

RAYMOND EJIOFOR *Class of 2006*



Raymond graduated from T.C. Williams High School as a winner of the prestigious Gates Millennium Scholarship. He attended Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA where he graduated with a B.S. in Decision Science with a double major in Engineering Studies and Technology and Policy. He is studying to receive a Masters of Public Health at the University of Southern California.

In spite of his academic achievements, perhaps his first love is dancing. Raymond began his dance training in high school under Judith Rhodes Calgaro in Arlington, VA. Project Discovery staff was amazed to watch him do a difficult, impromptu dance maneuver on stage while on tour of Temple University in Philadelphia, PA.

While balancing academics and artistry, Raymond has worked with many famous choreographers. He has also had the opportunity to train and work with the Los Angeles based Brockus Project Dance Company, as well as the Los Angeles Contemporary Dance Company and other dance ensembles.

Under the direction of Grant Reed, Raymond is a founding member of the August Wilson Center Dance Ensemble (AWCDE), and was recently named “25 to Watch” in 2012 by *Dance Magazine*. As a teaching artist, he has been a faculty member of numerous studios and universities in the Greater Pittsburgh region: Laura Lynn’s School of Dance, Hill Dance Academy Theater (HDAT) and Morgantown Dance.

He is an instructor at the USC Recreational Sports and Social Media Manager, a dancer with the August Wilson Center Dance Ensemble, and a cancer research intern at the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California.

Paragraph for Raymond Ejiofor

Raymond Ejiofor received the prestigious Gates Millennium Scholarship after he became a member of Project Discovery. He followed his passion for dance while still in high School while applying to colleges. He graduated from Carnegie Mellon University (PA) with a B.S. in Decision Science with a double major in Engineering Studies and Technology and Policy. He is currently working on a Master of Public Health at the University of Southern California, while teaching dance with the August Wilson Dance Ensemble, and working as a cancer research intern at the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California.

GREGORY HUTCHINGS, PhD *Class of 1995*



Gregory Hutchings, Jr. is a distinguished Project Discovery alumnus who is experiencing a meteoric rise in the field of education. While at T.C. Williams High School, he was active in Project Discovery, and later became a *Portrait of Success* at the school in 2004. He graduated from Old Dominion University to later receive a master's degree in Education Leadership from George Mason University, and finally a doctorate from The College of William and Mary in Educational Leadership and Policy.

After serving as assistant principal at two schools, he was made the principal of West End Middle School in Nashville, Tennessee. With principles he innovated, he has since been publicly heralded as saving that school from long standing dysfunction. Dr. Hutchings has received numerous awards and honors such as "Administrator of the Year" in Nashville, was a Fellow at many schools, including Harvard and Vanderbilt University; was a member of the Mayor's Advisory Council on Special Education, and many more distinguished accomplishments too numerous to list to his credit.

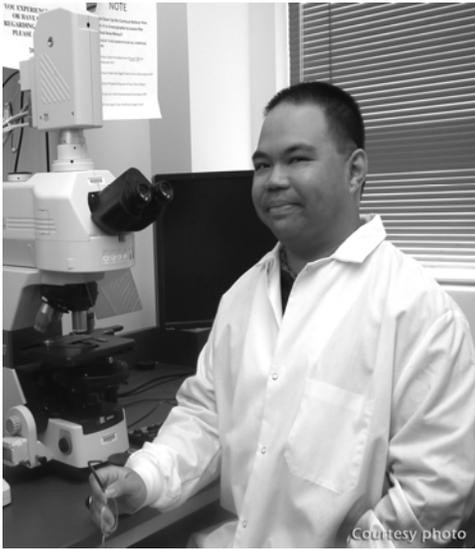
He belongs to the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the Tennessee Association of Middle Schools, the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, and the International Baccalaureate Organization.

His career eventually took him home to Alexandria, where he served as Director of PreK-12 Programs of the Alexandria City Schools. Shortly afterwards, he was selected to be the Superintendent of Shaker Heights Schools in Cleveland, Ohio, where he is due to begin shortly. However, as he had stated in high school in his *Portrait of Success*, his ultimate goal is to become the U.S. Secretary of Education.

Paragraph for Gregory Hutchings, Jr., PhD

Dr. Gregory Hutchings began his passion for education early in his career. He graduated from Dominion University, to later receive a master's degree in Education Leadership from George Mason University, and finally a doctorate from The College of William and Mary in Educational Leadership and Policy. After serving in other school districts, he became the Director of PreK-12 Programs at the Alexandria City Schools. Dr. Hutchings, Jr. is now the new Superintendent of Cleveland, Ohio's Shaker Heights School District.

VINCENT HERMOSO, PhD. *Class of 1998*



"Take Vincent! He's very funny, cute and sweet. You'll never be bored in his class!" These enthusiastic comments came from one of Vincent Hermoso's students when he was a graduate assistant at George Mason University working on his doctorate degree. No wonder he was awarded the 2009 Outstanding Teacher Award as a teaching assistant in biology.

Born in the Philippines, Vincent immigrated to the United States and enrolled at T.C. Williams as a sophomore. Described by several of his teachers as tenacious with a wonderful sense of humor, Vincent worked hard to improve his English through participation in plays and the Forensics Club. He was also a three-year member of Project Discovery, which encourages its members to strive for academic excellence and to pursue a college degree. Vincent

obviously took this message to heart. He was later recognized as a *Portrait of Success* by T.C. Williams High School in 2011.

In 2002, Vincent graduated summa cum laude from Marymount University with a bachelor's degree in Biology. Following graduation, he completed a one-year fellowship at the National Institutes of Health working for the Nutritional Sciences Research Group at the National Cancer Institute. Returning to school, Vincent earned a master's degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from Georgetown University. While pursuing his degree, he also worked as a research assistant at Georgetown's Protein Information Resource. He received his doctorate from George Mason University in 2011.

Paragraph for Vincent Hermoso, PhD.

Dr. Vincent Hermoso is a traditional American success story. When he became a student in Project Discovery, he knew he wanted to graduate from a college to pursue his dreams. He graduated from Marymount University with a bachelor's degree in biology. His master's degree is from Georgetown University, in the field of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. His doctorate degree is from George Mason University.

Ana Gloria Espinoza



Heritage: Salvadorian American

Born: Arlington, VA

Raised: El Salvador ages 5-8, learned Spanish in El Salvador. ESOL student until Middle School

High school: Mount Vernon High School Class of 2007.

Clubs: Poder, and Barrios Unidos. (Gang-prevention clubs)

Occupation while in high school: Fairfax County Community Recreational Services: Gang prevention

College: Mary Baldwin College, **Major:** Political Science and Leadership Studies **Accomplishments:** Virginia's Women Institute for Leadership Certification, Commander of Color Guard, President of Hispanic Club (Latinas Unidas), Ajani Award (she who conquers all)

Current Occupation: Freedom of Information Specialist at U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Other: Volunteer for Noah's Ark, animal rescue shelter. Member Commandant's Advisory Committee for Virginia's Women's Institute for Leadership, Member of the Good Shepherd Catholic Church.

Biography

I was born in Arlington, Virginia on December 16, 1988. I have two younger sisters and was raised by a single mother - though I was born in the U.S my family moved to San Salvador, El Salvador. I was five years old when we moved there and grew up with my grandparents, my mother remained in the US to support us. I returned back at the age of eight to Arlington, VA with not an ounce of English and was put into ESOL in the Arlington County Public Schools. In Middle school I completed ESOL program after excelling in all subjects.

My first year of high school my family moved to Fairfax County, Alexandria, VA where I struggled as a freshmen with my studies because of the change. I was motivated by my counselors to raise my grades. My after school passion was to reduce street violence. I volunteered with a non-profit organization called Barrios Unidos, which worked closely with George Mason University developing approaches to eliminate gang violence in Fairfax County. Then, Fairfax County hired me to be part of a team in a gang prevention unit providing resources to deter at-risks teens from joining gangs. I worked closely with teens who sought to be part of a gang, gang-members, and ex-gang members. It was working with these individuals where I became passionate a career in public service. I had developed leadership skills, by leading my team to complete projects for community centers for teens. My senior year I joined Project Discovery and learned about the next chapter of my life: college.

I was accepted to Mary Baldwin College, an all female liberal arts college of about 600 women. I also joined the Virginia's Women Institute for leadership. VWIL is structured and founded by military and leadership values. As a freshman I struggled to stay motivated, but developed a strong bond with classmates in this program which helped me stay focused. Upon completing successfully all military tests,

exercises, and courses I received the highest honor that a rising sophomore could receive, the rank of being a Corporal for the Academics Division in the program. During my freshmen year I joined the Army Aviation Association of America, and attended the annual conference to present the colors to top US military leaders of the US. I received a Challenge Coin from the Army's Vice-chair.

The following year, I was accepted for an internship at the US Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Pesticides Programs. At the end of my EPA summer 2009 assignments I received a monetary performance award. Junior year I held the position of Class Chair, Latinas Unidas President, Academics Sergeant, and peer advisor. In the spring of 2010 I received an Award and scholarship from the Staunton Military Academy Award for Strong Work Ethics and Leadership. As a senior I held the positions of Co-Commander of the Color Guard unit for VWIL and continued to hold a leadership position with Latinas Unidas. At graduation, I received the Leadership Studies Certificate, Mary Baldwin College: Ajani Award - "She Who Conquers All", Multicultural Engagement Award, and Latinas Unidas Leadership Award. I graduated with a B.A. Degree in Political Science and Leadership Studies.

Shortly after graduation I was hired by the Environmental Protection Agency as a Freedom of Information Act Specialist. I continue to stay involved with the Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership. I am currently on the Commandant's Advisory Council. The Council meets quarterly to discuss matters at Mary Baldwin College, and works closely with the College's president to make decisions regarding the program.

Antwan Crawford



As the President of the 2002 class of Amherst County High School, I dreamed of having a career one day. Though I had an idea of what I wanted to do, I was unsure of all the necessary steps to achieve success. Guidance and support is particularly important to young adults at this phase of life. In addition, I believe a strong faith helps young adults find direction and purpose.

I was fortunate to be raised in a very loving, supportive family rooted in Amherst County, Virginia. As a senior in high school, I was motivated and excited about my future as an adult. However, I was unsure of how to apply to college and which colleges would best suit my needs. I feared failure and making the

wrong choices. I wanted to turn my passion to work with the public and desire to help persons in need into a career. I hoped one day my story might be an inspiration to others. I met Ms. Jacqueline Jones, the Project Discovery coordinator in my third year of high school and enrolled in the program. I remember Ms. Jones reassured me that I would love Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) and that I would adjust well. After visiting several schools with the Project Discovery program, I decided I would attend VCU. There I saw happiness, diversity, and new opportunities.

I will admit I was nervous about attending college in a metropolitan city. The idea of being independent and entering adulthood away from the comfort of my family was quite scary. Project Discovery allowed me to see that most college freshman were very much like me. College is designed for young adults to embrace new opportunities and meet different people. While in college, I continued to work in a dialysis facility and encountered pharmaceutical representatives that marketed medications to the physicians. I was impressed by the professionalism and knowledge those representatives exuded. I began to model their behavior and asked questions about their careers. I graduated from VCU in 2006 with a Bachelor of Science in Mass Communications with a concentration in Marketing. I am now employed as a Pharmaceutical Representative, marketing medications to primary care physicians throughout Virginia.

I credit the Project Discovery program and Ms. Jones for helping me become the professional I am today. I can now appreciate my small town upbringing as well as my metropolitan college experience. Having the support of my family, friends, and the Project Discovery program facilitated my way to success. I continue to volunteer with the Project Discovery program providing prospective students with campus tours. There will always be a need for programs such as Project Discovery and mentors such as Ms. Jacqueline Jones to encourage young people to take chances and embrace a brighter future.

Bio

Antwan Crawford is a 2002 graduate of Amherst County High School and the Project Discovery Program. He later graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a Bachelor of Science in Mass Communications and a concentration in Marketing. He currently resides in Richmond, Virginia and is employed as a Pharmaceutical Sales Representative for E. Claiborne Robins Pharmaceuticals. He markets new, innovative medications to primary care physicians throughout Virginia. He intends to pursue graduate study in the next five years and obtain a Master's degree in Public Health.

Cameron Patterson



Cameron Patterson graduated from E.C. Glass High School in Lynchburg, VA. He attended Longwood University in Farmville, VA where he graduated with a B.A. in History. Cameron returned to Longwood University in the fall of 2010 to begin work in the Office of Diversity & Inclusion. Cameron continues to work at Longwood University as the Coordinator for Disability Resources and maintains active involvement in the Farmville community with the Farmville Jaycees and Race Street Baptist Church. Cameron looks forward to beginning classes soon in the College & Community Counseling program.

In high school Cameron was actively involved in the Band & Chorus programs and maintained strong academic standing in the classroom. Cameron considers being the first immediate member of his family to graduate from college one of his proudest personal moments, and credits Mrs. Jacqueline Jones and the Project Discovery for helping to open his eyes to all of the opportunities that college had to offer.

Cam's Words:

I'm deeply committed to the mission of the Project Discovery program. Being the first member of my family to attend college was a very proud moment, but it made the search process tough. Project Discovery provided me with an opportunity to visit many schools, learn the ins and outs of the financial aid and scholarship process, surrounded me with fellow students that had the same motivations and aspirations. It offers me great joy to be able to connect with Project Discovery students when they come here to Longwood University on an Admissions visit, and to be able to share words of wisdom with them.

Dr. Brandy Rutledge



Today, I want to share with you one story of the transformational impact of community action in someone's life. Dr. Brandy Rutledge says that the theme of her career is "a continual longing to learn and to share what she has learned with others". Let me share what she has learned, start with where she is today, and work backwards in her life and career. Dr. Rutledge is Assistant Research Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the School of Public Health and Health Services at George Washington University. Her research is in developing state-of-the-art statistical methodology to analyze data from clinical trials on Type 1 diabetes and its complications. She is also interested in analyzing studies of twins to determine whether disease variability can be explained by genetic or environmental effects or some combination. Oh, yes, and she received her Doctor of Philosophy in Biostatistics from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2004 – the first African-American woman to be awarded a Doctorate in

Biostatistics at VCU. While studying for her doctorate in 2000, she joined Bill Gates at a news conference in Seattle where she was named one of the first 20 students in the inaugural class of Gates Millennium Scholars, chosen from more than 62,000 applicants. Applicants were judged on the basis of grades, leadership skills, citizenship and financial need. She completed her undergraduate studies at Norfolk State University, where she received a full scholarship from the Dozoretz National Institute for Minorities in Applied Science.

Now what was Dr. Rutledge's background? Her education started with the Head Start program. She came to work at Pittsylvania Community Action Agency in the Project Discovery program. Project Discovery is a college access preparatory program that was launched as a pilot program at Total Action Against Poverty (TAP), the community action agency in the Roanoke Valley, in 1979. Since 1986, Project Discovery has been offered through community action agencies in Virginia to increase access to college for potential first-generation lower-income students. Once Brandy Rutledge learned about Project Discovery, she decided to apply for the program herself. She met the guidelines—low family income, potential first-generation college student. And I've told you the rest of the story—although I think her phenomenal success has only begun.

Yes, we talk about the return on investment and the matching funds provided for this program, and the additional earnings and increased taxes paid by the successful graduates. But Brandy Rutledge's story is about so much more than that. She is a role model to others—she is an example of the importance of Project Discovery, and who knows what her research may mean for all of us in the future. Without Project Discovery, she may never have had the opportunity to discover her own tremendous talents.

Kenethia Bright



Kenethia Bright is originally from Chesapeake, Virginia and resides in Arlington, VA. She obtained her bachelor's degree from Virginia State University and majored in Political Science. Recently, she obtained her MBA degree from Trinity Washington University in DC and is employed at the General Services Administration as a Space Management Specialist. She completed two terms as an AmeriCorps VISTA at Youth Venture, a global non-profit based in Arlington, VA.

Youth Venture awards young people between the ages of 12 and 20 up to \$1000 in seed funding to start civic minded organizations in their communities. After completing her service as an AmeriCorps VISTA, she became the Manager of Operations for YV. She enjoys doing the following in her spare time: reading, writing, shopping, serving as a youth ministry leader at her church, and spending time with friends and family.

Jonét Johnson



Jonét Johnson is a Science Planning Manager at the National Science Foundation (contracted through ALEX- Alternative Experts, LLC) in Arlington, VA. She received her B.S. in Psychology from Old Dominion University and went on to receive her M.A. in Organizational Sciences from The George Washington University. In addition to her work for the agency, Jonet is a freelance [fashion] writer and an enthusiastic Boston Celtics fan. She currently resides in Northern Virginia and can be contacted at jonet.johnson@gmail.com.