flavor to Kellogg animation

by Patrick Thomas

Eighth-grade students at Kellogg Elementary School received a valuable lesson in animation from two French filmmakers.

While in town for the Chicago International Children's Film Festival, Director Ren- aud Armanet and Producer Flavie Darchen visited the school on Oct. 25. Not only did the 12 French language students from Kellogg participate in making a one-minute animated film, they also learned the importance of community.

(See Kellogg page 26)

Clissold Elementary School sixth-grade students stand behind a mountain of stuffed teddy bears the school collected and donated to the American Red Cross to comfort children dealing with disaster. (Review photo)

Collection stocks Red Cross with right stuff for victims

by Patrick Thomas

In a time of disaster and despair, something as small as a teddy bear can provide a smile—and hope.

Students at Clissold Elementary School understood that, and on Oct. 25, they donated nearly 400 bears to the American Red Cross of Greater Chicago to ease the pain of area children who are victims of disaster.

(See Clissold page 2)

Program helps CPS’ best

by Caroline Connors

Since he was 3 years old, Ian Hurley has wanted to be a paleontologist. Now 16 and a sophomore at Whitney Young High School, the Morgan Park resident's dreams are closer to being a reality thanks to a University of Chicago program that helps prepare students for admission to the nation's best colleges and universities.

As a youngster, Ian met paleontologist Jack Horner at a book signing, and since then, his sights have been set on attending the University of Chicago, and the Collegiate Scholars Program (CSP) is putting him right on track.

Ian is one of 50 students who were chosen last year to participate in the three-year enrichment program that is offered by the University of Chicago specifically for Chicago Public School (CPS) students who have distinguished themselves through their academic achievements and their contributions to their schools and communities.

(See Hurley page 15)

Inside:

• Commuters brace Metra fares could rise page 16

• Motorists rejoice Dan Ryan project ends page 17

• Sports Local teams advance page 21
Hurley

(Continued from page 1)

program is privately funded through corporate and individual sponsors.

"This is like a gift," said Ian's mother, Judy Hurley, of her son's admission to the CSP.

"It's a wonderful program.”

According to Hurley, last summer Ian and his peers in the program were able to select three tuition-free coursework from a series of classes in literature, mathematics, science, social sciences and writing taught primarily by University of Chicago faculty. The students return in subsequent summers and during the school year to build upon this coursework, Hurley said.

"Ian had to give up his summers for the next few years; he wasn't thrilled at first, but ultimately, we all felt it was worth it," Hurley said.

Because daily attendance is mandatory, the Hurleys even rescheduled a planned three-week family vacation to Australia rather than risk Ian's participation in the program.

"Your family has to be in it for the long haul, too," Ian said.

Throughout the school year, the teens participate in academic programs, classes and tutoring workshops on weekends. Regular undergraduate courses at the University of Chicago are open to Collegiate Scholars during their senior year of high school and the preceding summer; the courses are tuition-free and may be taken for credit.

"The work is college level, and there's a lot more critical thinking than in high school," said Ian, who takes honors classes at Whitney Young. "I like the fact that there's a lot of freedom. I'm very interested in the biological sciences, and I can choose classes in that area."

The Collegiate Scholars are also invited to participate in community service projects throughout the city and attend cultural events such as an upcoming performance of "Bourbon at the Border" at the Victory Gardens Greenhouse Theater in November. They are encouraged to interact with their peers for team-building exercises and social activities, including an ice skating party in December.

"They balance it out very well between the academics, the cultural events and community service," Ian said.

Now in its third year, the program has approximately 150 participants, 50 students each from grades 10, 11 and 12. A rigorous application process, which includes a teacher recommendation, a written essay and a one-on-one interview, narrows the field from the hundreds who apply each year, Hurley said.

"At first it was kind of daunting—I figured it was a long shot," Ian said. "I interviewed with the director of the program who asked me some detailed questions. I kept a cool head, and I think they appreciated my honesty."

Approximately half of the applicants are from college preparatory and magnet schools such as Whitney Young, Walter Payton and Lane Tech. The other half of applicants come from neighborhood high schools, ranging from Kenwood Academy and Chicago Vocational on the South Side to schools in the far North Side, according to CSP Associate Director Mimi Halpern.

With nearly 33 percent of its participants categorized as low-income, the program's goal is to encourage CPS students, especially minority students who have been historically underestimated at elite colleges and universities, to think about enrolling at more selective schools, Halpern said.

In addition to offering students first-hand experience in university-style learning, the program assists its members with the college search and preparation process. College fairs and tours, a standardized test preparation course and guidance with applications and financing help students think about schools that they might not have considered otherwise, Halpern said.

"Part of what we do is to educate both the student and the parent and show them why working harder at a place like the University of Chicago is beneficial," she said.

The results have been positive, Halpern said. According to CSP records, 82.2 percent of the 2006 program graduates and 79.1 percent of the 2007 graduates were accepted to selective colleges, the "highly competit-