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THE URBAN ASSEMBLY SCHOOL FOR LAW + JUSTICE



From The Principal's Desk

Greetings from SLJ!

In September, we welcomed the Class of 2021 and I began my tenure as principal, succeeding Suzette Dyer. This marks my 8th year with SLJ and during that time, Ms. Dyer became a close friend and mentor. Ms. Dyer left big shoes to fill, but I am surrounded by an amazingly seasoned and talented staff, positioned to prepare our students for college and beyond.

Like our students, education--both inside and outside of the classroom--played a decisive role in shaping opportunities for my family and me. This impact was so profound that I knew I wanted to dedicate my life to empowering others through education. In college, I majored in English, minored in Political Science, and obtained my Teaching Certification. After two years working as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Malawi, I returned to the US and began teaching English in New York City. Eventually, I sought out SLJ as a school that matched my belief that education is an act of social justice and should be transformative. My first year at SLJ, I taught 9th grade English. Soon after, I became the 9th Grade Team Leader. I have always felt a strong connection to our incoming students, then and now, serving as their guide from middle school to high school. It is a time in their lives where they are beginning to invoke the qualities that define adulthood and determine how individuals impact our greater society.

SLJ is a community school. This means that our success is accomplished, in no small part, through close partnerships with businesses, non-profits, and community leaders. In our first two months of the school year, students have already had an opportunity to present case briefs in front of attorneys, visit offices to learn about new careers, and have networking lunches with a variety of professionals. We hope to have you visit our school at one of our upcoming events! Visit our website and follow us on social media to see what's coming up. – *Merilee Valentino*



Students learning about the college financial aid process.



Information session for the Usher's New Look program.



1st Annual Career Site Visit Day (at TED Conferences).

Senior Spotlight

"This past summer, I was one of 80 students selected from across the country to participate in John Hopkins University's three week Civic Leadership Institute program. Our course work focused on the cycle of poverty and the importance of community in bringing societal change. This experience, coupled with the curriculum at SLJ, has solidified my passion to pursue a career in social justice!

I just submitted my early decision application to Hamilton College, a school I also got to visit through the support of SLJ. I love SLJ!" – Justin '18



Follow us on   at @UASLJ



Visit from NYC Council Member Stephen Levin.



Young Men's Initiative Retreat.



Students speaking to JP Morgan Chase staff about the impact of mentoring.



Visit to Cravath for Shipwrecked Sailor mock trial.



Cravath attorneys assisting students with their arguments.



The calendar for college rep visits.



Hispanic Heritage Celebration with guest speaker, Roland Guevara, VP of Community Relations, Brooklyn Nets.



Incoming 9th graders and families begin their SLJ journey at Meet Your Advisor Night at Cravath.



Full house for CUNY presentation.

A New Leader at the Adams Street Foundation

ASF was founded in 2008 by the administrative leadership of SLJ. ASF is the in-house, non-profit partner to SLJ and is responsible for integrating pre-college enrichment and college and career preparation into the school's curriculum. Moreover, the staff of ASF work very hard to ensure that our students have the tools to be successful in college and beyond. This is accomplished in part through a diligent review of college financial aid packages as well as coaching students through the early admissions process.

In June of 2017, the ASF board of directors unanimously voted to hire Charon Darris as the new Executive Director of ASF. Mr. Darris is a native New Yorker with 20 years of work experience spanning both the for-profit and non-profit sectors. Furthermore, he holds a BA from Morehouse College, an MBA from Columbia Business School, and an MPA from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. His specialties include strategic planning and fundraising. Outside of the office, Mr. Darris is an avid runner and traveler. We are delighted to have him and have already significantly benefited from his presence.

