

# HIGH SIGHT

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highsight.org



# HIGH SIGHT

HighSight's mission is to provide academic and social support to Chicago high school students. HighSight provides scholarships, tutoring, mentoring, leadership development and college readiness programs to enable its students to attend and succeed at the private high school of their choice.

SUMMER 2013

## Go Another Mile Scholarship Dinner



» A group of HighSight Alumni enjoy the scholarship dinner. Left to right: Samantha Sosa '07, Jameson Taylor '08, Vanessa Alvarez '05, Laura Rios, Elizabeth Moran '99

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### » HIGHTSIGHT CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Thursday, November 7, 2013

#### Fall Fling

6:00pm – 9:00pm

Rock Bottom Brewery

1 West Grand Avenue



Monday, December 30, 2013

#### Eve of the Eve

8:00pm – 1:00am

Chicago Union Station

500 West Jackson Boulevard



May 2014

#### Go Another Mile Scholarship Dinner

5:30pm – 8:30pm

May 8<sup>th</sup> was this year's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Go Another Mile Scholarship Dinner, held at the Symphony Center, where we celebrated the success of the HighSight class of 2013. Our very generous and incredibly supportive donors and mentors came out in full stride, many of them hosting tables and inviting friends and family to learn about HighSight.

This year HighSight's honoree was Sr. Stephanie Schmidts—an incredible woman with nearly 40 years of experience in education. After listening to Sr. Stephanie's address, last year's honorees, Steve and Jennifer Salopek, very generously offered a matching gift of up to \$10,000 to new supporters of the organization. Many of our supporters gave generous donations that evening to help inch closer to the \$10,000 mark. We love the enthusiasm and excitement of our incredible donors who so passionately believe in what we are doing.

Also in attendance were many of our fantastic mentors who give so much of their time each week to assist the scholars with their homework. The dinner also hosted many friends of HighSight and HighSight scholars' parents.

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## Class of 2013



**Ashaunti Roby**, is headed to Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois. During her four years at Providence St. Mel School, Ashaunti excelled in the arts. She not only participated in the school musical all four years but held the leading role in two. She was a leader in her school choir and participated in Chamber Choir her junior and senior year. The summer before her senior year, Ashaunti spent four weeks in Panama.



**Miguel Negrete**, will be attending Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina with nearly \$200,000 in college scholarships and grants. Miguel graduated from St. Laurence High School with a 4.0 GPA and many awards and distinctions in sports. He not only played soccer all four years, but he was the captain his senior year and won Offensive Player of the Year. Miguel also played basketball and won an award for Defensive Player of the Year. Finally, Miguel spent the summer between his junior and senior year in Paraguay.



**Jocelyn Tamayo**, graduated from St. Benedict High School with a 3.5 GPA and will be attending Susquehanna University with nearly \$175,000 in scholarships and grants. After spending the summer between her junior and senior year in France, studying French cuisine, Jocelyn developed a passion for language and travel. She joined the International Club and will be traveling to South Korea through a U.S. Department of State sponsored program. Jocelyn also enjoys playing golf, was a caddy for 4 years, and helped start a Golf team at St. Benedict.



**Christopher Razo**, a graduate of De La Salle Institute, will be headed to Furman University in the fall with the intention of studying Political Science. He will be receiving nearly \$200,000 in scholarships and grants making it possible for him

to attend Furman with no out of pocket cost. At De La Salle, Christopher was consistently a leader. He was the Varsity Football team captain and the 3rd leading scorer, the Vice-President of the National Honor Society and served as an alderman to his class. Christopher graduated with the Honors Diploma from De La Salle Institute.



**Mercedes Durosier**, graduated from St. Scholastica Academy and will be attending the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in the fall. Mercedes not only maintained the honor roll throughout her entire high school career but won numerous athletic awards. She won the Volleyball Athletic Award two times and was named GCAC All-Conference for Volleyball in 2010.



**Selena Hernandez**, a graduate of De La Salle Institute, will be headed to Augustana College in the fall with the intention of studying Pre-Veterinarian Medicine. She will be receiving \$128,000 in scholarships, awards and grants making it possible for her to attend Augustana. At De La Salle, Selena was the varsity soccer team captain and MVP all conference recipient and the Vice-President of the Spanish Club. Selena graduated with the Honors Diploma from De La Salle Institute.



**Erika Jimenez**, a graduate of Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School, will be heading to St. Olaf College in the fall. Erika will be attending St. Olaf with about \$200,000 in grants. At Mother McAuley she was very involved with music and theater. Before arriving at St. Olaf in the fall, Erika looks forward to studying Turkish in Turkey for 7 weeks with a U.S. Department of State sponsored program.



**Jason Grijalva**, graduated from St. Laurence and will be heading to DePauw University in the fall. At St. Laurence, Jason was a leader on his LaCrosse and basketball teams as well as in the classroom. Jason graduated with over a 4.0 GPA. Jason will be receiving nearly \$160,000 in grants and scholarships.

Visit [highsight.org](http://highsight.org) to purchase tickets or call 312.787.9824 for more information!

Follow HighSight on Facebook at [facebook.com/HighSightChicago](https://facebook.com/HighSightChicago)

Go Another Mile Scholarship Dinner continued

By far, the high point of the night was hearing from our graduates. They told stories of how much HighSight means to them and how this experience has forever changed them. They have learned how to “go another mile”, break out of their comfort zones and push themselves to places they never dreamed. They were so appreciative and kind with their comments and gave thanks to all the people who helped get them to where they are now.

At the conclusion of evening, Michael West, a HighSight alum from the Class of 2003, inspired the class of 2013 to walk into all new situations with an open mind and to always remember to help each other. Thanks to everyone who made it an extraordinarily successful evening.

**SISTER STEPHANIE SCHMIDTS, HONOREE**



Sr. Stephanie Schmidts, and Mark Duhon

When Mark Duhon introduced this year’s honoree, Sister Stephanie, he said, “In 1991, I walked into St. Joseph’s Rectory and met a woman that changed my life forever.” Sister Stephanie worked tirelessly as outreach minister at St. Joseph school. She assembled an army of young people, forming the Insight Program, which was set up to tutor and mentor the students. One of those mentors was Mark Duhon, who would go on to become HighSight’s executive director and co-founder.

“In 1991, I walked into St. Joseph’s Rectory and met a woman that changed my life forever.”

- Mark Duhon, HighSight’s executive director and co-founder

Despite the closing of St. Joseph’s school, Sister Stephanie has not stopped dedicating her life to serving Chicago’s low income youth. Sister not only inspired Mark Duhon to organize HighSight, but also remains dedicated to Insight. The Insight program has over 50 mentors and works with 80 young people. During her address that evening Sister said, “Insight and HighSight are proven programs for over 20 years. They are ones that our Mayor needs to know about when he is raising money for educational proven programs.” Sister Stephanie’s energy, concern and genuine love of education are infectious.

CLASS OF **2013** | **16** GRADS

COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES:

- Augustana College
- DePauw University (2)
- Furman University (2)
- Kenyon College
- Knox College (2)
- Monmouth College
- Northeastern Illinois University
- Rider University
- St. Olaf College (2)
- Susquehanna University (2)
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Midsummer EVE of the EVE



Spectaculights Photography

The 13th annual Midsummer EVE of the EVE, held June 5, 2013 at The Plaza at Park Grill, was a tremendous success with a fabulous crowd. This year’s event featured Clik Entertainment and live music by Pat McKillen. We are deeply grateful to all our guests, supporters and sponsors. To view pictures from this year’s event, visit [facebook.com/HighSightChicago](http://facebook.com/HighSightChicago).

\* ALUMNI UPDATES

Jacky Neri '09



- > Holy Trinity High School, Class of 2009
- > Kenyon College, Class of 2013

After graduating in May 2013 from Kenyon College with a major in Spanish Area Studies with a concentration on Latino Studies and Women’s and Gender Studies, Jacky Neri will be attending a summer program at Andover called Institute for the Recruitment of Teachers (IRT). After completing the program, she will start work as a Spanish teacher/dorm counselor at St. Margaret’s boarding school in Tappahanock, VA. While working at St. Margaret’s, Jacky plans on beginning a graduate program in either School Counseling or Higher Education.

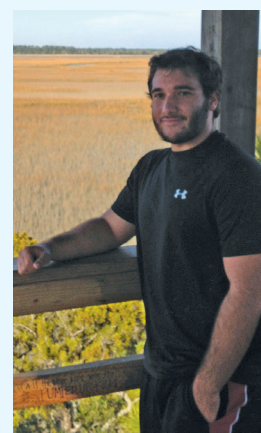
Ashley Pettis '04



- > Trinity High School, Class of 2004
- > University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Class of 2008

Ashley Pettis graduated from Trinity High School in 2004. She earned her Bachelors of Science in Advertising from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2008. Ashley is a successful Marketing professional at Discover Financial Services, focused on marketing strategy and operational efficiencies. Ashley is also an active participant in various Diversity & Inclusion Employee Connection Groups working with Discover leadership to enhance business results, foster an inclusive environment, and promote company success in the marketplace and community. Ashley is currently working with other HighSight alumni to establish the HighSight Young Professionals Association.

George Toma '12



- > St. Benedict College Prep, Class of 2012
- > Furman University, Class of 2016

George Toma just finished his first year of college at Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina. George received over a 3.0 GPA and participated in various activities on Furman’s campus. George learned to swing dance and how to fit into the culture of the south while maintaining a strong GPA. Although he remains undecided in his major, George plans to join the student government when he returns to campus in the fall.

CLASS OF 2013 INDEPENDENT SUMMER PROGRAMS:

These include discovery, enrichment and adventure on college campuses, boarding schools, and international travel to nations around the world.

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Student / Program / Destination
Jennifer Aguayo, The Experiment in International Living ... France
Christine Alvarado, AFS Intercultural Programs ... China
Aileth Avila, AFS Intercultural Programs ... Italy
Daryl Brown, The Experiment in International Living ... Chile
Demetrius Brown, AFS Intercultural Programs ... Ghana
Kyle Calderon-Crain, The Putney School
Rashaan Castillo, Cushing Academy
Destiny Chavez, Phillips Academy
Evelin Duran, Ignatian Educational Network ... Chile
Taylor Eason, Northfield Mount Hermon
Jose Gomez, Choate Rosemary Hall
Jackeline Gonzalez, Phillips Exeter Academy
Lizbeth Gonzalez, AFS Intercultural Programs ... Panama
Alicia Martinez, Putney Student Travel ... Tanzania
Faraji Petty, Cushing Academy
Anton Richardson, Cushing Academy
James Simmons, Phillips Exeter Academy
Monika Tisdale, Brown University
Yamila Tueros, AFS Intercultural Programs ... Panama

\$250,000

\$2,240,000

In total, HighSight spent more than \$250,000 in high school scholarships for the Class of 2013. With our approach, these scholars turned their high school scholarships into nearly 9 times that (\$2,240,000) for their college scholarships – an astounding return on the investment. **100% of our 16 seniors were accepted and are attending 4-year colleges and universities. In total, they received over 70 acceptances to 30 schools.**