

cru news

a family newsletter, summer 2018



INSIDE

Summer 2018

PAGE 2

See more student news



PAGE 3

Hear the latest updates for families



PAGE 4

Catch up with alums Shinbey and Alyssia



THE COLLEGE CRUSADE
of Rhode Island

Inspire. Support. Believe.

Celebrating College Signing Day 2018

Congrats to our graduating seniors

At our 2018 College Signing Day celebration on May 3, we were thrilled to send our high school seniors off on the next step in their educational journeys. **Governor Gina Raimondo** wore her college colors to the party! Other honored guests were **Dr. Brenda Dann-Messier**, Commissioner of Post-secondary Education, and **Dr. Ken Wagner**, Commissioner of Elementary & Secondary Education. **Rich Norris**, a guidance counselor from Jorge Alvarez High School, challenged everyone to set high goals. Our student speakers, **Dorbor Tarley** (Classical High School) and **Daniel Tinoco** (Central High School), shared how The College Crusade had helped them. "Go out into the world and use these lessons and values," said Dorbor. "All of us are gearing up for the next phase of our life with passion, perseverance, and dedication to make it big in the time to come."



A message from our president

Andrew Bramson

I'm really excited to share news that 40 middle school and high school Crusaders will spend a week on Block Island this summer as part of the **Block Island Maritime Institute's Dolphin Program!** They will learn about the ecology and biodiversity of the island and get hands-on experience in scientific investigation. The big question they will try to answer is "In what ways can people help to sustain ecosystem function and biodiversity on Block Island?" They'll be visiting local environmental

organizations, towing plankton nets, measuring water quality, counting native and invasive species, and understanding how everything on the island – including human beings – fits together into an ecological system.

Genesis Castaneda, a Crusader who just graduated from the University of Rhode Island, will be working with our students as a Dolphin staff intern. Be sure to check our social media for photos of Crusaders on Block Island!

our students

Middle School

Experts in evidence

What happens when blood drips from different heights? In our middle school **Forensic Science** workshop, eighth-grade Crusaders performed hands-on experiments to find out. Over the course of 10 Saturdays, they practiced fingerprinting, bone identification, and other skills of crime scene analysis. They learned the basic procedures of investigation and sharpened their ability to observe, measure, calculate, and make deductions – all great thinking skills to carry into high school next year.



Meanwhile, sixth-graders in our **ReadMore** program completed their yearlong experience in becoming better readers. In April, they enjoyed a visit from **Senator Jack Reed** and received gift books from our College Crusade Alumni Association. Together with our **Critical Thinking & Writing** program, our **Saturday Math Academy**, and college visits to Brown University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the University of Rhode Island, it was a busy spring for middle school!

High School

Light drawings

High school Crusaders had an adventure in photography this spring, thanks to **Rhode Island School of Design's Project Open Door**. They built pinhole cameras, drew with light, learned Photoshop magic tricks, and explored the collection at RISD's famous Nature Lab. When they weren't creating art, they were visiting **10 different colleges**, participating in our **Getting to College** workshop, and digging into the makerspace at **Mechatronics**, a five-day science and arts program hosted by the Center for Dynamic Learning.



A recent highlight was a weeklong seminar focused on College Preparation, Transition, and Success, using **The Opportunity Network's Career Fluency** curriculum. Our graduating seniors explored the difference between growth and fixed mindsets, practiced strategies for developing strong personal and professional networks, and learned the importance of social capital in navigating college and work.



Postsecondary

Follow our podcast and all our social media

Meet **Yarisa Diaz**, who graduated from Classical High School in 2016 and just finished her sophomore year at Brandeis University. Yarisa was featured recently in an interview called "What I Wish I Had Known," hosted by our **U Cru Podcast** on SoundCloud. Produced by our team of college advisors, the podcast offers many topics of interest to undergrads, such as finding internships, prepping for finals, understanding financial aid, and managing college life. For Yarisa, learning good time management, taking care of herself, and being open to discovery were top takeaways for her first two years.

Here's how to find them:

 [Soundcloud.com/TheUCruPodcast](https://soundcloud.com/TheUCruPodcast)

 [@UCRU_Crusade](https://twitter.com/UCRU_Crusade)  [U_Cru](https://www.instagram.com/U_Cru)

 [U CRU](https://www.facebook.com/UCRU)

Our college advisors are using social media platforms – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and SoundCloud – to make a lot of useful information available to Crusaders. Following them is a great way to keep up on important dates, deadlines, and events.

Family Engagement

Transition to college

In May, College Crusade Family Engagement hosted a two-day training workshop with **Families in Schools**, a California-based organization that helps to develop strong family-school partnerships. Our Family Engagement staff, plus participants from the **Providence Public Schools**, **Graduate RI**, and the **Brown Advising Corps**, received training in the Families in



Schools *Transition to College* program. Through interactive lessons and demonstrations, they learned many effective ways to help parents and students gain confidence during the important transition stage from high school to college. We can't wait to offer our six-week Transition to College programs for College Crusade families starting next fall!

Board News

We are delighted to welcome four new board members

Adi Goldstein is Senior Legal Counsel for the Office of the Governor of the State of Rhode Island. Previously she served as a partner in the litigation practice group of Hinckley Allen and as Assistant U.S. Attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the district of Rhode Island. Adi holds a J.D. from Columbia Law School and a B.A. in social studies from Harvard University.

Stephanie Gonzalez is Associate Director of Partnerships for Blackstone Valley Prep Academy and a past president of the Central Falls City Council. A graduate of Central Falls High School, Stephanie is a College Crusade alumna and holds a B.A. in English from Boston College.

Macky McCleary is Administrator for the RI Division of Public Utilities and Carriers. He previously served as Director of the RI Department of Business Regulation and before that as Deputy Commissioner for Environmental Quality at the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. He has also worked for McKinsey & Co. Macky holds an M.A. in architecture from the Yale School of Architecture.

Eric Shorter is Director of Development for Rhode Island Housing. He previously held senior-level positions at Omni Development Corp. and Next Street Financial. He also served as a senior development officer at Rhode Island Housing from 1999 to 2003. Eric holds a B.A. in political science from Boston College.

Thank You

We are grateful to these generous donors for recent gifts:

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Cox Charities
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Bank of America
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Carter Family Charitable Trust
\$10,000

National College Access Network
\$10,000

Providence Journal Charitable Legacy Fund
\$7,500

Wells Fargo
\$7,500

Weybosset Research & Management
\$7,000

Bristol County Savings Bank
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Mary Dexter Chafee Fund
\$4,500

Harry M., Miriam C. & William C. Horton Fund
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featured alumni



“I enjoy my profession because it gives me the opportunity to help individuals and families. I also enjoy the autonomy, the diversity of tasks, and the ability to be creative.”

Alyssia Ramos '05 graduated from Rhode Island College in 2010 with a BSW degree. She then earned an MSW from Boston University in 2015 and is currently pursuing an M.A. in Applied Behavior Analysis at Salve Regina University. Alyssia is employed as Director of Outpatient Services at Family Behavior Solutions.

“Being a member of The College Crusade has helped me in numerous ways. I gained the skills to be a leader, to be a mentor, and to be confident within myself. I was always a shy person, but being a Crusader allowed me to step out of my comfort zone.”

Shinbey Vue '12 graduated from the University of Rhode Island in 2016 with a B.S. in Accounting. He is currently employed as an Assurance Associate in the Boston office of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

