

Steppingstone

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Steppingstone is successful because each element, while excellent on its own, works with other components of the program to deliver on our mission of college access for those underserved in the educational system. The Scholars, while hard working and dedicated, would not fare nearly as well as they have without the uncompro-

the Boston area. Scholars spend as many as seven years in the care of these schools' teachers and administrators, and the results are impressive, to say the least.

I am pleased to welcome two new placement schools--Boston College High School and Commonwealth School. In a few months, these schools

“ Since 1991, more than 700 Scholars have attended an independent or public exam school . . . ”



missing support of their parents. The Steppingstone Academy makes almost as many demands on the parents as it does on the Scholars, and almost without exception, parental support is a key indicator of Scholar success. The teachers, who dedicate themselves to the academic and social well being of the Scholars, work with one another and with Steppingstone staff to develop curricula that meets the needs of the Scholars and gets them ready for the next step.

Another partnership, equally important to the equation, is with our placement schools. Since 1991, more than 700 Scholars have attended an independent or public exam school in

will receive applications from Steppingstone's pilot class of Academy Nine Scholars, as will other Steppingstone placement schools with a ninth-grade entry point. BC High and Commonwealth share a commitment to college access that characterizes Steppingstone placement schools, and without these amazing schools, there would be no Academy.

Michael Danziger is the president of The Steppingstone Foundation.

INSIDE

Scholarly Achievements
A roundup of notable Scholars

4th Annual Golf Classic
A cool day and some hot golfing

Academy Nine
A new program launched

CALENDAR

November 2005
The Steppingstone Gala
Please join us to celebrate one of fall's most fabulous traditions--**The Tailgate Party!** Plan to revisit your college days on Wednesday, November 9 at the Charles Hotel.

February 2006
One of your New Year's resolutions should be attending Steppingstone's annual **Crystal Ball** on February 3 at the Four Seasons Hotel.

June 2006
Golf Classic
Hit the links and help raise money to support Steppingstone programs. Enjoy raffles, games, and more!

For more information about Steppingstone events, please contact Alyssa Zink at 617-423-6300, ext. 237 or by email at azink@tsf.org.

SCHOLARLY ACHIEVEMENTS

Brimmer and May School's **ARUSHA DEPEIZA-SALDENHA '99** served as the Upper School Class President this past year and is now a freshman at Barnard College.

At Beaver Country Day School, **SASHA DESIR '99**, now a freshman at Boston College, was awarded the academic award for French IV last spring, and **MARTINA DURANT '99**, currently enrolled at Hampton University, was inducted to the National Honor Society and completed a senior project at Patriots' Trail Girl Scouts designed to help establish a step team (among other initiatives) to encourage urban girls' involvement in leadership activities.

DALINDA IFILL '99 of The Rivers School served as All-School Co-President last year. She celebrated her graduation with long-time mentor Doug Wolfson and is now attending Northeastern University.



Dalinda Ifill, Steppingstone class of 1999, with Michael Danziger at the Senior Dinner

JENNIFER MATTHEWS '99 was Dana Hall's Class President last year; she now attends Wesleyan University.

DERMOTT MCHUGH '99 graduated cum laude from Milton Academy last spring, where he also received the Science and Environmental Science Awards. He completed a senior project that investigated the possibility of sourcing out produce from local farms for school lunches. Dermott is a freshman at Dartmouth College.

DAVID MEDINA '99, attending College of the Holy Cross this year, earned the Edward L. Bond, Jr. Prize for Academic Improvement at Noble and Greenough School.

XUAN NGUYEN '99 was awarded Newton Country Day School's Red Ribbon Award for academic achievement. Xuan now attends Holy Cross.

MICHAEL OKOLI '99, now going to University of Pennsylvania, was captain of Roxbury Latin's Varsity Football and Varsity Lacrosse teams.

TOMAS WATLER '99 of Thayer Academy earned the Architecture and Music Award. He is enrolled at the Massachusetts College of Art.

SAMANTHA LAYNE '00 was awarded Boston Latin School's Modern Prize for outstanding academic achievement.

The Winsor School's **TRAN VU '00** won the 2005 Boston Public Library/Boston Schools Collaborative Creative Writing and Design contest and was awarded the Linda Alles Memorial Award for achievement in art.

MARIAAH WILLIAMS '00 of Newton Country Day School was awarded the Red Ribbon Award for academic achievement, the Mt. Holyoke Book Prize, and the academic award for Art I/II.

AMITY PAYE '01 of Boston Latin School was awarded first-place standing in the 2005 State Science Fair and received the Genotec Award.

MARK DANSO '02 is the captain of Roxbury Latin's ninth-grade football team.

The Park School's **DALY FRANCO '02** was honored with the Smith Athletic Award.

Noble and Greenough School's **VINESHA BAKER '03** completed her eighth-grade year with High Honors, earned an Honorable Merit Maxima Cum Laude for outstanding performance in the National Latin Exams, and was awarded the Middle School Character Award for her two years at the middle school.

Beaver Country Day School's **JON HUANG '03** is the captain of the Middle School softball team, and **NATHALY FIGUEROA '03** is the captain of the Middle School soccer team.

Congratulations to **CANDACE TAYLOR '03**, Dana Hall's eighth-grade Co-President.

SYMONE WILLIAMS '03 served as Beaver Country Day's Middle School commencement speaker.

MANTHON BAKER '04 of Noble and Greenough School earned a certificate in the National Latin Exams and was nominated to attend the People to People Conference which will be held in Washington, D.C. next year.

CHRISTOPHER PELLEGRINO '04 was awarded the Middle School Science Award from Brimmer & May School, which is given to those who have demonstrated outstanding effort, interest, and achievement in science.

SCHOLARS TEACHING SCHOLARS

Every year The Steppingstone Academy hires Scholars as Teaching Assistants during the six-week summer session. Teaching Assistants are selected based on their dedication and interest in the field of education and working with children. The position is an integral part of the Academy, as they offer support to faculty and staff, as well as to Scholars currently in the 14-month academic program. Meet the six Scholars who were selected as Teaching Assistants this summer.



Left to right: Noble & Greenough School junior **Chris Golding '01**, Boston Latin Academy junior **Danielle Odom '01**, **Samantha Meyer '01**, a junior at the John D. O'Bryant School, **Roshaun Laforce '00**, a junior at Milton Academy, and **Fedna Jacquet '00** and **Sophia Tsakmaklis '00**, seniors at Beaver Country Day School

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Despite the chilly weather, Steppingstone's third annual **Golf Classic**, held on June 15 at The International, was a huge success, thanks to the efforts of event co-chairs **James Wolfsberg** and **Richard Duffy** of Bear Stearns, as well as sponsors **Mike Pehl** and **David Mussafer** of Advent International.



Steppingstone President Michael Danziger with Hockey's newest Hall of Famer Cam Neely



Event Co-chair Jim Wolfsberg (left) greets Brian O'Keefe of Firefly Capital

The golfers participated in a variety of games throughout the day, with **Christina Van Houten** winning the Women's Longest Drive competition, and the team of **Cam Neely**, **Scott Neely**, **Brian McLaughlin** and **Alex Zecca** taking home the Team Low Gross honors (kudos to Steppingstone president **Michael Danziger** for his victory at the Hand Wedge competition). The event raised nearly \$160,000 for Steppingstone.

If our first summer event was chilly, our second event more than made up for it! On Sunday, August 14, a team of seven Steppingstone volunteers and staff members ran the 2005 **Falmouth Road Race** in the sweltering heat to raise nearly \$4,000 for The Steppingstone Foundation. A huge round of thanks to runners **Michelle** and **Eoin Cannon**, **Lauren Geller**, **Heidi Polsen**, **Chris Pappas**, and **Alyssa** and **Eric Zink**.

Please join us for the Steppingstone **Tailgate Party** on Wednesday, November 9 at 6:00 p.m. at The Charles Hotel. The Tailgate Party will feature **Bruce J. Breimer**, Director of College Guidance at Collegiate School in New York. For more information on attending the Tailgate Party or if you would like to be a patron, please contact Alyssa Zink at azink@tsf.org or (617) 423-6300, ext. 237.

ACADEMY NINE: 21 REASONS TO BE INSPIRED

Within the first two weeks of Academy Nine classes, the 21 rising eighth graders in the program's pilot class were beginning to feel the heat of their decisions to sacrifice plans to play baseball and hang out with friends in favor of a full schedule of classes in writing, reading comprehension, algebra, and test preparation.

But if they want to "Dream It/Do It," the Academy Nine mantra, they have no time to waste. Academy Nine Scholars recruited in seventh grade for placement in ninth grade will have to push themselves during the 14-month academic program, which includes classes for two summers and after school for one academic year, to prepare for admission to top independent and public exam schools.

Inspired by William Fitzsimmons, Harvard College Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid, who addressed the Scholars



William Fitzsimmons, Harvard College Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid, at the launch of Academy Nine

at the program's launch in July, the Scholars attended classes all day and had up to two hours of homework each night. The Scholars' commitment and drive are what impress Michael Brennan, Director of Admissions at Boston College High School, most in a candidate. "Any student who is willing to take on extra work and has the desire is half way there."

By that measure, Academy Nine Scholar

John Arias is right on track. "By the end, I want to get into a really good high school and from there get into a good college," he says. In the meantime, he is enjoying reading and discussing *Lord of the Flies* with his classmates.

The Steppingstone model—14 months of academic preparation, assistance with all aspects of the placement process, followed by comprehensive support services through high school—is intense but effective. "I've seen programs that are like Steppingstone but less well defined," says Steppingstone teacher Jack Phillips, who teaches at the Commonwealth School during the academic year. As the Scholars extend themselves to meet the program's academic challenges, the next year may end up being one these young people will never forget.

Founded in 1990, The Steppingstone Foundation is a non-profit organization that develops and implements programs which prepare urban schoolchildren for educational opportunities that lead to college. The Steppingstone Academy in Boston and The Scholars Program in Philadelphia have prepared children who wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity to get into and succeed at top independent and public exam schools. Steppingstone programs emphasize rigorous standards and achieve meaningful results.

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Scholar Commencement 2005



“Steppingstone’s commitment to the Scholars is unbelievable. Steppingstone is like a second mom once they send you off to your new schools.”



“Steppingstone is where everything began for me. All of my accomplishments throughout the years trace back to Steppingstone.”



- Jemea Goso '98
Commencement Speaker

For more information about Steppingstone,
you can reach us at

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CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2005

Scholars who completed Steppingstone's 14-month academic program in 1999 started college this fall at the following schools:

Babson College	Massachusetts College of Art
Barnard College	Massachusetts College of Pharmacy
Boston College (3)	Northeastern University
Boston University	Pine Manor College
Bowdoin College (2)	Rochester Institute of Technology
Bridgewater State	Spelman College
Bunker Hill Community College	Suffolk University
Curry College	Syracuse University
Dartmouth College	Temple University
Denison University	University of Massachusetts, Amherst (3)
Duke University	University of Massachusetts, Boston (2)
Fordham University	University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth
George Washington University	University of Miami
Hamilton College	University of Pennsylvania
Hampton College	University of Richmond
Hobart College	University of Vermont
Holy Cross College (2)	Wesleyan University (2)