

ST. MARK'S SCHOOL OF TEXAS



VISITING SCHOLAR PROGRAMS ACCESS, EXPERTS, INVOLVEMENT MARJORIE CURRY

Introduction



St. Mark's aims to prepare young men to assume leadership and responsibility in a competitive and changing world.

The importance of **enriching** curricular experiences **beyond textbook lessons** is paramount as **micro-schools**, availability of information, homeschooling, and other **alternatives loom ever larger** on the horizon. This presentation looks at how visiting scholar programs give students access to and involvement with experts in a variety of fields. We will review key aspects of making such programs thrive.

Part One : Who and What

What Are Visiting Scholar Programs?

The Robert E. Dennard Visiting Scholar Program is supported by the Robert E. Dennard Memorial Fund, the D. Gordon Rupe Foundation, and the Margaret McDermott and Ida Green Lectureship Fund. The Program brings to campus **noted professionals** who share their **knowledge and experience** with the School community.

Robert E. Dennard served on the St. Mark's Board of Trustees from 1964 to 1982.

What are Visiting Scholar Programs?

The Willard E. Walker, Jr. '66 Visiting Scholar Program was created by the St. Mark's Board of Trustees to honor Willard E. Walker, Jr. '66. Endowed and supported by Bill's friends and family, the Program provides special opportunities for students in **science, music, and language and culture.**

Willard E. Walker, Jr. '66 served on the St. Mark's Board of Trustees from 1979 to 1985.

Visiting Scholar Programs in the Past

Exposure to Many Visitors



Celebration Jazz Orchestra

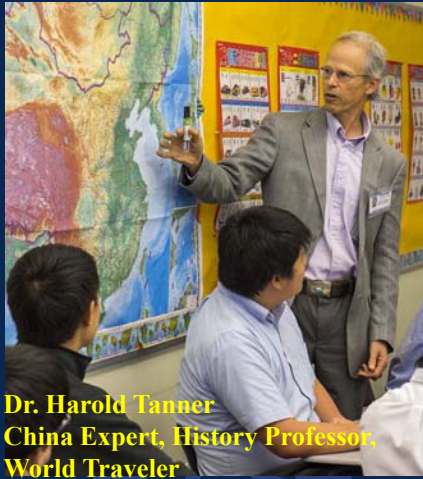
Visiting Scholar Programs Today

- Adaptability
- Depth over Breadth



Ms. Robin Wiszowaty
Kenya Program Director, Free the Children

Who are the Visiting Scholars?



Dr. Harold Tanner
China Expert, History Professor,
World Traveler

Mr. Carl Zimmer
Science Writer and Blogger



Who are the Visiting Scholars?



Mr. Eugene Yelchin
Artist,
Illustrator and Writer of Books for
Children



Mr. James O'Donnell
Organist and Master of the
Choristers of Westminster Abbey



Who are the Visiting Scholars?

- Accomplished speakers
- Experts in their field yet humble
- Cross-curricular
- Dynamic presenters
- Passionate about helping young people

[Click here for more details](#)



Mr. Rob Kapilow
Composer,
Conductor, Music
Commentator

Small Group Discussion

- What are the hallmarks of your school's **mission and philosophy**? Which departments of your school are growing or changing?
- Think of a situation in which you experienced a presentation or speaker that would increase your boys' **learning, motivation, engagement, and/or achievement**? What was it that made that experience so meaningful?
- What are some obstacles to bringing such a person to your school? How will you overcome them? In addition to the boys, how might members of the school community will **benefit and participate**?

Part Two : How and Why

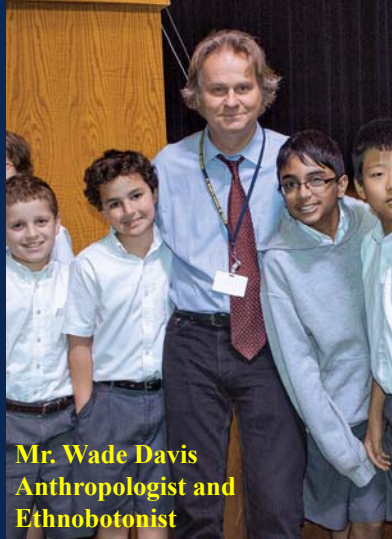
Collaboration

- Across Departments and Divisions
- Community – Key Stakeholders, Other Schools
- Alumni
- Relationships
- Teachers
- Student Advisory Board



Dr. Spencer Wells
Population Geneticist

Communication



Mr. Wade Davis
Anthropologist and
Ethnobotanist

- [Speaking Invitation Letters](#)
- [Flyers](#)
- [Brochures](#)
- [Itineraries](#)
- [The Pride](#)
- Teachers

Coordination

- Master List
- Tech Check
- Dinner
- Seniors



Mr. Billy Collins
US Poet Laureate, 2001 – 2003



New Developments

- Roosevelt Family Organ
- Chinese Program
- Leadership

Feedback

From Barbara Van Drie, Director of Counseling and AP Psychology Instructor:

“Dr. Sapolsky’s visit was a **perfect convergence of events** for my AP Psychology class. We had just finished studying brain physiology, neurotransmitters, and neuroendocrinology prior to his visit, so the students could speak his language from a neuroscience perspective. My class comprises all seniors, so at this time of year, the college admission process and other rituals of being a senior are stressing the entire group. Sapolsky **took an interest** in that stressful context and artfully expanded the students’ knowledge of the neuroscience of stress....”

Feedback

From Halbert Bai, Valedictorian '14

“Dr. Sapolsky added much **color and depth** to my perspective on field research and coping. From his lecture on stress to his discussion of his work, Dr. Sapolsky shared **valuable insight** into neuroscience and neuroendocrinology. In particular, his research on a troupe of baboons suffering from tuberculosis and its implications for our society was especially intriguing.”

Dr. Robert Sapolsky
Biologist, Neuroscientist, Writer, and Stress Expert



Feedback

From Mary Ann Livengood, Lower School Music Teacher

“It has been a very full week with our Visiting Scholar, and before I head out for Spring Break I wanted to thank you all. I was able to have an **intensive Professional Development experience** from which I gleaned much to use with my young singers. Coupled with hearing the Abbey choir in October, I am **full of ideas** for furthering vocal development. It was also nice to hear the organ under his command.”

Feedback

From Mateo Diaz '18

“Dr. Gonzalez **stirs emotions** deep inside your heart with stories that make you **laugh, think,** and finally **be happy** at the end.”

From John Gunnin '18

The way he speaks is **amazing**. I was lost in his fantasy world of magic snakes and evil witches.”



Closing

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