



Haitian Project News

The Louverture Cleary Schools Network, Transforming Haiti through Education

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“We Need Points of Light”

by Jimi Grondin (THP Director of New School Construction)

The Haitian Project hosted its inaugural Community Roundtable in May, *Creating the LCS Network*. This virtual discussion featured the head of The Haitian Project’s (THP) partner foundations in Haiti and Haitian private-sector leader Patrick Brun and THP Director of New School Construction Jimi Grondin. The well-received event was moderated by THP Vice President of Communications Colby Bowker and focused on the current status of the Louverture Cleary School’s (LCS) Network plan to create a national system of 10 schools in Haiti.

When the Network is complete, 600 Louverturians will graduate each year and use what they learned at

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Louverturians Looking Forward to Graduation—in July

by HPN Staff

The June edition of *Haitian Project News* typically celebrates graduation at Louverture Cleary School and features the latest *Philo* (US 12th grade + 1) graduates going on to university, jobs, and leadership as they look forward to using their LCS education to work toward a brighter future for their country. The celebration and milestone for this year’s group of Louverturians is on the horizon, but some adjustments were necessary for schools in Haiti to overcome the challenges that the country faced over the past year and a half. At this time, Louverturi-



The LCS Class of 2021 is looking forward to graduation in July when the Haitian academic year closes.

ans at LCS Santo 5 continue to work diligently to finish their studies in preparation for their graduation—in July!

This past fall, most schools in Haiti had to make up time lost from the previous school year due to interruptions from political unrest in the fall of 2019 followed by closure due to the pandemic in the spring and summer of 2020.

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THP Highlights

Small State, Big Impact: On April 1st, THP participated in the second annual *401Gives*, a 24-hour online giving event to benefit Rhode Island-based nonprofits. Community members from all over the country came together to support THP and help secure matching gifts from the Rhode Island Foundation. An impressive 87 donations raised \$23,326 for THP’s mission in one day, nearly doubling last year’s results. Thanks to the energy and enthusiasm of its community, THP finished in 10th place out of 420 participating organizations based on the total amount raised. Thank you to everyone who participated and made this event such a success!

Rest in Peace, Fr. Knight: It is with sadness and great appreciation that THP remembers the life of Fr. David M. Knight (1931-2021), a faithful Jesuit priest, prolific writer, and cherished member of the THP community. In addition to his priestly ministry, Fr. Knight was best known as an author and retreat director. His first book, *His Way*, became the foundation for LCS’s *Philo* (US 12th grade +1) religion class. Fr. Knight was also present to THP throughout the years to teach and lead in person, including visiting the LCS campus in 2000 and leading a community retreat at THP’s headquarters in 2019.

A New Chapter for the Moynihans: THP President Emeritus Deacon Patrick Moynihan recently accepted a position to lead St. Joseph Catholic Academy in Kenosha, WI, a preschool through grade 12 Catholic college preparatory school. The Moynihan family has played an integral role in the development of the THP community over the years, and THP looks forward to their continued support for the mission. Deacon Moynihan and his family led for over two decades. As he says, “Haiti will never leave my heart, mind or sight.” Congratulations to Deacon Moynihan and Christina as they start this new chapter in their lives!

“Points of Light”

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Louverture Cleary Schools to create a brighter future for their country. They will join the more than 700 talented alumni who are already dedicated to remaining in Haiti to serve their families, their communities, and their nation.

In a country that not only suffers from the constant expatriation of young, educated people but also the migration of people from the provinces to the capital Port-au-Prince, the LCS Network serves the goals of stemming the brain drain while also promoting decentralization to help mitigate the over-crowding occurring in Port-au-Prince. A Louverture Cleary School in each department of Haiti will help stimulate regional economies and support structures that will encourage development throughout the country, not just the capital city.

According to Patrick Brun, a Louverture Cleary education couldn't be more important for Haiti. "It's education, but it's also a Louverture Cleary education...this is exactly what Haiti needs.... We need points of light all over the territory, and this is what the Network will finally bring to Haiti."

One of the highlights of the event was the reveal of a 3-D rendering of the next school (LCS 2), the Model Campus that will eventually be replicated across Haiti. Beginning in the late 1990s, architect and long-time THP supporter Scott Hill designed several buildings to accommodate the expansion of the existing LCS Santo 5 campus. In 2018, THP once again asked Scott to lend



A 3-D rendering of the LCS Model Campus designed by architect and long-time THP supporter Scott Hill was revealed during the Community Roundtable, Creating the LCS Network, in May.

his attentiveness to culture, climate (including seismic threats), aesthetics, and function to create a prototype for the LCS Network. In early 2021, Fondation Haitian Project, THP's partner foundation in Haiti, officially secured the location for the Model Campus in the Plateau Central region of Haiti and collaboration began to adapt Scott's prototype to the actual site.

The graphic features the physical plant of LCS 2, a campus designed to be safe and efficient with beautiful buildings and that also prioritizes energy self-sufficiency, environmental sustainability, comfort for staff and students, and integration into the surrounding community. Other areas of campus include dedicated space for the early childhood development program, a soccer field, basketball

courts, and open land for agriculture and/or power production.

Everything about the Model Campus is designed to enable the LCS Network to become a beacon of hope and transformation in Haiti. We invite everyone to join THP's mission to empower what will soon be thousands of points of light shining brightly across Haiti.

A video of the Community Roundtable can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/556267899>. Please look for more Roundtables on exciting topics in the future!

LOOK FOR A SPECIAL GRADUATION ISSUE OF HAITIAN PROJECT NEWS FEATURING THE LCS CLASS OF 2021 THIS SUMMER!

Graduation in July

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Fortunately, through prudent leadership and by virtue of being a boarding school community, LCS was able to satisfy requirements for the 2019-2020 school year ahead of the COVID closure. LCS returned to session in November 2020 to join other Haitian schools for the 2020-2021 school year which, this year, will conclude in July.

It has been no small feat for LCS to

continue to provide a top-notch education and formation during this unusual school year, but the LCS administration and The Haitian Project's partner foundations in Haiti have worked tirelessly to ensure the health and safety of the school community so that the school may continue to provide stability and hope through difficult times.

We look forward to celebrating the bright, hard-working young men and women of the LCS Class of 2021!

Donate online at HaitianProject.org where it is easy (and very helpful) to set up a recurring donation.

Donations can also be mailed to The Haitian Project at PO Box 6891, Providence, RI 02940.

Your tax-deductible donation can provide talented young men and women at Louverture Cleary School with a top notch, tuition-free, secondary education steeped in service and civic-mindedness!

LCS Student Views

Mélissa Saint-Louis

I am Mélissa Saint-Louis and I am in *Philo* (US 12th grade + 1). I am from Delmas but currently live at Pernier (a little east of Port-au-Prince). I live with my father, my mother, and my brother. My parents taught me a lot about life and how they are proud of me. I have a wonderful family and we love one another.

A Louverture Cleary School education means a lot to me because at LCS they are preparing us for the future. They teach us everything that we need to know to be good citizens, good leaders, and great examples for others.

At LCS, I really like to play soccer. I feel good when I am playing with my friends, and I think I am good at it. I also like the language program because it is very good for me to be able to practice four languages (English, Kreyòl, French and Spanish), which hopefully will open many opportunities in the future for me.

I don't really have a favorite class because, in my opinion, all classes are important. At the school, I am involved in the Spiritual Club. I really like this club because I have learned a lot of new things about the Bible, like how to pray and how to be in a perfect communion with God. I love being part of this club because it helps me increase my faith as a Catholic and learn more about Jesus's life.

For this *Philo* year, I am in charge of younger students. It is not something easy to do, but it helps me to be more responsible and to be able to take care of others while taking care of myself. To do that, I follow the rules of the school in order to set a good example for them. When younger students see that I am doing good things, they will try to replicate that and be good examples to their friends.

In the future, I would like to build a clinic for children. I would like to go to medical school and become a pediatrician because I love kids.

Ruben Saintil

My name is Ruben Saintil, and I am



LCS *Philo* (US 12th grade + 1) students (from left to right): Mélissa Saint-Louis, Ruben Saintil, and Christian St. David

from Haiti. My mom's friend told her about Louverture Cleary School. I entered LCS in 2014, and since then it has become my home, and everyone else in the community became part of my family.

LCS is unlike a lot of other schools. It doesn't just prepare you for classes and exams, but for life. Being at LCS even just for one year is something amazing. After spending seven years at LCS, I am prepared to face upcoming challenges in life. I personally love all of the classes, but my favorites are economics and computers.

We are taught to become leaders, and as a *Philo* (US 12th grade +1) student, I am involved in managing younger students and helping them stay on the right path. It's not always easy to do this task, but with patience and understanding I encourage everyone to see the good in every single situation and let that good encourage them to move forward. I also learned to control my emotions here. Trying to understand others and walk in their shoes makes me wiser and less likely to get mad at others.

From my experiences at LCS, I can say that it's not just an ordinary school, but a school with high standards of education in many areas of life. I am indecisive about what to study after graduation. Since computers and economics are my favorite classes, I feel like I am being pulled from two sides. So far, computers is dominating!

Christian St. David

My name is Christian St. David. I am from Port-au-Prince, and I am in *Philo* (US 12th grade +1). I live with my mother

and my brother. My brother went to Louverture Cleary because his primary school's principal advised my mom of the school. My brother's records at LCS convinced my mom that it is a good education. So, when my turn came to start secondary school, I was fortunately admitted to Louverture Cleary.

When I got there, my priority was to make my name so that people would not identify me only as my brother's little brother, but for my own worth. As a *Sizyem* (US 7th grade) student, it was not easy for me to integrate in the school's system, but I worked hard and did it with help from some of the older students.

A challenge started last year when I was chosen by the administration and my classmates to help manage the younger students as the *Rheto* (US 12th grade) *Super Monitor*, or class leader. Due to the political instabilities in the country, many students had difficulty getting to school. As a leader, I had to accommodate and support them.

This year, the situation became worse because of the Covid-19 pandemic. I overcame these challenges by believing that any problem has a solution if we look hard enough. I also relied on my leadership skills and teamwork.

I like participating in the school's programs. Besides the language program, I was part of the school's soccer team for three years, then coached and helped organize competitions for the girls' soccer team for two years. I have also been part of the debate club for two years.

After my graduation, I would like to study computer science and economics because I enjoyed these classes and I like math.

Caring for our Common Home, Creating a Better Future

by Amanda Haluga (THP Director of Charism and Missionary Program)

Louverture Cleary School Santo 5 appears as an oasis in a dry, dusty part of Haiti; its lush greenery and variety of birds are just a few of the results of decades of environmental education and stewardship practiced at the school. In an area where a common waste “management” procedure has long been to dump trash in the local river, LCS assures that no garbage leaves campus, except when recycling is possible.

Each day, the LCS community responsibly manages waste through composting, recycling, re-use, burying, and incineration. This requires a great deal of work, but every member of the community participates, from the school administration to the youngest in the *Koukouy* Early Childhood Development Program. The entire community lives by The Haitian Project Charism (the Project’s spiritual identity) which, steeped in Pope John Paul II’s teachings on the spirituality and purpose of human labor, states: *By living our specific charism, we have discovered that work done voluntarily for the benefit of others is a powerful, grace-filled catalyst for personal metanoia and environmental change.*

Everything at LCS is driven by care for others. The campus community even brings *Netwayaj* (daily cleanup hour) into the surrounding neighborhood to share the value of environmental stewardship. The school’s gardens of trees, flowers, and various fruits and vegetables are tended with rich dirt resulting from the robust composting activity that puts to good use the byproducts of nourishing a community 475-plus strong. LCS was a trailblazer in implementing large-scale solar energy in Haiti and remains a solar-powered school.

LCS also fosters lifelong lessons for its community members that reach beyond



With a commitment to teaching environmental stewardship, the LCS community responsibly manages waste through composting, recycling, re-use, burying, and incineration.

campus. An entering *Sizyèm* (US 7th grade) student experiences an entirely new culture at LCS, but it is not long before they take what they learned from their fellow Louverturians and bring it back home. Students regularly give back to their home communities on the weekends, sharing what they have learned with siblings and neighbors. Many, like Armélie Pierre (LCS '14), have formed groups that meet and pick up trash together. These lasting habits have been known to return home with US Missionary Volunteers as well, who after a year or more at LCS, find they have a greater awareness of their environmental impact.

Environmental stewardship at LCS makes for a cleaner environment today, but most importantly, it lays the foundations for an even greener future. The values Louverturians take with them as they go on to become policymakers, teachers, and business owners, to name just a few, will ensure that the environment is a priority in Haiti’s development.

The LCS Network will amplify that impact by educating many more conscientious citizens and servant-leaders all over Haiti. Equipped with an education steeped in service and stewardship, there is no doubt that Haiti’s future, led by Louverturians, will be green and bright.

The Haitian Project, Inc.

P.O. Box 6891
Providence RI 02940

Phone: (401) 351-3624

Email: development@haitianproject.org

Web: www.haitianproject.org

Corporate Officers

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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.

To donate, visit

www.haitianproject.org, Venmo at @TheHaitianProject, or mail checks payable to The Haitian Project.

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