

# BEST



# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

As supporters of the Baltimore Educational Scholarship Trust (B.E.S.T.), you know our mission is to provide access for academically talented African American students with financial need to attend independent schools. Our work, however, does not end there. Today, B.E.S.T. offers extensive support to families in navigating the admission and financial aid process through informative workshops and individualized guidance. In partnership with our nineteen member schools, B.E.S.T. positions our students for success through comprehensive programs at each stage of their educational journey.

This past year, B.E.S.T. was committed to creating connections through our Molly Hathaway Young Women's and Redmond C.S. Finney Young Men's Leadership Programs and our partnerships in the educational and philanthropic community in Baltimore. This included hosting our first annual *Leaders on Leadership* Breakfast, establishing a relationship with Dale Carnegie Training Mid-Atlantic, continuing our work with the Gilman Black Alumni Leadership Institute and chairing the First Generation Affinity Group through The .edu Project of B.E.S.T.

As our programmatic work has expanded, so has the team at B.E.S.T. This summer we welcomed two new staff members both of whom are B.E.S.T. alumni.

- Crystal Lee, Garrison Forest School '96, is serving as the Director of Advancement following an eleven-year tenure on the B.E.S.T. Board of Trustees.
- Khalil Uqdah, Gilman School '06, joins us as the Director of Programs and Alumni Relations, a newly-created position to directly support our students and parents, as well as college-aged and professional alumni.
- Most importantly, I welcome Jessica Suriano in her new role as Executive Director following her four years of service as our Director of Development and Strategic Initiatives.

I want to also take this opportunity to welcome our new Community Board of Trustees members, The Honorable Julie R. Rubin and John Schmick; and our two new Heads of School, Dr. Kim Roberts (Garrison Forest School) and Pat Whitehead (Waldorf School of Baltimore). I and the other Board members of B.E.S.T. are eager to work with them on behalf of bright African American students in Baltimore.

We remain grateful for the role that you have played in the growth of the Baltimore Educational Scholarship Trust and look forward to sharing future successes with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Stuart O. Simms". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stuart O. Simms, Esq.  
Board President

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Special thanks to:  
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# ADMISSIONS

For twenty-seven years, the admissions work of B.E.S.T. has changed the lives of African American students throughout Baltimore and strengthened the communities of our nineteen member independent schools. B.E.S.T. partners with charter and traditional public schools, parochial schools and nonprofit organizations to identify academically talented African American students with financial need who we believe would be successful in the rigorous academic environments of our member schools. In addition, our twenty-seven year history of creating pathways to independent school admission and financial aid has garnered a strong pipeline of families who directly seek our support. Each season, through a comprehensive vetting process, we select an applicant pool of girls and boys seeking independent school enrollment in Kindergarten through 9th grade. The support we provide our applicants includes financial aid workshops for parents, Independent School Entrance Exam preparation for rising 5th – 9th grade students, strategies on how to navigate the independent school interview and visit, as well as ongoing guidance throughout the process. In addition, B.E.S.T. provides Educational Plan B resources to our families, encouraging them to consider alternatives for their students, should enrollment at an independent school not be an option. The totality of our admissions work is designed to guide families each step of the way and is the beginning of the joyful journey we will take with our outstanding students as they become members of the B.E.S.T. family.



# WE CELEBRATE THE CLASS OF 2014



School	Gender	School
The Boys' Latin School of Maryland	M	University of Redlands
The Boys' Latin School of Maryland	M	Hampton University
The Bryn Mawr School	F	University of Pennsylvania
The Bryn Mawr School	F	McDaniel College
The Bryn Mawr School	F	Colgate University
Friends School of Baltimore	F	Savannah College of Art and Design
Gilman School	M	Howard University
The Key School	F	Coastal Carolina University
McDonogh School	F	Villanova University
McDonogh School	M	United States Naval Academy
McDonogh School	F	Oberlin College
McDonogh School	M	University of Maryland, College Park
Maryvale Preparatory School	F	St. John's University
Maryvale Preparatory School	F	American University
Maryvale Preparatory School	F	Mount St. Mary's University
The Park School of Baltimore	F	Bates College
The Park School of Baltimore	F	Barnard College
The Park School of Baltimore	M	Frostburg University
The Park School of Baltimore	M	Yale University
The Park School of Baltimore	F	Brown University
Roland Park Country School	F	Winthrop University
Roland Park Country School	F	Spelman College
St. Paul's School	M	Case Western Reserve University (2)
St. Paul's School	M	Brown University
St. Paul's School	M	Fordham University
St. Paul's School	M	University of Maryland, College Park
St. Paul's School for Girls	F	Rider University
St. Paul's School for Girls	F	University of Virginia
St. Paul's School for Girls	F	University of Pennsylvania



# Programs - Providing Support and Leadership Opportunities

**B**.E.S.T. is committed to supporting the success of our students through impactful programming designed to strengthen networks, create connections, enrich learning and develop leadership. Through our own programming, and our relationships with outstanding programs in Baltimore, we offer opportunities for our students and parents throughout the year that enhance their independent school experience and forge a deeper connection with B.E.S.T.

## **The Young Adult Dale Carnegie Leadership Program**

In summer 2013, B.E.S.T. established a partnership with Dale Carnegie Training Mid-Atlantic, as they launched their Young Adult Dale Carnegie Leadership Program. Thirteen B.E.S.T. upper school students took part in the nine-session summer program designed to help them face challenges and embrace opportunities. Throughout the program, students stretched themselves to maximize their full potential while building the self-confidence necessary to seek leadership roles and responsibilities.



*Young Adult Dale Carnegie Leadership Program Participants*

This summer, through our continued partnership, Dale Carnegie Training Mid-Atlantic sponsored nine B.E.S.T. students to participate in their summer Leadership Program. In addition, two B.E.S.T. students who attended the 2013 Leadership Program were invited to return as “peer facilitators” this summer. Throughout the nine sessions, students had the opportunity to receive awards for their classroom accomplishments. Of the ten awards given this summer, six were awarded to B.E.S.T. students. We are proud of all of our B.E.S.T. students for their leadership and successes.



*Redmond C.S. Finney, Trustee Emeritus; Molly Hathaway, Trustee Emerita; Tuesday Barnes, Alumna; Theo C. Rodgers, Trustee Emeritus*

## **Leaders on Leadership Breakfast and Student Workshop**

In fall 2013, we hosted a *Leaders on Leadership* breakfast at the Center Club for B.E.S.T. upper school students, trustees, leadership funders and friends. Guests included many of Baltimore’s top corporate and civic leaders who joined B.E.S.T. upper school students for a breakfast program centered on the principles of leadership. Theo C. Rodgers, President of A&R Development Corporation and B.E.S.T. Trustee Emeritus, and Tuesday Barnes, B.E.S.T. and Bryn Mawr School ’09 Alumna and University of Maryland Ph.D. candidate, were the Honored Speakers for the morning. Special guests included Molly Hathaway and Redmond Finney, for whom the B.E.S.T. Young Women’s and Young Men’s Leadership Programs are named.

Immediately following the breakfast, B.E.S.T. hosted a student leadership development workshop facilitated by Diane Beliveau of Dale Carnegie entitled “Building Self Confidence: Developing the Attitudes of Leadership.” B.E.S.T. students were joined by additional independent school peers for the 2 ½ hour workshop designed to help students develop the skills necessary for playing leadership roles on their school campuses, having strong college interviews and for building essential relationships. Seven B.E.S.T. students who participated in the summer Dale Carnegie Leadership Program helped to co-facilitate and lead the morning’s workshop.

# Programs - Providing Support and Leadership Opportunities (CONT.)

## Parent Support Network

In the winter, 150 B.E.S.T. family members came together for a Holiday Celebration at Friends School. Parents strengthened existing relationships and created new ones through this networking opportunity. Lower, middle and upper school students enjoyed the time to socialize and celebrate. Members of the 2014 graduating class were honored at the event. B.E.S.T. Alumnus, Khalil Uqdah, (Gilman School '06) was the Honored Speaker, sharing his experience as a B.E.S.T. student with our families. He spoke of his time at Gilman, his journey to Lehigh University, his career path and his appreciation for the support of the Baltimore Educational Scholarship Trust.



*B.E.S.T. Family Holiday Party*

## Gilman Black Alumni Leadership Institute

B.E.S.T. is grateful for our continued partnership with the Gilman Black Alumni Leadership Institute (GBALI), an academic-year program founded in 2005 by Gilman School Alumni Kumasi Vines, Terrance Whitehead and Karlo Young, with an emphasis on educational and career choices and the importance of interpersonal relationships and personal accountability to oneself and others. The program is offered to high school students from independent, public and parochial schools throughout the city who apply for selection at the start of each school year. Sixteen of the twenty-nine students selected this past year for the program were B.E.S.T. students, who attended Saturday sessions October through March.

In the spring, as part of the Molly Hathaway Young Women's and Redmond C.S. Finney Young Men's Leadership Programs, B.E.S.T. partnered with GBALI for a one day leadership workshop. Twenty-one B.E.S.T. students joined the GBALI cohort for a program entitled "Building Your Support Team." The GBALI directors designed the morning's workshop to emphasize the importance of building strong relationship skills and networks in order to gain a lifelong competitive advantage. The program explored interpersonal styles and relationship preferences that affect the way individuals select and interact with the key people in their lives.



*Crystal Lee (B.E.S.T.); Terris King (GBALI); Karlo Young (GBALI); Terrance Whitehead (GBALI); Kourtney Whitehead (GBALI); Khalil Uqdah (B.E.S.T.)*

## Summer Scholars

This June and July, we hosted Summer Scholars, our annual five week enrichment program that facilitates the successful academic and cultural transition for B.E.S.T. newly enrolled rising 5th – 9th graders from their current schools to their new independent schools. Summer Scholars students participated in a daily schedule of Math, Reading, Social Studies, Writing, Science, Technology, Study Skills and "Transitions." Each day, students participated in Athletics, coached by Ronald Carney of the Next One Up Foundation, who worked with them on developing their lacrosse skills throughout the course of the five week program. Our students also spent one day at the Hippodrome Foundation's Camp Hippodrome where they fostered an appreciation for the theatrical arts. In addition, students enjoyed a day with Outward Bound, where they built leadership skills and tackled the high ropes course.



# Programs - Providing Support and Leadership Opportunities (CONT.)

A special component of this year's Summer Scholars program was a day of workshops dedicated to rising 9th grade B.E.S.T. students (those participating in Summer Scholars as well as those currently enrolled in our member schools). Severn School administrators Lise Charlier, Director of Studies and Strategic Initiatives, and Bea Fuller, Head of the Upper School, led a workshop entitled "Transitioning from Middle School to Upper School." Alyssa Perez, of the Towson University Admissions Department, led a workshop entitled "Starting the College Conversation."



*Summer Scholars Team Building Activity at Outward Bound*

We are grateful to the SunTrust Foundation and The Thomas Wilson Sanitarium for Children of Baltimore City for their generous leadership support of the B.E.S.T. Summer Scholars Program. We also appreciate the commitment of STX to our students.



*Monica Tucker, STX and our Summer Scholars with Lacrosse Sticks Donated by STX*



*Summer Scholars at Camp Hippodrome*

A special thank you to Roland Park Country School for hosting the program and to the Summer Scholars Faculty: Ms. Elisha James, (Director of Summer Scholars), Ms. Dontria Cole, Ms. Jill Ewing Flynn, Mr. Fitz Hardcastle, Ms. Diane Pniewski, Ms. Wendy Torres, Mr. Ronald Carney, Ms. Yvette Matthews and Ms. Ciara Johnson. Ciara, who served as the program's intern, is a B.E.S.T. Alumna, Roland Park Country School '14, who started at Spelman College this fall.

## A Special Thank You

We are extremely grateful to the Bryn Mawr School and St. Paul's School for providing the opportunity for B.E.S.T. students to participate in summer programming on their campuses at minimal cost. Our families are deeply appreciative.

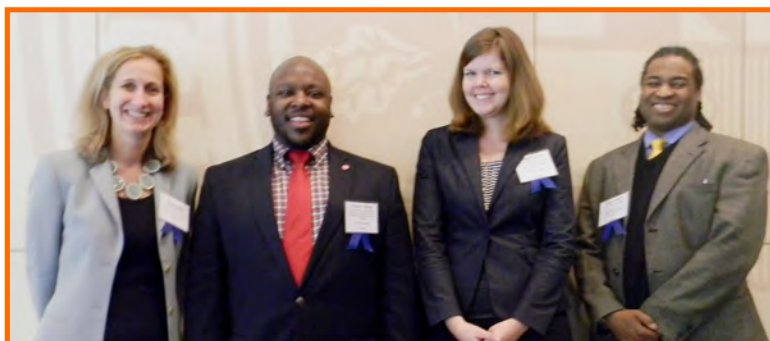


Now in its second year, **The .edu Project of B.E.S.T.** continues to support first generation college-bound students and their families with our annual student and parent workshops and our professional development within the broader Baltimore educational community. We continue to partner with colleges and universities throughout Maryland in order to leverage the resources they can collectively provide to first generation students. Our work also includes chairing quarterly First Generation Affinity Group meetings comprised of college support professionals from independent, public and parochial schools, nonprofit leadership and admissions and administrative teams from institutions of higher education.

In November 2013, B.E.S.T., in partnership with Baltimore City Public Schools, hosted a college readiness workshop at Towson University designed to encourage 8th graders, their parents and their schools to start having conversations about college. Towson University Admissions Director, Dave Fedorchak, led a workshop for students, parents and faculty from independent schools and Baltimore

City Public Schools. Eighth grade students had the opportunity to work in small groups and ask questions of a Towson University student panel as part of the morning's activities. After the workshop, students participated in a campus tour. For many students, this was their first visit to a college campus. Students gained an understanding of the college admission process, the importance of taking challenging classes when they enter high school and the role that graduating from college plays in creating more opportunities.

In May, B.E.S.T. partnered with Baltimore City Public Schools to host our 2nd annual professional development workshop for college support practitioners and college admissions staff. The workshop, **"Supporting First Generation College-Bound Students: Strategies to Better Position Our Students for Success,"** was held at Johns Hopkins University and featured three sessions: College Preparation Begins Before High School (Cassie Motz, CollegeBound Foundation); Under Matching (Bryan Nance, The SEED School of Maryland); and Articulating Fit (Shawn Felton and Lindsay Martin, Cornell University).



Presenters Cassie Motz, CollegeBound Foundation; Shawn Felton, Cornell University; Lindsay Martin, Cornell University; Bryan Nance, The SEED School of Maryland

## First Generation Affinity Group Meetings 2013-2014 Academic Year

### Discussion:

"Career & College Readiness for Baltimore City Public Schools"

"The Importance of College Completion for First Generation Students"

"Summer Bridge Programs: Building a College-Going Culture"

"College Partnerships"

### Host:

Michael Thomas, *Baltimore City Public Schools*

Carl Ahlgren, *Gilman School*; Tevera Stith, *KIPP*

Marguerite Weber, *University of Baltimore*

Khalek Kirkland, *The SEED School of Maryland*

# B.E.S.T. WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## New Head of School Trustees



Kimberley J. Roberts, Ph.D.  
*Head of School*  
Garrison Forest School

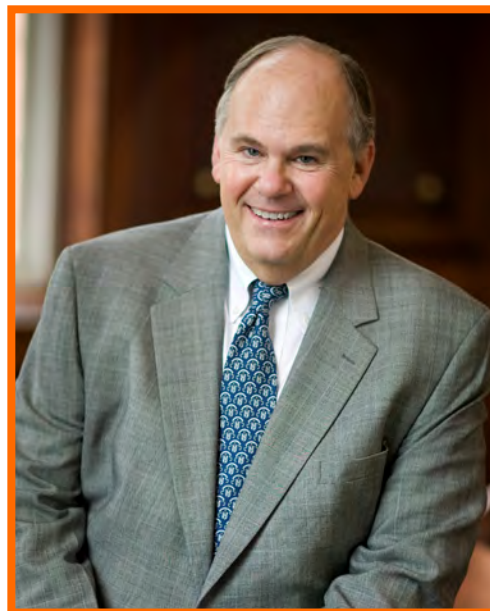


Pat Whitehead  
*Executive Director*  
Waldorf School of Baltimore

## New Community Trustees



The Honorable Julie R. Rubin  
*Judge*  
Circuit Court for Baltimore City



John E. Schmick  
*Former Head of School*  
Gilman School

# THE STANLEY I. PANITZ LEADERSHIP AWARD - OUR FIRST RECIPIENTS

The Stanley I. Panitz Leadership Fund of B.E.S.T. was established in memory of the late Stanley I. Panitz by his wife, Linda Hambleton Panitz, and his family at the time of his passing in August 2012. The impact Mr. Panitz had on the Baltimore Educational Scholarship Trust was profound. As the founding President of the Board of Trustees, he not only set the vision for the organization, but also built a team of Trustees that together put children on an educational path that would forever change their lives. His vision and passion continue to inspire the work of the Baltimore Educational Scholarship Trust.

The **Stanley I. Panitz Leadership Award** is presented annually to two B.E.S.T. students, one young woman and one young man, at the conclusion of their junior year. Awardees are nominated by their Heads of School in recognition of their academic achievement, their demonstrated leadership in both their school and in the broader Baltimore community, and their commitment to civic engagement. Each award recipient receives a \$1,000 directed gift from the Stanley I. Panitz Leadership Fund of B.E.S.T. to support their senior year tuition.

## We are honored to celebrate our first recipients of the Stanley I. Panitz Leadership Award:

### Jordan Buie

*St. Timothy's School, Class of 2015*



*Jordan Buie, Award Recipient; Randy Stevens, Head of School, St. Timothy's School;  
Corie Buie, Jordan's Mother*

### Kyle Lindsey

*McDonogh School, Class of 2015*



*Kyle Lindsey, Award Recipient; Charlie Britton, Head of School, McDonogh School*



# B.E.S.T. FINANCIALS

## Balance Sheet June 30, 2013 and 2012

<b>Assets</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
Cash and Cash Equivalents	76,256	51,082
Investments	9,169,470	8,552,740
Unconditional Promises to Give, Net	83,030	107,132
Prepaid Expenses	15,538	11,017
Equipment, Net of Accumulated Depreciation of \$79,009 and \$73,782, Respectively	39,250	30,257
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>9,383,544</b>	<b>8,752,228</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Distributions Payable to Member Schools	303,358	294,522
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	2,686	6,747
Capital Lease Payable	5,534	—
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>311,578</b>	<b>301,269</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted	77,610	15,245
Temporarily Restricted	3,529,809	2,971,167
Permanently Restricted	5,464,547	5,464,547
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>9,071,966</b>	<b>8,450,959</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>9,383,544</b>	<b>8,752,228</b>

These figures are excerpts from the Baltimore Educational Scholarship Trust's Full Annual Audit. The full financial statement is available upon request.

## Profit & Loss Year ended June 30, 2013. With summarized information for the Year ended June 30, 2012.

<b>Revenues and Support</b>	<b>Operating</b>	<b>Student Emergency</b>	<b>Total Unrestricted</b>	<b>Temporarily Restricted</b>	<b>Permanently Restricted</b>	<b>Total 2013</b>	<b>Total 2012</b>
Contributions	617,728	32,500	650,228	66,711	—	716,939	689,580
School Membership Fees	379,197	—	379,197	—	—	379,197	368,152
Application Fees and Other	10,070	—	10,070	—	—	10,070	10,567
Satisfaction of Donor Restrictions	25,144	—	25,144	(25,144)	—	—	—
Satisfaction of Board Restrictions	437,694	(47,745)	389,949	(389,949)	—	—	—
<b>Total Revenues and Support</b>	<b>1,469,833</b>	<b>(15,245)</b>	<b>1,454,588</b>	<b>(348,382)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,106,206</b>	<b>1,068,299</b>
<b>Expenses</b>							
Program Services	1,076,629	—	1,076,629	—	—	1,076,629	1,032,681
General and Administrative	150,344	—	150,344	—	—	150,344	147,409
Fundraising	165,480	—	165,480	—	—	165,480	169,733
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,392,453</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,392,453</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,392,453</b>	<b>1,349,823</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets from Operations</b>	<b>77,380</b>	<b>(15,245)</b>	<b>62,135</b>	<b>(348,382)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(286,247)</b>	<b>(281,524)</b>
<b>Other Changes</b>							
Interest and Dividend Income	616	—	616	208,355	—	208,971	128,481
Realized and Unrealized (Loss) Gain on Investments	(386)	—	(386)	698,669	—	698,283	(4,536)
Change in Net Assets	77,610	(15,245)	62,365	558,642	—	621,007	(157,579)
<b>Net Assets, Beginning of Year</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>15,245</b>	<b>15,245</b>	<b>2,971,167</b>	<b>5,464,547</b>	<b>8,450,959</b>	<b>8,608,538</b>
<b>Net Assets, End of Year</b>	<b>77,610</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>77,610</b>	<b>3,529,809</b>	<b>5,464,547</b>	<b>9,071,966</b>	<b>8,450,959</b>

# WE THANK OUR 2013-2014 DONORS

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The Park School of Baltimore  
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*This list includes all donors to the Baltimore Educational Scholarship Trust during the 2013-2014 giving year (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014). If an error has been made, please accept our sincere apologies and notify the Development staff at 410.752.2225.*

# OUR ALUMNI

B.E.S.T. Alumni are business and civic leaders, dancers and artists, athletes and lawyers, doctors and teachers. Our Alumni are enriching their communities and paving the way for the next generation of leaders, and B.E.S.T. is proud to be a part of their journey.

## ALUMNA SPOTLIGHT:



**Ashlee S. Tuck, MBA**

*Roland Park Country School, Class of 2002*

Ashlee Tuck is an alumna of the B.E.S.T. program and Roland Park Country School (RPCS), Class of 2002. She has a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree in Finance from The George Washington University, and received her Master of Business Administration Degree from Loyola University Maryland in 2010. She is a Contract Specialist with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). She awards contracts and assistance awards to for-profits, nonprofits and NGO's that support USAID's mission of ending extreme poverty, and promoting sustainable growth and self-reliant societies. Ashlee is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and is in her second year serving on the RPCS Alumnae Board.

**On Being a B.E.S.T. Alumna:** "The well-rounded, world-class education I received from RPCS was invaluable

and gave me the tools necessary to succeed in life. I will always be thankful for B.E.S.T.'s role in facilitating my education and providing a valuable network."

**On Her Experience at an Independent School:** "The study and social skills I developed while at RPCS were essential to succeeding in college and in life beyond. I was exposed to an array of experiences that allowed me to appreciate life outside of my comfort zone. Some of my favorite memories are from the camping trips we took each year. I not only learned a lot about myself, but time away in a different setting allowed me to learn more about my classmates and helped us to develop stronger bonds. I am still great friends with many of my RPCS classmates. I look back on my time at RPCS with fond memories and a grateful heart."

## **Our Mission:**

**The Baltimore Educational Scholarship Trust**, in partnership with our nineteen independent member schools, recruits and supports through the admissions process academically ambitious African American students with financial need from the Baltimore area. Once students are enrolled, B.E.S.T. positions them for success through academic preparation, character and leadership development, and support programs.

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Oldfields School • The Park School of Baltimore  
Roland Park Country School • St. Paul's School • St. Paul's School for Girls  
St. Timothy's School • Severn School • Waldorf School of Baltimore



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# OUR B.E.S.T. STUDENTS







## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR



