

Student/Partner ALLIANCE

25 YEARS OF SCHOLARSHIPS
& MENTORING

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 22:	New Student Orientations
September 27:	Mentor Training Workshop
October (TBD):	Partner/Mentor/Student Breakfasts/Lunches
November 3:	Community Food Bank of NJ

the alliance

Summer 2018

News from Student/Partner Alliance

To Our Partners, Mentors, Donors, Students, and 2018 Graduates

We congratulate all of our graduating Seniors!! This newsletter is dedicated to you, our **25th class** receiving the S/PA scholarship! 100% of this year's graduates are all continuing on to colleges, universities or the US military.

We are so proud of the 2018 graduates pictured in this "Graduation Issue". We are continually reminded by our graduates as they get ready to start a new chapter in their lives, just how much S/PA's involvement has meant to them and their families. We, in turn, acknowledge that we

could not have brought our program to so many students without all of our financial and mentoring supporters, to whom we are forever grateful.

We took a moment to celebrate **25 years of success** in bringing the gift of education and guidance to students; and then moved right into working hard to assure continued success for high school student assistance well into the next 25 years and beyond! We look forward to continuing this journey together with you!

The S/PA Board and Staff

President Hosts a Festive Celebration for S/PA's 25th Anniversary!



▲ *Margaret Momber, Executive Director; Emmett Daly, President of the Board; Danna Jacobs, Trustee; Tim Heine, Trustee; Tom Cash, Chairman of the Board and Founder of Student/Partner Alliance*

S/PA President **Emmett and Regina Daly** have been involved with the organization since its very earliest days. Since that time, Regina and Emmett have partnered numerous students. In keeping with their dedicated involvement, the Dalys hosted a small celebration of staunch S/PA supporters in their home on May 3rd.

Tom Cash, co-founder and Chairman of the Board, recounted the organization's history with colorful anecdotal stories highlighting the importance of the people who helped him bring his vision to reality. **Warner Canto**, co-founder and **Debbie Barker**, one of the 1st Board Members were present as were many others key to the growth of S/PA into what it is today.

Sister June Favata, Principal at St. Vincent Academy, spoke about how

the need for S/PA strongly continues today, and how S/PA has impacted the trajectory of so many students' lives over the past 25 years. Danna Jacobs, co-founder of the Young Professionals Network (YPN) represented the organization's future.



▲ *Judy and Tom Cash*

Congratulations to the Class of '18

Benedictine Academy

Alexandra Frederique ▶
Montclair State University



◀ **Tatyana Horrobin**
Spellman College
Atlanta, GA

Michelle Martinez ▶
Rutgers University, Newark



◀ **Eliana Merced**
Montclair State University

Brenda Urday ▶
Ryder University



St. Benedict's Preparatory School



◀ **William Adedeji**
College of St. Elizabeth

Kevin D'Almeida ▶
University of Delaware

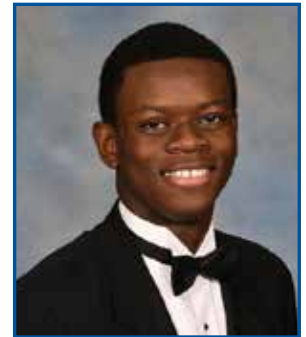


Cristo Rey Newark (formerly known as Christ the King)



◀ **Uchechi DeSouza**
Montclair State
University

Donald Mane ▶
Fairleigh Dickinson
University, Teaneck



Hudson Catholic High School



◀ **Mouloukou Bangoura**
St. John's University

Kayla O'Connor ▶
Hudson County
Community College



Students' words about their mentors:

"He's been giving me great advice on how to further my education and improving my life choices."....
"Whenever I am having trouble at school, she is there to pick me up and guide me in the right direction."....
"Even though both of us have busy schedules, we still find a way to make time for each other."

Immaculate Conception High School



◀ **Imani Burroughs**
Albright College, PA



Carmel Dessejour ▶
Arcadia University, PA



◀ **Julian Enninful**
Georgian Court University



Danielle Harper ▶
College of St. Elizabeth



◀ **Ashanti Jackson-Smith**
Temple University, PA



Nubia Jackson-Smith ▶
United States Army



◀ **Mohamed Traore**
Shaw University
North Carolina

Marist High School



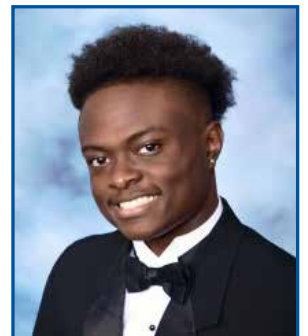
◀ **Jahdell Bass**
New Jersey City University



Monaquay Leakes ▶
Montclair State University



◀ **DaVon Malloy**
St. Peter's University



DeVon Malloy ▶
Rowan University



◀ **Maria Osilla**
St. Peter's University



Kahdeidra Sellers ▶
Georgia Southern University

Students' words about their mentors:

"We really do have a true bond.".... "Hands down, mine is the best mentor ever!".... "I felt like I could talk to her about anything that was going on in my life.".... "I'm really excited to be going to college because I'm going to be the first in my family to attend! My mentor helped me so much."

Marist High School (cont)



◀ **Vinnie Vaca, Valedictorian**
Rutgers University,
New Brunswick



Jasmine Veliz ▶
New Jersey City University

St. Peter's Prep



◀ **Mark Walker**
Undecided

St. Vincent Academy

Aroob Ahmad ▶
Hobart and William Smith
Colleges
Geneva, NY



◀ **Jewel Barnett**
Rowan University

St. Vincent Academy (cont)



◀ **Arianna Coniglione**
Drew University



Samantha Joseph ▶
New York University
Tisch School of
Performing Arts



◀ **Shaylah Lee**
New Jersey Institute of
Technology

Krystal Williams ▶
Rutgers University, Newark



◀ **Ajewell Wright**
Rowan University

Students' words of thanks to their mentors:

... "I'm grateful that you listened to me and watched me grow for four years." ... "Thank you for being a good role model." ... "You're truly a phenomenal woman – Honestly a blessing!" ... "I will forever be grateful for your time and belief in me." ... "I am thankful." ... "you gave me great advice on life choices."

Our Newest Graduates



◀ **Vinnie Vaca with his proud family at graduation**

As **Valedictorian**, Vinnie gave a spirited speech at Marist's graduation on June 3rd! In addition to being 1st in his class, Vinnie received the Medal of Excellence in Religion, English, Mathematics & Medquest and "Top Ten Averages over Four Years". Vinnie will be attending **Rutgers, New Brunswick** in the fall majoring in Biology with a minor in Chemistry.

During the summer he will be attending a pre-med program to begin earning credits. Vinnie wrote to us that, *"One day I would like to become a cardiothoracic surgeon. I can not express enough how much Marist meant to me and how much it achieved for me. Thank you very much."* We look forward to hearing more from **Dr. Vaca** in 8 or 9 years!

Like so many graduates, **Uchechi** has big plans for the future!. Uchechi is a "student of life", however, who will be able to accomplish just about anything she puts her mind to! At **Cristo Rey Newark**, Uchechi was fully engaged, active in many clubs, special events and her work-study programs. There was even a recent sighting of Uchechi walking alongside **Sen. Cory Booker** at an anti-gun violence rally in DC!

At **Montclair State**, she will be preparing for Medical School. *"I want to be with people and help them; and I'm good in science"*, she admitted, *"Medicine is for me!"* **S/PA** helped me so much by matching me with **Martha**, my mentor; who stayed by my side and gave me encouraging advice to keep my head up and always be positive."



▲ **Uchechi DeSouza at her recent graduation from Cristo Rey Newark**

Past Graduates' Updates



◀ **Todd Guillaume (IC'12) with his mentee, Nathaniel Brown (IC'19)**

"I'm encouraging Nathaniel to finish up strong this year & next because I've learned if you put the work in now, it makes it easier later," said mentor Todd Guillaume.

In high school, Todd was a scholar athlete, participating on the Immaculate Conception Student Council even while playing basketball and football. And he had good grades. After 4 years at Rowan U, where he played football, he graduated with a BS in Finance (and minor in Education).

Todd's S/PA mentor, Bruce Reitz, *"played an important role in my life, by showing honest interest and always being around"*. Coming from Haiti, Todd said his parents, while very supportive, were not familiar with American schools, especially college. Bruce was able to help Todd with that. So when Bruce asked Todd if he'd consider mentoring a student, Todd thought about the impact Bruce had on him and jumped at the chance.

Todd is, and always has been, a very busy guy! Currently he works for DHL, an International Supply Chain and also works in the Marketing/Operations Industry. In addition to a full-time job, he is also working on his MBA at William Paterson University.



◀ **Mentor Judith-Faith Williams Cadet (SVA '00) with Mentee Shaylah Lee (SVA '18)**

Judith-Faith learned many valuable life/spiritual lessons while a student at SVA in 2000. When Sr. June invited a group of alumni back to SVA to help with an opportunity to "give back", Judith felt the emotional tug to investigate. Two students and 8 years later, Judith is so happy to be involved in the S/PA program as a mentor to SVA students.

She remembers the insecurities of high school and the challenging academics at SVA. She works to "touch base" with her student; and help her to truly believe in her own strengths.

"It's good to gush", Judith remarked about her role as a support for her current, recently graduated student, *"I believe it makes us both feel happier!"* She is truly amazed by the growth and maturity in her student from freshman year to graduation this year!

Judith works as a Teaching Artist with Artworks (NYC). She works in Blythesdale & Montefiore Children's Hospitals where she offers art opportunities & workshops to chronically ill children. She finds great satisfaction in bringing the joy of expressing oneself through art to children. *"It reminds me of all the lessons we learned about making service part of your life"*.



▲ **S/PA Partner Jean Funk with Asia Boyer**

Asia Boyer (Marist '14) Ever since she was 8, **Asia Boyer** has wanted to go into the field of medicine. Four years ago, S/PA Partner **Jean Funk** took Asia to "Admitted Students" day at Temple University, a school that no one in her family had ever seen before. The day ended with Asia leaving a deposit there, excited to begin freshman year! Fast forward to this June, when Jean & Asia got together to visit and review the past year at Temple. Sitting in her scrubs, after finishing a very full day of summer employment at **Care Station Medical Group**, Asia spoke excitedly about how she has almost completed the program at Temple U.

Were it not for Jean supporting Asia's scholarship, and for Jean's insistence that they go visit the school firsthand, Asia might not be on the cusp of an exciting career today. *"She has always been a quiet, sensitive young woman with a strong spirit and direction"* says Jean, *"I am so proud of Asia, and her perseverance. I can't wait to hear about the next chapter in her life and career!"*

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*Bunk's Golf XII
 Great Success at Galloping Hill*



▲ *Susan & Bruce
 "Bunk" Reitz*

▲ *Winners T.Dooley, M.Dooley,
 B.Peters & A.King*

It was a red letter day for **Bruce & Susan Reitz** and the dedicated golfers who showed up for the 12th annual **Bunk's Golf** Outing. Tim & Mike Dooley, along with friends Bruce Peters & Andy King, took home the winners' prize by shooting a 10 under par 61 in the "Scramble". Mark Boffa, Frank Boffa, Marc Shipman & Stu Liebeskind won the "Orange Ball" contest. T. Dooley & Bruce Peters received kudos for winning the Boffa & Co Longest Drive & Vitaquest closest to the hole (8'9") respectively.

Again this year, the proceeds of **over \$35,000** will be designated for partial scholarships for 18 deserving high school students with a strong financial need through

S/PA! Immaculate Conception juniors **Patrice & Patricia Ward**, recipients of scholarships, delivered a heart felt speech of gratitude to the group of golfers. Bruce extends a huge "Thanks for everyone's support and generosity." Names of the many individuals and companies who helped to make the outing the grand success it was, can be found on the S/PA website at: www.studentpartneralliance.org. Bruce, Susan and golfers are already looking forward to Monday, 06.24.19 for lucky Bunk's Golf XIII!

▶ *Patrice
 &
 Patricia
 Ward*

