



FAYETTEVILLE-MANLIUS A BETTER CHANCE

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2013

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Welcome to our 39th academic year!

Dear Family and Friends,

We are pleased to have the Scholars back in the ABC House, and they have quickly gotten back in to the swing of things!

All of our core staff (Heather, Colette and myself) have returned with renewed energy and excitement for the academic year. Our new cook, Mary Ellen Jackson, is at the house most afternoons cooking wonderful meals in our new kitchen. Mrs. Jackson has cooked for large crowds for many years and she is also the mother of a teenager. It is not unusual to find one or two of the girls in the kitchen after school conversing with Mrs. Jackson as she prepares the evening meal.

This year is going to be an exciting one. We have two scholars concentrating on college applications and preparation for graduation; four proms and many new and exciting activities you will hear about throughout the year.

Our goal this year is to celebrate the academic success of our scholars. At the close of each marking period, we will total the overall GPA of each scholar (counting the core courses only). The scholar with the highest GPA will be eligible for a gift card of her choice. (iTunes, Visa, restaurant, etc.). She will also receive a certificate of achievement. As a house, we are trying to increase our overall GPA from last year as well. Let's see who will be our first scholar to make the mark!

On behalf of the staff and the scholars, we would like to thank you for your continued support and partnership in the success of the FMABC Program. If you have any questions or concerns throughout the year, please call or text me directly at 315-885-8377 or email me at martincoore@yahoo.com.

Expecting the Great!
La Rae M. Martin-Coore,
Resident Director



< **Nellie**, senior, dream college-USC.



Sara > senior, interested in SU's Newhouse School.



Alex > junior, wants to pursue sports medicine physical therapy.



< **Kesi**, junior, interested in anthropology.



Tanaja > sophomore, interested in fashion design and art. Her dream schools are: Parsons College of Art & Design, Fordham, and FIT.



2013 Memorial and Tribute Gifts

In Honor of:

Casey Cleary-Hammarstedt's Birthday

Rosemary O'Leary

Beatrice Farnsworth

Bruce Halpern

Our Grandchildren - Faith, Joy, Donovan, and Danielle

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Our Wonderful Family and Friends

Michael and Jenelle Cook,
FMABC '99

In Memory of:

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Special Thanks to:

FMABC would like to recognize these special people or organizations who have been instrumental with special projects or otherwise donated much of their time, effort and talent to our scholars and the program:

Fred L. Emerson Foundation
Peter Farnsworth and all the folks at TopSpin
Carol Ginsky
Liz Kolodney
Lydia and Paul at Johnson Camera
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Donations are tax deductible and can be mailed to FMABC P.O. Box 355, Manlius, NY 13104 or on our website www.fmabetterchance.org



2013 Alumnae News for FMABC

Perdexter Williams, Class of '79

I am an attorney currently employed as a magistrate with the Cuyahoga County Probate Court in Cleveland, OH. Since I left ABC more than 30 years ago, life continues to be one amazing adventure. My ABC experience taught me so many life lessons that I am still using today. One of which is the power of education. Please remind the young ladies in the FMABC program to learn as much as they can and to stay open-minded. I have learned so much from other people. I hope they will also remember to share their knowledge and expertise.

Annette Miles, Class of '85

Professionally, I went on a medical mission trip with the NMA to Liberia in February. It was an amazing experience. Our delegation included over 40 persons including doctors, nurses and healthcare providers.

Then in July, we went to Toronto and I helped to plan and execute a phenomenal program addressing Obesity, Parenting, Mental Health, Mentoring and Updates in Medicine for the Women's Health Section of the NMA.

Work is still very rewarding and I am going into my 9th year at KP.

Personally, the kids and I have been doing well. They are both in middle school. Lawren is an 8th grader and Joshua is a 6th grader. Lawren had a wonderful time this summer at camp at Phillips Exeter Academy while Joshua explored his love of computers and technology at Georgia Tech and Emory.

Jenelle Berry-Cook, Class of '99

Hello Manlius Family! Michael and I were married on May 5th, and we were fortunate to have Karen Keane travel to be a part of our day. Ingrid was also there to celebrate, and of course, Kiya was one of my lovely bridesmaids. It really meant a lot to have members of my FM family share in our celebration.

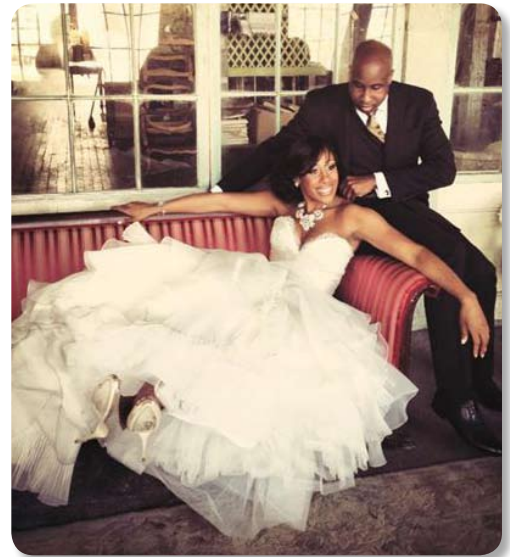
We are also excited to announce we are expecting a baby girl!

Kiya Hope, Class of '99

I am still employed at Macy's, starting to pursue my next career move, and was a bridesmaid in Jenelle's wedding in May. Still living in Brooklyn and living life. Just came back from Pittsburgh for my school's (U. of Pittsburgh) homecoming. Still doing construction in Brooklyn at my recently acquired brownstone.

May Ling Brantman, (attended 1997-2000)

After six years working in higher education, I made a change in my career path and am now working for a non-profit organization, the American Thoracic Society. Through the Member Services & Chapter Relations department, I am assisting doctors and other medical professionals who are dedicated to clinical



Jenelle's wedding



Kiya and Jenelle

continued on page 4





Aleatha Ealey Perkins and family

advances and scientific research in pulmonary diseases, critical illnesses and sleep-related breathing disorders.

I am also looking into earning my MBA. I am also still working diligently on a novel and keep several blogs dedicated to my writing. My daughter Aimee entered the 4th grade this year. She is very creative.

Aleatha Ealey Perkins, Class of '02

I'm doing well. I've been living in Milwaukee with my husband McKinley and our new baby McKinley the fifth who joined us April 28, 2013. I am currently staying home with the baby and McKinley recently accepted a position with the TV station Fox 6. We're excited about the all of the changes 2013 has brought us.



Maribelle Ruiz Hernandez and family

Maribelle Ruiz Hernandez, Class of '02

Things are going great here in Texas. The kids are learning and growing everyday. Christopher is now 10 and Cassidy 3— time is flying by. We are still loving military life and look forward to our upcoming move. We'll be heading to Italy for a three-year tour! Depending on how things look we hope to get over to Germany afterwards when that tour is over. We have been blessed to have busy lives full of work, school, sports and volunteering. I showed Christopher some pics of me during high school a couple of weeks ago. It was great revisiting all of the great memories.

Mildred Flores, Class of '04

I'm in the last year of my Bachelor's program at Mercy College. I'm currently taking six classes and don't know how I find time to eat. In the spring I'll have my Bachelor's in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance. I plan on going for my Master's in Organizational Leadership and then getting a graduate certificate in Real Estate Development. I'm doing all I can to make myself more marketable.

My job is still going extremely well. We just hired another staff member and my boss is very happy with how I am running the department. Affordable housing is a rewarding field. I love it!

My son Jason is doing great. He's seven and in the 2nd grade. His teachers love him and his progress is amazing. I did move into my first apartment last November.

Jessica Reid, Class of '06

I recently graduated from New York University Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service with a Master's in Public Administration and Non-Profit Management with a focus in Policy. After graduation, I took some time to travel. I went to Barcelona, Italy



Jessica Reid in Italy

(Rome, Sorrento and Capri) and Paris. It was an amazing experience. I also spent time reflecting on my next career path. I decided that I would like to open my own educational consulting practice. In the meantime, it just so happened a fellow classmate from college was leaving her job at guess what? A Better Chance! I decided I would apply and got the job. I just started last week. It truly feels great to be on the other side of an organization that catapulted me on a great educational and professional trajectory. I love sharing my experience with scholars and speaking with parents.

Victoria Allison, Class of '06

This year I started teaching 5th grade reading at Leadership Prep Brownsville. I am a part of a founding school so we are in our first year as a charter school. The work has been very challenging on many different levels but I know I am where I am for a reason. I have been using my experience from growing up in Brooklyn and then choosing to leave and go to boarding school to try and establish meaningful relationships with students. Sometimes I feel like more than a teacher of reading, I'm a counselor and mentor and everything in between.

After work I run to get Isabella who is now 16 months! She's walking, talking her own language and she loves reading to herself. Jason and I enjoy raising her.

This year my sister Jada was also accepted into ABC so it's officially a family legacy.

Dorisol Inoa, Class of '09

I'm doing well. I graduated from Wesleyan this past May. I took advantage of my summer to do nothing and take a break for once. I started my job at Deloitte Consulting Strategy and Operations this past August in New York. Right now I'm working on a global technology transformation implementation project. Simply put, I love it. The people are great and I'm learning a lot. Actually, one of my classmates from FM is now a colleague of mine at Deloitte; her name is Sammy Martin. Also, this past weekend I met up with some good friends from FM that have moved into the city. (Look how the tables have turned!) Overall, I'm excited to be back in New York after having gone away to school for eight years and it's nice that some FM folks have moved to New York. I'm looking forward to rekindling some of those friendships.

Shynise Stiff, Class of '10

I am wrapping up my undergraduate career at Cornell University. I am really becoming a leader on campus; I am working with a professor to build a Business Communications course in my degree program. I am also facilitating a dialogue course that explores personal and social identity formation, through individual and institutional contexts. As I transition into the "adult world", I am seeking career opportunities in marketing and/or education. I would appreciate any guidance from alumni in these fields. 📚



Victoria Allison



Shynise Stiff



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Perdexter Hogue Williams (FMABC '79)
Ms. Mary Woiler
Women's Wellness Place
Mary Jane Woodcock 📖



2013 House News

Big News: We renovated the kitchen! Thanks to **Topspin** and the **Emerson Foundation**, we were able to undertake a project long over due in the house.

Special thanks to board member Bonnie McCabe whose tireless efforts got the project done in just five weeks over this past summer. Special thanks also goes to the following businesses for the work they contributed or gave at steep discounts on the kitchen project:

Cabinets and Design – CabFab, Chris Clemans

Countertops – Upstate Stone Inc., Ron Argentine

Painting – Bob Ryder

Plumbing – Harley Finkelstein

Electrical – Bill Tierney

Hardwood floors – Randy Yale

If you need any information on any of these wonderful vendors, email us at fmabetterchance@gmail.com



Sara, Alex and Tanaja in the new kitchen.

