



# Summer on the Hill

at Horace Mann

Year-round enrichment for NYC's promising public school students

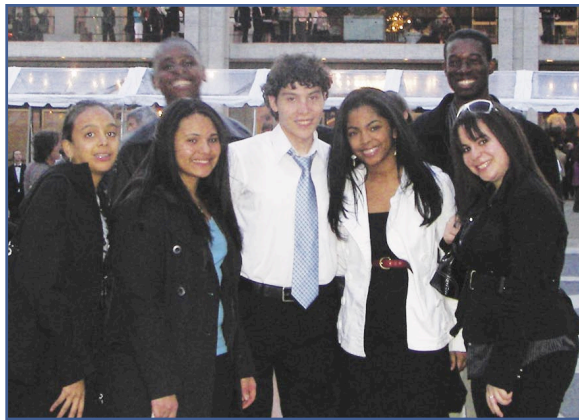
Spring/Summer 2007

## SOH College Enrollment Tops 100

Dear Friends,

This fall, 105 SOH alumni will be enrolled in four-year colleges, including all 33 of SOH's 2007 high school graduates.

Congratulations to our SOH graduates who have succeeded in their goal of college enrollment! SOH students come from underserved neighborhoods in the Bronx and upper Manhattan. Over two-thirds are the first in their families to attend college. The average scholarship for students attending private colleges is \$32,000, a testament to our students' abilities, potential, and need.



Four of the students at a SOH trip to the Metropolitan Opera's performance of *The Barber of Seville* will enroll in college this fall. They are: Cynthia Marino (3rd from left), SUNY Oneonta; Renato Rengifo, University of Rochester; Elizabeth Smith, Yale; Christina Suarez, Concordia College.

SOH's college freshmen will include Yodalis Moran (Trinity College), President of the Senior Class at Mother Cabrini H.S. and a mentor at SOH...Mayte Espinal (Temple University), editor of *The Peddie School's* literary magazine and a mentor at SOH... David McNeil (Hunter College), who is enjoying his summer job at a NYC not-for-profit organization...Stephanie Urugutia (Bard College), who was in Aquinas H.S.'s Trial Advocacy Project...Antonio Upia (SUNY Buffalo), Varsity Basketball team captain at the HS for Math, Science & Engineering...Catherine Barrientos (Smith College), National Hispanic Scholar at Bronx Science...and Bryan Wong (Manhattan College) National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta (math honor society).

When SOH was founded in 1994 as an enrichment experiment for 21 public elementary school students, we never imagined the eventual impact of the program. As SOH enters its 14th year, staff, family, and friends salute our 105 college students and wish them the best in the years ahead!

Sincerely,

John P. McIvor, Ph.D., Executive Director

### SOH's 2007 high school graduates will attend:

- Bard College
- Columbia University
- Concordia College
- Cornell University
- CUNY/Hunter (3 students)
- CUNY/John Jay
- CUNY/Lehman
- CUNY/Medgar Evers
- Dartmouth University
- Delaware State University
- Iona College
- Ithaca College
- Manhattan College
- Mount Saint Vincent
- NYC College of Technology
- NYU (2)
- Smith College
- SUNY at Binghamton, Buffalo, New Paltz, Oneonta, and Stony Brook
- Syracuse University
- Temple University
- Trinity College
- Wesleyan University
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Rochester (2)
- Yale University

### *Summer on the Hill wins a second grant from Time Warner!*

SOH was awarded a two-year, \$175,000 grant for its Middle and High School College Bound programs. The grant will provide partial support for SOH's popular 6th and 7th grade after-school high school entrance exam prep classes, enrichment classes for all SOH middle school students, and college-readiness classes and activities for SOH high school students.

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## SOH's First Annual Spring Gala Honors Bruce Brickman

SOH's first Annual Spring Gala in honor of Bruce Brickman, founding benefactor of SOH and Chairman of its Board of Trustees, was a great success. After expenses, the Gala raised \$334,000 in an unforgettable evening at Gustavino's Restaurant. Two hundred and thirty SOH supporters and friends of Bruce Brickman heard Mortimer Zuckerman, publisher of US News and World Report and The New York Daily News, laud Mr. Brickman's outstanding and tireless support of SOH. Mr. Brickman was also honored with a token of appreciation from SOH Executive Director, John McIvor, and SOH alumni.



Bruce Brickman (left) at podium with John McIvor and SOH alumni

Richard Barasch, CEO of Universal America Financial Corporation and SOH Trustee summed up SOH's history at the Gala: "Summer on the Hill started in 1994 with 21 students; this year, with Bruce Brickman as the financial angel and under John McIvor's devoted leadership, the program will benefit 240 children in the summer and 200 children during the school year. Summer on the Hill has been an enormous success as a result of the efforts of individuals who had the vision and fortitude to build from scratch a program that has had a tangible, positive effect on the lives of hundreds of children in our city."

Funds from the Gala will help SOH start its 2007-2008 year, which includes a new, transition-to-high school program, the Grade 3-8 program, and college-readiness activities and classes for our high school students, on a secure footing.

## SOH begins New Transition-to-High School Program

In July 2007, SOH implemented a new, three-week program to help 8th grade graduates make the transition to high school. Called the *Rising Nines*, the program provided academic and social support for 18 SOH students who will begin high school in the fall, and encouraged students to maintain their ties to SOH. Daily language arts and math classes were supplemented by enrichment classes in art, music appreciation, and sports, and trips to Rocking the Boat, an environmental and boat-building program on the Bronx River, and the Liberty Science Center.

### Summer on the Hill at Horace Mann

Year-round enrichment for NYC's promising public school students  
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*By Jourdan White, rising junior at Fordham Prep*



*Summer on the Hill has had a huge impact on my life in and out of the classroom.*

Not only did it help to get me into a great high school, but it also enabled me to expand my horizons and experience new things. I was a latecomer to SOH, as I entered in the fall of fifth grade. Regardless, I acquired important skills that help me on every day. Whether it was test prep or math review classes, SOH helped me

get ahead in school. At SOH, I learned organizational skills and time management, which proved to be essential tools in high school. I have not yet mastered these skills but they have helped me greatly these past two years.

By helping me gain admission to Fordham Prep, SOH also opened my eyes to wonderful opportunities that showed me what I am capable of doing. I have excelled athletically and academically. I was the Varsity City Champion in High Jump for the second season in a row and received honors every quarter of 2006-2007. Through Fordham Prep, I traveled to Central Europe in April. This was an amazing experience that helped me to see what the world is really like. I was accepted into The International YMCA's Global Teens Program and will travel to China in the summer and participate in a service-learning project. These accomplishments were possible because of the skills that SOH instilled in me. Thanks to SOH, I feel that there are no obstacles that I cannot overcome!

*Stephanie Urugutia, Bard College Class of 2011*

*At SOH I found a genuine passion to learn and expect myself to be out of the ordinary.*

At SOH, I was no longer a number in the New York public school system, but a unique thinker free to explore the many questions that I had. With the wonderful teachers and staff at SOH, I learned that school was not going to be easy, but that despite challenges and some setbacks, I would emerge as a great student.

Thanks to SOH, I attended Aquinas High School on a scholarship from the Laura J. Niles and the Preston and Hilda Davis Foundations. When I started at Aquinas High School, I found that I couldn't just leave SOH, so I gave back a small portion of what SOH offered me and mentored 6th grade children. In addition to working as a mentor for SOH, I became a Big Sister at Crotona Thorpe Residency, a women's shelter close to my school. I am now very excited about leaving New York City to attend Bard College in the fall.



## SOH 8th Grade Graduation, May 19th, 2007

Congratulations to SOH's 25 8th grade graduates! At a very moving ceremony in Horace Mann's Recital Hall, SOH Seniors Rakia Otoo and Argenis Genao and Salutatorian, Lorenz Choi, remembered their best times at SOH for an audience of students, families, and staff. The Valedictorian, Frances Ikwuazom, spoke with great poise about the opportunities that SOH has afforded her and her family. The 8th grade class, comprised of 12 boys and 13 girls, will enroll in the following high schools in September:



*Dr. John McIvor, SOH's Executive Director, listens to speeches with the graduates*

Bronx Center for Science and Mathematics

Bronx High School of Science

Cardinal Hayes High School

Cardinal Spellman High School

Celia Cruz High School

Clarkstown North High School

Clarkstown South High School



*Graduate with Parent*

DeWitt Clinton High School, MACY Honors Program

Environmental Studies High School

Fordham Prep

Graphic and Communication Arts

High School for Health Careers and Sciences

High School for Visual Arts

High School of Economics and Finance

High School of Math, Science,

and Engineering at City College

Horace Mann

Manhattan Center for Science and Math

Montfort Academy

Mount St. Ursula

NEST+M

Nightingale Bamford

Preston High School

Riverdale Kingsbridge Academy (2 students)



*Graduating 8th Graders*



*Graduates*



*Winners of SOH's Middle School Spelling Bee*



*The children in 4A and B loved reading and discussing fairy tales. SOH's 4th grade language arts classes concluded the unit with a costume party of favorite characters.*

Fifteen SOH students will enroll in independent elementary and middle schools in the fall. These students will not be eligible to continue in SOH's Grade 3-8 program, which is for public school students only, but are welcome to participate in the High School Program when they reach 9th grade. SOH staff sends best wishes to students leaving SOH for the following schools:

Middle School: De La Salle Academy (5 students);

Horace Mann (1 student);

Riverdale (2 students).

Elementary School: George Jackson Academy (7 students).

## SOH's High School Program

During the 2006-2007 school year, High School Program Director Anne Gilheany held classes and events for SOH students that included:

- 26 SAT prep classes taught by Manhattan College English and math instructors
- A College Workshop for parents and students, led by the Associate Dean of Admissions at Barnard College, Rebecca Gomez-Palacio
- Two study skills workshops taught by a Lehman College instructor
- Physics review classes taught by Dr. Jeffrey Weitz, Horace Mann science teacher
- Tour of Vassar College

SOH also took groups of students to: a production of August Wilson's *Two Trains Running*, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and a performance of *The Barber of Seville* at the Metropolitan Opera House. In addition, in April, SOH chaperoned five students to the New York State Supreme Courthouse at Foley Square for a tour of the landmark building and lecture about our legal system. Students were thrilled with the opportunities available at SOH:

*Giancarlo:* "Considering the initial thought of more work associated with SAT classes, I would never have guessed that these classes would be the highlight of my week. The relaxed and comfortable feeling of being in a classroom with other teens who share the same drive and passion to succeed made it easy for me to open my mind to the lessons. Everyone had valuable input and was not afraid to debate or support each other."

*Daniel:* "'Two Trains Running' was my first opportunity to see a real play and it was a great experience. In contrast to a TV show, this play made me think more deeply. Later on in the year, I read August Wilson's 'Fences' in class and I believe that 'Two Trains' helped me to understand it on a higher level. I hope to see another play this summer."

*Christian:* "The college workshop taught me things about the application process that I never knew – even when I thought I knew everything already! I hope there's more of the same for future high school sophomores and juniors."

*Aidalix:* "The Courthouse was really fun to visit. I have never seen that part of Manhattan, although I'm a native New Yorker! It was a great experience that did open my eyes and make me want to take a course about law to see if I like it."

*Daniel:* "The college visit to Vassar was a great jump-start to my college search. I didn't know where to start or how to go about visiting colleges. The trip gave me an idea of what kind of college I would like to go to and what I would have to do to get there."



*SOH Students at the NYS Supreme Courthouse. Court staff took them on a tour of the building, explained the legal system and discussed legal careers.*



*Associate Dean of Admissions at Barnard College, Rebecca Gomez-Palacio leads a college workshop for 30 SOH parents and students.*



*SOH high school students and Anne Gilheany, Director of SOH's High School Program (second from left), tour Vassar College*

## Donors to SOH in 2006-2007

*Since 1994, SOH has raised nearly \$6 million in program support. We are deeply grateful to our donors, whose support has allowed SOH to have an enormous impact on the lives and education of hundreds of students in underserved areas of the Bronx and upper Manhattan. SOH's 2006-2007 contributors include the many generous individuals and companies who helped honor Bruce Brickman, SOH's founding benefactor, at our May 30th Gala.*

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*Writing class at SOH*

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*Enjoying an SOH class*

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*A SOH student tap dances in a Vassar studio*

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*SOH also recognizes the New York State Department of Health's Child and Adult Care Food Program, which provided partial reimbursement for lunch and snack expenses during the 2006-2007 academic year. We also thank the New York City Department of Education's SchoolFood program, which provided free lunch to children in the Grade 3-8 program during SOH's 2006 and 2007 summer programs.*

## What is Summer on the Hill?

Since 1994, SOH, a 501(c)3 organization housed on the campus of the Horace Mann School, has served 600 academically talented, disadvantaged children from the Bronx and upper Manhattan through after-school enrichment classes and individualized guidance. SOH recruits 2nd graders from over 100 public schools for its Grade 3-8 program of yearly summer programs bridged by a Saturday and Wednesday after-school academic year program. Graduates of the Grade 3-8 program participate in SOH's High School Program, which includes college visits, SAT prep classes, and college counseling.



*In April 2007, SOH's Executive Director John McIvor and Assistant Director Julia Baez-Veliz met with Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion to discuss SOH's importance to education in the Bronx.*

**For more information about  
Summer on the Hill,  
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