



Haitian Project News

The Louverture Cleary Schools Network, Transforming Haiti through Education

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Ansamn nou pi fo: We are Stronger Together

By Amanda Haluga (THP Director of Charism & Missionary Program)

The graduation of the Louverture Cleary School (LCS) Class of 2020 was always going to be special. The year marks LCS's 25th graduation, a milestone to celebrate! Unexpectedly, the Class of 2020's final year at LCS was also a challenging one. In the fall, they weathered *peyi lok*—unrest that brought much of Haiti, including many other schools, to a halt. Then, their year was brought to an unexpected end when the COVID-19 pandemic hit Haiti, closing borders and schools in March.

Resilient, hard-working and intelligent, the graduates have much to be proud of. While many special activities including the graduation ceremo-



Schadrac Liendy Alabré



Fredjy Alexis



Markencia Bragel'Homme



Daril Junior Brunache



Janna Brutus



Junior Spencer Charles



Raude Lyncee E. L. Charles



Finslove Cinéus



Stevens Desir



Mells Raffalandjinié Désiré

ny have been rendered impossible this year due to the pandemic, we are celebrating the Class of 2020, their accomplishments, and the impact they will have as they join the ranks of LCS alumni.

Although they will take different paths, they will always be united by the values

they learned at LCS as they move forward and create a brighter future for Haiti.

This article features a selection of quotes from this year's graduates along with photos of the Class of 2020:

(Article continued on page 2)

(Graduate photos continued on page 4)

Weathering the Storm: How COVID-19 is Affecting Haiti

By THP Staff

Haitian Project News interviewed Patrick Brun, Haitian private sector leader and CEO of Central Hardware and Building Materials S.A., regarding the current situation in Haiti. For over 20 years, Patrick has been The Haitian Project's (THP) key partner on the ground in Port-au-Prince. He is a member of THP's board of directors and head of the partner foundations in Haiti, which manage Louverture Cleary School Santo 5 and will eventually manage the additional nine schools as part of The Louverture Cleary Schools Network.

HPN: How has society and daily life changed since the outbreak?

Brun: People can be seen wearing face masks and using the hand washing stations that were installed in many locations. Public events have been canceled and people visit each other much less even though public transportation services are still uninterrupted. Normal life as we know it is on hold for now.

HPN: What instructions have been given by the government for containing the virus?

Brun: The government published an

executive order calling for all schools, universities and places of worship to close. Offices and businesses have reduced schedules and employees work on rotation, while some services have adopted a remote work approach. However, factories can continue to work with the application of safety measures such as face masks, daily temperature testing upon arrival, and frequent hand washing.

HPN: Why are social distancing and sheltering in place difficult in Haiti?

Brun: Most people do not have internet or consistent electricity at home. Therefore, online schooling and working

(Continued on page 2)

Ansamn nou pi fo

(Continued from page 1)

I have a lot of plans for my future. I want to be a lawyer and help Haiti by practicing law, the mother of a nation. I don't know yet if I will stay a lawyer or continue my studies to become a judge. For me, it is a pure vocation. Since I was young, it was my dream.

— **Dorothy Merceda Dominique Pierre**

I remember that Miss Haluga (THP Director of Charism & Missionary Program Amanda Haluga) told us that Louverturians are strong. I agree! So for that I will study more, more, and more to achieve my goals. For my future, I plan to be a doctor so that I can serve my country and heal sick people who can't pay for treatment by themselves. I think

that's a chance that I have. The chance is not only for me, it is also for my family and my country too.

— **Christy Mikerline Jusmé**

In my future, I see myself as a mechanical engineer. As a Haitian, I see nowhere in the world's industries where Haiti's name is written as a country revolutionizing mechanics. The world is going further in technologies and Haiti should participate in important things in the world, too. As a re-builder of the country, I want to bring new things to Haiti and to help other people who have the same passion for mechanics to realize their dream.

— **Weebens Steevens Inouis**

Many people say that they don't want to live in Haiti because of poverty, insecurity, etc. They forget that the country cannot be changed or developed by itself! Haiti

has a lot of resources... and I want to engage myself for that change.

— **Junior Spencer Charles**

LCS made me the person I am today. The school has changed my life and raised me in dignity with respect, morality and integrity. I'm grateful for my teachers who have truly cared for my education, for my classmates, and for my amazing parents—everyone who has invested in my education. Once a Louverturian, always a Louverturian!

— **Mike Luvenson Durocher**

Despite the many challenges they faced this year, there is no doubt that this graduating class will emerge strong and united. As they say in their class motto coined during their seven years together, *Ansamn nou pi fo*: We are stronger together.

Weathering the Storm

(continued from page 1)

from home are not reliable options, nor is online banking. Without the option of refrigeration, people must go to the market daily for food. So, in order to sustain their families, most people are wearing face masks and continuing necessary activities. People are only sheltering in place if they have fallen ill. If people must go somewhere that is out of walking distance, most people take public buses (“taptaps”) or motorcycle taxis, which are inevitably crowded.

HPN: How is the Haitian medical system

equipped to handle the outbreak?

Brun: The health system and hospitals don't have the capacity to care for a large quantity of sick people. Most Haitians rely more on natural medicine because established medical care is out of reach. Haiti has approximately two doctors for every 10,000 people. In comparison, the US has approximately 25 doctors per 10,000 people.

HPN: How has the business sector been impacted?

Brun: The shortened work hours in addition to postponed or canceled activities are affecting businesses in general. Because of this, many companies have

reduced their staff. Unemployment is very high. Supply chains and shipping schedules have been disrupted as well, and we are seeing either shortages or price increases of basic supplies in the food and construction industry. Most non-essential items retailers have closed down or operate on appointment for lack of clientele.

Parallel to this, the national currency, the *gourde*, is losing its value and forcing importers to adjust their prices. This plus inflation makes it very difficult for the population to budget, even for essentials. A financial crisis is imminent. The negative impact of the pandemic on every Haitian household, on businesses, and on the country's economy as a whole will take years to be reversed.

Did you know there are many ways to support The Haitian Project?

- **Donate online** at HaitianProject.org where it is easy (and very helpful) to set up a recurring donation
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- Participate in your employer's **Corporate Matching Gifts Program**
- Give the gift of **Stock** or **Mutual Funds**
- **Donations can also be mailed** to The Haitian Project

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THE 2019 ANNUAL REPORT IS AVAILABLE ON THE HAITIAN PROJECT WEBSITE AT WWW.HAITIANPROJECT.ORG.

LCS Alumni Facing the Challenges of the Pandemic

By Djim Guerrier (LCS '14, Head of the Dulcich Center for Career Advancement)



Caleb Alcenat (LCS '08)

Running a business during normal times can be challenging. With COVID-19, Haitian entrepreneur Caleb Alcenat (LCS '08) is facing a different set of difficulties.

Caleb studied business management in university and launched his own photography and videography business, LabellImage, in 2010. In an industry where photographing or videotaping weddings, parties or events can include significant groups of people, the recent prohibition of large gatherings has caused LabellImage's revenue to drop significantly.

"As an entrepreneur, I have to transform every obstacle to my business into new opportunities," says Caleb. "Due to the crisis, we are considering other ways to make an impact."

To adapt, Caleb implemented rotating shifts to allow his employees to work at least part-time, and he is looking into more online work. His company is also carrying out a campaign to raise awareness about COVID-19 and offers free services to other organizations and individuals that are doing the same. This is keeping his business active while reaching potential new clients.



Myrlande Aubourg (LCS '10)

After receiving a scholarship from the LCS Office of External Affairs (now the Dulcich Center for Career Advancement, or DCCA) and a degree in administrative sciences, Myrlande Aubourg (LCS '10) now works at one of the largest banks in Haiti, Unibank S.A., where she has direct contact with customers. Although the bank has taken measures to ensure social distancing and to provide its employees with protective equipment, some customers do not take the same precautions.

"Naturally, working in a bank is stressful. Now with COVID-19, it is almost unbearable," she says. "It would upset me if I brought the virus to my family. Because of my job, I am the only one who leaves the house."

Recognizing that the population cannot stay at home, Myrlande tries to educate people in her neighborhood about the seriousness of the pandemic. She believes the most urgent action she can take is to increase understanding about the virus so that people will protect themselves and each other.

Stephane Chery (LCS '11)

There is speculation by government leaders and economists that the

aftermath of COVID-19 could be worse than the pandemic itself. The disruption of the economy and food production could be especially problematic for countries like Haiti that were already in a difficult situation prior to the pandemic and are being further affected by the current decrease in remittances from the diaspora in the US. Moreover, according to a new Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, over one third of Haiti's population needs urgent food assistance.

Stephane Chery (LCS '11) is well aware of her fellow Haitians' situation and upon receiving a scholarship from the LCS DCCA, she decided to pursue her studies in agronomy after graduating from LCS in 2011. "One of the best ways to reduce poverty and specifically hunger in Haiti is through agriculture," she says.

Today, Stephane works for Acceso Corporation improving the quality of peanut production and supply chain management. She continues to go to work regularly despite the COVID-19 outbreak. Her work has brought her in contact with families living in rural areas of Haiti and has given her the chance to raise awareness about the pandemic and preventative measures, an opportunity she welcomes.

"Otherwise, many of them would not even have heard about the outbreak," says Stephane.



Stephane Chery (LCS '11)

Louverture Cleary Class of 2020 *cont. from pg. 1*



Mardoché Despagne



Sarah Yvenide Desrosiers



Kenslove Destin



Paulder Dorcine



Mike Luvenson Durocher



Emmanuel Fils Francis



Fedelyne François



Jonel François



Julia Victoria Florine Franklin



Djolanda Gabriel



Weebens Steevens Inouis



Jennifer Salina Jean



Christy Mikerline Jusmé



Annaika Laguerre



Woodjeen Emmanuela Ledoux



Schamgar Louis



Medj'n Laïka Manacé



Lord Widzar Mercure



Jean Wibens Occivil



Benschéan Heinrich Picard



Dorothy Merceda Dominique Pierre



Mathda Pierre



Chrissy Mandana Saintina



Dayolmie St. Fery



Jorgens St. Louis



Ruth Stephen



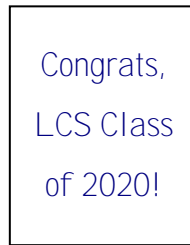
Gaïvens Thimogène



Lovely Verdier



Jonathan Voltaire



Congrats,
LCS Class
of 2020!

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Mission Statement

The Haitian Project through its support of Louverture Cleary Schools, a national network of tuition-free, Catholic, co-educational secondary boarding schools in Haiti, provides for the education of academically-talented and motivated students from Haitian families who cannot afford the cost of their children's education in order to maximize their potential and enable them to work toward building a Haiti where justice and peace thrive.

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