



# Success

## UPDATE 2021

## Graduate Support Beyond High School

The Mount Academy has educated several of our boys through high school, many of whom end up with professional certification in welding. With a rigorous academic curriculum, TMA also



Left: **Yahir Martinez**, SMA '17, is pictured here in the welding shop at The Mount Academy in Esopus, New York.



Right: **Henry Nataren**, SMA '17, is working part time with H.V.I.A. while matriculating at SUNY New Paltz.

offers woodworking, metal shop, and finish carpentry, trades that are in high demand these days. Those who have long worked in the trades, along with many of our local unions, are innovating new ways to attract skilled laborers. Currently, the unions are taking a page out of our U.S. military R.O.T.C. Program and the G.I. Bill by offering to potential apprentices a blend of college education along with skills training. No longer does it have to be an either/or situation, but rather one can learn how to become an electrician while also taking a college degree in business.

To add to this new awareness by the unions, our excellent SUNY college system has also recognized that there are many students seeking majors in agriculture, H.V.A.C., construction management, and building maintenance. Schools like SUNY Alfred and SUNY Morrisville offer a wide array of non-traditional majors in fields where there is a high demand for workers. Currently, we have two boys studying at SUNY Morrisville.

Another important component of our Graduate Success Program is internships. With a growing number of companies committing to efforts in diversity, equity, and inclusion, many of our boys have had internships in business and banking. Through the years, Melissa Mineau and Gus Sacco of Hudson Valley Investment Advisors have loyally hosted our boys as interns. Currently, Henry Nataren, SMA '17, is working part time with H.V.I.A. while matriculating at SUNY New Paltz. Henry's life is busy but with the benefit of a paid internship, he can afford to pay his tuition bills without taking any student loans! Michael Gilfeather of Orange Bank and Trust has also been a faithful proponent of interning our graduates. This summer, Avante Walker, SMA '15, enjoyed a paid internship at the Middletown executive offices of OBT. We are grateful to all who have hosted our graduates and at the same time, we know that many of our supporters may also be aware of internships in New York City that will host our alumni. Should that be the case, please contact us at the school.

### San Miguel Program

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

### College Acceptances for the SMA Class of 2017

Siena College  
Niagara University  
St. Bonaventure University  
SUNY Maritime College  
Cornell University

Boston College  
Syracuse University  
SUNY Alfred  
Mount Saint Mary College  
SUNY Orange

Baruch College  
SUNY New Paltz  
Canisius College  
SUNY Binghamton  
College of the Holy Cross  
Morehouse College



# Cory... the rest of the story!

In last summer's alumni update we reported the devastating news that Cory Arias, SMA '16, St. Benedict's Prep '20, had been electrocuted with 10,000 volts of power, shortly after his high school graduation. Doctors at Westchester Medical Center informed Cory's family that it is rare that a human body can sustain such injuries and recover. We all joined with Cory and did the one thing we knew best, we prayed! Almost exactly two months after the accident Cory emerged from the hospital, ready to start his life again. He credits his amazing recovery to the deep love of his family and friends, the many prayers offered on his behalf, and the fact that he was in such great physical shape because of four years of high school rowing. Coach Craig White, Cory's rowing coach at St. Benedict's Prep, said that he has seldom seen a student commit at such a high level to the sport.

Cory still needed time to heal from the 90% of his body that had been scarred by second and third degree burns, and so beginning studies at Virginia Military Institute in the Fall of 2020 would not be possible. In the meantime, Cory needed something to fill the empty hours of the day. Since we were looking for a rowing coach at the very same time, it became apparent that Cory was going to be back at his alma mater middle school!



Some of the members of "Cory's Crew" along with Cory. From left to right: **Luis Jimenez**, SMA '13, **Christopher Lane**, SMA '12, **Cory**, and **Edwin Sotelo**, SMA '16

**Cory** at the Cornwall Landing, now as Coach Cory!





...Arshay and Cory became fast friends,  
as Cory embodied exactly what Arshay was articulating.

Cory quickly became an inspiration for all of us at San Miguel Academy, particularly the students who were in the rowing program. Rowing requires endurance, commitment, and hard work. Every rower knew that those qualities helped Cory to battle back from his accident. That alone served to motivate the members of our rowing program.

The news kept getting better. Arshay Cooper—rowing activist, and author of *A Most Beautiful Thing* upon which the critically acclaimed film was made—visited our Program in October of 2020. Arshay heard that we were doing the “real work” in getting underserved children to compete in rowing and so he wanted to see for himself how we were doing. It was a momentous day for us as Arshay motivated our students to strive for greatness in the classroom and in their personal lives. It was at that meeting that Arshay and Cory became fast friends, as Cory embodied exactly what Arshay was articulating.

Cory departed for Virginia Military Institute in mid-August to join the Class of 2025! This brave young man has battled back from the impossible and with God’s grace he will battle forward to serve our great nation as a military officer.



**Arshay Cooper** and **Cory** share a conversation on the benefits of dedicating the sport of rowing.

# Row on, Cory, row on!





# Alumni Happenings



## Dilan Herrera

### READY TO GIVE BACK

Dilan Herrera, SMA '14, successfully earned his degree in Social Work from Marist College in May 2021. Dilan has always been an exceptionally bright and compassionate young man. He decided during his early years of college that **he wanted to give back to kids like himself** who endure the deficits of being born in underserved communities.



## George Huagui

### ENGINEER IN THE MAKING

George Huagui, SMA '16, Excelsior Academy '20, has joined the Class of 2024 at SUNY Maritime College. **George will pursue a Bachelor in Engineering degree at this rigorous college.** With his spare time, George has stepped onto the rowing squad as the lead coxswain.



## Na'Sah Dabbs... BEATING THE ODDS!

**Left:** Father Mark joins Na'Sah Dabbs, SMA '17, right after the Canterbury School Commencement in June 2021. Na'Sah prospered in the nurturing environment at Canterbury, earning many of the top awards at graduation, including the prestigious Nelson Hume Award. Beloved by everyone at the elite school, Na'Sah continues to demonstrate that he can beat the odds. This bright young man has earned his way into the Class of 2025 at Boston College! **We know that Na'Sah will continue to soar at BC.**

**Right:** Accompanied by David Salazar, SMA '18, Canterbury School '22, Na'Sah pays a visit this past spring to Chestnut Hill. **His college acceptance list was our most impressive ever, including schools like Cornell, Wake Forest and Syracuse.**



## Luis "Tito" Jimenez... A PROUD DAY FOR SMA

**Left:** Delia Solis and David Jimenez pin the officer bars on their son, Luis "Tito" Jimenez, SMA '13, as **he was commissioned virtually as an Officer in the United States Navy in May 2021.** Tito is completing his officer training in San Diego, California, at the moment, and in October he made his way on to the LCC Blue Ridge in Yokosuka, Japan, where he will serve in the Engineering Department.

**Right:** Ensign Jimenez is joined at his commissioning by SMA Alumni Anthony Fiscal, SMA '13, and Joshua Quinones, SMA '14.







## Brian Lopez

### ALL IN THE FAMILY

Brian Lopez, SMA '11, Canterbury School '15, Mount Saint Mary College '19, **successfully completed a grueling Spartan event this summer.** At the same time, Brian was teaching in our Summer Scholars Program 2021. Brian will remain on our staff as a leave replacement for most of the Fall Semester.



## Henry Garcia

### WEDDING BELLS

Henry Garcia, SMA '11, Canterbury School '15, Fairfield University '19, is pictured with his fiancée, Natalia Macchio whom he met at Fairfield. The two wed on November 12, 2021 in New Haven, Connecticut. **Father Mark presided over the nuptials for the couple.**



## Dajour Fisher

### ENTREPRENEUR!

Dajour, SMA '13, journeyed from SMA onto the campus of The Harvey School where he met with great success. Dajour then made his way to Olean, NY, and Saint Bonaventure University, where he earned a degree in business. **Dajour takes great pride in describing himself as an entrepreneur.** Look out world, Dajour has arrived!



## Avante Walker... HE'S UNSTOPPABLE!

After graduating San Miguel Academy in 2015, Avante headed to Kent, Connecticut, and The Marvelwood School. Marvelwood helped Avante to discover his gifts and potential which allowed him to continue on to Niagara University, Class of 2023.

**Left:** Avante is pictured with his mother, Salina, as **he receives recognition from Niagara University for his leadership in Student Government.**

**Right:** Avante is pictured with Niagara University President, Father James Maher, during the groundbreaking ceremony for the new recreation center on campus.



**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.**



# High School Graduations!



**Angel Silva**, SMA '17, Burke Catholic High School '21, is engaged with Cardinal Timothy Dolan, shortly after the commencement exercises at Burke. The two were reminiscing about the Cardinal's visit to SMA and his blessing over our building. Angel is now a member of the Siena College Class of 2025!



**Ronald Ortiz**, SMA '17, is pictured speaking at The Mount Academy commencement in June 2021. Ronald is off to SUNY Maritime College where he will study marine engineering. Ronald, in his speech, spoke poignantly about the confidence he gained during his middle school experience at San Miguel Academy.



**Kenneth Mejia**, **Henry Nataren**, and **Rodrigo Mejia**, SMA '17, have all successfully completed their high school journey at Our Lady of Lourdes in Poughkeepsie, NY. Kenny is on to Mount Saint Mary College. Henry will be commuting to SUNY New Paltz, and Rodrigo will begin working and taking courses part time at SUNY Orange.

## Tuition Gap Assistance Program

Through the years generous donors have given us money restricted to the support of closing the tuition gap for our students who receive high school scholarships. We are grateful to each of our donors who have made private school a reality.

Among the generous supports are: Lianne and Sean Dugan; Kittie and John Dearie; Georgia Derrico and Rod Porter; Michael Santangelo, Sr.; and Pat and John Magliocco.

### Magliocco Family Scholarship in Memory of Jay Andretta

Kenny Aguilar – The Harvey School

Brandon Pineda – St. Benedict's Prep

David Salazar – Canterbury School

Axel Juarez – Marvelwood School

Amageo Burks – Friends Christian School

### James F. McCarthy Scholarship Fund

Khalil Aguilar – The Harvey School

Miguel Benitez – Blue Ridge School

## Contact us...

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

**Fr. Mark Connell**  
Executive Director

**Frank Snyder**  
Vice President & Director  
of Middle States Accreditation

**Caitlin Lynch**  
Vice President of Development

**Donate Online...**  
**newburghsanmiguel.org**





# San Miguel Academy Class of 2021

**San Miguel Academy Class of 2021 celebrated their accomplishments and achievements as they move on into high school.**

This class embodies all of the positive character elements of a San Miguel Program participant. As a result of their commitment all of them earned places in private and public high schools that will continue their journey to college access.

From left to right:

**Angel Martinez** –  
Newburgh Free Academy  
**AJ Gunera** –  
Church Farm School, Exton, PA  
**Derry Moran** –  
The Mount Academy, Esopus, NY  
**Adan Aguilar** –  
Church Farm School, Exton, PA  
**Brandon Rodriguez** –  
Canterbury School, New Milford, CT  
**Fernando Robles** –  
Excelsior Academy, Newburgh, NY  
**Carlos Enamorado** –  
St. Benedict's Prep, Newark, NJ

**Jaime Ruiz** –  
St. Benedict's Prep, Newark, NJ  
**George Mendoza** –  
Millbrook School, Millbrook, NY  
**Joshua Cervantes** –  
The Mount Academy, Esopus, NY  
**Joshua Ruiz** –  
Milton Hershey School, Hershey, PA  
**Axel Vazquez** –  
Big Picture Learning, NFA West,  
Newburgh, NY  
**Manny Castillo** –  
The Mount Academy, Esopus, NY  
**Rogelio Giron-Luna** –  
Big Picture Learning, NFA West,  
Newburgh, NY



**Luis Chirinos**, SMA '20, Vermont Academy '24, is pictured with his cousin **Jaime Ruiz**, SMA '21, St. Benedict's Prep '25, during a visit to Saxtons River, Vermont. Luis is our first student to take on skiing. We're proud to tell you that he was awarded the Most Valuable Skier Award, along with the Most Valuable Rower Award from the prestigious New England school! Besides that, Luis is earning mostly A's in the classroom. Impressive!



**The SMA Class of 2022** made the annual New York State college tour sponsored by our Graduate Success Program. This year, the boys visited St. Bonaventure University, Canisius College, SUNY Buffalo, Niagara University, Cornell University, and Syracuse University. All of the boys will be finishing up senior year of high school on a positive trajectory.



On a windy winter day in 2021, alumni and current students gathered to celebrate **Brandon Rodriguez's** acceptance into the Canterbury School Class of 2025. Past Saints include from left to right: **Tito Jimenez**, SMA '13, Canterbury School '17; **Na'Sah Dabbs**, SMA '17, Canterbury School '21; **Geoffrey Moran**, SMA '20, Canterbury School '24; **David Salazar**, SMA '18, Canterbury School '22; and Brandon.





## Founder's Council & Board of Trustees

**Thomas M. Crispi\***  
Chairman of the Board

**James Bopp\***  
**Joan Corso Boutross**  
**Sr. Agnes Boyle, O.P.†**  
**Peggy Brady-Amoon\***  
**Robert Brennan**  
**Ann Mara Cacase\***  
**Rev. Mark Connell\***  
**Br. Michael Corry, FSC†**  
**Thomas A. Cunningham**  
**Patrick Donnelly**  
**Gregory C. Draddy**  
**Barbara Eager**  
**Michael Giobbe†**  
**Donato R. Giuseppi, III\***  
**Dennis Grant**  
**Paul Guillaro**  
**Patricia Burns Inglis**  
**Michael Judge**  
**Gregory Kiernan**  
**Kevin Kitson†**  
**Patricia Kitson**  
**Vanessa Lewis**  
**Lindsay Matthews\***  
**Brendan McCarthy\***  
**Megan McCarthy**  
**Kevin Meenan**  
**Kevin Mirabile**  
**Maureen Mirabile**  
**Robert Murphy**  
**Colin O'Gara**  
**Juan Paneto\***  
**Julie Pipolo\***  
**Christopher Sclafani\***  
**Michael Sileck**  
**Joseph R. Sperduto, Jr.**  
**Lauren Steers**  
**Carmen Vazquezte†**  
**Ted Wachtell\***  
**Joanne Welty**  
**Mary Whalen**  
**Catherine Joyce Wooters**

**Fr. Mark Connell**  
Executive Director

\*Board of Trustees  
†Deceased



## OUR ROWING PROGRAM MADE

# HISTORY!

In July 2021 our Rowing Program made history, competing for the first time in regattas held on the Schuylkill River in Philadelphia. In the Independence Day Regatta our Boat 1 came in an impressive 6th in a field of 16 boats, making the finals! In the highly competitive Philadelphia Youth Regatta our boys landed in 15th place and 19th place out of a field of 30 boats. We are so proud of all of the hard work and dedication to which our team committed during the pandemic.

Pictured from left to right: **Bonnie Mueller**, Commodore of the Schuylkill River Navy; **Fernando Garcia**, SMA '22; **Adan Aguilar**, SMA '21; **Jaime Ruiz**, SMA '21; **George Mendoza**, SMA '21; **Carlos Enamorado**, SMA '21; **Arshay Cooper**; and **Cory Arias**, SMA '16.

# CONGRATULATIONS!