

Steppingstone Founder Michael Danziger joined several New York-based Alumni Scholars for an evening of reminiscing about the past and looking forward to the future. As he soon found out, these Boston transplants have come a long way.

**Michael Danziger:** It's so nice to all be together here in New York City—It's exciting that you all live and work here! Tell me what you are doing in New York.

**Jamilah Ryan:** I work in East Harlem, teaching sixth graders math and science. I also direct dance, advise, and serve as a research coach for the Robotics team!

**Alisha Crutchfield:** I started two companies, Style Wise, a fashion styling company, and Mogul Impact, a talent booking agency. I travel all over the world, working with celebrities and TV personalities.

**Marcus Haymon:** I just returned from serving in the Peace Corp in Morocco. Service is a priority

of mine because I understand its importance in our society and can attest to how much just a few people can change the lives of so many others. I hope that I too can have the type of impact on others that Steppingstone has had on my life.

**Eric Andrew:** I currently run my own real estate development company, Enterprise Community Developers, that focuses on affordable housing development. Recently, I've also launched a credit counseling platform designed to aid families having difficulty maneuvering the sub-prime mortgage loan modification process.

**Dane Brown:** I work at Western Middle School in Greenwich, Connecticut, as a school counselor. I also coach varsity football at Greenwich High School, coach basketball at the middle school and high school levels as well as facilitate a Young Men's Group. I work with the students in my group on how to handle the demands of life and what is expected of them as they grow into men. I also try to show them how important it is to get a quality education so that they have more opportunities in life.

# Big Apple Scholars

Eric Andrew '94

Steppingstone Board member and event host John Weinberg

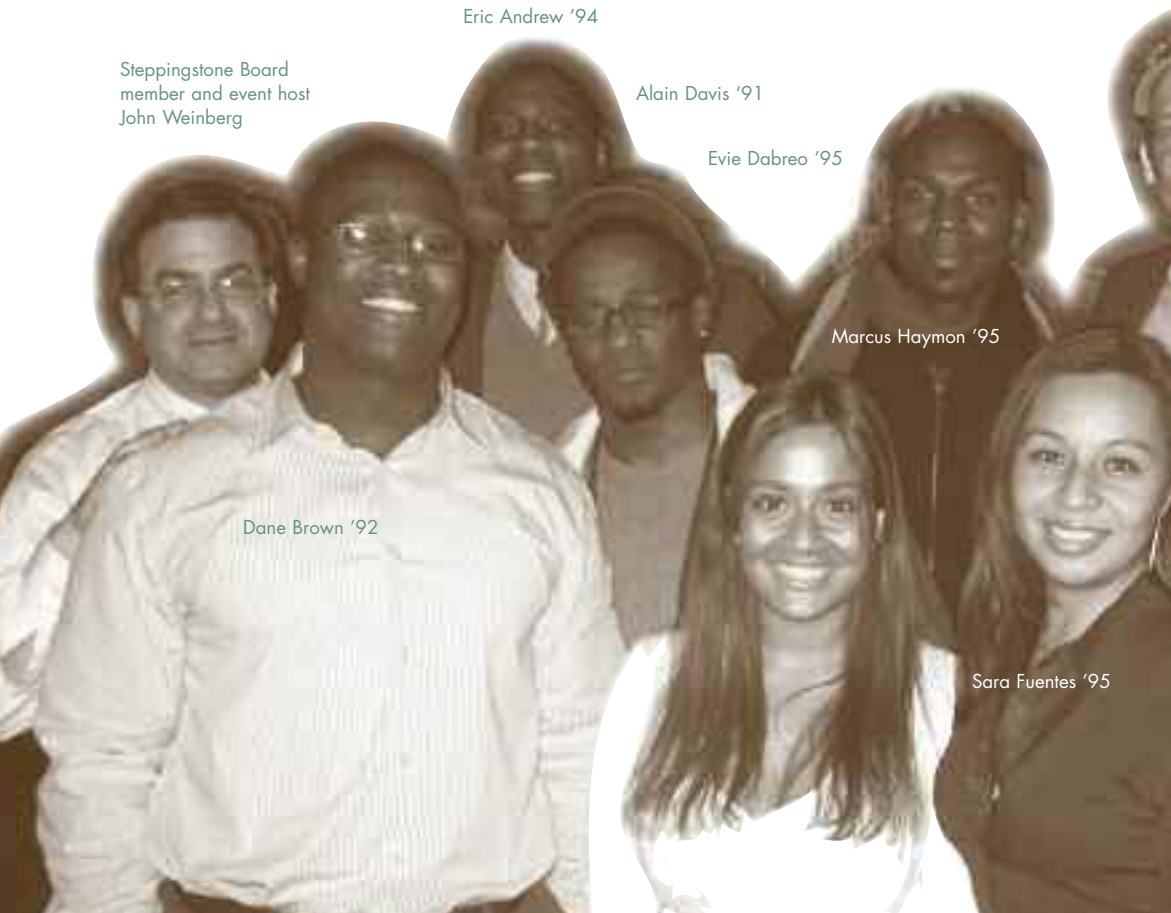
Alain Davis '91

Evie Dabreo '95

Marcus Haymon '95

Dane Brown '92

Sara Fuentes '95



Interviewed for this article:

**Diane Adjtey**  
Steppingstone Class of 1996  
Newton Country Day School '02  
Fordham University '06

**Eric Andrew**  
Steppingstone Class of 1994  
Beaver Country Day School '00  
Columbia University '04

**Dane Brown**  
Steppingstone Class of 1992  
Thayer Academy '98  
Springfield College '02  
Springfield College Graduate  
School of Education, M. Ed '04

**Alisha Crutchfield**  
Steppingstone Class of 1995  
Noble and Greenough '01  
Columbia University '05

**Evie Dabreo**  
Steppingstone Class of 1992  
BB&N '98  
University of Massachusetts,  
Amherst '02

**Sara Fuentes**  
Steppingstone Class of 1995  
BB&N '01  
Tufts University '05  
Columbia University, Mailman  
School of Public Health, M.P.H.  
expected '09

**Marcus Haymon**  
Steppingstone Class of 1995  
Noble and Greenough '01  
Yale University '05

**Jamilah Ryan**  
Steppingstone Class of 1995  
Milton Academy '01  
Harvard College '05  
Fordham University Graduate  
School of Education M.Ed '07

**Danziger:** Wow! I am so impressed by all of you. Do you think there are lessons that you learned at Steppingstone that you have brought to your professional life?

**Brown:** From going to school full-time and then attending Steppingstone I learned how to deal with a heavy load of work and many responsibilities at one time.

**Ryan:** I believe that most important, being a Steppingstone Scholar taught me how to prioritize the activities in my life so that I could make the most out of what I do. My interests have always been wide and varied. In my placement school, I became involved in as many organizations, events, and activities as possible. I wanted to be well-rounded, but I also wanted to challenge myself and try things that I ordinarily wouldn't have tried. I have transferred this thirst to be involved to my adult life, in which I wear many hats as a professional.

**Danziger:** You guys are doing such amazing and interesting things. Is this where you pictured yourself back when you were just starting Steppingstone in fifth grade?

**Andrew:** If I remember correctly, I wanted to be a "scientist" or a "business man," so running my own business means I'm half way there.

**Sara Fuentes:** I am a Masters in Public Health student at Columbia, concentrating in Reproductive and Family Health. This is not where I saw myself!

**Evie Dabreo:** In fifth grade I'm not sure what I thought I'd be doing. I think I wanted to be a writer—and I still do! [NOTE: *Evie was just admitted to a master's program at Columbia School of Journalism.*]

**Crutchfield:** No, but by seventh grade I knew that my experiences at Steppingstone were gearing me up for a very successful career.

**Danziger:** So, you are not all doing exactly what you thought—but you all followed big dreams that started when you were only 10 years old. What would you tell fifth graders who are considering becoming a Steppingstone Scholar?

**Crutchfield:** Do it! Do it! Do it! You won't regret the experience. When I was a Steppingstone Scholar, I would not always want to go class on the weekends, but my mom would always encourage me to keep going, and I am so glad I did!

**Haymon:** This works and is absolutely worth the time and effort. I always reflect on my time as a Steppingstone Scholar with tremendous pride and appreciation.

**Sara Fuentes:** Steppingstone is an incredibly supportive and inspiring network that helps guides you along your educational road.

**Diane Adjtey:** That they should definitely consider it because can put them on the path to a successful life.

**Dabreo:** I would tell them that it is an investment in their future, and worth more than they could ever imagine. And to do their homework!

**Danziger:** You all have come so far since you started Steppingstone many years ago. You have accomplished so much already, I can't wait to see where you will be next time we meet up. Thank so much for getting together with me.

## Dancing through the Snow

The Crystal Ball had another successful year with over 530 people gathering at the gorgeous Four Seasons Hotel Boston to celebrate Winter Wonderland.



Top: **James and Kerrie Coughlin.**  
Below, left to right: **James Lipscomb, Lauren Phelan Lipscomb, Peter Lacaille, Marjorie Guglielmo, Kate Lubin, and Glen Sutton.**

Champagne reception attendees, including committee members **Jen Berylson, Brooke and Charles Kavogian, Lauren and James Lipscomb, Caroline Curtis** and **Ayres Heller**, got a chance to mingle while sipping champagne donated by **Barefoot Wine & Bubbly**. We are especially grateful for the generous support of our sponsors: Lead Sponsor **Fidelity Prime Services**; Corporate Sponsors **Barefoot Wine & Bubbly, IlexDesigns** and Event Sponsors **Kate Lubin and Glen Sutton**. With their support, the event raised over \$128,000 for Steppingstone.

# Stepping Out

Come on down!

The Steppingstone Foundation's Game Show Gala was held on November 5, 2008 at the Charles Hotel. With the help of Honorary Chairs **Karen and Brian Conway** as well as co-chairs **Kate and Chuck Brizius, Isabelle and Ian Loring, and Christina Wing-O'Donnell and Tad O'Donnell**, the event raised close to \$500,000. Steppingstone Founder **Michael Danziger** not only served as emcee and auctioneer, but game show host as well, leading Scholars and attendees through our own "Are You Smarter Than a Steppingstone Scholar?" (Survey says: No!)

The gala auction also featured the second Steppingstone Salon and raised \$110,000. The Steppingstone Salon is a series of five lunches with leaders from the worlds of finance, politics, entertainment, sports, education, and fashion. This year's Salon series features **Maureen Chiquet**, CEO of Chanel; **Senator Christopher Dodd**, Chair of the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee; **Theo Epstein**, General Manager of The Red Sox; **Peter and Bobby Farrelly**, movie directors and producers; and **John Katzman**, founder of The Princeton Review, Inc.

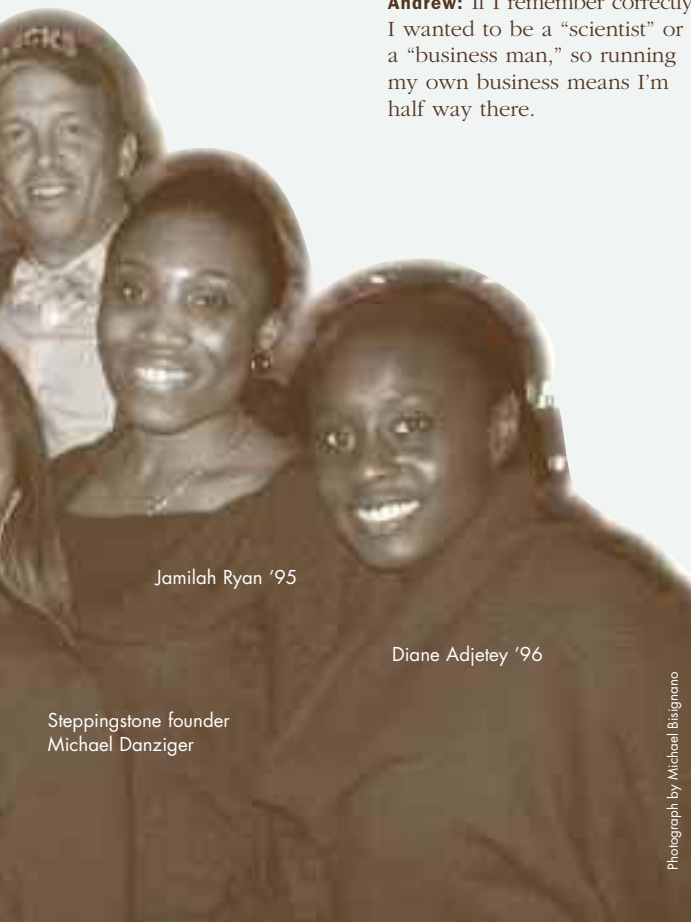
Photographs by Karen Snyder Photography



At last year's Salon luncheon with culinary experts **Michael Schlow** and **Ming Tsai**, one attendee asked Ming to describe his favorite late-night snack. His answer: Ramen noodles! However, he did admit to adding his own ingredients to "spice it up," such as apples, pears, and various spices.

## Hit the Links!

The seventh annual **Steppingstone Golf Classic** will take place on Monday, June 29 at the Concord Country Club. It promises to be a fun day out on the green, so swing on over. Please contact Jessica Hyde at [JHyde@tsf.org](mailto:JHyde@tsf.org) for more information about this event.



Jamilah Ryan '95

Diane Adjtey '96

Steppingstone founder  
Michael Danziger

Photograph by Michael Bisignano



# Making a Connection:

## A conversation with Alice & Tien

"I truly have enjoyed volunteering with Steppingstone and never thought I'd be involved with mentoring for as long as I have." It's been six years since a colleague introduced Alice Beltran to The Steppingstone Academy's mentoring program, and for the last five years she has been mentor and friend to Steppingstone Scholar and Boston Latin Academy junior, Tien Le '04.

Alice and her family moved to Connecticut from Puerto Rico when she was seven years old. When she reached high school, she attended an Upward Bound Program and says it was the catalyst to her commitment to helping young people. "I owe my accomplishments in school and in my career to the Upward Bound program, and I always knew that I wanted to give something back," she says. The Steppingstone mentoring program provided an opportunity to do just that.

Mentors provide a valuable service to Steppingstone Scholars. During Saturday Mentoring and Study Hall (SMASH), which takes place on Saturday mornings at Boston Latin Academy, they provide assistance with homework and other classwork along with being a source of support to Scholars. Typically they meet once or twice a month and are in contact through email or by phone once a week.

Tien laughs as she recalls her first mentoring session with Alice. "During my first year at Boston Latin Academy, I asked Alice to review my history term paper. I'll never forget the look on her face as she read the paper." Tien goes on to say, "She said it was too long and not written very well—however, she said it in a much kinder, gentler fashion. Alice helped me edit the paper, identify the

mistakes, and from then on, I made an effort to improve my writing skills. I received a 100 on that paper."

On another occasion, Tien was working on a ninth-grade science fair project and found the prospect of writing a five-page abstract very intimidating; she didn't know where to begin. "Alice spent so much time helping me organize my ideas and encouraging me. When I had to do it again the following year, I applied all that she had taught me. I was able to complete it by myself, and my project was entered in the citywide science fair."

Alice, who works at First Marblehead Education Resources as a Senior Human Resources Generalist, is a sports enthusiast and often spends her free time running, playing soccer, rock climbing, and skiing. However, mentoring really gives her the most satisfaction. "Mentoring provides you with the opportunity to make a one-on-one connection with a Scholar. It's been particularly rewarding to see Tien grow, mature, and become her own person."

Tien will graduate from Boston Latin Academy next year and hopes to attend an Ivy League school. Her plan is to major in biochemistry, and she is also thinking about graduate school, although she realizes that may change. One thing she definitely knows: "Alice has been an amazing and constant source of support, whether she's helping me figure out a really complicated word problem or attending one of my piano recitals. She's not only my mentor, she's my friend and an important part of my life."

For more information on becoming a Steppingstone Mentor, please contact Jessica Greenberg at 617-423-6300, ext. 249 or [jgreenberg@tsf.org](mailto:jgreenberg@tsf.org).

The following Steppingstone Scholars have achieved honor roll this year:

**Atlantic Middle School**  
Refjola Malushi '07

**Belmont Hill School**  
Agazi Desta '05  
Trent Jones '06

**Boston College High School**  
David Paradela '06

**Boston Collegiate**  
Jade Rivera '08

**Boston Latin Academy**  
Stephane Alexandre '07  
Louise Barias '08  
Abigail Beaumont '07  
Yvesha Bellvue '06  
Raju Buchan '06  
Andres Cardona '06  
Kevin Chan '08  
Damian Cruz '08  
Sara Ann Dartley '07  
Faetitia Desamours '06  
Erwin Fuentes '07

**Boston Latin Academy**  
Natalia Greenidge '06  
Angelina Hua '08  
John Le '08  
Simon Ngo '06  
Barbara Okafor '06  
Victoria Okafor '08  
Gared Paul '08  
Graciela Pena '07  
Christopher Perez '08  
Ariel Pineda '06  
Melissa Rodriguez '06  
Blondin St. Juscme '08  
Carlana Teixeira '06  
Stephane Thermora '06  
Kelly Tice '06  
Mandy Yun '07

**Boston Latin School**  
Winnie Chen '04  
Elisa Cheng '03  
Carol Ma '04

**Boston Trinity Academy**  
Aliyah Harris '06

**Coakley Middle School**  
Blake Fitzgerald '07

**The Dexter School**  
Arnaldo Dos Santos '04

**Kent Hill School**  
Matthew Hayes '04

**Noble & Greenough School**  
Vinesha Baker '03  
Melissa Centeno '02

**John D. O'Bryant School**  
Shirley Bang '08  
Toan Dao '07  
Rusheika Gordon '08  
Genesis Guerrero '08  
Andrea Novelle-Ruddy '08  
Dominic Sobrecarey '08

**Pollard Middle School**  
Vanessa Rodriguez '06

**The Southfield School**  
Alanna Monahan '02  
Ashley Santelises '08  
Rahiel Tazele '03

**Taber Academy**  
Jamiesha Moore '05

**TechBoston Academy**  
Natasha Nurse '05

**Thayer Academy**  
Jih-Chieh Yun '08  
Najat Goso '07  
Olivia Lau '06  
Richard Nguyen '06  
Tina Tran '08

Last summer, Boston Latin Academy's **Maya Saunders '07** took part in the Community Voices program, which incorporates the arts into health care advocacy. Students from across Boston used pictures and stories to talk about the state of health care in the city. Maya's project focused on the prevalence of fast food restaurants and their connection to diabetes.

Congratulations to **Agnes Gakpo '03** (O'Bryant) and **Elyas Harris '03** (Boston Arts Academy) who have both won prestigious POSSE Scholarships. Agnes will be attending Centre College in Danville, Kentucky and Elyas will attend Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania.

## Scholarly Achievements

**CJ Masdea '07** and **Jenny Fang '08** and their Boston University Academy Science Team are in first place out of 16 schools in the Western Suburban Science League. They competed in four events, some lab-based and some test-based.

**Carmelle Fedillaga '06** performed in a production of "Beauty and the Beast" at Thayer Academy.

**Sara Ann Dartley '07** of Boston Latin Academy was a Counselor-in-Training last summer at the South End Music Camp, guiding groups of younger kids in arts and crafts and learning songs.



Shamae Burrell '07 with WBZ-TV's Mish Michaels

Newton Country Day School's, **Shamae Burrell '07**, and her Steppingstone Advisor, **Nina Sheff**, recently visited WBZ-TV's studio to attend a live weather broad-

cast by meteorologist Mish Michaels. After the broadcast, Shamae talked about her seventh grade science project which tested the temperature's effect on wind direction, and showed Ms. Michaels the instruments that she created herself to test her hypothesis.

Brockton High School's **Shatyra Byson '03** was awarded The John & Abigail Adams Scholarship, a four-year tuition scholarship to any University of Massachusetts.

Beaver Country Day School's **Vanessa Lecky '06** traveled to China with **Danielle Bynoe '04** where they visited cities, explored old temples, and climbed the Great Wall of China. They also attended the National Young Leaders' Conference in Washington, D.C., participating in activities and seminars and meeting with guest speakers.

**Alexander Johnson '06** of Roxbury Prep Charter School was selected as a Jack Kent Cooke Scholar. The scholarships are designed to encourage and support outstanding students from seventh grade through graduate school.

Congratulations to **Tai Nguyen '03**, **Anthony Yee '03** and **Gloria Ojimba '04** of Boston Latin School who were accepted into the Eastern District Senior Festival.

**Melissa Centeno '02** is a member of Greensleeves, a female a capella singing group at Noble and Greenough School. Greensleeves sings the national anthem at a Celtics game each year. Also at Nobles, **Adriana Ureña '05** performed in the winter production of "Reckless" this year.



Adriana Ureña '05 (left) in "Reckless"

## A College Access Convening

The National Partnership for Educational Access Conference, Collaborating for Success: Promoting Educational Access, April 30-May 1, 2009.

An initiative of The Steppingstone Foundation, NPEA is a membership association for programs committed to increasing educational opportunities for motivated underserved students across the United States. Member organizations demonstrate a commitment to educational access by providing underrepresented students with academic preparation, placement services and counseling, and ongoing support to ensure enrollment at and graduation from four-year colleges.

## NPEA Annual Conference April 30-May 1, 2009

Keynote Speakers:

**Thomas H. Parker**, Dean of Admission and Financial Aid, Amherst College

**Ron Fairchild**, Executive Director of the National Center for Summer Learning

**Rick Weissbourd**, Lecturer at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and the Kennedy School of Government

**Dr. Ronald Ferguson**, Co-Chair and Director of the Achievement Gap Initiative at Harvard University.

For more information and to register, please visit: [www.educational-access.org](http://www.educational-access.org). Questions? Please contact Karin Elliott at (617) 423-6300 x284 or [kelliott@tsf.org](mailto:kelliott@tsf.org).

## NPEA Partners with Princeton Review

The National Partnership for Educational Access (NPEA) recently joined forces with The Princeton Review, Inc. to provide reduced-rate test preparation to students participating in NPEA member programs. The partnership, coordinated by The Princeton Review Foundation, will help underrepresented students gain access to services such as SAT classroom and online instruction, PSAT classroom courses, and free college seminars for students and parents.

"We are thrilled to have forged this relationship with The Princeton Review," said Karin Elliott, Director of NPEA. "This partnership gives us an opportunity to reach thousands of students and helps increase educational access across the country."

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. Based on the premise that, regardless of circumstance, children can achieve at high levels academically if given the proper preparation and support, Steppingstone programs emphasize rigorous standards and achieve meaningful results.

Steppingstone programs include: The Steppingstone Academy, Boston; Steppingstone Scholars, Inc., Philadelphia; The Steppingstone Academy, Hartford; and National Partnership for Educational Access.

For more information about Steppingstone, please contact us at 155 Federal St., Suite 800, Boston MA 02110 (617) 423-6300 [www.tsf.org](http://www.tsf.org).

*This Spring*  
**Inside:**



# Steppingstone



Shamae Burrell '07 talks weather with  
WBZ-TV's Mish Michaels

Ming Tsai launches the Steppingstone  
Salon with fellow restaurateur,  
Michael Schlow.

We're teeing up for the seventh annual  
Steppingstone Golf Classic on June 29!

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