

# THE SAMUEL HUNTINGTON PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

AUTUMN/WINTER 2011

## 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



**Jennifer Huntington**  
Chair

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 ten-fold.

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*

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# 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.

## HIV and AIDS in Tanzania

**Cory Rodgers:** Cory's project is located in the low income Manzese area of Dar es Salaam (**Tanzania, East Africa**). He is establishing an urban agriculture and poultry husbandry program for people living with HIV and AIDS. By providing the training, supplies, and support necessary for participants to grow crops and raise free-range chickens, the program will provide a sustainable source of nour-

ishment and income for people affected by the double jeopardy of HIV and poverty.

Cory, a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh with majors in Biology, History & Philosophy of Science, and African Studies, is living in the neighborhood and reports that the chicken husbandry project is coming along well. To implement his project, Cory has established relationships with two

specific HIV organizations in Manzese (the HIV AIDS Wahanga group and Tupendane, 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 local 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.



**Cory Rodgers**  
University of Pittsburgh, '11

## Mentoring in Appalachia



**Kelsey Tackett**  
Earlham College, '11

**Kelsey Tackett:** Kelsey is going home to **Floyd County, Kentucky**, located in the eastern part of the state in the midst of Appalachia. 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, successful, adult women to provide assistance, resources, and self-confidence to further their education and enhance their future opportunities. Among other activities for the students, Kelsey is arranging a series of biweekly public service projects, field

trips to local colleges, and a summer camp.

Kelsey graduated from Earlham College with a major in Peace and Global Studies. After her project, she intends to attend graduate school for training in mediation and conflict resolution.

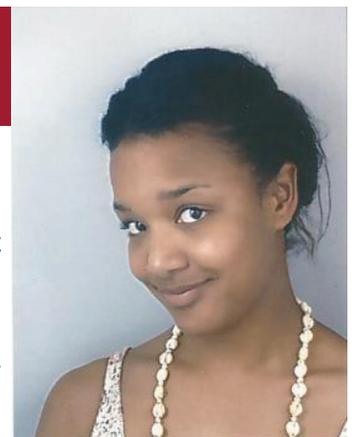
## Youth Program in Brazil

**Cisse Aiche:** Cisse is doing her public service in Morro Dos Prazeres, one of the poorest shanty towns located in **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**. She is starting an after school program for children 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 intends to use the after school periods to teach the students English to help them get into college (where English 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 manual for her curriculum that can be used by future teachers and a website to connect La Escolinha with donors and future volunteers. Following her public service, Cisse hopes to attend a doctoral program in child and adolescent clinical psychology. She also plans to make the Escolinha Volunteer English Teacher Program a lifelong commitment.



**Cisse Aiche**  
Columbia University, '11

# 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 also 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 believe a student who goes to college can end poverty in their family forever. Indeed, a 4-year college graduate,

on average, earns more than \$1 million more over their lifetime than someone with just a high school diploma, and their children are twice as likely to go to college. There are many kids who want to go to college and are able, but the process is so complex. By helping kids through that critical, intricate dance right at the end of high school, you not only change their lives, you can re-write the story of their family for generations.

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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