

## Cyber News: Spring/Summer 2011

### Third Annual Graduation Event at The House of the Seven Gables

#### Inside this Issue:

##### Page 2:

- Scholarship Winner
- College Success
- Generous Donation
- New Visual Identity

##### Page 3:

- Marketing Intern
- Volunteer Corner
- Community Service

##### Page 4:

- College Access Grant



*Our graduates from Salem High School Class of 2011.*

*Top row from left: Rose Berline Pauleus, Carol Verdejo, Sharon Martinez.*

*Middle Row: Katheryn Toribio, Madelin Cueto and Vladimir Aquavivas.*

*Bottom Row: Scarlett Gonzalez, Sandra Castillo, Ashley Colon and Ryan Frias.*

For the third year in a row, all of our students completed their high school credits and walked

down the aisle at Salem High School in their crimson robes.

At a graduation party given

by Salem CyberSpace at the House of the Seven Gables, 80 people comprised of Salem CyberSpace staff, community partners and leaders, funders and students' parents celebrated the achievements of these graduates. Speakers Mayor Driscoll, Congressman Tierney and Dr Steven Immerman, President of Montserrat College of Art, addressed the students. Dr. Immerman, our keynote speaker, talked to the graduates about change and the need to be able to embrace change and grow as a result of it.

GT Solar, NESI, Microsoft, Salem Five, and The House of the Seven Gables were sponsors of the event.

### Partner Profile: The House of the Seven Gables

#### CyberSpace Staff:

Linda Saris  
Director

Greg Bedard  
Technical Manager

Pablo Vargas  
Lead Instructor

Jesenia Tejada  
College Success

Mary Kate Adams  
ELL Street

Mira Riggan  
Administrator

Jaster Rincon  
Evening Manager

Martin Ozoria-Polanco  
Web Support

In 2010, the Board of Trustees decided to close its Settlement House child care center and take a portion of its monies to partner with programs that serve older youth from disadvantaged backgrounds. Salem CyberSpace was fortunate to be one of four organizations chosen for this honor.

The commitment by the House of Seven Gables reflects the original mission of Caroline Emmerton who, in 1910, restored the House to its historic seven gables and opened it up as a museum to the public. With the monies, Ms. Emmerton opened the Settlement House to help new immigrants



(at the time primarily Polish) to integrate into their new home in Salem, MA.

"The entire Board believes that Salem CyberSpace embodies all of the values of our founder, Ms. Emmerton. We have been very pleased to be involved in supporting the academic initiatives that this organization has taken in support of older youth from primarily Spanish speaking homes," said

Anita Blackaby, Executive Director at The House of the Seven Gables.

In 2011 and 2012, Salem CyberSpace will be working with the staff at the House to develop programs that link the missions of both organizations. As part of the partnership The House of the Seven Gables provided their facilities to host the Graduation Event and the two Parent Academies.

## Sandra Castillo Wins the Posse Scholarship to Bucknell University

Lewisburg, Pennsylvania here we come!

With help from the Salem CyberSpace College Success staff, Sandra began her quest for a 4-year scholarship in September 2010 with 1,350 other deserving high school seniors from urban high schools in the greater Boston area. After three challenging interviews, Sandra became one of 60 students chosen to attend six different schools. She chose Bucknell as her first choice and was selected on one of

a “posse” of 10 other students who will matriculate at Bucknell in the fall.

Since January when she was notified of her scholarship, Sandra travelled into downtown Boston to attend college readiness and writing workshops at Posse twice a week. This was in addition to her school work including two AP classes, the gymnastics team, two dance teams and working at Dunkin Donuts.

Congratulations, Sandra!



From the left: Linda Saris, Sandra Castillo, and Jesenia Tejada

## College Success Program Continues to Expand



Our College Success Program has added 13 new students to the group this year, all of whom are high school juniors. From that particular cohort we have five outstanding honors students whom we were able to nominate for the Posse Foundation for the upcoming school year.

In May we also graduated 10 of our high school seniors. Two out of those ten students will be attending private 4-year institutions with substantial assistance from the colleges. Their hard work has earned them numerous scholarships

to fund both their tuition and room & board.

Our college students are also doing very well. They have taken challenging courses and have maintained good GPAs on top of working part time jobs. Two of our college students were also fortunate enough to travel to Spain for their spring break.

Overall, we are very excited that in our third year of the program, we have 43 total students that we service in both high school and in college.

## Local Utility Company Makes Generous Donation

The weather was dreary on December 20th last year, but the spirits of the friends of Salem CyberSpace were bright as we learned of a generous donation from Dominion Power, owner of the Salem Harbor Station Power Plant.

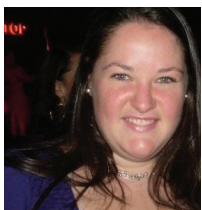
A surprise gift totaling \$1.2 million for Salem Public Education was announced at a press conference attended by local dignitaries, and school and community leaders. Salem CyberSpace and the Salem Educational Foundation each received \$100,000 and the Salem public schools were awarded \$1,000,000. The donation resulted after months of discussion between Dominion and Mayor Driscoll's office.

According to Dan Weekley, managing director of Northeast government affairs for Dominion, this was one of the company's largest donations ever made to a municipality. Salem CyberSpace has placed the gift in a restricted fund and plans to use the money in a way that strengthens the organization so it can continue to grow and support low-income, minority teens in Salem.

From the left: Sara Morrill, Congressman John Tierney, Nate Byant, Superintendent of School William Cameron, Senator Fred Berry, Brendan Walsh, Linda Saris, Mayor Driscoll, and Malia Griffin from Dominion.



## A New Visual Identity for Salem CyberSpace



Arielle Grendzel, a 2009 UMass Amherst graduate and current Graphic Design Certificate student at Salem State University, participated in

a classroom project for Professor Mark Malloy to redesign the brand and visual identity of Salem CyberSpace. Eight students presented their designs to CyberSpace director, Linda Saris: “Arielle’s design was hands down my favorite. Over the last several weeks, we have been

working to perfect the design. She has been a pleasure to work with and very patient with me.” The new design, as seen for the first time in this newsletter, will soon become the new identify for all our print and online materials. Stay tuned!



## Volunteer Corner

2011 has produced a bumper crop of volunteers. Jean Cocuzzo and Ron Landman, both retired educators from the Swampscott school system, have been volunteering to help students prepare for their SATs and for the college placement Accuplacer test. In addition, Ron will be teaming up with our ELL teacher, Mary Kate Adams, to teach a writing workshop this summer.

Dakota Hamill, Salem State University - Class of 2011, chemistry major, has volunteered this year to bring his expertise in science and chemistry to the Salem CyberSpace youth. Each Wednesday, Dakota conducted an experiment in physics or chemistry for both middle and high school student. Projects included Blackberry Solar Cell construction, magnets and cool physics, a SLIME lab, DNA

extraction, and a tour of the Salem State chemistry labs. Dakota was trained in green chemistry activities by the organization Beyond Benign, whose goal is to increase interest in green chemistry among school age children.

We also want to thank Sylvia Masci (College Success), Lindsey Tigges, Michael Hincman, Ashley Lyons, and Rosa Alvarado (homework help), Eva Sacharov (chemistry and math tutoring), George Brandenburg (physics tutoring), Billy Jackson (SAT), and Jenny Lee and Bradley Backer (Art).

Finally, a dedicated group of Gordon College students, led by Ai Valley and Julianne Chase, volunteered each Friday



*Dakota Hamill, Salem State University - Class of 2011, building a solar cell with Salem CyberSpace students.*

afternoon leading youth in fun activities such as yoga, guitar lessons, frisbee, dance, and more.

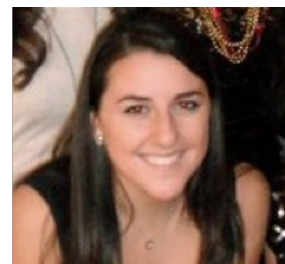
## Salem CyberSpace Gets Much-Needed Marketing Intern

Julia Pelletier, Salem High School 2010 and University of Miami 2014, was hired as a summer marketing intern through a generous grant from the Forest Foundation. Julia has been an instrumental part of the Parent Academy development teams. She handled most of the marketing, outreach and Public Relations. As a result of her efforts, over 50 parents attended the workshops on June 22 and 30.

Julia is a marketing major at the Uni-

versity of Miami. "This was an amazing summer internship. I wanted to work at Salem CyberSpace because I had seen the great work they have done with students at Salem High School and wanted to contribute to their cause. I am particularly interested in expanding college access to first generation families. For me, the college process was quite daunting and I am a native English speaker with parents who went to college. I can't imagine

having to go through that without parental help. I was so pleased to be a part of this project and amazed at the turnout. I got to see first hand how marketing really does work!"



## ELL Students Enjoy a Year of Community Service



*Salem CyberSpace director Linda Saris pictured with students participating in a beautification gardening project along Artists' Row in downtown Salem this past May.*

In an effort to enhance critical thinking skills, English literacy, and community involvement, Mary Kate Adams, lead instructor for the ELL Street program, developed four community service projects for the youth.

In October, the youth planned and ran a neighborhood Halloween party in partnership with St Peter's Church. In November, the students conducted a recycling survey to

see if businesses in the Salem Point business area were recycling (and indeed they were!) In March, the students teamed up with the Police Department to learn about graffiti and to help identify and log graffiti in Salem Point neighborhoods. Sergeant Dennis King, a graffiti expert, talked to the youth about graffiti, tagging, gangs, and had them create an inventory of graffiti so that he could clean up the neighborhoods. Students also learned about careers in criminal justice. Finally in late May, students teamed up with the Beautification Committee to learn about gardening and help plant eight whiskey barrels along Artists' Row.

"This year of community service was so successful, we will be looking to do more projects within the community next year," said Mary Kate Adams.

98 Lafayette Street  
Salem, MA 01970

Phone: (978) 740-6667 | Fax: (978) 740-6668  
Email: lsaris@salemcyberspace.org

## Find Us Online:

[www.salemcyberspace.org](http://www.salemcyberspace.org)



## Thank You, City of Salem

CyberYouth is partially funded by the City of Salem Department of Planning and Community Development, US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development.

*Salem CyberSpace does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, family status, sexual orientation, or disability.*

## Salem State University and Salem CyberSpace receive \$35,000 College Access Grant

### Volunteer Tutors Needed for Middle & High School Students

- Commit to 3 hours/week
- Mon-Thu 2-6 PM
- Work with ESL students
- Tutor in math, science, and technology
- SAT prep

Salem CyberSpace was chosen by Salem State University as a partner in a grant administered by the Department of Higher Education with funds from the U.S. Department of Education. With these funds, Salem CyberSpace prepared curricula in both English and Spanish for Parent Academies designed to teach parents whose children will be the first in their family to college, about the college process and the financing of college.

The first two workshops, were held on June 22 and 30, 2011 at the House of the Seven Gables. Approximately 50 parents attended the workshop where they learned about what College Admissions are looking

for in students, the college application timeline and requirements, different ways to finance college, and how parents, particularly parents of commuting college students, can help their children succeed in college.

The next workshop will be held in September and will specifically address the beginning of the College Application process geared to parents of seniors in high school.

Also as part of this grant, staff will engage 15 rising seniors and college freshman in a writ-

ing seminar. Rising seniors will also be taken on college campus tours and all students will go on industry tours in order to learn more about different types of careers.



*The June 22nd Parent Academy Workshop at The House of the Seven Gables.*