

# Highland Park

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**n4guide@yahoo.com**

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# Brother Rice participated in Global Debates on World Poverty and Climate Change

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**Bloomfield Hills, Mi (December 9, 2009)** – Brother Rice H.S. announced its participation in the UN Foundation's Global Debates program for their 3<sup>rd</sup> straight year in early November. Global Debate challenges high school students from around the world to think critically about pressing global issues. This fall they focused their discussions and actions on the intersection of poverty and climate change. With the UN's next round of climate negotiations this December in Copenhagen, it is more important than ever to mobilize a global push for a new international agreement to combat climate change.



Top; Billy Giorgio, Alex Tolksdorf, Frank Neuguebauer, Scott Kuschel, Nancy Lauer, Chris Woodard, Curtis Smith, Amanda Allen.

Bottom; Patty Giorgio, Chris Woodard and Curtis Smith

Brother Rice hosted a public debate on this critical topic, Nov. 17th, at 6:00 p.m. at Brother Rice H.S. Media Center. Teams of two argued each side of the debate topic which challenges students to take a stand on the following: *When it cannot do both, the United Nations should prioritize poverty alleviation over combating climate change.* The debate was open to the public. Debates were videotaped and submitted to the United Nations Foundation. A representative from the law firm of Miller Canfield, who are helping to financially sponsor a film festival for environmental awareness at the Burton Theater in Detroit. The Rice Global debate action team has been working on this service project, which was to bring Wild & Scenic on Tour to the Detroit area. Brother Rice brought Wild and Scenic, the largest environmental film festival in the United States, for the first time to the City of Detroit and its metro area. Any donations they received allowed Detroit school student leaders to attend the Festival for free. The Festival was held on Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> in one session from 9:45AM to 1:30PM. Among many environmental films, the cornerstone film was **Water Front**, a film showing the grassroots struggle of the citizens

of Highland Park as they fought against water-related problems in their city. Attending the event, Councilman Chris Woodard introduced **Water Front**, and along with **Water Front** producer Curtis Smith, held a thirty minute question and answer session with the students about the film. As part of the festival, Rice Global debaters also collected donations to help Stand-Up for Kids. Another Wild and Scenic Film Festival is being planned in the spring for the Flint area school kids.

"The Brother Rice Action team is coming up with creative approaches to combat some of the world's biggest problems," said Kaitlin Barry, Campus Outreach Director with the United Nations Foundation. "In order to tackle deep-rooted issues such as poverty and climate change, we need to look at them from every angle—the fresh perspective that each school brings is tremendously valuable. We look forward to the actions each student takes to implement real change in their communities."



Veterans Day, Wednesday November 11, 2009 in Historic Elmwood Cemetery. World War I & II, Korean Conflict, Vietnam

## Black veterans memorial: Detroit Historical Society hosts annual remembrance at Elmwood Cemetery

For the last 25 years, the Detroit Historical Society has honored the memory of members of the 102nd U.S. Colored Infantry with a Veterans Day ceremony at Detroit's historic Elmwood Cemetery.

The black Historic Sites Committee, led by Beulah Ware Hamilton, conducts the ceremony. The ritual is held in Section S of the cemetery, where 18 members of the 102nd Colored Infantry, which fought in the Civil War, are buried.

The idea was inspired by visits Beulah Hamilton made to her husband's grave site shortly after his death. Her husband Karl Walker Hamilton, was an internationally noted historian and had guided numerous visits to the graves of these Civil War veterans. During visits to his grave, Hamilton noted that American flags were missing from the historic burial site of the 102nd Infantry. To honor their legacy, she decided to hold a Veteran's Day ceremony at the grave site each year.

Highlights of the program include a fly-over by a U.S. Air Force fighter unit, a presentation of the American flag, a roll call for the 102nd Colored Infantry and the two Native Americans, the release of the two doves to symbolize peace for Iraq, Pakistan and the Afghanistan, the playing of "Taps." There is also a mini-parade of men and women in period dress.

The Veterans Day ceremony is at Elmwood Cemetery, 1200 Elmwood St. at East Lafayette in Detroit's Lafayette Park.