Six Alumni Join Steppingstone’s Leadership Boards

Steppingstone is proud to announce that its Alumni community now has representation at the highest levels of the organization. As newly-elected board members, six Alumni will share their skills, expertise, and insight with Steppingstone, helping us best serve the Scholars of today and tomorrow.

New members of the Board of Directors:

- **Donavan Brown ’95** works at Brown Brothers Harriman & Co. as an Assistant Vice President in the Relationship Management Group.
- **Mariel Novas ’00** received her M.Ed. in curriculum and teaching from Boston University. She now works at Teach for America as the Manager of Teacher Leadership Development.

New members of the Board of Ambassadors:

- **Eric Andrew ’94** lives in New York City and works as Vice President in the Capital Markets Group at ADC Commercial.
- **Ngozi Anidi ’98** recently graduated from Columbia University’s School of Law and plans to join Skadden, Arps, Slate, Maegher & Flom LLP in New York City.
- **Joanne Jacquet ’98** works at the Suffolk County District Attorney’s office as an Assistant District Attorney.
- **Anthony Mathieu ’02** is teaching at his alma mater, Boston Latin Academy. He also taught College Success Academy Scholars this summer.

Steppingstone Alumni Earn Fulbright Fellowships

**Candace Taylor**  
*The Steppingstone Academy ’03*  
*Dana Hall School ’09*  
*Connecticut College ’13*  

As a Fulbright Scholar, Candace will travel throughout Nicaragua to collect and record personal testimonies. She will then create a dance piece inspired by these stories.

**Moriah Smith**  
*The Steppingstone Academy ’02*  
*Boston Latin Academy ’09*  
*Wellesley College ’13*  

Moriah will spend the year teaching English in Brazil. She has been studying Portuguese at Middlebury College to prepare for her year abroad.
Alumni Spotlight

Max Clermont ’01

With a master’s degree in public health from Brown University, Max Clermont never expected he’d end up working in politics. But when he graduated in May of 2012, the Obama campaign was in full swing, and Max decided to get involved. “I’ve found that my most important life skills have developed when I’ve gone somewhere I’d never gone before, done something I’ve never done before,” he explains.

Just days after graduating, Max flew to Florida and began work as a regional field director for the campaign. After months of getting out the vote, he moved to Washington, D.C. to coordinate volunteers for Obama’s inaugural parade. Now, Max supports grassroots campaigns through his work with 270 Strategies, a political consulting firm.

Max built his career by taking risks, something he says Steppingstone taught him to do. “I learned from my mentor and teachers that it was okay to not have it all figured out and to do things that interested me, that activated my core.” Max has carried this lesson with him ever since. “Take a leap or two,” he advises younger Scholars. “It’s about tapping into your creativity and ingenuity to do something different, something that will build you.”

Donavan Brown ’95

Donavan Brown landed his first major job interview at a Red Sox game. A firm believer in the power of networking, Donavan turned a chance meeting at Fenway into a job with Brown Brothers Harriman & Co. “If you want to have options and opportunities,” he says, “building a professional network and having people around you who want to see you succeed will serve you well.”

One of the most important people in Donavan’s network has been his mentor, Tom Seeman. Steppingstone brought them together eight years ago, when Donavan graduated from Tufts with a degree in economics and an interest in finance. Over the course of Donavan’s career, Tom has continued to be a major source of advice and support. “The mentorship has turned into a friendship,” Donavan says.

It was Tom who encouraged Donavan to continue his education, and when Donavan applied to graduate programs, he reached out yet again to his Steppingstone network. “Being brave enough to ask for help is very important,” he says. “It’s not a sign of weakness. Asking for help is the best way to accomplish your goals.” Now, with a master’s degree in international business and experience working at State Street, Donavan is back where he started his career, at Brown Brothers Harriman, but with a new title: Assistant Vice President.

“Continuing to follow up and chase down leads is what helped me get to where I am today,” Donavan says. His advice to Scholars just starting their careers: “Lean on your network. Read up on what it is you want to do and really have an educated understanding of your goals.”

Get Involved: Alumni Mentoring

The Steppingstone community is a great professional resource and we hope you will all take advantage of mentoring opportunities! Please reach out to Alison Levy (alevy@tsf.org or 617-423-6300, ext. 226) or Matt Waldman (mwaldman@tsf.org or 617-423-6300, ext. 261) if you’re interested in being paired with a professional mentor, or if you’d like to volunteer to mentor a Scholar in college or an Alum starting his/her career.
Alumni donations last year totaled a record breaking $2,345—a 64% increase from 2011! We’re proud to have such a generous Alumni community and couldn’t be more grateful for everything you give back to Steppingstone.

We hope you’ll consider making another gift this year. Every dollar donated by Alumni matters, and no gift is too small to make a difference. Remember reading *The Giver*? Or receiving your blue Steppingstone backpack? A donation of just $5.00 can buy a book for a young Scholar, and $30.00 covers the cost of a Scholar’s book bag.

In the first half of 2013, Steppingstone received gifts from the following Alumni:

- Ivan DeJesus ’92
- Timothy Healey ’92
- *Carlos Castillo ’94
- Kevin Tran ’94
- Marcus Haymon ’95
- Patrick Leeman ’95
- Antonius Wiriadjaja ’95
- Alister Dabreo Jr. ’96
- Joy Kogut ’96
- Timothy O’Connell ’96
- Carlos Pacheco ’96
- Geordan Johnson ’97
- Mary-Margaret Oppus ’97
- Emely Orellana ’97
- Joanne Jacquet ’98
- Dalinda Ifill ’99
- Laniesha Gray ’00
- David Huynh ’00, Magnet Scholar
- Khue Nguyen ’01
- Jennifer Pierre ’01
- Samantha Salfity ’01
- Alena Horton ’02
- Ying Wang ’02
- Demetrius Armstrong ’03
- Perry Calhoun ’03
- Ashley Nelson ’03
- Atiyyah Sabir ’03

*Leadership gift of $500 or more

This July, nearly 50 Alumni came together to celebrate and reconnect in downtown Boston. Our biggest reunion yet, we had representatives from almost every Steppingstone class! Mr. Lester and Ms. Ostberg even made it out for the event. Throughout the night, guests reunited with old friends, flipped through Steppingstone yearbooks, and enjoyed drinks and appetizers. Alumni also heard Colgan Johnson ’93 and Tran Vu ’00 speak about their respective careers in music and photography. Many thanks to the Alumni Council for their leadership, especially Rochelle Williams-Belizaire who emceed the event. We’re already looking forward to next year’s reunion!

Visit www.facebook.com/alum.steppingstone to see a full photo album.

Alumni Council

Interested in getting more involved with Steppingstone? Join the Alumni Council!

Meeting semiannually to discuss events, workshops, newsletters, and gatherings, the Alumni Council re-connects Steppingstone Alumni and encourages participation in Steppingstone-sponsored events. Council members play an important role in the Steppingstone community and enjoy many opportunities to network and enhance their skills.

Please contact Alison Levy at alevy@tsf.org or 617-423-6300, ext. 226, for more information. A full list of current Alumni Council members can be found on our website at www.tsf.org/alumni.
Alumni Visit Milton Academy

This summer, Steppingstone held its first ever Alumni Visit Day. On August 7, D'Lynn Jacobs '97, Lamarr Rollins '99, Samantha Layne '00, and Caitlin Kauffman '03 came to Milton Academy, where they ate lunch with young Scholars and toured both The Steppingstone Academy and the College Success Academy. After the visit, Lamarr Rollins reflected:

“Today I was reminded of what a good education and hard work will do for you. It’s been 14 years since I completed the program. To see the program grow into what it is today was amazing. Speaking with a group of Scholars, about to embark on the journey to private and test schools, reminded me of the apprehensions I had way back then. It’s reassuring to know that they are well-prepared and Steppingstone has evolved to meet the needs of young minds as times change. Proud alum here.”