Greetings from the Chair

Dear friends of the Samuel Huntington Award,

We have had another wonderful year meeting college seniors, evaluating their projects, and selecting award winners. Each year, we receive from 60 to 80 applications for Public Service Awards from graduating college seniors across the country. We gradually winnow the applications down to five or six finalists. The finalists are each invited to an interview with the full committee, which then selects the Award winners. We are continually amazed by the quality of the applicants and the creativity of their projects. We have been able to select award winners who have the enthusiasm, confidence, dedication, and talent to go to places in the world—near and far—and create projects that provide help, encouragement, and enjoyment to neighborhoods or communities in desperate need. This year we selected three outstanding Award winners -- Cory Rodgers, Kelsey Tackett, and Cisse Aiche --who are going to Tanzania, East Kentucky, and Brazil to provide public service in under-served communities. Descriptions of their projects are included in this newsletter.

The $10,000 Award that we provide will allow these wonderful young people to provide a full year of public service implementing a project of their own design. There is no commitment or guarantee that a program will continue beyond the one year term of the Award; yet, a surprising number do. In past newsletters, we have included letters from former Award winners reporting on these continuing projects. This newsletter continues that practice with a letter from Eugenie Lang Rosenthal, who won a Public Service Award in 2000 to start Let’s Get Ready. We thought that she was an amazing young woman with a wonderful project then, and her report confirms our judgment tenfold.

The Samuel Huntington Public Service Award depends on your support, and we thank you again for your continued commitment. Please contact us with any questions or suggestions about this newsletter.

Very truly yours,

Jennifer Huntington
Chair

www.nationalgridus.com/huntington.asp
Let's Get Ready . . . For College

neighborhoods around the world.

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she has made with Let's Get Ready:

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Mount Vernon has the low-

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Kelsey Tackett 

Earlham College, ‘11

Cory Rodgers: Cory’s pro-

ject is located in the low in-

come Manzese area of Dar-

s Salaam (Tanzania, East 

Africa). He is establishing 
an urban agriculture and 
poultry husbandry program 

people living with HIV 

and AIDS. By providing the 

training, supplies, and sup-

port necessary for partici-

pants to grow crops and 

raise free-range chickens, 

program will provide a 
sustainable source of nour-

ishment and income for peo-

people affected by the double 

jeopardy of HIV and poverty.

Cory, a graduate of the Uni-

versity of Pittsburgh with 
majors in Biology, History & 

Philosophy of Science, and 

African Studies, is living in 

the neighborhood and re-

tports that the chicken hus-

bandry project is coming 

along well. To implement 

his project, Cory has estab-

lished relationships with two 
specific HIV organizations in 

Manzese (the HIV AIDS Wa-

danga group and Tupen-

dane, a group whose name 

means "we should love each 

other") with assistance from 

agricultural experts in Moshi, 
a doctor at the region’s 

medical school, and the lo-

cal Rotary Club. Following 
his public service, Cory 

hopes to return to the US to 

attend medical school with a 

focus on global health and 
rural development.

Mentoring in Appalachia

Kelsey Tackett: Kelsey is 
going home to Floyd 

County, Kentucky, located 
in the eastern part of the 

state in the midst of Appal-

chia. In Floyd County, over 
a quarter of the students 
drop out of high school. 

Kelsey is implementing a 

mentoring program, entitled 

“Empowering Young 

Women for Success,” which 

will match twenty seventh 

grade girls with local, suc-

cessful, adult women to 

provide assistance, re-

sources, and self-

confidence to further their 
education and enhance 

their future opportunities. 

Among other activities for 

the students, Kelsey is ar-

ranging a series of biweekly 

public service projects, field 

trips to local colleges, and a 

summer camp.

Kelsey graduated from 

Earlham College with a ma-

or in Peace and Global 

Studies. After her project, 
she intends to attend 

graduate school for training 
in mediation and conflict 

resolution.

Youth Program in Brazil

Cisse Aiche: Cisse is doing 

her public service in Morro 

Dos Prazeres, one of the 

poorest shanty towns lo-

cated in Rio de Janeiro, 

Brazil. She is starting an 
after school program for chil-

ren and adolescents who 

would otherwise wander the 

streets. The program will 
supplement classes at La 

Escolinha, a privately funded 
school in the shanty town. 

Cisse had volunteered at the 
school in the past and in-


tends to use the after school 

periods to teach the stu-

ents English to help them 

get into college (where Eng-

lish is a requirement) or to 
gain employment in the city. 

Local adults may participate 
as well.

Cisse, who graduated from 

Columbia University with a 
double major in Psychology 

and Sociology, also intends 

to develop a teaching man-

ual for her curriculum that 
can be used by future teach-

ers and a website to connect 

La Escolinha with donors 

and future volunteers. Fol-

lowing her public service, 

Cisse hopes to attend a doc-

toral program in child and 

adolescent clinical psychol-

ogy. She also plans to 

make the Escolinha Volun-

Cisse Aiche 

Columbia University, ‘11

PAGE 2

HIV and AIDS in Tanzania

2011 Winners Selected

As described below, this year’s winners are now hard at work creating projects and services in three different 

neighborhoods around the world.

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Let’s Get Ready . . . For College

As we reported in our last newsletter, many of the projects begun by Samuel Huntington Public Service Award Winners do not stop after the first year. Rather, they continue to benefit their neighborhoods and communities, and sometimes expand dramatically. In each of our recent newsletters, we have included a report on the progress of past projects. This edition includes a letter from Eugenie Lang Rosenthal, a 2000 Award winner, about the tremendous progress that she has made with Let’s Get Ready:

Let’s Get Ready [LGR]
By Eugenie Lang Rosenthal
Samuel Huntington Award Winner, May, 2000

In Scarsdale, NY, 95% of students go to four-year colleges after high school. In neighboring Mount Vernon, NY, only 50% do. Scarsdale has the highest SAT scores in Westchester County and Mount Vernon has the lowest (500 points lower). Ten minutes away, in the Bronx, the disparities in education and life opportunities are even worse. I founded Let’s Get Ready with the purpose of expanding college access and enabling more children in under-resourced schools to break the cycle of poverty by going to college. Like so many of my classmates from Scarsdale High School, I took a costly SAT prep course, had college-educated parents, attentive counselors, and the help of tutors when I needed help. I decided it was time for me and my peers to “let down the ladder” for another generation of students, especially those who did not have college-educated families, or SAT courses, and who struggled in schools where the average ratio of students to guidance counselors is 740:1, (the national public school average). So I called a group of my friends, contacted churches in Mount Vernon to find space and recruit students, and within two weeks of the idea’s conception, there were 30 students and 10 volunteers in a Mount Vernon church basement doing SAT prep and college planning.

The Samuel Huntington Fund Public Service Award allowed me to work on “Let’s Get Ready” full-time. With that “venture funding” Let’s Get Ready, based in New York, was able to attract other major supporters, including The College Board, which owns the SAT. In 2005, Goldman Sachs signed on with a major multi-year grant allowing Let’s Get Ready to open a Boston hub. Today, Let’s Get Ready has helped 12,000 disadvantaged high school students through the rigors of stepping up to college with a rigorous 8-week SAT prep and college planning course. 92% of LGR students go directly to college after high school as opposed to 57% of students with the same low socio-economic background, and on average, they raise their SAT scores by 110 points. It has also already introduced 5,000 talented college students to instructing in inner-city classrooms, and inspired many to go into careers in education. In fact, the New England Director of Programs, responsible for more than half of the 50 college and community-based programs LGR runs each year, is Sonia Miranda-Lopez, who is not only a former LGR College Coach, but a former student in the program. She was one of my first students, and with my guidance, she went to Harvard.

One of the most compelling stories for me is that of Esther Lopez. When asked why she gave up her evenings to attend Let’s Get Ready, Esther explained, “My mother is an immigrant from Peru. Her whole adult life, when she goes to a hotel or a restaurant, she has to enter through the back door, the service entrance. I am doing this so that when I grow up, I can walk through the front door.”

I left the staff in 2005 to attend business school and start a family, but Let’s Get Ready is thriving and on a campaign now to double the number served to 5,000 students per year. I could not have done this alone—the Samuel Huntington Fund gave me the confidence and support to help these students realize their dreams.

Sincerely,

Eugenie Lang Rosenthal
The Samuel Huntington Public Service Award

The Samuel Huntington Public Service Award was begun by Sam’s friends in 1989 to honor his memory. Since that time, we have awarded 51 graduating college seniors more than $500,000 to implement public service projects of their own design anywhere in the world. A list of contributors to the Fund since July 1, 2011, follows:

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We express our sincere appreciation to all of you that have supported the fund in the past and ask that you please do keep the Huntington Fund in mind as you consider your year end charitable giving. Thank you for your consideration! For your convenience, a pre-addressed envelope is enclosed with this newsletter. You can also make a tax deductible contribution at any time by sending a check to:

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