



## From Our Graduating Seniors...

### Jada Allison

"Being a Guilford A Better Chance scholar has been pivotal to my development as a student and individual. I vividly remember driving to Guilford to start my freshman year. I had no idea what I would endure and experience being away from home, and I quickly realized homesickness would be a daily part of my life for the first couple of months. However, as an ABC scholar I found a built-in support system including my GABC sisters, our resident director, Lisa, my host family, the Glassers, and my board advisors. I thank them for being my support and cheerleaders from freshman year to now. This program has broadened my view of life in so many ways. Coming from a big city to a small suburban town was difficult, but I grew to love the quiet nights, walks to the Green, bike rides around town, and trips to Ashley's. Throughout my years at Guilford High School, I became passionate about clubs such as CARE and Unity and discovered my love for theater arts. Despite the struggles, the rules and the image we have to uphold as an ABC student, this program has taught me to be independent, adaptable and appreciative.

ABC exposed me to the world outside of my comfort zone - from living in Guilford to having the opportunity to travel throughout the country and study abroad. With the help of GABC supporters, I raised money to travel to South Africa with the Experiment in International Living after my junior year. This month-long journey included visiting Cape Town and Robben Island, staying with a host family in Kwanokuthula and spending a few days at The African Leadership Academy in Johannesburg. In addition, I participated in three national ABC college tours which allowed



me venture into new states, connect with scholars from across the country and visit over 50 colleges. I am pleased to say I will be furthering my education at Wellesley College in the Class of 2022.

We've all heard the African proverb "It takes a village to raise a child" — and it certainly does. I give a special thanks to my family, ABC and Guilford for being a part of that village which has helped mold me into the young woman I am becoming."

### Dorcas Saka

"Going through high school as a Guilford ABC scholar is not a chance given to most. It's an opportunity that has opened me up in many different ways. Coming to Guilford freshman year, I instantly felt support from board members, advisors, the girls, and Lisa, the resident director. It has been an uplifting and eye-opening experience as I watched the older girls, whom I admired, working hard, discovering their passions, and getting into college.

While the small town of Guilford was a difficult adjustment after New York, I grew to appreciate the quietness, ability to see the stars, and the Guilford spirit. Guilford quickly became home; the girls became sisters; Lisa became another mom; and my host family, the Goldbergs, and my board advisors became a part of my new family.

Though being a Guilford ABC scholar was not always the easiest, I am grateful for the opportunities that the town of Guilford and its residents have provided me: joining the tennis team, going skiing for the first time, trying new foods (thanks to our cook, Jean), and travelling to Peru and India. It's bittersweet to think that soon Guilford will no longer be 'home'. However, the people I have met, the times of laughter and joy, the times of exhaustion and crying, the late nights, baking, and movie nights and so many more memories are things that I will never forget. I'm beyond proud to be a Guilford ABC scholar and amazed at how quickly these four years have gone.

This summer I will continue my travel adventures as I study Arabic in Jordan for six weeks through National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y). Upon my return, I will be attending Claremont McKenna College in Claremont, California. I am both excited and nervous about this new chapter of my life. Guilford ABC has provided me with immense opportunities and has helped me flourish in many ways. During my past four years, I have learned a lot, laughed a lot, built a lot, and gained so many new relationships that I cherish. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart for every unforgettable memory, every bond, every ride, every trip, and most importantly for all the new sisters that I have gained. I look forward to whatever the future may hold." ▼



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## ABC SCHOLARS

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T-Jauni Barnum

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Sumaiyah Lee  
Dorcas Saka

## ABC STAFF

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P.O. Box 140 • Guilford, CT 06437  
[www.guilfordabc.org](http://www.guilfordabc.org)

# Hello, Goodbye

## HELLO TO LYNN PRENDERGAST

Guilford ABC is thrilled to welcome Lynn Prendergast as our new Resident Director. Beginning this July, Lynn will replace our long term and wonderful RD, Lisa Brady. We are so fortunate that Lynn brings attributes and skills that fit in perfectly with our organization.

An experienced teacher and mentor-teacher, Lynn has worked in the Madison middle and elementary schools since 1992. For many years she served as a team leader and brings a wealth of experience and knowledge about child and teen development, problem solving, language arts and computer science. Lynn is also the mother of a daughter beginning college in September.

Lynn was first introduced to ABC when she taught two of our scholars how to drive and they brought her to the Board's attention. As everyone knows, teaching a teenager how to drive requires a firm, consistent and unflappable demeanor. Combined with her other qualifications, these traits will stand her in excellent stead.

## FAREWELL TO LISA BRADY, OUR RESIDENT DIRECTOR FOR THE LAST SIX YEARS

ABC has been truly blessed to have Lisa Brady as our resident director for the past six years. Her gifts to our students have been many and invaluable. She has brought to this critical job a combination of compassion, common sense, humor, consistency and love for the six scholars who come together to live as a family while attending Guilford High School. Lisa has maintained an open door policy which encourages each scholar to develop an individual relationship with her, sharing good times and bad with a true mother figure.

For 12 years, Lisa has been a teacher at the ACES Village School in North Haven, itself a full-time and difficult job. Yet, she returns to the ABC house each day, eager to share in the lives of the scholars, to offer encouragement, solace, and, when necessary, a firm hand and serious goal setting. She, more than anyone on the board, knows many details of each of the scholar's lives.

Lisa feels grateful for the hard-working ABC board on whom she relies for counsel and individual expertise. She sees the board as an extension of the ABC family – and the board sees her as the key link in our ability to provide a warm yet academically rigorous environment for the scholars. We have been lucky to have such a fine role model in this critical position.

In June Lisa will start a new chapter in her life with her fiancé, Bob Swift. They both acknowledge that Guilford ABC and its scholars will remain an important part of their life together. We wish them much happiness, and look forward to their visits 'back home' to see the girls, share a meal, and catch up on all the latest news. ▼



Lisa Brady (l) and Lynn Prendergast (r) at our May 8th end-of-year celebration.



# Summer Enrichment Program

Guilford ABC encourages its scholars to participate in educational, community and/or cultural summer programs in order to enrich their educational experience and explore interests they may wish to pursue in college. We work with each scholar to research programs that offer scholarships and/or internships, as well as relate to the individual's academic interests.

Our guidelines suggest that freshman find programs close to home; sophomores focus on programs that include domestic or international travel; and junior pursue 2-to 6-week domestic or international programs associated with an accredited college or university. These pre-college programs allow our scholars an opportunity to experience academic and social life on campus before making college applications during their senior year.

Guilford ABC makes every effort to provide limited financial support for the above programs, assuming that the individual scholar's grade averages and participation in the house activities and responsibilities are maintained. Scholars are encouraged to discuss various options with their families, research and apply to appropriate programs, and use a variety of individual fund-raising efforts to help finance their summer enrichment.

Freshman **Lauren Cyrus** will spend the summer at home in Brooklyn, doing some traveling with her family.

Sophomore **Julia Antwi-Boasiaka** has been accepted into a six week Girls Who Code summer immersion program in NYC at no cost.

Sophomore **T-Jauni Barham** has applied to several pre-college summer programs. Although these programs are geared toward rising seniors, she wants a head start, and is wait listed at Davidson and waiting to hear from both Pace University and Columbia University in NYC. She will also spend part of her summer teaching at a preschool in NYC.

Junior **Sumaiyah Lee** been accepted into a six-week Experiment in International Living cultural immersion program, originally scheduled for Japan. Because of allergy issues, Sumaiyah will be given a different placement, perhaps in Argentina. ▼



*Lisa Brady and our scholars enjoyed a special reception before the Mo Pleasure concert in March.*



## Mo Pleasure Benefit Concert

Guilford ABC's Mo Pleasure Benefit Concert was a wonderful success! For the March 24th event, Mo performed a multi-media 20-year musical journey, highlighting his amazing career—from his early days in Guilford under the tutelage of Carol Wright, through college at UConn to his work with Ray Charles, Natalie Cole, Roberta Flack, Michael Jackson and Earth, Wind & Fire. The musical accompaniment included four professional musicians, some childhood friends, and several sets that highlighted the talents of GHS trumpet and saxophone players, and a GHS solo vocalist who sang a beautiful interpretation by Christina Aguilera. Visit our website for more photos, thanks to photographers Judy Barbosa and Kelly Fryer (*Guilford Courier*).

This "proud to be from Guilford" evening began with a dedication to our former board president, Barbara Pine and culminated with a rousing "stand on your feet" performance by all the musicians. To top off the evening, Mo's friend Jason Marchi and GHS Principal, Rick Misenti took to the stage to announce that Mo has been named the first inductee in the new *GHS Hall of Fame for Arts & Sciences* – a fitting tribute to Guilford's own incredibly talented and generous Mo Pleasure. Mo asked that this show also be dedicated to Mo's father, Robert J. Pleasure, and his grandmother, Celestine J. Pleasure. ▼

## UPCOMING

### MONDAY, JUNE 11

#### 9th Annual MJ Petretto Golf Classic

There's still time to sign up to play; singles and duos welcome as well as foursomes at the Clinton Country Club. \$220/per person includes lunch, golf, happy hour with cash bar, dinner, prizes and awards. Proceeds benefit local non-profits including Guilford ABC. For more information or to sign up to play on behalf of Guilford ABC, go to [contact@mjpfoundation.org](mailto:contact@mjpfoundation.org).

### SATURDAY, JULY 21

#### Lenny and Joe's Magic Musical Carousel

Lenny and Joe's in Madison on the Post Road donates the proceeds from its Magic Musical Carousel to a different non-profit each night. On July 21, Guilford ABC receives the carousel profits. It's a great night to bring your kids or grandchildren for dinner or an ice cream and a ride on the famous carousel... and you'll be helping us while you have fun.



P.O. Box 140  
Guilford, CT 06437

*Guilford ABC is enormously grateful for its Community Sponsors, many of whom provide pro-bono or reduced rate services to help us with our mission as well as our house, grounds and Hole in the Wall.*

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## House & Grounds

We think of ABC as all about the scholars and their well-being – which includes their home at 143 Church Street. Like all homes, this well-used house requires constant TLC and repairs. Here's an overview of 2017-18 house maintenance.

- The garage, basement and attic received long overdue deep cleaning and purging.
- Patio furniture was purchased along with protective winter coverings.
- Holes in the outside structure of the house were covered to keep critters out.
- Lights and exit signs were installed per Fire Marshall request.
- Ceiling fan was installed for the comfort of our amazing cook.
- Old vacuum cleaner and a malfunctioning washing machine were both replaced.

This summer, when the girls are away, projects will include sprucing up the Resident Director's apartment, refinishing the well-used dining room table, annual cleaning of furniture/fixtures/filters, solving a water drainage issue with a dry well, and maintenance of the all-important van. ▼



#### **HOLE IN THE WALL EXPANDS SPACE AND OFFERINGS**

If you haven't recently stopped in at Hole in the Wall, Guilford's only non-profit consignment and resale shop, which donates all its profits to Guilford ABC, you're in for a major and delightful surprise! Thanks go to the generosity of our landlord, Craig Helmrich, and to the wonderful pro-bono work of Baldwin & Baldwin Contractors who, within four weeks, transformed former office space into an open display area now full of a wonderful, ever-changing assortment of quality furniture and home furnishings, books, CDs, and other decorations as well as our entire men's department, including men's dressing rooms. This addition has been welcomed by savvy shoppers, who quickly scoop up wonderful values at gentle prices. The selection changes almost daily as donations and consignment items are received – and sold. Pick up of furniture to be donated or consigned can be arranged through manager, Patty Sullivan at 203-453-2088. ▼