



## Motivational Madness E-Newsletter

### A Debt of Gratitude

Over the course of the past few years, I've been provided the opportunity to conduct a number of teacher in-services throughout the Southern Region of the United States. Topics ranging from parental involvement to teamwork & leadership have been the primary focus of my presentations.



Each time I stand in front of a group of educators, I can't help but think just how important and influential their jobs really are. I mean, have you ever stopped and thought about how many lives are changed for the better due to the expertise of teachers, coaches, librarians, counselors, tutors, etc.? These individuals give of themselves on a daily basis, not only as instructors, but also as key advisors to those lives that sit in their classroom chairs. Granted, I might be somewhat biased towards educators--my mother just completed her thirty-second year of teaching--nonetheless, if it is in the classroom, on the field or on the court, students have the opportunity to grow into well-rounded people thanks to education.

For this, I feel as though a debt of gratitude should be paid to those who have chosen teaching as a profession. When I reflect on my own experience with educators, my life would have never turned out the way it did without their continued support, knowledge and encouragement of my dreams and ambitions. I say this because I was one of those students tutored for a learning disability that affected my reading and writing skills. Countless hours, over the course of many school years, were spent trying to improve my spelling, enunciation capabilities and vocabulary. Eventually though, thanks to two tutors in particular, I was able to show steady improvement and in the end earn a college degree.

I've always found it quite ironic that I choose a profession surrounded by reading and writing. I guess it's a safe bet to say my decision can be linked back to those who influenced my skill-sets...and for this, I owe them a debt of gratitude.

### 75 Years of Excellence



Paul recently had the privilege of presenting his inspiring message, **Heroes on the Cutting Edge**, to a packed house attending the 75th Annual Arkansas Water Works & Water Environment Association Conference. Thousands were on hand at the Hot Springs Convention Center to celebrate the many achievements made by individuals throughout the years who have continuously strived to better our water systems and the environment.

Paul's message centered around the heroic qualities of those who make it a priority to serve communities well, by properly managing both clean and waste water. His animated message fell right in line with all of the other exciting activities taking place at this four day event.



Jimmy Olander-Diamond Rio

The Equipment Rodeo, an elegant banquet, a private performance by Diamond Rio and a huge expo all were on the ticket. It was a true honor for Paul to have the opportunity to play a role in such a wonderful production. He hopes to have the chance to work with the AWW&WEA again in the future.

### Did You Know?

The national dropout rate is 30%.

High school dropouts make up 80% of our prisoners and 50% of our adult welfare recipients.

The average ACT composite score was 20.9 for nationwide graduates in 2005.

Connecticut & Massachusetts tied for the highest ACT average at 22.8.

In 2003-04 Connecticut had the highest average teacher salary at \$56,516.

### Knowledge is Power\*

People tend to resist that which is forced upon them. People tend to support that which they help to create.

*Vince Pfaff*

Education should prepare people not just to earn a living but to live a life - a creative, humane and sensitive life.

*Charles Silberman*

The real contest is always between what you've done and what you're capable of doing. You measure yourself against yourself and nobody else.

*Geoffrey Gabering*

The harder I work, the luckier I get.

*Frank Petrella*