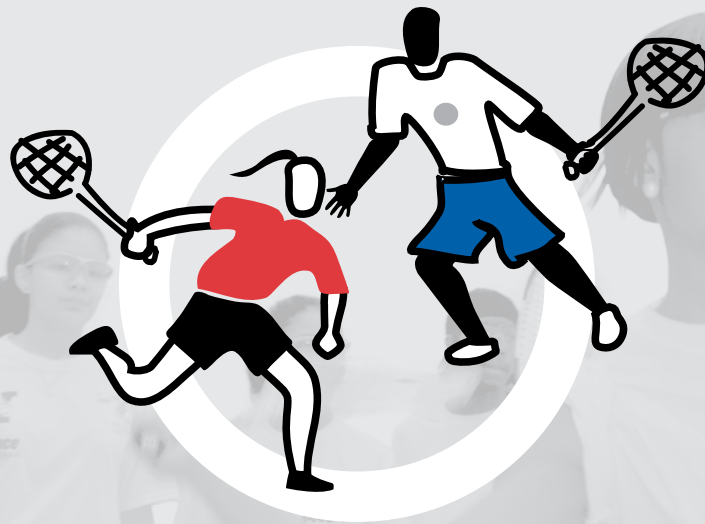


HARLEM



NEWARK

STREET**SQUASH**

STREETSQUASH EXPANDS TO NEWARK

**PROGRAM BEGINS
SEPTEMBER 2012**



A new generation of StreetSquashers are off the bus in Newark, NJ.

Spread the news: StreetSquash is no longer a one-state operation! Add New Jersey to the list. Building on the 13 years of success in Harlem helping children finish high school, go to college, and graduate from college, StreetSquash is setting up shop in Newark.

StreetSquash Newark will serve students from the Essex County Public Schools, and will partner with the Montclair YMCA to run its programming. Staff will transport the students each day from school to the squash courts (and back home) in a new mini bus. Students have already hit the classrooms and courts, and there is enormous excitement and energy in the community. The first participants are 28 6th graders from two partner schools:

University High School of Humanities and Eagle Academy for Young Men. These schools, similar to our partners in Harlem, are working tirelessly to advance the lives of their students. However, there remains significant need for more support, especially in the afterschool hours and weekends.

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Following the Harlem model, StreetSquash Newark will provide long-lasting, meaningful support to participants and their families. There will be intensive tutoring and academic support, early college preparation training, one-on-one mentoring, and squash and fitness instruction for students on a daily basis at the Montclair YMCA.



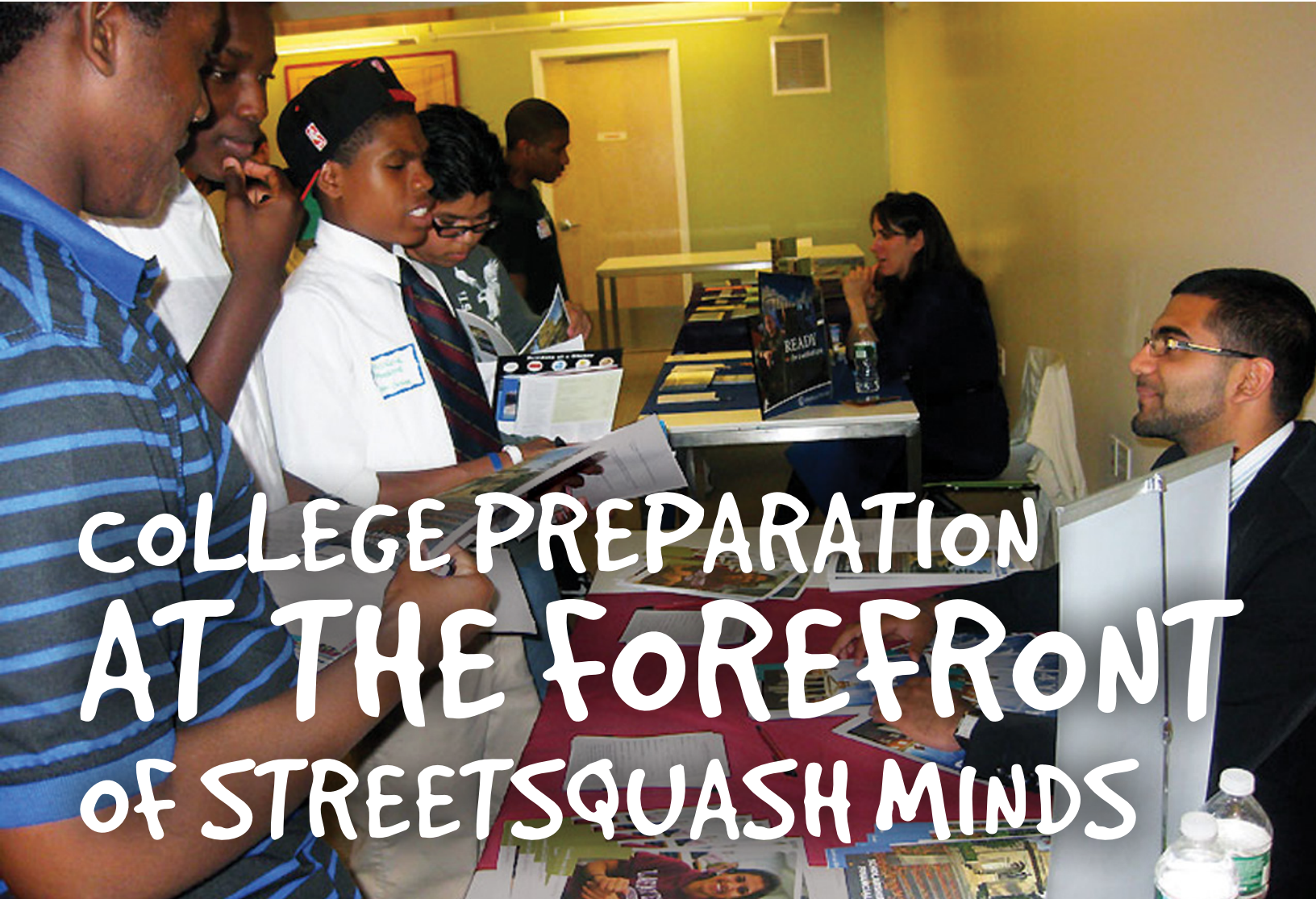
Study sessions also take place at the Montclair YMCA.

StreetSquash Newark will be led by its new Executive Director, Leah Brown, who comes to the position with 9 years of experience running programs at StreetSquash in Harlem. Leah will oversee the academic program and all other elements of the organization. Leah will be joined by Corey Kabot, who will run both the squash and community service programming. Corey recently graduated from Hobart College, where he captained the squash team and was active in the community helping others in need.

StreetSquash Newark has also begun to form a Board of Directors that will be responsible for overseeing the financial stability of the program and its future direction. We are very pleased to report that Geoff Mitchell, a name synonymous with New Jersey squash, and Adam Edwards, a long-time StreetSquash volunteer, mentor and supporter, have joined the Board. Our goal is to add an additional 5 Board members in the next 12 months.



Leah Brown and Corey Kabot with part of the Newark team.



COLLEGE PREPARATION AT THE FOREFRONT OF STREET SQUASH MINDS

As College Preparation Programs continue to expand with a newly annointed College Transitions Program focused exclusively on high school seniors and college freshmen, starting in the 9th grade our students work once a week on every aspect of the college process, from the SATs, to campus tours, to workshops on expectations and different college experiences. **Danny Cabrera**, entering Hobart College this fall, recalled the complete experience of StreetSquash College Prep...

Entering the college prep program in ninth grade was something I did not look forward to. Learning in college prep bored me: I was a ninth grader and college seemed a million years away. It seemed that I had just been given the 'huge' responsibility to walk across the school to go to my classes and now I had to think about living somewhere new, possibly far from home. I think it's something hard for most kids to fathom at that age, especially for me, being that I had only been away from home for three weekends ever.

10th grade is the year you begin to go on weekend college prep trips to different college campuses. I remember my first college prep trip; I couldn't wait to get to the only planned squash school on the list, Amherst College. Once I got to Amherst, it was great; the campus was beautiful, they had squash and courses that interested me. We sat through an info session and I remember hearing what they look for in terms of GPA and SAT scores. I soon found out that what the adults at StreetSquash had been telling me was 100 percent



Danny at work in the StreetSquash office.

true: Squash schools weren't just looking for superstar squash players but also superstar students. I was already motivated to try hard in 10th grade after a bad 9th grade year but after visiting Amherst that weekend, I refused to let my grades stop me from reaching my goal of playing squash in college. I thought about college squash every day, pushing myself harder and harder in order to have the best school year I had ever had.

In 11th grade I stayed motivated but college prep changed once again, we were no longer focused just on college terms but on the SAT. The SAT was definitely something I did not look forward to, like most people, I hope. The SAT prep during college prep, with the practice test, strategies and the shock of homework assignments from StreetSquash showed me how to take the exam and helped improve my score.

During senior year there is one goal in college prep, get into college. In September, I was ready to begin writing my college essays and supplements thanks to some summer sessions, which helped finalize my list of schools. After a long process of writing, rewriting, editing, rewriting and

mastering the art of the 500 character limit I was finally done thanks to the help of Brad, Tony, Kush and Sareen. After visiting so many schools, I decided Franklin & Marshall was the one, applying early decision. The campus had a great feel to it, they offered what interested me and also had a squash team. F&M seemed like a place I would feel comfortable at for four years and I felt like I had a really good chance of getting in. In mid December, I began seeing some of the prospective students that visited F&M with me, posting on Facebook acceptance letters and "F&M class of 2016". I was nervous and excited I knew my letter would be coming soon. After getting home from squash practice a few days later I saw a letter on my bed from F&M, a small envelope. I grabbed it and ripped it open, it read "Dear Danny Cabrera, we would like to thank you for your interest but due to...." It took a few days for the letter to hit me. "I wouldn't be attending F&M next year, I won't be playing college squash, will I even get into any of my other schools?" January was a tough month; I got rejected from F&M and then the F&M squash team came to the building to volunteer. After some time I got over it and looked forward to hearing from my other schools. Soon I got my decision letters from my SUNYs, with the same opening line as I got from F&M, "Dear Danny Cabrera, we would like to thank you for your interest but due to...", all rejections. As these were supposed to be some of my "safety" schools, I figured there was no shot at getting into any of my private schools, all of which offered squash. I thought my dream was over, I wouldn't be playing squash in college and more importantly I wouldn't even be going to college. Everyone told me to stay confident, saying things happen for a reason so I tried my best to stay positive but it was difficult at times knowing that so

much was on the line. March was it, the month where I would be hearing back from the rest of my schools; Colby, Saint Lawrence, Trinity and Hobart. Immediately in the first week of March, I received letters from St. Lawrence and Colby; they were in small envelopes. The same kind of small envelope that I'd grown way too accustomed to seeing. My only hope was Trinity and Hobart, I wanted more than anything to know I would be attending one of these schools in the fall. A few weeks later when I got home my mom told



Students get the chance to visit a number of colleges throughout the year.

me I had mail on my bed. I remember walking from the living room to my room, my heart felt like it was going to fly out of my chest. I walked into my room and there it was on my bed, a huge envelope with Hobart and William Smith written across the top next to their logos. I opened the envelope up and the folder that was inside of it. Unlike the other letters I got with "Dear Danny Cabrera, we would like to thank you for your interest but due to..." This one was different, it began, "Congratulations Danny Cabrera." I told my mother about the news. Right after telling her, I decided to take a walk. It was a beautiful day outside, I got into college and my dream of playing squash in college would be a reality.

SENIOR ESSAYS SHOWCASE TALENT AND INSIGHT OF STREETSQUASH STUDENTS

The members of the StreetSquash class of 2012 came back this fall to take on the new role of college applicant, and I began my new role as college essay tutor. Their task was to research colleges, narrow down their choices, work on applications and essays, and submit all their materials. The essays were a chance to tell the admissions officers more about themselves, in a way that facts and figures and data cannot.

As you will see when you read their work, the students have managed to come alive on paper. They wrote and rewrote their way through several drafts, deciding what to say about the challenges they have faced that have made them the people they are today. If the students work as hard at college as they have this semester, we can expect to see great things. They have built a strong foundation for their future endeavors. Congratulations, class of 2012!

—Katie Cangelosi, College Essay Tutor

Toshar Melville



I remember back when my grandmother used to tell me stories about how hard it was growing up in the South as a young

girl during segregation. She always told me that it was a constant struggle but hard work paid off and she was able to be successful as a student and as a grandmother to me. As time went on, my grandmother had seven kids, including my mother, who also instilled in me that hard work pays off in the end. Because my grandmother was well-respected, my family always listened to what she had to say and never denied her. When my grandma became ill and was slowly slipping away from us, drastic changes began to take place in my extended family.

After my grandmother's death, as the pain of the loss set in, the values that held my extended family together seemed to die with her. Everyone was out for personal gain and focused on what may help them alone succeed in the future. I realized that without my grandmother in our lives, we no longer functioned as an extended family. There seemed to be no bonding and quality time. But despite these changes, I remained focused on what my grandma told me. Without my family to rely on, I knew at least I could make proud the memory of my grandma.

From then on I felt motivated to take an opportunity and make the most of it, even if it was outside of my comfort zone. I realized that even though my family was breaking apart, I had found a second family in StreetSquash. Throughout all my years of being a part of the program, the staff taught me the same values about making the best out of what I have. While in

StreetSquash I was motivated to be a leader, whether it was coaching the younger kids new to the sport when they needed help to improve their game, or just being a good friend. StreetSquash has been instrumental in my life because in the game of squash you may have your ups and downs, but the coaches taught me what it meant to be resilient. I was always told that even though I may be down, just show effort and have the will to win.

I feel that I would be a great asset to a college community because of the determination and passion I have to adapt to new situations and to better myself in an intellectual environment. The desire I have for a higher education will propel me into a successful future where the struggles I've faced will be all in the past and I can look forward to the next stage of my life as a college student.

Kbudah-Torah Musah



Sometimes a simple act of kindness changes everything. I know this because that's what happened to me. Growing

up, I was teased because my name was different and because I had a darker skin tone than other people. My classmates said that I looked like charcoal. Instead of calling me Kbudah, they called me 'Budah' or 'Bugga Bugga Bugga.' This hurt my feelings and made me not want to be me.

All of that changed in 2006, when I began attending Thurgood Marshall Academy. On the first day of school, my seventh grade English teacher, Mrs. Edward, told me that I had a beautiful name and a beautiful chocolate complexion. She asked me what my name meant and where it was from. The fact that someone was interested in my name was a change from people just laughing when they heard it. So I explained, "My full name is Kbudah-Torah Nacikah Musah. Kbudah-Torah means, 'She shall restore the honor to the Torah,' Nacikah means princess, Musah means Moses." I also told her it was a Hebrew name. Mrs. Edward's response was "Wow, that is a powerful name." That made me smile on the inside and outside. I realized how a few kind words from another person could change the way I felt about myself. I no longer felt like the ugly duckling, I felt beautiful.

This summer, I had a chance to use what Mrs. Edward taught me and to pay it forward to the younger generation. Working as a camp counselor I overheard one of my campers making fun of another camper, calling her "Spider Legs." I pulled the first camper aside and told him that he should not make fun

of how people look, because it is not nice and it can hurt their feelings. I pulled the other camper aside and told her that she was beautiful, there was nothing wrong with her height, and that models are tall. She smiled the same way I did when Mrs. Edward made me realize I was beautiful. Someday, I hope, my camper will pass along what I taught her, proving the power of one simple act of kindness to change many lives for the better.

Shaheem Perry



Over the summer, I collaborated with a group of great minds from all over the country to formulate an action plan that would ultimately

eradicate malaria throughout Africa... in a hypothetical sense. I actually was on the campus of Brown University, where I participated in a course on global health. Initially, I thought that I would be overwhelmed by college level course work, but in fact it allowed me to challenge myself in ways high school never has. The professional structure of the classroom and the dedication of the students have changed my views on education and on my future.

Thurgood Marshall Academy, where I attended both middle school and high school, is not the most optimal learning environment. I have faced some of the many challenges that students in urban schools encounter. The classrooms in my school are often overcrowded and noisy, which discourages class participation. At Brown, the professor-to-student ratio was considerably smaller, which provided an atmosphere for more in-depth discussions, whereas my

current high school peers shy away from that type of participation. Brown has opened my eyes to a different way of learning.

The classroom environment of Brown was much more rigorous than what I was accustomed to. On the very first day we were given a lengthy article on malaria to read, and were expected to have a discussion on the material when we finished. I was surprised at the immediate participation of my fellow students and how much they fought to defend their points of view. Before I knew it, I found myself being swept up into the class discussions, which were constantly challenging. My peers introduced me to new perspectives on the issues.

One particular day, I remember we were talking about illnesses in poor areas of the world. The professor had started the discussion with the question of how can we deal with people suffering from parasites and diseases in poverty-stricken areas? We came to the conclusion that the solution was to raise enough funds to provide the necessary medication and doctors to treat the people. The professor promptly responded with a follow-up question, "What's to stop them from being infected again?" This question prompted a new discussion, which led to a new conclusion that the issue was not the illness itself, but rather the environment that breeds the illness. The in-class debates showed me that critical thinking was an invaluable skill that I would need to develop in order to succeed in college.

The summer experience at Brown gave me an opportunity to participate in a true college curriculum, and was both demanding and inspiring. Through my participation in the leadership course, my eyes have been opened to the value of higher education and I am truly excited by the prospect of learning at the college level.

High School StreetSquasher Profile

HAKEEM



Hakeem with former Academic Director Laura Jankstrom.

My first encounter with Hakeem's strength of character was the summer before his junior year. The task ahead of us was a 4-mile run in

Central Park. In the prior days, we had struggled with shorter runs but we were determined to complete this new challenge. I was expecting to

have to constantly encourage Hakeem to keep pace, but that was not the case. While he struggled, he kept smiling the entire time; we didn't stop, we kept pushing, and finished the run together. Hakeem didn't know it, but his tenacity kept me going. He never gives up, not when he is tired from running, and not when he is faced with his life's many challenges.

When Hakeem started with StreetSquash, he was a C student. He was very reserved, and though he did make friends in the program, he was quiet and somewhat withdrawn. Even so, there was a spark in him that made it clear he was full of potential but had not yet been encouraged to explore it. At StreetSquash Hakeem soon began to flourish: In his junior year, his academic achievements were so outstanding that he received the Academic Commitment Award for his

(continues on next page)



STREETSSQUASH JUNIOR CUP FORGES NEW FRIENDSHIPS

On February 12th, 2012, StreetSquash hosted the 2nd StreetSquash Junior Cup. The now annual event provides a unique opportunity for the metropolitan area junior squash community. Teams of juniors, organized by friendship, club,

coach, school, or eager parents, compete alongside StreetSquashers on 7-person teams in a day of competition. Not only does this continue to be a great way for juniors and parents to learn about StreetSquash and meet our students,

but the event also asks participants to go above and beyond mere athletic competition, to contribute both through volunteer hours at one of our practices as well as through team fundraising. This year the eager participants raised nearly \$10,000 to support StreetSquash programs, in addition to devoting numerous hours instructing our students on court. It was truly a pleasure to see the sportsmanship, teamwork, and squash skill of all the juniors who participated, and a special thanks go out to the Harvard Club, The Bronxville Juniors, The Union Club, The Rockaway Hunting Club, The Sports Club LA, and the Piping Rock Club for their commitment and generosity. There is undoubtedly a very bright future ahead for metropolitan area squash!

NEW STAFF JOINS THE STREETSQUASH TEAM



Assumpta, Gabby, Alana, and Clair.

StreetSquash is saying goodbye to Program Director Leah Brown and Squash Director Christian Henze. Leah, who has been in the program for 9 years, is handing off the reigns to current College Preparation Director, Sareen Pearl, while Christian will be replaced by Clair Oblamski. Both staff members will remain close to the program, and while they are already missed we are always looking forward to new perspectives and leaders to guide our students into their bright futures. Cici Matheny (current academic director of Teams 3 & 4) is taking over for Sareen, Alana Presslaff is taking over for Cici, and Assumpta Galang will fill an entirely new position responsible for 'College Transitions', that is our graduating classes as well as the college freshman. Finally, Gabrielle Robinson, a StreetSquash alumna, is taking charge of the 6th grade programs in addition to coordinating Young Leadership Committee events!

HAKEEM *continued*

team. Hakeem maintained these high academic standards with 100% attendance in the program and in school and, with his academics in order, Hakeem started to put more focus on his squash game, in little time competing for a spot on the varsity team.

Hakeem has established himself as a standout scholar-athlete and a role model within the StreetSquash program despite facing the pressures of a difficult upbringing and home life. Having been sent to Jamaica by his mother when he was a toddler, Hakeem grew up in an unstable environment. He remembers running barefoot in the streets and working hard at a young age to help his family. Though several years later his mother sent for him to move back to the United States, Hakeem never lost the work ethic and Jamaican roots ingrained in him. He was happy to return home to his mother even though the family struggled to survive on public benefits. In the absence of his father, Hakeem has dealt with the added pressure of being the man of the house. His family asks him to be a caretaker and provider while also managing his own responsibilities. These pressures would crush a lesser person but Hakeem has decided to use them as motivation to work tirelessly to achieve his goals.

Over time, Hakeem focused his developing academic and personal strength on a new mission: social justice. He is often the first to volunteer for community service,

even though he knows it means hours of grueling work. While many students do community service out of a sense of obligation, Hakeem is truly passionate about giving back. Throughout every service opportunity he has demonstrated leadership through genuine interest and enthusiasm.

Hakeem's academic and social progress, coupled with his personal history and tenacious drive, has allowed him to defy the odds. He was recently accepted into New York University, where he hopes to build upon his newfound passion for social change. Be it as a non-profit director, a political activist, or something else entirely, he wishes to advocate for people in low-income communities who can benefit from professional help that is otherwise inaccessible to them.

While I am extremely impressed by all that Hakeem has overcome, I am most proud of his strength of character and willingness to help others. He is a great example of how a student can use squash as a source of motivation to achieve his goals, even when faced with challenges that seem overwhelming. Hakeem is a fantastic ambassador for StreetSquash and Urban Squash as a whole, and I look forward to seeing all the great things he will accomplish at NYU and beyond.

— Sasha Diamond-Lenow, Academic Director

FRIDAY FILLED WITH LITERACY, DEBATE, FORENSICS AND MORE!



*Cheyenne Paul ('17)
and Nakayla Taylor
('17) working in Built
Environment, and Nia
Gill ('18) delivering a
Debate speech.*

On Fridays at StreetSquash, the 7th and 8th graders all participate in the Literacy Program, and this year we've incorporated a couple of new elements: a project called the Built Environment, and a Debate group. Though our debaters aren't quite ready to compete against teams from other schools and programs, they're braving stage fright to debate in front of the entire StreetSquash middle school! In the Built Environment, students learned about scale, geometry, and cities around the world, and have been building to-scale models of an ideal community out of their collective imaginations (this spring their model includes a "winter" region that represents the past, a "summer" region that represents the present and future, with an invisible time travel port in between).

We've also kept up our commitment to Health Education, giving students the opportunity to learn about all aspects of health—from nutrition, to staying active, as well as mental health. Our longstanding partners from the literary magazine Canteen have also continued to engage students in a creative writing workshop, and this year we plan to add a new Forensics Curriculum.



*Samia, who also won the
GU15 consolation at Urban
Individual Nationals.*

1775. It was a cold, windy day—the radios were broadcasting. This was the everyday routine: wake up, turn on the radios, listen to the news. Us kids never liked radios and always had the habit of dozing off while listening to blah, blah, blah. There were always people talking about weather and things only adults like.

What if there was a way to bring plays and radios to life? No more listening to what's going on. Instead, people could act it out. No more having to look "alive" when really I'm bored out of my mind, listening to radios. It could be on a screen. If there was only a way to record the things we do. Put 'em on a screen, and show them off. A way to make photography move—that would transform the world into something!

I wanted to brainstorm, so I started to doodle my ideas. I tried planning it out like an architect. Fail! I drew out my school's play of "Santa Clause," just as a way to make these pictures move.

I never got the idea and ended up just running the pages through my fingers. I watched as the pictures moved before my eyes. I kept repeating that sentence in my head.

—Samia Stewart ('17)

Middle School Profile

TREVOR LAING STEPS UP HIS GAME

Trevor Laing was StreetSquash's nominee for the 2012 Urban Squash Future Stars Award. After a difficult first year with StreetSquash, Trevor has really flourished in his second year with the program. He has established himself as a role model and leader, which as a result, has had a tremendous impact on the seventh grade team dynamic. Trevor is a fantastic student-athlete, and he is only beginning to scratch the surface of what he is capable of both in the classroom and on the squash court.

Last year, Trevor had a very difficult time adjusting to the daily rigors of the StreetSquash program. Trevor's attendance throughout the year was inconsistent, as he was often skipping practices during the week and on Saturdays. In addition, Trevor's behavior on a daily basis did not meet StreetSquash standards, resulting in a number

of suspensions and probationary periods. Moreover, Trevor stubbornly declined to engage with staff members and volunteers when they attempted to help or give him instructions. He would frequently hide his head in his arms, refusing to make eye contact and shutting himself off from all who attempted to assist him. At the end of the year, it was mandated that Trevor re-tryout for the StreetSquash program in order to remain with the team in 2011–2012.

Beginning last fall, Trevor vowed to make a firm commitment to the program. Trevor's attendance has been outstanding, as he has only missed three practices in 2012. In addition, Trevor's behavior and attitude have changed dramatically over the course of the year. Trevor is extremely hardworking both in the classroom and on the squash court. He has gone from one of the weaker squash players on the team, to a top five player in the middle school, and a true student of the game. In academic sessions, his commitment to his schoolwork and willingness to participate has been essential to helping the team cultivate a positive and highly productive study environment.

While we are truly proud of the changes that Trevor has made in himself, what stands out even more is the positive effect that he has had on his teammates. Trevor is not a vocal leader, but his earnest joy and enthusiasm for all aspects of the program have greatly influenced his fellow teammates. Trevor's peers have followed his lead in improving their commitment to the program. The seventh grade's outstanding cumulative attendance, which stands at over 95 percent, is in large part due to Trevor's influence and his work as a leader and captain of the team.

Watching Trevor's development over the past two years has been truly remarkable. Looking back on all the struggles from last year, former Squash Director Christian Henze remarked, "I often have to remind myself that I am working with the same student. Through his hard work and determination, Trevor has put himself on the right track at an early stage in his life. He is a top student and a great athlete, but more importantly, he is developing into a virtuous and caring young man. His star is just beginning to shine, and I have no doubt that he will continue to do great things at StreetSquash and beyond in the future."



Trevor competing at the Rockaway Hunting Club.

STREETSSQUASH CUP CONTINUES HISTORIC TRADITION OF GIVING



John Musto, David Sachs and Patrick McElroy of the Harlem Squash Trotters.

Since 2009, the StreetSquash Cup has built a broad community of support for our programs, surpassing all our initial expectations. From those first intrepid captains whose leadership established a format and opportunity for outreach to the New York squash community, the StreetSquash Cup has grown considerably. Our most recent May event featured teams and captains comprised of StreetSquash board members, volunteers, corporate partners, college squash alumni, squash fanatics, staff members, StreetSquashers, and some of the best professionals to ever play the game.



University Club - 2012 Champions (Back L-R): Andrew Fink (Captain), John White (Pro), Hamed Anvari, Carl Baglio, Jonathan Berger (Captain), (Front L-R): Jacob Himmelrich, Jordan Greenberg, Raheem Logan (StreetSquash).

The University Club Team once again etched its name on the StreetSquash Cup, winning the squash competition for the third time. In the fundraising challenge, the Racquet & Tennis Club defended their title as Fundraising Champions, continuing to set the bar high on and off the squash courts, and ensuring the overall success of the StreetSquash Cup. New to this year, is a yet-to-be named trophy for the team that raises the most money for the tournament. Past winners will be added to the trophy, which will sit next to the Cup in the trophy case at the SL Green StreetSquash Center in Harlem. 2012 established a new record for total funds raised, as hundreds of supporters joined the team members to raise over \$600,000 to support StreetSquash's students and programs.



Racquet & Tennis Club (Back L-R): Baset Chaudhry (Pro), Mitch Truwit (Captain), Gustav Detter, Peter Worth (Front L-R): Terrance Rose (StreetSquash), Scott Mackesy (Captain).

Teams included the University Club, co-captained by StreetSquash Board Members Andrew Fink and Jonathan Berger; the Racquet & Tennis Club,

(continues on next page)

THE STREETSQUASH CUP *continued*



John White and Chris Walker exhibit the pinnacle of squash skill.

co-captained by Board Chair Mitch Truwit and Scott Mackesy; Goldman, Sachs & Co., captained by Board Member Eric Muller; the Women All-Stars, captained by Board Member Leslie Kimerling and Anne Zahner; the Harvard Club, captained by Board Members Jeffrey Horwitz and Richard Chin; Harlem Squash Trotters,

co-captained by David Sachs and Bob Mylod; Union Club, captained by Ed Shugrue; Virgin Squash, captained by Steve Friedheim; Williams Alumni, captained by former Squash Director Tony Maruca and current Squash Director Christian Henze; and the YLC co-captained by YLC Members Bryant Rich and Pete Hansen.

The StreetSquash Cup 2012 Pros included a host of world champions and collegiate champions: John White, Chris Walker, Martin Heath, Wael El Hindi, Bradley Ball, James

Stout, Amanda Sobhy, Baset Chaudhry, Todd Harrity, and Richard Chin provided some fantastic matches on an intimate stage. We are grateful for all of their support for StreetSquash and our students.

With the bar set so high, we are looking forward to setting a new standard in 2013, as this premier event continues to bring more urban squash enthusiasts together.



Supporters, students, professionals, teammates, amateurs all watching the action at StreetSquash.

PARENTS KEEP UP COMMITMENT TO STREETSQUASH



Monique Hendricks, LaTasha Brown, Queen Walker and Vida Wood bring enormous support to our programs.

It is Saturday morning. The building is just awakening with a few students and staff getting prepared for tutoring and practice. On a typical day at StreetSquash you would not find parents here unless someone is in trouble, or

they are picking up or dropping off their student-athlete. However, this day is unlike others: a classroom is now full of parents discussing new initiatives, ideas, and opportunities. This is a Parent Board meeting. The Parent Board is a committed group of parents/ guardians who are determined to be involved with StreetSquash through outreach, fundraising, and volunteer support.

We would like to thank the parents who were involved this year for their commitment and feedback, especially the Parent Outreach Committee and team representatives Jacqueline Babsy, Shymaine Knowings, Leigh Nesbit, Taleisha Woods, Sunita Budhiraja, Eileen Gibson, Monique Hendricks, Meredith Conyers, and Vida Wood. A very special thank you goes out to our Executive Committee Chair LaTasha Brown, Vice-Chair Corby Ellis-Mare, Secretary Chandra Hicks-James, Outreach Committee Chair Antiena Perry, Co-Chairs of the Fundraising Committee Queen Walker and Linda Frierson. This year the Parent Board aims to raise over \$8,000 to support various StreetSquash initiatives including the Howe Cup, the Nicaragua Service Learning Trip, The Senior Scholarship Fund, equipment purchases and general financial and moral support! We thank all of you for your commitment and hope to see you, and more new great people, all next year!



Left to right: Geoff Adler and Olivia Tandon with mentees Jonathan Cummins ('18) and Kiran Budhiraja ('17), plus StreetSquashers Tariq Holland ('13) and Karan Budhiraja ('18).

STREETSSQUASH MENTORS CHANGE LIVES

The Mentoring Program has been a long-standing and successful part of StreetSquash. We currently have over thirty students matched with adult mentors throughout New York City, with these relationships having significant impacts on the students and adults involved. Mentors aid our students in ways such as helping them with their schoolwork and study habits, focusing on their squash game, and perhaps most importantly, providing additional social support.

Geoffrey Adler, a University of Pennsylvania graduate, has recently begun as a StreetSquash mentor. Geoffrey was matched with 6th grader Jonathan Cummins in February 2012. Jonathan, who is in his first year in the program, was very much in need of having a positive male role

model, and was thrilled about the possibility of a mentor. Jonathan and Geoffrey connected right from their first meeting, and the relationship looks to have all the ingredients to be extremely successful.

Speaking to Geoff about his experience thus far, he noted, "In our first few interactions, Jonathan and I quickly found common ground in both academics and athletics, which have become the cornerstone of our relationship. Academically, both of us share science as our favorite subject. Athletically, he is a great competitor who loves the game of squash. I was impressed one afternoon when, after playing 4 games against each other, he wanted to keep practicing instead of taking a break for food."

With people like Geoffrey putting their full effort into helping our students, the program will certainly continue to grow at StreetSquash and help benefit more students' lives. This year, we have generated up to fifteen new mentor-mentee relationships, and hope to significantly top that number in the next school year. Additionally, we have begun a Peer Mentoring Program, where older students serve as mentors for the younger middle-school students through their duration at StreetSquash. These older students strive to support and enhance the academic and squash experiences for their mentees, whilst consequently developing a greater sense of leadership and responsibility themselves.

NY SQUASH LEAGUE BRINGS OUT TEAMWORK AND COMPETITION



Terrance Rose (Men's 4.5), Elhadji Mare (Men's 3.5), Mawa Ballo (Women's 3.0/4.0), Yushishia Watson (Women's 3.0/4.0) and Jamel Key (Men's 3.5).

For some time now StreetSquash high school students have participated in the MSRA League, pitting New York squash teams against one another in divisions of skill. This year StreetSquash entered teams into the 3.5, 4.5 and 5.5 men's category, as well as the 3.0/4.0 women's category. The goal of entering such a wide range is to give as many students and members of the StreetSquash community as possible the chance to develop their squash game while fostering new and lasting relationships within the growing New York squash world. Of course, the competition and the pressure that comes with playing on a team, sometimes against an opponent 2 or 3 times older, builds character, and that is what we hoped our students would take away from the 2011/2012 season.

Many of the participating students had never played in the MSRA Leagues before this year, and they actively sought out the opportunity to do so. Further, many of those who had played previously, were playing at a significantly higher level than ever before. Maintaining a minimum GPA in addition to other academic standards pushed our students off court as well, in a drive to compete with and support their teammates. Of particular note, the 3.5 men's team was composed of a majority of newcomers. Their learning curves were steep, but they rose to the challenge and got stronger and stronger as the season went on, ultimately winning the consolation bracket, an impressive achievement.

The 3.0/4.0 women's team would certainly feel a similar sense of pride about their season, as their performances and results were arguably the highlight of all the StreetSquash teams. All-star supporter and mentor Pia Seth, who also played in the #1 spot for the year, captained the team. Playing the majority of matches were students Brandy Williamson ('14), Tosin Elegba ('14), Mawa Ballo ('14), and Pia's mentee, Yushishia Watson ('13), and Olivia Robinson, a StreetSquash enthusiast and burgeoning talent. Initially, the goal for this relatively inexperienced team was to enjoy and learn as much as they could from competing against their more refined and experienced opposition. However, they clearly had other ideas, upsetting team after team, forcing their way into the playoffs, and finally losing a close semi-final match to Sports Club LA. Pia Seth stated: "The league experience with the StreetSquash girls this season far exceeded my expectations. What really blew me away was what great competitors the girls are. Their fighting spirit, will to win, and determination, tempered with great sportsmanship was a pleasure to witness. The strong performance of the team over the course of the season was the icing on the cake."

On the whole, the MSRA League Season was a great success in various ways for all StreetSquash teams. We thoroughly look forward to entering in teams next season once again, making the students who have played stronger and more experienced, and giving new students the opportunity to participate in the invaluable experience that is squash!

P.E. PROGRAMS SERVE 250+ HARLEM YOUTH

The StreetSquash P.E. program had another fantastic year in 2011–2012. Five days a week, elementary students from nearby Sisulu-Walker Charter School participated in hour-long P.E. classes hosted at the StreetSquash facility. This year, StreetSquash added a new partner, as third and fourth grade students from Harlem Academy experienced squash for the first time. In a given week, over 120 students from these local elementary schools got the opportunity to improve their physical fitness and learn the game of squash.

The P.E. program was led by StreetSquash alumnus Melvin Ventura who ran the majority of the practices,

which included stretching, fitness, squash drills, and a variety of athletic games. Said Melvin, “It was a ton of fun having so many students in the building throughout the year. The kids showed great enthusiasm, and were eager to learn about squash. Many of our P.E. participants are now interested in becoming full-time StreetSquashers in the future.” StreetSquash had a tremendous experience working with both Sisulu-Walker Charter School and Harlem Academy and we look forward to continuing the partnership with both schools in 2012–2013!



URBAN NATIONALS THRIVE IN GROWING PLAYING FIELD

StreetSquash in partnership with CitySquash was proud to host the 2012 Urban Team Nationals Tournament which ran from January 14th–15th. The tournament pits 5-person teams from different urban squash programs across the United States against one another in two days of intense competition. Some of the friendships and rivalries amongst the squashers go back as many as six years, since first auspiciously (and likely improperly) gripping a racquet.

This year over 200 players proudly represented their programs, across every junior age division, with players traveling from San Diego, Denver, Chicago, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Boston, and New Haven to compete. Thanks to all the planning and support of staff, parents, students, and alumni, the weekend was a huge success. An obvious highlight occurred when the StreetSquash BU17/19 A-team, comprised of 3 graduating seniors, Terrance Rose, Danny

(continues on next page)

URBAN NATIONALS *continued*

Cabrera, and Sion Sennon, and 2 juniors, Tariq Holland and Floyd Perkins, triumphed over Access Youth Academy in their final match to top the division. It was a dramatic valediction to the seniors' tenure at StreetSquash, and a testament to their hard work and talent.

Hawa Bah ('14) and Richard Fagan ('17) received the StreetSquash sportsmanship award given to the high school and middle school student who demonstrated extraordinary sportsmanship, maturity, and commitment to their team members and the program as a whole. While 10th grader Hawa lost a tough battle in the GU17/19 final against Access Youth Academy, her attitude was virtually indistinguishable from her decisive win in the semi-final match against CitySquash. She tried her utmost every point, and was quick to recover and cheer on her teammates following both the win and the loss. Thankfully, this kind of attitude was pervasive across all of our students, with only a few bitter tears being shed which were quickly overcome.

Urban Individual Nationals provides another unique opportunity for our students and the growing urban squash community. Each year Williams College hosts an ever larger number of players for a weekend of intense individual competition. StreetSquash entered more contestants than any other program with more than 70 students competing for titles. The weekend features a lot of squash, but also the opportunity to experience a college campus and to celebrate the academic and service achievement of graduating seniors and 'future stars' of



8th grader Richard Fagan with 10th graders Javaughn Miller, Chris Brooks and Miguel Rosendo at Williams College for Urban Individual Nationals.

urban squash. Also of note; StreetSquash does not simply bring its top athletes, but only those students with 90% attendance who in addition complete a creative application and maintain a good attitude to the program as a whole. For many, this was their first squash tournament, a daunting task considering the level of play, often times in 64-person draws. Our StreetSquashers across the board represented themselves well, and saw semifinals from Terrance Rose in the BU19, Brandy Williamson in the GU17, and Richard Fagan in the BU13. Samia Stewart was the GU15 consolation winner having only played squash for a year, and Taylor Cook narrowly went from victory to victory finally besting teammate Denecia Cummings in the GU17 consolation final.

We are already training and planning for these fantastic events next year where we are hungry to both improve our outcome and defend our titles.



Teams gather at StreetSquash during the Urban Team Nationals.



Above: Yasmin Lopez's ('15) creative application to Urban Individual Nationals where she competed in her first squash tournament.

STREETSSQUASH REMAINS DEDICATED To COMMUNITY ACTION



Lyrick Glover ('18) tutoring at nearby Sisulu Walker School.

For StreetSquash's winter community service theme, students and staff alike focused on the issues of hunger and homelessness. The seven teams participated in different service events and were able to see different sides of these two prevalent social problems. It is one of StreetSquash's core values for our students to learn the value of giving back to their community while developing a sense of civic responsibility.

This past winter, Teams 1 & 2 volunteered at the Food Bank for New York by helping community members select healthy and balanced meals in their Food Pantry. Team members also volunteered at the Neighborhood Coalition Services organization by showing off their 'master chef' skills and preparing dinner for over 25 shelter residents. In both environments, students were able to engage with community

members and learn how to work outside of their comfort zones. Team 3 volunteered at the Yorkville Common Pantry, where our students served food and interacted with other volunteers. Teams 4 and 5 laced up their tennis shoes to deliver meals with Citymeal's Stanley Isaacs Senior Center while Team 6 delivered meals on their heels to the elderly members of the Carder Burden Center. All students

enjoyed getting their exercise while meeting and learning about the lives of the meal recipients. Finally, Team 7 wrapped up this great service theme by creating cards and letters to the elderly individuals visited by Teams 4, 5 and 6, demonstrating that small acts of kindness are just as relevant in the world of service.

It was great having our teams volunteer at so many different organizations during this past year



Service initiatives range from the kitchen to the garden.

so that we could not only expand our community relationships and touch more lives, but also our students can now share their unique experiences with other teams and promote a more far-reaching understanding of both the services and situations that exist in our own backyard.



Global Youth Service Day is a program-wide event promoting community health.



Four StreetSquashers were given the chance to participate in the first ever Urban Doubles Camp and Tournament, a weeklong adventure run by US Squash in Denver, CO. The students worked together on court and experienced all the Mile High City has to offer, going on hikes, seeing a Rockies game, and visiting the US Olympic Training Center.

STREETSQUASH WALKS FOR CHANGE



StreetSquashers walking for vision!

Every year StreetSquash participates in an assortment of walks to support various causes, while simultaneously, supporting our own health through walking! This year StreetSquash participated in Lighthouse International's DoubleUpForVision walk for the first time. The event took place last October in Riverside Park and paired people with and without sight on tandem bikes or as walking partners. Family, friends and supporters of Lighthouse walked from Riverside Park in Harlem to Pier 1 in Manhattan in order to raise awareness for vision loss. StreetSquash was able to raise over \$1,000 as part of the event as an official charity.

While every year, StreetSquash participates in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk, this was the first year StreetSquashers were able to put our walking skills to the side and step up as organizers. We had a great showing of parents and family members as students passed out water, and cheered on walkers and survivors alike. For many students, this event was especially meaningful as many shared experiences of family members struggling with cancer. StreetSquash was also able to support this year's AIDS Walk in May, by joining the "Hooplah" committee greeting



Walking or volunteering, students give many weekend hours to service.

walkers as they crossed the finish line and handing out completion certificates. It was a wonderful opportunity for the students to see just how diverse the walkers were, while learning about AIDS and supporting the NY community. In



9th graders cheering at the finish line.

June, StreetSquash hosted its second annual StreetSquash Walk/Run. The fundraising from this event went to support StreetSquash programs as well as our partner organization "Pro-Nica," which helps support developing communities in Nicaragua. StreetSquash's involvement in these causes and initiatives continues to strengthen our relationships in the community, while fulfilling our core and valued mission of service.

ALUMNI PROGRAMS REACH STREETSQUASH STUDENTS AND PROFESSIONALS IN NEW WAYS

On a Saturday in early May, the Franklin & Marshall Class of 2012 sat as many before them; listening to cliché advice from a commencement speaker. Amid

the crowd, Gabrielle Robinson waited patiently with the rest of her classmates for her chance to walk across the stage and officially graduate. Gabby's journey was different than many of

her classmates'. "If it weren't for StreetSquash, I would never have been here," she says. "Without their support, I don't know where I would be."

Gabby grew up in Harlem and followed the traditional educational and social route of any student from that area. Early on, she recalls chaos as the norm at home and that she “just wanted to be someone my mom was proud of.” She sought out opportunities to help her with that goal, and attended Thurgood Marshall Academy, one of StreetSquash’s earliest partner schools. There, she went to an event where George Polsky presented the game of squash to her and her fellow students. Though she was hesitant, Sheena Suckoo, a classmate with a brother already in StreetSquash, convinced her to try out.

“I loved it. You could tell that the people really cared about you and were always there to listen.” She learned a sport that she came to love and found a place where college was not only a dream, but an expectation. At the time of her graduation from high school, only about 56% of African-American students enrolled were graduating from New York City high schools. However, with the constant support from StreetSquash, she maintained her personal commitment to succeed and go to college. She learned about Franklin & Marshall through her college counselor at StreetSquash, Mary, and fell in love with the school. When

she finally applied and found out she was accepted, she called Mary to tell her only to find out that Mary already knew. “I couldn’t believe it. I was so excited and Mary already knew!”

Gabby left for Franklin & Marshall the next fall full of confidence. However, many of her peers that graduated from high school either did not go on to college or failed to complete college. In order to help Gabby and her fellow StreetSquash graduates find continued success in college, StreetSquash decided to create an alumni program.

“In the beginning,” recalls Gabby, “it was like, ‘hand over your grades and get your scholarship.’” There were no other programs and besides visiting students at school, there was little hands-on support. During her time at Franklin & Marshall, Gabby watched the Alumni Program grow up. More and more, there was a focus on professional development and providing other academic, service, and social/networking opportunities. Gabby participated in many of the inaugural events of the Alumni Program, including the Alumni Cup, Alumni vs. Current StreetSquasher’s Match, the Professional Development Series, and more. Beyond events like these, the Alumni Program has become more interactive. “Now,” says Gabby, “it is more like the program I left back in high school. It is clear that they care.” Students are more open to the outreach because of the consistency of support all the way through the unforeseeable trials of college and beyond.

Gabby entered her senior year at Franklin & Marshall focused on completing her college education and moving on to her career. However, she soon found out that she owed a significant amount of money to the



Gabby Robinson started working with StreetSquash this fall in partnership with Americorps!

college. The Office of Financial Aid sent her a message threatening to withhold her degree if the bill was not paid. “It was so distracting,” says Gabby. “All I wanted to do was focus on my studies and I couldn’t. I didn’t know where I was going to get the money. My mom couldn’t afford it and I didn’t want to take out another loan.”

Knowing that there were people who cared for her there, Gabby turned to StreetSquash for help. Because of her quality of character, her academic success, and her continued involvement in StreetSquash, we saw an opportunity to expand our services again. We raised enough money to provide Gabby a scholarship that covered the outstanding debt. “I could never thank StreetSquash enough for that,” expresses Gabby. “Without that, I don’t know how I would have made it.”

After Gabby made it across the graduation stage in May, she found her mother. Amidst her celebrating with her friends and family, Gabby recalls, “My mother looked at me and said, ‘I always knew you’d be here.’ It felt like I had completed my goal: I made my mother proud of the person I am. Without StreetSquash, I know I would have gone to college. With StreetSquash, I went to the college of my dreams and made it through.”



Alumni back in the building for squash and networking!

The following is a list of StreetSquash graduates who have completed post-secondary education programs or are currently attending one:

Jennifer Moses
SUNY Albany '13

Ayanna Hall
Barnard College '15

Toshar Melville
Barry University '16

Rakey Drammeh
Bates College '14

Samantha Matos
Bates College '14

Dios Rodriguez
Bates College '14

Sugeiry Betances
Bates College '15

Julian Hackney
Bates College '15

Rokya Samake
Bates College '15

Cody Levy
SUNY Buffalo State '13

Krystal Harris
SUNY Buffalo State '15

Rosmary Hidalgo
SUNY Buffalo State '14

Shaheem Perry
CUNY City College '16

Jasmine McElveen
Colgate University '15

Odell Lee
SUNY Delhi Community
College '14

Nasir Ellis
Dickinson College '15

Melissa Sandoval
Franklin & Marshall
College '13

Liz Gatling
Franklin & Marshall
College '14

Jazmin Matos
Franklin & Marshall
College '16

Moriah Foy
SUNY Genesee Community
College '13

Danny Cabrera
Hobart and William Smith
Colleges '16

Kenneth Blassingame
CUNY Hostos Community
College '13

Sade Watts
CUNY Hostos Community
College '14

Tynisha Avila
Ithaca College '15

Sion Sennon
Ithaca College '16

Jamel Key
CUNY LaGuardia
Community College '14

Sade Hill-Williams
CUNY Borough of
Manhattan Community
College '14

Jennifer Houston
Lincoln University '13

Dachelle Parker
Mount Holyoke College '15

Ayanna-Grace King
Mount Holyoke College '16

Terrance Rose
CUNY New Community
College '14

Hakeem Elliott
New York University '16

Dekeiya Armstrong
Pace University '15

Shanese Patterson
SUNY Plattsburg '13

Ladonis Gaillard
Quinnipiac University '13

Raymond Moore
University of Rochester '15

Paige Babilonia
Rutgers University '14

Shelby Bozeman
UMD Eastern Shore '14

Kbudah-Torah Musah
Ursinus College '16

Raheem Logan
Wesleyan University '16

Cequidra Davis
Career Academy of
Culinary Arts '10

Sonia Goana
SUNY Binghamton
University '09

Lonnie Gibbs
Wesleyan University '10

Taralyn Gonzalez
UMD Eastern Shore '10

Albatina Harris
SUNY Monroe Community
College '07

Christian Knight
SUNY Monroe Community
College '07

Justin Martin
SUNY Old Westbury '10

Allagha Padilla
SUNY Mohawk Valley
Community College '07

Tajon Rice
CUNY City College '11

Davian Suckoo
SUNY Buffalo University '09

Melvin Ventura
CUNY Bronx Community
College '07

Daequan Andino
Art Institute of New York
City '08

Asia Navarette
The College of New
Rochelle '09

Jenny Romero
Trinity College '09

Gabby Robinson
Franklin & Marshall
College '12

Sheena Suckoo
Franklin & Marshall
College '12

STREETSQUASH SUCCESS TIED TO HARLEM PARTNER SCHOOLS

When you enter Thurgood Marshall Academy for Learning and Social Change, or TMA for short, the friendly security officers cheerfully wave hello. Each floor is painted in a different bright color, and rather than the typical long hallways with rooms going off each side, the classrooms are like spokes coming off the center of a wheel—the center area is a gathering space where teachers and students interact in a swirling mass in between classes. StreetSquash Academic Directors spend a lot of time on the green and red

floors—where high school science and math teachers can be found between the hours from 8am to 4pm. One in particular, Monica Bartoli, has been teaching chemistry at TMA for the last 4 years. She knows StreetSquash and its students well. She commented that, “It’s so easy to write letters of recommendation for StreetSquash students, in fact it’s a pleasure writing them, because not only are they usually high-achieving academically, but you guys also give them so many activities and experiences.”

StreetSquash’s partnership with TMA is a big reason we have had success, and arguably StreetSquash is a big reason for their success as well. From the beginning both institutions recognized the value of a strong partner, and our paths have been intertwined since—Reverend Calvin Butts, a founding member of the Abyssinian Development Corporation, and the founder of TMA, was on the StreetSquash board of directors, as was Dr. Sandye Johnson, principal of TMA for more than 10 years. When StreetSquash started, it was

proximity to the subway that caused us to choose them—at the time they were sharing a building with Bread and Roses HS, on St Nicholas and 135th.

TMA now has its own building, and this sets it apart from the vast majority of schools in this community, who share buildings with one, two, sometimes three other schools. In these shared buildings, often bell schedules conflict, uniforms clash, and it's a lot harder to keep the learning environment safe. In schools that have their own building, administrators can guarantee that all the resources are going to their students. School safety officers at TMA have real relationships with not only the kids, but their parents and families, and they know all the StreetSquash staff too.

The ties that bind TMA and StreetSquash are like that of a family, literally: Ms. Smith, an



Kbudah Torah-Musah and Danny Cabrera at the 2012 TMA Graduation Ceremony.

administrator at the school, had two kids in StreetSquash's first graduating class, and Ms. Buggs, a fixture of the administrative offices, also had a child in the program. Mr. Johnson, a math teacher at TMA, spoke emphatically that, "I'll tell any parent of any child in the school: when my daughter reaches 6th grade, she is joining StreetSquash. George [Polsky] guaranteed her a spot before she was born." StreetSquash has had two valedictorians, three

salutatorians, and countless students graduating with honors and near the top of their TMA class.

StreetSquash and TMA will continue to work together to improve the lives of our students and the Harlem community. Overall, TMA's graduation rate is significantly higher than the average for the city (78.9% to the city's 65.1% for 2011); our students who go there all graduate.

WILLIAMSTOWN EXCURSION; A SUCCESSFUL SOJOURN



Former 7th graders hiking in the Bershires.

Every year the middle school teams of StreetSquash embark on team trips that contribute to team solidarity and provide unique

experiences. This year the seventh graders spent a tremendous weekend in Williamstown, MA. The troupe consisted of 15 students, one great team mentor (Anthony Little, '13), and two young and energetic staff members (Tai and Christian). Blessed with spectacular weather all weekend in the Purple Valley, the first stop, of course, was the park. A number of activities were going, most notably some frisbee and a highly competitive basketball game. There were also three hammocks hanging between

trees that were the source of much entertainment and enjoyment for the StreetSquashers. After about an hour of play, the group headed to North Adams for some mini-golf, batting cages and the golf driving range (both on site) to work out their swings. Christian commented, "As it turns out, I am a slightly better squash coach than golf coach, because Ja-Yril was the only student that could get the golf ball in the air."

Following this, the Swann household (one of the incredibly generous host

(continues on next page)

WILLIAMSTOWN EXCURSION A SUCCESSFUL SOJOURN *continued*

families) had organized an amazing BBQ dinner, where all of the host families and their kids were invited, along with the Williams Squash Coach, Zafi Levy. The Swanns had pretty much every single toy, bike, or scooter imaginable and the kids were in heaven for the next three hours. Of the many highlights, the two that stood out most were the large baseball game that included all of the kids at the BBQ (and the Swann's chocolate lab, Scout) and Anthony getting the chance to eat his first ever s'more.

Following breakfast Saturday morning, the next activity on the itinerary was a hike up Stone Hill. While all of the students did not love the hike, they were troopers and toughed it out with only a few mild complaints. The scenery was spectacular, and it was certainly a great very 'un-New Yorker' experience. After the hike, everyone

grabbed their squash stuff and headed over to the Williams College courts. The students had a great time playing squash, and they really took advantage of having the facility to themselves, as free squash slowly deteriorated into a massive game of manhunt.

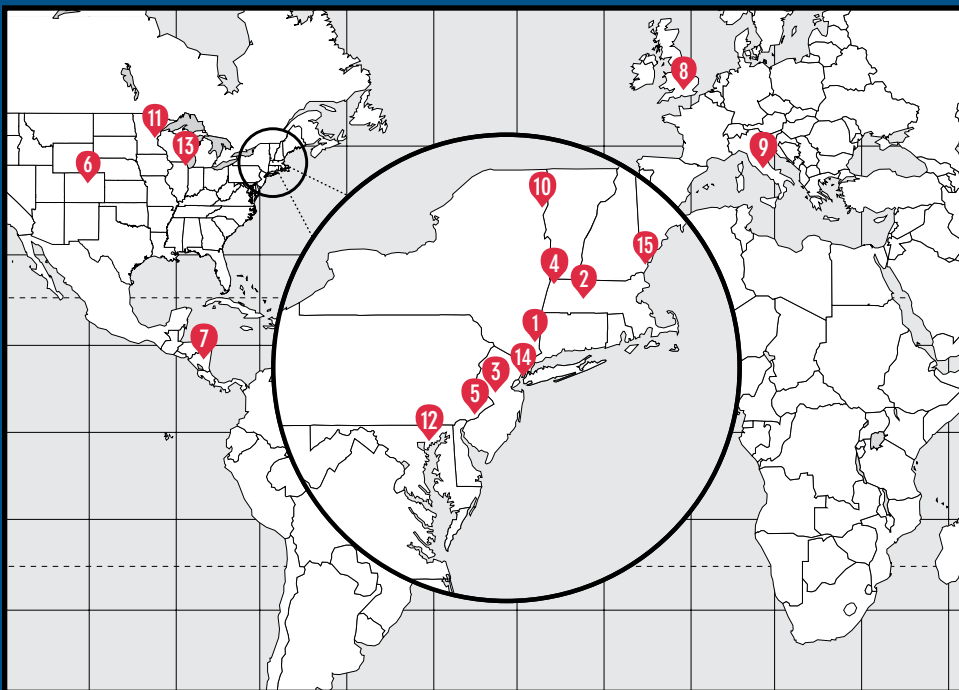
The next move was to load up for some more food, picking up a delicious pizza from Hot Tomatoes, and eating right behind the shop, which also happens to be located on the very cold Green River. Following/during lunch, the students braved the cold water and jumped in. The next 40 minutes in the Green River turned out to be the highlight of the trip as the majority of the kids splashed in the water and slid down the rocks, creating their very own miniature water park. In an effort to prolong their departure, the seventh graders took their time changing out of their bathing suits,

not leaving Williamstown until just before 5PM. While staff thought they had drained out every last bit of energy throughout the day, the students proved unpredictable again, as they spent the entirety of the van ride home buzzing about the trip. It was truly a special weekend, one they are sure to always remember!



A group of 8th graders hit the beach and boardwalk for a day way off-court led by Academic Director Tai Garcia and Squash Director Christian Henze.

STREETSSQUASH 2012 TRAVEL GUIDE



1. Camp Herrlich — *Patterson, NY*
2. Power Squash Academy — *Amherst, MA*
3. Princeton Squash Camp — *Princeton, NJ*
4. Squash and Beyond Camps — *Williamstown, MA*
5. SquashSmarts Embrace Camp — *Philadelphia, PA*
6. 2012 Urban Squash Doubles Camp — *Denver, CO*
7. Nicaragua Service Learning Trip — *Nicaragua, Central America*
8. Universal Squash Camps — *Lee-on-solent, England*
9. Rome Squash Camp 2012 — *Rome, Italy*
10. Camp Dudley — *Westport, NY*
11. Beyond Walls Service Trip — *Minneapolis, MN*
12. SquashWise Service Trip — *Baltimore, MD*
13. METROsquash Service Trip — *Chicago, IL*
14. Columbia University Summer Program — *New York, NY*
15. Phillips Exeter Academy Summer Program — *Exeter, NH*



For several summers StreetSquash students have gotten the chance to travel to Nicaragua to learn about a different culture and volunteer in a developing country.

"Today is a day that I can never forget. This experience has made me appreciate what we have. The ex-street children in the Los Quinchos Program showed me that they can be happy without expensive stuff to keep them entertained. Although these children do appear happy, when I looked through them they still seem sad. This made me think; 'Don't let appearances fool you,' and I too felt sad leaving them behind knowing that they are in need of so many things and still remain with a smile, without complaining."

—Jennifer Bueno, Class of 2013, on volunteering in Nicaragua with StreetSquash.

SUMMER KEEPS SL GREEN CENTER BUSY WITH ACADEMICS AND SQUASH



Nia catches a fish in Central Park during Summer Discovery.

The StreetSquash Summer Discovery Program is a summer camp hosted at the SL Green Center, with attendees ranging from StreetSquashers to Fall 2012 hopefuls. Each day is full of learning, enrichment, exposure to new things, daily prizes, and of course squash. Our dedicated staff, supported by an amazing group of summer interns and volunteers, made each weekly 'camp theme' interactive and engaging. This year we focused on Team Building, Health and Wellness, Music Math, World Languages, The Eye and the Camera, and Roman Architecture. We were also lucky enough to have a curriculum developed for our students called Emotional Imprint that allowed each of them to take on an adult persona and deal with 'adult issues'. They loved being able to get a paycheck but hated having to pay taxes and their insight into adulthood was

an eye opening experience for the staff and students alike. The 2012 Summer Discovery program at StreetSquash ended on August 17th; after campers spent the month of August making lava lamps, fishing in Central Park, and conscientiously scavenging the MET, everyone headed to Prospect Park in Brooklyn for sunlight, green pastures, and a barbeque.

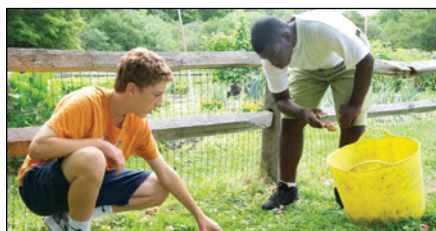
Following Summer Discovery, each year StreetSquash hosts a weeklong camp run for the different member programs of NUSEA, the governing body of urban squash. This year's camp featured more players from an ever-widening range of programs; in total 33 campers hailed from 9 different cities. Students stay with StreetSquash and CitySquash host families and experience different cultural and athletic activities throughout the day. Rigorous squash

and fitness instruction are the focus of the week, and in addition to court time the students participate in runs through Central Park, PSA video analysis, and workshops on tournament preparation and refereeing. All of the students visited the US Open Tennis Qualifying, played capture the flag in Morningside Park, and rode the subways each morning. A number of our campers also got the chance to visit Times Square, Grand Central Station, and Coney Island.



Harlem, Denver and Detroit train together at NUSEA Camp.

In addition to these wonderful opportunities the building has been kept busy with bi-weekly round robins, college preparation workshops and seminars, practice SATs, Elite Week Camp (specialized for students who maintained a strong GPA), and the ordered chaos of the comings and goings of over fifty students departing and arriving from various summer programs across the globe.



Timothy Parker ('17) at Camp Dudley in Westport, NY.



STREETSSQUASH

AN URBAN YOUTH
ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

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MISSION

FOUNDED IN SEPTEMBER 1999, STREETSSQUASH IS AN AFTER-SCHOOL YOUTH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM THAT COMBINES ACADEMIC TUTORING WITH SQUASH INSTRUCTION, COMMUNITY SERVICE, AND ONE-ON-ONE MENTORING. STREETSSQUASH'S MISSION IS TO PROVIDE CONSISTENT, LONG-TERM AND RELIABLE SUPPORT TO THE CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS IN HARLEM. BY EXPOSING THESE CHILDREN TO A BROAD RANGE OF EXPERIENCES AND BY MAINTAINING THE HIGHEST STANDARDS, STREETSSQUASH AIMS TO HELP EACH CHILD REALIZE HIS OR HER ACADEMIC AND PERSONAL POTENTIAL.

