



SUCCESS

2018

Alumni Update

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How are we doing?

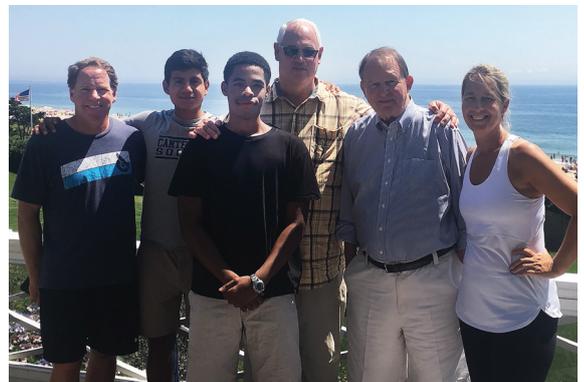
We thought that this year's version of the SMAN Alumni edition would not only highlight the achievements of our graduates but also give you a glimpse into a recent analysis of our outcomes. This newsletter is always a favorite, and this time it will also help you to understand why our mission is so critical in Newburgh, with the data to back it up. Also highlighted will be the Graduate Support Team's efforts to secure meaningful internships for our boys. Altogether our story keeps getting better with each passing year. We recognize that none of this would be possible without the trust and support that so many have placed in our mission. Thank you all and God bless you for your goodness!

Alumni Happenings



Daniel Ruiz, SMAN '15, Loomis Chaffee '19, poses with New York Giants' superstar Odell Beckham, Jr. We are grateful to Ann and Tim Cacase and Sheila Mara for giving the boys an enjoyable day at the Quest Practice Center in New Jersey.

At their family home in beautiful Watch Hill, RI, Christie and Francis Jenkins and daughter, Lindsay Matthews, host a summer event to get the word out about the mission of San Miguel Academy for their summer friends. From the left are Paul Matthews, Tito Jimenez SMAN '13, Dewilliam Carter SMAN '14, Father Mark, Francis and Lindsay. Opening doors and sharing the success of our mission with others is always important to our sustainability efforts. Thank you to the Jenkins family for their ongoing support and generosity.



Brandon Miller (far left), SMAN '15, Church Farm School '19 is joined by current SMAN students during a springtime visit to the Church Farm campus. The two SMAN alumni on the right are Nehemiah Williams, SMAN '17, CFS '21 and Jeremy Vidals, SMAN '16, CFS '20. We are happy to report that Emanuel Williams, SMAN '18, will be joining the Class of 2022 and accompanying his brother as a CFS Griffin. One of our most valued partnerships through the years has been with Church Farm School in Exton, PA, whose mission aligns perfectly with that of SMAN. Our gratitude goes out to Reverend Ned Sherrill, who year after year welcomes our boys to his school.



Our Graduate Success Team is often on the road, and in this photo we found ourselves at St. Bonaventure University in Olean, NY. From left to right, Omar Coca, SMAN '14, The Harvey School '18; Dewilliam Carter, SMAN '14, Our Lady of Lourdes High School '18, Maritime College '22; Jadden Montijo, SMAN '14, Obridge Academy '18; Nayib Portillo, SMAN '14, OLLCHS '18, Mount Saint Mary College '22; Josh Quinones, SMAN '14, OLLCHS '18. While these boys were touring SBU, we also caught up with Lisandro Chihuahua and Dajour Fisher who just successfully completed their freshmen year at SBU.

Benefactor Anne Turnbull is joined by Kevin Marin, SMAN '15, St. Benedict's Prep '19; Anthony Cruz, SMAN '16, St. Benedict's Prep '20; Cory Arias, SMAN '16, St. Benedict's Prep '20; and Carlitos Rodriguez, SMAN '17, St. Benedict's Prep '21 during a recent trip to Newark, New Jersey to visit the boys. Anne had long desired to see the famed school and her springtime visit met all of her expectations. By the way, we will be honoring Father Edwin Leahy and the SBP Community as IMPACT Awardees during our October Benefit Dinner. So many of our boys have joined the ranks of the Grey Bees at the prestigious school and have used that opportunity to access a college education.



Luis "Tito" Jimenez (front right), SMAN '13, Canterbury School '17, SUNY Maritime College '21, has just been selected for a Navy ROTC Scholarship. Awarded for his GPA and leadership during his freshman year, Tito can continue on his winning ways without worrying about student loans since he's earned a full tuition scholarship and a monthly allowance. We always tell the boys that hard work pays off. We can think of no better example than this young man. Congratulations, Tito!

Did you know?

San Miguel Academy graduates have a 94% high school graduation rate!





At last year's SMAN Benefit Dinner at the Westchester Country Club (from left to right), Denise Carter, mother of Dewilliam Carter, Kevin Morales, Natasha Benton, (mother of Na'zeem, Saheed, and Na'sah Dabbs), Saheed Dabbs, Brian Morales, Na'zeem Dabbs, Dewilliam Carter, Joshua Quinones, Nayib Portillo and Luis Romero. Please mark your calendars for this year's event on October 25, also at WCC! You'll be able to meet firsthand the many young men whom you have supported through the years.

Back for a Christmas visit are Henry Garcia who is joined by Joel Gadsden, SMAN '12, Our Lady of Lourdes High School '16, Mount Saint Mary College '22; and Raul Ramirez, SMAN '13, OLLCHS '17, Mount Saint Mary College '21. Joel took some time off after high school to work and save money, and to discern his next steps. Always keeping in regular touch with our GSP staff, Joel has decided to enroll in college. Keep up the good work!



Saeed Adams (center), SMAN '14, St. Benedict's Prep '18, is flanked by his fellow Grey Bees, all of whom are graduates of San Miguel Academy. Saeed will be joining the Class of 2022 at Kean University in New Jersey this autumn. Another success story, and another proud moment for all of those who support our mission.



Edwin Ortega, SMAN '10, Newburgh Free Academy '14, has obtained his nursing assistant certification from BOCES. He is currently working with the Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union while also considering a shift to studying business when he applies to college one day.



Speaking of Alumni, Mrs. DiMeo, our Principal, receives a check from Nick Valentine and Mike Smith, graduates of the former St. Patrick's Boys High School here in Newburgh. San Miguel Academy has been blessed to have the support of St. Pat's Alumni since our inception. Thank you, guys!





It is not unusual that our alumni drop by for casual visits quite frequently. Early in the summer, at the end of their college semesters, these “three amigos” descended on San Miguel Academy. Bayron Morales (left) and Henry Garcia (center) are both excelling at Fairfield University. Iggy Fernandez, SMAN ’12, Our Lady of Lourdes High School ’16, is now achieving at Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry. Iggy has his eyes set on the finish line as he contemplates preparing for entrance into law school. Henry also is seeking law school and he’s spent a great deal of time studying for the LSATs this summer. Good luck, guys!

Edwin Sotelo, SMAN ’16, John S. Burke High School ’20, stops by San Miguel Academy to show us his report card filled with A’s and B’s. Edwin works really hard, and his strength is that he asks for help before the crisis point. Edwin also plays soccer for Burke, rounding out his high school career as he begins to plan for college. Keep it up, Edwin!



Omar Coca, SMAN ’14, The Harvey School ’18, is joined by his good friend Sasha Fox during the commencement ceremonies at Harvey in May. Sasha is the daughter of San Miguel benefactor and famed singer and actress, Vanessa Williams. As classmates at Harvey, Sasha and Omar were a great support to each other during their time together on campus. Good luck to the both of them as they move on to college.

Henry Garcia, SMAN ’11, Canterbury School ’15, and Fairfield University ’19, standing above a canal upon his arrival in Venice, Italy. Henry was fortunate enough to earn a semester in Italy this past Spring. One of the joys of watching our graduates encountering new environments and cultures is when they report back to us on their experiences. Most of our boys seldom leave Newburgh so imagine when the chance comes along to spread their wings how they are filled with awe and enthusiasm. Below is one of the many descriptive emails sent by Henry when he was abroad:

Caio Fr. Mark,

I'm sorry for the late response. I hope you're doing well. These past couple of weeks I have been exploring Florence itself, Venice, Milan, and Siena. I have yet to actually make it inside the Duomo, but my class has been inside the museum itself, which provided a lot of information about the Renaissance itself.

Venice was beautiful. Getting out of the train station, the view of the water city was extraordinary. Gondolas parading down the water, as well as tourists walking around admiring the architecture of the buildings and churches. Siena's scenery was breathtaking as well, as our tour guide took us around to talk about how Siena holds a very competitive outlook on Florence, and vice versa. Milan had a very New York City vibe and it definitely was a comforting feeling, simply because it was much more modern than what we are exposed here in Florence.

This weekend coming up, my friends and I are taking a trip to Ireland, where we will take a tour of Galway and Dublin, and of course a trip to the Guinness Storehouse, and the week after, we will be going island hopping in Greece for our spring break. After, we will continue making our way through Italy, such as Rome and Pisa. The food just keeps getting better and better as we explore different cities in Italy. The homemade pastas, the fresh cheeses, and meats all have such a distinct taste that I can't seem to put into words. I'll be sending more pictures from my phone later on. It is all breathtaking. It has been such a great experience so far, and I am excited to see what else Florence has in store for me. Once again, I hope you and San Miguel is doing well.



Internships

Internships are an essential component of our graduate success program. With the help of Melissa Mineau, who envisioned paid internships for low opportunity kids, San Miguel Academy alumni are making their way into work environments around Orange County. Melissa has been supported by Bill Fioravanti, Director of Business Attraction for the county. Bill understands that minority opportunities are ever increasing and that our boys can all find a place in the workforce with a sound education and practical experience. We are grateful to all of our internship partners for believing in the “Brothers in Blue” of SMAN. Following will give you a glimpse of what our boys have been up to.



Brandon Miller, SMAN' 15, Church Farm School '19, had an amazing opportunity to intern this summer at Hudson Valley Investment Advisors under the tutelage of Gus Sacco and Melissa Mineau. Brandon has been inspired to someday take on Wall Street now that he has a better understanding of the ups and downs of the market.



Bayron Morales, SMAN '12, St. Benedict's Prep '16, Fairfield University '20, after just coming off a 4.0 spring term average, was accepted into a Price Waterhouse Coopers internship training program in Florida this summer. Keep an eye on Bayron,. He's hungry for success and he works hard to make it happen. Congratulations, Bayron!

Did you know?

86% of San Miguel Academy graduates attend a two year or four year college, are enrolled in a trade school, have enlisted in the military or have joined the work force after high school.



Brian Silva (center), SMAN '10, The Harvey School '14, Nichols College '18, is joined by other SMAN alum for an enjoyable evening at Dutchess Stadium, home to the Renegades minor league baseball team. Brian, with a major in Sports Management, was interning with the Goldklang Group which owns multiple such venues around the country. With early success, the Goldklang executives offered Brian a full-time position at their premiere facility in St. Paul, Minnesota. Brian relocated to his new home in June and he's enjoying his newfound success. Brian has always been an entrepreneurial and creative person so no one is surprised that he is encountering success right out of college.

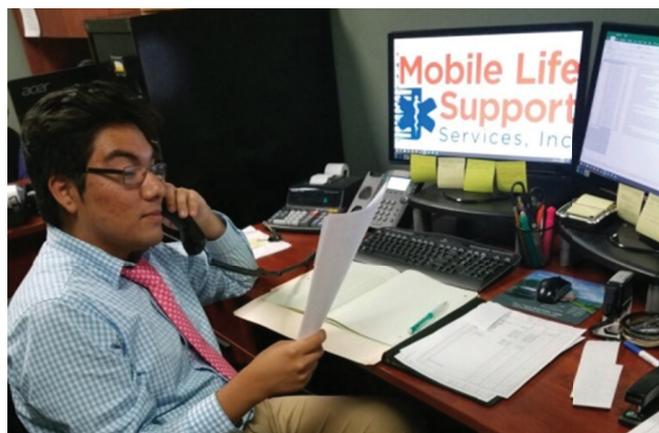
...and here's Brian Silva at his new job in St. Paul, Minnesota, with the St. Paul Saints minor league baseball team. His degree in Sports Management from Nichols College has paid off! Brian began his journey to a productive life in 2006 when the doors of San Miguel Academy first opened. Always compliant and focused, Brian took advantage of every opportunity placed before him. From The Harvey School to Nichols College, and now a young man in whom we can all be proud.



Christian Salinas, SMAN '15, Our Lady of Lourdes High School '19 is joined by classmate Avante Walker, SMAN '15, The Marvelwood School '19, as interns at Orange Bank and Trust. OBT President, Mike Gilfeather, and his executive team, have been very supportive of our mission for many years. Paid internships for high school students are a rarity, and so we are especially grateful to OBT for the advantages they are giving to our boys.

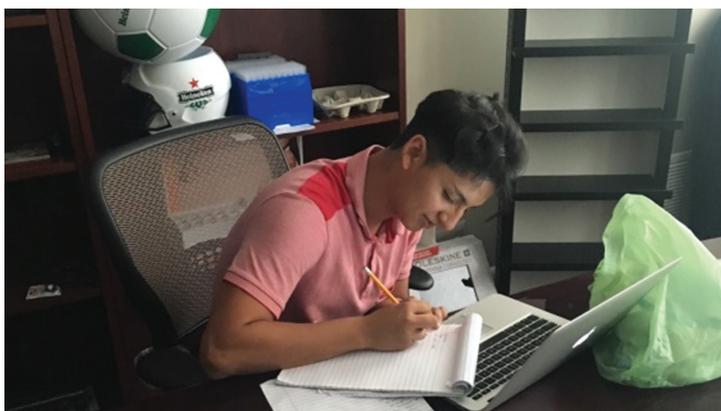


Luis Romero, SMAN '10, OLLCHS '14, Mount Saint Mary College '18, sits behind his new desk at Mobile Life Support Services where he's been hired full time as an accountant for the well known regional paramedic ambulance company. Luis initially interned with MSMC's career placement office here at SMAN, working alongside Maureen Mirabile as our bookkeeper. We are grateful to Tim Scannell, CFO at MLSS, for recognizing the integrity and intelligence of his new hire. Good luck, Luis, in your new job. Breaking the cycle of poverty is our stated goal, and Luis' story is a perfect example of why our mission is so necessary in Newburgh.



My Internship

by Daniel Ruiz



Daniel Ruiz, SMAN '15, Loomis Chaffee '19, is busy at Orange Packaging in Newburgh where he is serving as a summer intern. Orange Packaging owner, Mike Esposito, put Daniel to work on a project to grow his business in packaging for vertical farmers. Daniel was able to solicit new accounts while also growing in his understanding of sales and finance. Thank you to Mike and congratulations to Daniel for a job well done!

Summer after summer I slaved away, wheelbarrowing asphalt for a friend's paving company since . This summer my familiar routine took a turn. This summer I got the opportunity to intern for Orange Packaging Company in Newburgh, NY. Thanks to owner Mike Esposito, I had a dream job and a much valued learning experience.

Initially, I thought my job would consist of monotonous paperwork that required little to no skill, however, Mike, had a different direction for me. Quickly I learned that the company lacked a division of food packaging. I used my people skills and knowledge about ecological farming to contact upcoming vertical farms. A lot of the farms were quite interested in our eco-friendly products and even requested samples, yet I got some negative responses that I learned to deal with. This part of the internship gave me a sense of reality. Being rejected taught me that I can't always get my way and that I had to move on. As time went by my work shifted towards price comparing different products and updating the company's social media outlets. Here I learned how to manage my time because I always did everything quickly, and as a result my posts and data turned out disorganized. I utilized my time more effectively and efficiently by making my posts concise and my data organized into spreadsheets. Time management is something I have struggled with for a while. Thanks to this internship I feel more comfortable in performing tasks on time. Thanks to San Miguel Academy's Graduate Support Team and Melissa Mineau for helping me to get this amazing opportunity. I would also like to thank Bill Fioravanti who made the initial connection that lead to this position. And thank you Mike, you were a patient and great boss!

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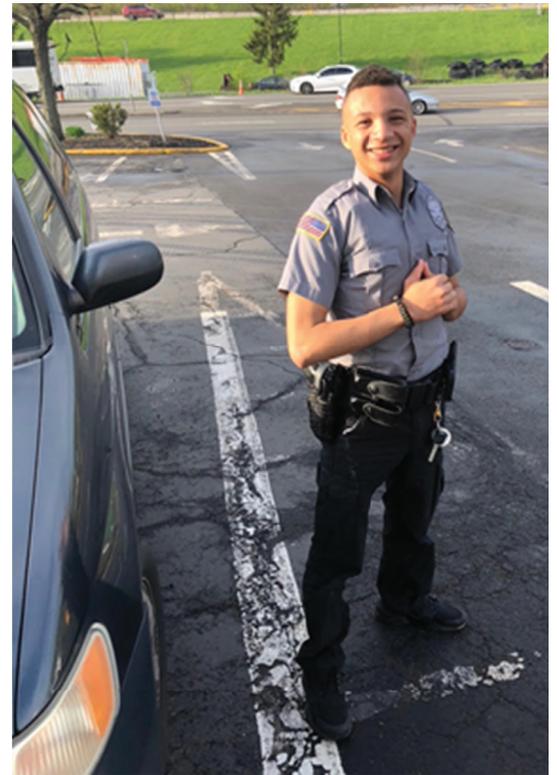
184 students are currently being served by our program.





Kevin Morales, SMAN '10, OLLCHS '14, Mount Saint Mary College '19, began as an accounting intern at San Miguel Academy, working closely with Maureen Mirabile who keeps us solvent. Today, Kevin is working at our front desk, saving his earnings, and finishing up his degree in accounting in his fifth year at Mount Saint Mary College.

Josh Quinones, SMAN '14, Our Lady of Lourdes High School '18, interned this summer as a security guard. By the time this newsletter is published Josh will be serving our nation as an enlisted man in the Army and doing his basic training in Georgia. Please pray for all of the SMAN men who are serving our nation. We are proud of every one of them!



Andrew Silva, SMAN '15, John S. Burke Catholic High School '19, spent his summer interning at Nugent and Haeussler, an accounting firm in Montgomery, New York. Andrew is excelling at Burke, and this summer has given him a real world look inside the life of a CPA. Our gratitude goes out to Senior Partner Peter Bullis, and the rest of the accounting team for believing in our program and giving our guys advantages that transform!

