

# STREET SQUASH news

Issue No. 17

Fall 2011

## STREETSQUASH GRADUATES LARGEST SENIOR CLASS TO DATE. 100% ON TO COLLEGE!

This past June, 17 StreetSquash seniors graduated from high school, and set their sights on college. In doing so, they raised the bar for all others to come, being StreetSquash's largest graduating class to date! Thirteen will begin bachelor's programs and four will matriculate to associate's programs. 10 seniors will be the first StreetSquashers to enroll at their respective schools. Six of the 17 plan to continue playing squash in college, also the largest number to date. Ayanna Hall is the first StreetSquash recipient of the Gates Millennium Scholarship, a highly competitive and prestigious award that covers unmet financial need and self-help aid, with the opportunity to receive additional funding for graduate school in target areas. Congratulations Class of 2011!

**Dekeiya Armstrong** –  
Pace University

**Tynisha Avila** –  
Ithaca College

**Sugeiry Betances** –  
Bates College

**Nasir Ellis** –  
Dickinson College

**Moriah Foy** – Genesee  
Community College

**Julian Hackney** –  
Bates College

**Ayanna Hall** –  
Barnard College

**Krystal Harris** – Buffalo  
State College

**Britini Jackson** – Borough  
of Manhattan  
Community College

**Cherise Key** –  
Utica College

**Odell Lee** – SUNY Delhi

**Daequan Leslie** – Franklin  
and Marshall College

**Diamond Martin** –  
Morrisville State College

**Jasmine McElveen** –  
Colgate University

**Raymond Moore** –  
University of Rochester

**Dachelle Parker** –  
Mount Holyoke College

**Rokya Samake** –  
Bates College



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## College Prep Programs Continue Expansion

While this spring marked six years for the College Prep Program, we continue to innovate and develop our curriculum. The new writing and SAT preparation programs helped our students make remarkable gains on their standardized tests. With the help of A-List Education and their fantastic study materials, each junior took five practice tests, completed countless practice problems, and learned to implement invaluable test strategies. Many also elected to work with a volunteer SAT mentor who met with them each week to hone their skills and focus on their specific needs. On average the students improved their scores over 213 points from their first practice test to their best official SAT score. Some students even improved as much as 400 points! There are many accomplishments to celebrate and many more exciting college placements to come.

Recognizing a need to put stronger emphasis on our students' academic preparedness for college, StreetSquash developed an additional College Prep Writing Program. Our 9th and 10th graders are on their way to perfecting their persuasive writing skills and the organization

of a well-worded essay. Not only are they exploring grammar and a slew of vocabulary words to help them tackle the SAT, but they have successfully argued that squash is the best sport in the world and prepared thought-provoking pieces for the Urban Team Nationals Essay Contest.

With Senior College Prep now extended throughout the full year for the first time, our 12th graders were also able to improve their writing skills and tackle college-level coursework. Using scholarly journals to write a research paper, they mastered their citation and research skills. In addition, we had the opportunity to explore social, academic, and financial issues that students will face on campus as well as strategies to deal with them. We grappled with the decision of whether to rent textbooks, purchase e-books, buy used, or explore other options. We discussed sexual health and drug abuse issues on campus and even learned how much credit cards can cost if not managed carefully. By the time they complete the Beginning College Program, held in August, the students will be fully equipped to be successful college students.

StreetSquashers at College Discovery Night.



## StreetSquash Non-Fiction: College Essay Inspiration



StreetSquash college prep programs involve students in organized practice tests, mock interviews, and essay writing workshops.



### Sugeiry Betances

If to dream is to believe, then everyone is entitled to a dream. Some dream of buying the latest fashions; others dream about fairy tales and happy endings.

My dream is to become a successful criminal justice lawyer.

My parents were born in the Dominican Republic, a place where only the wealthy can achieve higher education. Even though my parents are not wealthy, they managed to get some schooling. When they migrated to the United States, they set up one goal: to make sure their daughters were well-educated and became successful. When they say, "Suly, you will make it," their passion to see me excel in school travels from the bottom of my feet all the way to the top of my head.

My parents have faith in me because I refuse to hand the flag to my fear. I love the look on my mother's face when I bring home an excellent report card. The way her eyes widen as she looks at the piece of paper warms my heart. My dad, on the other hand, shows less obvious pride. I know he is proud, but he just does not crack a smile. I

sometimes think that I would have to become President for him to show me that he is proud. But the one time my father did smile was when I told him I was going to be inducted into the National Honor Society as President. His smile sent butterflies through my stomach.

Through my education, I want to become a criminal justice lawyer. This passion comes from my childhood, when mistaken identity caused a cousin to be sent to jail. I know what it is like to be worried about a family member being in jail for a crime they did not commit. That incident makes me want to see justice within my community.

Where I come from plays a huge role in who I am and in my determination. My educational ambition comes from my parents. My career choice comes from my environment.



### Rokya Samake

Old brick brownstones that still hold their charm from decades before. Corner stores, also known as bodegas, where children get their after-school snack on the way home. The parade,

Treasurer  
**Hiran Cantu**

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## Credit:

Written by:  
**StreetSquash staff**  
Design:  
**desantis graphic design**

## StreetSquash:

40 West 116th Street, New York, NY 10026

Voice/Fax: **212.289.4838**

Web: **www.StreetSquash.org**

Member of:

**nusea**  
National Urban Squash and  
Education Association

when the entire neighborhood is standing along the pavement waiting for the next marching band, hoping that the band will stop and dance at that exact spot. This is the Harlem that I love and appreciate.

Living here, it never occurred to me how Harlem's image translated to the rest of the world. It was not until I had grown older and gained more experiences outside of Harlem that I realized that, to other people and even to some people from Harlem, its negative aspects were the ones that got the most attention.

"Where are you from?"

"Harlem."

"Harlem? Is it dangerous?"

Whenever I get a question like this, I am taken aback. Afterwards, I think back to my experience growing up in Harlem and wonder, "Was it dangerous?" Sure, Harlem has its share of crime and violence, but so does every part of the city, and for that matter every part of the country. However, my childhood did not consist of constant violence and fear. Instead, I was exposed to the subtle beauty of Harlem. Through my family and school, I learned to appreciate Harlem for its creativity, liveliness, and abundant history and culture.

In recent years Harlem has undergone small, but drastic, changes: expensive condos and restaurants, rising prices on once-cheap brownstones, the gradual decline of annual events and traditions. These changes have been given the cover of the "revitalization" of Harlem. What they are really doing is preparing Harlem for a new socio-economic population. Some people feel that the changes will benefit the whole.



**Tynisha Avila**

"Tynisha, no! You're holding your racket wrong. Your thumb doesn't belong there, unless you don't want your thumb, anymore!" My coach Chris Tom said this to me at the Columbia squash courts.

Chris was a relatively short man with strategy in his every step and high expectations for his team. I have known him since the summer of 2005, entering 7th grade. Without Chris' support, I never would have become the motivated student I am.

By the beginning of eighth grade, it stuck out to Chris that my grades were constant, but average. He noticed I was

not working to my full potential, and spoke to me about it. I did not think he was going to bring up my grades, because he was a squash coach, but to my surprise he did. One day during our study session, he walked over to my table and told me the story of a StreetSquasher who, because of his grades, did not get accepted into a squash school.

"He was a great athlete whom many people respected, and college squash coaches had been looking at him since 10th grade. I gave him the same speech I gave you, hoping that he would change course, but he continued with the same work habits. When it was time to apply to colleges, his grades did not meet the standards of a squash school."

I was determined not to be in the same situation. From then on, I became a more serious and eager student. Although that was a few years ago, every time I have the urge not to complete an assignment or to blow off studying, I hear Chris' voice.

## Editor's Note

The StreetSquash students whose college essays are represented here have at least two important things in common. Firstly, they all want to succeed and are willing to work very hard to do so. Among many other commitments, this has meant sticking with me and other tutors in the program through multiple drafts of each college application essay.

Secondly, our students all seem to have good topics to write about and good ways of seeing them. They never say, "But I have nothing to write about." For whatever reason, the StreetSquashers seem to view their life experiences with an urgency that lights up their essays. They write vividly about everything from trips to distant parts of the world, to love of Harlem, to facing their first spelling quiz in a new language. I hope you enjoyed reading their fine work.

Ron Singer, tutor  
Fall/Winter 2010-2011

# StreetSquash Cup Teams Raise Record \$500,000



Top: The University Club team, captained by StreetSquash Board members Andrew Fink and Jonathan Berger and led by world #18 Adrian Grant, took home the coveted StreetSquash Cup. Bottom Left: The R&T team, led by StreetSquash Board Chair Mitch Truwit and world #16 Wael El Hindi, raised an amazing \$140,000. Bottom Right: The Harlem Squash Trotters, captained by David Sachs and led by world #5 Amr Shabana, tied R&T in the fundraising challenge with \$140,000.

On Saturday May 21st, nine teams competed in the 3rd Annual StreetSquash Cup at the SL Green StreetSquash Center, providing one of the highlights of the squash season in Harlem and the rest of New York City.

The first round featured two round robin draws, which were then followed by head-to-head matches where the top teams ultimately met in the Finals. This year the

past two champions, the Racquet & Tennis Club and the University Club faced off for the title, with the University Club recapturing the Cup in a dominant display, winning 4-2, and taking 19 out of 26 matches overall on the day.

Captained by StreetSquash Board Members Andrew Fink and Jonathan Berger, the University Club featured World #18 Adrian Grant, Carl Baglio, Hamed Anvari, Garnett

Booth, Mike Strong, and StreetSquasher Daequan Leslie, who will be a first year student at Franklin & Marshall College in September.

Playing alongside Adrian Grant in the pro division were some of the best in the world: Amr Shabana, former World Champion and current #5 (Harlem Squash Trotters); Wael El Hindi #16 (Racquet & Tennis Club); Todd Harrity, 2011 Collegiate National Champion (Princeton Alumni); StreetSquash Board Member Richard Chin (Harvard Club); Nicolette Fernandes WISPA #46 (Women All Stars); Bradley Ball (Union Club); and Irish champion John Rooney (YLC).

## StreetSquash Visits the Union League Club

On Saturday April 30th, the Union League Club hosted members of StreetSquash's 9th Grade Team for a spirited day of squash at their courts on 37th Street. Ray Piacentini, Marshall Davidson, and Shep Skiff were among the group of ULC Squash members whose generosity and enthusiasm for the game matched that of the StreetSquashers.

The StreetSquashers enjoyed every minute of the visit and are looking forward to a return match next year!



Off the courts, the competition for the Fundraising Challenge was even more intense. StreetSquash Cup team members spent the spring working to raise funds for StreetSquash's After School Program in an effort to meet or exceed the goal of \$25,000 per team. At the final tally, seven of the nine teams met or exceeded the fundraising target, with more than 500 individuals and sponsors contributing.

The Harlem Squash Trotters, led by David Sachs, won last year's fundraising challenge and took an early lead in 2011. However, the Racquet & Tennis Club, captained by StreetSquash Board Chair Mitch Truwit rose to the challenge, drawing supporters to the cause. Leading up to the Cup, the two teams fought to hold the lead, some days trading places multiple times.

When final donations were counted, the teams incredibly finished in a tie, raising \$280,000 between them. Nearly as impressive, the University Club and the Harvard Club also set new team records, raising \$72,000 and \$37,500 respectively, with the Women All Stars, Princeton Alumni, and StreetSquash's Young Leadership Committee all reaching the event goal.

In total the Fundraising Challenge raised over \$500,000 to support StreetSquash's After School Program, making a tremendous impact on the future success of our students and programs, and ensuring that the 2011 StreetSquash Cup was a resounding success.



PSA #16 Wael El Hindi demonstrating quick hands against WISPA #45 Nicolette Fernandes at The StreetSquash Cup.

## Squash to Fill Crucial Athletics Gap in NYC Public School System

This year was StreetSquash's third year running the Squash in Public Schools Program. The aim of the program is to provide Physical Education classes for neighborhood schools that do not have gyms or P.E. teachers, while also exposing a greater number of Harlem school children to the game of squash. This year we had four schools participate; The Sisulu-Walker Charter School of Harlem, P.S. 149 Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglass Academy II, and Central Park East High School. The classes ranged from grades 3 through 12, and in total, roughly 170 students participated in weekly P.E. sessions at StreetSquash.

This year we were fortunate enough to bring on two new part-time staff people to work as P.E. instructors. Eric Bedell, a Bates College sophomore on leave, and Jamel Key, a StreetSquash alum, planned and executed each session with the support of the StreetSquash staff. In previous years, StreetSquash squash staff had been solely responsible for running the P.E. classes, but this year's marked shift to separate instructors allowed for us to take on a greater number of classes, and to serve a greater number of children.

In the hour-long P.E. sessions, students participate in a variety of activities. After changing into squash sneakers, the kids gather together on one court to complete a thorough routine of calisthenics and stretching. Following the warm-up the children rotate through a myriad of squash drills, and end with group fitness games (usually a highly-anticipated game of dodgeball). The goal of keeping the kids active, while helping them to develop a basic competency in squash, always helps to drive the session. This year, all of our Squash in Public Schools participants will leave the program being able to consecutively bounce the squash ball on their racquets, to hit the ball off of the wall, and to rally back and forth with a partner.

Looking forward to the coming year, we are planning to continue on with many of the same classes, further developing squash skills, while also expanding our reach and deepening our ties within the community. We are grateful for all of our school partners, and anticipate another wonderful and productive year in 2011-2012!



# Come Visit Us!

40 West 116th Street  
(entrance on West 115th between  
5th Ave. & Lenox Ave.)  
New York, NY 10026  
Phone: 212.289.4838  
Fax: 212.996.3219  
[www.streetsquash.org](http://www.streetsquash.org)

## 2010-2011 was a Championship Season!

In January at Urban Team Nationals at the Lenfest Center in Philadelphia, our boys under 19 team reclaimed the title that SquashBusters had held for the previous two years. SquashBusters did not surrender without a fight, however: Danny Cabrera and Raymond Moore recorded wins; Daequan Washington and Julian Hackney fell just short against their opponents; and in the grueling deciding match, Terrance Rose outlasted Joel Ramirez from SquashBusters playing disciplined, error-free squash to seal it in four games. After the clinching point, StreetSquash players stormed the court to celebrate the first team championship since the under 19 girls won in 2009.

Also noteworthy were performances by the u15 boys and girls, who were more competitive with the traditional powerhouse teams from CitySquash and Squash Haven than previous u15 teams. The tournament will be held at the SL Green StreetSquash Center in January 2012, where we hope to use the home-court advantage to garner more titles.



## Parents' Board Accomplishments



Thank you to all of the parents and family members who participated in the 2010-2011 Parents Board! This year the Parents' Board continued to grow in its role as an important part of the StreetSquash family. There were several new fundraisers raising over \$3,000 to contribute to the program, \$1,000 of which will go to Julian Hackney, Class of 2011, recipient of the first ever Parents' Board Scholarship. The Parents' Board was also able to purchase duffle bags for all StreetSquash participants and contribute to both the success of Global Youth Service Day and the StreetSquash Walk-A-Thon as well as a plethora of home and away matches, ceremonies, and events.

StreetSquash would especially like to thank this year's Executive Committee for their ongoing commitment to the program: LaTasha Brown, mother of Richard Brown Team 2, Leon Irving, father of Taim Irving Team 4, Queen Walker, mother of Gabrielle Tobias Team 3, Linda Frierson, mother of Taylor Cook Team 3, and Antiena Perry, mother of Shaheem Perry Team 1. StreetSquash would also like to recognize Vida Wood, mother of Davon Wood Team 2, Corby Mare, mother of Elhaji Mare Team 3, and Paulette Burton, mother of Raymond Moore Team 1, for their outstanding commitment to their children's success and to that of the StreetSquash program. We look forward to working with all parents and family members next year as part of the 2011-2012 Parents' Board.

## Urban Individual Nationals Celebrates Scholar Athletes

Every June, hundreds of inner-city children descend on Williams College for the annual Urban Individual Nationals. This year marked the biggest tournament to date, with 300 children representing ten programs, including RacketUp!, the Detroit program enjoying its inaugural season. StreetSquash, as the biggest program in the urban squash network, brought 61 children to compete in the eight different brackets.

The deepest tournament runs were those made by Mawa Ballo and Daequan Leslie, who made it to the semifinals of their respective divisions in which they both lost 3-1, satisfied that they had given every ounce of effort. Jenai Williams and Richard Brown won the plate bracket of their draws, meaning they played more matches than any other StreetSquashers.

All of the StreetSquash children competed with grace and honor, living up to the StreetSquash expectation of good sportsmanship, rigorous effort, and enthusiastic teamwork. The tournament serves as a great motivator, not only in its role as a national squash arena, but also by promoting awareness amongst the players toward other urban squash programs, helping to cultivate and solidify lasting relationships within the ever growing urban community.

The tournament was also a chance to celebrate the academic success enjoyed by the various programs. At the awards ceremony Saturday night, NUSEA Director Greg Zaff read the names of students averaging above 90% in school. Writing and creativity contests were also a component of the weekend, with the age groupings for the competition mimicking those of the tournament draws. There were also two larger awards: The Urban Future Star and the Urban Squash Award, on which the staff of every program votes. Djenenba Ballo, a 7th grader who distinguished herself by refereeing the most matches over the weekend, won the StreetSquash nomination for Future Star. The award went to a boy from Baltimore based SquashWise. StreetSquash's nominee for the Urban Squash Award, Dachele Parker, garnered the most votes and won the prize for StreetSquash for the second year in a row. The Urban Squash Award recognizes a senior who participated in an Urban Squash program for at least five years and is a model for all urban squashers in terms of dedication, leadership and overall success in their program. The prize comes with a \$1000 college scholarship, in addition to a very large trophy.

StreetSquash Teams with coaches Katie Siegel and Tony Maruca showing off the bounty of Urban Team Nationals.



# From the Sports Desk: Ny Squash League Standings

After a 2009-2010 season that saw the StreetSquash men's 3.5 league team finish in last place, the high school boys were motivated this year to go out and make amends. They would be competing as one of four teams fielded by StreetSquash: two teams of high school boys, one team of staff, and one women's team consisting of a mixture of children, staff, and volunteers. At the end of the regular season, the teams boasted the following records:

<b>MEN'S 5.5:</b> 11 wins 5 losses	<b>MEN'S 3.5:</b> 15 wins 1 loss	<b>MEN'S 3.0:</b> 10 wins 6 losses	<b>WOMEN'S 3.0/4.0:</b> 8 wins 6 losses
Jacques Swanepoel	Terrance Rose	Sion Sennon	Katie Siegel
Tony Maruca	Julian Hackney	Toshar Melvelle	Tynisha Avila
George Polsky	Danny Cabrera	Hakeem Elliott	Tosin Elegba
Ethan Buchsbaum	Raymond Moore	Nasir Ellis	Dachelle Parker
Christian Henze	Odell Lee		

In the playoffs, the women's team and the 5.5 team lost in the semifinals. The 3.0 team beat City View to advance to their division final. The 3.5 team beat the West Side YMCA 3-1, with the sole loss coming at the hands of Daequan Leslie, a StreetSquasher competing for YMCA. In the 3.0 final, Sion Sennon notched the only victory as the team fell 3-1. The 3.5 team, missing their usual #1, Julian Hackney, scraped by on a one point differential to win their division, the first such crown for a StreetSquash team at any level.

Next year we hope to field at least as many teams as we did this year, with volunteers potentially helping fill roster spots in some of the divisions.

Julian Hackney, Terrance Rose, Andrew Scott (of NY Squash), Raymond Moore, and Danny Cabrera.



# Summer Brings on New staff

Katie Siegel and Tony Maruca are leaving after three years as squash directors, Katie to start Urban Squash Twin Cities in Minnesota. Taking their places will be Mark Rapisarda, former Amherst assistant coach, and Kush Mahan, formerly of Pyramid Squash. Brad Young is replacing Jessica Lovaas as the Director of Alumni outreach. Brad has been working at StreetSquash part time for the last two years while completing a masters degree at Columbia University. StreetSquash alumna Sade Watts is our new front desk receptionist.



Left to right: Mark Rapisarda, Brad Young, Sade Watts and Kush Mahan.

# Exeter Summer School Provides Collegiate Environment

Summer 2011 marks the first time that StreetSquash students went to Exeter Summer School. Yushishia Watson, Sade Evans, and Danny Cabrera studied for five weeks at the elite preparatory school in New Hampshire. Exeter contributed approximately \$15,000 toward their tuition, with StreetSquash and families filling in the small remaining sum.

Each student picked three courses to pursue while there. Danny got ahead of his class by taking physics, while Sade and Yushishia were both thrilled to take their first psychology class, something not offered at their school in Harlem. In addition to their schoolwork, they got plenty of time to work on their squash game with summer school

teacher and former Yale squash player Mike Maruca. While a student at Yale, Mike would frequently volunteer with Squash Haven and work with Aaron Brevard, a Squash Haven participant who also attended the summer school.

The Exeter Summer School, with its emphasis on discussion and a liberal arts curriculum, provides students with an academic experience completely unlike what they receive at school in New York City. Like attending a summer college program, it indicates to college admissions a desire to go above and beyond the traditional course offerings of city public schools.

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 visit our website at <http://www.streetsquash.org/get-involved/volunteer/>.

## Cornell Summer College Program Testimonial

"I am greatly appreciative of the scholarship aid provided to me. This scholarship not only provided a means for me to participate in the Cornell University Summer College Program, but it gave me the experience that will allow for me to put all my future plans into action. By participating in this program I was able to obtain a great deal of knowledge, not only from the material introduced in the Body, Mind, and Health course, but also about myself and the many individuals I encountered and their different cultures. I met several different people from many different places across the world including Hong Kong, China, Finland, and India. Each of them taught me something new about their cultures which allowed me to learn new things about myself as well.

I would not change anything about the program. Thanks to this experience I now have a better understanding of the medical field, and I know I want to pursue a career in healthcare. My goal is to become a doctor and contribute to the constant development of the medical system. Without the experience provided by participating in the CUSC program I would not have this clarity of purpose."

-Sion Sennon



Sion spent three weeks this past summer taking college level courses at Cornell University.

## StreetSquash Relishes Camp Herrlich opportunity



Divine Wing (center) and Denecia Cummings (center left) enjoying Herrlich antics.

It is always our goal to provide fun and enriching summer experiences for our StreetSquash students. Because of an extremely generous donation from the Elmezzi Foundation, we are able to send a large number of students to Camp Herrlich each year. Camp Herrlich is a traditional sleep away summer camp that gives kids the opportunity to enjoy and learn about the outdoors, as well as play a wide variety of sports in beautiful Patterson, NY. This year, we were able to give a number of our younger students their first summer camp experience, as well as send off many Camp Herrlich vets to reunite with counselors and old friends. Our students continue to have a wonderful time at Camp Herrlich, and we are extremely appreciative of the support from the Elmezzi Foundation, as well as the Camp Herrlich staff.



Team 5 at Skinner State Park with StreetSquash Directors Cici Matheny and Katie Siegel as well as team mentor Tariq Holland.

## Team 5 Trailblazes through Northampton, MA

Friday night we arrived in Northampton, ate dinner, played ping pong, and disseminated to homestays.

Saturday morning, everyone was up and at 'em quite early. After a bit of backyard b-ball and breakfast, we headed to Springfield for a youth sports day led by Project Coach, which is an instructional coaching program based in Springfield. A group of French exchange students were also on hand to help out and give a European perspective. Our kids proceeded to spend two hours happily participating in tug-o-war, volleyball, soccer, kickball, relay races, and other inventive outdoor activities.

After the field day, we drove down the street to the Basketball Hall of Fame. The championship rings, the new Michael Jordan exhibit, and the different games (jumping, shooting, virtual basketball) all impressed the hoops lovers from Harlem. The real attraction was the basketball court on the ground floor, with the progression of hoops from the peach basket to the breakaway rims.

After an ice cream break, the kids stayed active with an hour and a half of squash at Smith College and then an hour in the Smith pool. We had a range of different swimming abilities, but with a calibrated number of pool noodles we managed to coax everyone into jumping off of the board. Jaivon Brown finally overcame his fears after spending about ten minutes at the end of the board.

On Sunday, we got the kids up and out early and went to Skinner State Park for a hike up to the Summit House. We lost the trail almost immediately, and ended up bushwhacking straight up through leaves and branches. When we hit the halfway point the kids were about ready to rebel, but somehow managed to rally and continue onward and upward. We all met at the top for sandwiches, chips, and apples, and (some of us) took a moment to enjoy the view. Kudos to Team 5 and their mentor, Tariq, for a great weekend!

## StreetSquash Goes to the Berkshires

The 7th grade team took a trip this spring to Williamstown for an action-packed weekend that included squash, bowling, mini-golf, hiking, swimming, and great meals. Over the weekend, Williams College was hosting the 2011 Berkshire Squash Open, played on a glass court with some of the top professional players in the world. The 7th grade students were fascinated watching the racquet wizardry of world-class players Tom Richards, Jonathon Kemp, and Wael el Hindi. The students were also given the opportunity to play on the glass court early in the morning, which was certainly a treat for our young future squash standouts. We were blessed with great weather in the beautiful Berkshires, so we did our best to balance the time spent indoors watching and playing squash with many other outdoor activities.

The Williamstown squash community arranged homestays for all of the 7th graders, with Igor Ramirez and Kyrell Wilson lucking out and staying with the college president in his mansion on campus. Igor and Kyrell were somewhat aloof on the subject, but did acknowledge that he kept good snacks in the house.

In order to take full advantage of a weekend in the purple valley, we decided to take a long hike up Stone Hill. With incredible scenery and plenty of wildlife passing on the trail, the hike was certainly a departure from the average weekend activities for these 7th grade students.

As we said our goodbyes to our gracious hosts and headed back to New York City, the students marveled at what an unforgettable weekend they had making new friends and enjoying new experiences.



Team 6 hiking in the Berkshires.

## Across The Pond And In The Eternal City

StreetSquash children have been going to England for ten years. After 9-11, a memorial fund was established by David Chirls to remember his wife's passing. That fund would help finance two StreetSquashers going to England every summer with Bryan Patterson's Universal Squash Camp for ten years.

This opportunity has always been a coveted one, with the spot going to a player with aptitude for the game, self-discipline, and responsibility. Generally, players who go on this trip are the same players who go on to play squash in college. Last summer, Terrance Rose and Danny Cabrera, both rising 11th graders at the time, got the opportunity. They parlayed the experience into an unbelievable year on the squash courts, with both of them contributing to the Under 19 Boys' National Championship and to the NY Squash 3.5 League title.

While in England, the lads got to stay with homestays, train, and explore London for a couple of days. The itinerary of immersion in a small town and the traditional touristy London experience make for a memorable trip.

Through the help of U.S. Squash, two StreetSquashers per summer will continue to get to enjoy Universal Squash Camps. We would like to thank U.S. Squash and Bryan Patterson for their generosity in supporting this unique opportunity.

Last summer marked the inaugural year of a new trip to Rome. John Musto, the new teaching professional



at CityView Club in Long Island City and a dear friend of StreetSquash, offered our program spots at a highly discounted rate. Sion Sennon, Jazmin Matos, and Dachele Parker went last year for a week of squash and touring the city. Prior to going, they spent an afternoon touring the Metropolitan Museum with John, who gave them a crash course in the history of Italian art and architecture.

These trips give students an opportunity for a vastly different cultural experience to that of Harlem with the squash insuring that for a part of the day they feel right at home.



Above: Jazmin Matos (left) and Dachele Parker (right) enjoying England's historical sites. Left: StreetSquashers Rakey Drammeh, Lizzie Gatling and Julian Hackney doing as the Romans do...sort of...



# StreetSquash Alumni Find Success and Give Back

This year, the StreetSquash Alumni Outreach Program grew to include 17 new college bound young men and women. That makes the total number of alumni an impressive 71! Some of this amazing group include: Melissa Sandoval '09, who spent the summer working for the Social Entrepreneur Corps helping to develop a pioneer program in South Africa; Ayanna Hall '11, who was awarded the Gates Millennium Scholarship and will be attending Barnard College in the fall; and Sade Watts '05, who recently joined the StreetSquash staff, and will be studying to receive her nursing degree. With such a diverse and growing group, the Alumni Program is continuously adapting to provide the support and programming that our graduates need to find success.

Over the past year, the program has gone through significant changes, many thanks to Jessica Lovaas. Her time at StreetSquash included two noteworthy firsts: the StreetSquash Alumni Holiday Cup, a squash event played in December; and the Beginning College Program, a weeklong intensive summer program that prepares rising freshmen to transition into all facets of college life.

While StreetSquash continues to maintain and expand the services that had previously been in place, including college visits, professional development series, and individual career and academic counseling, Brad Young, our new Director of Alumni Outreach, is already working to develop new initiatives within the scope of our alumni network. In particular, in an effort to encourage alumni



Rakey Drammeh, '10 (Bates College '14) and Dachele Parker, '11 (Mount Holyoke '15) back on court at the SL Green Center.

involvement, Brad has begun an initiative to bring them back! The first part of this push is the development of the Angie Williams Memorial Scholarship. Awarded through the generous donations of family and friends to the memory of Angie Williams, a former volunteer at StreetSquash, the scholarship is given annually to that alumna/alumnus who demonstrates a commitment to returning to the program and donating his or her time. This year's recipient is Jordano Coffie, a graduate of the class of 2009, and a constant figure in the SL Green StreetSquash Center. We consider his example a true asset to the program and hope that more alumni will follow his lead and show the current students just what amazing people graduate from StreetSquash.

We hope to see all the alumni in the building throughout this year and we are excited to see where our fabulous graduates will go next.

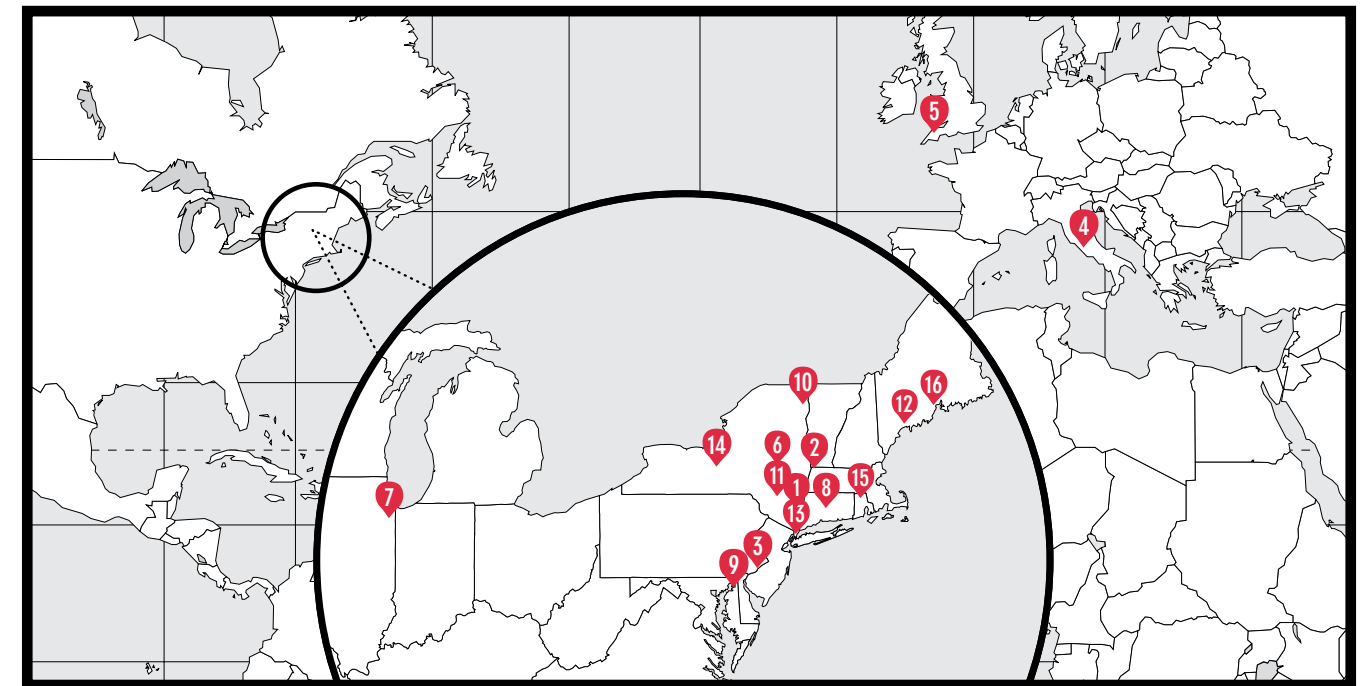
## 2010-2011 Alumni Initiatives:

- Academic Support
- Campus Visits
- Beginning College Program
- Scholarship Assistance
- Financial Planning
- Professional Development
- Summer and Post-Graduate Support
- Individual Advising and Off-Site Referrals
- Community Building Activities



Cody Levy, '09, Brad Young and Ramon Potter, '09, at the Summer Squash Social.

## StreetSquash 2011 Travel Guide



- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| 1. Camp Herrlich, Patterson, NY, 24 students, 3 counselors-in-training | 7. Metro Squash Service Trip, Chicago, Illinois, 2 students           | 13. Columbia University Summer Program for High School students, New York, NY, 1 student |
| 2. Williams Squash and Beyond Camps, Williamstown, MA, 2 students      | 8. Squash Haven Service Trip, New Haven, CT, 2 students               | 14. Cornell University Summer College, Ithaca, NY, 1 student                             |
| 3. SquashSmarts Embrace Camp, Philadelphia, PA, 1 student              | 9. SquashWise Service Trip, Baltimore, MD, 1 student                  | 15. Summer@Brown Pre-College Program, Providence, RI, 2 students                         |
| 4. Rome Squash Trip, Rome, Italy, 3 students                           | 10. Camp Dudley, Westport, NY, 4 students, 1 counselor-in-training    | 16. Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, Deer Isle, ME, 1 student                         |
| 5. Universal Squash Camp, Lee-on-solent, England, 2 students           | 11. Fresh Air Fund Camps, Fishkill, NY, 3 students                    |  |
| 6. Vassar College Squash Camp, Poughkeepsie, NY, 2 students            | 12. Fortson Squash Camp at Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME, 2 students |  |

## Dunlop Named as Official Ball of StreetSquash

Dunlop is becoming the official ball of StreetSquash! The agreement between the leading squash brand and the ever-growing program is a multi-year one. Starting this Fall Dunlop squash balls will be the only balls used at the StreetSquash courts.

## Summer Discovery, NUSEA, and Elite Week Camps Sharpen Minds and Racquets



NUSEA Camp finale featuring student athletes from six urban squash programs.

Throughout the seven weeks of StreetSquash Summer Discovery, the facility hosted over 90 students, which for many was their first time experiencing the game of squash. Each week, the campers participated in an enriching academic theme that culminated in a Friday theme-oriented field trip. On the final day of StreetSquash Summer Discovery, the camp hosted an Art Exposé for family and friends, which displayed all of the fantastic work that the students had completed during their time at camp.

The 2011 NUSEA Camp was a tremendous success this summer! The camp hosted a total of 34 urban squash players coming from New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, New Haven, and Chicago. The students participated in a camp tournament challenge that was won by the

self-named "Ghost Boosters" team. The strength of the urban squash community was truly on display, as campers from competing programs bonded with one another and formed new friendships through homestays, squash, and Big Apple exploration.

StreetSquash Elite Camp gave 18 high school academic standouts the opportunity to participate in an additional highly intensive training week. The camp combined intense fitness sessions with technical squash instruction, which was a welcome challenge for our "elite" students. The campers surpassed expectations, pushing themselves whether running in Central Park, learning yoga at the SL Green Center, or mastering the lob serve on court.

### 2010-2011 Community Service Initiatives:

- Global Youth Service Day
- Nike Reuse a Shoe Campaign
- Community Beautification Day 115/116th Block Association
- Clothing, Food, and Toy Drive
- The Food Bank for New York City 116th St Community Food Pantry
- P.O.T.S (Part of the Solution)
- Sisulu-Walker Charter School of Harlem
- Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter
- Fundraising for ProNica
- Fundraising for Japan Disaster Relief



Kamali Williamson and Cindy Yao helping out and giving back at the 'block clean-up'.

## Global Youth Service Day: The largest youth service event in the world!

The StreetSquash Community Health Day is a youth-led initiative in celebration of Global Youth Service Day, the largest service event in the world, which is celebrated in over 100 countries. The SL Green StreetSquash Center was transformed into a bustling fair with a lively carnival feel for the event. This April, StreetSquashers, in partnership with community businesses and organizations, led over 150 community members in activities and informative demonstrations on obesity prevention, healthy choices, and fun ways to improve their quality of life. This year, we expanded the range of activities, with a 5k walkathon across Harlem to raise awareness for healthy options and physical activity. 2011

Partners included: Council Member Inez E. Dickens, 9th C.D., New York City of Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Costco, Modell's Sporting Goods, Bikram Yoga East Harlem, Link to Life Network, Arbonne Cosmetics Helen B. Atkinson Health Center, New York Sports Club, Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education, Yoga for Youth, Ralph Lauren Cancer Care and Prevention Center, Foot Center of New York, Shadia Marji and the MELT system, Christopher Holley and Speed Demon's Entertainment, Materials for the Arts, StreetSquash Parent's Board Executive Committee, and all of our volunteers!

Global Youth Service Day at the SL Green Center.





An Urban Youth Enrichment Program

40 WEST 116TH STREET  
(ENTRANCE ON WEST 115TH BETWEEN 5TH AVE. & LENOX AVE.)  
NEW YORK, NY 10026  
PHONE: 212.289.4838 • FAX: 212.996.3219  
WWW.STREETSQUASH.ORG



# 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.

