

SUMMER 2006

alumni news

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

When Steppingstone admitted the first class of 14 Scholars in 1990, I had no idea what the future would hold and would certainly never have predicted that 14 years later, we would be launching an ambitious five-year strategic plan, the goal of which is to serve 1,000 Boston students in grades five through 12 by 2008. We're getting there, slowly but surely, and this year, we will serve close to 800 Scholars in the 14-month component and support services. To give a different perspective: there will be about the same number of Scholars in the summer program this year (280) as there are Alumni Scholars (just about 300).



Michael Danziger with Ambrose Faturoti '93 at the 2005 Steppingstone Gala.

To reach this goal of 1,000 Scholars, Steppingstone created a program for ninth-grade placement called Academy Nine. 23 Scholars were admitted to the first class, and this spring, we admitted 30 more, all of whom will attend classes this summer at Milton Academy (where many of you spent your summers as well!). Steppingstone has also expanded placement into the public exam schools. While 31% of Alumni Scholars attended a public exam school, 63% of the Scholars currently in grades six through 12 do.

As the number of Alumni Scholars grows, it makes sense to take a new approach to our annual Alumni Reunion. In the past, we held one function for all Alumni Scholars. This year, we will hold two reunions: one for Classes 1997 through 2000, most of whom are still in college, and another event for Classes 1991 through 1996. This is a great opportunity to catch up with old friends—it's one of my favorite Steppingstone events, and I hope that you will all come.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael".

Michael Danziger is the president of The Steppingstone Foundation.

Alumni Profile

Elizabeth St. Victor

Although the days of attending Steppingstone classes are a distant memory for Elizabeth St. Victor '98, she enjoys staying connected to Steppingstone through the alumni community and finds the events and reunions a great way to catch up and reminisce with former classmates and friends.

Currently a sophomore at Yale, Elizabeth attended Noble and Greenough School after completing the 14-month program. "Steppingstone gave me the diligence, self-confidence, and academic preparation I needed to succeed at a high level at Nobles and beyond." As for college, Elizabeth initially felt like a "small fish in a big pond," but has since made a successful transition to life on campus by getting involved with the theatre and drama department at school.

Elizabeth has been a stage manager for several on-campus productions while complementing her hands-on theatre with some theoretical background by enrolling in playwriting classes.

Her penchant for challenging experiences landed her overseas last summer. Elizabeth spent six weeks helping to start up an eye health clinic in Ghana. Through the Unite for Sight Program started by a Yale alumna, she traveled to Patriensa Village with two other college students to conduct eye exams, screening village residents for glaucoma and cataracts.

During the course of her stay, she and her colleagues performed exams, gave seminars on eye care, and handed out free sunglasses that had been donated by optometrists from the United States to over 900 men, women and children. They also had the opportunity to escort patients needing cataract surgery to the nearest hospital for their operations.



Elizabeth poses with a group of patients outside the clinic

The experience really struck a chord with Elizabeth. "I worked from nine to five nearly every day, but I never felt tired. In fact, I was rejuvenated every time I saw how happy the people of this little village were." She adds, "All I saw was how similar we are. Here, just like back home, people love, marry, have kids, and create friendships."

Elizabeth is keeping her options open as far as her future career aspirations. She's looking at a possible career as a playwright or writing for a high-profile publication like *The New Yorker*, or as a lawyer specializing in immigration or civil rights law. Whatever she decides, her future looks bright, so she'd better wear shades.



Elizabeth, left, and her colleague performing an eye exam

Do you have a story to share with us? Contact Alyssa Zink at azink@tsf.org or 617-423-6300, 237.

Boston and Beyond

Until the Class of 1999—currently heading into their sophomore years—the largest Steppingstone class had 40 Scholars. The Class of 1999 is not only significant because it represents the first signs of growth, but also because it is the first year Scholars completed the 14-month program in Philadelphia.

Well before 1999, Steppingstone was laying the groundwork for growth. Much of that growth has taken place in Boston (this year, Steppingstone admitted 159 Scholars), and the Philadelphia program admits close to 40 Scholars each year. We are currently working with the mayor of Hartford, who has expressed interest in starting a program like the Academy for Hartford students.

At the same time, we have also realized that there are a lot of programs

like Steppingstone already in existence. Some are well-known, like ABC and Prep for Prep, but a lot of them are as small as Steppingstone was in 1998. In March, staff members from 30 programs across the country attended a reception hosted by Steppingstone to meet one another and explore ways to share best practices.

One idea was to publicize job and volunteer opportunities to the alumni of these programs. For example, just as Steppingstone Scholars who live in Boston participate in the Academy's mentoring program, a Steppingstone Scholar who lives in Baltimore could volunteer at the Baltimore Education Scholarship Trust (B.E.S.T.). There are all sorts of ways that these programs can collaborate, and we look forward to sharing new opportunities with you over the coming year.

Get Involved

Nyadenya Inyagwa '00 just graduated from Belmont Hill School and will head to George Washington University, is the current Acting President of the new Boston Chapter of the Nigerian American Organization of Massachusetts. "Our goal is to bridge the gap between youth and adults within the local Nigerian community, and to organize against violence," says Nyadenya. The group is planning a June forum to address recent youth violence, and Nyadenya invites members of the Nigerian community to contact him at nyadenya_i@yahoo.com for this and future events.

Welcome New Alumni

Steppingstone Class of 2000

Congratulations to the newest group of Steppingstone alumni who have graduated from high school this year. Here's a look at some of the colleges and universities they'll be attending this fall.

Agnes Scott College
Berklee College of Music
Boston College
Brandeis University
Brown University
Citadel Military College
Curry College
Fisk University
George Washington University
Gordon College
Hamilton College
Harvard University
Hofstra University
Husson College
Johnson & Wales University
Mass. Bay Community College

Middlebury College
New York University
Northeastern University
Regis College
Salem State College
Stanford University
Trinity College
University of Massachusetts
Amherst
Dartmouth
Lowell
University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill
Union College
University of Hawaii - Manoa
University of New Hampshire
Yale College

To celebrate the milestone, Scholars of the Class of 2000 let the good times roll at the Senior Dinner held at The Milky Way in Jamaica Plain.

Senior Dinner



Shirley Bien-Aime and Tiana Bonner



Left to right: Lisa Lavia, Adrian Kozikowski, and Mychal Murrell

Get paid to talk about Steppingstone!

Steppingstone is hiring a part-time community outreach assistant to visit community groups and attend events around Boston, in order to help recruit new families and students. We are looking to hire a part-time Steppingstone parent or alumnus/a in the Boston area to help us with community outreach visits this fall and winter. Hours are somewhat flexible and will include some evenings and Saturdays. Pay is \$15 per hour. Please contact Jenny Foster, Community Outreach Director, at jfoster@tsf.org or 617-423-6300, ext. 254 to find out more.

Thank you Alumni!

Donors

Thank you to all alumni who supported Steppingstone's Annual Appeal in 2005

Eric Andrew '94
Lois Bonsu '93
Devareaux Brown '91
Carlos Castillo '94
Caroline Cole '95
Ambrose Faturoti '93
Marcus Haymon '95
Ashleigh Jones '93
Tegan Leonard '91
Phuc Thai '91
Natasha Velickovic '91

Volunteers

On January 12, 2005, Steppingstone Scholars currently in high school attended a panel on The College Application Process. The Alumni Panel, composed of Scholars currently in college, helped the Scholars on various aspects of the application process.

Thank you to the following alumni who made up the panel:

Kaitlin Barry '96
Jasmine Coleman '99
Sonia Lomba '98
Monique Moore '99

Family Information Meeting Speakers

Thanks to the following alumni who informed prospective families about Steppingstone.

Dalinda Ifill '99
Ifeanyi Anidi '96
Diane Adjetey '96
Caroline Cole '95
Colgan Johnson '93
Joy Kogut '96
Jasmine Leonard '92

Event Speakers

A big thanks to Ambrose Faturoti '93 who was one of the featured speakers at the 2005 Gala, an event which raises money for Steppingstone.

Red Carpet Alumni

Thank you to the following alumni who served on the 2006 Crystal Ball Committee and helped Steppingstone raise \$85,000 through the event.

Natasha Velickovic '91, Co-chair
Devareaux Brown '91
Tegan Leonard '91

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Save the Date!



*For questions regarding either
reunion event, please contact
Alyssa Zink at azink@tsf.org or
(617) 423-6300, ext. 237.*

Alumni Reunions

The summer tradition continues . . .

Alumni Reunion for Classes of 1997-2000

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Boston Bowl

820 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Alumni Reunion for Classes of 1991-1996

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Dillon's Restaurant & Bar

955 Boylston Street, Boston

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.



THE

Steppingstone

FOUNDATION

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