

# GRASP NEWS

APRIL 2018

## MEET ACTOR AND ALUMNUS JAMAR JONES



***What is the best thing GRASP has done for you?*** The very first scholarship that I received in support of my college education came from competing in a talent showcase sponsored by GRASP. When I was awarded the prize money for my performance, I considered it to be further confirmation that continuing my study of the arts in college was the right thing for me to do. GRASP created an event that encouraged and supported young people to simultaneously pursue their creative passions and education. That was a very affirming experience for me.

***What are you doing now?*** Today, I am living out my dreams working as a theatre artist. I have been working as a professional actor since graduating college in 2013. I have been able to travel around the country to perform at various theatres and schools and serve locally as a teaching artist for young adults. Also, I have been a part of many stage productions and museum performances throughout Virginia and some areas of D.C. Currently, I work full-time as an actor for Colonial Williamsburg portraying and sharing the stories of enslaved and free black people of the 18th century.

***What one piece of "educational advice" would you give to high school students?*** Focus. Focus. Focus. The more you focus on your studies now, the greater the benefit will be in the future.

Things can definitely be challenging, but keep pushing yourself to always do your best because it will definitely serve you well as you move beyond high school.

***What is the biggest life challenge you faced relative to your educational path?*** Getting in my own way. Never allow outside distractions to interfere with educational success. There is so much to learn, and no need to waste a single moment of obtaining that knowledge.



**GAMES  
TRIVIA  
PRIZES**

**GRASP Young Professionals Network**

**Honor Roll**

**May 6, 2018 | 2-5 PM**  
**Triple Crossing Brewing - Fulton**

**\$20**  
Entry\*

*Beer ticket and  
snacks included*

Proceeds benefit the GRASP College Success Mentoring Program.  
\* \$25 at the door

Play games, have fun, and help our YP Network raise money for College Success!

Put your PUB-lic school knowledge to the test by competing in games, trivia, and other challenges inspired by grades K-12, and win tickets for a variety of raffle prizes!

**Sunday, May 6, 2-5 pm at Triple Crossing Brewing Company**

**[5203 Hatcher St, Richmond, VA 23231](#)**

Purchase your ticket today at [yjn-honor-roll.eventbrite.com](http://yjn-honor-roll.eventbrite.com).

[The GRASP Young Professionals Network](#) is a group of young professional volunteers dedicated to supporting the mission of GRASP through fundraising, community connections, and mentoring.

The GRASP influence is not forgotten...

Here's a recent Facebook post from Samuel Lian who was a GRASP student speaker at the GRASP Reach for the Stars Gala during his senior year of high school. He will be graduating from VCU this spring.



*"I don't know what just happened but I just filled out and submitted FAFSA for grad school, [Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond \(BTSR\)](#)!"*

*Thanks to [Grasp VA](#) for teaching me about FAFSA back in high school!*


To any students in undergrad or grad, FILL OUT YOUR FAFSA!"



## GRASP


 Facebook  @GRASPFlash

GRASP is a Virginia 501(c)(3) nonprofit that empowers students to navigate the maze of requirements for education after high school and students with learning differences to access specialized education in K-12.

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