SUCCESS
Alumni Update
2015

FOUNDERS' COUNCIL

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Robert Brennan
Fr. Mark Connell
Thomas Cunningham
Patrick Donnelly
Barbara Eager
Joan Corso Ferroni
Michael Giobbe
Donato R. Giuseppi, III
Br. Lawrence Goyette, F.S.C.
Dennis Grant
Paul Guillaro
Patricia Burns Inglis
Michael Judge
Gregory Kiernan
Patricia Kitson
Kevin Kitson
Brendan McCarthy
Megan McCarthy
Kevin Meenan
Kevin Mirabile
Maureen Mirabile
Robert Murphy
Colin O'Gara
Michael Sileck
Joseph R. Sperduto
Joanne Welty
Mary Whalen
Catherine Joyce Wooters

A Reason to Believe

When **Denzel Pettway** arrived at our doorstep in July 2007, he was an uncertain and underserved boy. Slowly he began to open up and more importantly his achievement improved steadily.

Denzel was a victim of circumstances he did not create. Gradually, his support system dwindled to just San Miguel Academy. Fortunately, St. Benedict's Prep, with a long and mighty tradition of helping kids like Denzel, accepted him into their program. In fact, St. Benedict's became not only Denzel's new school in eigth grade, but his family as well. People like Fr. Edwin Leahy, John Rowe, and Craig White, dedicated administrators at St. Benedict's, stepped up to manage the affairs of the young man in their care.

All the while, San Miguel Academy's graduate support staff kept in touch with both Denzel, and St. Benedict's, to assure that all of Denzel's needs were being met.

Not only did Denzel finish with a 2.95 G.P.A., he also discovered his God-given talent for shotput and discus. At the New Balance Nationals this past June, Denzel finished within the top 30 high school throwers in the country!

Denzel in June 2015, after the completion of orientation at Moravian College.

For all of his hard work and dedication Denzel will be joining the Moravian College Class of 2019, and the Greyhound Track and Field Team.

We are proud of this resilient and spirited young man. Denzel manifests the mission of San Miguel Academy to serve the underserved and to assist in the formation of productive and self-reliant men.

Below, see a reprint of Denzel's college essay.

I never realized that a single community can make a difference in so many lives and how everyone has a meaning to their lives. When I was just an infant my mother was taken from me due to a heart attack. Once my mother passed away, my father abandoned my brothers and me. This depressed me because I felt as if no one really loved me. With nowhere else to go we moved in with our grandparents; they were the only ones at the moment that could care for us.

Situations only got worse when I was two years old, I had an incident that scarred me for life.

One day my two older brothers were arguing while playing football in the backyard, and my middle brother locked my older brother out of the house. My older brother became so furious that he punched the back door window just as I was walking to the dinner table. The glass from the door ricocheted directly into my right eye. The pain was unbearable. I began to faint and slowly I drifted into darkness. I awakened in the hospital bed and was only able to see out of one eye. The complete darkness in my right eye indicated that I would have to live with this for the rest of my life.

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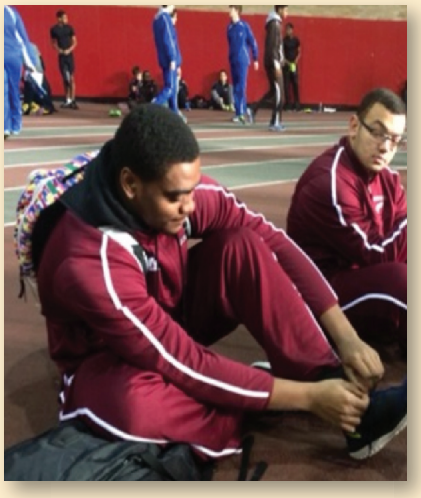
As I was growing up in middle school many kids questioned me about my eye while others ridiculed me. One day as I was leaving from Boy Scouts I got a flyer with the name of San Miguel Academy of Newburgh. This flyer was the start of something great, something that would change my life forever. On this same night I handed my flyer to my grandparents they scanned it over, and made the decision that I would attend this school. The decision was made easier for them when they realized that it was a tuition free school since they were financially unstable. On the first day I could feel the brotherhood in this school and I had no idea that at this moment my life would change drastically for both good and bad.

As I approached my early teen years I lost both of my grandparents which left me hopeless. I felt as if everything I had accomplished at San Miguel Academy such as improving grades and receiving awards had gone to waste. The death of my grandparents left me lost for a while until I finally understood what my purpose in life was.

I had the need to succeed, to be better than what was on the streets of Newburgh. My drive for success all began in San Miguel Academy and later grew as they enrolled me in St. Benedict's Prep where I learned to persevere regardless of how difficult life could be. I looked to sports to relieve the physical and mental stress I was experiencing. When I arrived at St. Benedict's I had never played a real sport in my life. In school everyone's required to do a sport, so I began my sporting career as a thrower. I realized during freshman year that it was my calling. Once I began this sport my coach instantly knew that I would become a champion. He told me all I needed was dedication and I definitely had that. St. Benedict's Prep has really improved my life because it has made me more sociable, reliable, and has turned me into what they call a "Benedict's man".

Despite my difficulties in the past, I was able to overcome all obstacles. San Miguel Academy and St. Benedict's Prep together have influenced my life because they taught me that regardless how hard life may become there are always people who are willing to help. All the feelings I had as a boy have given way to confidence and determination. My goal now it to graduate (Moravian) College with a major in sports science and to one day become a coach so that I can influence young people the way my schools changed my life.

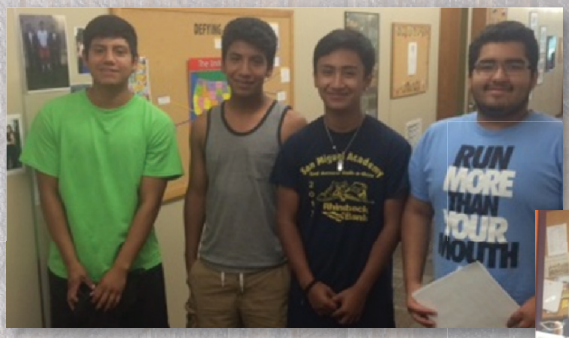


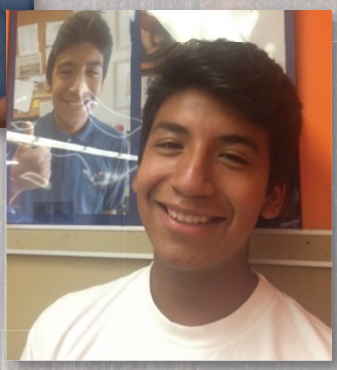
Denzel preparing for an event at the Jersey City Armory in February 2015.

Denzel Pettway (far left) in 2007, waiting on line to be greeted by Mrs. Lauren Steers, who was helping out with a summer barbeque in Ossining.

Denzel finishing up with one of his record setting throws.

GO WEST YOUNG MAN

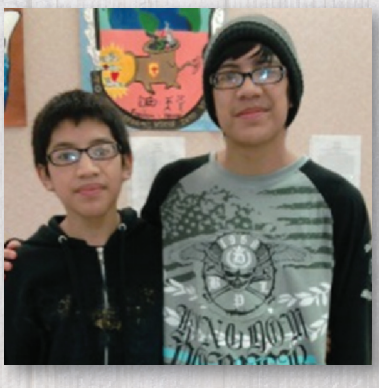




***Luis Jimenez**, SMAN '13, **Antonio Del Agua**, SMAN '13, **Omar Coca**, SMAN '14, and **Brian Lopez**, SMAN '11, gather for the return of Antonio to New York. Antonio's family moved to Victorville, CA, after his graduation from San Miguel Academy to be with his father. Antonio's first stop upon arriving back in Newburgh was to his alma mater.*

Luis "Tito" Jimenez is entering his junior year at Canterbury School, and Omar will begin his sophomore year at The Harvey School. Brian will begin his college studies at Mount Saint Mary College after a successful four years at Canterbury School.

In the second photo Antonio poses near an older photo of himself which hangs in our new high school and college support room.



***Angel Cruz**, SMAN '10, and **Oscar Cruz**, SMAN '11, have relocated to the San Diego area with their family. Pictured here, the two brothers share a moment in a school art gallery where some of Angel's work is on display. Angel will be enrolling in an art therapy program at a local university in the very near future. Oscar will be entering his senior year beginning in September.*

***Arturo Reyes**, SMAN '12, stands near the "He ain't heavy, he's my brother" statue at the entrance to Boys Town in Omaha, Nebraska. Arturo is a senior at Boys Town High School with at 3.5 G.P.A. Arturo is now in the college search phase of his journey. He's looking at Creighton University in Omaha, as he's contemplating staying in the midwest for college.*

Daniel Ruiz

Upon his arrival to San Miguel Academy, Daniel announced to all who would listen that he was going to be a meteorologist one day. From that day forward Daniel was our "go to guy" for potential snow days. As you can imagine, he was quite busy these past couple of winters. Daniel loves science and has thrived in our S.T.E.M. programming and under the guidance of Misters Snyder and Fink. Daniel spent one summer at a Department of Environmental Conservation camp in NYS and the past summer at the Loomis Chaffee School in Connecticut, where he has been accepted as a full time student beginning this July as a Kravis Scholar!

When not in the classroom Daniel is an active athlete. He has competed in soccer, lacrosse and rowing at SMAN.

Daniel has made great strides while at San Miguel and he has won the esteem and admiration of his classmates and our staff. He is a curious student and dedicated explorer. As a Grandview Scholar the bar is set high for Daniel, but we are certain that there will be many sunny days ahead for him. Step aside, Jim Cantore, Daniel is on his way!

Victor Garcia

Among his classmates, Victor has spent the least amount of time at San Miguel Academy, but thankfully, he has also derived the greatest benefit in just two years. Victor learned to be more decisive at SMAN and less combative, and as a result he has gained the ability to problem solve in a more productive manner. This turnaround has come with its own rewards as Victor is our first student to be accepted to Trinity Pawling School, in the Class of 2019.

A versatile athlete, Victor has been a welcome addition to all of our inter-scholastic athletic teams. If that were not enough, Victor is also active in travel teams in local leagues.

Victor is engaged in community service through his local church, and he's serious about helping others. We expect that his faith will continue to inform his decision making as his life moves forward.

With characteristic strength, Victor has learned to surmount the adversity life has placed before him. His competitive nature will keep him focused, both on the playing field, and in the classroom. We trust that TP will continue to nurture all that good within Victor. God bless you!

Brandon Miller

"Still waters run deep," once remarked a wise man. Of wisdom and great character is this young man, Brandon Miller. He is remarkably steady and always prepared to take on the tasks at hand. Adults sometimes think he's a quiet kid, but amongst his friends, Brandon is talkative and funny. In the classroom Brandon is all business. He is organized, neat, and attentive to every lesson. His ability for analytical thought is outstanding and his written expression is excellent. Church Farm School in Pennsylvania will be getting a dedicated student when Brandon arrives there this September.

On the field of competition Brandon was one of the first students to join our rowing program. He is also a great defensive player in soccer and lacrosse. In the community Brandon is a dedicated altar server at St. Patrick's Church, and a model citizen. His classmates look to him for strength, and when needed, serenity.

This outstanding young man has been a vibrant member of our school community for four years. He has achieved many things, and we know he will continue to do so in high school and beyond. As a Grandview Scholar, Brandon will be held to a high standard, of which we know he is capable. God bless Brandon Miller!

In the Good Ol' Summertime

***Daniel Ruiz**, SMAN '15, standing on the beautiful campus of the Loomis Chaffee School in Windsor, CT. Daniel was chosen for the Kravis Scholar Award at Loomis as a member of the Class of 2019. He's already begun his studies there during the summer months. We expect to hear great things about his progress.*

***Teshawn Staples**, SMAN '11, is seen here on our endurance rock climbing wall which was installed as part of the N.F.L. Snowflake Youth Foundation Grant. Teshawn successfully graduated from Newburgh Free Academy in June, and he will matriculate at Mount Saint Mary College in the fall in their five year M.B.A. program. Congratulations, Teshawn!*

***Brian Luciano**, SMAN '10, **Henry Garcia**, SMAN '11, **Alfredo Liendo**, SMAN '11, gather for a photo at Blu Pointe Restaurant on the banks of the Hudson River. Fortunately, many of our alums have been hired by the management of Blu Pointe as server assistants.*

Brian will be transferring to Mount Saint Mary College after a year at Dutchess Community College. Henry will take up his studies at Fairfield University, and Alfredo will continue his journey at Nichols College in Massachusetts. Alfredo will be joining Brian Silva, SMAN '10, and fellow Harvey School alum at Nichols.

In the Good Ol' Summertime

***Luis "Tito" Jimenez**, standing second from left, is pictured with his Canterbury School classmates during his August pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in France. The students offered ten days of service to the "malades," those who visit the shrine for healing.*

Linda Card tutors our boys for SAT/ACT tests as part of our Graduate Support Program. The class meets throughout the summer on Saturday mornings. Egg McMuffins and OJ seem to be effective at waking them up!

*Chris Quick recently had lunch with **Henry Garcia**, SMAN '11, in Newburgh. Chris was delighted to welcome Henry into the Class of 2019 at Fairfield University! Henry joins fellow alum, Jesus Cruz, SMAN '10, as a Stag.*

Moving on, Moving Up!

***Edward Quinn**, SMAN'11, is photographed with his overjoyed aunt Ayer at The Milton Hershey School graduation ceremony. Edward is off to Duchess Community College to continue his studies.*

***Alejandro Guevara**, SMAN '11, is seen with his mother shortly after the commencement exercises at Our Lady of Lourdes High School. Alejandro has enrolled in the electrical engineering program at Dutchess Community College, after which he will earn his bachelors degree from SUNY New Paltz. It sounds like a great plan!*

Alfredo Liendo, SMAN '11, is flanked by Father Mark and his proud mother, Marlene, after his graduation ceremony at the Harvey school. Father Mark delivered the commencement address at the The Harvey School event.

San Miguel Academy • Class of 2011 • College List

Guillermo Cruz (St. Benedict's Prep) . . . . . **Marist College**
Henry Garcia (Canterbury School) . . . . . **Fairfield University**
Alejandro Guevara (Our Lady of Lourdes H.S.) **Dutchess Community College**
Osmond Lewis (Newburgh Free Academy) . . **Dutchess Community College**
Alfredo Liendo (The Harvey School) . . . . . **Nichols College**
Brian Lopez (Canterbury School) . . . . . **Mount Saint Mary College**
Bryan Nava . . . . . **Newburgh Free Academy (fifth year)**
Denzel Pettway (St. Benedict's Prep) . . . . . **Moravian College**
Edward Quinn (The Milton Hershey School) . **Dutchess Community College**
Teshawn Staples (Newburgh Free Academy) . . . **Mount Saint Mary College**

Seven Years of Service

In 2008, when the Class of 2010 was about to enter seventh grade, it was clear that in order to break the cycle we needed to create high school options for our graduates.

Stepping up for the task were Cathy Wooters and Lauren Steers. They immediately began forging relationships with private day schools and boarding schools in our region. In addition, applications needed to be completed, student essays had to be written, and parents had to be instructed on the dreaded process of filling out financial aid forms.

Adept at organization, Cathy and Lauren created a template for our emerging Graduate Support Program. Over time, that program has placed 92% of our graduates in private high schools, parochial high schools, and boarding schools.

In 2011, Cathy transitioned to become director of our development office. With that, Lauren took over to coordinate our High School Placement and Graduate Support offices. Our student outcomes speak for themselves, and they will be the lasting legacy of Lauren as she steps down from the job.

Ninety six percent of our guys have graduated high school in four years, and a striking 96% are enrolled in vocational programs, community colleges, and four year colleges and universities.

Lauren's efficiency, persuasion, and thoroughness has created partnerships with multiple high schools now attended by our boys. Because of Lauren our GSP program has garnered the respect of admissions people in our partner schools.

The full impact of Lauren's work will not be fully known immediately. One thing for certain is that our guys have been given some of the best opportunities one can imagine. Every indication we have so far is that the young men of San Miguel Academy are excelling beyond expectation and that they desire to become productive men of integrity.

On their behalf, THANK YOU Lauren!

SAVE THE DATE

11th Annual Benefit Dinner

Thursday, October 22 • 6:30 p.m.
Westchester Country Club

for information, contact Cathy Wooters at cjwooters@newburghsanmiguel.org