

THE OMAHA STAR

Dedicated to the Service of the People that NO Good Cause Shall Lack a Champion and that Evil Shall Not Go Unopposed

Nebraska's Only Black Owned Newspaper

Vol. 75 - No. 17 Omaha, Nebraska Friday, April 26, 2013 75 cents

**Don't forget the
Mother's Day
Tribute Deadline -
May 2 by 3:00 p.m.**

Study Center Hosts Scholarship Gala

In recognition of the 75th Anniversary of the Omaha Star, The Mildred D. Brown Memorial Study Center Inc. - named after the founder of the newspaper - hosted a Scholarship Gala.

The Mildred D Brown Memorial Study Center has been established to serve as a social, cultural, educational, non-profit organization set to promote, encourage and support the education of the public and the instruction of individuals, regarding the history of African-American newspaper journalism in Nebraska and to foster understanding of the legacy of the Omaha Star, first published in 1938 here in Omaha. The study center provides educational programs and opportunities as well as financial support to students in journalism and education in Nebraska and elsewhere in the United States.

Many youth in our community are not aware of the various careers under the umbrella of journalism and communication. The young people that have participated in the Mildred D. Brown Memorial Study Center Junior Journalism Program have been exposed to the history of African-Americans in media as well as baseline education in print, news/editorial, radio, television, photojournalism, marketing and videography. They have met African-American professionals and others in those career fields; toured television, radio and newspaper facilities; published a newspaper page; produced a talk show; researched institutions with journalism programs and visited universities in Nebraska with such programs. These youth have also had the opportunity to network with professional journalists in the area as well as having their work critiqued and published by local area media outlets.

The Gala is a fundraising event to provide programs and scholarships to youth in the Omaha area who are interested in the field of Journalism and Communications. Over 200 people attended the reception and dinner gala that was hosted by the Honorary Co Chairpersons, Chris Rodgers, Douglas County Commissioner, Ariel Roblin, Executive Director of KETV, and Mike Kelly, writer for the Omaha World Herald.

The program Master of Ceremony was Adrian Whitsett, KETV News Anchor, and awards were given to several people.

The Omaha Star gave appreciation awards to Dr. Glenn Mitchell Sr. and Pastor T. Michael Williams for heading the Star's 2012 Subscription Drive.

The World-Herald and KETV sponsored a journalism contest for students, and 16 persons submitted entries. The winner was Connor Lusso, a Millard West High School senior, who wrote with humor and pointed insight on a topical subject for students today - the "addiction" of tweeting. Connor, who is an all-Nebraska basketball player, was accompanied by his parents, Steve and Nikki Lusso. Connor will attend Truman State University in Kirksville, MO.

The following is his winning story:

Addiction to Twitter

By Connor Lusso



Zach Houfek: "If I died would you be at my funeral?"

Connor Lusso: "@URaHOU depends when it is and if it interferes with March madness"

Houfek: "@Lusso_42 I'd completely understand"

This is a typical conversation. Somebody will post a random or interesting thought and a friend will have some kind of witty response to the tweet.

"Twitter" has more than 500 million users, 140 million active, since

I am one of those 500 million people. The @Lusso_42 account has been activated and running since April 2011 and it is addicting and distracting. I currently have more than 8,800 tweets, which isn't anywhere close to some people's Twitter accounts.

My family friend, Tyler Sharp, has over 20,000 tweets on his account and he has had it for a little over a year. Some people are addicted to tweeting, even though they will never admit it.

When trying to study for a test, do homework or sleep, it seems to be even more addicting than normal. I could sit there for hours and read tweets, look at parody accounts or look at funny pictures.

Meanwhile, my schoolwork will start to gather dust and remain blank. It has caused a hit on my grades.

This doesn't only happen to me, though. Hoofed, a senior at Millard West, has the same problems.

"Whenever I'm trying to go to bed, I get on Twitter and end up staying up for another two hours," Hoofed said. "I pay for it majorly the next day at school."

During class, it seems hard for certain people to go 30 minutes without tweeting as least once. People open their twitter apps on their iPhones or smartphones without even thinking about it.

It is almost like a drug. Once someone uses it a few times, it's almost impossible to stop.

One enjoys the thrill of it - as if for some reason people are really interested in what their friends have to say in only 140 characters, or who your crush is currently sub tweeting about. (Sub tweeting is when someone tweets something about someone else but does not "tag" him or her in the tweet).

"Eventually you just have to tell yourself that's enough for the night and turn everything off," Houfek said. "Or just wait for all the interesting people to fall asleep."

This addiction can be beat; you just have to be smart about it.

When doing homework and studying, log off twitter and put your phone or laptop on the other side of the room.

Same goes for sleeping - just turn it all off. Everything will be there in the morning for you to read.

That way, it seems like you never really left.



Josh Jones accepts first Shining Star of Omaha Award with co chairs looking on Christ Rodgers, Ariel Roblin and Mike Kelly

of journalism. This individual is someone who has immersed themselves in various fields of journalism, is interested in a journalism career and has proven themselves to be a great asset to the world of journalism and this community.



Board President Michael Maroney; Walter Brooks, recipient of Mildred Brown Legacy Award; and Dr. Marguerita Washington

Mr. Walter V. Brooks received the Mildred D. Brown Legacy Award. This award is presented to an individual who has dedicated their life's work to furthering the mission of journalism to bring stories that matter to the forefront. The individual receiving this award has proven to be a beacon of truth and fairness in writing stories that matter to the people of this community and the world at large. This person has dedicated years of their life to provide stories that matter and give perspective to the issues facing the community. We have reverence for Walter Brooks and his works and we present him with the Legacy award as we recognize the legacy of Mildred D. Brown in Walter's life's work.



Speaker Mrs. Dorothy Leavell

The Keynote speaker was Mrs. Dorothy Leavell, publisher of the