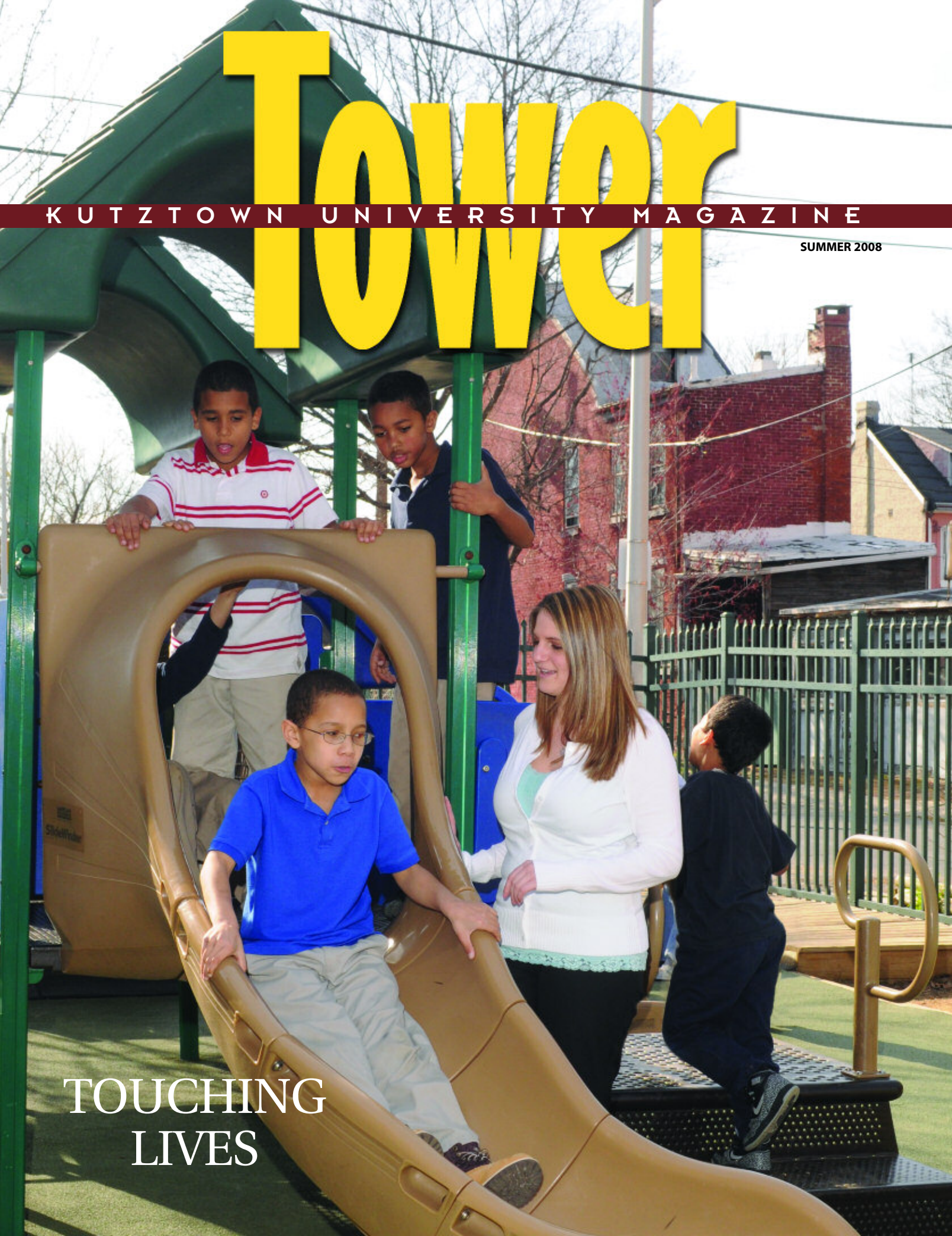


# Tower

KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2008

TOUCHING  
LIVES



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## to our readers



WE HAVE ALWAYS HAD THE PROUD TRADITION at KU of supporting the communities around us by volunteering for a wide variety of activities. As the last issue of the Tower for this school year, it is important to take time once again to highlight the outstanding work our students, faculty, and staff have done throughout the year.

In this issue you will find articles about Kutztown students volunteering as tutors in after-school programs, preparing food for the elderly,

or helping to build new homes for the needy. Student organizations also raise money for special causes and create service projects that support individuals and families.

On campus, the "Walking in the Shoes of..." program introduces disadvantaged high school students to the importance and accessibility of higher education.

And our alumni are involved as well. This issue takes a look at a unique program that turns community volunteers into weekend farmers who grow fresh produce for the kitchens of those less fortunate.

Though they do not wear badges that proclaim "I am a KU volunteer," these students, faculty, and alumni are the goodwill ambassadors for us all, working every day to make the world a better place in which to live.

### F. Javier Cevallos President



Beginning with this issue, we are pleased to report the Tower is printed entirely on Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified paper. FSC certification ensures the paper in the magazine contains fiber from well-managed and responsibly harvested forests that meet strict environmental and socioeconomic standards.

Kutztown University of Pennsylvania will serve the Commonwealth as a dynamic, technologically advanced, collaborative, learning-centered public university. Kutztown University will be accessible to Pennsylvanians and others, sensitive to the need for diverse backgrounds in its faculty, staff, students and community, accountable to its many constituencies, and actively engaged in the continuous improvement of its programs and services. Above all, Kutztown University will prepare graduates to succeed in a global economy, to contribute to the economic and social well being of the state and nation, to assume active roles in their communities, and to lead productive and meaningful lives.

# HONORING THE LEGACY OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS

KU INSTITUTE PROMOTES HIS PASSION FOR EDUCATION AND SOCIAL EQUALITY

BY MARQUITA SCOTT '08 AND CRAIG WILLIAMS

One of Frederick Douglass' most prominent beliefs was that the true liberation of the slaves would be gained through education. Douglass, a self-educated slave, escaped to freedom and became one of the strongest voices for the abolition of slavery in the years leading up to the American Civil War. Later in life, as a statesman, journalist, publisher, and orator, he advocated for equality through "virtue, temperance, truth, liberty, and justice."

For the last six years, the KU Frederick Douglass Institute (FDI) has worked on campus to encourage open discussion on the many issues that divide American society today. This unique program also extends a helping hand to disadvantaged youth and introduces them to the value of higher education.

The FDI is a collaborative effort with the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education to promote multiculturalism,

following in the legacy of Frederick Douglass, whose commitment to education and social equality serves as a model for the program.

Throughout the academic year, the institute promotes scholarly research on multicultural topics, facilitates dialogue around issues of cultural diversity, develops multicultural programs and courses, encourages awareness of cultural diversity, and fosters mutual understanding and mutual respect for diverse cultures.

"At Kutztown, the FDI also focuses on promoting multicultural ideals through interaction with the surrounding community," said Dr. Maria Sanelli, associate professor of history and director of the Frederick Douglass Institute at KU.

Each year, the institute brings a scholar from outside the KU community to contribute to the program. The scholar-in-residence for the 2007-08 academic year was Dr. Nathaniel Williams, CEO of

ChildFirst Services Inc., which operates small group residences, supervised independent living, and treatment foster care for children in Bethlehem, Pa. He traveled to KU several times a week to provide lectures, lead the discussion series, and organize the new "Walking in the Shoes of..." program.

Williams holds a master in public administration from Cheyney University and a doctorate in education from Fielding Graduate University. During his childhood, he spent 13 years in the New York City foster care system, and has dedicated his life to underprivileged children, and foster care children in particular.



Dr. Nathaniel Williams

Kutztown Mayor Sandra K. Green, standing in front of Eckhaus, a KU student-run art gallery on Main Street, describes the university's hometown to high school students during the "Walking in the Shoes Of..." tour held this spring. Created by the Frederick Douglass Institute, the program introduces students living in foster care and group homes to Kutztown University and the benefits of higher education.



Williams created the “Walking in the Shoes of...” program to encourage children toward higher education. At a time in life when parents help their children to select a college or university, many foster care children do not even consider college, university, or trade school options. So for one full day, “Walking in the Shoes of...” introduces foster care and disadvantaged youth to university life.

“If Frederick Douglas were alive today, he would be primarily concerned with education,” Williams said. “And his focus would be on society’s youth, specifically helping them to access education.”

This year, the students toured the campus, met university students, professors, and administrators, and shook hands with the mayor of Kutztown. During a special luncheon in honor of their academic and personal achievements, these high school juniors and seniors from area group homes, regional high schools, and foster care facilities were encouraged to follow their dreams.

“It was a great experience, and the students are still talking about it,” Sanelli said.

The “Walking in the Shoes of...” program is just one of the many activities designed by the institute to stimulate change. The FDI also provides opportunities for scholarship, as well as a positive interaction. Through a discussion series,

students and faculty members explore tough topics outside the classroom.

“The FDI is a wonderful tool for building a sense of community and providing an opportunity for a wider exchange of ideas,” said Williams, who conducted this year’s series.

The institute also recognizes academic excellence by presenting awards to faculty, administrators, staff, and students who have encouraged underrepresented students to fulfill their educational goals; promoted research in fields related to multiculturalism; worked to incorporate multicultural themes into the curriculum; and validated educational efforts toward building an inclusive university community.

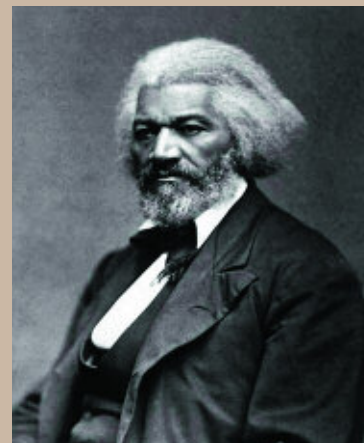
And the program sponsors road trips to sites that honor Frederick Douglass, encouraging further scholarly research about a man whose life and work fundamentally changed the way a nation thought.

“By encouraging an open environment for discussion and research, the Frederick Douglass Institute provides a unique setting to examine our social heritage, and in the process, enriches all who participate,” said Sanelli.

For more information go to: [www.kutztown.edu/academics/douglass/Programs.htm](http://www.kutztown.edu/academics/douglass/Programs.htm) ❄



High school juniors Sara Michel, Western Wayne High School [left], and Elizabeth Fortuner, Conrad Weiser High School [far right], receive instruction from KU student Jerrick Braxton '10 in the KUR radio station production studio as part of the “Walking in the Shoes of...” tour of campus this spring.



### About Frederick Douglass

Born in 1818, Frederick Douglass learned to read from literate white children in his neighborhood and gained knowledge by reading all the books he could find. After escaping to freedom disguised as a sailor in 1838, he immediately became involved in the abolitionist movement in the North.

At the young age of 23, Douglass gave his first official speech at the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society annual convention. Douglass went on to tour Europe and publish a series of newspapers, the most popular of which was *The North Star*. Douglass was not only an advocate for the abolition of slavery, but believed that all people should benefit from equality. He fought with conviction for the desegregation of schools, women’s rights, and the fair treatment of black soldiers, Native Americans, and recent immigrants.

Douglass held many prestigious titles during his career including president of the Reconstruction-era Freedman’s Savings Bank, marshal of the District of Columbia, United States minister and consul general to the Republic of Haiti, and charge d’affaires for the Dominican Republic. He died in 1895.

# hindsight

Our readers had a lot of fun with the picture of the four students posing in their saddle shoes and bobby socks in the last issue, so here is another unique photo of students. This is a "mystery" picture from the KU archives and has no documentation to go with the photograph. Notice the Kutztown football team in the background. If anyone knows who these students are (or will admit to being one of the clowns pictured), please feel free to write. Submissions to Hindsight are always welcome. Send to Craig Williams, Tower editor, Kutztown University, P.O. Box 730, Kutztown, PA 19530 or [cwilliam@kutztown.edu](mailto:cwilliam@kutztown.edu). For the answer to the Winter '08 Hindsight photo, please turn to page 23.



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