



Welcome to the Guilford ABC 2019-2020 School Year!

FROM PRESIDENT MARIE BERRY

As the incoming President of Guilford ABC, I would like to welcome you to the Guilford ABC 2019-2020 school year! As an ABC board member for 15 years, I have seen our organization grow and exceed our goals to empower young women from disadvantaged inner-city schools develop into thriving young scholars. The fall is a busy month of activities as the scholars return back to school, move into their rooms and settle into their new routines and activities at the Guilford ABC house and Guilford High School.

The year ahead brings exciting adventures as our seniors navigate the process of selecting a college of their choice. We have seen them grow in so many ways as they developed into talented young women who have taken on leadership roles at Guilford High School, traveled abroad with other scholars from across the country and participated in college-affiliated high school programs that have broadened their interest in their future studies.

As a volunteer-based community organization, we will celebrate **ABC's 45th Anniversary** in 2020 and look forward to two upcoming events where we hope to see many of you who support us. On Saturday, February 1st we will host the **ABC-Mo Pleasure Benefit Concert** at the Guilford High School Performing Arts Center. Mo's sold-out performances

always include special guest musicians who contribute to a memorable evening of musical entertainment. Tickets, at \$40 each, will be available for purchase online beginning the first week of November.

In addition, Hole in the Wall Consignment and Thrift Shop, whose proceeds support GABC throughout the year, will be hosting a **45th Anniversary Gala and Fashion Show** on Sunday, May 3rd at Woodwinds in Branford. Tickets will include dinner, beer, wine, music, fashion show and silent auction. Please stay tuned for more information as we get closer to both of these events.

As always, we appreciate our donors and would like to thank you, Guilford High School and the many community organizations that support us year after year. Our mission is to provide our scholars with A Better Chance to excel in a quality high school, attend a fine college or university and develop their leadership skills to succeed in their personal and professional life. Thank you for your continued support! ▼



Celebrate ABC's 45th Anniversary at two great upcoming events!



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A New Year Begins

FROM RESIDENT DIRECTOR LYNN PRENDERGAST

The 2019-20 school year is off to a great start! The scholars were greeted with freshly painted bedrooms and a house in tip-top shape, thanks to many hours of work by our Buildings and Grounds Committee. We are all proud to call the ABC house our home.

Our first weekend included a bonding day that began at Escape New Haven, where we *almost* succeeded in escaping the Game Show Room. Teamwork was definitely the key to getting us within two clues/puzzles of escaping; and it was great to see the different scholars' strengths and perseverance even when we were stumped.

The scholars have been very busy with their challenging studies. We are lucky to have two amazing tutors, Sherry and Amanda, to help them on a regular basis. Our inspirational Yale tutors are back two nights each week; these relationships are invaluable for our girls.

Dinner visitors are always welcome, and it's a treat to see the girls interacting and getting to know their supporters and board members better. Please let me or Jeanne know if you would like to join us for an hour of delicious food and visiting with the scholars.

As I start my second year as Resident Director, I remain amazed by the support and dedication of the ABC board. The ABC house is a great place to be, and I am so proud of our amazing scholars. They are off to a strong start, filled with dreams and goals they've set for themselves and their futures. ▼



Welcome New Scholar!

Guilford ABC is pleased to welcome its newest scholar, freshman Janelle Wilkinson, from Brooklyn, NY. She first learned about our program through one of her mother's college professors who suggested that she apply to become an ABC student. Janelle is keenly interested in science and medicine, and she looks forward to participating in GHS clubs and eventually volunteering in a hospital. She feels that her transition to Guilford is going very well, helped by a welcoming environment and prior experience living away from home. ▼

WHAT WE DID LAST SUMMER



Julia

Senior Julia Antwi-Boasiako's summer defines the word enrichment. In July, she traveled to Paris, France through the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE). Living with a French-speaking host family, Julia studied French each morning and participated in afternoon cultural activities requiring her to interact with French people in a variety of settings. She also visited many landmarks including Versailles, Sacre Coeur, the Louvre and the Eiffel Tower, Julia found French immersion initially challenging, but in the end she felt it made her more open to new experiences and ready for future travels! In August, Julia attended an inter-disciplinary program at Bucknell University focused on climate change, where courses in physics and economics expanded her understanding of the complexities of the issue.



T-Jauni

Senior T-Jauni Barham traveled to Valparaiso, Chile, also through the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE). Her language and cultural immersion program included living with a Spanish-speaking host family as well as excursions to the coastal city of El Quisco and to the Chilean capital, Santiago. Between daily classes in Spanish and a host family who spoke no English, T-Jauni found this intense language immersion challenging, although she could see that her language skills were improving daily. By the end of her trip, she felt confident that she can master Spanish, given another year or two of language study. One of the most memorable aspects of her trip was making friends within her travel group, which included students from all over the US. This summer of travel helped T-Jauni to take many new experiences in stride, and to learn to go slowly while getting used to new sights, sounds and customs.



Lauren

Junior Lauren Cyrus attended a 10-day Envision Law & Trial Program at Stanford University, which provided an academic and career introduction to the field of law and culminated in two mock trials. While attending lectures, college panels and group activities, Lauren and her competition team worked with advisors from Stanford and Howard University to prepare their mock trial cases. With Lauren serving as defense attorney, her team won the first trial! Though they narrowly lost the second trial, the team felt they had put up a tough fight and learned a great deal. In addition to making new friends from the US and beyond, Lauren used her time on the west coast to explore college and career possibilities and gain a clearer sense of her own interests and strengths.



Arianna

Sophomore Arianna Alvarez pursued her lifelong interest in astronomy and physics this summer by attending two science camps offered through City University of New York (CUNY): NASA Aerospace Academy and NOAA Weather Camp. Both camps featured intensive math instruction and field trips to scientific facilities. Arianna especially enjoyed viewing a particle accelerator at Brookhaven National Laboratory and visiting Brookhaven's National Weather Service Center and the meteorology center at NBC Studios in Rockefeller Center. The camps provided the additional benefit of enabling Arianna to explore new areas of New York City and Long Island. Arianna expected both camps would be amazing — and they were! ▼



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GUILFORD ABC FAMILY PICNIC: On a perfect-weather Sunday, September 22, scholars and their families, host families, staff and ABC board members gathered at Jacobs Beach for this annual social event. Food is always a highlight, which included grilled hamburgers and hot dogs and bountiful side dishes and desserts provided by the ABC board. Many of the scholars' families again brought a favorite family dish to share. Guilford High School Principal Rick Misenti mingled with families and scholars and welcomed the families and spoke about the importance of the scholars and the ABC program to both the town of Guilford and the high school. Our next family event will be the annual holiday party in mid-December, which is always held at the ABC house, decorated for the season. ▼



Gather your finery and polish up your dancing shoes! Hole in the Wall is hosting a 45th anniversary gala on May 3 with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, dinner, music, dancing, a not-your-usual fashion show and live and silent auctions! Join in the fun at Woodwinds in Branford, CT, including John Saville's DJ entertainment, Woodwinds delicious food, the many fashions and wares of Hole in the Wall, and spectacular silent and live auction surprises. Christie Baker of Flowers on the Green will adorn each table with her creative, floral magic, available for purchase.

Single tickets are \$75.00 each and tables of 10 are \$650.00. That's a *lot* of entertainment at a wonderful value for a great cause! Help us continue to support Guilford ABC through this memorable event. Tickets will be available for purchase on line at gabc.brownpapertickets.com beginning December 1, 2019. ▼