

Guilford A Better Chance

Spring 2016 Newsletter



Another school year has come and gone for our A Better Chance scholars. This one, according to them, seemed both especially difficult and fun. The scholars made many new memories together and enjoyed participating in activities at school and in the community. Most notably, all six of our scholars were a part of Guilford High School's production of *West Side Story*, doing everything from singing and dancing to painting scenery and taking tickets. Our scholars continue to pursue their passions and refine their skills—Katrina Green was recently inducted into the Spanish Honors Society, and both Jada Allison and Dorcas Saka were inducted into the International Thespian Society. We can't wait to see what the future holds for these talented and well-rounded young women.

Sumaiyah Lee, a 15-year-old freshman from Harlem, New York, says she had an amazing first year in the Guilford ABC program. Her favorite memory by far was performing as a "Shark" in GHS' *West Side Story* production. She looks forward to continuing to explore extracurricular activities next year, by playing a sport. This summer, Sumaiyah anticipates spending time with her friends and enjoying the (very) warm weather in Houston with her mom.

Abigail Estrada, also 15-years-old and from Bridgeport, CT, says she has similarly happy memories of her year in Guilford ABC. Her favorite part of the whole year was getting her first homerun in her very first game as a member of GHS' softball team. This summer she will attend The Center for Creative Youth at Wesleyan in a summer program for singing and will also take a beach vacation with her family.

Jada Allison, a 15-year-old sophomore from Brooklyn, New York, had a great year. A favorite memory of hers was the first time she performed with the GHS Dance Team at a basketball game. This summer, she plans to go on college tours, meet new people, reunite with friends, and celebrate her sweet sixteen. Next year, she looks forward to further bonding with the other scholars and tackling the challenges of her junior year.

Dorcas Saka, a 15-year-old sophomore from Harlem, New York, really enjoyed this school year. Her favorite memories included when Guilford ABC interacted with other ABC houses in CT, claiming that it was fun and refreshing to meet other students "going through the same process." This summer she will do some traveling, and next year she looks forward to her new classes, especially AP Biology.

Katrina Green, a 16-year-old junior from Bridgeport, CT, can hardly believe that the year is already over! She really enjoyed spending time with the other scholars and volunteering as an art assistant at Yale-New Haven hospital. This summer, she will be traveling to Peru through the Experiment in International Learning program. Katrina has bittersweet feelings about starting her senior year at GHS, but also is excited for college and ready to make another year of memories.

Rebekah Calderon, a 17-year-old junior from Bridgeport, CT, has good feelings about the school year. She loved spending time with the other scholars and performing in GHS' *West Side Story*. She says the experience reminded her how much she loves the arts. This summer she is attending The Center for Creative Youth summer program at Wesleyan University. Rebekah is excited for senior year and can't wait to enjoy special moments with GHS classmates.

Dwight Hall at Yale comes to Guilford ABC

Dwight Hall at Yale, the largest campus-based student-run service organization in the country, now sends six Yale students to work with Guilford ABC scholars every week, thanks to the inspiration of former ABC board member, John Mele.

Samantha Brown, Yale Class of 2017, arranged for six Yale freshmen and sophomore girls to become tutors and mentors to Guilford ABC's six scholars.



The Yale students come to the ABC house two nights a week to help with academics, answer questions and form friendships..

Katrina Green, speaking on behalf of the ABC scholars said, "The Yale girls have been such a wonderful addition to our life in Guilford. They are lively, interesting and really smart, *and their personalities are to die for!*"

This sentiment is shared by the Yale students, each of whom volunteers her time one night a week during the school year. Micah Mingo, Yale Class of 2018, said "I love working with the Guilford ABC girls who are sweet-natured, intelligent, funny, and not afraid to be themselves. I love the opportunity to tutor and mentor high school students so that I can tell them what I wished I had known at that age!"

Marianna Cuomo Maier, Yale Class of 2019, added "Volunteering at the Guilford ABC House is an enriching experience for all of us. Beyond helping with homework assignments, we also have conversations about their experiences at school and offer older-sister-type advice. The relationships I've developed with the ABC girls have really enhanced my college experience."

Fiscal Fitness Seminar

In May, thanks to a donation from Guilford Savings Bank, Guilford ABC was able to offer a two-part Fiscal Fitness seminar on two Sunday afternoons to our scholars and those from Madison's ABC house. The program, which touched on budgeting,



Scholars of Guilford ABC and Madison ABC

bank accounts, credit cards, debt, and other financial basics was led by Gary MacElhiney, the husband of GABC board member Kathy MacElhiney.

The meetings were held at the Guilford ABC House and each was followed by lots of food and socializing. Many thanks to Kathy and Gary MacElhiney for organizing and implementing informative program, and to GSB for funding it.

Guilford ABC Program
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Morris "Mo" Pleasure to return for GABC Benefit Concert



**Celebrated musician
Morris "Mo" Pleasure will be returning
to Guilford on Saturday, October 22,
2016 to lead a night of music and
magic benefitting Guilford ABC.**

GABC Thanks St. John's Episcopal Church

in North Guilford for its fund-
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program.



*GABC President Barbara Pine, with Eileen
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of St. John's Episcopal Church*

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