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STUDENTS

Bettina Arkhurst (2014)

Jocelyn Mendez (2014)

Danielle McIntosh (2015)

Merlyn Tejada (2015)

Mahoghany Dolberry (2016)

Niamani Williams-Coles (2016)

ABC WELCOMES NEW RESIDENT DIRECTORS

Francis Janosco and Julie Parham played such a major role in the lives of seventeen scholars during their 8 years as Resident Directors of ABC, it was difficult for us to imagine finding replacements who could pick up where they left off.

But Julie and Francis were way ahead of us! They quietly introduced their friends, Pat and Katie Egan, to the program and the girls, through family dinners, car washes and other activities over the past few years. So, when we started interviewing candidates for the job, they were naturals.

Patrick, a history teacher at DHS with a Masters in Education, has taught several of the girls at the High School, which is a huge benefit to him and the girls.



Pat, Katie and little Chip, flanked by Julie and Alexei (left), and Francis & Nikolai (right)

And Katie, a candidate for her Ph. D. in Public Health at Yale, has already put her artistic talents to good use decorating the house. Pat and Katie have a 21 month old, Chip, and will bring another baby boy into the house in October.

The girls, who had an opportunity to be part of the interviewing process, agreed that Pat and Katie would be a great fit for the house... and said "we all love Chip, so we will accept his parents no matter what!"

We are so grateful that Pat and Katie are with us and that the girls are in good hands! Thanks Francis and Julie for sending them our way.



New ABC Resident Directors, Pat and Katie Egan

AND THEN THERE WERE SIX...

With the graduation last spring of Angie Cortez, the ABC House kicks off the 2013-14 school year with six scholars in residence. All veterans of at least one year at Darien High School, this extraordinary team of young women approaches the new school year with a strong track record of academic, social, musical and athletic achievements at Darien High School.

Senior Bettina Arkhurst has been an ABC scholar for three years. Hailing from New Jersey, Bettina loves the arts, music and dance. Bettina loves life! During her tenure at DHS she has joined a myriad of activities, from the Best Buddies Club and Art for Action to the Dance Team and the DHS Cross Country team. Highly enthusiastic, she is ecstatic to take on her senior year.



Seniors Bettina and Jocelyn

Senior Jocelyn Mendez came to ABC as a sophomore from New Haven. At DHS she is a faithful member of the Dance Team, Gay Straight Alliance, Best Buddies and the National Music Honors Society. Last year she became a member of the prestigious Tudor Singers. Her interests include law, political science and social justice.

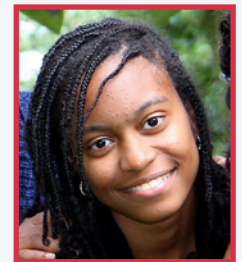


Juniors Danielle and Merlyn

Junior Danielle McIntosh was born in the Bronx and moved to Bridgeport at age three. Prior to coming to Darien as a freshman, she attended Achievement First Bridgeport

Academy. This year she is Co-Captain of the DHS JV Soccer Team. Her interests include dancing, swimming, math, traveling to different countries, and she is very passionate about soccer.

Junior Merlyn Tejada, a native of the Bronx, is bilingual, with Spanish as her first language. She is part of Eco-citizens, Gay Straight Alliance and a class representative on the DHS Community Council for the Class of 2015. She volunteers with Person-to-Person and is interested in law and environmental science.



Niamani

Sophomore Niamani Williams-Coles grew up in the Bronx and last year was her first at Darien High School.

As a freshman she became involved in the Dance Team, Gay Straight Alliance and Theater 308. This year she will be joining the Track Team. Her favorite classes are Honors Chemistry and Web Design.



Mahoghany

Sophomore Mahoghany Dolberry came to Darien from neighboring New Haven. She joined the ABC program in her freshman year. She plays basketball and participates in track and cheerleading. In her free time she loves to dance, sing and write.

Everyone involved in ABC is delighted to welcome back these ambitious, talented young women to the ABC program for what promises to be a great year!



Opening the door to greater educational opportunities since 1981.



Post Office Box 3204
Darien, CT 06820

Left to right: Jocelyn Mendez, Bettina Arkhurst, Mahoghany Dolberry, Niamani Williams-Coles, Merlyn Tejada and Danielle McIntosh

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A SIZZLING SUMMER!

The scholars in ABC House took advantage of great learning opportunities this summer! Here are the highlights: Bettina spent six weeks at MIT in an "Introduction to Engineering and Math" program; Jocelyn completed a program in Communications at Bucknell; Merlyn spent a month in Costa Rica on a full scholarship with Experiment in International Living; Danielle traveled on a full scholarship with National Geographic to Italy; Niamani spent two weeks at Greenwich Academy's "Girls Advancing in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math" summer camp; and Mahoghany volunteered at an ambulance company in Georgia, where her family now resides.



Yvette and Lonneke Eenkema van Dijk, share some of their culture with their ABC daughter Danielle on a special summer adventure

Merlyn Tejada and DHS 2013 grad Angie Cortez



Founding ABC in Darien Board Member, Sandy Filmer, has stepped up over the years for every possible ABC-related task, including our annual Car Wash Fundraiser



Host Sibs Tiger Sullivan and Annie Johnston reunite at June's *Movin On Celebration* with ABC-DHS Grad 2011, Anthia Diaz, Wesleyan Class of 2015



Jocelyn with her host parents, Shanti and Hari Avula



ABC IN DARIEN FACTS

MISSION: To provide scholarships to academically talented girls of color from underserved areas allowing them to realize their academic and social potential while living in Darien and attending DHS.

ENROLLMENT: Six girls currently from Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and Georgia.

HISTORY: Thirty-two years in Darien; 41 girls have graduated from the program.

WHERE DO THEY GO? Graduates have entered colleges such as Columbia, Cornell, George Washington, Syracuse and Wesleyan.

STAFF: Two Resident Directors, Executive Director & Tutors.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Twenty-four local residents.

HOST FAMILIES: Seven families host the girls one weekend and one Sunday each month.

RESIDENCE: 11 Brookside Road—provided by the First Congregational Church, maintained by ABC in Darien.

THE BUDGET: \$140,000 per year, covering staff, food, utilities, house maintenance, enrichment expenses and supplies.

HOW TO GIVE: If you would like to contribute to ABC in Darien, send donations to P.O. Box 3204, Darien, CT 06820 or donate online at www.abcdarien.org

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It was all about the Butterflies at the *Movin On Celebration*. Mahoghany here with one of the many that set their wings and took flight.