



# THE CHSAAP CENTRALITE

**Newsletter**

Editor: Stephen V. Bianchi  
Class of 1968

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## **...FIRST CHSAAP GALA EVENT A GREAT SUCCESS!!**

The First Annual CHSAAP Gala Event on May 6th in the Imperial Room at Rhodes Place was a magnificent success, thanks to the hard work of several CHSAAP members led by Gala Committee chair Debbie Cockfield and her assistant, Advisory Director Nikki Jimenez!



The Imperial Room staff, extraordinarily supervised by the most helpful Hillary Williamson; and DJ Brad Pierce, who supplied the appropriate music and who assisted CHSAAP President Don Bianco in MC duties, made the evening go very smoothly.



After a truly inspiring invocation and welcoming address by Central grad Senator Harold Metts, the 150 or so attendees sat down to a delightful and pleasantly served dinner and desert.

The Honorable Judge Frank Caprio, a 1954 Central graduate, gave a rousing keynote address, in which he advocated to CHSAAP members that all high school graduates who want to attend college should be able to go.

Jose Gonzalez, ED.D, CHSAAP Scholarship Committee Chair then proudly presented the CHSAAP's first \$1,000 scholarship certificates to six excellent, deserving Central seniors! (Story below).

## **....A GREAT BEGINNING!**

Beginning May 8, 2015, having a Central High School Alumni Association was just the idea of a dedicated few. Less than two years later, May 6, 2017, the CHSAAP holds a remarkable first annual Gala and allocates thousands in scholarship money that has been generously offered by our growing membership! Thanks so much to all who have contributed!

Concerning the Gala and the CHSAAP itself, there are many Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs to thank for their dedication, attention and creativity. Also, special thanks to President Don Bianco for his solid, ongoing leadership and to Central principal Julia Carlson who has been an inspiring participant in the start up of the CHSAAP and who serves as an Advisory Director.



## **.....CONGRATS TO OUR FIRST CHSAAP SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS**

DIANA IGLESIAS.....Diana is ranked No. 2 in her class, with a remarkable 97.29 grade point average! She is also the Central Salutatorian for the Class of 2017 and the graduating class treasurer. Diana is one of seven children in her family. She hopes to attend Boston College and to become an accounting director.

JULEISY TEJADA ACOSTA.....Julieisy arrived in the U.S. in 2008, the same year her mother passed away. She started to learn English after arriving here and has gone on to her current 96.42 grade point average! Julieisy has won the Harvard Book Award and is a member of the RIC Upward Bound program. She currently lives with her grandmother and sisters and has plans to study nursing.

MELISSA SOSA.....Melissa owns the No. 1 grade point average of the 2017 Central graduating class...98.25! She is currently taking three AP courses. A fine athlete, Melissa has been a member of the Central track, volleyball and softball teams. She is looking forward to attending UMass, Boston College or Northeastern.

RENIEL RODRIGUEZ MARTE.....Reniel has maintained a solid 96.48 grade point average and has been No. 5 amongst 243 Central seniors! He is also enrolled in two AP courses. He interned at the R.I. Secretary of State office, is a member of the Upward Bound Program and has volunteered with the R.I. Heart Association. Reniel wants to attend Bryant University.

NATHALY SANTOS CORTES.....Nathaly has been a very diversified student at Central. Besides being a member of the Upward Bound program, she has been a Senior Mentor, a member of the AP Club, the "My Brother's Keeper" program, the Pride Club and the softball team! Maintaining an excellent 88.31 average, Nathaly wants to go on to URI and pursue a career in social work.

JAISLENE VINAS.....With a 96.74 grade point average, Jaislene was No. 4 in the Central senior class and is taking 3 AP courses! She's been very busy as a member of the Debate Team, the AP Club, the College Crusade group and the track, softball and tennis teams! Jaislene was awarded the Bank of America Student Leadership Award in 2016. She wants to be a bio-medical engineer and has applied at Brown, Princeton and Northeastern.

Congratulations to our six initial CHSAAP Scholarship Award winners! They all have been most exemplary to their fellow students and we're sure that they will be excellent representatives of Central out in society for many years to come!

## **.....AWARDS FOR A.D. & COACH PETER RIOS, COACH OKLEASKY & SEVERAL CENTRAL ATHLETES!**

THE CHSAAP congratulates Central Athletic Director and head football coach Peter Rios for being named the 2016 Division 1-B "Coach of the Year" by the Providence Grid Iron Club. Two senior football captains, Pajebo Myers and Dametrius O'Connor were selected 1st Team All-State by the Providence Journal. Dametrius was also the recipient of the "Golden Helmet Award" from the R.I. Chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame, Inc. The Award goes to the state's top senior scholar-athlete football players.

Also, congrats to Central track coach Dan Okleasky for being selected the 2016 R.I. Track Coaches Association "Indoor Track Coach of the Year". As reported in the last Centralite Newsletter, the R.I. State Champion Central Boys 4x200

meter relay team finished sixth in the New Balance Indoor Nationals. During the R.I. Indoor State Track & Field championships, Central senior Donatien Djero was deemed "the fastest athlete in R.I." by running the 55 meter dash in 6.39 seconds! Augustus Karweh took 2nd place in the high jump, clearing 6'2", earning All-State honors. The Central girls track team also earned All-State honors, finishing 2nd in the 4x200 relay! Congratulations to Rachel Mews, who also won the high jump, and to Ziah Dakalah, Zaylia Howie and Aleyjah Roderick. This past season, the Central track teams had six 1st team All-Staters, and six 2nd team All-Staters, the New England Championship relay team and eight All-New England athletes! Central had an amazing year in football, track and several other sports. We're looking forward to more athletic AND academic success in 2017!

**.....BLASTS FROM THE PAST!**

Don't forget to check out 'Blasts From the Past' section on our CHSAAP.org website! You can add your 'Blasts' from your Central 'Past' by sending stories, anecdotes and photos from your years at Central! It's great fun, so be a part of it!

