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THE UTOPIAN

Fall 2019 | Newsletter of Saint Thomas More A Catholic School in the Jesuit Tradition

"Finding God in All Things"



Best wishes, Mr. Raymond!

Mr. Jerry Raymond retired as principal from St. Thomas More School at the end of the 2018-2019 school year after faithfully serving our school for the past seven years. We are grateful for his commitment and dedication to leading our school community to new heights as evidenced by being named a 2016 Blue Ribbon School of Excellence during his tenure. We appreciate his tireless efforts to enhance the learning environment for the students, faculty/staff, and families at STM School.



"It has been a great joy and privilege to work with the amazing teachers, staff and students of St. Thomas More School. I am tremendously grateful for my time here."

— Jerry Raymond

ENDOWMENT FUND ESTABLISHED in memory of former STM teacher, Mrs. Clyde McCarty



Saint Thomas More School is honored to announce the establishment of the **Clyde Marable McCarty Endowment Fund**. Celia and David McCarty, STM Class of 1965, made a very generous gift to establish the endowment in memory of his mother, Mrs. Clyde McCarty. The fund will provide scholarships to STM School families with financial need. Mrs. McCarty taught the 5th and 6th grades at Saint Thomas More School in the 1960's and had a passion for teaching children who struggled with reading.

We are grateful to Mr. and Mrs. McCarty for choosing to share their gifts of treasure with Saint Thomas More School. If you would like to make a gift to the Clyde Marable McCarty Endowment Fund, please visit cfnga.org/clyde-marable-mccarty-endowment-fund/.

Mrs. McCarty taught the 5th and 6th grades at Saint Thomas More School in the 1960s.

STM students inspired by art

In early 2019, the Besharat Arts Foundation generously donated and installed prints of images by renowned photographer, Steve McCurry. Pieces from the collection *Faces of Innocence*, grace our hallways, classrooms and cafeteria and tell visual stories about children from all over the world. The ongoing presence of this artwork in our school allows us to engage our students in understanding diversity as we strive to live out our mission of being a joyful learning community reaching out to the world as the hands of Christ. Each year, artwork will be replaced with new pieces from other artists. We are grateful to Steve McCurry, Massoud Besharat, and the Besharat Arts Foundation for their generosity.



STM Alumni visit Europe

Twenty-five alumni from the **Class of 2019** traveled to Europe together in June. The trip was organized and led by STM's 5th grade teacher, Mrs. Debra Moody. The group visited Venice, Salzburg, and Munich. Highlights include a gondola ride through the canals of Venice, a visit to St. Mark's Square and the Basilica of St. Mark, an authentic glassblowing demonstration, a drive through the Alpine setting, and a visit to several "Sound of Music" sites. The week concluded with a descent into the Hallein Salt Mine, an up-close view of the famed Glockenspiel, a tour of King Ludwig's fairy tale castle, and a visit to BMW World.



STM welcomes Mrs. Shaun Bland as our new principal

Prior to accepting the position as principal of St. Thomas More School, Mrs. Bland served as the assistant principal and curriculum coordinator at Christ the King School in Atlanta. She also has 17 years of teaching experience at St. Jude the Apostle School in Sandy Springs. Mrs. Bland is married and has four adult children and two grandchildren. She enjoys reading, hiking, and traveling.

Open House opportunities: Please share these with family & friends!

November 6, 2019 - Fall Open House
Principal's welcome begins at 9:30 a.m.; tours will be available

December 8, 2019 - Discovery & Donuts
School representatives will be on hand to answer questions; tours will be available 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

January 8, 2020 - Winter Open House
Principal's welcome begins at 9:30 a.m.; tours will be available

ALUMNI UPDATES

Ryan Beck, STM Class of 2009, married Abigail Towe on June 15, 2019. **Adam Beck, STM Class of 2005**, served as Best Man. The couple lives in Marietta, where Ryan works as an Electrical Engineer and Abby teaches High School Science. Ryan's father, Mr. Tim Beck, is on the faculty at STM School and his mother, Susan, is a former STM PTO Officer. **A, B**

David Coleman, STM Class of 2016, traveled to Panama City, Panama for World Youth Day 2019 in January. The pilgrimage was a journey to a sacred place to ask for heavenly aid and ultimately to come to know God better. Pope Francis arrived on Thursday and the trip proved to be a spiritual adventure visiting new places, enjoying new food, meeting new people and hearing great stories! One of the life lessons learned was finding joy in the middle of a difficult situation - P.O.P.E. - Part of the Pilgrimage Experience. **C**

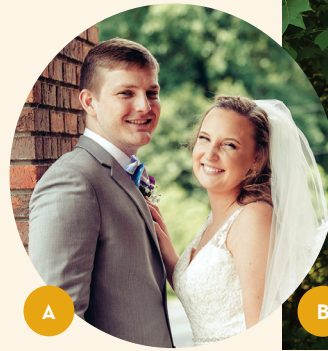
Joe Crochet, STM 2008, took time out his schedule to visit Saint Thomas More School and spoke to our students about the book that he wrote and published in the fall of 2018 called *My Winning Seasons: Discovering the Champion Within*. **D**

Brooke Green, STM 2014, was named to Fall 2018 Dean's List at Berea College. She is also a Berea Basketball Cheerleader and a member of the Campus Activities Board. **E**

Mary O'Connor, STM Class of 2011, was awarded two scholarships from the University of West Georgia to study German in Vienna, Austria this past summer. She received the Nigel Smith Foreign Languages and Literatures Achievement Scholarship in addition to a UWG Office of

Education Abroad scholarship. In 2018, Mary studied Irish literature and writing in Ireland. Mary is majoring in English with a minor in German. **F**

Helen Woodland, STM 2010, and St. Pius X Catholic High School Class of 2014, graduated *summa cum laude* from the University of Georgia in May 2018, with degrees in Finance from the Terry College of Business and International Affairs from the School of Public and International Affairs. Helen, an Honors Program student, was selected to the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society, Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Society, Blue Key Honor Society, Palladia Women's Honor Society, and Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Society. She was also a member of the Apollo Society and the Corsair Society, for business students interested in careers in finance, and was a sector leader of the Student Managed Investment Fund, which manages over \$1 million in investments for the University. Helen was involved in the Student Government Association while at UGA and is a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority. Helen now works in equity derivatives sales for UBS Securities LLC in New York. **G**



Are you an alumni or parent of an alum with news? Please email amurphey@stmga.org so that we can share it in our next newsletter!

In May, we welcomed the **STM Class of 2015** for an Alumni Reception. The alumni enjoyed reuniting with one another and visiting with their former STM teachers and staff one last time before heading off to college. *Congratulations as you begin this new chapter in your lives!*



Would you rather pay income taxes or use your tax dollars to fund a scholarship?

The State of Georgia has created an opportunity for you, as a taxpayer, to redirect your tax dollars to fund Catholic School scholarships for students entering Saint Thomas More School.

- ✦ You will receive a 100% state income tax credit for your gift – every dollar that you give to GRACE reduces your tax bill by a dollar.
- ✦ You can specify that your gift should go directly to Saint Thomas More School

The process is very simple:

1. Pre-register online at gracescholars.org by December 15, 2019 for the 2020 tax year.
2. Approval letters are mailed by the Georgia Department of Revenue in January 2020.
3. Donors have 60 days from the date of the approval letter to make their donation.

Take advantage of this generous tax benefit and at the same time help fund a scholarship for a family with financial need at STM School.



Can't wait for the next issue of *The Utopian*? Follow STM on social media!



News and happenings at STM are being shared all the time via social media, so please follow us on your favorite platform/s. It is not only fun to see what is going on, but when you like or share our posts, you help us build the special community we have here. Thanks – and hope to see you online!