

# Haitian Project News

*Celebrating 30 years of Louverture Cleary School!*

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*"A Louverture Cleary education can change a life, and through that life, a thousand more."*

## Transcendence

By Brendan Kelly  
(THP Volunteer)

This year's graduating Class of 2018 will be the largest Philo (U.S. 12<sup>th</sup> grade +1) class to graduate from LCS in its 31-year history. It has been a long seven-year journey since these 47 students began at LCS in the incoming *Sizyem* (U.S. 7<sup>th</sup> grade) class, and they are proud to have made it this far.

While reflecting on their time at LCS, many of the students have looked to their past and have seen a significant change in themselves individually and the class as a whole. In their own words, back when they were in *Katryem* (U.S. 9<sup>th</sup>) and *Twazyem* (U.S. 10<sup>th</sup> grade), they were a pretty difficult class. "We were very troublesome," recalls Philo student Raphael Pierre. They acted out a lot and did not treat others with the respect they should have, especially their Philo *Guides* at the time. By the time they were in *Second*



*THP Board Vice Chair & Chair of THP's Partner Foundations in Haiti Patrick Brun (center), with class godparent René Jean Jumeau (second from left) and THP President Deacon Patrick Moynihan (far left), presents Jacques Briand Louis with his diploma at LCS' 23rd Graduation Ceremony on Saturday, June 16, 2018.*

(U.S. 11<sup>th</sup> grade), they had realized that something needed to change in the way they acted. They had to transcend their poor behavior and mature into leaders of the school.

The Class of 2018 has the distinc-

tion of being the first class to have members appointed as "deputies" to the older leaders. In hopes of helping the students grow, the LCS Administration asked the class to step up a year early and add to (Continued on page 2)

## HIGHLIGHTS

**Having a Ball!** THP community members from the greater WA and OR area gathered at Safeco Field in Seattle for a night of fellowship and baseball. Former board member Kurt Davis court kindly hosted THP President Deacon Patrick Moynihan and other long-time THP supporters from the area in a suite generously provided by BELFOR. While the Seattle Mariners, owned by THP supporter John Stanton, faced off against the Oakland Athletics, old and new friends reminisced about their experiences with THP. And, THP made significant progress towards the RISE Capital Campaign. In the end, both THP and the Mariners walked away with a win!

**3 Years and Counting!** This past April, St. Bernard's Catholic Church in North Kingstown, RI held their annual garage sale to benefit the parish and THP. For the third year running, the Overly family generously gave of their time and effort to organize and lead the event. The garage sale took place over three days and drew both current THP supporters and people new to THP who were interested in learning more while finding some treasures. The sale raised over \$2,600 to be split between the parish and THP! The community looks forward to coming together again next year for an event that "shares the change" to support the Church both in the US and in Haiti!

**LCS Wins Academic Competition!** This spring, LCS took part in a local Academic Competition for Port-au-Prince area schools. One of nine teams from participating schools, a group of LCS students answered questions based on state curriculum and current events. LCS won each contest in the series by several points and took the championship title with a whopping score of 80 to 47! THP President Deacon Patrick Moynihan reflects, "LCS students continue to impress the world with their commitment to service and excellence." LCS Principal Marjorie Mombrun (LCS '07) adds, "The LCS staff, students, alumni and parents are all very proud of our community!"

# Transcendence

(Continued from page 1)

the student leadership structure of the school. Philo student Jephthé Laborde says, "We showed our new face to the school." Gemuelle Pascal adds, "We are trying to do something different for younger students so that they can learn from us. We made a lot of mistakes and if we can overcome them, they can as well."

Angeline Magloire, the student who came up with the class name *Transcendence*, thought it was an excellent fit for their class because of their growth during their time at LCS. "We were able to surpass the expecta-

**We were able to transcend ourselves and change our very being. We helped change our school. Now it is time to change Haiti."**

-Kéana Elverat ('18)

tions of the LCS Administration and other classes. We are now able to give the best of us for the greater excellence of the school," she said. One of the areas in which the class has excelled is the practicing of the school's four languages. This class made it their mission to practice speaking Spanish and English, as well as French and Kreyòl, as much as possible, and encourage other classes to do the same.

Another area that needed change was the *Netwayaj* (afternoon clean-up time). They saw that this afternoon work hour had many problems and was taking very long to complete. They worked with the LCS Administration to form a new accountability system to make it more efficient.

Josue Charles sees his class as a "diverse group of students with many skills who can change the hearts of those in Haiti." He sees the situation that happens outside of school as something to conquer. "If LCS changed our hearts, how hard could it be to change the hearts of the people of Haiti?". The overall attitude of the class is in agreement with Charles. His classmate Billy St. Croix adds, "We do not accept defeat...We fight until the end."

This determined class has fought this far and have transcended themselves in the process. Keana Elverat says, "We were able to transcend ourselves and change our very being. We helped change the school. Now it is time to change Haiti." Let us all pray that the rest of Haiti is ready to receive them.



The Scalabrini Province of St. Charles Borromeo at the Provincial Assembly in Bogotá, Colombia this past spring.

## Partners in Mission

By HPN Staff

The Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Charles, commonly known as the Scalabrini Fathers, is a religious community of priests and brothers focused on assisting migrants and refugees. Founded in 1887 to care for the spiritual needs of Italian immigrants in the New World, the congregation has since expanded its work to encompass all displaced people, including Haitians.

The Haitian Project (THP) and Louverture Cleary School (LCS) have a relationship with the Scalabrini Fathers' seminary nearby in Haiti. For many years Fr. Isaia Birollo traveled to LCS each weekend to celebrate Mass for the Volunteer community, staff and families in the neighborhood.

An example of how the partnership between THP and the Scalabrini Fathers continues to deepen, THP President Deacon Patrick Moynihan, accompanied by Christina Moynihan and THP Staff Member Angela Mascena, spent time in Bogotá, Colombia this spring at the invitation of the Scalabrini Province of St. Charles Borromeo to attend the Provincial Assembly. The purpose of this visit was twofold: to further THP's relationship with the Scalabrini Order and deepen our understanding of their mission and many programs. It was an opportunity to learn more about their programs, and also to advise our partners on certain interfaces, education,

private sector and government.

Deacon Moynihan reflects, "It has been a great privilege to accompany the Scalabrini Fathers through their work, administration and spirituality. The charism of humility is, in a word, humbling. Yet, I believe they valued us adding zeal and a call for the Church to elevate the importance and effectiveness of Catholic missionary work in the world. That too was humbling given they are four times our age as a community."

During his last few days in Colombia, the Scalabrinis took Deacon Moynihan to the border of Colombia and Venezuela, where people are leaving Venezuela en masse. At the sight of this, Deacon Moynihan shared, "I have to say I was literally moved to tears. This is such an artificial and avoidable human disaster. Anyone who believes health is more important than quality of government is sorely misled."



In Bogotá, Deacon Moynihan presents on the importance of ensuring clear preference for Catholic mission work in its historically proven manner.

## Volunteer Alumni Spotlight: Adam Osielski

**A**fter graduating from Notre Dame in 2002, Adam Osielski answered the call to service in Haiti with The Haitian Project (THP) and has embraced its mission in various ways for almost two decades. HPN Staff recently caught up with Adam, who currently serves on THP's Board of Directors and graduated from the University of Michigan Law School this past May.

**HPN: What led you to be a Volunteer at Louverture Cleary School (LCS) after college?**

AO: As a French and theology major, Haiti seemed like the right fit. When I met the Moynihan family, I knew it was what I was supposed to do. I stayed for two years as a Volunteer. After the earthquake in 2010, I was ending an electrical apprenticeship and returned to LCS to work. With all the international organi-

zations flooding Haiti, I wanted to rebuild Haiti through entrepreneurship. I helped establish Energy Central alongside current THP Board Vice Chair and Chair of THP's Partner Foundations in Haiti Patrick Brun and Salomon Asmath (LCS '98).

**HPN: How does your work in Haiti at and beyond LCS inform your role as a Board Member?**

AO: Having been a Volunteer, I have an intimate understanding of how LCS functions. Having worked in Haiti, I recognize the stability of the school community versus the outside chaos. It takes time to fully understand the vision and mission. Having grown up with the Project, I have that understanding.

**HPN: How do you intend to use your law degree, and how does that fit with your work with THP?**

AO: I always intended to become a lawyer but I pursued other interests, like electrical work. Working with Energy Central, I saw the broader impact of the law in business. Rule of law is



*Adam Osielski (THP Volunteer '02-'04) at work at LCS.*

not respected in Haiti as it is in the US; I'm interested in how that can be changed.

**HPN: How do you see THP's mission being a part of your life in the future?**

AO: I'm getting married this fall and, having finished Law School, I'll be staying in one place. I look forward to building THP's community. This is a new phase of my connection to THP and I am excited to help build the Louverture Cleary Schools Network.

## LCS Alumni Spotlight: Edwidge Marcelin

*By Connor Branham  
(THP In-Country Staff)*

**E**dwidge Marcelin (LCS '06) has been very busy applying her talents and LCS education to her work in Human Resources at one of the largest and most successful banks in Haiti, Sogebank. While at LCS, Marcelin was considered an exceptional student and garnered enough admiration from the other students to be elected *Super Monitor* in Rheto class (U.S. grade 11), which made her one of the two leaders of the class. Principal Marjorie Mombrun (LCS '07) recalls, "Edwidge was a very talented student who participated in many extracurricular activities." She was very active with Volunteers' activities and sports clubs at LCS. Marielle Laprès (LCS '07) said, "She was well known throughout the school for being a good leader and a role model for others." After she graduated in 2006, Marcelin was awarded an LCS scholarship to study at university.

After Marcelin completed an accounting degree at IHECI, a business school in Haiti, in four years, she took a junior accounting job at Haiti Interna-

tional Traders, where she worked for four years before moving to her current job at Sogebank. In her seven years at Sogebank, she has been responsible for distributing remuneration and benefits to employees. She also helps retired employees access their benefits from the company and helps current employees secure 5-year car loans and proper car insurance. As one of the three most prominent banks in Haiti, Sogebank offers a full array of benefits, including mortgages, car loans, student loans, business loans, savings accounts and credit cards.

Marcelin credits LCS for instilling good values and reinforcing positive habits. She said, "Learning to live in community and learning to work together have really helped me adapt to any situation and succeed." She could be referring to many of LCS' community outreach programs: work hour, the *Koukouy Sen Kle* early childhood education center, or the translation program. She said, "I will never forget my volunteer work with the sisters of Missionaries of Charity. Seeing all of those people suffering really made me appreciate what I have." She has continued this work as an adult by volunteering with a cancer support group. This group helps



*Edwidge Marcel at work at Sogebank in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.*

provide emotional support to those battling cancer as well as financial support to those who cannot afford their treatment.

Development in the financial sector is essential for the growth of Haiti's economy. Besides contributing to an essential industry, Marcelin exemplifies a Louverturian. She retains the values imparted at LCS, continues to support LCS and is actively supporting Haitian institutions with her career. She is all that we hope for in an alumnus.

# THP's Good History With Dan Wykes

By Mary Jo LeGrand  
(THP Staff)

**D**an Wykes first connected with THP in 1999 through his work at Hamilton Sundstrand in Rockford, IL. As a member of the communications department, he was encouraged to do in-kind work for local organizations. While THP's mission was not entirely local, THP President Deacon Patrick Moynihan was at the time. Soon, Wykes was helping produce THP's Annual Report.

Since 1999, Wykes has generously provided graphic design and layout in the production THP's Annual Report. His work totals nineteen years, a priceless amount of assistance to THP's Staff, and many positive comments from donors about the appearance, good content, and cost efficiency of the report.

Wykes understands the value of quality publications. He explains, "An annual report can be the face of an organization to many people. It is very important to produce one in the most quality way possible." When it comes time to work on the report, Wykes admits he is always surprised by THP's

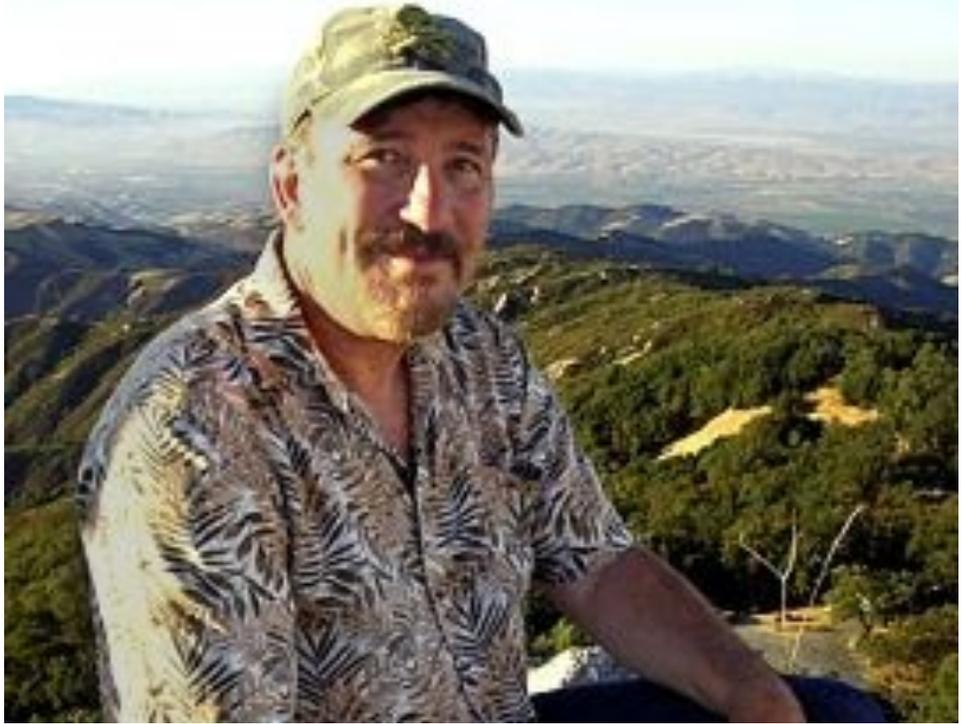
**'An annual report can be the face of an organization to many people. It is very important to produce one in the most quality way possible.'**

-Dan Wykes

growing mission; "I get a package of material every year and I think, really? They are going to do this now?"

Wykes and his family are parishioners of St. James Church in Rockford, which has offered many years of support to THP.

In addition to his pro bono work to THP, he also volunteers for the Golden Apple Foundation and, in retirement, has found time to work at two different local history museums. There is a natural connection between his interests – history and education.



Longtime THP community member Dan Wykes.

Sometimes, his interests cross paths in unexpected ways. For example, as an educator at the Byron Museum of History, he leads tours through the historic Read House, a listed site on the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. He reflects often on the role of the Haitian Revolution in spurring the emancipation of slaves in the United States.

Wykes understands deeply the importance of education for the continued freedom of Haiti's citizens, "What THP is doing is wise and productive. Providing education is exactly the right thing."

When it comes to THP's Annual Report, and its strong community, Wykes is exactly the right person.

## General Endowment Success!!

**We are very proud to announce that—thanks to YOU, our loyal THP Community—we have met the goal of raising the \$1,000,000 in gifts and pledges needed to double the principal of The Haitian Project's General Endowment as part the Rise Capital Campaign.**

*With the General Endowment portion of the Rise Campaign complete, we can now turn our full attention to raising \$1,000,000 to create an endowment to underwrite the operation of Louverture Cleary School's Office for External Affairs – the only remaining section of this \$2,900,000 million campaign!*

*Completion of this final section will ensure that the Office for External Affairs can continue to administer our university scholarship and job placement programs so that our graduates can go on to successful professional careers, build strong families, strong communities and a brighter future for their country.*

**Thank you again for being the help we have to give! If you would like to make a gift or pledge towards this effort, contact us at [development@haitianproject.org](mailto:development@haitianproject.org) or 401-351-3624.**

# STUDENT VIEWPOINTS

## Jessica Augustin

**M**y name is Jessica and I am in Philo (US 12<sup>th</sup> grade +1). During my 7 years at LCS, I have had many experiences that have impacted my life, two in particular. The first is life in community. I only have one brother, who I do not really have a close relationship with, but at LCS I live with others that I can consider like my brothers and sisters. The second is my participation in the theater this year, a play about Robin Hood performed in Kreyòl. Mr. Kelly and Mr. Branham gave us direction of how to be better actors. Their Kreyòl was pretty bad, but it made me laugh and I enjoyed every rehearsal. To be the principal actress was a very great experience for me. It improved my ability to speak in public. The union between the actors and the work as a team show me that we can be as successful as the theater was.

I think that if I can say something to the younger students, it would be to stay motivated. They should realize the chance that they have to be at LCS. I can tell them to grab this chance, to embrace the languages that they are teaching us, the leadership and the morality.

Next year, I hope to go to university. I want to study administration sciences and also go to school so I can obtain an authorization to teach French literature the year after. I want to be the director of a school, where I can also teach—two dreams in one plan. I can say that LCS shaped me for the person that I want to be in the future. I know that the languages, the leadership, the self-discipline that is cultivated in LCS will help me a lot in the future.

## Freddybil Joseph

**M**y name is Freddybil and I am the *Super Guide* (lead Philo student) at LCS. As *Super Guide*, I am responsible for many things, including *Netwayaj* (clean-up) at school. I supervise the students and help them finish as efficiently as possible.

At LCS, I have learned how to live in community, how to take care of public property so that everybody in the community can live better together. I have learned what a responsible life looks like. I have learned the full meaning of leadership and part of the job of a good parent.

If I had to give advice to younger students, I would tell them that life is not as easy as they could pretend it is, and that the only way they will be able to face it is through education. They are very lucky to be in a great school like LCS which is an advantage that other students in Haiti do not have. They should participate in all the activities that are done at school and be determined.

After graduation, I want to attend university next year to study industrial engineering. In the future, I want to have a master in this field. I want to get married and have a family. I want to be useful to my family—my wife and children, my sisters, my parents, and other relatives. I also want to help my society by being useful to them in any way I can.

I have learned a lot during my seven years at LCS. I already know what living in society, showing leadership, and being responsible mean. All those things I have learned from LCS, family, church and other places make me a man, a man who knows how to live well in the society under God's will.

## Fattiana Pierre Louis

**H**ello, my name is Fattiana and I am a Philo student at LCS. As a Philo student I have a lot to study for my classes and for the state exam. I have learned to be a leader and a good model for my fellow students. I learned that I must tell the younger students what to do but also show them.

At LCS I learned to never give up and to be serious about my education. I have learned to have good leadership and how to speak English and



*(from left) Fattiana Pierre Louis, Freddybil Joseph and Jessica Augustin celebrate their graduation at LCS on June 16, 2018.*

Spanish. This will help me in my future goal of becoming a surgeon. I am excited to graduate and receive my diploma, which is a sign of all my hard work. I am nervous to start new studies but I know God will provide for me.

When I become a surgeon, I will apply the motto of LCS "What you receive for free, you must give for free" (Matthew 10:8) by taking care of my patients first instead of worrying about money first. Right now I use Matthew 10:8 by helping others with their homework and the members of my neighborhood with languages. I also help translate at my church. I think that it would be great for the country to have 10 Louverture Cleary Schools. This is something that Haiti needs. It would create more possibilities and opportunities for students and make it easier to succeed in life.

I know I will be successful if I am happy in what I am doing and making enough money to take care of my parents and future children. I would also like to be able to help others realize their dreams.

# Top 10 (Plus 8 More) Reasons to Include THP in Your Will in 2018

18. You are revisiting, updating, or changing your estate plans for another reason.
17. You've been meaning to set up a will and just need a final nudge to do it.
16. You'd like to leave a future gift to THP while allowing for financial flexibility today.
15. You want to give to your heirs and still leave a bequest. Bequests can be written according to your own desires and circumstances.
14. THP can assist you with standard wording for your bequest and you can also choose your own message explaining your reasons for remembering the mission of THP.
13. Any adult with a will or estate plan can make a bequest. It does not need to be a large sum or percentage of money to have an impact.
12. THP will use your bequest wisely and prudently. Over the last five years, THP has an average program ratio (total percentage of budget spent on program) of 79%. This well exceeds the Charity Navigator average.
11. If life changes and you must alter your bequest, wills are revocable during your lifetime.
10. Bequests to THP's General Endowment through the current RISE Campaign will ensure the efficient and effective operation of Louverture Cleary School far into the future. Your bequest will be a lasting investment in the future of THP, yielding fruit each year.
9. You have visited Louverture Cleary as part of a parish mission trip and you would like for THP to benefit far into the future.
8. You were a Volunteer at Louverture Cleary School.
7. You have benefitted from education, your own children have benefitted from education, or you know people who have benefitted from education.
6. You look at your family tree and notice that education has helped your own family escape poverty. A bequest to THP is a great way to give thanks and lend a hand to those in Haiti who are benefitting from education for the first time.
5. THP's mission of providing Catholic, tuition-free secondary education in Haiti will always be needed and effective. A bequest to THP will never be wasted.
4. You have been a faithful and consistent donor for THP for years.
3. THP will always work for the long-term development of Haiti and growth of the Church.
2. You are inspired by the vision of THP to expand as a national network of Catholic Schools throughout all of Haiti and want to be a part of it forever.
1. Every graduate of Louverture Cleary School!

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Support to THP, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, means helping more than 350 students (who are dedicated to serving their country) receive a top-notch Catholic, tuition-free education. Visit our website or make checks out to The Haitian Project to donate.

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***Want more information on including THP in your estate?***  
*Contact THP's Office of Community Development at (401) 351-3624 or [development@haitianproject.org](mailto:development@haitianproject.org).*



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