

# Steppingstone

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**Leadership Conference**  
*A resounding success*

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## SPRING NEWSLETTER 2007

### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Reporting on Steppingstone activities used to mean summarizing what was happening with the Scholars in Boston who were preparing to get into and succeed as seventh graders at their new schools. Now, when someone asks how things are going at Steppingstone, the response is: “Which program? Which city?”

In Boston alone, we plan on accepting over 170 Scholars this spring into three different divisions of The Steppingstone Academy. Academy Six prepares Scholars for placement into independent schools in sixth grade. Academy Seven, our biggest, prepares Scholars for seventh-grade placement at independent and public exam schools. Finally, our newest initiative, Academy Nine, prepares Scholars for entry in ninth grade at independent, public exam, and boarding schools. Each division has its own faculty and curriculum, but all three share the commitment to demanding content and rigorous standards that have been Steppingstone hallmarks since its founding.

**“It’s exciting to try something new, and we are confident in the prospects . . .”**

At Steppingstone Scholars, Inc., in Philadelphia, we are thrilled to welcome a new president, Nina Weisbord. Steppingstone Scholars, Inc., will serve over 225 Scholars in grades six through 12 this year. The second class of Scholars, who completed the 14-month academic component in



2000, will graduate from high school in May, and the Scholars are achieving at high levels at their placement schools.

Our newest city is Hartford, which will admit its pilot class of 30 Scholars this spring. Tim Goodwin and his staff have generated a great deal of interest in the program, and the board includes the mayor, several school heads, and the president of Trinity College. The energy is amazing, and the potential is boundless.

Finally, we are launching a nationwide coalition of programs like Steppingstone in order to share resources, best practices, and elevate the field of college access. Unlike the preparatory programs in Philadelphia and Hartford, this will be a new undertaking for Steppingstone. It’s exciting to try something new, and we are confident in the prospects because this endeavor is rooted in 17 years of experience and a firm desire to share and learn from others.

There is so much going at Steppingstone. It is our hope is that through these efforts, we can help more children.

*Michael Danziger is the president of The Steppingstone Foundation.*

## LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

On Saturday, February 2, the Steppingstone support services department held a half-day conference for Scholars and families at Boston Latin Academy. More than 125 Scholars and parents/guardians showed up to listen to keynote speaker Wil Smith and participate in workshops focused on leadership development.

Families first gathered in the gym—along with all the Scholars currently completing the 14-month preparation component to listen to a riveting presentation by Wil Smith, Director of Multicultural Student Programs at Bowdoin College in Maine. Mr. Smith, whose leadership as an undergraduate at Bowdoin led to the establishment of the annual Wil Smith Community Service Award, shared his personal journey in the pursuit of higher education—as a 27-year-old college



Wil Smith delivering his keynote address

student, single dad, and Gulf War veteran. He also spoke about his current job working with minority student leaders at his alma mater.

Scholars and family members then chose to attend two workshops among eight choices. Topics ranged from civic engagement and school diversity, to interview skills and

college admission decisions.

Scholars left the conference with a host of skills and information, including tips for acing an interview, suggestions for how to initiate important conversations about diversity, and information on finding and choosing worthwhile summer opportunities.



Scholars and parents at the Summer Opportunities workshop

## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

### The Gala

The Steppingstone Gala's 10th Reunion was held on November 1, 2006 at The Charles Hotel. Co-chaired by **Karen and Brian Conway** ("Most School Spirit"), **Allison and Edward Johnson** ("Most Artistic"), and **Christina Wing-O'Donnell and Thomas O'Donnell** ("Best Personality"), the event raised over \$435,000 for Steppingstone. Gala attendees **Joanna Jacobson** ("Most Intelligent"), **Nancy and Dick Friedman** ("Most Likely to Be Famous"), and **Tim and Kathryn Conway** ("Most Likely to Succeed") enjoyed



Gala keynote speaker Tom Parker with Steppingstone President Michael Danziger

the antics of Steppingstone auctioneer and president, **Michael Danziger** ("Worst Case of Senioritis"). Speakers included **Tom Parker**, Amherst College's Dean of Admission and Financial Aid, Alumna Scholar **Mariel Novas '00**, a graduate of Noble & Greenough who is currently a freshman at Yale, and **Miguel Ureñas**, father of Adriana who attends Noble & Greenough School.

### Crystal Ball

Led by veteran co-chairs **Jen Berylson** and **Natasha Velickovic '91**, the Crystal Ball had another successful year, with over 400 people gathering at the new InterContinental Hotel. Champagne Reception attendees, including committee members **Kate Lubin** and **Glen Sutton**, **Gord and Tania Kluzak**, and committee members **Stefanie** and **Reis Alford**, got a glimpse of the future from the psychic readers before heading onto the dance floor. We are so grateful for the generous support of our sponsors: Lead Sponsor **Fidelity Prime Services**; Champagne Reception Sponsors **Goldman Sachs & Co.** and **Jim and Kim Pallotta**; and Event Sponsors

**Citizens Bank Foundation**, **The First Marblehead Foundation for Education**, and **Wells Fargo Foothill**. With their support, the event raised over \$130,000 for Steppingstone.



Left to right: Bill Macaluso of Fidelity Prime Services and Amy Driscoll and Amy Baxter of Fidelity Community Relations

### Fore!

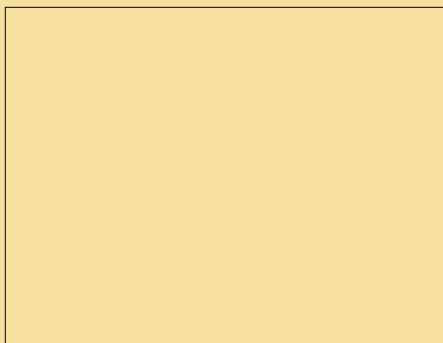
The fifth annual Steppingstone Golf Classic will take place on Monday, July 16 at the Concord Country Club. Co-Chaired by **James Wolfsberg** and **Michael Pehl**, it promises to be a fun day out on this Donald Ross designed course!

## SCHOLARLY ACHIEVEMENTS

**Chimaobi Chukwu '01** of St. Sebastian's was recognized as a Commended Student in the National Achievement Scholarship Program (NASP). The NASP is a branch of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, "initiated in 1964 specifically to honor academically promising Black American high school students." Chimaobi placed in the top five percent of the more than 130,000 Black Americans who requested consideration in the competition.

Boston Latin Academy's **Max Clermont '01** was elected president of his school's National Honor Society.

Boston Latin Academy's **Anthony Mathieu '01** gave the welcome address at the Nellie Mae Education Foundation's conference "Room at the Top: High Achievement for Students of Color."



Anthony with Blenda Wilson, president of the Nellie Mae Education Foundation

Boston Latin School's **Shawn Le '01** and **Stephany Munoz '02** were awarded the Modern Award, which goes to one student in each homeroom who has the highest record in English, math, science, Modern Language, and history. Shawn has also been accepted, early decision, to Harvard College.

**Ebele Anidi '02** and **Kyle Layne-Allen '03** of Boston Latin School are members of the school's JV basketball team.



Ebele Anidi with Greg Hampton, Steppingstone's Support Service Associate, at a recent basketball game at Boston Latin School

### Alumni Achievements

**Vivian Ng, Class of 1997**, is currently doing an eight-week surgical internship in Sydney, Australia. Vivian is assisting the Chairman of Orthopedic Surgery at Sydney Hospital and has been helping during operations. Vivian has also been able to travel throughout Australia.

**Martina Durant, Class of 1999**, was recently inducted to the Honors College at Hampton University. The focus of the Honors College is the development of intellectual, ethical leadership skills and creating a learning community.

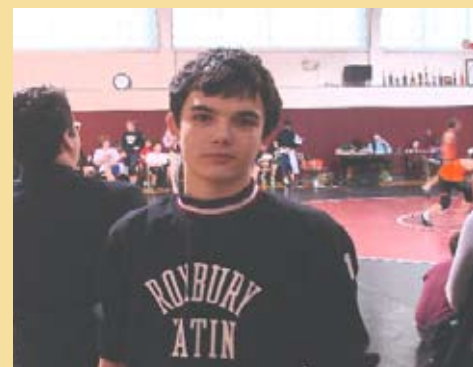
**Adilia James, Class of 1997**, a senior at Wellesley College, was recently accepted into a Ph.D. program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Adilia will be pursuing a doctorate in educational policy and plans to focus on "the inequalities faced by African-American students in public school systems."

**Tiago Barros '03** of Roxbury Latin School was accepted to the *People to People* Leadership Summit, to be held this summer in Los Angeles, CA. At the summit, Tiago will join "outstanding student leaders from around the globe to focus on leadership, team building, community service, college admissions, and professional aspirations."

Dana Hall's **Tatianna Witter '04** has been invited to the National Junior Leaders Conference in recognition of her academic excellence, extracurricular involvement, and leadership potential.

**Natiah Camillo, Reilly McDonnell, and Chimobi Nwankwo**, all Class of 2005, performed in the Beaver Country Day School's middle school play, "The Lion King."

Roxbury Latin's **Bence Budavari '05** and **Nelson Tamayo '05** are members of the school's soccer team. Bence is also a member of the wrestling team.



Bence Budavari at a wrestling match at Roxbury Latin School

**Alexander Johnson '06** of Roxbury Preparatory School received the co-director award, which is given to the student with a straight A average.

**David Paradela '06** was the seventh-grade co-champion at the annual Dedham Country Day School Geography Bee.

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, Steppingstone Scholars, Inc., in Philadelphia , and The Steppingstone Academy Hartford prepare children who wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity to get into and succeed at top college-preparatory schools. Steppingstone programs emphasize rigorous standards and achieve meaningful results.

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### SAVE THE DATE

THE STEPPINGSTONE GOLF CLASSIC

THE CONCORD COUNTRY CLUB

CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS

**JULY 16, 2007**



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Michael Pehl

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Scott Friend  
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To sponsor a foursome or to receive more information about The Steppingstone Golf Classic, please contact Jessica Lockwood at [jlockwood@tsf.org](mailto:jlockwood@tsf.org) or 617-423-6300, ext. 237.