

## Fifth-graders sample SLC

Students visit campus as part of Look Ahead Lakers program

BY CINDY HODGSON  
Herald Times Reporter

MANTOWOC — Elizabeth Voda, a student at Franklin Elementary School, stood still as a Silver Lake College basketball player signed the back of the bright-yellow "Look Ahead Lakers" T-shirt she was wearing.

The fifth-grader said she'd had two SLC basketball players sign her shirt, as well as her nylon "Look Ahead Lakers" bag.

"They're kind of role models for everyone," she said.

Elizabeth got the autographs when she and the other fifth-graders from Franklin and Jefferson elementary schools visited SLC on Thursday for Look Ahead Lakers Day.

The day included attending a pep rally, touring the campus, and visiting classes where instructors had prepared demonstrations and hands-on activities at a fifth-grade level.

Modeled after the Phuture Phoenix program at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, the new Look Ahead Lakers program aims to expose children from low-income families to the possibility of attending college, which they otherwise may not consider.

Jefferson and Franklin were selected because of their low-income populations, but all fifth-graders at those schools participated.

Forty-six SLC students, many of them education majors, took part as role models, said Tara Wachowski, Look Ahead Lakers program coordinator.

Participation is a class requirement for those taking the Orientation to Teacher Education class. Other students, like theology and psychology major Brittany Schoeder of Janesville, decided to volunteer. She likes working with children and



Freddy the Pheasant, mascot for the Silver Lake College Lakers, joins the Lakers men's basketball team in leading the fifth-graders from Manitowoc's Jefferson and Franklin elementary schools in a dance during the students' visit on Thursday to SLC. Also leading the dance is Look Ahead Lakers program coordinator Tara Wachowski, right front. The dance was part of a pep rally to kick off Look Ahead Lakers Day, a chance for fifth-graders to visit the campus. Look Ahead Lakers aims to introduce children from low-income families to the possibility of pursuing a college education. For more photos, visit the online gallery at [www.htnews.com](http://www.htnews.com). Photos by Sue Pischke/HTR



Silver Lake College freshman Haley Rauch, left, looks up the bones of a rat skeleton as Franklin Elementary School fifth-grader Hailey Meissner dissects bones from a barn owl pellet to find out which small mammal the owl ate.

wanted to help those from disadvantaged backgrounds to see college as a possibility and "give them something to dream about," she said.

The purpose of the pro-

gram is two-fold, said Sister Kay Klackner, director of teacher education at SLC. Its goal is to increase the number of students graduating from high school and going

on to college, and to give education majors at SLC another opportunity to work with children in order to see

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## Union law ceded to Supreme Court

State appeals court won't rule on temporary block

BY SCOTT BAUER  
The Associated Press

MADISON — A state appeals court declined to rule Thursday on whether to allow a law stripping public employee unions of nearly a year of their collective bargaining rights to take effect, saying the question should be decided by the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

It's appropriate for the state's highest court to take the case because the significant issues presented are the likelihood that it would end up there anyhow, the 4th District Court of Appeals said. It opted not to rule on whether a lower court judge properly issued an order last week temporarily blocking the law from taking effect.

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The law remains on hold while the legal fight continues.

A majority of the seven-member Supreme Court must agree to take the case, or it would remain in the appeals court. The higher court is under no deadline to make a decision.

Whether to take the case poses an interesting question for Justice David Prosser, a former Republican state lawmaker who is up for re-election on April 5. Prosser and Gov. Scott Walker, who proposed the law in question, both served in the state Assembly at the same time in the 1990s.

"I will certainly be participating in the case, but I don't have the slightest

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## LAKERS

From A-1

whether teaching really is what they want to do.

The program began before Thursday's campus visit. On Tuesday, SLC students visited Jefferson and Franklin to meet the students and explain the upcoming field trip. They will go back to the schools next week and will proceed to have at least two more contacts with the students through visits or correspon-

dence.

The program will continue as SLC students serve as mentors to selected Jefferson and Franklin students next year and follow them into the future.

Look Ahead Lakers is all about connecting, according to Wachowski. The program "shows the students that somebody cares about them," she said.

The biggest factor in whether students succeed in high school and go on to higher education is whether someone cares about them and supports them, Wa-

chowski said.

And "the earlier the better," she said when asked why it starts as young as fifth grade.

"It increases their chances of doing well in high school so that they can go on to college," she said.

Cameron Chanthavong, a fifth-grader from Jefferson, said he thinks the experience could motivate students to "try to get their grades up" so they can go to college.

The goal of Look Ahead Lakers isn't to recruit students to attend Silver Lake College, but the school

nonetheless left an impression.

"It's actually really nice here," Cameron said. "They have a lot more than I thought they would have. If I ever go to college, I want to go to this college, 'cause this is a nice college."

Some of the students didn't want to leave, said Hannah Sharlein, a first-year education major from Mishicot who was serving as one of the role models.

"They want to go to college now," Sharlein said.

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