

Cunningham, Varsha Ramnarine, Jonathan Stewart, Alexandria Whann, and Courtney Wilkerson, their teacher, Shirley Tanner, and their school for triumphing in the Florida competition of the 2002 National Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl.

Located in Alachua, a tiny city of approximately 6000 people, Alachua Elementary School serves less than 500 students in grades three through five. Principal Jim Brandenburg described the 107-year-old school as a "community school" and credited community involvement for the school's quality, explaining that, "Alachua is a stable community. Many parents and grandparents of our students also attended Alachua Elementary. We don't have a lot of money, but parental involvement and community support help make up for that."

Mr. Brandenburg further states, "There are no shortcuts to quality education. We have resisted the instructional fads that promise instant success and focused on essential skills and good teaching. You can't 'microwave' sustained high achievement in school or anywhere else. It really comes down to high expectations and hard work."

Alachua Elementary is often referred to as "the little school that can . . . and does." It has been honored as a Blue Ribbon school and has received numerous awards for student achievement from the School Board of Alachua County. Furthermore, this is the third consecutive year that Alachua's Quiz Bowl team has won first place in the state. For Alachua, a poor rural school, the win was particularly rewarding since they competed against schools from metropolitan areas of Florida and also private schools across the state.

Mrs. Tanner, Teacher of the Gifted and Technology Resource Teacher, began the school's involvement in this challenging scholastic competition several years ago. The test consists of 100 computer-generated multiple-choice questions covering all school subjects, current events, and trivia. Each fifth-grade student on the team studied incredibly long hours and practiced weekly for over two months to prepare for the competition.

Mrs. Tanner said, "I am far more impressed with their determination and perseverance than by the fact that they won the state competition. They had no idea what questions would be on the test. No notes of any kind may be used during the test; only pencils and paper are permitted. Research, teamwork, and test-taking strategies were the keys to success. Since the total score was based on both speed and accuracy, the team had to be quick calm and knowledgeable about many subjects."

Now let me tell you a little more about these wonderful kids:

Kyle Carlisle, the son of Roy and Ellen Carlisle, became an expert on Government. His leisure time is spent reading and playing computer games of strategy. Kyle's favorite subject is Math. His goal in life is to have a career in Computer Science. Kyle said, "Being on the quiz bowl team was a lot of work, but it was fun." Mrs. Tanner said of him, "The same day that Kyle qualified for the team, he began researching various topics and shared this information with teammates. Kyle was responsible for answering questions on Government and in charge of entering the team's answers via the mouse. He did a flawless job in an extremely stressful position."

Kaytlynn Cunningham, the daughter of John and Nancy Short, became the expert in Language Arts. Her interests include singing, gymnastics, creative writing, bike riding, and swimming. Kaytlynn's favorite subject is Language Arts, and she wants to be a teacher. Her comment was, "I spent a lot of time learning a vast quantity of information, but I know I will be able to use it later in life." Mrs. Tanner commented, "Kaytlynn is a talented young lady. Soon after the 9/11 tragedy, Kaytlynn sang, 'Amazing Grace' at the school's Open House Program. The song was so beautifully and emotionally sung that few dry eyes were in the audience. She regularly appears as a news anchorperson on the school's closed-circuit broadcasting station, WALA."

Varsha Ramnarine, the daughter of Vishnu and Kay Ramnarine, plays softball, reads and plays basketball. She was the team's math expert. Her favorite subject is, of course, Mathematics. Her career desire is to be a pediatrician. She said "The test was not as hard as I expected. Maybe it was because we were prepared." Mrs. Tanner responded, "We would not have scored nearly so well without Varsha's expertise in math concepts and computation. I was amazed at her quick answer to the math questions without the need to compute with pencil and paper."

Jonathan Stewart, the son of Tim and Chris Stewart, spends weekends riding his dirt bike, camping, and playing football. His speciality was Sports and Leisure. His favorite subject is also Mathematics, and Jonathan's career choice is to be a veterinarian. Jonathan commented, "The research was hard and took a lot of time, but it helped prepare us for the test. The hardest lesson to learn, though, was teamwork." Mrs. Tanner remarked, "Jonathan is a quick learner. The team depended on him to answer correctly all the sports questions. Jonathan, a pleasure in the classroom, always wears a mischievous and intriguing smile."

Alexandria Whann, the daughter of Lloyd and Elise Whann, enjoys swimming, piano, and traveling. Her knowledge of Social Studies meant that the team answered the geography questions correctly. Not surprisingly, her favorite subjects are Social Studies and Spelling. Her comment about the team was, "Mrs. Tanner is the best advisor a team could have. She insisted that we do our best." Mrs. Tanner said, "Alex has a marvelous sense of humor and a playful attitude. She really got excited answering questions at the weekly practices, but during the competition, she was calm, confident, and accurate."

Courtney Wilkerson, the daughter of Kenneth and Candis Wilkerson, enjoys reading, swimming, traveling, and creative writing. Her area of expertise was Science, Current Events, and Miscellaneous. Her favorite subject is Mathematics, and she wants to be a lawyer. Courtney's response was, "Studying for the competition was a lot of hard work, but in the end, it was worth it." Mrs. Tanner said "Courtney's contribution cannot be over-emphasized. It seemed that every week in practice, I'd think of something else under the category of 'Miscellaneous' that she needed to learn. She never complained about the additional work."

These six students are to be congratulated for their determination, perseverance, and scholastic aptitude. These qualities were rewarded with a First Place finish in the state of Florida.

COMMENDING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF FERNANDO ZAZUETA

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, we rise to recognize the remarkable achievements of Fernando Zazueta, the Founding Chairman of the Mexican Heritage Corporation of San Jose. Mr. Zazueta is a leader in the community and has been an invaluable friend to us both.

Fernando Zazueta was born in Culiacán, Sinaloa, Mexico and was raised as a migrant farm worker in California. He attended sixteen separate schools before graduating from San Jose High School in 1957, and then from San Jose State University in 1962. During law school, Mr. Zazueta was president of the Ralph Bunche Society of International Law and treasurer of the Law Students Association. As a result of his involvement in the student Court Interpreter Program, Mr. Zazueta published a Law Review article entitled "Attorney's Guide to the Use of Court Interpreters with an English and Spanish Glossary of Criminal Law Terms" and served as a special consultant to Arthur Young and Company in the development and presentation of a statewide study. Fernando Zazueta was a key contributor to a published report for the California Judicial Council regarding an assessment of the language needs of the California population as they related to the California justice system.

Fernando Zazueta has been an active member of local, county, state and national bar associations and served as both treasurer and president of La Raza National Lawyers' Association of California. Mr. Zazueta served on the State Bar Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation for two terms, during which the commission evaluated hundreds of nominees for gubernatorial appointment.

As chairman of the 1979 Community Advisory Council of San Jose Unified School District, Fernando Zazueta examined proposals to alleviate the ethnic and racial isolation of students. Additionally, he has held numerous directorships for nonprofit organizations such as the International Hospitality Center in San Francisco, the San Jose Museum of Art, and the San Jose Convention and Visitor's Bureau. He served on the Board of the San Jose Unified Educational Foundation, which raises over \$100,000 for school sports through its annual Celebrity Waiters Luncheon.

Fernando Zazueta has been the founder and Board Chairman of the Mexican Heritage Corporation since 1988, and headed an effort by the corporation to complete the Mexican Heritage Plaza, a \$34 million cultural center in East San Jose. Mr. Zazueta has also been instrumental in establishing an annual civic recognition of the founding of the Pueblo de San Jose de Guadalupe as the first civil settlement in California.

Fernando Zazueta's other civic and volunteer contributions are too numerous for us to list here. He has been an integral part of our community for as long as we can remember, for which we are truly grateful. As a friend and as a neighbor, his dedication and enthusiasm is treasured.