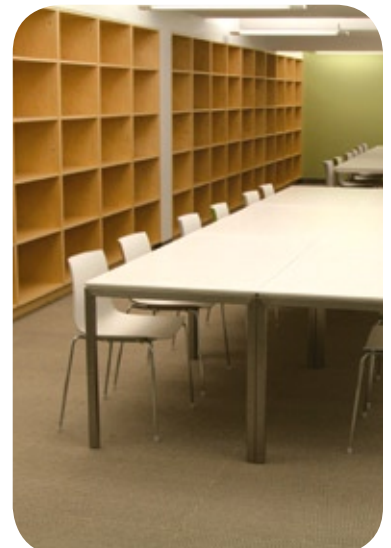


# STREET SQUASH news

Vol. 7 no.4

Fall 2008

## SL GREEN STREETSQUASH CENTER OPENS IN HARLEM



StreetSquash's beautiful new facility contains 4 classrooms, 8 squash courts, a library and administrative offices.

Five years in the making, the SL Green StreetSquash Center is open for business: the business of learning, rallying, mentoring, and college preparation. Designed by Dattner Architects, this beautiful space will be home to over 1,000 Harlem public school children every year through after-school programming, summer activities and our new physical education program. With this new facility we will be serving five times as many students as we did during the 2007-2008 school year. Covering 18,700 square feet, the center features 8 ASB international squash courts, 4 classrooms, a library, locker rooms and the organization's administrative offices. We are happy to report that the building project came in under its original \$9 million budget.

StreetSquash will greatly expand our current impact within the Harlem community with the new facility. The After-School

Program will serve 160 children annually up from 120 in the past year. We will also be increasing the size of the Summer Discovery and Youth Employment Program to serve 300 children annually. New summer opportunities will include a week-long squash camp for students that participate in National Urban Squash and Education Association (NUSEA) programs.

In addition to expanding our existing programs, we will initiate the Physical Education for Public Schools Program, partnering with neighborhood schools lacking sufficient physical education resources. This first-of-its-kind squash based physical education curriculum will have capacity to serve over 750 children annually through daytime classes focused on squash instruction, fitness, and nutrition. StreetSquash has partnered with five local public schools to provide their students with the physical education programs that are essential to their development, especially as

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# SL Green StreetSquash Center ..... opens in Harlem

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we are faced with a dangerous rise in obesity among New York City children.

StreetSquash's relationship with Columbia University will also be extended within the SL Green StreetSquash Center. For the past nine years, StreetSquash has been fortunate to use the Dodge Fitness Center at Columbia's Morningside campus as one of our program sites. During that time, StreetSquash's students benefited from access to squash courts and academic facilities that helped to make our programs possible. Returning the favor, StreetSquash will now host Columbia's nascent men's and women's squash teams, which are on the road to becoming full-fledged varsity programs for the first time. Through this arrangement, Columbia will be able to practice in a world-class facility, host weekend matches, and connect with

StreetSquash students during squash and academic sessions.

As the premier squash facility in New York City, The SL Green StreetSquash Center will also be partnering with U.S. Squash to host training sessions for U.S. Squash's national men's, women's and juniors' teams. We hope this relationship will continue to raise awareness about the growing urban squash community and forge tighter bonds amongst professional squash players and NUSEA programs.

After years of borrowing space from others, we are proud to open the SL Green StreetSquash Center, our own home in the heart of the community that we serve. StreetSquash sends a big thank you to the thousands of people who have been involved in making this amazing project a reality.





Team 1 Coaches Pat Cosquer (left) and Max Franklin with (from left) Seniors Sheena Suckoo, David Nash, Princess Hardwell, and Gabrielle Robinson.

## StreetSquash class of 2008 Graduates High School! .....

Congratulations to the StreetSquash Class of 2008! Most of these students have been with StreetSquash since their 7th grade year, and have made an incredible commitment to our program. It has been a true pleasure for all the staff to work with these young men and women. We will miss them, but send them off with confidence that they will create bright futures for themselves. Below is a list of our graduates and where they will be in the fall of 2008.

**Asia Giles** – Horry-Georgetown Technical College

**Brandy Robinson** – State University of New York at Plattsburgh

**David Nash** – Penn State Hazleton

**Dominique Williams** – Lehman College

**Gabrielle Robinson** – Franklin & Marshall College

**Kareem Bridges** – Brooklyn Renaissance HS Internship Program

**Keith Keith** – State University of New York at Binghamton

**Ladonis Gaillard** – Quinnipiac University

**Princess Hardwell** – SUNY Old Westbury

**Shane Franks** – SUNY Canton

**Shantell Wynn** – Buffalo State University

**Sheena Suckoo** – Franklin & Marshall College



Members of the Class of 2008 with StreetSquash staff at Thurgood Marshall Academy graduation.

100% of StreetSquashers have graduated high school in four years

100% of StreetSquash graduates have enrolled in college

91% of StreetSquash graduates are still pursuing or have earned a college degree



## NDC Partnership Remains Strong .....



Laura Lindstrom and members of Teams 2, 4, and 5 after their visit to the Alex Beard Studio with NDC.

This year StreetSquash continued our valuable partnership with the National Development Council. NDC has worked with StreetSquash in fundraising efforts for the SL Green StreetSquash Center, and has provided summer employment for our alumni. Through weekend excursions around the city, StreetSquash students and employees have had the chance to get to know the NDC staff and interns while gaining exposure to new cultural experiences.

Our first outing was to the well known barbeque restaurant *Blue Smoke* and its downstairs venue, the *Jazz Standard*. A number of the kids had never seen a jazz performance and this was an eye opening experience for them.

The next event was at the *Whitney Museum*. Our students went with the NDC staff to have an interactive tour of an exhibition by the artist Jacob Lawrence. The exhibit focused on the migration of over six million African Americans from the devastated rural communities of the South to the Northern industrial cities. After the museum the NDC staff and kids had a delicious Italian lunch in the neighborhood.

The third event was at the Roundabout Theatre Company, where the students got a glimpse at the Tony nominated matinee *Sunday in the Park with George*. Afterwards the kids and NDC staff went to the restaurant *Lindy's* where the students tried some new and exciting foods.

The fourth event was at the *Alex Beard Studio* located in Soho. The artist engaged the students in a discussion about the history of art and painting. Additionally, Alex Beard involved StreetSquashers by using their thoughts to create a new painting. The finished piece will be donated to the StreetSquash center for display! The evening ended with a classy dinner at the *Savore* restaurant.

The year's final event was to see the *Dance Theatre of Harlem's* presentation of *The Ugly Duckling* preceded by a lovely early dinner at *Pisticci* in West Harlem.

This summer, NDC again arranged employment for our alumni. Davian Suckoo, University of Buffalo '09, worked in finance at the NDC main office. Jenny Romero, Trinity '09, who also worked at NDC last summer, worked on a special project based up in Yonkers. Asia Navarette, College of New Rochelle '10, was an intern through the non-profit program, and was placed in the StreetSquash office.

All the StreetSquash students and staff would like to thank the NDC for its generous support and hospitality. We look forward to many more events in the future. A special thanks to Bob Davenport and Mary Childs from the NDC for their never-ending enthusiasm in our partnership.

# And Away We Go: StreetSquashers at Boarding Schools .....

## Ayanna Hall

Ayanna Hall, a three year member of Team 3, will be leaving Harlem this fall as she has received a full academic scholarship to attend Miss Porter's School in Farmington, Connecticut. Ayanna joined Team 3 in 8th grade and immediately became both one of its highest achieving and most consistent students. Throughout her time at StreetSquash, she has been a guide during academic sessions for her fellow teammates. She was the salutatorian of her graduating 8th grade class, and has consistently remained in the top 5% of her class during high school.

Having joined the program a year later than many of her teammates, Ayanna

initially struggled to keep up on court. Instead of becoming discouraged, Ayanna simply brought the same dedication and work ethic that served her so well on the academic side and applied it to squash. After spending many extra hours at optional Friday Elite Team practices and summer camp sessions at the Hill School and Williams College, she became a permanent fixture on the middle of the high school ladder she now is firmly entrenched in the middle of the high school ladder and will be a great addition to the Miss Porter's team.

Ayanna's maturity and dedication have impressed the staff so much that she was selected to travel to England

this summer to participate in Bryan Patterson's Universal Squash camp. We wish Ayanna the best of luck in the upcoming school year!



Team 3 Member Ayanna Hall (right) with teammate Elizabeth Gatling at Urban Individuals.

## Raheem Logan



Team 3 Member Raheem Logan (right) during pre-game introductions at Urban Nationals.

By his own admission, Raheem Logan was not enthusiastic when his mother signed him up for StreetSquash at the start of 7th grade. Like many new students, Raheem had never heard of squash, and the academic support offered did little to entice him either. While Raheem took to squash quickly, he struggled academically, maintaining a C average throughout 7th grade.

When Raheem started his 8th grade year, though, he entered the year with new focus. He became more receptive to the coaching from staff and volunteers, and more importantly,

he made a strong commitment to his academics. As Raheem's grades and ladder position began to rise, he began to enjoy some greater successes. His comeback win at Urban Nationals that year was one of the highlights of the weekend, and he later enjoyed a summer away at Windsor Mountain Camp in New Hampshire.

During his first two years of high school, Raheem continued his upward trends in the classroom and on court. He was a top five player on the boys' high school ladder, and he finished his 9th grade year with an A- average. While travelling with his teammates and to camps within the United States and abroad, Raheem has become one of StreetSquash's best ambassadors. His enthusiasm for meeting new people and trying new things rubs off on everyone who comes in contact with him. Raheem is studying at the Canterbury School this year on a full scholarship. We wish Raheem the best of luck in all his future endeavors.



## Update on Samantha

StreetSquash alumna Samantha Matos finished her first year at the Westover School in Middlebury, CT. Samantha, who spent five years with StreetSquash before heading off to Westover, finished the tenth grade with a 'B' average, including a 94-average in Latin!

Samantha helped ease her transition by excelling in her athletic pursuits. She started for the JV Field Hockey Team, scoring one of the team's three goals. In the spring, Samantha led her JV Lacrosse Team with nine goals and two assists, earning a promotion to Varsity, where she scored two goals in five games.

On the squash court, Samantha played No. 2 on her team all season, finishing with a 14-2 record while helping lead her team to an 11th-place finish in New England.





StreetSquash alumni gather for a day of squash and resume writing at the Harvard Club in August 2008.

## Reaching out to Alumni .....

For the past two years, the StreetSquash telephone has rung incessantly with calls from our alumni requesting their scholarship funds, reporting their grades, telling us about their college joys and concerns. We as a staff often found ourselves redirecting our alumni to the appropriate services on their college campuses to sustain them while there. At other times, we calmed the frantic calls of alumni who were thinking of taking a break from school because they just weren't sure of the right major. These calls and other interactions with our alumni were more than enough of a reason to extend our services and offer the Alumni Outreach Program.

The focus of the Alumni Outreach Program is to extend our involvement with our students to give them the greatest chance for success. Given that the current nationwide college graduation rate for black students is 43%, it seems obvious that our current 6-year involvement with our children is not adequate. The Alumni Outreach Program is an extension of the After-School Program and the College Prep Program that will provide support for StreetSquash alumni in their college years and beyond.

This spring the Alumni Outreach Program got off to a great start. We reached out to all graduates of our programs and former participants who relocated to different states. We reconnected with 20 of our 23 alumni, we've already assisted one student in re-matriculating into post secondary education, and we've arranged three very strong internships. A total of

18 alumni attended our 'Get Hired' Career Workshops hosted by private consultant David Schmier, we had three alumni represent StreetSquash at our Spring Soiree, and five different alumni volunteered during our community service week with our current students. The response has been wonderful, the need is great and we are excited at the potential of this program.

We have hired our new Director of Alumni Outreach Programs, Chris Tom, who has worked with us for three years as our Director of Squash Programs for teams 3 & 4 and is taking on this new position with enthusiasm.

The opportunities this program will offer our alumni are endless. We look forward to great success in the coming year.



StreetSquash alums participate in the Get Hired Career Workshops.

## Four-Time National Champions! .....



(LEFT) Max Franklin with the Girls Under 17/19 B and C Teams, Urban Nationals Consolation Winners and Finalists. (RIGHT) Three-time Girls Under 17/19 National Champions: Back Row from Left: Pat Cosquer, Rakey Drammeh, Princess Hardwell, Gabrielle Robinson; Front Row from Left: Sheena Suckoo, Elizabeth Gatling.

Princess Hardwell had been there before.

With the score tied at two games each, Princess could have given up, thrown her racket, stormed off court and left her teammates with the match in their hands. Instead, with fellow seniors Gabrielle Robinson and Sheena Suckoo looking on, six years of StreetSquash culminated in a fifth-game victory and a third team win, clinching the Girls Under-19 National Urban Championship for her StreetSquash team.

Sheena, Gabby, and Princess, this year aided by sophomores Rakey Drammeh and Elizabeth Gatling, won their third straight Girls Under-19 championship and fourth title of their careers, leaving behind a legacy as the greatest team in the history of Urban Squash.

After sweeping teams from SquashBusters and CitySquash en route to the finals, the girls met in a rematch of last year's final with the hometown favorites SquashSmarts. Unfazed by the pressure, Elizabeth and Rakey were victorious in their matches before Princess sealed the deal in her final match as a StreetSquasher.

Even though the match was clinched, Sheena and Gabby proceeded to play two of the most exciting matches of the tournament. Sheena won her first two games against Tempest Bowden, the top ranked female in Urban Squash, before falling in a tight fifth game. Gabby also won her first two games before losing in five. The determination and grit shown by all three seniors is a credit to their hard work in their six years of StreetSquash.

Not to be outdone by their counterparts, the Boys Under-19 A-Team avenged last year's finals loss by beating SquashBusters 4-1 to win the title. The championship was the

first for the StreetSquash boys since the senior-laden team won three years ago. Comprised of senior David Nash, who won his first team title after numerous individual accolades, juniors Ramon Potter, Joshua Gary, Jamel Key, and sophomore Raheem Logan, the team swept SquashSmarts in the semifinals before their conclusive finals win.

Despite the loss of the four seniors, the future looks bright for StreetSquash. Captain Talise Hall led the Girls U-19 B-Team to a consolation finals win over captain Ayanna Hall and the Girls U-19 C-Team. Even more impressively, StreetSquash had strong showings in both Under-15 draws, breaking through in draws traditionally dominated by Urban programs that begin with younger students.

The Boys U-15 A-Team swept west-coasters Surf City Squash and SquashBusters before falling 3-2 to CitySquash in a tightly contested final. Lizandro Rodriguez and TJ Clements both went undefeated over the weekend. The Girls U-15 A-Team also exceeded expectations by sweeping Surf City and SquashBusters before falling to CitySquash in the finals.

Overall the weekend was an exciting event for the 64 StreetSquashers who spent the weekend in Philadelphia, playing at SquashSmarts new eight-court facility. It was the first real competition for many of the younger students, and the sportsmanship and camaraderie that permeates through Urban Squash was evident throughout the weekend, along with a quality of squash higher than ever before.

The 2009 Urban Team Championships will be hosted at our own SL Green StreetSquash Center next winter, as the New York crowd will have a chance to watch Urban Squash at its finest.





(LEFT) Clockwise from Left: Sheena Suckoo, Rakey Drammeh, Cody Levy, Sugeiry Betances, and Rosemary Hidalgo at Urban Individuals. (RIGHT) The national champion boys under 17/19 team warms up before a match.

## Seniors Shine at Urban Individuals.....

The 2008 Urban Individual National Championships were held this June at Williams College in Williamstown, MA. The largest Urban tournament ever and one of the largest tournaments in the country, the weekend featured over 240 students from seven different programs. StreetSquash entered over 60 students, more than any other program, and for many of them it was their first ever individual tournament. While every student played hard, our older players showed what they had learned in their extensive time with StreetSquash.

David Nash won a thrilling Boys Under-19 final, 10-8 in the fifth game, to win his third Urban Individual title. David ends his high school career never having lost to another Urban player in a tournament.

In an exciting rematch of their Team Championship Final, Sheena Suckoo fell to SquashSmarts' Tempest Bowden in the final of the Girls Under-19 draw. Gabby Robinson rebounded from a first round lost to win the consolation draw.

StreetSquash standout and current Westover student Samantha Matos lost in the final of the Girls Under-17 Draw, her third straight second place finish at Urban Individuals.

Other standout performances of the weekend included Rakey Drammeh reaching the quarterfinals of the Girls U-17 draw, Terrance Rose reaching the quarterfinals of the Boys U-15 draw, and Ramsey DeJesus playing in the round of 16 in the Boys U-13 draw.

The strongest overall showing came in the Girls Under-15 draw, where Jazmin Matos lost in the semifinals while Dachele Parker and Dekeiya Armstrong reached the quarterfinals. Maiyah Rushing and Brittany Jackson were also honored for winning the Urban Poetry contest in the Girls U-13 and U-15 divisions, respectively. It was a great weekend for all and a showcase of some very strong urban squash.



## Mentoring Match .....

### Sion Sennon and Jeff Gardener

This year one of the many successful mentoring relationships has been Sion Sennon, an 8th grade student at Thurgood Marshall Academy and Jeff Gardener, who works at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. Sion is a well-liked teammate, and his love for squash is unmatched. When we asked Sion why he wanted a mentor, he answered, "I want to talk to an older person, an adult who I can look up to and learn new things."

Enter Jeff Gardener, a StreetSquash volunteer who was eager to have the opportunity to impact the life of a StreetSquash student. Jeff's enthusiasm is exactly what we look for in a mentor. He drops by Sion's practices to pick him up, and comes to Columbia University on Saturdays to learn squash and take Sion out for lunch.

When asked about the activities they do together, Sion said, "Jeff always comes up with fun things to do. Once, he took

me to Chinatown and introduced me to some of the most authentic Chinese food I have ever had. Then on another outing we went to the Cirque du Soleil - it was awesome! I saw all these crazy acrobats jumping around and doing the hardest moves." Sion reports that the two are in touch regularly, talking every couple weeks and either going out or spending time at Jeff's apartment. One of Sion's favorite visits included Jeff's younger cousin, who is Sion's age.

Jeff is just one of the many great mentors we have at StreetSquash. His girlfriend, Sandy, is a mentor to StreetSquasher Brittany Jackson. The students had a great time this summer when the two mentoring pairs had a barbeque with some of Jeff's and Sandy's friends.

If you are interested in becoming a StreetSquash mentor, please contact Satya Seshadri at [Satya@streetsquash.org](mailto:Satya@streetsquash.org).



(ABOVE) StreetSquash students and mentors during an outing at Slate Plus  
(LEFT) Jeff Gardener and StreetSquash mentee Sion Sennon play foosball at a mentoring outing.

# Volunteer Highlight .....

## An Interview with Michael Witkin



Outstanding volunteer Michael Witkin works with Team 3 member Guytaul Bennett at the Harvard Club.

*Michael Witkin has been a valued member of the StreetSquash volunteer corps since he began tutoring in January 2005 at Columbia. Since then, he has tutored at every StreetSquash site and worked with nearly every grade in the program. During the 2007-2008 year, Michael tutored Team 5 at the West Side YMCA and Team 6 at the Harvard Club.*

**StreetSquash:** Why did you start volunteering?

**Michael:** I feel that it's important to do things that make the world a better place to live. My hope is that in some small way, I will have helped these children to eventually go off into the world to be independent, productive, happy and responsible.

**StreetSquash:** You've been with us for two and a half years! Why have you continued?

**Michael:** The job was difficult initially and for some time thereafter. However, I don't like to flit from one thing to another. I've found that experience and time smoothes most rough edges. After the first year and a half, I became more

comfortable working with the kids and, and it took awhile to master high school math and science. With that behind me, the work was a lot more rewarding, because I could focus on helping kids learn instead of groping to understand the material myself.

**StreetSquash:** What has been the biggest challenge of volunteering overall?

**Michael:** For me, the biggest challenge has been to establish and maintain credibility and trust with the kids. For the most part, teenagers are distrustful and skeptical of authority figures. Overcoming this is an ongoing challenge.

**StreetSquash:** What has been the biggest reward?

**Michael:** The biggest reward has been building and maintaining trusting, mutually respectful, and productive relationships with the kids. A close second is working with dedicated and loving professionals. It's also been wonderful to reconnect with my own youthfulness through my contact with the teams.

## What's New with the Parents' Board? .....

The StreetSquash parents of the Parents' Board represented their children wonderfully this year at our various activities. Parents flooded our squash hallways during our Fall and Spring Family & Friends Days bringing home cooked dishes for our potluck brunch, and their other children and relatives came to play and watch our StreetSquashers in action. Parents quickly engaged in the Parents' Board meetings offering ideas for the 2007-2008 Fundraisers. When set with the goal of raising funds for the StreetSquash jackets our parents energetically got to work. Our parents raised approximately \$2500 towards

a \$5500 goal and StreetSquash matched the rest so that all of our students could have their StreetSquash warm up jackets before Urban Team Nationals. Our top parent fund raisers were Rosa Clyburn (Dachelle Parker's mom), Mr. & Mrs. Rodney (Dalton Rodney's parents) and Patricia McCoy (Sheena Suckoo's mom).

Next year will be even more eventful and informative for parents. Congratulations to a great year and we look forward to greater success next year.



## Staff changes .....

This year StreetSquash bids farewell to Pat Cosquer who has been with StreetSquash as a committed Squash Director for four years. He is off to coach the men's and women's squash teams at Bates College, his alma mater. Max Franklin, who served during this past year as the Academic Director for teams 1 and 2 will also be moving on to new places.

But with departures also come new arrivals. Sage Ramadge, whose six years with StreetSquash have included work as an Academic Director and as Program Director, is returning to work with StreetSquash full time as the Director of Strategic Development. We are also excited to welcome Ryan McGinley-Stempel, Katie Siegel, Jade Elias and Tony Maruca to our team!



StreetSquash Staff 2007-2008, Clockwise from top left: Mary Cipollone, Max Franklin, Pat Cosquer, Satya Seshadri, George Polsky, Chris Tom, Laura Lindstrom, Leah Brown and Sareen Pearl.

## off for the summer .....

Each summer, StreetSquash sends many of our students to camps and travel programs run by different organizations. These excursions enable StreetSquashers to experience exciting new places and adventures unavailable to them at home. Many of these programs are consistent partners of StreetSquash, and this summer some students returned to camps for the second or third time.

**Outward Bound Pinnacle Program** – two week outdoor hiking and canoeing courses in Maine

**Windsor Mountain International Camp** – an international sleep-away camp in the mountains of New Hampshire

**Windsor Mountain International Travel** – high school students spent a month in the Caribbean and Mexico performing community service and experiencing cultural immersion

**Longacre Leadership Camp** – a cooperative farm and community camp in Pennsylvania

**Camp Dudley** – a longtime partner of StreetSquash, this is the oldest all-boys camp in North America, located in Westport, New York

**Camp Dudley at Kiniya** – for the first time, StreetSquash participated in an all-girls camp run by Camp Dudley

**Camp Herrlich** – a traditional two week sleep-away camp in upstate New York

**Skidmore College Pre-College Liberal Arts Program** – a month long opportunity to be challenged by college courses and experience college life at Skidmore College

**Bryan Patterson's Universal Squash Camp through the Chirls' Scholarship** – a weeklong squash experience and travel opportunity in Chichester, England

**Weeklong squash experiences at:** Bowdoin, Trinity, Dartmouth, Princeton, the Naval Academy, Vassar, Williams, the Chatham Club, and a NUSEA camp at SquashBusters.

We have  
moved!

Please note our new contact information:

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Phone/Fax: 212.289.4838. Web: [www.streetsquash.org](http://www.streetsquash.org)



Team 6 Members Azania Floyd, Zena Bowden, and Fatou Thiam work on their home design projects.

## StreetSquash celebrates the Literacy Program .....

This year, StreetSquash students learned that literacy means more than just reading and writing. It means being creative, having fun, and learning valuable lessons for everyday life. StreetSquash middle school students have been working hard all year on various projects including designing their dream houses, writing and performing plays, and learning techniques to educate their peers on important issues that teens must confront.

The math literacy component of the program is called Drafting and Design. Students in this group spent the first half of the semester designing a scale drawing of their dream house. Some outstanding designs included spiral staircases, fountains, indoor pools and movie screening rooms. When the designs were finished, the students were given a budget of \$1.5 million to research and buy a plot of land, buy all of their building materials, and choose furniture and appliances they wanted in their houses. The students learned to calculate the expenses of plumbing, heating, and cooling as well. These everyday math skills applied to real-life situations taught the children to think of math in ways that were relevant and interesting to them.

The English and language arts literacy component of the program is the Playwriting Group. Students in this group spent the first half of the semester reading plays and researching the different parts of a play. They learned about character and plot development, conflict, and setting, all while practicing dramatic techniques during the acting out of the plays they were reading. During the second half of the semester the students wrote and rehearsed their own original plays. The students were given creative license over their plays, and they found the reading and writing they did enjoyable.

The life literacy component of the program is called Peer Education. This group deals with teen issues ranging from safer sex practices and healthy relationships to how to combat stereotypes in the media. The students read articles and engaged in conversations in an open forum designed to help them articulate and form new ideas about peer pressure and decision making processes. The students also spent their time journaling about their learning experiences in the program. At the end of the group, that journal will be the tool they use in

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order educate their peers on the issues they learned about during Peer Education. The group also created public service announcements in order to learn how to frame a social problem and its solutions to the public.

At the end of each semester, the Literacy Program holds a Friday Gala. This is the chance for students to showcase all of their hard work in the program. Parents, teachers, and friends are invited for presentations and refreshments. The Playwriting group has the opportunity to perform their plays for the audience. The Drafting and Design groups have their blueprints and budgets

displayed, and are able to talk to the audience about the process of creating their dream houses. Finally, the Peer Education group presents their public service announcements in order to put into practice their techniques for educating their peers and the public. The galas have proven to be a success both in terms of exhibiting the students' work and also instilling in them a sense of pride at sharing their experiences with friends and family.

Congratulations on an amazing job this year, StreetSquash Middle School Students!



Team 5 Members Terrance Rose and Sion Sennon prepare their projects before the Gala.

**Academic Tutoring • Literacy Enrichment • Squash Instruction • Community Service • Mentoring**



## Get Involved!

Volunteering with StreetSquash is a rewarding experience that allows you to make a difference in the lives of New York City's youth. We are looking for academic tutors, squash instructors and mentors to join the StreetSquash family. If interested please email Sareen Pearl at [sareen@streetsquash.org](mailto:sareen@streetsquash.org).



StreetSquashers visit Union College in Upstate New York during the fall.

Rokya Samake may only be in ninth grade, but she already dreams of attending Brown University. Goals such as Rokya's are nurtured by StreetSquash's College Prep program, which aims to help StreetSquashers select, apply and get accepted to, and succeed at the college that is the best fit for them.

During College Prep sessions this year, students have been engaged in academic endeavors such as SAT and ACT preparation, vocabulary building and development of writing skills. Through the college knowledge aspect of the program, StreetSquash strives to enhance our students' awareness about college by discussing reasons for attending college, teaching students about the various types of colleges

and universities, explaining how to pay for college, exploring the connections between careers and a college education and taking students to visit colleges and universities during high school. This year we have been welcomed on over twenty college campuses such as Franklin & Marshall College, SUNY Albany, Ursinus College, Wesleyan University, Marist College, Vassar College and SUNY Purchase during four weekend college tours.

During their senior year, students receive support in developing a list of schools to apply to, filling out college applications, completing financial aid paperwork and scholarship applications, and finally choosing which school to attend. Seniors are offered the opportunity of a college prep mentor who offers individualized

support for these students during the challenges of the application process. A big thank you to all of the mentors who supported our seniors last year: Dolores Cosquer, Sarah Eisenman, Robyn German, Tia Joseph, Peter Karlen, Ashwini Kherdekar, Dick Polsky, Sage Ramadge, Mary Richter, Ron Singer and Roxanne Smalls.

Our first annual College Survival Day, a day of workshops addressing the academic, social, emotional and financial challenges of transitioning to college, was held in June. StreetSquash alums Asia Navarette, Daequan Andino, Lonnie Gibbs and Raymond Flowers participated to serve as college experts for the high school seniors.





**Colleges visited by the StreetSquash College Prep program in 2007-2008:**

Siena College	Trinity College
Skidmore College	Fairfield University
Union College	Manhattanville College
College of St. Rose	SUNY at Purchase
SUNY at Albany	Marist College
Hunter College	SUNY at New Paltz
Franklin & Marshall College	Vassar College
Ursinus College	Syracuse University
Cheyney University	Hartwick College
St. Joseph University	Le Moyne College
Connecticut College	SUNY at Oneonta
Mitchell College	Morrisville State College
Wesleyan University	



(TOP) StreetSquash is hosted at the Wesleyan University Squash Courts this spring. (ABOVE) StreetSquash Alumnus Keddie Valero toured our students at his current home of Mitchell College.



# StreetSquashers on the Court .....



(TOP LEFT) Coach Chris Tom huddles up with StreetSquash Teams 3 and 4 before their match against the Gow School. (TOP RIGHT) Squash Professionals Hisham Ashour and Chris Gordon with (clockwise from top left) Sion Sennon, Terrance Rose, Dachele Parker, Tynisha Avila, Danny Cabrera, An-Khe Tomer, and Lizandro Rodríguez at the Tournament of Champions. (ABOVE) Teams 5 and 6 shake hands with their opponents from SquashHaven after a match at Yale this winter.

Every StreetSquasher in our program is given the opportunity to play in various squash matches and tournaments each year. The competitions allow our students chances to travel throughout the Northeast and experience different levels of competition and players from various backgrounds.

Highlights this year included StreetSquash's first victory over SquashBusters in five years; Sheena Suckoo and Gabby Robinson finishing first and second in GU19 at the US Bronze Nationals, and Jazmin Matos finishing 6th in GU15; a "home" match at Columbia against the Gow school; and as always the Urban Team and Individual Nationals.



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### **October 2007**

Watched matches at the US Open, New York, NY  
Match vs. CitySquash, Greenwich, CT

### **November 2007**

Greenwich Junior Open Tournament, Greenwich, CT  
Match vs. Poly Prep Junior Varsity, Brooklyn, NY  
Match vs. SquashSmarts, Philadelphia, PA

### **December 2007**

New York City High School Championship, Brooklyn, NY

### **January 2008**

Professional Clinic at the Tournament of Champions, New York, NY  
Ball-boys and ball-girls at the TOC, New York, NY  
Match vs. Pingry and Delbarton Schools, Martinsville, NJ  
Match vs. Poly Prep Gym Program, Brooklyn, NY  
Match vs. the Westover School, Middlebury, CT  
Match vs. Choate Junior Varsity, Wallingford, CT  
Match vs. the Chapin School, New York, NY

### **February 2008**

Match (Varsity) vs. the Gow School, New York, NY  
Match (JV) vs. the Gow School, New York, NY  
Match vs. SquashBusters, Simsbury, CT  
Match vs. the Brearly School, New York, NY

### **March 2008**

Match vs. SquashHaven, New Haven, CT  
Match vs. the Princeton Juniors, Princeton, NJ  
Scrimmage at University Club, New York, NY

### **April 2008**

US Bronze Junior Nationals, Berwyn, PA  
Urban Team Nationals, Philadelphia, PA  
US Silver Junior Nationals, Baltimore, MD

### **May 2008**

StreetSquash SMASH Tournament, New York, NY  
CityView Junior Silver Tournament, Long Island City, NY

### **June 2008**

Urban Individual Nationals, Williamstown, MA



The Girls Under-15 A Team at Urban Team Nationals; Back Row from left: Diamond Martin, Dachele Parker, Dekeiya Armstrong, Jazmin Matos; Front: Tynisha Avila.



# Community Service and cultural outings .....



## October 2007

- College Prep Trip to Upstate New York
- Breast Cancer Walk in Central Park
- Teams 5 and 6 Riverside Park Cleanup at the Jenny Benitez Garden

## November 2007

- Friends and Family Day at Columbia University
- College Prep Trip to Pennsylvania
- Team 5 Trip to Washington, DC

## December 2007

- Team 3 Service Days at Yorkville Food Pantry



(TOP) Team 6 works with Jenny Benitez to clean up Riverside Park. (ABOVE) Team 6 on their Team Trip to Boston.



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### January 2008

- Team 6 Trip to Boston, MA
- Teams 1 and 2 Church and Soup Kitchen Renovation, Brooklyn
- Team 4 Service Days at Yorkville Food Pantry

### February 2008

- College Prep Trip to Connecticut

### April 2008

- College Prep Trip to Hudson Valley, NY

### May 2008

- Team 4 CityYear One Harlem Day
- AIDS Walk NYC in Central Park
- Team 3 Service Days at Food Change Kitchen

### June 2008

- Team 4 Pantry Service at West Side Campaign Against Hunger
- Friends and Family Day at Columbia University
- Teams 1, 2 and 6 Riverside Park Cleanup with Jenny Benitez



(TOP) Team 2 Members (from left) Shanese Patterson, Talise Hall, Melissa Sandoval, and Jennifer Moses work cleaning up Riverside Park. (ABOVE) From left, Chris Florence, Ayanna Hall, Shelby Bozeman, Charisse Strong, Elizabeth Gatling, Arthur Garfield, David Nash, and Raheem Logan at the AIDS Walk in May.



**An Urban Youth  
Enrichment Program**

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# MISSION

Founded in September 1999, StreetSquash is an after-school youth enrichment program that combines academic tutoring with squash instruction, community service, and one-on-one mentoring.

StreetSquash'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, StreetSquash aims to help each child realize his or her academic and personal potential.