



DeTours

The Newsletter for Friends of St. Martin of Tours School

Summer 2018

www.smsmd.org

St. Martin's Class of 2018



Photo Credit: Logan Hsueh

Walther Alvarenga
Gabriel Amores
Brian Amugi
John Antonetti
Kayla Bello
Elijah Bonanno
Isabella Cabanillas
Anne Cooksey
Andrew Dris
Ian Gabriel Javelosa

Our Lady of Good Counsel
 Our Lady of Good Counsel
 Our Lady of Good Counsel
 Gaithersburg High School
 Undecided
 Gaithersburg High School
 Academy of the Holy Cross
 Our Lady of Good Counsel
 Our Lady of Good Counsel
 St. Johns College High School

Emma Leath
Colleen McNulty
Briana L. Montiel
Freddy Orantes
Sylvia Pastran
Judith Pilligua
Max Anthony Sanchez
Teeya Sahni
Richard Garcia Valasco

Quince Orchard High School
 Academy of the Holy Cross
 Clarksburg High School
 Our Lady of Good Counsel
 Quince Orchard High School
 Undecided
 Clarksburg High School
 Clarksburg High School
 Clarksburg High School

CBN Honors Sherry Antonetti and Plaza Construction

Congratulations to Sherry Antonetti, our Catholic Business Network of Montgomery County, Volunteer of the Year and Dan Hardnock and Plaza Construction, our Business Partner of the Year. Sherry, Dan and Plaza Construction were honored at the CBN-MC Annual Gala at the Bethesda North Marriott Conference Center in November. We thank them both for their outstanding leadership and tireless efforts in service to St. Martin's Catholic School.



Sherry Antonetti has lovingly and enthusiastically shared her time, talent, and treasure with St. Martin's Catholic School over her long tenure as a parent within our school community. With as many as five children attending SMS at one time, there are not many volunteer positions Sherry, at one time or the other, has not held. Most recently, Sherry was President of our Home and School Association. She ran our Fall Festival for many years and currently organizes our efforts to promote St. Martin's at the Gaithersburg Book

Festival and other events. Sherry led our Development Committee, which founded our Financial Aid Endowment Fund. She has worked tirelessly on our Auction along with being a room parent for many years. Sherry currently teaches a weekly class in our Faith Formation Program. She is a woman of deep faith and a generous heart. We thank Sherry Antonetti for her many years of dedication and devotion to St. Martin's Catholic School.



Daniel Hardnock and Plaza Construction, a national construction management and general contracting firm, have generously supported St. Martin's Catholic School for years. Plaza Construction has been a valuable partner by consistently sponsoring our Auction and Dinner Dance for the past several years. Dan, whose two children attend St. Martin's, has taken on an active leadership role right from the start. He currently is Vice President of our School Advisory Board and heads up our Facilities Committee. Dan

has used his considerable expertise in construction in advising us on renovation and maintenance projects. If a room needs paint or a cabinet needs to be built, he gets it done. He has also served on our auction committee and raised considerable funds running our event raffles. We gratefully acknowledge Dan's work for St. Martin's and thank Plaza Construction for being our Business Partner of the Year.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our honorees and to all our St. Martin's supporters and friends who so generously donate their time, talent, and treasure every day. You are the lifeblood of our wonderful school community.

Congratulations to Our 8th Grade Scholarship Recipients

These students were offered \$187,500 for scholarships for the next four years in academic achievement, leadership, service, and speech.

Gabriel Amores

Our Lady of Good Counsel Xaverian Scholarship
Our Lady of Good Counsel Fine Arts Scholarship (piano/vocal)
St. John's College High School Presidential Scholarship
St. John's College High School Band Scholarship

Brian Amugi

Our Lady of Good Counsel Xaverian Scholarship

John Antonetti

St. John's Catholic Prep Distinguished Principals' Scholarship
St. John's Catholic Prep Dean's Scholarship

Anne Cooksey

Our Lady of Good Counsel Speech and Debate Scholarship

Walther Diaz Alvarenga

Our Lady of Good Counsel St. Francis Xavier

Ian Javelosa

St. John's College High School Presidential Scholarship

Emma Leath

Our Lady of Good Counsel Fine Art Scholarship

Colleen McNulty

St. John's Catholic Prep Distinguished Principals' Scholarship
St. John's Catholic Prep Dean's Scholarship
Catholic Business Network Scholarship

Teeya Sahni

Our Lady of Good Counsel Speech and Debate Scholarship

Going Once, Going Twice...

This year's Enchanted Evening in Emerald City Dinner Dance and Auction held on March 17 at the Hilton North Gaithersburg raised a record \$33,350 with more than 220 guests attending this sold out event. Our Auction Co-Chairs, Marie Bunag, Shantell Johnson, and Nekiera Woodland began planning last summer for this fabulous night of dining, mingling, dancing, and fundraising. Moving the event to the Hilton added elegance to the evening and allowed guests the opportunity to make an evening of it by staying overnight at the hotel. Some of the live auction items that were



generously donated included: Principal for the Day, Dinner at the Rectory, a Handyman Crew for your Honey-do List, One Week at a Seaside Condo, Passes to Disney World and much more. Among the record 340 silent auction items, many featured wonderful donations from families, faculty, and staff: from merchandise,

restaurant gift certificates, tickets to special events and more. We appreciate the support of our sponsors: Thabet Orthodontics, Plaza Construction, and Truck'n America, along with our underwriters, and our advertisers. The money raised will benefit our students with support and equipment for educational programs. It was such a wonderfully successful school community event; many were already looking forward to next year!

SMS Welcomes New Principal



Pastor Richard K. Gancayco announced this past June the appointment of Stephen C. Lamont as St. Martin's School principal effective July 1, 2018. In consultation with the Catholic Schools Office of the Archdiocese of Washington, the present faculty, staff members, and parents, a decision to change leadership was made. We thank Anthony Sahadi for furthering the values of

Catholic identity, educational excellence, character and service these past two years.

Mr. Lamont comes to St. Martin's from St. Philip the Apostle in Camp Spring, Maryland where he served for the past year as interim principal. Prior to that, he spent four years as principal at St. Bartholomew's School in Bethesda. Before becoming principal at St. Bartholomew's, Mr. Lamont served as the Assistant Principal and math teacher at Archbishop Carroll High School in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Lamont has fourteen years of experience as an educator and holds a Masters of Arts degree in Educational Leadership and Administration from George Washington University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut. Mr. Lamont with his wife Helen, live in Bethesda with their four children. He is originally from the Boston, Massachusetts area.

"Our role as Catholic educators is to deliver Christ's love to our children along with fostering academic success. My goal is to work collaboratively with the faculty as we continue those successes," said Mr. Lamont during a recent faculty and staff meeting.

Please join us in welcoming Mr. Lamont to the St. Martin's School community.

Scholarship Recipients Honored



Mary Alyce Sullivan Award

This rising eighth grader embodies the values of scholarship, service, and leadership by her works, words, and persistent character. Congratulations to this year's winner, Madeline McClure.

The Branagan Family Scholarship

This rising seventh grader demonstrated most improvement by her growth and academic achievement. Congratulations to this year's recipient, Rita Antonetti.

Carl Matthew Waclawik Memorial Scholarship Award

This scholarship was established in memory of Carl Waclawik. Carl graduated with the class of 2006. This scholarship is awarded annually to help further the education of a St. Martin's middle school student. The recipient is an academically strong student of good character. Congratulations Andrew Subida.

Annie B. Shaw Scholarship

This year Dian and Martin Matsko, parents of Kaitlyn Matsko Class of 2017, established the Annie B. Shaw Scholarship. This scholarship is named in recognition of Kaitlyn's grandmother. Mrs. Shaw believed in St. Martin's mission and her family wishes to support our students' efforts. It is awarded to a rising seventh or eighth grader who embodies exemplary academic effort and character. As the first recipient of this scholarship, we congratulate Julien Payen.

The Murphy Family Scholarship

This rising sixth grader demonstrated outstanding service, scholarship, and citizenship. Congratulations to this year's recipient, Medwin Nora.

SMS Bids Farewell to Mrs. Redmond



How lucky we are to have known someone, who is so hard to say goodbye to, at St. Martin's School. The faculty, students, and parents lamented in saying goodbye as much as they rejoiced in having had the opportunity to have worked beside or been taught by Mrs. Helene Redmond, who is leaving SMS after fifteen years to pursue other opportunities in education.

Eighth grade is the last year before students head off to high school and Mrs. Redmond made sure each student was well prepared for the challenge. Alumni regularly visit and thank Mrs. Redmond for teaching them how to write well, comprehend complex reading material, and to present their ideas in a clear, concise manner. Mrs. Redmond inspired her eighth graders to make the most of their opportunities and enthusiastically accept the role of leaders of the school. She instilled in them the responsibility of looking out for one another and for those less fortunate. Above all, she fostered their faith in the Lord in Religion class and set an example by her well-lived Catholic life.

Mrs. Redmond will leave a legacy at St. Martin's by the honored traditions she fostered such as Family Literary Night and Family STEM Night. She partnered with the City of Gaithersburg to create two popular afterschool enrichment programs, Amazing Afternoon and Skill Builders. The many awards the school has won, including this year's DeMatha Academic Challenge and the Character Counts Essay Awards are a testament to her dedication to her students. Our larger community heralded Mrs. Redmond's dedication and talent too. The Archdiocese of Washington Catholic Schools Office honored her with the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2014.

Mrs. Redmond set a standard of excellence, which St. Martin's will continue to draw on for years to come. We thank Mrs. Redmond for furthering the values of Catholic identity, educational excellence, character development, and community service these past fifteen years. We are grateful to her contributions to SMS and wish her well in her endeavors.

~ The Youstra Family Scholarship ~

A new scholarship has been established as a tribute to Jo and Ray Youstra and their family, for their many years of extraordinary service and generous heart to St. Martin's. The Youstra/Cain/Redmond family represents well our faith, character, value of education, and concern for the welfare of others. The family includes four former teachers, Ray Youstra, Helene Redmond, Katie Cain, and Maria-Rose Cain. Together they account for over thirty years of teaching at St. Martin's. Seven Youstra grandchildren graduated from SMS: Joshua, Brendan, Rachel, and Matthew Cain and Fiona, Will, and Moira Redmond. Throughout the years, family members have received three Volunteer of the Year awards, served three terms as Parish Council President, and served on the School Advisory Board and Finance Council. They chaired the auction, captained bingo teams, led Boy and Girl Scout troops, directed plays, won a National Science award, and were honored as "Friends of St. Martin's" at the 90th School Anniversary Celebration.

This scholarship will benefit a rising eighth grader who has excelled academically, shown leadership qualities, participated in service projects, and demonstrated faith through character. This annual scholarship will first be awarded in the 2019-2020 school year.

To contribute to this scholarship, please mail a check payable to St. Martin's School to 115 S. Frederick Avenue Gaithersburg, MD 20877. On the memo line, write Youstra Scholarship. Thank you and we appreciate your support to St. Martin's and our students!

As I Say Goodbye

By Annie Cooksey



I have attended St. Martin's School for nine years. That is about 64% of my life. After that long of a time in the same school, you'd think I'd be tired of this place... but St. Martin's has given me something that I can never walk away from or abandon. The love that this school has in everything is amazing. The teachers don't just teach you math, or science; they look out for you and make sure that you are learning at your own pace. Your classmates don't just sit in the same classes as you and bother you all day; they become some of your closet friends that you can count on and hopefully have for the rest of your life. In class you don't just have worksheets every single day; you have interactive projects, oral presentations, and occasionally videos. St. Martin's isn't just any school either; it's the most engaging, inspiring, and loving environment that I know of... that also happens to be a school. The things I learn at St. Martin's will stay with me forever. I will never forget the teachers, the students, and the love I have experienced here all nine years.

Graduating 8th grade feels like all the work you have done for nine years is finally finished and you can go home and retire. However, that is not reality, and after the summer, we will be going into high school—the most dreaded place on earth! But thanks to my teachers, I feel 100x more prepared for high school. The teachers at St. Martin's are always trying their hardest to make sure that we are getting the most possible out of school. They let kids come in as early as 7 in the morning to do or finish work. They are even willing

to stay after school for as many as 2 hours to allow kids to do their homework or catch

up on missing work. The teachers at St. Martin's have actually managed to make learning fun!

They try their best to include activities or allow us to watch videos that makes learning more about certain topics fun. The teachers are also loving and caring. They don't just care about the grades you get; they care about your well-being and always offer to help if you have a problem. While making classes fun and exciting, the teachers also challenge us to do our best and help us do the best we can do on tests or quizzes. These challenges are helping me to prepare myself for high school and for the level of expectation high school has.

One reason I'm very thankful to my teachers is because they make us do presentations. I find public speaking very important, but also fun. Public speaking is an important life skill that allows you to be able to talk with someone and is needed every day. The teachers give us many presentations that help our speaking skills, and how to convey a message to an audience. I am

very grateful for this because in high school, I plan to be on the speech and debate team. Thanks to my teachers preparing me with this skill of public speaking, I earned third place in a speech competition for my soon-to-be high school, Good Counsel. Many schools don't stress the importance of speaking in front of others, and I'm very glad St. Martin's does.

St. Martin's also brings a strong love and understanding of God into my life. Ever since kindergarten, we were taught to be kind, forgiving, and generous. Unlike some complicated educational lessons we have learned, the lessons of love we have learned here are used every single day and it's apparent in everything St. Martin's does. Going to mass once a week has also helped me listen and understand the Word of God and has helped me grow as a Catholic. The strong faith found here, is unlike any other school I've visited or heard about. I will use this faith all the way through high school and the rest of my life.

"Many people will walk in and out of your life, but only true friends will leave footprints in your heart." This is a quote from Eleanor Roosevelt that really defines the difference between some friends that I've met outside of school and friends that I have met at St. Martin's. St. Martin's has the special ability to bring people together. However, the friends that you meet at St. Martin's aren't just friends that you hang out with and talk to, they are friends that you build strong trust with and they become part of your family. My friends at St. Martin's have become my best friends, and I will never forget them. The love that we all have for each other is very special and wonderful to think about. I could go on and on about the love I have for my friends at St. Martin's, but that would take too much time. St. Martin's has provided me with friends that I will always remember and they have certainly left footprints in my heart.

I am very sad to leave St. Martin's, but I will always remember the love that St. Martin's has shared with me for so many years. I hope to carry some of that love with me for the rest of my life into new adventures.





Endowment Fund Donors

Every Gift Matters. Every Giver Makes an Impact

We thank our alumni, parents, parishioners, and friends for their generous support to our Financial Aid Endowment Fund this past year. The principal is preserved and invested responsibly in line with our Catholic faith. The interest is used to give the gift of Catholic education to those families with financial need. In this way, your generosity will make a difference year after year.

This year we have established a School Operating Endowment Fund. This Fund will allow donors to help defray the cost of a Catholic education that tuition revenue alone does not cover. These funds will support all areas of St. Martin's Catholic School, including religious activities, curricular enhancements, technology upgrades, and facility improvements, which at the same time will help minimize tuition increases for all. The principal is preserved and invested responsibly in line with our Catholic faith. The interest is used for operating expenses.

Please consider making a tax-deductible gift to our Financial Aid and/or our School Operating Endowment Funds. On the envelope enclosed, please check the box to designate which Fund should receive your generous donation.

The Roster of Donors below includes gifts to our Financial Aid Endowment Fund from June 15, 2017 – June 15, 2018. If an error has been made, we apologize and ask that you contact Anne Gemunder, Director of Development at agemunder@smsmd.org.

DeTours Club \$3,000-\$5,999

Mrs. Alice Dillon
Mrs. Annmarie Emmet

Council \$1,000-\$2,999

Ms. Maureen Baltay
Dr. Natalie Branagan
Most Reverend Mark E. Brennan
Mr. and Mrs. Francis Pelsor
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Youstra

Leader \$500-\$999

Anonymous
Ms. Helen Dixon
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Durkin
Mr. Paul Lauria
Ms. Linda Stevens

Associates \$250-\$499

Anonymous
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Branagan
Mr. Luis Branco
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Cronmiller
The Fegley Family

Ms. Karen Gillis
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Kuhn
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Little
Mrs. Francis P. Quinn
Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Slattery
Mr. Eugene Ushinski
Mr. and Mrs. Omar Vigil Arauz
Ms. Diane White

Supporters \$100-\$249

Anonymous
Mr. Anthony Alas
Mr. and Mrs. Galo Amores
Mr. Lucio Arevalo
The Honorable James A. Belson
Mr. Mark Boland
Mr. Robert Bride
Mrs. Katie Cain
Mr. Eli Chediak, CEO / President,
Jerry's Subs and Pizza
Mr. and Mrs. Greg Cooksey
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Corio
Mrs. Komi Detsé
Mr. Frank Emmet

Mr. and Mrs. Jose Garcia
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Hays
Mr. Stewart Jackson
Ms. Conchita Jandres
Mr. and Mrs. Francis T. Julia Jr.
Mrs. Margaret Karwoski
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Kirchoff
Mr. Gerard Klein
Mr. and Mrs. John Marchetti
Mr. David McDevitt
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Milton
Ms. Catherine Myers
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Perrelli
Mr. Henry Prask
Ms. Fiona Redmond
Mr. Phillip Reed
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Reid
Mrs. Aida Robles
Mr. and Mrs. John Roddy
Ms. Maria Teresa Rodriguez
Ms. Natalie Santullo
The Schuler Family
Ms. Leticia Soto
Ms. Janice Staley
Ms. Mary K. Stubbs
Ms. Patricia Tabachnick
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Van Petten
Mr. and Mrs. Omar Vigil
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Williams
Mr. James Young

Crusaders \$1-\$99

Anonymous
Mr. Brian Alfaro
Mr. Rolando Alvarez
Ms. Blanca Alvarez
Ms. Telma Amaya
Ms. Mercedes Argueto
Mr. Manuel Arias
Ms. Regla Arias
Amexoma Atecoibiwa
Mr. Leopold Attivi
Ms. Norma Avalos Lunas
Ms. Prisca Ave Belle
Ms. Carla Ayala
Mr. Roberto Barillas
Ms. Charito Beall
Ms. Analia Benitez Castillo
Ms. Ana Blanco
Ms. Angelina Bonilla
Ms. Raquel Boyd
Mr. Lawrence Brincka
Ms. Teodora Britton
Ms. Josefina Burgos
Ms. Theresa Burke
Ms. Patricia Byrnes
Mr. Clovis Campos
Ms. Silvia Cañas
Mr. and Mrs. Roberto Castillo
Mr. Andres Castillo
Ms. Susana Chambers

Mr. and Mrs. Scott Chaney
Ms. Maria Chaparro
Mr. Joseph Leo Clagett
Ms. Laura Colachagua
Ms. Anadila Contreras
Mr. and Mrs. Miguel Conzaes
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Cook
Ms. Vivienne E. Cooper
Ms. Carmelina Cruz
Ms. Cecilia Cruz
Ms. Juana Cruz
Mr. and Mrs. Dave Cullen
Ms. Marie Therese Dassie Theuma
Mr. Juan Diaz
Mr. Rigoberto Diaz
Mr. and Mrs. Jorge Diaz Zegarra
Mr. Christopher Dierken
Ms. Nila Diraimo
Ms. Maura Duarte
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dunn
Mr. Manuel Duran
Mrs. Sandra M Epley
Mr. Burdette Erickson Jr.
Ms. Carole Erie-St. Louis
Ms. Ruth Escobar
Mr. Matthew Espina
Ms. Catalina Estrada Flores
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Fazio
Ms. Philomena Fernandes
Ms. Marlene Fernelis
Mr. Juan Ferrufino
Mr. and Mrs. Finnegan
Mr. Thomas E. Fitzgerald, Jr.
Ms. Isabel Flores
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Freeman
Ms. Lawrence French
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Galdamez
Ms. Lori Galletto
Ms. Jillian Galloway
Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Garay
Mr. Gerber Garcia
Ms. Lidavnia Garcia
Mr. Mark Gargulinski
Ms. Enma Garza
Mr. and Mrs. Enrique Ginocchio
Ms. Peggy Goliatha
Mr. Aroldo Gomez
Ms. Ana Gonzalez
Mr. and Mrs. Luis Gorres
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Griffith
Mrs. Maria Guerra-Barillas
Mr. and Mrs. Israel Guerrero
Sinuhe Gutierrez
Ms. Ana Guzman
Mrs. Mary Hagen
Mr. James Hall
Mr. Agustin Hama
Ms. Annelie Hammett
Mr. Jose Hernandez
Familia Hernandez Castillo
Mrs. Concepcion Hernandez de Amaya

Mr. Juan Herrera
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hill
Adjoua Honorine Kouane
Ms. Carol Itzigheine
Ms. Ana Jandres
Mr. Aldo Jimenez
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Jirak
Mr. Robert John
Ms. Kara Karwoski
Ms. Colleen Kelly
Mrs. Christie Kly
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Kowalchick
Mr. and Mrs. Mao La Motteo
Mr. Kingsley Layne
Ms. Ana M. Lazarus
Ms. Blanca Leyton
Ms. Rita Lim
Ms. Ella Little
Mrs. Grace Lo
Mrs. Perla Loh
Ms. Maria Lopez
Ms. Rosa Lopez

Mr. Richard Mack
Ms. Ivonne Magdaleno
Mr. Jose Majano
Mr. Peter Manyin
Mr. Jose Arquimides Martinez
Ms. Edith Martinez
Ms. Nolvía Martínez
Ms. Sandra Martínez
Mr. Jose Antonio Maximo
Ms. Anne Audrey Mbamba Mbessa
Mr. Ephraim Mbonu
Mrs. Margaret McCaleb
Mr. Joseph McCallion
Sister Teresa McElwee
Mr. Jose Fidel Mejia
Mr. Vidal Melendez
Msgr. Michael Mellone
Ms. Dolores Mendes
Mr. and Mrs. Jorge Mendez Tapia
Mr. Salvador Mendoza
Ms. Karen Mendoza

Mr. Armando Mendoza Perez
Ms. Berta L. Mendoza Rodriguez
Ms. Maria Menjivar
Ms. Gladis Mesia
Ms. Nieves Meza
Mr. and Mrs. Jose Meza Benitez
Ms. Rosalinda Minor
Mr. Kevin Molina
Ms. Sonia Molina
Mr. Silverio Montano
Ms. Ari Montenegro
Mr. Julio Muñiz
Mr. Wilfer Muralles
Ms. Winifride Mwebesa
Ms. Lydia Mwebesa
Mr. Miguel Navarrete
Ms. Martha Novelty
Mr. and Mrs. Juan Ochoa Flores
Rennie Okoh
Mr. and Mrs. Stan Okorooha

Mr. Donato Oliva
Ms. Maria Palacios
Mr. Jose Palma
Ms. Maritza Pascasio Mendoza
Mr. Richard Pawloski
Ms. Paula Pena
Ms. Miriam Pinedo
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald J. Piwko
Ms. Celeste Polster
Mrs. Mayra Prata Fernandes
Mr. Victor Quano
Mr. Jordan Raffo
Mr. Jose Ramirez
Ms. Sindy Ramirez
Fudirand Reporce
Ms. Zaida Revilla
Mr. Hermenejildo Reyes
Ms. Angelica Reza
Mr. Carlos Rivas
Mr. Celso Rivas
Mr. Hugo Rivas
Ms. Damaris Rivas
Ms. Evelin Rivas Villacorta

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Roa
Mr. Edwin A. Rochynz
Mr. Ricardo Rodriguez
Mr. Victor Rodriguez
Ms. Maria Rodriguez
Ms. Yolanda Rodriguez
Ms. Dinora Romero
Ms. Angie Rossognoli
Ms. Betty Roy
Mr. and Mrs. Nolan Saclauso
Mr. Manuel Salgado
Ms. Ana Patricia Salgado
Mr. Elmer Salmeron
Mr. Mario Sanchez
Ms. Aida Sanchez
Mr. Filiberto Sarria
Mr. Jose Sesales Amaya
Mr. Matthew Shipp
Mr. and Mrs. John Sickman
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Silvey
Mbaya Subayi
Mrs. Angela M. Surak
Mr. Santos Suriel

Mr. George Tabora
Mr. Michel Temgoua
Ms. Rosa Ticas
Ms. Gisele Tsafack Dang
Ms. Ana Valencia
Ms. Mercedes Vargas Rivera
Ms. Glendy Villagran
Mr. Henry Villeda
Mr. Marvin Villeda
Ms. Maryanna Vineyard
Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Vivian
Mrs. Rosalinda Vizcayno
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Woodland
Mrs. Nekiera Woodland
Mr. Thomas Woods
S.P. Wujcik
Ms. Eliane Yondou
Mr. and Mrs. Webb Young
Ms. Rosamond Zamore
The Agraviadors of
Montgomery Village



CLASS NOTES

We would love to stay in touch! Share with us your news and we will keep you up-to-date on happenings at St. Martin's School. Go to www.smsmd.org and click on SMS Alumni or email Anne Gemunder, Director of Development at agemunder@smsmd.org.

Class of 2014 Helton Rodriguez Thrives with SMS Support



"A long time ago I realized that things don't always go the way you planned; that can be good and bad. Either way, you're gonna learn from the experience. You just gotta keep on going." For Helton Rodriguez, the quote he wrote in eighth grade could not have turned out more true four years later.

Since losing his mom to cancer at age 10, Helton has lived with much uncertainty. Early on, what remained constant was Helton's

desire to continue to stay at St. Martin's. Even at such a young age, Helton felt the love and support from teachers and parents alike. "Every teacher brought something different to my life, from Mrs. Garfield making science fun, to Mrs. Blythe encouraging the love of music, to Ms. Stinger and Mrs. Redmond encouraging me to try new things." He decided to live with his Uncle Eddie during the school year through eighth grade, but many school families offered rides, dinners, and vacations.

At the end of eighth grade, again Helton had to navigate uncertainty. He could no longer live with his uncle. Other family members either lived in another city or could not help for various reasons. Again, the St. Martin's school community stepped in, in extraordinary ways. He lived on and off with various school families until the Abudayeh's offered a permanent stay. Vivian Abudayeh, an SMS alumna, told her husband about Helton. She had battled cancer at the same time as Helton's mom but survived. Her husband felt connected to his story because it was

similar to his. He had come to the U.S. from Palestine when he was young and lived with other families. Although not in the same grade, the Abudayeh's daughters were also attending St. Martin's.

At the same time, Helton had to make decisions on where to attend high school. Even in the best of situations, applying to and affording a Catholic high school can be a challenge. His eighth grade teacher, Helene Redmond, told Helton that it was important for his future to make the effort. She encouraged Helton to shadow Our Lady of Good Counsel High School in Olney for the day. From that day on, he dreamed of attending Good Counsel. He loved the school spirit and connected with their spirit of faith. Mrs. Redmond worked with Helton to make that dream come true. Good Counsel provided financial aid and made it a reality.

During high school, Helton has taken advantage of many opportunities offered to him. He has been active in Campus Ministry, Theatre Club, Booster Club, and others. While on a service project to El Salvador, he was able to visit family. Helton graduated this past May.

After receiving offers for scholarships and financial aid from several prominent universities, Helton decided to attend the University of Notre Dame in the fall. He plans to study medicine and become a cardiologist. He was also accepted into the AnBryce Scholars Initiative, a mentor program for first generation students attending college and who demonstrate great promise in the face of challenging socioeconomic circumstances.

"I am blessed to have been nurtured by two wonderful school communities," said Helton. Staying true to his eighth grade quote, he added, "You got to stay positive and keep on going."

Congratulations to the Class of 2014!

Peter Antonetti

Graduated from Gaithersburg High School. Competed in the 3200, 1600 and 800 meter outdoor track events for the State
Will attend University of Maryland, Baltimore County in the fall majoring in biology
Will compete in Intercollegiate Cross Country/Track and Field

Kaley Bell

Graduated from Georgetown Visitation
Will attend Fordham University in the fall majoring in Pre-Law and English
Received Dean's Merit Scholarship, Commitment to Catholic Education Award, and Fordham Joques Scholarship
Will compete in Intercollegiate Cross Country/Track and Field

Matthew Cain

Graduated from Our Lady of Good Counsel
National Merit Finalist
Received Bonaventure Scully Award In Recognition of the Senior with the Highest Academic Rank in the Class
Will attend University of Dayton majoring in Actuarial Science in the fall

Madelaine Dunton

Graduated from the Academy of the Holy Cross
Will attend University of Tampa in the fall

Matthew McVeigh

Graduated from Our Lady of Good Counsel
National Honor Society Member
Received the Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools Citizenship Award
Will attend the Robert H. Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland, College Park majoring in Finance in the fall

Jesceline Monegro

Graduated from Watkins Mill High School
Will attend William Patterson University in the fall

Jessica Nguyen

Graduated from Our Lady of Good Counsel
Will attend Rutgers University in the fall

John Patrick Nora

Graduated from Our Lady of Good Counsel
Will attend Montgomery College in the fall

Helton Rodriguez

Graduated from Our Lady of Good Counsel
Will attend the University of Notre Dame in the fall
Awarded a Notre Dame Scholarship, Club Scholarship, Provost Scholarship, and accepted into the AnBryce Scholars Initiative

Laura Ventura

Graduated from Our Lady of Good Counsel
Will attend University of Maryland, Baltimore County in the fall
Received UMBC Excellence Award Scholarship and Athletic Scholarship to compete in Intercollegiate Soccer

Andrew Zsebedics

Graduated from Sickles High School in Tampa, Florida
Member of National Honor Society, French Honor Society, and Rho Kappa Social Studies Honor Society
Will attend St. John Vianney College Seminary majoring in Philosophy in the fall

Ways to Support St. Martin's

If your workplace participates in the United Way or the Combined Federal Campaign and you would like your tax-deductible contribution to be directed to SMS, please designate us by entering our number on your donor form. **United Way (Member #8362) and Combined Federal Campaign (Member 85449)**



Other ways to support St. Martin's are through Amazon Smile, Good Search, Giant A+ Bonus Bucks, Safeway for Education, Target, Office Depot, or Donate a Car. To find out more information, go to www.smsmd.org and click on "Support SMS."

Follow Us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter



[Facebook.com/smsmd.org](https://www.facebook.com/smsmd.org)



[Instagram.com/smscrusader](https://www.instagram.com/smscrusader)



[Twitter.com/smscrusader](https://www.twitter.com/smscrusader)



St. Martin's School
115 S. Frederick Avenue
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

www.smsmd.org

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
GAITHERSBURG, MD
PERMIT NO. 4998



WE BUILD BRIGHT FUTURES

St. Martin's Catholic School

WHILE MAKING LASTING
MEMORIES

