wouldn't have graduated."

These answers shouldn't be surprising. The COMSAT-



Jefferson strategic plan called for much of the hardware necessary for success to be purchased early in the five year time frame.

"The Mac Lab was used and abused by both kids and teachers all the time," says Biology Teacher Sue Sprenke. "I've never seen a moment when a kid wasn't trying to get in."

Teachers agree the computers had a strong effect across the board in all subjects. The most immediate effect was seen in students' writing skills. "They would check the spelling and their sentence structure more closely," says Computer Teacher Stan Johnson. One foreign student even used the computer to aid his friends who were having difficulty learning English.

Science projects were incredibly enhanced as well. One student used computer programs to draw molecules for his science project. He then taught his fellow students the process. Another student used the same program for his proposal to redesign the Space Shuttle's booster rockets.

Science teachers also singled out some troubled kids who would have had trouble staying in school without the help of

## 1991 Jefferson Junior High Award Winners

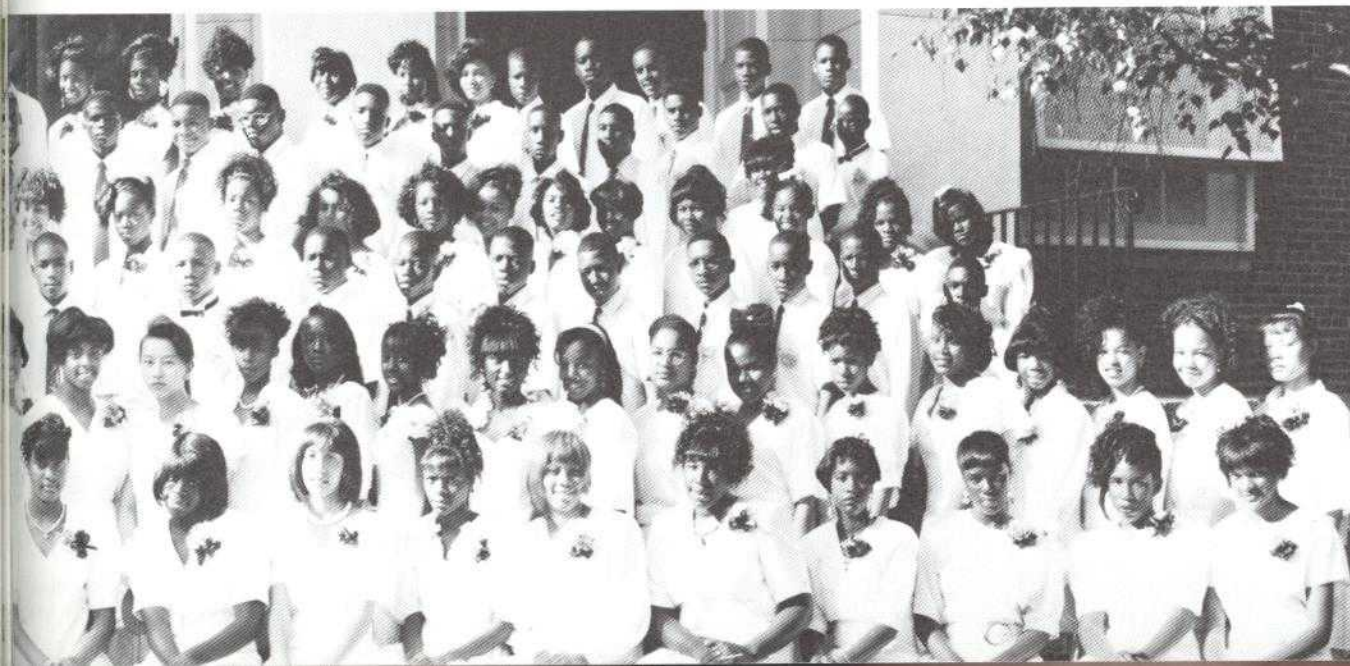
<p><b>1991 U.S. Presidential Scholars Award Winners</b></p> <p>Ismael Alvarez Nykhia Betts Yolanda Coleman Kitwana Fennell Cynthia Harrod David Kirkpatrick Tiffany Johnson Tracie Mims Kamillah Mitchell Kristin Nesmith Sarah Ogunsola Mei-Qing Zhang</p> <p><b>Academic Achievement Award</b></p> <p>Alicia Lightner Kevin Smallwood</p>	<p><b>Women's Bar Association Awards</b></p> <p>Ismael Alvarez Yolanda Coleman Tracie Mims Stuart Washington Robin Williams</p> <p><b>Mayor Dixon's Medal of Scholarship Award</b></p> <p>Mei-Qing Zhang Alicia Lightner</p> <p><b>Richard A. Banks, Jr. Memorial Award</b></p> <p>Yuen Chow</p> <p><b>Charlene Drew Jarvis Science Award</b></p> <p>Ismael Alvarez</p>
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computers. Kids who were troublemakers in other classes, would become diligent students in front of a Macintosh. ©

**"The commitment COMSAT has made to broadscale educational reforms is exactly what is needed,"**

*National Space Council*

**The 1991 Jefferson Junior High School graduating class.**



## Molecular Biology to Present Jefferson Students With a New Challenge

SUE SPRENKE, a Jefferson Junior High biology teacher, undertook an experiment in the classroom this past year; one that might change the way junior high school students are taught biology.

Fresh from a course paid for by COMSAT at Catholic University's Center For Advanced Training in Cell and Molecular Biology, Sprenke exposed students to the mysteries of human life through the study of molecular biology.

"Most biology classes deal with taxonomy. In the labs there is a lot of dissection," Sprenke said. "A move away from that is beginning. Molecular biology is the future of biology classes in the high schools."

The course Sprenke took, offered through the D.C. public schools, was formerly limited to Advanced Placement high school instructors. That changed this past year, and the program was opened to all public school science teachers.

"Once you get away from college and grad school it's hard to keep up with the technology. A course like this is really helpful."

Changes in medicine, especially the last 10 years, have made molecular biology increasingly important. Most drugs and treatment techniques are geared toward working at the molecular level.

Sprenke says the new experiments presented a real challenge to students. "Molecular biology opens up a thousand possibilities - it's a puzzle - a real mind game. Since the measurements are so small there is some question as to whether junior high school students can grasp the material, the quantities we dealt with were so small - it boggles the mind." ©



Science Teacher Patty Spady looks on while two students construct a molecular model.