

10 YEARS IN THE MAKING







2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT

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HOW IT ALL BEGAN



From I to r: Executive Director Pat Roberts, Sally Smith, and Associate Director Nancy Blair.

In so many ways, our story is similar to that of most AIM Academy parents. We met as mothers of 1st grade daughters with learning differences almost 20 years ago. Although our backgrounds were entirely different, one an educator and one a nurse anesthetist, we had much in common as we were both working hard to find an educational solution for our girls.

The statistics were daunting:

- Back then the National Institutes of Health (NIH) estimated that 15% of the U.S. population experienced significant difficulty learning to read.
- Studies showed that 50% of all students in special education in the public schools had learning disabilities.
- Two-thirds of secondary students with learning disabilities were reading three or more grade levels below their peers.
- Approximately one-third of children identified with learning disabilities were dropping out of high school—twice the rate of their peers.

On an encouraging note, we also learned that research was being conducted on evidencebased programs for students who learn differently. Then we heard something that stopped us in our tracks, thankfully only for a moment. It was common that educational research would take about ten years to reach implementation in the classroom. That was not acceptable to us. Not for our daughters, not for any child.

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Printing and grahic design work provided by The Standard Group.

HOW IT ALL BEGAN (CONTINUED)

So just ten years ago, it was an idea. An idea to start a school like no other in the region. A school for children with learning differences that would implement the latest research with evidencedbased programming and hire and train faculty that were the best in their field without waiting a decade to let the research trickle down into the classroom.

Starting with just 24 students in a small rented space in Manayunk, AIM has grown, to educate over 300 students a year and has settled into a dynamic school campus in Conshohocken designed specifically to meet the needs of our innovative programming. Our blend of excellence in academics, a faculty that is both talented and highly trained, small class size and an affirming sense of community was, in the beginning, and will always be, at the core of our mission. As we grew, we have always been committed to expanding our programs and resources to enhance students' educational experiences and opportunities.

With the help of many supporters like you, AIM Academy and the AIM Institute for Learning & Research® have been able to accomplish so much to impact the field of learning differences. Staying in the forefront has always been imperative to everyone at AIM.

Over the past decade, our mission has never changed, but the programs we have created, buildings we have constructed and educators we have taught in support of our mission have transformed our school and our community. These accomplishments would quite simply not have been possible without the generous financial support, tireless volunteer work and passion for our program that we have received from our parents, board members, grandparents, faculty, and friends of the school. There is still much to be done, but here in our 2015-2016 AIM Academy Annual Report, we thank you and are excited to share what has been Ten Years in the Making.

Pat Roberts Executive Director

Nancy Blair Associate Director







PASSION TO PURPOSE THE START OF A SCHOOL



The 2005 gala where Sally Smith announced The Lab School of Washington had voted to work in conjunction with the future Academy In Manayunk (AIM). From I to r: Pat Roberts, Chris Roberts, Sally Smith, Nancy Blair, Jodi Greenblatt, Sam Greenblatt, the late Marvin Demchick.

The inspiration for AIM Academy came from an unexpected source — a woman whose personality was as bold and fearless as her fabulous outfits. When the late **Sally Smith**, founder of The Lab School of Washington®, ascended the escalator at 30th Street Station in April 2004 to attend and receive an award at Educator 500 an event organized by West Chester University's 3-E Institute, both Pat and Nancy were amazed by the presence she commanded.

"It was an incredible vision to see Sally as she emerged from up the escalator at the train station," Nancy recalled about the woman whose passion for educating children who learn differently was being recognized by the education institute Pat had founded. "We looked at each other and both said at the same time, 'Could that be her?' Sally was wearing four boldly colored scarves and her nail polish was bright with polka dots. She had large earrings made of dice. She commanded the attention of everyone around her!"

During the Educator 500 event, Smith was recognized for her innovative and rigorous teaching methods which emphasized learning through the arts and hands-on experiential teaching techniques. As a result, thousands of children with learning disabilities attending the Lab School of Washington[®] had successfully completed high school and gone on to college and beyond.

It became clear to Pat and Nancy that there was the opportunity to create a school that would focus on each child's strengths while supporting his or her learning needs, a school that would not be "business as usual." Sally Smiith became a great mentor to them and ultimately was the force behind encouraging them to open a school in the greater Philadelphia region.

(Continued on next page.)

10 YEARS IN THE MAKING

2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT

2

PASSION TO PURPOSE - THE START OF A SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

With that send off, Pat and Nancy began searching for leaders to join them in starting a branch of the Lab School in Philadelphia.

The women found their first Board Chair **Marvin N. Demchick** by sharing their passion for creating a new school in Philadelphia. **Wendy Demchick Alloy,** a fellow parent of a child with learning differences, was also enthusiastic about creating a Lab-like school in Philadelphia.

"It was clear to us as parents that my daughter was a capable, eager learner so when it was suggested to us to move to Washington DC so she could attend the Lab School, we thought, 'Why on earth should we do that when we could start a school like the Lab School here in the Philadelphia region that is so sorely needed for kids like our daughter who CAN learn and WANT to learn?," Demchick Alloy recalled.

Demchick Alloy introduced Pat and Nancy to her father, an astute businessman and philanthropist. In order to understand the women's vision and mission for a new school, he asked each of the three women to write him a letter about why there should be a school in Philadelphia for children who learn differently.



1st AIM Board Meeting - April 2006.

Nancy's letter anticipated the future opportunity that establishing a school in Philadelphia that implemented new research to benefit children with learning disabilities could have: "Learning disabilities affect every race, faith and economic sector in the community. If we can begin to service the Philadelphia area students, as well as provide outreach programs to other educators in the area, we will affect far more than we will ever know."

As a result of the passion and commitment echoed in the words of these mothers, educators and successful businesswomen, Demchick agreed to be the new school's first Board Chair and met with Smith to discuss how a new school in Philadelphia might launch using elements of The Lab School of Washington[®] model. The new concept was proposed to the Lab School's board and work began to assemble a talented group of individuals to serve on our board including the late **Marvin D. Alloy**, founding Treasurer; **Jackie Allen**, founding Secretary; and other leaders in the community who still serve on our board today including **Bryna Berman**, **George Connell**, Wendy Demchick Alloy and **Sam Greenblatt**.

At the annual star-studded DC gala for The Lab School of Washington in November 2005, Sally Smith announced to the audience of over 1,200 parents, grandparents, advocates, and education entrepreneurs that The Lab School of Washington's[®] board had voted to approve working in conjunction with the Academy In Manayunk (AIM) to create a Philadelphia lab school for students who learn differently!

"That was some car ride back from DC when we realized we were a go," recalled Pat. We knew we were full steam ahead and that we needed to raise funds to begin the school by the following summer. We "passed the hat" around during the ride home that evening and everyone pledged to support the launch of the school financially."

AIM Academy began and was incorporated on February 2, 2006.

C Learning disabilities affect every race, faith and economic sector in the community. If we can begin to service the Philadelphia area students, as well as provide outreach programs to other educators in the area, we will affect far more than we will ever know.

— Nancy Blair

IT TRULY TAKES A VILLAGE

It is true it takes a village to create an entire educational community. When AIM was established in 2006, six amazing faculty colleagues who are still with us today joined the team: Dr. Grace Ashton, Susan Braccia, Dee Castorani, Chris Herman, Bonnie Inver, and Kris McGuirk. The impact each of these dedicated professionals has made on the lives of countless children and their families is amazing. The early families were also a foundation for the school. Pat and Nancy refer to them affectionately as the table of eight: Jackie Allen, Letitia Biddle, Mary Budzilowicz, Elyse Caplan, Jennifer Crawford, Debbie Greenfield DeLauro, Sue Rapp, and the late Jan Richard. These eight women were mothers of children with learning differences who along with Pat and Nancy dreamed of helping other children by creating a school based on The Lab School of Washington's® model where the arts are infused into the entire curriculum.

AN UNCHANGING MISSION

Whether working with 24 children and 10 faculty and staff in a rented space in Manayunk or with 310 1st-12th graders and a staff of 100 in our growing school space on River Road, AIM's mission to maximize the potential of each and every student by providing them with extraordinary experiences has never changed. Over the past decade, the school has developed into a regional center for educational excellence and professional development which participates in and shares the knowledge acquired by disseminating it via best practices to educators through access to the latest evidenced-based curriculum, technology, and training.

AIM's steadfast commitment to its mission has been recognized by other organizations as something to emulate. "At AIM we have been fully focused on knowing our "Why," explained Nancy, referring to the popular 2013 TED talk by Simon Sinek titled, "Why Discovery Process: Gather your stories. Work with a partner to articulate your Why. Refine your Why and take action."

Over the past six months, Pat and Nancy have been asked to share their thoughts on "the Why" by sharing AIM's mission to both dyslexia support organization Learning Ally and St. Joseph's University's Leaders for the Future group.



The mission of AIM Academy is to:

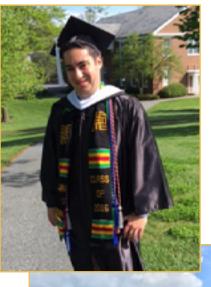
Provide extraordinary educational opportunities to children with language-based learning disabilities such as dyslexia, dysgraphia, and dyscalculia, utilizing research-based intervention strategies and an arts-based learning environment that is college preparatory in scope and sequence.

Develop a center for educational excellence and professional development to disseminate best practices to educators by providing access to the latest research-based curriculum, technology, and training.



STUDENTS - AIM'S INFLUENCE ON A PIONEER STUDENT

Hundreds of children have entered AIM not believing they can be academically successful and attend college. But it is these same students who realize in a very short time just how capable and talented they are when they are taught using evidence informed curriculum and gain the confidence to succeed.



Pioneer student **Jon Fuiman**, a member of AIM Academy's first senior class in 2012, and a recent graduate of Elizabethtown College, thinks of his experience at AIM as like climbing to the top of a mountain.

"One of the first things I learned at AIM was that my dyslexia wasn't a curse; it was a gift," Fuiman said. "I am a competitor and I would also refer to my dyslexia as another challenge in my life. AIM helped me be ready to take on this challenge." Fuiman, who was in seventh grade when he started at AIM, learned how to read through the Wilson Reading System® Program and was guided by dedicated teachers to learn how to write and solve equations.

"During my time at AIM, I read Shakespeare; solved quadratic



formulas; climbed to the top of the Duomo in Florence, Italy; bent over backwards and kissed the Blarney Stone in Cork, Ireland; met the Mayor of Philadelphia, as well as former Governor Ed Rendell and representatives for Pennsylvania, and had the honor of introducing Dr. Jill Biden at our annual AIM for the Stars Gala."

The highlight of Fuiman's AIM tenure was his role as an AIM Ambassador speaking at admissions open houses to parents who had children who at one point felt just like him.

"Some of them came to AIM and their lives changed, just like mine did," Fuiman said. " I would have to say that I am most proud of changing lives for the better. When I left AIM I said in my graduation speech, 'I am not only leaving AIM with a diploma, but with the ability to succeed and change the world.' I truly believe that."

Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing. - Pele CAPS IN THE AIR! 25 Seniors Celebrate High School Graduation

At this year's Commencement on June 3rd, 25 members of the Class of 2016 proudly marched into the new AIM Community Center to celebrate their accomplishments with more than 500 friends, family, faculty and students. The members of the Class of 2016, 100% of whom were accepted to college and all of whom were dual-enrolled at Cabrini College during the school year graduating with up to six college credits under their belt, were offered more than \$4.6 million in merit scholarships.

Senior speakers, **Michael Berman**, and **Karoline Irvin** spoke to the gifts that AIM gave them sharing their journey and what AIM faculty and staff meant to them. Irvin succinctly described the AIM experience when she shared that initially she was stumped when asked at an Open House to come up with one word that summarizes what AIM was all about. After a moment, she responded "HOME!"

As our graduates leave their AIM home for colleges and universities across the country, their connection to AIM will not end. Not only are they becoming part of a proud, growing base of AIM alumni, but they are also invited to be part of the AIM Advantage Program. Participants benefit from the AIM techniques in college meeting online weekly with a coach who builds upon the research-based techniques taught at AIM Academy, to support students in taking charge of their college education, to approach each class with a plan, to follow-through on each assignment, and to internalize key successful work habits for their future.

As commencement speaker and Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, **Philip Schultz** reminded these young people, "Be proud of your learning difference as you go off to college, and you will do great things."



5 YEARS OF STUDENTS AIMING FOR COLLEGE

Since our first graduating class in 2012, AIM students have received an impressive number of college acceptances and close to \$10 million in merit scholarship offers. The list of colleges and universities that our graduates are accepted to and attend continues to grow each year including:

Adelphi University Albright College Alvernia University American University Arcadia University Arizona State University Bard College Beacon College Beloit College Bloomsburg University Cabrini University California Polytechnic State University Champlain College Chestnut Hill College Clemson University College of Charlestown Colorado State University Columbia College Chicago Curry College Delaware County Community College Delaware Valley University Drew University Drexel University Duquesne University Earlham College Eastern University East Stroudsburg University Eckerd College Edinboro University Elizabethtown College Elon University Fairleigh Dickinson University Full Sail University Gettysburg College Goucher College Guilford College Gwynedd Mercy University Hampton University Harcum College High Point University Hobart and William Smith Colleges Hofstra University Immaculata University

Indiana University of PA Iona College Ithaca College Johnson & Wales University Juniata College Kutztown University Lasell College La Salle University Lebanon Valley College Lesley University Lock Haven University Long Island University, Brooklyn Loyola University Maryland Loyola Marymount University Lycoming College Lynn University Manor College Marist College Marymount Manhattan College McDaniel Colleae Mercyhurst University Millersville University Misericordia University Mitchell College Morehouse College Mount St. Mary's University Muhlenberg College Mont. Co. Community College North Carolina A & T State University Northampton Community College Pace University Pacific University (OR) Penn State University Penn State University, Abington Philadelphia University Point Park University Pratt Insitute **Rider University** Roanoke College Roger Williams University Rosemont College Rowan University Sacred Heart University

St. Joseph's University Sarah Lawrence College Savannah College of Art and Design Seton Hall University Shippensburg University Slippery Rock University Stevenson University Stockton University SUNY, Canton Temple University Towson University Trinidad State Junior College University of Alabama University of Arizona University of Cincinnati University of Colorado University of Dayton University of Delaware University of Denver University of Hartford University of Mary Washington University of Michigan University of Montana University of New Hampshire University of Pittsburgh, Bradford University of Pittsburgh, Greensburg University of the Sciences University of Scranton University of Tampa University of the Arts University of Vermont University of NC, Charlotte Wagner College Washington College West Chester University Westminster College WV Wesleyan College Western Oregon University Wheaton College







LOCATION AIM THEN & NOW

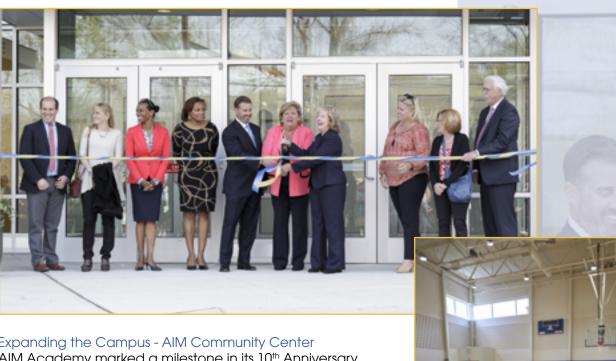
- 24 students to 300 plus coming to school via bus, train and car from 80 zip codes throughout the area
- 8 full-time faculty to 80 professionals supporting students (including 6 first faculty members who are still with us today)
- No playground and bus rides to a gymnasium to a turf field and 23,000 sq. foot gymnasium, wellness and arts center
- Sports teams 0 to 16 in middle and upper school
- No lunch program to Vetri Eatiquette lunch program, kitchen and cafeteria
- Drama performances in the lunchroom to performances on a full proscenium stage and in our black box theater

Campus Timeline

- 2006 Finding 5,000 square feet of rented classroom space in a 100-year-old parochial school building in Manayunk that leaked when it rained and had no real playaround.
- 2009 The addition of a second building (three steep city blocks away) to house our middle and upper school.
- 2012 Our big move to a beautiful campus in Conshohocken with 70,000 sq. feet of space in a state of the art building with a regulation turf soccer/lacrosse field, a playaround, and a state of the art science and robotics wing.
- 2016 Completion and opening of the 23,000 sq. feet AIM Community Center.







Expanding the Campus - AIM Community Center

AIM Academy marked a milestone in its 10th Anniversary year with the official opening of the new 23,000 sq. ft. AIM Community Center, Development of the \$8 million dollar building was launched with a Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development RACP grant of \$1.5 million, with two additional \$1 million anonymous gifts, all matched by donations from more than 175 members of the AIM community.

The facility, designed by Blackney Hayes Architects and built by Wohlsen Construction Inc., features a full-scale basketball court; performing arts center; broadcast and live streaming studio; arts, design and music classrooms and studios; and an auditorium that seats 500. By adding this facility to the campus, AIM will stay on the forefront of education for children with learning differences and have a greater impact on students, families, the areater school community, and research and practice in the field.

In addition to enhancing the experiences of the students and school community, the AIM Community Center will be the new home of the AIM Institute for Learning & Research® which offers state-of-the-art training to educators throughout the region. This new building will be a dynamic center for community engagement, teacher training, and translational research to benefit all children with learning differences.

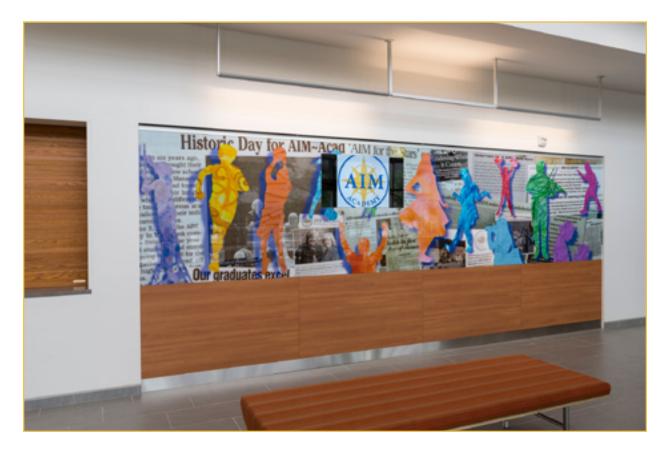
Already the AIM Community Center has been filled to capacity during AIM's June Commencement as our 25 graduates proudly walked across the stage to receive their diplomas, provided space for creative summer camp classes including drama and film making and has been a sought after destination for area athletic organizations that are eagerly reserving facility space to host a variety of events and classes at the AIM Community Center outside of school hours.

A 10 YEAR STORY BEHIND GLASS

The construction of the AIM Community Center allowed AIM to welcome a new supporter to our community and has provided the school with a commemoration of its past in a format that clearly represents the future.

Glenn Bostock, founder and CEO of the manufacturing company **SnapCab**, is dyslexic and by his own account is someone who "experienced a lot of failure" in school. His first tour of AIM left him amazed. "Seeing the kids at the AIM Academy – wow! Having those kids viewed just simply as kids, without any problems or learning disabilities is a drastic shift from when I was in school," Bostock wrote after his visit. "And even more impressive was that the school adjusts to the needs of the students, instead of trying to adjust the kids to fit the needs of the school – what a difference that makes! I just can't imagine what a positive change that would've made in my life growing up."

His appreciation for the AIM mission and its impressive students led Bostock, whose company manufactures Gorilla Glass wall systems that integrate high-end graphics with state of the art technology, to create an incredible media wall that graces the Community Center entrance. Every student and faculty member took part in the creation of the wall by adding a stroke of color to create the silhouettes featured along the wall of headlines and accolades that tell the story of AIM's first ten years.





Our six pioneer faculty members whose hard work and dedication helped make the difference for so many AIM students and for those to follow. From I to r: Chris Herman, Susan Braccia, Pat Roberts, Nancy Blair, Bonnie Inver, Kris McGuirk, Grace Ashton and Dee Castorani.

DESTINATION PROGRAMS AND FACULITY

There is so much to the AIM experience. First and foremost, AIM is focused on the well-being of each and every student. Knowing that confidence and competence go hand in hand, faculty members, 80% of whom have advanced degrees, focus on each child's strengths in order to provide opportunities for students to flourish in a setting that allows them to thrive. Students develop multidisciplinary literacy where untethered learning takes place. Ideas are explored, projects are developed and the true joy of learning is unleashed. Understanding the value of knowledge is important at AIM Academy because every student is on a path to college and lifelong success. Our students are immersed in a highly interactive, language-enriched learning environment from Grades 1-12. Our Humanities, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Design, and Mathematics) and Arts curriculum develop deep understanding and critical thinking skills needed for college and career success.

ENGINEERING & ROBOTICS

From Legos to Submersibles to 120-Pound Machines

When children are given a chance to innovate, learn and problem solve using their hands and "making," it is amazing the things they can create. This year, with the introduction of the Lower School Makerspace, the AIM curriculum now features engineering and robotics classes across all three program levels with extracurricular robotics and technology teams continuing to compete across the region. Whether it is a 1st grader creating a Lego magnetic fishing rod, a middle schooler participating in FIRST Tech Challenge or high schoolers on the Vulcan Spring & Mfg. Co. - sponsored robotics team, designing a 120-pound robot to master challenges in FIRST Robotics Competition, the skills children learn are the same.

"With all of these programs, the robot (and engineering activities) are the hook, but it really has little to do with why we do it," explains Upper School Engineering and Robotics teacher Rob Ervin.

"It's all about taking on a really hard challenge, working as a team and learning how to succeed at that challenge. Students get real world feedback having an idea, prototyping a solution and fixing mistakes when there are problems. It is the intrinsic value of what they are learning along the way that is what is most important."





PERFORMING ARTS TAKING THE STAGE

Creativity is celebrated in limitless ways at AIM. In extensive arts programs, students are provided the tools, the stage, the equipment and the means to learn new things and express themselves. Over the past ten years, AIM's dramatic and musical theatrical productions have charmed audiences at a variety of locations from the stage on the third floor of Connaroe Street in Manayunk to the leased space at University of the Arts; but none so much as the Spring 2016 musical which welcomed the audience Into the Woods. The premiere opening of Into the Woods in the AIM Community Center in Spring 2016 was a true highlight for AIM's arts program as Upper School students welcomed the audience into a world of fairy tales on the new proscenium stage.

STRETCHING AND GROWING

Athletics and Fitness. The addition of indoor recreational space that came with April's opening of the AIM Community Center will allow new Director of Athletics **Michael Brooks** to continue bolstering athletic opportunities in the coming year for our students. New sports, such as lacrosse for both boys and girls will be added to the roster allowing AIM to field 10 competitive interscholastic teams in addition to many new fitness and wellness opportunities and clubs for all students.

This summer, AIM Academy rising junior golfer **Casey Oppenheimer** continued her winning ways taking FIRST place in the Girls 16-18 Division at the Philly PGA Junior Championship at the Blue Ridge Country Club in Harrisburg, Pa. In June, AIM Academy was selected as one of eight schools from a pool of 200 applicants nationwide to receive a Riding for Focus grant from The Specialized Foundation to begin a middle school cycling program.



10 YEARS IN THE MAKING

From Professional Development to Class Trip -Faculty Development Leads to Student Adventures

Just as AIM students are encouraged to follow their passion, AIM faculty are similarly urged to set and achieve new goals and explore the world. In 2015, **Dick and Sally Brickman** donated funds for four AIM teachers to participate in the Colonial Williamsburg Teacher Institute. This six-day experience was so inspiring to these teachers, that they approached the administration with a request to take the 7th grade class on a five-day visit to Williamsburg as part of the class curriculum. In early March the world became AIM's classroom once again.

During their trip back into history, students tried their hand at and explored numerous trades while also experiencing the hardships and fun times allowing them to gain full appreciation for just what it was like to live during colonial time period. The students' open-mindedness to learning styles, people, food, education, and historical aspects of life greatly impressed their teachers. The adventures, obstacles, and new experiences of the Teton Science School combined to provide Ryan with a wondrous moment in time...Ryan learned that he was capable of handling new things on his own and that he could navigate challenges effectively.

AIM Parent Reflecting on her son's 8th grade Teton Science School trip.



RESEARCH PROGRAMS

Research Into Practice - A Commitment to Moving Forward

As a leader and convener, AIM Academy brings together scientists, clinicians, administrators and educators to translate the latest advances in neuroscience and research into new educational strategies.

To date, more than 4,500 professionals and parents have enjoyed access to experts and leading literacy researchers through the programming of the AIM Institute for Learning & Research®. Just as AIM is committed to quickly translating laboratory research into effective interventions and educational practices for our students, the AIM Institute for Learning & Research seeks to provide those same tools to teachers throughout our region and around the world.

Over the past year:

- Dr. Don Compton, an AIM Research Advisory Board member of Florida State University, presented preliminary findings of a study he has been doing in conjunction with AIM Academy exploring the topic of classrooms that facilitate the development of deep knowledge and the role of that knowledge in overall comprehension skills for students. Not surprisingly, he is finding that deep (hands-on, arts-based, problem-based, collaborative, and discussion heavy) knowledge matters and that depth over breadth, such as is found in AIM's curriculum is important.
- Our efforts to provide professionals the opportunity to attend our workshops and our Research Symposium virtually using live streaming has allowed educators from as far as Australia and Spain to benefit from AIM Institute events.
- Teachers participating in AIM's four-year pilot project implementing the AIM Integrated Literacy **Model** (AIM ILM) in two School District of Philadelphia elementary schools comment that they notice the engagement of students in the K-2 classrooms participating in the pilot. "The engagement is very high in the ILM classroom because it's usually done very interactively and there is a lot of collaboration, which is important. That's what I like most about it, that you walk into one of our K-2 classrooms and you can see the energy."
- Our commitment to sharing research findings and promising educational practices continues to grow as area School District Superintendents, Principals, Deans of College of Education and Special Education and College Professors are invited to our **Research to Practice Symposium** each Spring. And in 2017 we are excited to share our research with even more people as we move the symposium to our new 500-seat community center space.



LEARNING FROM THE EXPERTS

AIM Research Advisory Board

We are honored that experts from across disciplines have joined our Research Advisory Board. Members are willing to share research findings and promising educational practices as well as support the development of AIM Academy as an exemplar school in the field of learning differences. AIM is delighted to welcome two new members Michelle Duda, Ph.D., BCBA-D and Tim Odegard, Ph.D.

These accomplished researchers join Daniel Berch, Ph.D., Kate Cain, Bsc.D.Phil, Donald L. Compton, Ph.D., Steven Graham, Ph.D., Louisa Moats, Ed.D., Ken Pugh, Ph.D., Julie Washington, Ph.D., and Barbara Wilson, M.Ed. on our current AIM Research Advisory Board.



Daniel Berch, Ph.D







Donald Compton, Ph.D



Kate Cain, Bsc.D. Phil





Tim Odegard, Ph.D. is the Murfree Chair of Excellence in Dyslexic Studies

and Professor of Psychology at the Tennessee Center for the Research and Treatment of Dyslexia, Middle Tennessee State University. Dr. Odegard contributes to research investigating the causes of dyslexia and related specific reading disabilities and appropriate educational interventions for individuals with these disabilities; promotes public awareness about the nature of dyslexia and related specific reading disabilities and about promising approaches to diagnosis and interventions; and guides efforts to enhance the skills of teachers, school psychologists, and parents to more effectively identify and assist dyslexic students and related reading disabilities.

Louisa Moats, Ed.D



Julie Washington, Ph.D

Steven Graham, Ph.D





Barbara Willson, M.Ed.







AIM's Newest Advisory Board Members

> **Dr. Michelle** A. Duda. Ph.D., BCBA-D, is a senior level Board Certified **Behavior** Analyst

and the President of the innovative research and coaching firm, Implementation Scientists, LLC, Building from her deep leadership and applied research experiences as a Scientist at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and Associate Director of the National Implementation Research Network, Dr. Duda has consistently demonstrated how to help teams move best and promising practices into "real world" application. She is passionate about supporting the dissemination, implementation and scale-up of evidencebased practices and applies her expertise at local, state/provincial

and national levels.

20

WHERE WILL THE FUTURE LEAD AIM

Imagine - Where Will We Go Next?

AIM Academy has always been about its community:

- the parents, grandparents, educators, and entrepreneurs who came together because they knew that children with language-based learning disabilities can and will thrive in a rigorous academic setting when taught by committed faculty who have access to the latest research;
- the gentleman who was so moved by the kindness and respect that students showed each other in the AIM lunchroom as part of the Vetri Eatiquette program that he became a major supporter of sports, recreation, and school spirit at AIM and began an endowment for future generations;
- every parent who found AIM for their child and are committed to whatever is needed to enable their student to succeed;
- or the Philadelphia philanthropists who, believing in the AIM model for early intervention, joined with AIM to fund the implementation of the AIM Integrated Literacy Model (ILM) and change lives in two School District of Philadelphia elementary schools.

Imagine where the next decade will lead us as we work to create an education environment where all children who learn differently get early intervention and the education they need.

Imagine the waterfront outside our school doors with AIM rowers on the Schuylkill River, a boathouse on the shore or students working on an environmental studies experiment in a Science Barn.

Imagine making an AIM education affordable to everyone through vibrant scholarship programs

Imagine purchasing the property that holds our expanding campus as we put down further roots in our community.

Imagine that teachers everywhere can receive the preparation they need to work with all children to improve literacy.

Imagine the headlines AIM graduates will make as they head out into the world as confident, fearless leaders in the arts, science, business, academia and more.

What do you Imagine for AIM? What do you Imagine for your child?



DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

A Decade of Philanthropy and Financial Aid at AIM Academy Since the doors opened in 2006, AIM Academy has been committed to making its educational opportunities available to families without regard to their financial resources and is extremely proud to provide support to those students with demonstrated need.

After a decade in existence, this same dedication exists today as close to 25% of our student population receive some type of financial support. Investing in an AIM Academy education is a major commitment on the part of the family, so on a yearly basis 10% of the operating budget is allocated towards financial aid. For many of these students, the only reason they are able to attend AIM is because of the generous financial aid package provided to them. The environment that our school provides across all three divisions empowers the students to learn fearlessly, develop the necessary tools to be successful in college and for the rest of their lives. We thank the many contributors who have made it possible for so many students to receive an AIM Academy education.

Lifetime Giving List =

\$1,000,000 - \$3,000,000

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The Farber Family Foundation The Albert M. Greenfield Foundation Maguire Foundation -Mr. and Mrs. James J. Maguire

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* Deceased

Conce you learn to read, you will be forever free. ??

> – Frederick Douglass

2015-2016 Combined Giving

\$450,000+

Anonymous Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Archie and Helene van Beuren

\$100,000+

The Kingsbury Family Fund Vince and Karen Lowry Maguire Foundation - Mr. and Mrs. James J. Maguire Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation

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Capital Campaign Phase 2

Providing AIM students, faculty and staff with a world class facility and expanding the campus footprint within the community. All gifts and pledges to the Capital Campaign2 as of 7/21/16

\$1,500,000+

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

\$1,000,000+ Anonymous

Archie and Helene van Beuren

\$200,000+

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\$15,000+

Anonymous Christopher and Jennifer Eni -Dietz and Watson Michael and Melissa Samschick

\$10,000+

Bryn Mawr Trust Company Drexel University Kathy Healey Richard and Amy Oller Archie and Helene van Beuren

\$5,000+

Fred and Bryna Berman Blackney Hayes Architects -Penn Lighting Associates Cabrini College Albert and Kristy Chiaradonna Woody and Carolyn Cullen Dilworth Paxson LLP Matt and Heather Naylor -Elite Company James and Carol Fitzgerald Haverford Trust Company Dan Hilferty The Kinser Group Kline & Specter Larry and Evelyn Krain Donald and Jean Leatherwood The Maguire Foundation Philadelphia Energy Solutions LLC Pat and Chris Roberts Corrine Roxby Randv and Amv Stein Stradley Ronon Steven & Young, LLP Thank You Associates -Carlton and Nina Neel David and Laura Thaver WEXFORD Science + Technology Wohlsen Construction Company

\$2,500+

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\$1,500+

Jacqueline Allen George and Victoria Coates John and Linda Donahue Dean and Allison Enslein Darryl Ford and Gail Sullivan Jed and Jessical Hammel Brian Lipkin Vincent and Karen Lowry David Quinn Robert and Pamela Saltzburg Ryan and Amy Tyrrell - US Roofing

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Curt Alloy and Wendy Demchick-Alloy Anonymous Armstrong, Doyle and Carroll, Inc John and Gina Armstrona Bryn Athyn College PC, and Thatsani Chandra Mitchell and Melissa Codkind Tristram and Ruth Colket Epstein-Whitman Family Foundation David Flink David and Nancy Gansky The Greenfield Family Leonard and Sally Grossman Gwynedd Mercy University HealthBridge Medical Group Jonathan and Meredith Hoffman Elliot and Amy Holtz Jeffrey and Marjorie Honickman Hunt Alternatives

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Scholarships =

\$50,000+

The Albert M. Greenfield Foundation Independence Blue Cross** Maguire Foundation Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.**

\$20,000+

Anonymous Allen Rubber Company** Aspen Resource Group, LLC** Stan and Arlene Ginsburg Foundation** Integrated Project Services, Inc.** Maguire Foundation** Philadelphia Insurance Company[#] PNC Bank[#] S2B Partners, LLC** SKF USA, Inc.** Viking Associates**

\$10,000+

Aqua America, Inc.** Bryn Mawr Trust Company# Comcast Corporation** Elite Brokerage Services** Hanse Golf Course Design Inc.* Haverford Trust Company* LRL Capital, Inc.** Pembroke Consulting, Inc.** Rosenberg & Parker Inc.** Valley Forge Realty* Vulcan Spring & Mfg. Co.*

\$5,000+

Fred and Bryna Berman Blackney Hayes Architects** Independence Orthopaedics, Ltd.** M&T Bank* Meridian Bank* UHS of Delaware, Inc.**

\$2,000+

MOSI Foundation Noro Properties** Pat's King of Steaks LLP Penn Liberty Bank**

\$1,000+

Nancy and Brian Blair Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting of Friends Sam Jones and Rhonda McKinney-Jones Stephen and Carrie Sherretta

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CPW Rotary Club-Lafayette Foundation Darryl Ford and Gail Sullivan Daniel and Susanna Forjohn Diane Hirschinger Merck Partnership for Giving Ruth Reber

The 10th Anniversary AIM for the Stars Gala on Saturday, April 9th, 2016, at The Westin Philadelphia welcomed back friends and families who have watched AIM grow over the years. The event hosted 500 university heads, researchers, community leaders, educators, policy makers and families of children with learning differences and did much to raise funds and awareness to advance the cause of literacy for students and educators throughout the Greater Philadelphia region. **Daniel J. Hilferty**, President and CEO of Independence Blue Cross, served as Honorary Chair of the event honoring Drexel University with the AIM Institute of Learning & Research Leadership Award, accepted by President John A. Fry; the Honorable Edward G. **Rendell** with the Champion of Education Award; and Marcus Soutra, President of Eye to Eye with the Sally L. Smith Founder's Award.

10th Anniversary Gala -AIM for the Stars

* EITC
** OSTC
Both

Any individual not marked is just for general scholarships.

You are not only educating our children, you are educating the world that children with learning differences can achieve great things! Thank you for providing a learning evvirnoment where children are encouraged to "AIM for the Stars. **99**

- Gala Supporters - The Codkind Family

This year's gala honorees join 13 other outstanding individuals who have been recognized at past galas including: Matthew S. Naylor, CEO of The Elite Group – 2008; Dr. Edward Hallowell, Child and Adult Psychiatrist and Author and Dr. Dennis Wint, President and CEO of The Franklin Institute – 2009; Anne Ford, Author; Michael O'Neill, Founder and CEO of Preferred Sands, LLC; and U.S. Rep. John Runyan, Congressman – 2010; Dr. Tracy Johnson, CEO Vessels of Hope and Philip Schultz, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and founder of The Writers Studio – 2011; Cinthia Coletti Haan, Founder and CEO of The Coletti/Haan Foundation for Children and The Coletti Institute for Education and Career Achievement – 2012; James J. Maguire, Sr., Founder and chairman emeritus of Philadelphia Consolidated holding Corp. and David and Evan Yurman, fine jewelry and luxury timepiece designers – 2013; Kettner Griswold Sr., Pegasus Engineer at Orbital ATK and Jerry Pinkney, Children's Book Illustrator and recipient of the Caldecott Medal and Coretta Scott King Award – 2014.

2015-2016 Annual Fund =

\$20,000+

Brickman Family Foundation Lubert Family Foundation Archie and Helene van Beuren

\$10,000+

Anonymous Jeffrey Abrams and Margaret Barry Marco and Jana de Leon -MOSI Foundation Berton and Sallie Korman Pat and Chris Roberts

\$5,000+

Ed and Gwen Asplundh Fred and Bryna Berman Al and Kristy Chiaradonna Woody and Carolyn Cullen Chris and Jennifer Eni Gene and Anne Gardner Arthur and Linda Rodbell Hans and Terri Zandhuis

\$2,000+

Anonymous (2) Jacqueline Allen Curt Alloy and Wendy Demchick-Allov Sybiel B. Berkman Foundation Nancy and Brian Blair **Clayman Family Foundation** Barbara Cobb Rosalie "Perky" Cohen Tristram and Ruth Colket Jennifer Crawford John and Linda Donahue Donna Hazard Kathy Healey Melissa Heller Don and Jean Leatherwood Matthew and Heather Navlor George and Nicole Riter Tim and Pam Sabean W. Percy Simpson Trust Randy and Amy Stein David and Lisa van Adelsberg

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Darryl Ford and Gail Sullivan David and Tara Friedman Claire Gebhardt Bruce and Celeste Gebhardt David Glass Leonard and Sally Grossman Jed and Jessica Hammel William and Mary Healey Joseph and Lil Heyse Jonathan and Meredith Hoffman Elliot and Amy Holtz Joseph and Michele Hondros Greg and Cherifa Howarth Patrick and Karen Hoyer Kestenbaum Family Foundation Matt and Tammy Klein Joel and Sharon Koppelman Francis and Anita Leto Tom and Nancy Londres Vince and Karen Lowry Merck Partnership for Giving Mildred Morgan Carlton and Nina Neel -Thank You Associates Warren Pear and Cadence Kim John Piasecki and Gretchen Sprafke See and Lori Quek Matt and Jennifer Rusk Robert Saligman Charitable Foundation M.Joseph Rocks and Liz Greco-Rocks William Sanderson and Carolyn McCoy David and Sandi Slap Jon Smollen and Leah Kaplan David and Laura Thayer Scott and Diana Vaughn Christopher and Meg Veno John Willcox Brian and Diane Zwann \$500+ Anonymous Martha Benoff Robert and Terry Bovarnick

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Up to \$500

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Abby Wright

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All Staff and Administration Lindsey Boden

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Mr. Michael Berman Jacqueline Allen Fred and Bryna Berman Samuel and Cindy Goldstein

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Gordon Walker

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Mr. William McHugh

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Ted Henson

Randy Lipkin

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Gary and Catherine Cox

Ethan and Lauren Giddings

Christopher and Jennifer Eni

Merck Partnership for Giving

Kent Julye and Tracy Mills

Donald and Jeanne Leatherwood

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Ann Burns John Gaul The Kingsbury Family Fund Gregory Marks and Angela Bien The Milton Steele Charitable Fund Joseph and Linda Outlaw Valeriy Pryshchenko and Moira McHugh David Shevock Anne and Baird Standish Karen Sullivan

Up to \$1,000

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Isaac and Rebecca Sasson

Matthew and Wendy Studner

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Mr. Alan Schonberg Jeff and Beth Schonberg

Ms. Catherine Shedden John and Diane Shedden

Ms. Carol Tierney Patrick and Kathy Junod

Mr. Robert Zoltek Christopher and Connie Murphy

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Al and Kristy Chiaradonna Crosshatch A/V Melissa Codkind - Initiatives Inc. Events Chris and Jennifer Eni - Dietz & Watson John and Franny Glomb Mick and Nancy Houston Kent Julye and Tracy Mills - BERG USA Tom and Nancy Kingsbury Kramer Drive Randy Lipkin Frannie Maguire John and Denise McGlade Moira McHugh Design Pete and Chrissy Oppenheimer - Wave One Sports Kevin Myer and Kim Peck James and Myra Petras Mitlas Productions Robertson's Florist David and Laura Thayer Scott and Diana Vaughn - The Standard Group

Giving Thanks for Giving Tuesday

On December 1, 2015 AIM Academy participated in #GivingTuesday for the first time. This global day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration helped raise \$65,125 for the Annual Fund. This marked one of the largest single days of giving in the history of the school and was generously supported by the entire AIM community with \$37,125 raised and a \$25,000 match from a generous donor. Our #GivingTuesday donors are listed among our 2015-2016 Annual Fund donors

AIM Academy will once again participate in #GivingTuesday on November 29, 2016 and will continue to build upon this amazing tradition.



