

Girls Incorporated® of Metropolitan Dallas 214-654-4530

February 2012 girlsincdallas.org



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What is a Girl?

Our inaugural annual lecture series launched in partnership with The Dallas Institute for Humanities and Culture has been a great success! Themed *What is a Girl*?, the lectures take a critical look at how girls have been envisioned from ancient mythology to today's popular culture and tomorrow's leadership in science and technology.

On November 2, 2011, Dr. Scott Churchill, a professor of psychology at the University of Dallas, presented a lecture titled *Girls on the Big Screen*, in which he explored the roles of girls in film, offering images that both delighted and disturbed—from innocence to experience, from victim to victor. After the lecture, the audience engaged in a lively discussion with panelists Dr. Claudia Allums and Dr. Larry Allums, both of The Dallas Institute, and Cynthia Salzman Mondell, a local independent documentary filmmaker.

In the third lecture held on February 1, author Peggy Orenstein discussed the "girly-girl" culture that influences girls from infancy onward and tells a girl that her appearance matters more than her identity. A writer and speaker, Peggy Orenstein is the author, most recently, of *Cinderella Ate My Daughter: Dispatches from the Front Lines of the New Girlie-Girl Culture*.

Rena Pederson's lecture on Wednesday, April 4 will complete the series as she considers the feminine role in scientific and theoretical fields, most of which have traditionally been associated with men. Rena Pederson is the Communications Director for the National Math and Science Initiative. Girls Inc. alumna, Bianca Bailey—one of 12 White House Champion of Change awardees for her STEM initiatives—will be a panelist during the discussion segment. Visit www.girlsincdallas.org/LectureSeries2011-2012 to register.

Thank you to our sponsors who made the lectures possible: our partner The Dallas Institute for Humanities and Culture, Kroger, Texas Instruments, Dallas *Business Journal*, WRR Classical 101, Rosewood Hotels & Resorts of Dallas and American Airlines.

Community Service Partnerships

We are very fortunate to have many wonderful community partners that make it possible to enhance, expand and create educational enrichment programs and services for our girls by providing support and hands-on volunteering. These are some of the many exciting projects that have taken place:

ExxonMobil Family Math & Science Night (FMSN) Volunteers from ExxonMobil, Sunwest Communications and the Museum of Nature & Science teamed up to encourage girls to consider careers in math and science through early exposure. In November, more than 140 girls and parents experienced science firsthand as they extracted DNA from strawberries, sat on a chair of nails, cracked open geodes, created tornado funnels, played math games, drove solar-powered remote control cars and participated in other fun activities.



SMU Society of Women Engineers SMU student members of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) work with our fourth- and fifth-grade girls each month on science and engineering activities, including making lip gloss, building structures out of pretzels and marshmallows and learning about catapults.

If you participate in an employee volunteer group, contact lhall@girlsincdallas.org to learn more about volunteering with Girls Inc. of Metropolitan Dallas.

Middle School Spring Programs

As we continue our strategic direction to update, strengthen and create new curricula for teens in middle and high school, we have new middle school programs available this spring semester:

Career and College Exploration: Every Wednesday, our girls will explore careers that interest them and learn about the college experience required. Guest speakers will discuss specific programs at their colleges and share their college. career, and business experiences. Every other week, the girls will discover Science! in the world around them by conducting experiments and learning about careers in science.

College/University Visits: This spring, when the girls are not in class, they will visit the campuses of Dallas Baptist University, UNT Dallas, and other area colleges. The girls will tour the campuses and discuss majors and college life.

High School Planning: Parents will have the opportunity to join their daughters for a monthly series of workshops on high-school planning. Guest speakers will discuss study and test-taking skills, planning for high school, thinking ahead for college and other important topics.

Social Mondays and Build IT: Every Monday girls at the Oak Cliff and Love Field campuses will discuss current news topics. The girls at the South and West Dallas campuses will participate in Build IT, a design-based curriculum that promotes information technology and computer science.

If you are interested in enrolling your daughter or would like more information, visit www.girlsincdallas.org, to download and complete a registration form.

Congratulations to Alumna Bianca Bailey!



A senior Chemical Engineering major at Howard University, Bianca is one of 12 recipients nationwide of the 2011 White House Champions of Change award for her STEM initiatives. They include serving as president of the Howard University chapter of Engineers Without Borders and volunteering in Kenya, Brazil and Haiti. Bianca has held internships at NAVSEA Department of Defense, ConocoPhillips and Carnegie Mellon University. Bianca attended Girls Inc. of Metropolitan Dallas programs for nine years and credits her hands-on STEM involvement and exposure to women mentors as key in selecting a STEM career. She mentors at a Girls Inc. affiliate in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area.

Girls Inc. Wish List: Tutors and Mentors for the Spring

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, 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.

For more information, contact: *lhall@girlsincdallas.com*



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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 .am. 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.