To many of us, autumn signifies the end of a restful summer. For our Freshmen scholars, however, it marks an exciting beginning. They are three able and enthusiastic young men, who see a whole new world before them.

But what about the ABC scholars who have graduated? Do they remember us? Do they give back? Yes, they do.

Greg Thompson, Brandon Farquharson and Josh Rodriguez, all Class of 2011, have helped for three years with the Winchester Summer Basketball program. (Greg, Brandon and Josh are at Bowdoin, SUNY Binghamton and Northeastern.) This past summer, Tristan Hardy and Cameron Horsey, ’12, joined Greg working at an art-based day program for adults with developmental disabilities. Cameron and fellow 2012-er Ahmad Greene-Hayes also gave their time to ABC National, helping with Freshman Orientation and the Annual College Tour. (Tristan, Cameron and Ahmad are now at RPI, Bard and Williams respectively.

And it goes on: DaLonn Pearson, ’10, works for the Woburn YMCA even as he is earning his degree from Springfield College, Alberto Acosta, ’06, volunteers in the Baltimore Youth program while earning his MBA, and Allen Malave ‘Class of ’74, attended our Fall Event on October 20th.

No, our graduates do not forget Winchester ABC, the community’s support, and what they have earned about living right and giving back. We should all be so proud!
I hail from Brooklyn, NY and am an only child. At first I found living here to be an adjustment, but now I can safely call Winchester another home. I am a straightforward guy who will always be up front with you. I believe that if you show respect you will be given respect. Something that might surprise people to know about me is that although I am a huge tech geek, I sometimes write poetry. By 2017, I hope to see myself done with college on my way to graduate school.

I began life in Brooklyn but now live with my family in North Carolina. I enjoy making people laugh and trying new things. You can bring me anywhere in the world, and I will always have a good time if I enjoy the company. It may surprise people to hear that I can easily get nervous but I can also easily calm myself down and get comfortable with the situation I am in. I hope to be a physician one day. Finally, though that it may not show, I really believe in my religion as a Baptist Christian.

My full name is Oluwatobi Michael Omola and I play five instruments: double tenor (steel pan), trumpet, baritone, tuba, and percussion. I also listen to a lot of jazz, from Ryo Kawasaki to Miles Davis to Wynton Marsalis. I am a persistent and curious person. When I meet people, I ask a lot of questions to try and figure them out. During my time here, I want to try things I wouldn’t have the advantage of trying in New York City and also achieve academic success.

First, my name is Enderson, not Anderson, Ender, Henderson, or Anderson. Some things that people might not know about me are that I like watching classic movies, that I used to be able to do a head-spin and that I want to stop the violence in the world. During my time here I want to have a fun and learn as much as I can. In the future I would like to be working on Wall Street and giving the money I make to schools like Achievement First Bridgeport Academy.
I am LaVon Brathwaite, a freshman from South Jamaica, Queens. I have lived in the same place for most of my life, with my mother, aunt, younger brother, and younger cousin. I would like people to know that I am a fun and outgoing individual who is not afraid to try new and interesting things and who never says no to a friend’s request. Also, I once played basketball every day for a whole year straight. During my four years of Winchester I want to learn many new things, and get much better both academically and athletically. I would also like to make many life-long friendships.

I’m Gamaral Sawyer, Freshman. I come from Philadelphia and am my mother’s youngest child. Something I would like people to know about me is that even though I have a quiet personality, I am a hard-working and outgoing person. I have been in school for 11 years even though I am only 14. When people meet me, they think I am much older than I actually am. Five years from now, I would like to be entering medical school but now my goals are to achieve honor roll status, get involved in as many clubs and sports as possible, and lastly have fun and enjoy my time being a kid.

I’m Bryson McEachin, and I am a Freshman. I am a very smart individual and I make school my number one priority. I am also funny and an overall a great guy. Something people may be surprised to know about me is that I eat a lot. I eat more than anyone in the ABC House although I am the smallest person in the House. It might also be surprising to hear that even though I am really short, I have good jumping and leaping abilities. I can jump so high I can touch the ceiling in the hallway in my New York apartment building. Five years from now I would like to see myself as a graduate of WHS, and able to look back and say with confidence that I took advantage of every opportunity that was placed in front of me.

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The definition of ‘family’ expands when the scholars’ folks come and stay with their sons’ host families. This year they did everything from attending Parents Night at the high school to meeting with the Principal and the Guidance Counselor; from lunching at China Sky to shopping; from learning about summer programs and the college application process to spending time with Jamoul and Alisa Celey, our wonderful Resident Directors. Last, we gathered for a festive Fall Dinner. Below some pictures from those fast 48 hours:
Machias: I'm going to start with something light: What is your favorite video game?

Mario: (Laughs) My favorite video game is Mario Kart as I think you already know - and also FIFA.

Machias: Well, that's a good segue! We'll begin there. The name Mario: where does it come from?

Mario: My dad's name is Mario. So I'm actually Mario Junior. I got my middle name from my grandfather.

Machias: Can you say something more about your background?

Mario: I was born and raised in Long Island, NY by two hard-working parents who migrated from Guatemala.

Machias: I know that you're a graduate of Lehigh University and the Harvard Graduate School of Education but can you describe the path that led you from Long Island to those places?

Mario: I didn't know much about college while growing up, though I did have an older sister who went to SUNY New Paltz. I knew I wanted to start my own business and so I asked my guidance counselor for help. She pointed me to the Diversity Achievers program.

Machias: What sports do you play?

Mario: Soccer is my favorite but in high school I also ran track, pole-vaulted and played lacrosse.

Machias: Did you study languages in high school?

Mario: Well, my dad and mom's first language is Spanish so I already knew how to speak Spanish before I learned English. I was an ‘English as a Second Language' (ESL) student and although I am now better at English, at home I only speak in Spanish. I also have a basic understanding of Italian.

Machias: What do you do when you're not here helping us with our studies?

Mario: Before I came on board I was in the process of completing my Master’s degree and working as a graduate assistant. Now I work for Bunker Hill in the Office of Community Engagement both as a Special Projects Coordinator and a Research Assistant for civic activism as part of the Massachusetts Vision Project. My bachelor’s degree is in Finance and Management, but my Master’s is in Higher Education. I always knew that I wanted to use my degree to help others. I was also accepted by Teach for America but instead, I chose graduate school and have taken this path.

Machias: How would you describe life in the house here?

Mario: (Laughs) I would describe it as organized chaos. Seriously, it's enjoyable trying to keep up a lot of energy in the house. We all give up some privacy for the benefit of our grades (the scholars have study hours downstairs in the common rooms). The room sizes are not a problem, because I am used to living a very simplistic life-style. And I really like having a big kitchen because I love food!

Machias: What are your favorite movies?

Mario: I like Big Daddy with Adam Sandler. I like most of Will Ferrell's movies. I don't watch too many movies now. Growing up I used to like Horror; now it's mostly Comedy and Action. From time to time I also like to watch a lot of documentaries on Netflix. For the last three years, I have not had cable and I really found I could do without it.

Machias: I know what you mean. When I first got here I thought ’No TV at all in the week?” But now I'm used to it. Okay, finally: What is your favorite food?

Mario: Oh, my favorite food is lasagna! My mom's lasagna.

Machias: Thank you for this interview.

Mario: No problem!
How to Build a Newsletter

Take pictures. LOTS of pictures.

Assign stories.

Lay out the copy.

Ask awesome folks at Litho-Craft to print a ‘proof’.

Examine the proof for typos, formatting errors etc.

Correct and resubmit to Litho-Craft.

Examine second proof. Sign off on it.

Lithocraft schedules the job!

Now create and bring them mailing labels for the 1700+ families who receive the newsletter.

Wait while they do their magic, printing, hand-applying the labels, sorting by ‘In Town’, ‘Out of Town’, by Zip Code, etc.

Meet with Post Office personnel to see if we have money enough in our account to cover the cost of this mailing.

Call ABC Treasurer pronto if not.

Finally, carry the many cartons from Litho-Craft to the Post Office, fill out the paperwork and you’re DONE!

Here you see Enderson, Tobi & Machias in front of the sign outside Litho-Craft, in moments both serious and light. A time to ‘pose’ and a time to examine the copy.

And here are Ray and Hazees doing the heavy lifting.

Can you see yourself as part of a team of cheerful newsletter workers? If so, write to us on the board at rdwinchesterabc@gmail.com.

...Still, we would love to have some help!

It’s not that it isn’t fun. It’s really fun, taking the pictures especially. This one is by Mark Flannery, photographic ‘angel’ to the program....
As part of the 2012/2013 Annual Appeal, ABC has announced the kick-off of an exciting challenge from the Cummings Foundation.

In honor of ABC’s long-time supporter Mike Regentz who passed away this past April, all donations to ABC in excess of last year’s pledges will be matched dollar for dollar up to $100,000. Also if a person’s employer has in place a matching donation program, the Cummings Foundation will ‘double the double’. Thus, a new gift of $100 which is matched by the donor’s company, would become $400.

Funds raised in this way will be designated for college preparedness, and will make a huge difference to the lives of our scholars who must compete for those coveted college slots. Accordingly, we have over the last few years, begun identifying summer programs for them, as well as SAT preparation courses and college seminars.

These things cost money, but the scholars could tell you how much they have benefited. In the last few years the guys have taken courses in Computer Science at Brown, Bioengineering and Molecular Biology at Clemson University, Writing at the University of Virginia, Engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Psychology at Cornell, and general Humanities Courses at both Davidson College and Carleton College.

When they come back to visit us as graduates they all go directly to the House at 2 Dix Street. This means that the current scholars all know their older ‘brothers’, and not superficially, but well. DaLonn Pearson put it into words when he spoke at the Gala put on by the North Suburban YMCA. “This is what we do,” he said. “We build community.” He expresses it exactly. It is what we all do when we are at our best, as brothers and sisters to one another and citizens of the world.

Please help the scholars - and us - continue to build this extraordinary community of learners and future leaders.

Winchester ABC has been opening the door to educational opportunity for talented, young men of color since 1971. It is funded entirely by private donations from Winchester individuals and organizations committed to making opportunity available to all. Donations may either be sent to Winchester ABC, P.O. Box 94, Winchester MA 01890 or made on line at www.winchesterabc.org
Give Us A Call!

Care to have help with household chores? Willing workers available! Call the house at 781-729-7935 and someone will return your call.

Care to join us on a trip to theatres, museums, parks or ski slopes? We go snowboarding and play laser tag, we go to plays and we do good works, we get together with the all-girl ABC houses in Wellesley and Andover...

Would you enjoy volunteering with the program? You could help tutor the scholars - OR, bring them to 826 Boston, the nationally famous after-school program in Roxbury, where they tutor very young learners. Want to help make a few new videos for our the website? Opportunities abound and cheerful drivers giving their time are very much appreciated! Write to us through our House Leader senior Rayvoughn Millings at ray-millings@gmail.com or to the program generally at rdwinchesterabc@gmail.com.

Next Bottle Drive
Sons of Italy Parking Lot
Saturday May 4th, 9:00 to 3:00

Next newsletter:
Sooner than you think! Story - and picture - ideas are always welcome!