



**Girls Incorporated®
of Metropolitan Dallas
214-654-4530**

**April/May 2012
girlsincdallas.org**



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What is a Girl? Inaugural Lecture Series a Great Success

What is a girl archetypically and culturally? This is the question our inaugural 2011-2012 lecture series explored, held in partnership with the Dallas Institute of Humanities and Culture. Close to 300 attendees joined us as we explored the image of the girl from ancient mythology to today's popular culture and tomorrow's leadership in science and technology.

The series began in September with Dr. Claudia Allums' introduction of Greek goddesses as powerful archetypal figures of "the girl." In November, Dr. Scott Churchill, a professor of psychology at the University of Dallas, explored the portrayal of the girl in film. In February, award-winning writer, editor and speaker, Peggy Orenstein, examined the destructive girlie-girl culture of pink princesses, spa birthday parties for six year olds and child beauty pageants, and the idolization of the Kardashians marketed to little girls which teaches them that self-absorption is the same as self-confidence.



From left: Bianca Bailey and Rena Pederson.

Rena Pederson's lecture in April concluded the series addressing the origin of America's gender gap in science, technology, engineering and math and the feminine role in these critical fields. Bianca Bailey, a Girls Inc. Dallas alumna and a chemical engineering senior at Howard University, participated as a panelist. Ms. Bailey is the campus president of Engineers without Borders and has volunteered in Kenya, Brazil and Haiti. Honored as a White House Champion of Change for her initiatives in science, technology, education and math, she plans to pursue a doctoral degree in environmental engineering and work toward establishing a clean water supply in developing countries. Bianca attended Girls Inc. of Metropolitan Dallas programs for nine years and mentors at the Girls Inc. affiliate in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area.

Thank you to our sponsors who made our inaugural lecture series possible: Kroger, Texas Instruments, Dallas Business Journal, WRR Classical 101, Rosewood Hotels & Resorts of Dallas and American Airlines. We look forward to continuing the conversation about girls in our community and society in our upcoming 2012-2013 lecture series, beginning this fall. *Stay tuned for our announcement of future speakers and discussions!*

Spring Break 2012 Promotes College and Career Readiness

We are thrilled with the success of the 2012 Teen Spring Break Program! Packed with activities, the program took place March 12-16 when 50 middle and high school girls toured colleges, explored career possibilities and experienced science, art and culture, journaling about and reflecting on their experiences.

The girls visited the UNT Health Science Center, University of Dallas and Texas Christian University. They learned all about applying for college, financial aid, student life and different career paths from college staff, faculty and students. Along with exploring higher education options each day, the young ladies discovered the wonders of the Fort Worth Botanical Gardens, the Fort Worth Zoo, Trammel Crow Museum of Asian Art and the Dallas Museum of Nature and Science, concluding the week with Fun Friday at Celebration Station. *Interested in supporting similar college and career readiness programs? Contact rossi@girlsincdallas.org.*

Preparing Girls for the World of Business

Helping girls, ages 12-18, learn economic literacy, entrepreneurship and business principles is the focus of our program, The Young Women's Company (YWCo). Every year, girls run their own business and create and sell products, using the proceeds for an annual summer college trip, a step toward college readiness. Impressed with the program, the popular show Good Morning Texas featured the program on its "Family First" segment on Thursday, March 22. Interviewed were ninth-grader Noemy Lopez, manager of YWCo at our Love Field Campus, Teen Facilitator Melissa Stevens and Chief Program Officer Gracie Tolbert.



Inspiring all girls to be **strong, smart, and bold**™

Summer Camp Mania 2012: June 4th through July 27th

Our summer camp is designed to inspire, challenge and empower girls, ages 6-14, by engaging them in hands-on activities that promote academic performance, creativity, physical ability and personal effectiveness in a friendly all-girl environment. The weekly camps will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday-Friday. Each week will focus on a different theme:

- College exploration and college readiness
- Exploration of different countries and their cultures
- Sports and fitness
- Hands-on science, math and technology experiments
- Creative expression through creating bold designs and organizing a fashion show
- Conflict resolution and anti-bullying
- Leadership skills and civic engagement through involvement in community projects.



A full description of the summer camps is available at www.girlsincdallas.org/summercamp2012. To learn more about helping with or sponsoring a camp, contact lrossi@girlsincdallas.org.

Teen Summer Program 2012: June 11th through July 27th

Held in the community, the program offers intensive career and college exploration. This year, we are gearing up for two special institutes for high school girls, **STEM Digital Connectors** which immerses young people in technology and leadership training and a **College Career Readiness & Community Service Project Institute**. A college trip touring colleges and universities in Austin, San Antonio and Houston will run July 31st to August 3rd, 2012. A College Fair will be held on June 26 at the Love Field campus. Call 214-654-4541 for more information!

Forty-one Volunteers Become Tutoring STAARs



Focused on strengthening the education of girls in our community, Girls Inc. launched a new tutoring program to help prepare girls for the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) Tests, which have replaced the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS). For this pilot year, we are focusing on 3rd graders, with plans to add additional grades each year. Forty-four 3rd graders participated in the 4-week program, which concluded on April 13. Forty-one volunteers tutored the girls. Board Trustee Gay Porter was invaluable in guiding our program specialist Lezlie Shipman who led the project. Linda Ridgway of *A Teacher's Aide* generously donated supplies and helped with the reading curriculum.

Thank you to everyone who made the STAAR tutoring a success! *Interested in supporting the program? To learn how you can get involved, contact lhall@girlsincdallas.com today.*

Ways to Get Involved

TUTORS: We are actively recruiting tutors! Tutoring is a great way for high school and college students to earn community service hours and serve as positive role models. We need tutors to help our girls, ages 6-12, succeed at school by providing them with reading assistance and test preparation. Flexible tutoring schedules are available.

MENTORS: We also need mentors to work one-on-one with a girl to provide assistance with homework and standardized testing preparation and to provide ongoing support and encouragement to their mentee. There are no special skills required to take advantage of the opportunity to mentor, only the willingness to encourage and support your mentee and serve as a positive role model and friend. Mentors must pass a background check, be at least 21 years old and be dependable and consistent in meeting time commitments of five hours per month.

Get involved today! To learn how, contact lhall@girlsincdallas.com

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Metropolitan Dallas

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MISSION: Girls Incorporated of Metropolitan Dallas is a nonprofit agency whose mission is to inspire all girls to be **Strong, Smart, and Bold™**.

VISION: To enable girls ages 6-18, to become **Strong, Smart, and Bold**, and graduate from high school equipped for success with personal effectiveness, academic and career planning competencies.

SERVICES: After-school programs are offered Monday through Friday from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. and summer programs are Monday through Friday, June through August, 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. We supply healthy snacks and meals. And in the summers we add field trips that include swimming, museums, zoos, tours of corporations, colleges and universities.

INVESTMENT: 82¢ of every dollar goes directly to program services to help girls gain the necessary competencies to be successful. Invest today: www.girlsincdallas.org/InvestinGirls.