

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 Steppingstone Scholars, Inc. 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.

THE  
**Steppingstone**  
FOUNDATION

155 Federal Street, Suite 800, Boston, MA 02110

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Scholars who completed Steppingstone's 14-month academic program in 2000 started college this fall at the following schools:*

Agnes Scott College	Middlebury College
Berklee College of Music	New York University
Boston College (4)	Northeastern University (7)
Boston University	Regis College
Brandeis University	Salem State College
Brown University (5)	Simmons College
Citadel Military College	Stanford University
Columbia College, South Carolina	Trinity College, CT
Curry College	University of Massachusetts, Amherst (2)
Fisk University	University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth
George Washington University	University of Massachusetts, Lowell
Georgia Institute of Technology	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Gordon College	Union College
Hamilton College (2)	University of Hawaii, Manoa
Harvard College	University of New Hampshire
Husson College	Utica College
Johnson & Wales University (2)	Wentworth Institute of Technology (2)
Massachusetts Bay Community College	Yale College
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy (2)	

**COMING THIS FALL . . .**

*Steppingstone launches a newly revised website.*

It's easy to navigate, functional, and has all the bells and whistles including: Alumni profiles, streaming video, on-line donations, events calendar, and more at the touch of your finger.

*Log onto [www.tsf.org](http://www.tsf.org) and become a part of Steppingstone's virtual community.*

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FALL NEWSLETTER 2006

**LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT**



Over the course of the year, Steppingstone staff members sometimes find themselves occupied by activities that seem unrelated to the organization's end goal of helping motivated Boston students get on the path to college. Be it budget meetings, data entry, or endless mailings, the mission can get lost in the many details of the program's day-to-day operations.

However, on days like August 17 of this year, the mission is front and center, and it is abundantly clear why everyone at Steppingstone works as hard as they do. On that day, 122 Steppingstone Scholars—including the pilot class of Academy Nine Scholars—walked across the stage at the Kresge Auditorium at MIT and received their diplomas. Hundreds of

friends and family cheered the Scholars on as they celebrated the completion of 14-months of hard work.

Words can't come close to describing the atmosphere of hope, promise, and commitment that filled Kresge last month. I wish all of you who read this newsletter, many of whom have been so instrumental in making our mission a reality, could have been there. Like everyone else in the auditorium, I was filled with awe and pride. Awe, in realizing how much work the Scholars had done at such a young age. And pride in this organization that supports the Scholars and their families through a daunting but ultimately life-transforming process.

In September, the Class of 2007 embarks on the academic-year portion of the 14-month program. Thanks to so many of you who support Steppingstone's mission financially or by giving generously of your time and effort, these Scholars will walk across the Kresge stage next August as hundreds of others raise the roof in celebration.

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

**CALENDAR**

**November 2006**  
Enjoy a decade's worth of fun at **The Steppingstone Gala's Ten Year Reunion** on November 1 at the Charles Hotel. Amherst College Dean of Admission Tom Parker is the keynote speaker.

**Putting Scholars to the Test**  
In November, Scholars will take the **Independent School Entrance Exam**, a key component of independent and public exam school admissions.

**Spring 2007 Golf Classic**  
Join in on the fun and lend a swing to help raise money to support Steppingstone. Enjoy raffles, games, and more!

*For more information about Steppingstone events, please contact Jess Lockwood at 617-423-6300, ext. 237 or by email at [jlockwood@tsf.org](mailto:jlockwood@tsf.org).*

Steppingstone

## SCHOLARLY ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to **ADILIA JAMES '97** who was invited to speak at the Park School Commencement Ceremony in June. Adilia graduated from Park in 2000, attended Buckingham, Browne and Nichols School, and is currently a senior at Wellesley College majoring in sociology.

Adilia is not the only Scholar to speak at a Park graduation; in 2003, **CARLOS CASTILLO '94** had the honor. Carlos also attended BB & N after Park and recently graduated from Tufts University.



Adilia James '97 at the podium at the Park School Graduation

**CHUKS EKWELUM '00** of Belmont Hill School won the Woodbury Public Speaking Prize.

Thayer Academy's **KEANNA HAGOOD '00** graduated as a member of the Cum Laude Society.

**NYADENYA INYAGWA '00** won the B Flats Award for his involvement and singing in the a cappella group at Belmont Hill School.



Nyadenya Inyagwa '00

**MARIEL NOVAS '00** was awarded the Nash Prize, given to a person who best demonstrates executive ability. She also received the Volkmann Medal Award in French at Noble and Greenough School. She is currently a freshman at Yale College.



Mariel Novas '00

The Russell B. Stearns Achievement Award for scholastic excellence, distinction of character, a sense of responsibility and devotion to duty, and evidence of a strong promise of leadership went to **FELIPE PIMENTEL '00** of Noble and Greenough School. Felipe is currently a freshman at Stanford University.

**MARIAAH WILLIAMS '00** of Newton Country Day School received her high school diploma with Honors, a Graduation Prize in Science, Senior Project Honors and a Prize in AP Spanish. Mariaah is a freshman at Fisk University.

Boston Latin School's **KHUE NGUYEN '01** was hard at work at the State House over the summer as a public service intern offered through the Ward Fellowship. As an intern with Governor Mitt Romney, Khue worked as a member of the External Relations office where she handled constituent calls, archived the governor's letters, and had the chance to meet with many public service officials from all levels of government. The experience must have made a big impression on Khue; she plans to pursue a career in public service in the future.

Most Improved Player Award for Varsity baseball at Derby Academy went to **JELANI JOHNSON '03**.

**NIK MEDRANO '03** presented the eighth grade gift to Thayer Academy during Recognition Day ceremony last June. He also earned All-Year High Effort and Achievement Honors for the 2005-2006 academic year.

Dana Hall's **ATTIYAH SABIR '03** participated in the Faith Quills Project, which promotes religious diversity, and received Cum Laude recognition on the National Latin Exam.

**ELVIS LARA '04** of the Meadowbrook School received a Silver Medal on the National Latin Exam.

**BRITTANY REID '05** earned the seventh grade award for greatest academic improvement at Noble and Greenough School.

## HONOR ROLL

The following Scholars made honor roll last spring.

**EMEKA EKWELUM '02** of Belmont Hill School.

Boston Latin School's **DUC DOAN '01**, **LAURIE TSUI '01**, **CHRISTINA SIMPSON '02**, **ELISA CHENG '03**, **AMANDA YU '04**, **CAMLINH TO '04**, **SANDY LIAN '05**, and **FELICCO TONY '05**.

Dana Hall School's **TATIANA BARROS '01**, **CATHERINE LAFFERTY '02**, **MICHELLE LAFFERTY '02**, **LEA TZIGIZIS '02**, **MARIANNA LAFFERTY '04**, **HELENA SUAREZ '04**, **TATIANNA WITTER '04**, **ALEJANDRA BÁEZ '05**, and **YESENIA HERRERA '05**.

Derby Academy's **TIAGO BARROS '03**, **MABEL LEE '05**, and **JAMELIA WILLOCK '05**.

**BRIDGET KOSTIGEN '04** and **VANESSA RIVERA '05** of Newton Country Day School.

John D. O'Bryant School's **DARAIHA GREENE '02**, **LUIS SIGARAN '03**, **CHRISTIN OBIERIKA '04**, and **YARITZA PENA '05**.

St. Sebastian's **DEAN EBOZUE '04** and **PHI TRAN '05**.

Thayer Academy's **IFEANYI CHUKWUJAMA '04** and **ABIMOLA COLE '04**.

## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



Golf Classic sponsor Michael Pehl (far right) of Advent International and his foursome

On Monday, June 5, 2006 the fourth annual **Steppingstone Golf Classic** took over the Oaks Course at The International in Bolton, Massachusetts.

With our mulligan sales at their highest yet, it was a very successful day for Steppingstone and the 132 golfers in attendance. Led by committee co-chairs **James Wolfsberg** and **Scott Friend**, the tournament raised over \$150,000 for Steppingstone. Thanks to all of the donors who helped make this year's Golf Classic one for the record books.

This year's fall festivities include the **Steppingstone Gala**. Guest speakers include **Tom Parker**, Dean of Admission and Financial Aid at Amherst College and Steppingstone Alumna **Marial Novas '00**, Noble & Greenough Class of 2006, Yale Class of 2010. The reunion-themed event

will take place at the Charles Hotel on Wednesday, November 1.



Steppingstone president Michael Danziger (center) with his foursome at the 2006 Golf Classic

## 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 Newton Country Day School (NCDS) 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 NCDS 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 work 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.

The experience really struck a chord with Elizabeth. "I worked from nine to five



Elizabeth with a group of patients outside the clinic



Elizabeth, left, and her colleague performing an eye exam

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.



For more information about Steppingstone, you can reach us at

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