

*Happy  
Birthday*



**CityStep!**

*Annual Winter Newsletter 07-08*

Dear friends of CityStep,

We are so excited to head up CityStep in its 25th year! To celebrate this major anniversary, our show theme this year will be centered around looking back on themes of years past. The annual show will take place in Sanders Theater at Harvard University on April 4th and 5th, 2007. We will also have a 25th anniversary celebratory reception for all friends of CityStep on the weekend of our show. Keep your eye out for more details!

In addition to ushering in our 25th anniversary, we would also like to look back on an eventful spring and summer. Last spring, we launched our first official Graduate Board. Working together with undergraduate CitySteppers from both Harvard and Penn, the four amazing alums on the Graduate Board have a lot of plans in the works for the coming years. Take a look at what they have to say on page 3.

Looking ahead, we are excited for all the progress to come. With the extensive help and support of CityStep founder Sabrina Peck, we are continuing the renovation of our website. Visitors will soon be able to browse through pictures, flip through old show programs, and stay updated on CityStep news. The website will also make it easier for visitors to make donations online and to become more involved as an alumni or parent. We hope to have the changes rolled out by the end of the year, so make sure to visit [CityStep.org](http://CityStep.org) to check it out!

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have helped us succeed in our mission for the last 25 years. Alumni, parents, and friends – we could not have gotten here without you. We would also like to thank Harvard University, Cambridge Public School District, and the Public Service Network for their support. We look forward to a great year and hope to see you at our show in April!

Kim Chen '08 and Liesje Hodgson '08  
Executive Producers



**Q:** How would you describe your CityStep experience so far?

**A:** "CityStep is really fun. It's interesting, exciting, entertaining, and so cool. It's my favorite time of day!  
-5th Grade CityStepper

## A Message from the Executive Directors:

Dear friends of CityStep,

We are so excited to executive direct CityStep in its 25th year! Our presence in the Cambridge community continues to flourish. This year, we have four first year in-school classes, one 2YP class and one 3YP class. This brings the total to over 100 kids, including a record of 35 kids enrolled in 3YP!

We are grateful to have a great team on our Artistic Board this year that are sure to make this a wonderful experience for both our kids and our volunteers. Our after-school program is run by Michael Moore '08

and Devon Youngblood '10, who head up 3YP and 2YP respectively. In in-schools, Kate Brunson '08 and Mollie Wright '09 lead the Amigos 5th grade classes, Jean Junior '09 directs the Graham & Parks 6th grade classroom, and Jenn Goodhart '10 teaches our first in-school after-school hybrid classroom in Tobin. Our music director Anna Liu '10 also works with a team of talented composers to teach music workshops and create original music for the show.

This past summer, we also welcomed a new Coordinator for Visual and Performing Arts for Cambridge Public Schools Dr. Elaine Koury. We have been working closely with Dr. Koury to improve and develop our curriculum. We would also like to thank the outgoing coordinator Judith Contrucci who has been with CityStep from the very beginning. It was with her amazing support that we were able to launch our program in the Cambridge Public Schools in 1984.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support. Our program could not have lasted 25 successful years without the help and generous contributions of our alumni, parents and friends. We thank you for your continued involvement with CityStep and hope to see you at our show in April!

Sachi Ezura '08 and Annie Grayson '09  
Executive Directors

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### From the Music Director:

Dear Friends of CityStep,

This year as Music Director I look to carry on the work of previous directors, reinforcing the important relationship between CityStep teachers and composers. This includes expanding the topics of music workshops and encouraging a synthesis of choreography and composition. Each year music used in the show includes more diverse styles. This growth is undoubtedly important for CityStep's creative enhancement. Although composers have a shorter time commitment to CityStep, their interaction with the program is vital to its success. I am working to foster a greater sense of community between our composers and our teachers, from which the kids will surely benefit. Come and enjoy the fruits of this work at our spring show!

Anna Lui '10  
Music Director



**Q:**

*What have you learned in CityStep so far?*

**A:**

*"CityStep has taught us that there is no right or wrong in dancing.*

*You can express yourself however you want."*

*-1YP CityStepper*

*Save the date!*

**Our 25th Anniversary show  
will be April 4 & 5th in  
Sanders Theatre!**

### *The CityStep Wishlist...*

Boom boxes  
Class field trips  
Accounting software (e.g. QuickBooks)

## A Message from the Grad Board:

Hello fellow CitySteppers and friends of CityStep!

We are thrilled to introduce the CityStep Graduate Board! There have been some exciting changes in CityStep over the past year—and there are lots more to come—and we're excited to fill you in. In the past, all graduating CitySteppers have been members of the ever-nebulous "grad board." Starting this fall, the general graduate group became the CityStep Alumni Association, and



last year's CityStep Harvard Executive Board chose the first-ever Graduate Board. We, as the Graduate Board, are here to represent alumni interests and to provide a way for alumni to remain involved with CityStep.

First off, we'd like to introduce ourselves. There are four members of the Board: Co-Chairs Uche Amaechi (Harvard College '99) and Laura Weidman (Harvard College '04), Treasurer Ed Rogers (Harvard College '05), and Secretary Stephanie Altman Dominus (Harvard College '90). Here's a little about us:

Uche (teacher 1997-1998; Director 1998-1999) has been working in the Cambridge Public Schools in various after-school managerial roles since graduation. He got his MBA online while working and this year start his Ed.D. at Harvard--so he'll be in Cambridge for the foreseeable future!

Laura (teacher 2000-2002; Director 2002-2004; expansion 2004-2005) spent the year after graduating bringing CityStep to Penn. She then spent two years in New York working in web development, education, and public art. Now Laura's out West for four years getting her JD/MBA at Stanford.

Ed (teacher 2001-2003, 2004-2005; Director 2003-2004) works for a quantitative finance firm in Cambridge, where he's lived since graduating. He is studying for a CFA designation and spends his spare time participating in youth mentoring and volunteering with a youth soccer league.

Stephanie (producer 1986-1988; Exec. Producer 1988-1989) has devoted her career to the arts (primarily music and dance) as a producer and administrator—at Juilliard, Symphony Space, and in graduate school in London. Now Stephanie's in NYC with her husband and two kids—one of whom is CityStep-aged!

This year the Board will be focusing our efforts on a few key areas: 1) reconnecting alumni with the current program (including working on additional development of [www.citystep.org](http://www.citystep.org)); 2) planning a "kicking off the next 25 years" event for CitySteppers past and present to celebrate CityStep's big anniversary and the future of the Harvard and Penn programs; and 3) establishing a formal charter and extended agenda for the Graduate Board.

**WE WELCOME YOUR HELP AND INVOLVEMENT!** Please get in touch with the Board at [CityStepGradBoard@gmail.com](mailto:CityStepGradBoard@gmail.com) with any questions at all, or to help out with or suggest any initiatives!

CityStep Love,  
Uche, Laura, Ed, and Stephanie

## A Note From the Execs at CityStep Penn:

Hey CityStep!

CityStep Penn is well into what is proving to be a fantastic 4th year! If you haven't heard yet, CityStep started at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia in 2004. In our short history, CityStep Penn has already gained tremendous presence on Penn's campus. We began as a small company, teaching in only two classrooms in the West Philadelphia community. Now, we are a team of over 30 teachers who work in five different 5th and 6th grade classrooms! Our shows are sold-out, our auditions are overcrowded and the public schools are spreading the word about us. These accomplishments, along with our budding community partnerships and the success of our inventive fundraising events, such as Battle of the Dance, show that CityStep Penn has truly gained the support of the Penn student body and as well as the community we live in.

As Executive Directors we are thrilled and honored to have the privilege of leading the Penn chapter through another year of growth, fun, and success! We have been committed to CityStep since its first year, our freshman year, and are truly ecstatic to be able to further develop and expand the program. We have big ideas and a lot of passion for CityStep. This year we are focusing on increasing community involvement, establishing long-term fundraising connections, embarking on an ambitious publicity campaign, and deepening university support for the organization.

And it cannot go unsaid, we are incredibly thankful for the guidance both CityStep Harvard and the Graduate Board have given us. We are so lucky to be a part of CityStep and so grateful to be able to bring CityStep to Penn and the Philadelphia community. We thank you again for your support and encourage everyone in the Philadelphia area to come to our show, support our program, and get to know our team!

CityStep Love,  
Marisa Bass '08 and Stephanie Sklar '08



### This Year's Show at Harvard:

This year's annual CityStep show is focused on celebrating the program's 25th Anniversary. Each classroom's dance represents a theme from years past, expressing both CityStep's history and its progression into the future. The students will be encouraged to interpret the theme independently, thereby producing a new, unique dance while also honoring the past. This year, the show will return to Harvard University's Sanders Theatre. We are excited to get to work again with their wonderful team and in such a beautiful space! We hope to see many of you all in the audience for what should be an awesome finale to an excellent year!

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### The CityStep Timeline:

- 1983 Sabrina Peck '84 founds CityStep
  - 2002 CityStep launches its Third-Year Program (3YP)
  - 2004 Laura Weidman '04 founds CityStep Penn
  - 2008 CityStep celebrates it's 25th Anniversary!
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*Want to pass this on? CityStep does not have email addresses for all alumni. If you know of CitySteppers who would be interested in receiving the newsletter, please forward tell them that they can subscribe to our email list by sending an email to [citystep@hcs.harvard.org](mailto:citystep@hcs.harvard.org).*