



# Success

## ALUMNI UPDATE 2020

## The Calm in the Storm

On August 11, 1870, Frederick Douglass delivered one of his most memorable speeches at the

Opera House here in Newburgh, New York. In that famous speech he said, "Educate your sons and daughters, send them to school, and know that besides the cartridge box and ballot box and jury box, you have also got the knowledge box."

**Our Mission:**  
We educate  
and inspire  
the young men  
of the City of  
Newburgh,

At the beginning of our sixteenth year of operation at San Miguel Program (SMP) we pause for a moment to ponder the words of the famed abolitionist who worked tirelessly to advance the equality of all people. One hundred and fifty years after that speech our United States is in the midst of unrest and turmoil. What we see on the evening news belies the calm and happiness that have permeated the halls of San Miguel Academy since our boys returned in June for the Summer Scholars Program. With masks and social distancing, each boy immediately returned to business as usual, content to be in their "safe zone" where learning is exciting and exploration is rewarded with new discoveries.



SMA Crew team rowing near the Newburgh Beacon Bridge

"Educate your sons and daughters," said Douglass. Such is our mission, to break the cycle of poverty through education, so to create greater access to the American Dream. Our vision is simple, to lead in urban education. We demonstrated that leadership on March 19, 2020, when our teachers hit the ground running with live classrooms. At home, each boy was given the resources necessary to be engaged in the learning process online for more than six hours each day for the remainder of the academic year. Hardly a school in our nation could match the quality of what our staff delivered. And now with the return of in person summer learning, SMP continues to lead in urban education.

so they may  
break the cycle  
of poverty,  
achieve new  
potential and  
embrace lives  
of purpose,  
faith and truth.

In adversity we prove our mettle. I have never been prouder of this small school with a huge impact than I have during these past five months. To all of you who make this mission possible with your dollars, please know that like Frederick Douglass, we too are working tirelessly to create equity in education for the underserved. What follows in this newsletter is the "return on your investment." We have undertaken this mission and we remain true to our vision for one reason – because we believe that every student enrolled at SMP is made with an expressed purpose, and in the image of Almighty God.

### Great New Changes Happening

- Our Mission
- A New Logo
- A New Website

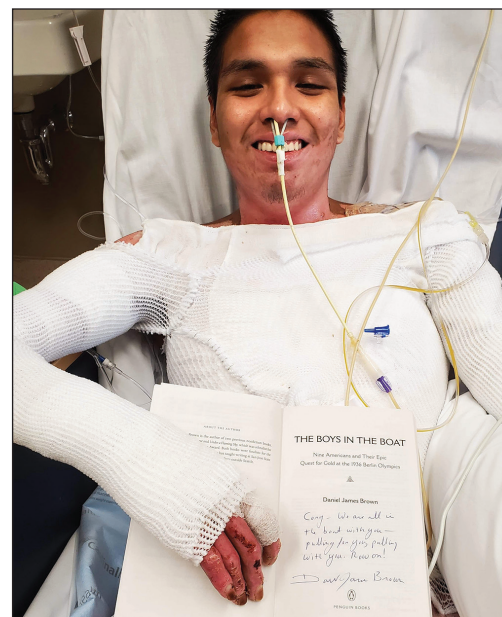
- We are
- Accredited:
- MSA-CESS

### San Miguel Program

San Miguel Academy of Newburgh  
After School & Weekend Learning Enrichment  
Graduate Support Services  
Summer Scholars Program  
Child & Family Services

# Cory

On June 3, 2020, **Cory Arias**, [SMP '16, St. Benedict's Prep '20], came in contact with a high voltage utility wire in his father's native country, Mexico. Cory was burned over 90% of his body and was airlifted back to the USA, by the quick thinking of his mother, where he was taken to Westchester Medical Center. Of interest, Cory was born prematurely at WMC back in 2002, weighing less than two pounds. This young man is known for overcoming the odds! Presently, Cory continues to rehabilitate at Burke Rehab in White Plains, New York. Cory has his eye on Virginia Military Institute where he was accepted into the Class of 2024, hoping to join the Class of 2025 next autumn. With the intense love of his family and the prayers of so many, doctors are expecting that Cory will regain his full strength and vitality sooner than anyone expected.



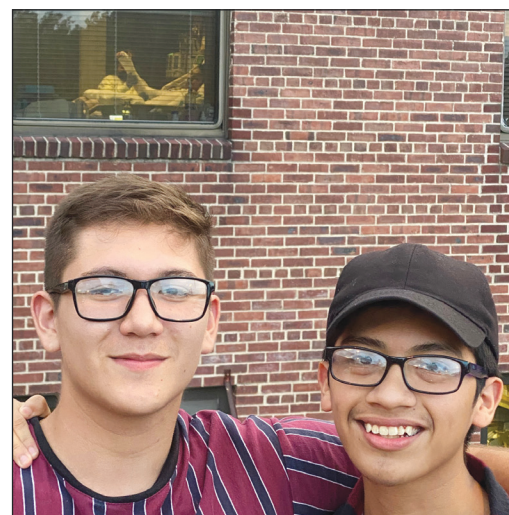
**This young man is known for overcoming the odds!**

The *Boys in the Boat* author, Daniel James Brown, was notified about Cory's accident. The bestselling author quickly inscribed a book to Cory (above) and sent off to him for encouragement. In case you cannot see the inscription it reads, "Cory, we are all in the boat with you – pulling for you, pulling with you. Row on!" DJB

Most suspect that the rigors of rowing contributed to the enormous strength upon which Cory is relying during his recovery.



Cory, right, is joined by Coach **Craig White** of St. Benedict's Prep Rowing, and **Anthony Cruz** [SMP '16, and SBP '20] after a medal winning performance.

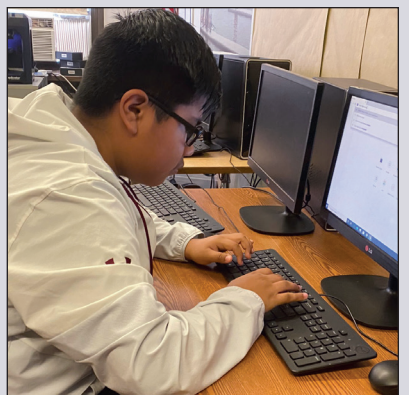


Weekly, Cory's friends travel to WMC with Father Mark to visit with the star patient via Facetime. Even though Cory can be seen through his first floor window, a sterile environment is a necessary requirement at this time. If you look carefully you can see Cory waving to us all while lying in bed. On this particular visit **Brandon Pineda** [SMP '18, SBP '22], and **Cristian Lucero** [SMP '18, SBP '22] gather outside the medical center. Both boys are rowing mates of Cory and honors students.



# SMP and the Pandemic

The shutdown of the American economy caused great hardship among the underserved who were the first to lose their jobs and the last ones to be hired back. SMP responded with a food pantry of fresh meats, vegetables, fruits and grains to sustain our families.



Photos Clockwise from top left :

**Martin Mendoza**, right, [SMP '17, The Mount Academy '21], is pictured with an SMP fifth grader who stopped by to pick up food supplies for his family. Many of our alumni returned during the pandemic to do their online schoolwork at our computers and to help with the food pantry.

Each year SMP observes the Holocaust Remembrance Day on April 21. This year the boys read publicly several poems written by young prisoners of the holocaust. **Julian Marin**, [SMP '20, The Harvey School '24] introduces the event with a prayer. Our gratitude to Rabbi Daniel Polish who continues to advise our holocaust studies.

**Arturo Giron**, [SMP '19, Church Farm School '23] is busy in our computer lab during the pandemic. Many high school and college boys who needed technology resources and a quiet place found comfort here in their former middle school.

**Na'sah Dabbs**, [SMP '17, Canterbury School '21] aids volunteer **Billy Chabot** of Rye, who regularly brought food supplies to Newburgh during the pandemic. Much of what was donated was supplied by our new partner, Student Athlete Success Team, founded by Mark Whaling.

**Left:** During COVID the boys competed in a virtual ergathon.

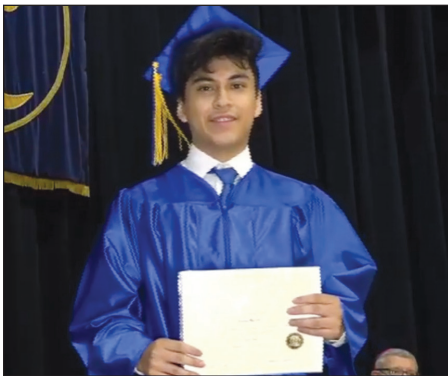
# Alumni Happenings



## Chris Lane

[SMP '13, Marvelwood School '17,]  
[Mount Saint Mary College '21]

Chris stops by for a visit with Father Mark after a “wall ball” lacrosse practice at a nearby public park. Chris is successfully reaching the end of this college career, earning good grades and playing intercollegiate lacrosse. Chris has long been an SMP favorite, and **we are all thrilled with his great success.**



## Alexis Marin

[SMP '16, Our Lady of Lourdes]  
[High School '20]

Alex receives his diploma during a properly distanced graduation in late June. **Alexis is off to the New York Institute of Technology in September.**



## Kevin Marin

[SMP '15, St. Benedict's Prep '19, SUNY Maritime '23]

## Joshua Quinones

[SMP '14, Our Lady of Lourdes High School '18, National Guard (enlisted 2018)]

## Anthony Fiscal

[SMP '13, Newburgh Free Academy '17, Army (enlisted 2017)]

## Brandon Miller

[SMP '15, Church Farm School '19, SUNY Maritime '23, Naval ROTC]

Many of our boys proudly join the U.S. Military both for service to country and as a means to access higher education more affordably. **We congratulate these boys and we thank them all for their service to God and country!**

Pictured during our Benefit Dinner in 2019 are:

## Khalil Aquilar

[SMP '00, The Harvey School]

## Cris Farias

[SMP '00, Fordham Prep]



Judge Jeannine Pirro is delighted to pose with two of SMP's finest. On the left is Khalil Aquilar, who will be entering his sophomore year at The Harvey School, and Cris Farias who just completed a stellar first year at Fordham Prep. Judge Pirro was on hand for the annual scholarship dinner for the Michael G. Santangelo, Jr. Fund which helps to support several SMP boys during their high school years. **Our deepest gratitude goes out to Michael Santangelo, Sr., Georgia Derrico, and Rod Porter who continue to support this beneficial partnership.**





## Bayron Morales

[SMP '12, St. Benedict's Prep, '16,]  
[Fairfield University '20]

During our 2020 San Miguel Program Next Steps Ceremony on June 26th of this year, we invited Bayron Morales to speak to the middle school graduates. Bayron had just successfully earned his degree in finance and business from Fairfield University with the distinction of Magna Cum Laud. **Bayron told the younger boys to always "...stay hungry for success."** Bayron is flanked by his father, Saul, and his mother, Jeini.



## Iggy Fernandez

[SMP '12, Burke Catholic High School '16, Mercy College '20]

Iggystops by to show off his SMP custom socks. **Iggy graduated Mercy College in only seven semesters while holding down a full time job in a law firm.** Iggy, who has aspirations to practice law, will be taking the LSAT exam in August..

## Tito Jimenez

[SMP '13, Canterbury School '17, SUNY Maritime '21]

Tito Jimenez, is a starter for the Privateers Soccer Team which took the Skyline Conference Championship back in November during a "nail biter" game right here in Newburgh at Mount Saint Mary College. **Tito will graduate in May and be commissioned as a Naval Officer, a position for which he is well suited.**



Our Alumni abide  
by the SMP Creed  
to this day -

When faced  
with a mountain  
**I WILL NOT QUIT!**

**I will keep on  
striving until I climb  
over, pass through,  
tunnel underneath,  
or simply stay and  
turn the mountain  
into a goldmine,  
with God's help.**



## Carlos Perez

[SMP '16, Haldane High School '14, BOCES '00, Finger Lakes School '20]

Carlos began his journey with us at our inception in 2006, just celebrated a birthday. **Carlos earned two BOCES certifications in mechanics and engineering and a degree in massage therapy** from the Finger Lakes School in Mount Kisco. Carlos now resides in Garrison, New York, and works full time.



## Jason Chunchi

[SMP '16, The Harvey School '20]

Jason returns to his former middle school immediately following his graduation ceremony at The Harvey School in late June. Jason flourished in the nurturing learning environment at Harvey and embraced hidden talents that surfaced during high school. **Jason is off to SUNY Albany in September where he will study business. Congratulations, Jason,** and to his father and mother who have encouraged Jason to strive for greatness.



# TRIPS, TRAVELS, and SCHOOL VISITS



**David Salazar** [SMP '18, Canterbury School '22] has begun his college search. Recently David visited Cornell University and the Rowing Center. **David is an A+ student at Canterbury while also competing in rowing and squash.** With David are SMP school dogs, Owen and Brady, who had recently taken a swim in Lake Cayuga.



**During the summer of 2019, our Graduate Success Team took a handful of boys to visit the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland.** In this photo are **Alexis Marin** [SMP '16, Our Lady of Lourdes High School '20, New York Institute of Technology '24]; **Jeremy Vidals** [SMP '16, Newburgh Free Academy '20, Arkansas State University '24]; **Bayron Morales** [SMP '12, St. Benedict's Prep '16, Fairfield University '20]; and **Daniel Ruiz** [SMP '15, Loomis Chaffee School '19, College of the Holy Cross '23].



During early winter 2019, current SMP Eighth graders, **Brandon Rodriguez**, left, and **A.J. Gunera**, right, are joined by **Miguel Benitez**, center, [SMP '19, Blue Ridge School '23], during a recent visit to the Virginia campus. **Miguel did exceptionally well his first year at BRS, both in the classroom and on the soccer pitch. We continue to be grateful to the Guillaro Family Foundation which underwrites a good portion of Miguel's tuition.**



During the visit to Annapolis we were joined by SMP Alumnus **Henry Garcia**. Henry graduated Canterbury School '15, Fairfield University '19, and now he's gainfully employed at Thomson Reuters in Washington, D.C. **The cycle is broken, the odds are defeated! Well done, Henry!**

## Intelligence Plus Character





With **Daniel Ruiz** blazing a trail of success as the first SMP student enrolled at College of the Holy Cross, we are now on the radar of the admissions office, where incentives exist for students who have previously attended Nativity model schools like San Miguel Academy. During a late winter 2020 visit high performing students **Cristian Lucero** [SMP '18, St. Benedict's Prep '22]; Na'sah Dabbs [SMP '17, Canterbury School '21]; **David Salazar** [SMP '18, Canterbury School '22]; and chaperone **Luis "Tito" Jimenez** [SMP '13, Canterbury School '17, SUNY Maritime '21], pay a visit to Daniel and tour the hilly campus of Holy Cross. **All of these boys are carrying an A+ GPA in their respective schools, for which we are very proud!**



**Students had a great visit to SUNY Maritime, Alexis Marin** [SMP '16, OLLHS '20, NYIT '24]; **Anthony Cruz** [SMP '16, St. Benedict's Prep '20, SUNY Orange '22]; **Edwin Sotelo** [SMP '16, Burke Catholic High School '20, Mount Saint Mary College '24], and are pictured here outside a City Island Restaurant early in 2020. Not pictured in this photo is **George Huaqui** [SMP '16, Newburgh Free Academy '20], who will be joining the Class of 2024 at Maritime College.



SMP Graduate Success Team member and volunteer, **Nat Prentice**, is joined by **Arturo Giron** [SMP '19, Church Farm School '23]; **Alex Martinez** [SMP '20, Marvelwood School '24]; and **Jayden Barrera** [SMP '20, Church Farm School '24]. We are all thrilled with the long term relationship our program has formed with Church Farm School in Exton, Pennsylvania. **This prestigious school has been a valued partner in continuing our mission to break the cycle of poverty.**

## Tuition Gap Assistance Program

### MAGLIOCCO FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

#### IN MEMORY OF JAY ANDRETTA

Pat and John Magliocco stepped up in 2017 and envisioned a scholarship program to assist the SMP Class of 2018 attend private high schools to which they were accepted. The Magliocco Family Scholarship has been supported not only by Pat and John, but also by members of Jay Andretta's family in whose memory the tuition benefit is named. The following boys continue to be sponsored and have fulfilled all of the requirements of the scholarship as they enter their junior year of high school.

Kenny Aguilar – The Harvey School  
Cristian Lucero – St. Benedict's Preparatory School  
Brandon Pineda – St. Benedict's Preparatory School  
David Salazar – Canterbury School  
Axel Juarez – Marvelwood School  
Amageo Burks – Friends Christian School

### MICHAEL G. SANTANGELO, JR. FUND – Established by Michael Santangelo, Georgia Derrico, Rod Porter

Khalil Aguilar – The Harvey School  
Miguel Benitez – Blue Ridge School  
Arturo Giron – Church Farm School  
Geoffrey Moran – Canterbury School  
Julian Marin – The Harvey School  
Luis Chirinos – Vermont Academy

### JAMES F. MCCARTHY SCHOLARSHIP FUND – Established by Lianne and Sean Dugan

Aser Marin – The Mount Academy  
Martin Mendoza – The Mount Academy  
Alexis Mendoza – The Mount Academy  
Emanuel Giron-Luna – The Mount Academy  
Jayden Barrera – Church Farm School  
Alexis Martinez – Marvelwood School  
Dominick Pineda – St. Benedict's Preparatory School  
Steven Palacios – St. Benedict's Preparatory School  
Jonathan Ochoa – St. Benedict's Preparatory School



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## Contact us

San Miguel Program  
245 Renwick Street,  
Newburgh, NY 12550  
(845) 561-2822

Donate Online  
[newburghsanmiguel.org](http://newburghsanmiguel.org)

## SAN MIGUEL PROGRAM IS

# GIANTS

## TERRITORY!



Ann Mara Cacase hosts a group of SMP Alums at a Quest Center practice center in August 2019. From left is SMP Board Member **Ann Cacase**; Kevin Marin [SMP '15, St. Benedict's Prep '19, SUNY Maritime '23]; **Saquan Barkley**, Giants' Star Running Back; **Brandon Miller** [SMP '15, Church Farm School '19, SUNY Maritime '23]; and **Daniel Ruiz** [SMP '15, Loomis Chaffee School '19, College of the Holy Cross '23].

**Daniel Ruiz** is a huge fan of New York Giants General Manager, **Dave Gettleman**. The two pause to talk and pose for this photo at the Quest Center indoor field. Thanks, Dave!

Ann is joined on the Met Life Field Pre-Game, early in the 2019 season, with **Bayron Morales**, [SMP '12, St. Benedict's Prep '16, Fairfield University '20] and **Avante Walker**, [SMP '15, Marvelwood School '19, Niagara University '23]. (We are proud of Avante's 3.95 GPA during his Freshmen Year!)



Thank you, Ann, for creating such great memories for the boys!

Save the Date! Thursday October 8, 2020 • 6:30pm

Defying the Odds

15  
YEAR

2006-2020

Honoring  
2020 Impact Awardee  
CANTERBURY SCHOOL  
High School Partner for  
10 Years!

VIRTUAL  
ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP DINNER

SAVE THE DATE