

TOGETHER

February/March 2020

Celebrating a decade of Project SEARCH and BELL at BOCES 2

Every young adult deserves the opportunity to learn independence, find friendship, challenge themselves academically and start a career. Ten years ago, Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES and the Department for Exceptional Children began offering two programs that give our post-high school students (ages 18–21) pathways to those goals, with the individualized supports they need to be successful: Project SEARCH and Bridge to Earning, Learning, & Living (BELL)

Project SEARCH

Launched with grants through the New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC) and the Golisano Foundation, Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES Project SEARCH was the first to be established in the Rochester area. A one-year program, Project SEARCH fosters independence and helps participants learn skills needed for employment. BOCES 2 students alternate classroom instruction with a variety of hands-on internships at the University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC). Program partners include The Arc of Monroe, Adult Career and Continuing Education Services–Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES–VR) and the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD). More than 110 students have used our Project SEARCH to jumpstart their lives since 2010.

Three of those first-year Project SEARCH interns continue to be valued URMC employees. “Project SEARCH taught me the importance of

“Project SEARCH helped me find a career in Patient Accounts at the University of Rochester Medical Center. I learned how to do the job correctly and keep employment.”

– Spencerport graduate John Dasfaias

having a job, what I needed to be successful,” said Joseph Donato, who is a Churchville-Chili alumnus and works in Environmental Services. “I learned how to deal with different situations and how to relate to my co-workers and supervisors. I’m glad that I went through Project SEARCH! It’s amazing how the program gave me the skills to be able to keep my job for the past nine years!”

Donato’s URMC coworker Travis Lewis, also from Churchville-Chili, said, “Project SEARCH helped me get a job! I learned the importance of good attendance and how to take the RTS, not only to get to work but to travel around town.”

Spencerport graduate John Dasfaias said, “Project SEARCH helped me find a career in Patient Accounts at the University of Rochester Medical Center. I learned how to do the job correctly and keep employment.”



Bridge to Earning, Learning, & Living (BELL)

Our BELL program is a partnership between Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES, CP Rochester and Roberts Wesleyan College. It is for students who crave a college-based experience, complete with an active campus life, academic enrichment and the acquisition of social and vocational skills necessary for employment and independence.

Also started with a grant in 2010, BELL began small, with employment as its main goal. Over time, the two-year program has become more experiential and life-changing. Now, BELL students take about 12 hours of coursework each semester, which includes learning independent living skills as well as their choice of general college-level classes. Each has an academic coach and student peer mentors to help them adjust to college life. BELL students are now an integral part of the Roberts Wesleyan College campus, welcomed by fellow students and included in campus life, events and graduation ceremonies. *(continued on p. 4)*



Middle school students learn what CTE has to offer

During the last week of January, middle school students filled the halls at WEMOCO. Seventh- and eighth-grade students from Churchville-Chili, Kendall, Spencerport and Holley school districts visited the Career and Technical Education classes to explore careers they are interested in.

Counselors with the CTE programs work with counselors throughout the districts to encourage students to explore their options for career-based learning.

“We love inviting middle school students to WEMOCO and providing them the opportunity to explore careers related to their interests,” says CTE Counselor Lisa McConville. “CTE staff and students are able to share multiple career options and pathways with students to assist them with career development and planning as they continue their education. We value our relationships with district personnel to make these opportunities happen!”

Students spent half-hour periods visiting any two classes of their choice, ranging from Phlebotomy and Lab Science to Cosmetology, Exercise Science or Welding and Machining. They were able to meet with current CTE students and teachers to ask questions about the programs in which they are interested.

“We love inviting middle school students to WEMOCO and providing them the opportunity to explore careers related to their interests.”

- CTE Counselor Lisa McConville



A Machining student demonstrates how to operate one of the precision machines to Spencerport Middle School students.



A Holley student learns about different practices that make up the Criminal Justice professions.



A Churchville-Chili student gives welding a try during his visit to the Engineering and Metal Fabrication Academy-Welding class.



A Kendall student practices using a DLR camera in the Advertising Design/Multimedia class.

CTE students help prepare school building

Career and Technical Education students are helping transform a former BOCES 2 building to provide an opportunity for adults to continue their education.

Juniors and seniors in the Carpentry and the Residential and Commercial Electrical classes at CTE are using the skills they've developed to assist in renovating the former Alternative High School building on Buffalo Road. The building is undergoing changes to accommodate the Center for Workforce Development (CWD) programs.

Students have been helping tear out ceiling tiles, rewire electric cables throughout the building, build new walls, install new light fixtures and paint the building so it is ready for the CWD students in April.

The building will accommodate 12 classes offered through CWD, providing adult learners with affordable, short-term and convenient career and technical education programs.

CWD has been operating at their current location at Rochester Tech Park since 2011. They will move into the building on Buffalo Road this spring. The former Alternative High School building has been vacant since June 2019.



Carpentry student Jake Merica (Gates Chili) working on drywall during the building renovation.



Artwork inside the halls of the former Alternative High School.



Eddie Beverly (Rush-Henrietta) and Jillian Rayburn (Greece) assisting with electrical work.

Checking in with new cabinet members

Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES welcomed two new cabinet members for the 2019-20 school year. Steve Montemarano and Tom Schulte both started their new positions in October 2019. Montemarano is the new director of BOCES 4 Science and Schulte is the new director of Center for Workforce Development.

Steve Montemarano comes to BOCES 2 from the Livonia Central School District where he worked as a curriculum coordinator. He is completing his School Business Official Certificate and has proven experience with inventory management, budgeting and curriculum and instruction. Prior to his position with Livonia Central School District.

Montemarano was a coordinator for Genesee Valley Educational Partnership, and before that he was a math instructional specialist here at Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES.

Tom Schulte comes to us from Genesee Valley Educational Partnership where he served as the founding principal of the Western New York Tech Academy. Schulte has previous experience as an engineer, recruiter and high school physics teacher. He has a proven track record of workforce development with local business and community agencies.

We sat down with Steve and Tom to ask them a few questions about their time thus far at BOCES 2.



Steve Montemarano



Tom Schulte

What have you been most impressed by during your first months here at BOCES 2?

Steve: I am most impressed by the amazing people I am honored to work with each day. At every part of the organization there is a clear and definitive belief that we are helping shape student lives for the better through the programs and services we offer. There is a sense of pride with anyone you talk to at Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES that we are members of the same team and we will continue to tirelessly work to do whatever we can for kids.

Tom: There is no question I've been most impressed by the culture that exists both at CWD and across the entire organization. Establishing a collaborative, "family" culture in large organizations is not easy, but there is no question it is alive and well at BOCES 2.

What would you like colleagues and community members to know about your department?

Steve: BOCES 4 Science is a collaborative effort between Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES, Monroe 1 BOCES, Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES, and the Genesee Valley Educational Partnership. From the very beginning, our goal has been to create a comprehensive science curriculum that aligns to the New York State Science Learning Standards (NYSSLS) and allows students to engage in authentic scientific inquiry through phenomena-based experiences.

We have a number of people in different roles – ranging from our professional staff, office staff, kit processors and stock clerks. Everybody is dedicated to ensuring we have the best product for classrooms and takes pride in the role they play to help students. There is a smile on

everyone's face every time we are able to share feedback from a teacher that their students had the best time working through a unit and that they learned so much science because of what we were able to provide.

Tom: Generally, when people think of BOCES 2, I feel they frequently think of the incredible programs and services we provide to the K-12 population. I want everyone to know that we also offer a wide array of programs and services, delivered by an incredibly talented group of professionals to the adult community. Between our high school equivalency, English as a new language, job training, continuing education and custom training programs we can help our community members meet their training and career goals.

What is the most important thing you have focused on in these first few months on the job?

Steve: I believe the most important part of any organization is the people – and I took the opportunity to learn about the people that drive BOCES 4 Science each and every day. This meant having many conversations, asking lots of questions, shadowing and meeting with people to learn about every aspect of our team.

Tom: First and foremost, I've been focused on trying to build relationships with the incredible team I'm grateful to now be part of. Beyond that, I've been focused on listening and learning as much as I can.

What was it about working at BOCES 2 that made you want to come back, after having worked other places?

Steve: I have been lucky to work in many amazing places as a teacher and administrator – and in each case I was able make deep connections with many colleagues. I spent two years at Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES as an instructional coach and professional development specialist – more importantly I was part of a larger family who worked to improve lives of all students. While it was hard for me to leave, I did so to learn more about my craft – much like a child who leaves for college after high school. Part of my decision to apply as director of BOCES 4 Science was to be able to come back home again being better prepared to move everybody forward each day. While there are many aspects of this role that differ from my previous role, the feeling is still the same – we are a family who works hard every day and always has your back. It makes Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES a special place and why I feel grateful to be back.

With your experience in different industries, what appeals to you about working in education?

Tom: For all the challenges we face in education, there is no other industry in which the impact of our work can have such a profound impact on society. I've had the opportunity to work on projects at the cutting edge of technology, and while there was a powerful sense of satisfaction in solving challenging technical problems, there is nothing like the feeling of making a connection with someone that helps to positively change the trajectory of their personal and professional lives.

(continued from cover)

Celebrating a decade of Project SEARCH and BELL at BOCES 2

“Every student has their own path,” said Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES Transition Supervisor Nicole Littlewood. “One might choose BELL right out of high school, and then participate in Project SEARCH as an adult. Another may begin with Project SEARCH and then go straight to employment. There’s not just one way. It’s very flexible. We support students in their decisions with a person-centered planning approach. We tell them, ‘You CAN.’”

Ten years of BELL and Project SEARCH at Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES have helped scores of young adults find independence and confidence. Based on continued student interest, the programs will continue to grow. “Our many partnerships just get stronger,” said Littlewood. “There are so many great people involved, every step of the way, from program coordinators, counselors, teachers and trainers to parents, guardians and families. We’re particularly grateful to those families and to our districts for sharing their students with us.”

(The Department for Exceptional Children is featuring inspiring stories of Project SEARCH on their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/BOCES2EC. Come celebrate with us!)



Cosmetology students win annual competition

This year’s annual cosmetology competition was held Jan. 9 at WEMOCO. The competition judges hairstyles created by both the junior and senior students in the CTE cosmetology program. Students had an hour to create a style, using the time to do a roller set on the hair and then styling an updo. Judges critiqued the looks, using a rubric for creativity, the level of difficulty of the style and technical factors.

Students say the competition was stressful and that the room was quiet with everybody focused on their work.

“Figuring out what you want to do and then actually doing it [is stressful],” says junior Nyaja Williams (Gates Chili). “You can have an image in your head and it can come out completely different.”

Three former cosmetology students served as judges for the competition. Danielle DiLorenzo and DrewAnn Godfrey are graduates of the 2013 class and Hannah Miller graduated from the program in 2015. All three graduates are now certified beauticians.

The competition is held once a year, with two winners – one junior and one senior – selected from the group. Winners this year were senior Kaitlynn Robbins (Greece) and junior Nia Greer (Brockport).

Both students said adjusting the style throughout the competition was the most challenging part.

“There were so many people involved and I didn’t really think I stood a chance,” said Greer, all smiles. “I had something in mind and had to switch it up... I was freaking out because of the timing.”

Robbins says the competition last year moved her to work harder and Greer looks forward to competing again next year.



School Library System wins grants to expand Makerspace collection

The Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES School Library System (SLS) recently won over \$7,300 in grant awards to update and expand its Makerspace Lending Library collection. The two grants, the Rochester Regional Library Council (RRLC) Technology Grant and the Harold Hacker Award for the Advancement of Libraries from the Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library, will help SLS continue to support component districts' school libraries with makerspace resources and staff training. They will also enable continued summer support to students through partnerships with regional public libraries.

SLS began developing its makerspace library back in 2014. There are now dozens of different kits available, including Ozobots®, Sphero BOLT®, LittleBits®, Magna-Tiles®, Dash and Dot™, Cubetto and Lego Mindstorms®. In the 2017-18 school year, about 200 kit loans were made to school district libraries. In 2018-19, that grew to almost 400 loans, with participation from 80 percent of district libraries. As of Jan. 1, 2020, there are 315 scheduled loans – on track to a significant increase by the end of this year.

The makerspace movement is about problem solving, critical thinking, research and inquiry-based learning. It engages students in hands-on, active learning. “By providing makerspace resources to our school libraries, we empower librarians to be leaders within their schools,” said Jim Belair, SLS coordinator. “Librarians are uniquely positioned to act as experts in technology and innovative use of resources, making them a valuable asset to the content area experts: teachers.”



Brockport's Hill Elementary students working with KEVA planks.

“The makerspace library is a wonderful example of the power of a BOCES – of what we can do to help and support districts.

- Jim Belair, SLS coordinator

“The makerspace library is a wonderful example of the power of a BOCES – of what we can do to help and support districts,” said Belair. “Our trainer and media specialist Lindsay Neumire works closely with librarians, showing them how to integrate any kit into grade-level instruction. Districts loan the resources through us. This levels the playing field. It equalizes opportunities for students to access materials they might not be able to otherwise.”

The new grant awards will be used, in part, to replenish and update current kits. As the SLS team decides on additional kits to add, they consider feedback collected from participating districts. So far, two new 3-D scanners have been purchased with the grants to help round out the collection of available 3-D printers and pens.

The grants will also allow BOCES 2 to continue to lend makerspace kits to regional public libraries for their summer youth programs. “When school is out for the summer, our district students rely on public libraries. By collaborating with them, we can support the kids all year long,” said Belair. BOCES 2 will team with public libraries in component west side district areas, the Chili Public Library, the Holley Free Library, Newman Public Library and the Rochester Central Library.



Students at Quest Elementary School in Hilton using Ozobots.

Brockport junior uses Superintendent's Twitter to highlight CTE projects

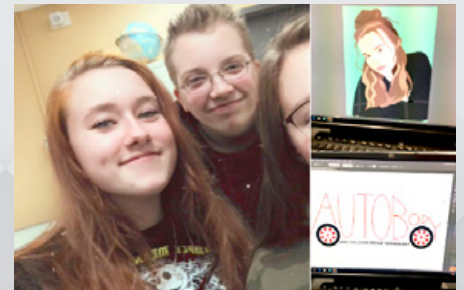
Taylor Young is a junior at Brockport Sr. High School. She's also part of teacher Jen Merkel's Advertising Design/Multimedia CTE program at WEMOCO.

In December, Young was chosen to “takeover” former Brockport Superintendent Lesli Myers-Small's Twitter account for the superintendent's last Friday with the district.

Young took the opportunity to use the social media account to show off the project she was working on in her Advertising Design/Multimedia program.

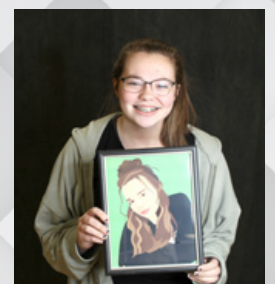
When asked about her class at CTE, Young said, “It's fun. I get to meet a lot of new people I wouldn't otherwise see, and I get to learn exciting new things.”

Young says the project she featured in her tweet was her favorite she has worked on so far while at CTE.



This tweet read: “Last class before holiday break! Advertising Design/Multimedia. Got to see friends from Spencerport and Hilton before break. Also, a few projects we've done in Adobe Illustrator #TYtakeover”

Young displays the art project she completed during her Advertising Design/Multimedia class at CTE.



CTE students accepted into Finger Lakes Youth Apprenticeship Program

On Tuesday, Jan. 28, an official Signing Day ceremony took place for Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES CTE students accepted into the Finger Lakes Youth Apprenticeship Program.

The event is a significant accomplishment for the students selected. More than 100 students applied, 54 attended the matching day event and 36 were selected to engage with employers. Nineteen of those students are enrolled in the Engineering and Metal Fabrication Academy program at the Career and Technical Education Center at the WEMOCO campus. Other students were selected from Monroe One BOCES and Edison Career and Technology High School.

The event was modeled after the NFL's Draft Day and featured streaming videos, contract announcements, official signings between students and employers, photo ops, team swag and the first steps on the path to exciting careers.

"To have a full-time job when I graduate is an amazing opportunity," says senior Calvin Moyer (Brockport). "The skills I have learned through the Machining program at WEMOCO have helped me prepare for my co-op and apprenticeship with Precise Tool and Manufacturing, Inc., and I'm looking forward to this opportunity to further develop my skills."

Students officially signed the agreement with their employers during the Signing Day ceremony. They also found out when their Job Shadow (juniors) or Co-Op (seniors) would officially start.

In a letter sent to the students who were accepted, Bob Coyne, Workforce Development Director for the Rochester Technology and Manufacturing Association (RTMA), congratulated the students, saying, "This opportunity comes as a result of you taking the initiative to explore career opportunities that provide post-secondary pathways and many career options."

The program was coordinated by the RTMA and Monroe Community College. There were multiple phases in the application and interviewing process, pairing high schoolers with local manufacturing companies.



This year's group of students who were selected for the Finger Lakes Youth Apprenticeship Program.

“
The skills I have learned through the Machining program at WEMOCO have helped me prepare for my co-op and apprenticeship with Precise Tool and Manufacturing, Inc., and I'm looking forward to this opportunity to further develop my skills

- senior Calvin Moyer

Congratulations to the following Engineering and Metal Fabrication Academy students, who were selected for the Finger Lakes Youth Apprenticeship Program:

Anthony DeFave - Acro Industries, Inc.
(Junior, Gates Chili)

Christopher Re - MICRO Instruments
(Junior, Gates Chili)

Cierra Perrin - PEKO Precision
(Junior, Kendall)

Garrett VanLogten - Precision Grinding and Manufacturing (PGM)
(Junior, Holley)

Aiden Hetzler - PEKO Precision
(Junior, Spencerport)

Jeremy Goodison - PEKO Precision
(Junior, Spencerport)

Jonathan Aina - Precise Tool and Manufacturing
(Junior, Spencerport)

Joshua Wood - Acro Industries, Inc.
(Junior, Brockport)

Alex Nenni - MICRO Instruments
(Junior, Brockport)

Nicholas Bumbarger - Love Beets
(Junior, Greece)

John Gizzi - Precise Tool and Manufacturing
(Junior, Churchville-Chili)

Dylan Peet - Jrlon Engineered Product
(Junior, Churchville-Chili)

Andrew Shortino - OptiPro
(Junior, Churchville-Chili)

Zachary Hannah - Jrlon Engineered Products
(Junior, Churchville-Chili)

Calvin Moyer - Precise Tool and Manufacturing, Inc.
(Senior, Brockport)

Gavin DeVincentis - MICRO Instruments
(Senior, Greece)

Tim Roesner - Acro Industries, Inc.
(Senior, Hilton)

Ethan Hicks - Acro Industries, Inc.
(Senior, Spencerport)

Anthony Colletta - Precision Grinding and Manufacturing (PGM)
(Senior, Spencerport)

Ringin' the Bell!

By Parker Pascucci, 2019-20 Project SEARCH Intern

This year at Project SEARCH, we went to Marketplace Mall to ring the bell for the Salvation Army. It's an experience to remember, for sure. It was a great way of giving back to the community. Receiving donations to help those in need and getting to greet people with a smile made it even better. We started by taking the RTS bus. It was quite cold and windy but we still were cheerful, despite the weather. Some of us even dressed up with Christmas-themed clothing and accessorized with hats, bells, fake antlers and flashing lights. After the RTS bus arrived at our stop we split into two groups. One group stayed inside while the others rang the bell. When outside, we handed out candy canes and held the door open for people. The two groups rotated every 30 minutes. Eventually, we had a lunch break. We either brought or bought our lunch. After lunch we repeated our original routine until a storm hit so suddenly that we had to wait until it passed. Eventually, our time ended and we left everything for the next people to ring the bell. We even had a little bit of shopping time leftover. Then our time was done, we all headed back to Strong Memorial Hospital to further enjoy our day.



Strategic Plan Update

Human Resources Department

Strategic Goal

Continuous Improvement

Key Strategy

One of the Human Resources Department's priority actions this year is the implementation of benefitsolver, an electronic medical insurance enrollment platform. Area school districts that are part of RASHP (Rochester Area School Health Plan) are using benefitsolver to eliminate paper and automate the insurance enrollment process. With the convenience of an online portal, employees can initially enroll in insurances, make changes during open enrollment periods, and have immediate access to medical plan summaries and costs. In addition, the My Choice feature within benefitsolver provides employees customized recommendations regarding their insurance options based on their responses to a few short questions. And yes, there's even an app for it!

You're Invited

To the SkillsUSA Fundraiser

Vendor and Craft Show

Our biggest SkillsUSA fundraising event features student-made crafts, student-provided services, children's activities, food, and professional crafters and vendors.

Admission: \$2 • 12 and under free

Saturday, March 21, 2020 • 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

WEMOCO Career and Technical Education Center

3589 Big Ridge Road, Spencerport

You're Invited

To the WEMOCO Alumni Celebration

CTE at WEMOCO alumni and retired staff honor distinguished alumni and program supporters, and visit with former classmates and teachers.

March 21

11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

WEMOCO Career and Technical Education Center
3589 Big Ridge Road
Spencerport, NY

Condolences to:

The family of **Richard Stiles** (retiree).

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Jo Anne Antonacci

Editor

Amanda Dedie
adedie@monroe2boces.org
585-349-9067

Contributors

Mark Ball, Tricia Croce, Steve Dawe, Ashley Decker,
Amanda Dedie, Jackie Finn, Chris Klem, Beth Nash,
Mary Prusak, Stephanie Robusto, Jade Rood
and Gretchen Spittler

Graphic Designer

Lisa Constantine



Award-winning publication



Monroe 2–Orleans Board of Cooperative
Educational Services
3599 Big Ridge Road
Spencerport, New York 14559-1799
Telephone (585) 352-2400
www.monroe2boces.org

NONPROFIT ORG.
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Mission

We provide quality, cost-effective educational services in partnership with school districts and the community in a manner that supports excellence and equity for all learners. We are committed to customer satisfaction, continuous improvement, and personal and professional growth.

Vision

Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES is the educational partner of choice. We strive for continuous improvement in serving the diverse needs of our community, helping all students achieve their full potential.

The Monroe 2–Orleans Board of Cooperative Educational Services does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, race, color, national origin, disability, creed, marital status, veteran status, sexual orientation, prior criminal offense, domestic violence victim status, or genetic status in its programs or activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle complaints/inquiries regarding the BOCES non-discrimination policies: Director of Human Resource, 3599 Big Ridge Road, Spencerport, New York 14559, 585-352-2420, and is also the Title VII and Title IX Officer.

For further information on notice of non-discrimination, visit <http://wdcrobcolp01.ed.gov/CFAPPS/OCR/contactus.cfm> for the address and phone number of the office that serves your area, or call 1-800-421-3481. Please note that those wishing to file a complaint may also do so through the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights at <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/qa-complaints.html>. See also New York State Executive Law 296-a.

Adult students earn CDL Class B at CWD

The Center for Workforce Development (CWD) has graduated its second cohort of Commercial Driver's License Class B students. Sixteen adult students have earned their CDL Class B passenger and school bus driver endorsement and all have been offered employment upon completion of their New York State Certification Exam. In addition to driving school buses and commercial passenger buses, those with a CDL Class B can drive medical transport vehicles, dump truck, and other trucks weighing up to 18,000 lbs. The CDL training class offers scholarships for eligible participants through the Monroe County Industrial Development Corporation (MCIDC). CWD and Monroe County work

with instructors from the Genesee Valley Education Partnership (GVEP) to offer this program to adult students. The next CDL Class B training class at the Center for Workforce Development begins March 3, 2020.

Congratulations to students:
Nilsa Bernard, Johnnie Branch,
Jerry Brock, Amir Brock-Owens,
Tyshawn Brock-Owens,
Elizabeth Ann Doyle, Terrell
Giles, Elizabeth Hunt, Duncan
Low, Shon Lucius, Ryan
McGinnis, Luis Manuel Pascual,
Marcus Rogers, Robert Smith,
Robert Snow and Gina Tassone.

