

# TASIS Dorado Class of 2018 Rises Above the Wave

## SPECIAL TO CARIBBEAN BUSINESS

The seniors of TESIS Dorado's Class of 2018 have overcome the challenges of Hurricane Maria's impact with grit and creativity, making their parents, teachers and administrators extremely proud. When they graduate next month, they will celebrate a host of achievements, including 100 percent acceptance to competitive colleges and universities in Puerto Rico, the U.S. mainland and abroad, including admission to such honors programs as the UPenn Viper Program and an invitation to Yale University's Directed Studies program.

The many scholarship offers included WashU's Annika Rodríguez Scholarship, two full-tuition USC merit scholarships, the Horatio Alger Scholarship

and a full-merit scholarship to Harvey Mudd. This talented class of 47 students also included five who were named Presidential Scholar candidates and one, Cristina M. Trápaga Hacker, who was designated the 2018 female U.S. Presidential Scholar for Puerto Rico.

The members of the Class of 2018 were fortunate to count on a College Guidance department, headed by College Admissions Counselor Glenda Rivera, which included a new feature this year. The school established the TESIS Dorado Writing Center, with staff Terry Chevako Bava and Susan Fortuño, which is a writing support system unique in Puerto Rico.

Working in tandem, the team provided workshops and individual advice to every senior through the entire process of brainstorming, writing, editing and proof-reading the numerous essays

required of applicants.

Seniors frequented the writing lab in the school library throughout the first semester to work on application and scholarship essays, practice interviews and write letters, while underclass students used the center during the second semester for summer program applications, AP (advanced placement) class essay writing practice and more. The positive results clearly speak for themselves!

TASIS Dorado is a private, nonsectarian, coeducational school that has English as its language of instruction and is affiliated with The American School in Switzerland (TASIS) Schools in Europe. Located in the seaside town of Dorado, the modern campus sits on beautiful grounds surrounded by lakes and greenery.

Highly qualified faculty are motivated to cultivate a love of learning in the 805



TASIS Dorado Class of 2018

students from preprekindergarten through 12th grades. Excellent facilities include classrooms equipped with smartboards; a new Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics STEAM Fab Lab outfitted with robots, 3D printers, laser cutters and more; and a state-of-the-art Performing Arts Center that

allows students to develop to their full potential.

Headmaster Dr. Timothy Howard said, "We are so proud of these students for their remarkable accomplishments. They have high aspirations and go the extra mile to achieve their personal best and give back to the community in so

many ways. Our team and the effort they put forth every day is what makes all this possible."

For more information about TESIS Dorado, visit [www.tasisdorado.com](http://www.tasisdorado.com) or call Admissions Director Jovita Casanova at 787-796-0440 Ext. 221 to schedule an appointment.

## TASIS DORADO SENIOR, CRISTINA M. TRÁPAGA

### NAMED 2018 U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR FOR PUERTO RICO

U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced this week the selection of Cristina M. Trápaga Hacker, who attends The TESIS School in Dorado, as a 2018 U.S. Presidential Scholar.

Ms. Trápaga is one of 161 outstanding American high school seniors who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement, artistic excellence, leadership, citizenship, service, and contributions to school and community. The U.S. Presidential Scholars will be honored for their accomplishments in Washington D.C., from June 24-26.

Each year, the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars chooses up to 161 U.S. Presidential Scholars from among that year's senior class (one male and one female high school senior from each state and territory of the US are selected). All Scholars are then invited to Washington, DC in June for the National Recognition Program, featuring various events and enrichment activities and culminating in the presentation of the Presidential Scholars Medallion during a White House-sponsored ceremony.

In the fall, Cristina will pursue her interests in Global Health, Psychology and French at Harvard.



Cristina acknowledged Ms. Denisse Cintrón, TESIS Dorado high school French teacher, who has been with TESIS Dorado for 11 years, as her most influential teacher. Ms. Cintrón will receive a Distinguished Teacher Recognition Award from the U.S. Department of Education.

Cristina has truly left her mark in her fifteen years at TESIS Dorado. Always an interested and engaged student, she began taking French classes with Madame Denisse Cintrón during elementary school, starting her on the path to academic excellence. She soon was deeply engaged in both academic and extracurricular pursuits ranging from academic honor societies, Student Council, Model United Nations and peer tutoring to piano, soccer, swimming, basketball, kitesurfing and even working to rid our reefs of the invasive lionfish.

Her community service project "Proyecto Lonchera," has been recognized by the First Lady of Puerto Rico. Her initiative stems from her concern over the alarming rates of childhood obesity on the island. As Cristina stated, "My goal with this initiative is to transform the eating habits of Puerto Rico's youth, and my long-term goal is to return to Puerto Rico as a pediatrician to address the problem."

No stranger to recognition, this young woman has been selected a National AP Scholar, National Hispanic Scholar, DELF (awarded by the French Ministry of Education), National French Contest - Bronze Medal, Silver Medal and two Gold Medals, and TESIS Dorado High Honor Roll throughout high school.

When asked to comment about her time at TESIS Dorado, Cristina reminisced: "From the daily 'Buenos días, my friend' by Don Luis to the philosophical debates with Mr. Dorian, everyone at TESIS Dorado has played an essential role in challenging and nurturing me to pursue academic and personal excellence. It takes a village; I am grateful for all the close, positive and supportive relationships with my teachers and peers which helped me achieve my full potential. I am also immensely thankful to God, my parents, my family, and my friends for believing in me... I'm very fortunate to have them in my life!"

Head of School Dr. Timothy Howard said, "We are enormously proud of Cristina Margarita for this remarkable achievement. It has been a pleasure to watch her blossom and the Presidential Award is a well-deserved recognition of the many ways she has left an indelible mark on our school, community, and island."

### IN THE FALL, CRISTINA WILL PURSUE HER INTERESTS IN GLOBAL HEALTH, PSYCHOLOGY AND FRENCH AT HARVARD.



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Congratulations,  
CRISTINA!

TASIS DORADO CELEBRATES  
THE WELL-DESERVED  
DESIGNATION OF CRISTINA M.  
TRÁPAGA HACKER AS A 2018  
U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR.