

Davies spends year working for Department of Energy

ALISON FIELDHOUSE

Walking through Capitol Hill on a daily basis and chatting with educators from around the country was the reality for Jonathan Davies, science teacher, last school year. Davies lived in the Washington D.C. area to work for the Department of Energy through the Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship Program.

"I first heard about the fellowship in the Fall of 2008. It's a competitive fellowship; over 400 educators applied," Davies said.

After making it to the finalist round, he was flown to D.C. for a weekend to participate in a wine and dine event along with four rounds of interviews. Out of the 400 applicants, only 24, including Davies, made

the cut. He worked alongside six other fellows in the DOE. Others worked for NASA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Science Foundation (NSF).

"The interviewing process is important because it's one thing to look good on paper and another if you happen to be a complete dud in person," Davies said. "Every single applicant had to have amazing credentials to make it to the finalist round."

Although the fellowship was about bringing science and math educators together, it was also about using their experience as educators to fine-tune and plan exhibits, demonstrations and other forms of providing information, to cater to the needs of students and others. As educators, they have

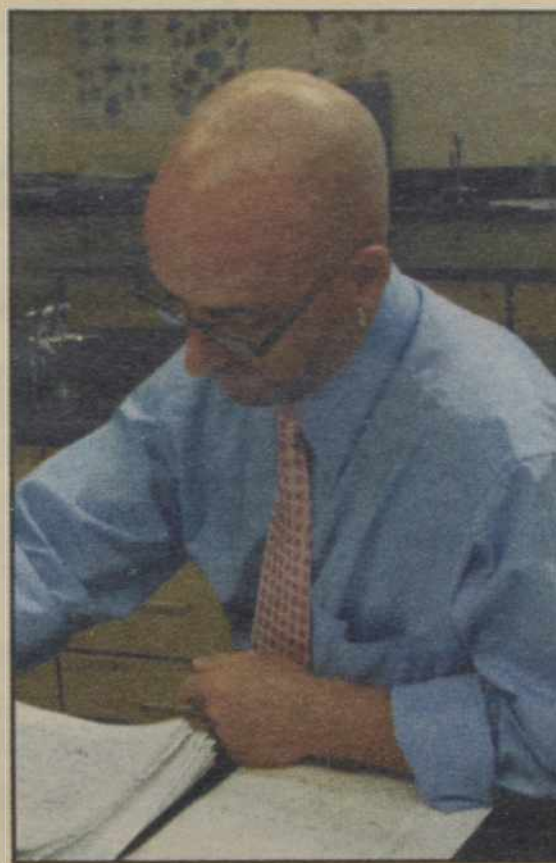


Photo by Patrick Douglas
Jonathan Davies, science teacher, grades papers during his prep period. He spent last school year in Washington D.C. working for the Department of Energy through the Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship.

experience working with students and know what works and what doesn't in keeping people's attention.

"Although I am a teacher, the fellowship wasn't about me being there to teach. Instead, it was about tweaking projects using my experience as a teacher to make the projects better," Davies said.

While the educators helped their respective departments in creating the means for transferring information through an engaging manner, the experience was also for the educators to realize all of the resources that are available to them in public and through the government.

"The fellowship was a chance for us teachers to learn about the resources available to us at the federal level. We saw how we could bring these

resources back with us to use in our classrooms and our future lessons," Davies said.

Prior to this fellowship, Davies had worked in others, including the M.J. Murdock: Partners in Science at Portland State University on a research fellowship, and through the Industry Initiative for Science & Math Educators. The AE-DEFP however, was a once in a lifetime experience for him, different from past research fellowship experiences.

"All of the people I worked alongside with were brilliant. I was interacting with some of the brightest minds in the country. It was an experience that I am grateful to have had," Davies said.

New teachers bring varied experiences, innovative

EMILY REED

John Fitzgerald, English

Favorite high school class:

"Probably an acting class. I spent a lot of time acting in my last few years of high school."

Hobbies:

"I like to read a lot, and really enjoy outdoorsy stuff—hiking and canoeing—and being with my kids, my son Sean (15) and daughter Dierdre (11)."



Photos by Rachael Woolley
John Fitzgerald, English

College: University of Portland '91

High school: Madison Central, in Oldbridge, NJ

Teaching history: "This is my second year teaching. I was at Wilsonville last year."

Something no one would know: "I've performed on stage in New York in two productions, Filler Theater and Members of the Congregation."

Biggest challenge: "A class is full of individuals. The

challenge is reaching every one of them."

Biggest reward: "I meet a lot of great people." Tiffany

Pfenning, Spanish
Favorite high school class: "I loved my dance and Spanish classes."

Hobbies: "My main hobby is dance."

College: University of Oregon '02

High School: "I went to West Linn my freshman year and then transferred to Wilsonville."



Tiffany Pfenning, Spanish

Teaching history: "I have taught at Wilsonville for five years."

Something unexpected:

"I was a cheerleader at U of O for four years." Biggest challenge: "The biggest challenge is time management." Biggest reward: "The biggest reward is seeing students after they graduate and seeing them succeed."

Mike Francis, School

Resource Officer

Favorite high school class: "I loved Ward Lewis' English class."

Hobbies: "I really like photography, fly fishing and travel."

College: "I've been to every college in Oregon except University of Oregon, Oregon State, and Eastern Oregon. Right now, I'm working on a Social Science degree at Portland State."

High school: West Linn High



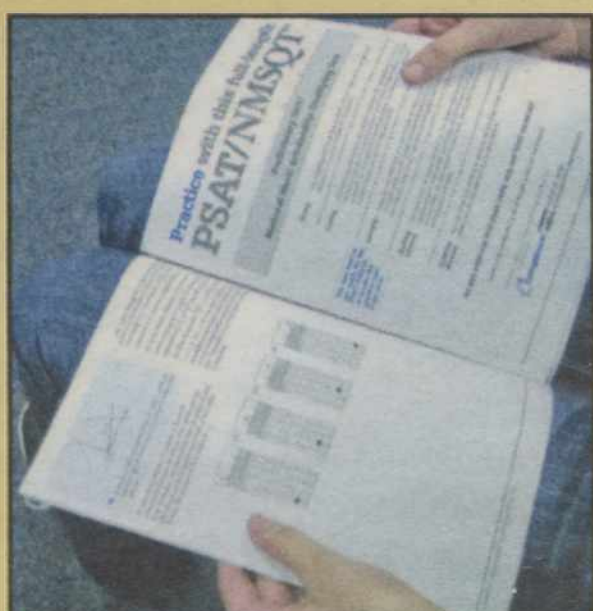
Mike Francis, School

Timeline, tips to help you avoid the college crunch

ALISON FIELDHOUSE & JENNIFER SITTON

Freshman

- Change e-mail to something not embarrassing
- Take PSAT in October
- Become involved in extracurricular activities
- ...



Sophomore

- Take PSAT in October
- Start looking at colleges in cities you travel to
- Look for a summer internship
- Sign up for AP or honors classes for next year
- Get to know your counselor



Junior

- Take PSAT/NMSQT
- Sign up for AP or honors classes
- Take SAT
- Research colleges
- Take any AP or honors classes
- Take college courses
- ...

