

Presented by the Massachusetts Youth Leadership Foundation
P.O. Box 990053, Boston, Massachusetts 02199

Message from MYLF Executive Directors:

Jen Coliflores '00 and Stephanie Nguyen '00



We are pleased to announce Spring is finally upon us, which means the 2009 MassSTAR Citizenship Conference is near! The Conference will be hosted in Newton, at Lasell College, from **Friday, May 29 – Sunday, May 31**. Nominations are in full swing; however we are always looking to reach more youth. Please make sure that your local and surrounding high schools have nominated a student. This can be facilitated with a simple phone call or email to the high school principal or guidance counselor.

Our Conference Committee is looking for more helping hands in planning the conference. We strongly encourage all alumni to volunteer, meet new friends and assist in the development of a memorable and insightful conference. Areas of need include

programming of speakers and panels, as well as in-kind donations (such as snacks, office supplies etc). Please contact conference chair Kaitlin O'Malley '00 at kaitlin.omalley@massstar.org if you can provide any assistance.

We are proud that MYLF is 100% volunteer run and hope that you can contribute your time and skills. See you all very soon!

Jennifer A. Coliflores *[Signature]*

3rd Annual Make a Difference Day Conference Success

On October 25, 2008, MassSTAR student leaders from across the state came together at **Boston University** to participate our nation's largest single day of volunteerism, the 18th annual **Make a Difference Day** www.usaweekend.com.

Fall Conference Chairs **Scott Brady '02** and **Desiree Dusseault '03** did an outstanding job organizing conference events. Thoughtful speakers, panels, and workshops packed the entire day. The students reconnected with other alumni and engaged in a fun service project to reinvigorate the ideals of MassSTAR within the '08 conference alumni and their classmates and friends from their hometowns.

From the opening speaker, **Kevin "Green Guy" Snyder** of Life is Good, kicking off the morning, to a school supply/backpack drive for WaDa (Wa Area Development Association) in West Africa, to the rousing closing performance from **Overboard Vocals** and a final dialogue about urban food growing and sustainability from **Gabe Erde-Cohen**, of Green City Growers, the conference reinforced citizenship and interconnectivity across Massachusetts.

Evelyn Abayaah, Executive Director of the Wa Area Development Association and 2008 conference panelist inspired the Alumni Association to contribute and help the students of Ghana through a school supply drive. Through the WaDa service project MassSTAR youth leaders assembled backpacks with school supplies for students in Ghana, West Africa. Fifty-four backpacks were assembled and packed with donated supplies - enough to supplies for two school years through the WaDa project! The Alumni Association planned and executed this service project with the assistance of their high schools throughout Massachusetts.

www.lifeisgood.com, www.growmygreencity.com, www.overboardvocals.com



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MassSTAR Alumni Association Update

The **MassSTAR Alumni Association** has been busy forging collective service projects, supporting the pursuits of individual alumni initiatives, and gearing up for the conference.

The major goal of the spring is to dive into planning and in-kind requests. Alumni are also getting pumped about coming back as Junior Facilitators and participating in the conference planning process by recruiting more influential, youth speakers.

Quoting **Nicole Sanethong '07**, Alumni Association president, "There is only more energy and PMA to come in the near future."

For more information on current projects and future meetings, contact Nicole Sanethong, at nsanethong@hotmail.com

Hope to see you at the next Alumni Meeting, Sunday, April 19, at Boston University, 725 Commonwealth Avenue.



Conference Seminar Junior Day Staff Wanted

We are still accepting online applications for Junior Operations Day Staff! The applications are posted on our website www.massstar.org.

**If you have any questions contact
Directors of Staff:
Danielle Reszenski '02 or Scott Brady '02,
at staff@masstar.org.**

MassSTAR Alumni Spotlight

Name: Joe Lazzarini
Alumni year: 2008
Hometown: Attleboro, MA
High School: Attleboro
Activities/Interests: Politics, Technology, Bowling, Movies
Favorite Thing about MassSTAR:
"Enthusiastic Chant" ... It shows True Character!



The MassSTAR Impact: MassSTAR has given me a sense of pride and love for my service projects and transformed them into political ambitions.

Service Project(s) description: Attleboro Energy Fund Committee - raising funds for Attleboro families to help offset the cost of heating and utilities

Advice to high schools without a MassSTAR delegate: You're missing out on an opportunity to send a student and empower them to network and build coalitions with other communities to build larger service projects in their regions!

Interesting Fact: I recently enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserves and am running for Attleboro City Council.

Name: Toni O'Leary
Alumni year: 2008
Hometown: Swansea, MA
High School: Joseph Case High
Activities/Interests: Dancing, Bowling, Girl Scouts
Favorite Thing about MassSTAR:



The interesting people that I met at the conference

How MassSTAR Impact: I am able to share all of the lessons I learned at MassSTAR with my Girl Scout Troop and collectively make a difference in our community.

Service Project(s) description: My Troop and I quilted two quilts made out of denim jeans for soldiers in Iraq.

Advice to high schools without MassSTAR delegate: MassSTAR was an amazing opportunity for me! It really opened up my eyes see things in a new light!

Interesting Fact: My favorite animal? The lion.

In Recognition of the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts

As the 2009 conference nears, MassSTAR would like to recognize Lynne Sullivan, Leadership Chair of GFWC of Massachusetts, and the greater GFWC for their extraordinary long-term support by staffing, recruiting, and fundraising for our conferences. Lynne, an assistant to a philosophy professor at Boston University, joined GFWC in 1998 and was inspired by the thousands of club women engaged in hundreds of projects dedicated to enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service and living the GFWC slogan — *It's a Volunteer Thing!* She attributes GFWC's enthusiasm for partnering with MassSTAR to the shared emphasis on volunteerism. GFWC volunteers are currently hard at work preparing materials for the MassSTAR "Blue Bear" service project and are in the midst of calling MA high schools reminding them to nominate their sophomore delegate. With great appreciation, MassSTAR thanks Lynne and the GFWC for their exceptional service! We look forward to reuniting at the 2009 conference for another outstanding co-sponsored event. If you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities with General Federation of Women's Clubs of MA, please contact Lynne, at LSull478@aol.com.



MassSTAR Parents are OUTSTANDING!

A note from Lisa Pelosi P'07 on the MassSTAR Parent Experience

"As I sat in the audience of the Parent's Meeting listening to the speakers and reading through the program, I learned what my son had been doing all weekend. It was there that I really got it! I left the closing ceremonies with a feeling of pride and a new appreciation for MassSTAR. The drive home was full of stories, laughter and fond memories. I found myself excited for next year in which I hope to play a more significant role.

MassSTAR is an outstanding program. It is committed to empowering our students with the tools and the knowledge they need to be successful. MassSTAR raises awareness about issues that surround us and promotes healthy leadership skills in a positive and productive environment. But they also need our support. Please encourage your sons and daughters to stay involved with MassSTAR. Together they will learn, grow and share experiences that can only result in a better world. They hold the key to our future and our world is in their hands!"

Our thanks to Lisa Pelosi, mother of 2007 Alumni Richard Pelosi for her continued involvement with MassSTAR!



“Party with a Purpose” Fundraiser at McFadden’s, Boston

**Rally your parents, siblings, and other MassSTAR 21+ supporters
for a night of fun, music, raffles, and reunions!**

Friday, May 1, 2009 from 6PM – 10PM at McFadden’s, 148 State Street, Boston, MA (617) 227- 5100

Enjoy \$3 beverage specials from 6-8PM! McFadden’s has generously donated their downstairs space and appetizers.

- **All proceeds from the event and raffle will directly support the 2009 MassSTAR Conference.**
- **In addition, your contributions will be matched by MFS Investments.**
- **If you are unable to attend, but would like to donate, please send checks to P.O. Box 990053, Boston, MA 02199**

A Selection of Raffle Items: Harpoon Gift Pack (2 pint glasses, golf shirt, and an evening tasting for up to 80 on a week night from 5:30 to 7pm, \$192.97 value), Wicked Good Cookies Gift Basket, Healthy Homes Cleaning certificate, Comedy Connection Tickets, Barbershop Singing Valentine and many more!

*Special thanks to McFadden’s, MFS Investments and all our raffle donors
for their outstanding service to youth citizenship and community service.*



Calling all Outstanding MassSTAR Parents to help with 2009 conference

- Support our fundraising efforts or organize your own. Does your work have an employee matching program? Give in-kind donations of snacks, beverages or office supplies?
 - Encourage your 21+ friends and family to unite in Boston for our upcoming fundraiser! May 1st, at McFadden’s.
 - Donate a Raffle Item or Gift Certificate to our Fundraiser
 - Apply to be on staff for the 2009 three day conference at Lasell College.
 - Share your positive MassSTAR experience with your child’s guidance department.
 - Recommend outstanding programming and content for panels, service projects and speakers.
 - Encourage your student leader to attend regular alumni meetings and apply as staff for the upcoming conference.
 - Join us at Lasell on Sunday, June 1st to share your experience as a MassSTAR parent with others at conference.
- Please contact Conference Seminar Chair Kaitlin O’Malley, kaitlin.omalley@massstar.org, if you can contribute!

Thank You to our MassSTAR Partners & Sponsors

