



Success 2025

20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

Cycle Broken!

Twenty years ago, we told our first group of “believers” that we were going to break the cycle of poverty through education in the City of Newburgh. That lofty mission needed a team of supporters, educators, workers, pray-ers, and collaborators who would be willing to work tirelessly for love of God and neighbor.

Over 300 families have benefited from the impact of San Miguel Program. We have had our share of highlights – high school graduation rate of 97%, international acclaim for our place-based learning program, high school mission partners including some of the most elite secondary schools in the nation, a nationally known middle school rowing program, THREE Naval Academy Appointments from one class, trades education partners, and an emerging aviation program that is creating pilots, mechanics and traffic controllers for a beleaguered industry.

Thank you to all who are reading this message, and special appreciation to those of you who have been on this amazing twenty-year journey with us!



Our program is working! We hope that you enjoy reading this twentieth anniversary newsletter, and more importantly we pray that you find comfort in knowing that your contributions, big or small, have added to this remarkable story.

[Photos L to R: Brandon Miller, Henry Garcia, Joshua Quinones, Larry Coleman, Henry Nataren, Christopher Recinos, David Ramos, Brian Lopez]



The joy of daily life at San Miguel Academy is watching the children seize upon the opportunities that are being presented to them. Though many of our boys, and now girls, have done such, there is one young man who has been near flawless in his decision making and achievements, Na'Sah Dabbs. He was the third of the three boys from one family to enter the program. Having older brothers paving the way was definitely advantageous for Na'Sah. After completing his middle school studies there was no question that his intellectual gifts were way above average. Canterbury School agreed, and through the Grandview Scholarship, Na'Sah made his way to Connecticut. Four years in New Milford brought out the best in Na'Sah, and though Cornell University beckoned, Boston College felt like home for Na'Sah.

Again, his leadership, intelligence, and overall great character stood out for the business major, so when Cohen and Steers offered Na'Sah an internship, his fans were not surprised. If that were not enough, Na'Sah won over the top brass at C&S, and he was offered a full-time position upon graduation from BC!

Na'Sah beat the odds and yes, the cycle is broken. His mother, Natasha, has been his lifeline and her unconditional love has buoyed Na'Sah in ways we can imagine.

I cannot think of another student who has utilized every opportunity as well as Na'Sah. But he is not alone. Dozens of boys have grown to be ethical and upright men, improving their future and that of their families.

In Uniform Updates



Luis "Tito" Jimenez, SMA '13, is pictured here receiving his stripes as he is promoted to full Lieutenant in the United States Navy. Tito is currently on active duty aboard the USS Winston Churchill. Congratulations to Tito as he continues to make us proud.



Alexis Mendoza, SMA '20, is joined by our USNA Midshipmen, and his fellow Class of '20 mates, **Christopher Recinos** and **Jonathan Recinos**, during a recent visit. Missing is the third triplet, Christian, who was on duty. Congratulations to our amazing trio for completing their plebe year with great success!



Joshua Quinones, SMA '14, retired from his position with the National Guard after seeing active duty, and was recently graduated from the largest class in recent memory to enter the NYPD. Josh will no doubt live up to all of the expectations of "New York's Finest!"



Brandon Miller, SMA '15, is photographed here in Rio de Janeiro, with Brazilian Naval Officers, in a collaborative effort undertaken by the two nations. Brandon was recently promoted to Lieutenant JG, as he serves aboard the USS Nitze, currently docked in Norfolk, Virginia.



Fernando Garcia, SMA '22, paid a visit to USNA this past summer as he enters his senior year at Northfield Mount Hermon School. Fernando has flourished in high school, taking full advantage of the excellent education and rowing program offered by NMH.



Alexis Martinez, SMA '20, is entering the Naval Nuclear Program in Charleston, South Carolina. Alex shifted gears and enlisted in the USN so that he could apply his excellent intellect in service to our country.



Jaime Ruiz, SMA '21, will be reapplying to USNA this year. In the meantime, Jaime is working at SMA in the front office and attending SUNY Orange. Good luck to Jaime.



SMA supporter, Chris Catania, and his brother Steve, pictured above, own Subsurface Technologies in Orange County. This summer Chris and Steve hired **Ronald Ortiz**, SMA '17. Ronald is finishing his studies at SUNY Maritime College in the Bronx, where he will soon earn his degree in Marine Environmental Science. We are grateful to the Catanias for giving Ronald this amazing and career-enhancing opportunity.



Our gratitude to Jason Anderson and his team at ADG Architects for welcoming **Julian Marin** as an intern this summer. Julian, who is seeking a degree in Architect Studies at College of the Holy Cross, had a phenomenal experience working alongside skilled professionals for several weeks. Thank you to ADG for advancing our mission!



SMA Board Member, Gustave Scacco, CEO of Hudson Valley Investment Advisors, oversees the work undertaken by SMA interns, **Jack Minano** and Edwin Sotelo. Along with Melissa Mineau, who inaugurated this relationship, several SMA boys have earned valuable experience as they pursue their business degrees in college. Edwin has recently graduated from Mount Saint Mary College, and Jack has entered his senior year at the Stern School of Business at New York University. Gus and Melissa continue to be impressed by the work ethic and integrity of the young men from SMA with whom they have worked through the years. Thank you, HVIA!

Internships



Pictured here, Bobs Steers is greeting Natasha Benton, mother of SMA prodigy, **Na'Sah Dabbs**. During his senior year at Boston College, Na'Sah was fortunate enough to earn an internship at Cohen and Steers. Given the acclaim he received during that experience, Na'Sah was hired full time by C&S, the highly successful international investment firm. Na'Sah is one of our honorees at this year's scholarship dinner on November 7th at Westchester Country Club.

Our program
is working!

Rowing



Francisco Chihuahua (center), SMA '24, readies his U16 Boys Quad for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Championships in Princeton, New Jersey. Francisco's boat went on to qualify for the USRowing Youth Nationals in Sarasota, Florida. On top of it all, Pancho boasts a freshmen year GPA, at St. Benedict's Prep, approaching a 3.5!





Star student and elite rower, **Janelli Garcia**, SMA '21, prepares for a NEPSAC race in her Women's Four. Nelli has developed her rowing prowess at Northfield Mount Hermon School in Massachusetts. Nelli, along with Fernando Garcia, are "Arshay Cooper Scholars" at NMH. SMA Board Member, **Marvin Garcia**, who serves as Director of Financial Aid at NMH, has been wonderfully supportive of our mission to break the cycle of poverty through education in Newburgh.



SMA benefactor, **Mary Beck**, steps on board the coaches' boat for an afternoon rowing practice. Mary is joined by the Magana brothers, **Jordy**, who began his high school studies at Our Lady of Lourdes, and his younger brother, **Rolando**, now in 6th grade. Thank you, Mary, for cheering on our kids.



Star coxswain and straight A student, **Gianna Martinez**, SMA '21, also earned the MVP Award for Crew at Canterbury School in Connecticut. Gianna is presently working on her college search as she enters her senior year. We all expect that elite rowing coaches will be looking to recruit this talented student/athlete.



Bryan Perez, Jermain Stevens, Romeo Rodriguez, and Jordy Magana, with coxswain, **Emiliano Cervantes**, land a much-coveted Head of the Fish trophy for their victory in the U15 Boys Quad field of 16 teams. Well done boys for earning SMA our first fish in Saratoga!



Jency Pineda, SMA '24, earned the MVP Award for Crew at St. Margaret's School in Virginia. Jency has transferred to Westover School in Connecticut, where she will continue to excel in her studies and on the water.



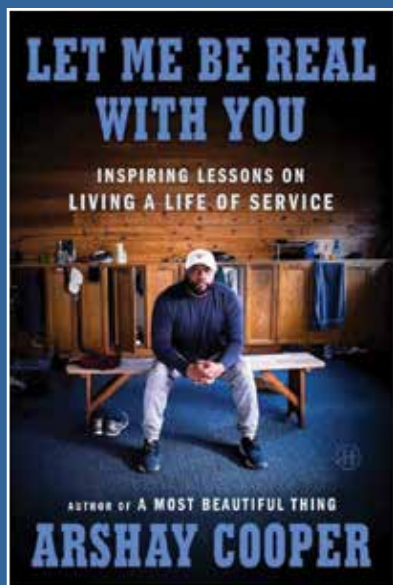
Oscar "Artie" Liendo, stops by to encourage SMA rowers during a Saturday morning practice. Artie is currently a junior at Deerfield Academy where he is pulling A's and developing his coxswain skills under well-known coach, Spencer Washburn.



Jaime Ruiz, SMA '21, is pictured here at the USRowing Development Camp in Michigan, as he hones his skills as a world class coxswain. Working with elite oarsmen for 6 weeks this summer catapulted Jaime to a new level in the rowing world. Well done, Jaime!



SMA sixth grade, **Lizbeth Morales**, is joined by her brother, **Jordi**, on the ergs in our rowing center. This brother/sister duo is among the first since our program went co-educational in 2020. Jordi is presently a senior at St. Benedict's Prep, and a highly successful student/athlete.



Our friend and advocate, Arshay Cooper, has a new book hitting the shelves in mid-October.

In advance of publication, you can now pre-order the book on Amazon.

Destined to be another best seller for this extraordinary man, we are all proud that SMA has been the beneficiary of Arshay's service and support.

Graduate Support Program



Cory Arias, SMA '16, is flanked by his parents after the commencement ceremonies at Virginia Military Institute, earning degrees in economics and finance. Cory is currently discerning whether to enter the private sector or commission as an officer in the United States Military. We wish Cory well in his decision making.



Edwin Sotelo, SMA '16, glows after receiving his business degree from Mount Saint Mary College. Edwin has been a stellar participant in our program, consistently taking advantage of all of the opportunities presented to him. Mom and Dad could not be more proud of this fine young man.



Proud mother, Natasha, at the conclusion of Boston College 2025 Commencement. Well done, **Na'Sah**!



Carlos Enamorado, SMA '21, (left) joins his classmate, **Jaime Ruiz**, SMA '21, after the graduation ceremony at St. Benedict's Prep. Also pictured are **Joseph Cordova**, SMA '22, and **Francisco Chihuahua**, SMA '24, who are also studying at SBP. Carlos has started classes at Dominican University of New York in the business program, while also joining the crew team.



Joshua Cervantes, SMA '21, receives a congratulatory handshake from one of his teachers at The Mount Academy Commencement Exercises. Josh has moved on to Mount Saint Mary College in pursuit of a degree in business. **Manny Castillo** is also pictured here, after delivering a very moving keynote address at the ceremony. Manny has begun studies at SUNY New Paltz in their information technology program.



Aldair Garcia, SMA '14, with his proud family after graduating from SUNY Alfred with a degree in advanced welding.



Keeping in Touch



The Mount Academy is one of our top partner high schools. At TMA our students receive a quality education and tremendous experience in the skilled trades as well. Pictured here are four TMA Alums – **Emanuel Flores**, **Alexis Mendoza**, SMA teacher, Riley Maendel, and **Yahir Martinez**. We are happy to report that Emanuel and Yahir are gainfully employed as welders in local industry.



SMA Class of 2022 students pay us a Christmas visit. Left to right are **Sebastian Sanchez**, P- Tech Academy, **Fernando Garcia**, Northfield Mount Hermon School, and **Fernando Santos**, Church Farm School. The trio are all finishing up their senior year and are currently working with our Graduate Success Team on college guidance.



Ryan Inge, SMA '25, is showing off his photography work at the Malcolm Pray Achievement Center in Bedford, New York. Under the guidance of **Marikay Satriano**, director at Pray, SMA students study the history of automobiles and the artistic quality often found in class cars. At the conclusion of the project, our students' artwork is on display in the well known museum section of MPAC.



We paid a visit to Dominican University of New York, where **Steven Palacios**, SMA '18, delivered a compelling biographical speech to the supporters of DUNY Scholarship Fund. Steven is now a senior at the Nyack, New York, college, and is about to complete his studies for a business degree. Steven has also been instrumental in helping professor and rowing coach, **Ivan Rudolph Shabinsky**, to grow the newly formed crew team at DUNY. Congratulations to Steven!



Brian Silva, SMA Class of 2010, never misses an opportunity to stop by his alma mater when he is back in Newburgh. Currently forging a successful career in Massachusetts, where he resides with his family, Brian introduced us on this visit to his daughter Lucy. As we celebrate our 20th Anniversary, we are proud to say that we are in touch with most of our former students.



Head of Millbrook School, **Jon Downs**, visits SMA with **George Mendoza**. Mr. Downs and George forged a lifelong friendship during George's four well spent years in Millbrook. George earned many of the top awards at Millbrook School's graduation ceremony in May, while also delivering a moving speech about his journey from Newburgh on into college. George has reported to Northeastern University where he has undertaken studies in business.

Keeping in Touch



Henry Garcia, SMA '11, is pictured with long time supporter, **Cashie Egan**, during one of his returns to Newburgh, Henry currently lives in Florida with his wife, Natalia, and two children. Henry embodies the SMA mission to use education and hard work as a means to a productive life. We are all happy that Henry has been voted onto our SMA Board of Trustees, marking the first time a graduate of our program has served in that role. Henry will be charged with building our Alumni base and fostering donor relationships. Thank you, Henry!



Our trades education program is gaining steam as the boys visit a union gathering in Westchester County. The boys had a blast climbing onto heavy equipment and speaking with union workers – from the brick masons to the steam fitters. On the far right is **Aldair Garcia**, SMA '14, who just finished his degree in Advanced Welding at SUNY Alfred, thanks to the generosity of the **Lori and Paul Guillaro** Scholarship Fund which supports our trades education program at SMA.



On our way to the Crash B's Indoor Rowing Championships in Boston, we paid a visit to College of the Holy Cross and SMA sophomore student, **Julian Marin** (far left). Julian treated us all to lunch and a tour around the famed campus. Thank you, Julian!



SMA students are always thrilled when SMA Board Member, Ann Mara Cacase, invites us to a Quest Center practice for the New York Giants. On a recent visit to New Jersey, brothers **Tito** and **David Jimenez**, and siblings **Jaylen** and **Phoenix O'Neal** enjoyed visiting with Giants' legends and Mrs. Cacase. Happy 100th Anniversary to this storied NFL Team. Go GIANTS!!!



"The Triplets," **Christopher**, **Christian** and **Jonathan Recinos** pay a holiday visit to SMA to inspire our rowers regarding a life of service in the military. As you could imagine, our boys were all ears as they heard about the tales of plebe year at the United States Naval Academy. No doubt we will have more applicants as the years pass by.



Marylou Pagano, Director of the Sheen Center for the Arts in NYC, often invites SMA students to events at this remarkable venue. On this visit, SMA students had the opportunity to view the work of famed artist, **Lynn Mara**, and her gallery display at Sheen. **Frank** and **Lynn Mara** also continue to be dear friends of our Newburgh based program.



Jyaire West, SMA '22, stops by for a recent visit. Jyaire has entered his senior year at Church Farm School in Exton, Pennsylvania, where he has flourished. CFS has been a long standing GSP receiving high school, for which we are all grateful. Jyaire has grown during his high school experience, making his mother proud, and all of us as well!



Boston College has established a merit based two-year college known as Messina College, in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts. Our Graduate Support Team recently paid a visit to MC with a group of our rising seniors. Fingers crossed, one or two of them will earn their way into this visionary program which allows successful candidates to complete their final two years of higher education at Boston College.



Zoe Arias and **Ricardo Gunera** visit SMA after a pre-season soccer practice at The Mount Academy. Zoe is entering her sophomore year at TMA and Ricky is now a junior. Both are earning great grades while also excelling on the soccer pitch.



It's not unusual that our Graduate Support Team pays a visit to Newark, New Jersey, and our program enrollees who are studying at St. Benedict's Prep. Nearly twenty San Miguel Academy students have found success at "The Hive," and gone on to higher education. Our two recent graduates are **Jaime Ruiz** and **Carlos Enamorado**, both of whom are featured in the GSP section of this newsletter. We are grateful to **Father Edwin Leahy**, OSB, and his amazing team for fostering a strong bond between our two programs.



Terry Feeney, and his daughter **Kayla** flank **David Jimenez** at Wasatch Academy in Utah. The Feeney Family are responsible for the scholarship that allows two of our boys to attend this phenomenal school, now celebrating its 150th Anniversary. Recently joining David at WA is Emiliano Cervantes.

The San Miguel Academy Class of 2025



Back Row L-R: Romeo Rodriguez, Jordy Magana, Jermain Stevens, Aylen Mendez, Kaylee Martinez, Chanel Rodriguez
Front Row L-R: Ryan Inge, Emiliano Cervantes, Brian Lucero, Victoria Sanchez

Our Newest Alumni ...

Emiliano Cervantes
Wasatch Academy

Adriana Cohetero
Newburgh Free Academy

Ryan Inge
St. Benedict's Preparatory School

Ashton Lee*
Cornwall High School

Brian Lucero
Newburgh Free Academy

Jordy Magana
Lourdes High School

Kaylee Martinez
Emma Willard School

Aylen Mendez
The Mount Academy

Bryan Perez*
Newburgh Free Academy

Chanel Rodriguez
Emma Willard School

Romeo Rodriguez
Marlboro High School

Victoria Sanchez
Newburgh Free Academy

Jermain Stevens
St. Benedict's Preparatory School

Cristell Vasquez*
Wallkill High School

*Early Transfer from SMA

...moving on!

The San Miguel Academy Class of 2025



Chanel Rodriguez and **Kaylee Martinez** on the campus of Emma Willard School, one of our nation's oldest and most prestigious girls boarding schools. Both girls have entered the Class of 2029 at Emma Willard. EW is academically rigorous, and they have one of our region's best rowing programs. A special note of gratitude goes to our GSP Consultant, **Susan Hendricks**, herself a graduate of EW, and **Mary Beck** who saved the day with her enormous generosity as the school to which the girls were originally accepted suddenly closed its doors.



Emiliano Cervantes took up residency in Mount Pleasant, Utah, just weeks ago, as he entered the Class of 2029 at Wasatch Academy. Emi, a superlative student and winning oarsman, earned the Feeney Family Scholarship which allows him to attend this fantastic, and internationally ranked boarding school. Emi joins David Jimenez, giving us two students who will benefit from the outstanding opportunities placed before them at Wasatch Academy. Go Emi!

2025/26 Scholarships

HELEN AND JACK LYNCH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Zoe Arias '24
The Mount Academy
Francisco Chihuahua '24
St. Benedict's Prep
A'marion Smith '24
St. Benedict's Prep
J'yaire West '23
Church Farm School
Jermain Stevens '29
St. Benedict's Prep
Ryan Inge '29
St. Benedict's Prep

FEENEY SCHOLARSHIP

David Jimenez '24
Wasatch Academy
Emiliano Cervantes '29
Wasatch Academy

MICHAEL SANTANGELO, JR. SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Richardo Gunera '24
The Mount Academy
Jayden Ochoa '24
Church Farm School

JAMES F. MCCARTHY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Joseph Cordova '22
St. Benedict's Prep
Ayden Garcia '23
NFA/ Red Tail Flight Academy
Gustavo Laureano '23
NFA/ Red Tail Flight Academy
Oscar Liendo '23
Deerfield Academy
Isabella Luna '28
Canterbury Brook Academy
of the Arts
Aylen Garcia
The Mount Academy

NORTHFIELD MOUNT HERMAN ARSHAY COOPER SCHOLARSHIP

Janelli Garcia '22
Fernando Garcia '22

SUSAN AND JOSEPH MALONEY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Jency Pineda '28
Westover School

BECK SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Chanel Rodriguez '29
Emma Willard School
Kaylee Martinez '29
Emma Willard School

COLLEGE LIST OF 2021

George Mendoza
Millbrook School,
Northeastern University

Jaime Ruiz
St. Benedict's Prep, SUNY Orange

Carlos Enamorado
St. Benedict's Prep,
Dominican University of NY

Joshua Cervantes
Mount Academy,
Mount Saint Mary College

Derry Moran
Mount Academy,
SUNY Polytechnic

Brandon Rodriguez
Canterbury School,
College of the Holy Cross

Fernando Robles
Newburgh Free Academy,
SUNY Orange

Manny Castillo
Mount Academy, SUNY New Paltz

Alexis Gunera
Church Farm School,
Princeton University

Joshua Ruiz
Newburgh Free Academy,
seeking employment

Flight

1 Luis Chirinos, SMA '20, was awarded a one-week scholarship to the RedTail Academy Summer Camp at Stewart International Airport. Luis has begun studies at SUNY Dutchess in their pilot program.



2 SMA Flight instructor, Brian Tighe, spends time with our science teacher, Effiong Eyo, on our StemPilot flight simulator. Our teachers are working with our flight instructors to integrate the history, physics, and math of aviation into our regular curriculum.



3 David Terwilliger, USN Retired, and current SMA Flight Program Coordinator, spends valuable time with **Jaime Ruiz** and **Fernando Garcia** regarding the entrance process for the United States Military Academies. David, a Naval Academy graduate himself, also worked closely with USNA admissions for several years. His guidance through the years has helped to influence many of our boys to consider a career in military service.



4 Kenya Soriano, SMA '26, enjoyed a one week stint at RedTail Summer Flight Camp. We are happy to report that Kenya earned the "Future Pilot" award for her efforts. Gratitude to RedTail Director, Glendon Fraser, for his support and advocacy of the SMA Flight Program.



5 Christopher Recinos, USNA Midshipman, enjoys taking to the skies as part of his Navy education. Christopher is now in his second year of studies at Annapolis, along with his two brothers.



6 Isabella Luna, SMA '24, also earned a one week scholarship to the RedTail Summer Flight Camp. Isabella garnered the "Most Inspirational" honors for her leadership and skills at the conclusion of the camp.



7 Brian Tighe is seen here during a recent visit to SUNY Dutchess Aviation Program. We are forging a strong bond with this college program which offers multiple majors in aviation.



JOIN US — 21ST ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP DINNER

Defying the Odds

Friday, November 7 • 6:30pm • Westchester Country Club Rye, NY



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tickets and
sponsorships'

20 YEARS

"Hard work pays off"

