

Ashley Bowles, 17



Manhattan Village Academy
Anticipated Major: English
Awaiting decisions from:
 Stonybrook, Albany & Oswego

Ade Ajayi, 18



High School for Leadership & Public Service
Anticipated Major: Computer Networking
Schools of Acceptances:
 Morrisville, Thompkins, Cortland & Mohawk Valley

By D. Maria Frazier, Program Associate

The College All-Stars program is a year old as of March 2006! As with any new initiative, we have grown tremendously in such a short amount of time. CAS active member registration currently stands at over 70 sophomores, juniors and seniors. We have visited over 20 institutions of higher learning in the New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Washington DC areas including: Stonybrook, Rutgers, Villanova, Binghamton, Maryland, American, Howard, Georgetown, Syracuse, Hunter, Ithaca, Cortland, Lehman, and Princeton, just to name a few.

This spring, newly recruited sophomore CAS members will be benefiting from various college related workshops, guest speakers, campus tours and college fairs. Their junior counterparts will be continuing their rigorous preparation for the June 3rd SAT Exam with our very own Pauline Nguyen, an alumni of Harvard University. Meanwhile, our first graduating class of CAS seniors is excitedly anticipating their soon-to-be-adult status. Their workshops include, *Interviewing Preparation*, courtesy of Lehman Brothers' own Danielle

Coppola and Angela Satarino. Our seniors have covered everything from resume & cover letter writing to the closing handshake and customary follow-up email. Other senior workshops include, *Diversity on Campus*, *Money Matters*, *Time Management for the College Freshman*, and *Professional Networking & Mingling*.

CAS is not all tours and academia. Here at College All-Stars, we strive to create a serene balance within our programming. We make it a habit to strategically place extra-curricular activities on the calendar so as to ensure a well-rounded agenda. To build the cultural equity of our students, CAS has attended various Urban Word, BAM Arts and NYC events. But as great as these cultural events have been, we all know what is most important for a college student: 1) being able to bowl at least one strike a game, and 2) being able to shoot a decent game of pool!

So there you have it folks, the Urban Dove College All-Stars: **"Making the College Dream a Reality!"**

Development Team

Aaron Shneyer
 Cristina Monteroso
 D.Maria Frazier
 Eboni Banks
 Amy Sokal-Camino
 Elizabeth Schaefer
 Khanh Tran

Program Team

Jai Nanda
 Executive Director

Urban Dove Staff

Taking Flight



the official newsletter of **urban dove**

Program Edition 2006

Lehman Brothers' High Yield Strike Nite raised more than \$125,000 for Urban Dove programs serving at-risk youth



Urban Dove youth and Lehman associates cheer on their teammates during the event's final bowl-off.

Members of the Lehman Brothers High Yield Department make tough decisions everyday. Their judgment was put to the test a few months ago when the group had a heated debate over two rare stocks: neon green lightning bolts or bright crimson flames. A tough call indeed! Always ones for risk and style, Lehman decided to go with both, making the 2006 Lehman High Yield - Urban Dove Strike Nite both a fashion show and a fundraiser.

The event was held at Port Authority's Leisure Time Bowling Alley, and raised an unprecedented \$125,000 for Urban Dove. Over 130 Lehman High Yield members joined over 40 Urban Dove teenagers for a great night of teamwork and fun. All of the money raised will go

directly to Urban Dove's youth programs.

This partnership, begun in 2005, not only raises money for Urban Dove programs, but also helps Lehman professionals connect with Urban Dove kids through educational, mentoring and internship programs. Over the past year and a half, Urban Dove teenagers have gone to Lehman to learn about the Stock Market, get help with resume writing and interview skills, and to get internships and summer jobs. The collaboration has been so successful that Urban Dove has begun to replicate this model with other corporations.

Strike Nite started with Urban Dove teens and Lehman staff dividing into six teams - Loan Sharks, Syndicate Strikers, Hoosier Daddy, Kirk's Kingpins, Junkyard Dogs and Pin Pals. Two hours and lots of strikes later, the event ended in a bowl-off between Kirk's Kingpins and Pin Pals, with Pin Pals taking home the championship. Urban Dove's Kim Wei Goh, 17, put it best - "I'm impressed...I never thought that stock investors who sit in the office and trade stocks all day could bowl. Life is full of surprises."

The night of bowling, fun and friendship was another high point in Urban Dove's long-term relationship with Lehman High Yield. We thank all of our friends at Lehman for their continued support and we look forward to continuing this partnership in the years to come. Bowl On!

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URBAN DOVE FINALLY NESTLED IN AT NEW OFFICE IN LOWER MANHATTAN



The Dove says 'goodbye' to the old office on 37th St...



...and 'hello' to the new office on 40 Exchange Pl.

As the winter fades away, Urban Dove heads south and begins to get comfortable in our new environment...for much longer than just one season. The Dove has found a new home in lower Manhattan, and just recently moved into the new space. This is a groundbreaking milestone in our history, and we profoundly thank the kindness and generosity of our supporters who have helped make our first headquarters a reality.

Jai Nanda of Urban Dove talks more about our new office space on **page 2**.

A Message from Executive Director Jai Nanda

Dear Friends,

There are many great things going on at the Dove these days - our programs are at capacity, our kids are doing great, our annual fundraiser is coming up, and we have just been awarded some wonderful grants. But the really big news is we have a new office!!

Our new space, located at 40 Exchange Place in downtown Manhattan, is the Urban Dove's first ever dedicated office. It has taken almost two years for this process to complete, and it has been quite a journey. The new office is both the headquarters for all of our staff, as well as a meeting and training space for our teenagers. Our HiRisers Youth Staff, who work with younger kids after school, will use the space for their workshops and trainings, and our College All-Stars will use it on Saturdays for their college prep program activities. We also have a computer lab that our kids can use for doing homework, filling out college applications online, and doing research for various projects. This new office will make all of us more efficient, more effective, and more productive in helping to serve New York City's at-risk youth.

This new space is nearly 3 times the size of our old space and what a difference it makes. Having computers and phones that work, light bulbs that don't blow out every week, and an office door to close are all things many take for granted but are new to us. The downside to this is that we now have to pay rent, although we negotiated a lease well below market value. This means a little more work for our fundraising department, but the cost is well worth it. To mimic the MasterCard commercials - "A place to call your own... priceless."

We hope that everyone will be able to join us for the Ribbon Cutting ceremony in early May and see the new digs. Thank you again for all that you do, and we hope to see you soon.

PATIENCE IS PAYING OFF *A Quick Glimpse at HiRisers*

By Cristina Monterroso, Program Associate

If there were two words to describe the HiRisers during the past few months at Urban Dove it would be *positive change*.

Positive change, or progress, is touching all aspects of the program - from new staff, to added components, to an increased number of kids. These changes are strengthening the impact we have on all our kids and helping us reach great milestones.

One of the most ambitious additions is a tutoring component for our Youth Staff. Since the fall of 2005, we have been offering academic help to our Youth Staff and have recruited volunteer tutors to meet one-on-one with them once a week.

Another positive change we have taken on is the increased number of kids we are serving. We now have two sites that operate five days a week, as compared to our regular three day program. One of these is a completely new site. Broadening our program has attracted more kids and allowed them the opportunity to learn literacy, life skills, and sports - all during the crucial after-school hours when they are most at-risk.

Progress is sometimes difficult and definitely requires adjustment. But as we undergo these changes and our Youth Staff take on more responsibility, I can honestly say that the results are visible everyday. All of the staff at Urban Dove are excited to see our programs grow and our kids grow along with them. And as we continue, we will always look for new ways to **energize**, **educate** and **empower** our kids.

Rising Star: Here & Everywhere



By Chris Becerra

Hello, my name is Chris and I've been with Urban Dove for two cycles. I was recently in Puerto Rico filming a movie with Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony,

and wanted to share with you my fun and unforgettable experience. The movie is called *El Cantante* ("The Singer").

Meeting J.Lo, who is a singer and, in my opinion, one of the top actresses in the movie business today, and Marc Anthony, considered to be the greatest salsa singer of his time, was an overwhelming experience. I still can't believe that, day after day, I got to see them, hug them and joke around with them the whole time I was in Puerto Rico.

It wasn't all just fun and games. The movie business is really tiresome because you might have to wait for hours in your trailer just to get called onto the set. Regardless, what made it worthwhile was that I got to hang out with the people that work off set, like the director and the production crew, who I think are the best people to be around.

Overall I think that it was worth all the hard work because I got to meet great people and I will have these memories forever. I plan on continuing my work in this industry, because I love it!

Chris Becerra, 15, is a sophomore at Life Sciences Secondary School and a veteran Youth Staff Member at Urban Dove.

Children for Children

How a young philanthropist gave something back

Nine-year-old Alex Barkley, having gone to Camp Lenox and feeling the widespread lack of opportunity for inner-city youth to do the same, decided to make a difference. For his ninth birthday, he asked his friends to substitute a present with a donation to Urban Dove's Camp Lenox Project - a program that sends inner-city kids to sleep away camp for a week in August. "I had so much fun at camp, and wanted another kid to have it also," said Alex.

The result was amazing. To date, his letter has brought in nearly \$1,000 and will help Urban Dove bring over 100 children to Camp Lenox for an unforgettable experience. Only nine years old, Alex Barkley has already made a difference in the lives of others. A special thanks to those who have supported Alex in his philanthropic efforts, and to his family, for passing on the values that have taught him to take action to improve his community.



From Short Hills, NJ, Alex Barkley visits Urban Dove in November of 2005.

WELCOME NEW STAFF & BOARD MEMBERS!

We are pleased to welcome several new staff and Board members, all of whom have made considerable contributions to the youth development community and will provide important leadership for Urban Dove. In this issue, we highlight two of four new Board members, as well as Urban Dove's new Program Director. Look out for more introductions in our next issue!



Eboni Banks
Program Director

Eboni is a native of Silver Spring, Maryland and has been providing social services to children and youth for the past eleven years. "Of all the community-based organizations out there, I believe that youth development programs and working in an environment that supports children is the most lively and extremely important," says Eboni. In addition to youth development she has worked in several capacities and served populations experiencing domestic violence, substance abuse, HIV/AIDS and homelessness. In January of 2006, she joined Urban Dove as the new Program Director, enabling her to utilize a range of skills that she has developed over the course of her professional career. As head of the program team, she hopes to deliver high quality programs with solid, effective results, and has set goals to expand into more schools and serve a larger number of NYC's public school students.



Mark Benerofe
Board Member

Mark grew up in Purchase, New York and graduated from Cornell University with a B.A. in Government. He has two M.A. degrees in Anthropology and Education Administration from Hunter College and Baruch, respectively.

When asked what he loves most about Urban Dove, Mark instantaneously responded "Nobody does what we do!" Although a recent addition to the Board, Mark has been involved with the Dove since the Net Gain program began back in 1999. He was impressed by the program and the service it provided to the schools, and attended the *1st Annual Evening with the Dove*. He was immediately drawn to the organization that "focuses on serving kids and doesn't waste time and energy on unnecessary things." Having taught and coached for nearly ten years at Health Professions High School in New York City, he wanted to expand his reach even further and coached the Urban Dove's first-ever Traveling All-Stars team in 2001.

With tremendous faith in using athletics as a tool for teaching kids, Mark serves on the Board's Program Committee in hopes to refine the programs that Urban Dove runs. With the committee, he aims to gather hard data to determine what aspects of the Dove's programs are most effective and how the committee and staff can refine their energy to improve the programs serving at-risk youth. Besides serving on the Board, he currently works as a real-estate investor and is also in the camping business.



Keith Kobyra
Board Member

Keith graduated from the University of Virginia with a B.S. in Commerce. Having lived in over five different areas, he moved to New York four years ago and has worked as an associate at Lehman Brothers in the Merchant Banking Group.

Keith was first introduced to Urban Dove through Youth I.N.C., a non-profit that helps other youth-centered non-profits with operations, and places professionals who want to get involved with such organizations as board members. He had been looking at a number of non-profits in order to get involved in the community, but had not found any that satisfied everything he was looking for. After meeting Jai Nanda, Urban Dove's Executive Director, and seeing his energy and passion for the Dove, he knew he wanted to be involved. He strongly believed in Urban Dove's mission, and attended the *3rd Annual Evening with the Dove*. After meeting with many of the other Board members and seeing that they were active in all aspects of the organization, and not just fundraising, Keith knew it was a place where he could have an impact.

Keith joined the Dove's Board in May of 2005, and hopes that his background in finance can help the organization utilize its resources in the most efficient manner to serve as many kids as possible. He also hopes to contribute as part of the Program Committee ensuring the organization is achieving the goals it has set for itself.

Announcements!!

Net Gain Tournament

Thursday, March 30, 2006 @
Basketball City
5 - 10 p.m.

16 New York City public high schools will join corporate sponsors for a Round Robin basketball tournament to raise money for the Net Gain program. New York Knick legends, including Earl "The Pearl" Monroe and John Starks, will coach the teams and the Knick City Dancers will entertain at half-time.

FREE Workshops for all teens!!

urban word nyc
www.urbanwordnyc.org

Come experience spoken word, hip-hop and poetry through the craft of writing & performance with some of NYC's hottest poets, emcees, turntablists & journalists. For more info, please contact D.Maria Frazier at Urban Dove: (212) 244-2131 or dmfrazier@urbandove.org

Interested in volunteering with Urban Dove?

We have recently added a tutoring component to the HiRisers' program and if you or someone you know is interested in volunteering as a tutor, please contact us. Tutors meet with high school students once a week, and must be able to commit for at least one semester.

For more info contact Maria Frazier at 212-244-2131 ext. 229

Dove Highlight

We just can't get enough of bowling!



Urban Dove and Citigroup celebrating a new partnership in October of 2005 at Chelsea Piers Bowling Lanes.