

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 2011

Go Another Mile Scholarship Dinner

Our second annual Go Another Mile Scholarship Dinner, held May 16, 2011, at Rhapsody, was the perfect celebration for HighSight donors and the class of 2011. With a sold-out crowd of more than 230 guests, the event raised more than \$43,000 for HighSight scholarships. We are deeply grateful to everyone who supported this year's event. Please save the date of Wednesday, May 9, 2012, as we continue this tradition.

Left to right: Rene Neri, Patricia Neri, **Tania Neri '11**, John Malloy, >> Timothy Bopp, **Karina Mendez '09** and Sonia Mendez.



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» HIGHTSIGHT CALENDAR OF EVENTS



HIGHTSIGHT

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Happy Hour

6:00pm - 9:00pm

Mad River Bar & Grille

2909 North Sheffield Avenue

Tickets: \$30



Thursday, November 10, 2011

Fall Fling

6:00pm - 9:00pm

Rock Bottom Brewery

1 West Grand Avenue

Tickets: \$40 for 1 / \$70 for 2



Friday, December 30, 2011

Eve of the Eve

8:00pm - 1:00am

Chicago Union Station

500 West Jackson Boulevard

Tickets: \$125

Visit highsight.org to purchase tickets or call 312.787.9824 for more information!

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

CLASS OF 2011



LILIANA JIMENEZ

Liliana will be attending Bates College in Lewiston, Maine. She graduated from Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School with a grade point average of 3.6. She traveled to France and Spain for one month during the summer between her junior and senior year. She will be receiving more than \$250,000 in scholarships to attend Bates College.



SARAI MARTINEZ

Sarai graduated with a 3.8 grade point average from De La Salle Institute. She looks forward to studying psychology at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio, with nearly \$200,000 in scholarships. During the summer between her junior and senior year, Sarai studied at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana.



RAFAEL MENDEZ

Rafael graduated from St. Patrick High School with a 3.5 grade point average. Before his senior year, Rafael spent the summer at Choate Rosemary Hall in Wallingford, Connecticut for a summer enrichment experience. As a graduate of St. Patrick High School, he excelled in the classroom while being actively involved in clubs. He will be attending DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana this fall. Rafael is the fifth person in his family to graduate from HighSight.



MARCO PEREZ

Marco graduated from De La Salle Institute with a 4.3 grade point average. He will be attending the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He attended Phillips Exeter Academy to study criminal justice, architecture and English, the summer before his senior year. Receiving more than \$100,000 in scholarships from the University of Illinois over the next four years, Marco plans on studying law and eventually joining the FBI.



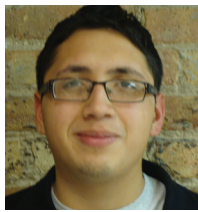
ANGELICCA TELLES

Angelicca is attending Pomona College in Claremont, California. She graduated with honors from St. Ignatius College Prep and is a Chicago Scholars recipient. The summer before her senior year, she traveled with AFS Intercultural Programs and spent seven weeks living with a host family and teaching English in Thailand. She will be receiving more than \$200,000 in scholarships.



NATASHA WRIGHT

Natasha is attending Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois. During her high school career at Trinity High School, Natasha participated in theatre, chamber choir, and various service projects. The summer before her senior year, Natasha was at The Putney School where she participated in their performing arts program.



COLLEGE ESSAY BY OSCAR POBLANO '11

Oscar is a graduate of Gordon Tech High School and will be attending Bradley University in the fall.

I was playing video games, munching on enchiladas rojas, at my Tía Irma's house when I got the phone call. Seriously, pull me away from "Call of Duty"? My aunt told me I needed to go to the hospital. Something bad happened to my dad. It was this day that changed my entire perspective.

At the hospital, I saw my dad. Bloody, sweaty, and tired yet strong. When he saw me, he assured me and asked if I had finished my homework. Flashes of the "Call of Duty" passed through my head and even though I wasn't I still told him I was done. He had a nail stuck deep into the flesh on his thumb. The doctor had to remove it and his hand will never again be the same.

He does that and so much more for me. He works in a factory for unimaginable hours so that I can get an education, so that I can attend a competitive high school and so that I do not ever have to worry about my thumbs. And, I spent my entire freshman and sophomore years as a minimalist, perfecting my skills on many video games. Lazy. I realized at that moment the importance of the sacrifice my family makes, the importance of my education and mostly, the opportunity that I was about to let pass by.

As a junior, I began to demonstrate the respect I felt for my dad. Doing my homework, holding a pen with my right thumb, I began to work harder. I gave up video games and even began to enjoy math, numbers simply made me enjoy school. My dad was greatly delighted by the effort put towards my improvement and finally I felt as if my aspirations began to grow.

This excitement for mathematics led me to try something new and branch out. After receiving great grades throughout my junior year, I decided to attend Cushing Academy in Ashburnham, MA, to take precalculus, a class that takes dedication and hard work. Given the opportunity to study at a higher level I had to make a change for all the years I had given to waste. Completing the program was a great achievement and gave me much satisfaction. After this I knew that from that point on I would be dedicated, passionate and goal seeking student not only for my father but for myself.

Seeing my dad in the hospital exhausted from work and realizing that all the sweat and blood was for my benefit and education was truly eye-opening. He had always told me to be passionate and dedicated to all the work you do, never give up even if it seems you can't succeed. Now, with my passion for mathematics and my new found desire to learn, I am excited to be self-motivated. I look forward to continuing my education.

CLASS OF 2011 | 25 GRADS

COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| Augustana College | Lake Forest College |
| Bates College | Monmouth College (3) |
| Bradley University | Pomona College |
| Denison University | Saint Norbert College |
| DePauw University | University of Illinois at Chicago (2) |
| Furman University | University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (4) |
| Kenyon College | Vassar College |
| Knox College (5) | |

\$425,000 → \$3,085,000

In total, HighSight spent more than \$425,000 in high school scholarships for the class of 2011. With our formula, these scholars turned their high school scholarships into more than 7 times that (\$3,085,000) for their college scholarships – an astounding return on the investment. **100% of our 25 seniors were accepted to 4-year colleges and universities and, in total, they received 137 acceptances to 50 schools.**

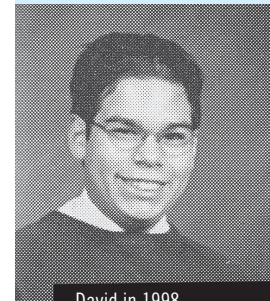


The 11th annual **Midsummer EVE of the EVE**, held June 8, 2011 at The Plaza at Park Grill, was a tremendous success with a crowd of nearly 400 guests. This year's event raised more than \$33,000 for HighSight scholarships. We are deeply grateful to all our guests, supporters and sponsors. To view pictures from this year's event, visit highsight.org.

* ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

David Merced

- > Archbishop Quigley Preparatory Seminary, Class of 2000
- > DePaul University, B.A., Class of 2005
- > DePaul University, M.S., Class of 2011



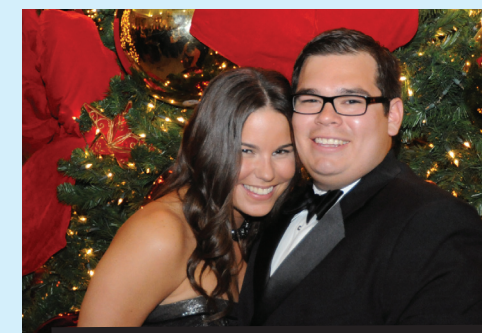
David in 1998

My story of being a HighSight scholar is somewhat unconventional to outsiders, but to fellow scholars, it is a relatable story. My mom first heard about HighSight while I was a freshman at Archbishop Quigley high school. Growing up in a single-parent household, my mom always looked for a way to stretch a dollar. And what better way to do so by having an organization help pay for a good high school education. Without the aid of HighSight, my brother Daniel, my sister Christina, and I would not have been able to attend private high schools all at the same time (Daniel and I are two years apart; and Christina and I are four years apart in age). Despite growing up without a father most of my life, HighSight mentors and my high school teachers filled the void of another parent.

I remember a couple of occasions when my mentor, Matthew Charles, told me algebra would not be a difficult subject as long as I put forth some type of effort. He said, "If you could walk through Humboldt Park and the Cabrini-Green Projects without getting chased you can understand algebra." Mind you, this was before Humboldt Park became a new 'hipster' area. Thanks to Matthew, he showed me that if I use common sense I can do almost anything.

James Lackland, another memorable mentor, constantly asked me the question "Why" to every response I gave him. While reading and discussing the story of a young boy trying to find his way through life in J.D. Salinger's *The Catcher and the Rye*, James always wanted in-depth answers. He instilled in me the ability to become an analytical thinker.

My favorite HighSight memory is when I won the Duhon award my senior year of high school. Mark Duhon's father had recently passed away and his family decided to create an award in honor of his father's name. The award was given to a graduating scholar who exemplified the HighSight mission statement, "Go Another Mile." Proudly, I accepted the award. I remember talking with my mom the night of my HighSight graduation and hearing her say how proud she was of me for working hard in high school. She knew academics did not come easily to me because I was distracted and was unmotivated my first year of high school. In all honesty, without HighSight helping me complete my weekly homework, I probably would not have finished high school. Today, I am happily married and a Sales Operations Supervisor at CDW.



David with wife Ashley at 2010 EVE of the EVE

CLASS OF 2012 INDEPENDENT SUMMER PROGRAMS:

These include discovery, enrichment and adventure on college campuses, boarding schools, and in the great outdoors throughout the United States, and international travel to nations around the world.

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Student / Program / Destination

- Monique Bontemps, The Experiment in International Living ... **France**
- Anthony Bryant, Choate Rosemary Hall ... **Connecticut**
- Boe Chmil, Earlham College ... **Indiana**
- Luis Covarrubius, Exeter Academy ... **New Hampshire**
- Ana De La Cruz, Northfield Mount Hermon ... **Massachusetts**
- Jarek Diaz, The Experiment in International Living ... **Ecuador**
- Angel Dieguez, The Experiment in International Living ... **Costa Rica**
- Jocelyn Estrada, Putney Student Travel ... **Argentina**
- Jeanette Fonseca, Exeter Academy ... **New Hampshire**
- Yamari Gonzalez, The Experiment in International Living ... **Spain**
- Daniel Guzman, AFS Intercultural Programs ... **Paraguay**
- Victor Hardges, Northfield Mount Hermon ... **Massachusetts**
- Dyamone Hopkins, The Experiment in International Living ... **Mexico**
- Ryan Liedke, The Experiment in International Living ... **China**
- Esbeidy Martinez, Earlham College ... **Indiana**
- Vanessa Negron, Putney Visual Arts ... **Vermont**
- Itzayana Perez, Earlham College ... **Indiana**
- Valencia Short, Exeter Academy ... **New Hampshire**
- Mariana Sosa, Earlham College ... **Indiana**
- George Toma, Washington University ... **Missouri**
- Kayla Torres, Brown University ... **Rhode Island**
- Reagan Tyson, AFS Intercultural Programs ... **Ghana**
- Joselyn Uribe, AFS Intercultural Programs ... **Thailand**
- Nichelle Walker, Brown University ... **Rhode Island**