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Mission Statement

The mission of Student/Partner Alliance is to support inner city high school students in New Jersey with private school tuition assistance and mentoring to increase their chances for college admission and scholarships, and ultimately to lead successful and productive lives.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

September 16: New Student Orientations
September 28: Mentor Training Workshop
October: Partner/Mentor/Student Breakfasts
November 4: Community FoodBank
January 10: Holiday Party at Marist

A Message from All of Us at S/PA...

To our recent Graduates - We are so fortunate to have gotten to know you over the past four years and so proud of all your accomplishments. We dedicate this print issue of our news to you - the Class of 2017! We wish you continued success in college and hope that you will stay in contact with us. We would love to hear from you and see you again. Please note that the 2018 Holiday Party will be at Marist on Wednesday, January 10 and you are invited!

To all of you who made these successes

possible - Parents, Partners, Mentors, Sponsors, Donors, Golfers and Supporters - We cannot thank you enough!

We are already getting ready to welcome the class of 2021 and are also very excited to welcome many new Partners, Mentors and Sponsors. We look forward to seeing you in the fall at one (or all!) of our upcoming events.

Until then, the Board of Trustees and S/PA staff, wish you a wonderful summer.

Bunk's Golf XI Pulls in Record Amount for Student Scholarships!

As a result of enthusiastic participation and ever generous friends of S/PA, Bunk's Golf XI raised over \$36,000 to be directly designated for student scholarships! Bruce "Bunk" Reitz and his wife Susan have grown the event every year for the past 11 years to yet another record breaker! Even more students from families with great financial need can be helped to attain a quality education at a strong college preparatory high school.

The move to the beautiful course and clubhouse at Galloping Hill a few years



▲ Scramble Winners: Randy Reitz, Mark Tanner, Jim Honohan and George Jackson

ago allowed and encouraged a greater number of golfers. This year Jim Honohan, Mark Tanner, Randy Reitz and George Jackson squeaked out a win over the team of Gil Gonzalez, Chris Mykietyn & Dave Biderman with a 9 under 62 via a match of scorecards. (Cont. on back page)

Many Thanks to Our Loyal Supporters

- American Express Foundation
- Bodman Foundation
- Boffa & Company
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- Community Congregational Church (Short Hills)
- Christ Church (Summit)
- The Della Rosa Family Foundation (2016 Community Spirit Award)
- Robert and Joan Dircks Foundation
- Mary A. & Thomas F. Grasselli Endowment Foundation
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- Hyde&Watson Foundation
- Investors Bank and Investor's Foundation (2017 Community Spirit Award)
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- Mary Reinhart Stackhouse Foundation
- Sobel & Co., LLC
- Sweetie Pig Foundation
- TD Charitable Foundation
- Turrell Fund (2016 Dedication to Education Award)
- Victoria Foundation
- Withum Smith+Brown, PC



We also thank numerous family foundations and corporations that wish to remain anonymous

Congratulations to the Class of '17

St. Anthony High School



◀ **Francis Agwanihu**
Temple University

Johnasiah Johnson ▶
Union College of New
England



◀ **Oneal Troche**
Prince George's Co.
Community College

Benedictine Academy

Adwoa Akyeansah ▶
Howard University,
Washington, DC



◀ **Sarah Flores**
Rutgers University, Newark



Shahiana Odies ▶
Felician University



Benedictine Academy



◀ **Michelle Yeboah**
Temple University

St. Benedict's Preparatory School

Richard Araujo ▶
Bowdoin College, ME



◀ **Gabriel Cuadrado**
Kean University

Isaiah Pankey ▶
Caldwell University

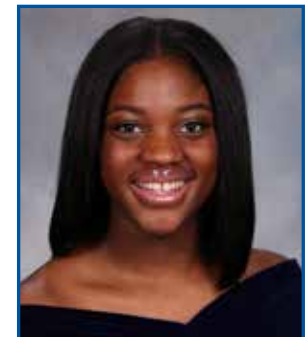


Christ the King Preparatory School

◀ **Michele Davis**
Seton Hall University
(pre-med)



Ny-Janah Pride ▶
Rutgers University,
New Brunswick



Hudson Catholic High School



◀ **Michael Fuccilli**
Bergen Co. Community
College

Amelia Gonzalez ▶
St. Peter's University



◀ **Jharid Morrison**
Queens – University of
Charlotte

Justin Tavara ▶
Steven's Institute of
Technology



Immaculate Conception High School



◀ **Shannia Carroll**
Montclair State University

Elyse El Jazouli ▶
Essex County College



Immaculate Conception High School (cont)



◀ **Keshawn Lampkin**
Kean University

Ashley Medina ▶
Montclair State University



◀ **Emmanuel Perez**
Georgian Court University

Marist High School

Freddy Ballester ▶
Centenary College



◀ **Syhid Daniels**
Southern Virginia University
(Football)

Chrishena Deal ▶
Fairleigh Dickinson
(Teaneck)



Marist High School (cont)



◀ **Carla Laguerre**
St. Peter's University



Samantha Lewis ▶
College of St. Elizabeth



◀ **Adrista Ramirez**
St. Peter's University

St. Vincent Academy

Christine Acquah ▶
Montclair State University



◀ **Ayana Allison**
Union County College



Miracale Bowers ▶
College of St. Elizabeth



◀ **Aishah Choudhary**
Rutgers University



St. Vincent Academy (cont)



◀ **Janiyah Clinton**
Felician University



Emaja Conyers ▶
Montclair State University



◀ **Simone Enriquez**
New Jersey City University

Hope Meireles ▶
Salve Regina University,
Newport, RI



◀ **Emani Ross**
Rutgers University
(New Brunswick)

Emoni Speight ▶
Clark – Atlanta
University, GA



Our Newest Graduates

Michele Davis, Christ the King '17:

"Thanks to S/PA I have been able to attend CTK! Four years of working in different jobs has given me confidence and exposed me to new areas. I have become interested in the medical field. Also, I have a great support system such as my family, Mentor Julie Yarborough and you; I really appreciate all that you've done for me in the college process! I have committed to Seton Hall U. I will be in a summer Pre-Med Program. We will be learning study skills, chemistry and other topics within the sciences. I will be starting June 19, which is just two days after my graduation! Hopefully, we will stay in contact and I can still be involved with the S/PA Program."

Michele is a poised and polished presenter – we can see why they asked her to give a speech at their Prayer, Praise and Recognition Service and Awards Ceremony recently! Michele also won a debater's award this past year, qualifying her for a trip to Africa to compete with other debaters.



▲ Michele Davis delivering opening speech at Recognition Ceremony

Chrishena Deal, Marist High School '17

"I cannot express my gratitude to Student/Partner Alliance for my Marist education! I have been gifted and none of this would have been possible without this organization and my amazing mentor, Julie. Even in my deepest burdens, both financial and educational, they have given me the confidence that I am worthy of this great opportunity! I have learned that the greatest reward in the world is to help others and I look to the future with great aspirations of opening doors for other people that at one time I couldn't open alone"

Chrishena will be majoring in Social Work at Fairleigh Dickinson this fall. As National Honor Society Secretary at Marist, Chrishena showed great leadership potential. Partner and Mentor Julie Nortillo made it to nearly every S/PA event to see Chrishena and kept close contact with her throughout the four years. We think Julie deserves an award, too!



▲ Chrishena looking forward to attending Fairleigh Dickinson



◀ Richard Araujo "Whatever Hurts My Brother Hurts Me; Whatever Helps My Brother Helps Me" is a motto Richard says he and all fellow students try to live by.

Richard Araujo, St. Benedict's Prep (SBP) '17:

"I am proud to say that after this summer I will be moving from being a "Grey Bee" (at SBP) to a "Polar Bear" at Bowdoin College in Maine. There I plan to study Physics and Astronomy. Because of help from others, such as Student/Partner Alliance, I was able to receive not only a quality education, but also wonderful, unique experiences. And I give my greatest gratitude to S/PA for giving me the chance to take advantage of all those opportunities possible because I was able to study at St. Benedict's."

Past Graduates' Updates

Nyasia Castaneda
(Immaculate Conception '12)

When Nyasia and Polly O'Toole first met in 2008, Nyasia was a small, polite, quiet and shy little girl. Over four years and many great experiences at Immaculate Conception (IC), Nyasia grew emotionally and with confidence into a poised and accomplished young lady. Still small and still polite, Nyasia graduated from IC with honors in 2012 and then continued to college for Speech Pathology.

To help pay her college expenses, Nyasia took a position at her alma mater, the Robert Treat Academy, as an assistant 3rd grade teacher while pursuing her degree at night/weekends. With just a few credits to go, Nyasia hopes to complete her BS in 2018. In the meantime, Nyasia has amassed a great amount of experience working with children. She has developed skills in teaching, student assessment and curriculum implementation. We are so proud of Nyasia and her determination, perseverance and dedication to helping children grow and improve academically!



▲ Nyasia and Partner/Mentor Polly last month in Nyasia's classroom at Robert Treat Academy.

LaShawn Adams (SVA '11)

LaShawn gained her BA from Rutgers triple majoring in Psychology, Africana and Women & Gender Studies. Her background in counseling, women's health and domestic violence took her to Ghana for 6 weeks during college to help women and children get health insurance and preventive health counseling.



▲ LaShawn Adams

While retaining her full-time job at JC Medical Center as a Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Counselor, LaShawn will start a Masters in Counseling (Clinical & Mental Health) for a License as a Professional Counselor at Montclair U this September. She will then continue her education to pursue a PhD.

LaShawn has not strayed far from St. Vincent Academy, however. This past spring, she helped out the Drama dept with a special program, Women in Shakespeare, that was performed at Drew University by SVA students. The group won first place!

"Thank you to Regina Daly and family! Because of my amazing education at SVA, my opportunities are now endless and would not have been possible without their kindness. I am forever grateful."



Raven Tait, St. Anthony Valedictorian, 2009

"After attending St Anthony's with the help of S/PA, I was able to go to Wake Forest U to study politics/international affairs & communication. I completed my BA in 4 years, graduating in 2013. After college, I took a variety of jobs and internships to make sure that my experience was up to par for the professional world. I moved back to NJ for my first job working at a fashion, lifestyle & luxury public relations firm in Midtown Manhattan. There, I handled publicity for a variety of clients and helped manage the office. One year later, I procured a job at an entertainment/fashion public relations firm, The Lippin Group, as a Publicity Assistant. Most recently I was promoted to Account Executive/Publicist where I am working on 12 individual entertainment-related accounts!"

I am extremely grateful for the opportunities and the relationships I formed with the help of S/PA. Please tell the Student/Partner Alliance Family that I said hello!"

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S/PA Friends' Event at Reeves Reed Arboretum



▲ *Erik Enriquez spoke about pursuing a Master's in Engineering from Cornell University*

The phrase "Nothing succeeds like success" teaches us the importance of giving others that all important first opportunity to succeed. Friends of S/PA gathered at beautiful Reeves-Reed Arboretum on April 27th to hear about some of those successes that Student/Partner Alliance had a hand in crafting. Erik Enriquez, St. Benedict's Prep (SBP) 2013 Valedictorian and S/PA student spoke about his journey through SBP and on to Cornell University for Engineering.

Other S/PA grads also spoke about how S/PA gave them the leg up that has opened doors and started them on their personal road to success! St. Benedict's Asst Headmaster Mike Scanlon was the featured educational expert speaker for the evening.



▲ *Mike Scanlon discussed key factors in engaging teens in their own future.*

(Bunk's Golf continued from front page)

Other winners include Dan Babayan, Peter Gensicke, Chris Klaber and Richard Rosenmann (Orange Ball); Rich Tocyloski (Longest Drive on 3); Bob Van Langen (Closest to pin on 11); Pat Dalrymple (Straightest drive on 16). Special thanks go to tournament sponsors Total Bank Solutions, WithumSmith+Brown, Investor's Bank, Star Mountain Capital, ICHS Trustees, E&Y, KPMG, Valley Made Signs, REMAX, Metrolube, the Hughes', the Dalrymple's, the Della Rosa's and the Daly's. And, thanks to all the Hole & Contest Sponsors as well as our regular, on-site volunteers.



▲ *Orange Ball winners at Bunk's Golf XI Dan Babayan, Peter Gensicke, Chris Klaber and Richard Rosenmann*

Young Professional Network (YPN) Award

At the Porta Restaurant and bar in Jersey City, the YPN honored Alice Miesnik, Head of School at Marist High School in Bayonne. Alice has been a part of the Marist school community for three decades and is on the S/PA Board of Trustees. Alice was instrumental in pulling in young professional Marist graduates to mentor students at Marist through the S/PA program. "We are all proud to honor Alice with our award this year," remarked YPN co-founder and fellow S/PA Board member, Danna Jacobs.



▲ *Mark Boffa and Danna Jacobs share a laugh with Alice Miesnick at YPN Awards*