



# Haitian Project News

The Louverture Cleary Schools Network, Transforming Haiti through Education

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## Next Steps for Louverturians

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

A student's seven years at LCS are unique and life-changing, preparing them for graduation and life in Haiti as servant-leaders, responsible citizens, and community members. Daily life includes rigorous academic instruction, service-oriented community life, and formation within the school's unique Charism.

While an LCS education is transformative in and of itself—clearly demonstrated at each graduation—it became evident early in the school's history that post-secondary support was also necessary to ensure the success of LCS graduates in Haiti. To address this need, the Frank and Jill Dulcich Center for Career Advancement (DCCA), initially called the Office for External Affairs, was created at LCS. Today, the DCCA is one of the

(continued on page 3)

## Congratulations, Class of 2022!

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

The final two of a student's seven years at Louverture Cleary School (LCS) always come with increased responsibility and leadership expectations, but the Class of 2022 stands out for having served during some of the most challenging times in the school's history. As *Rhétò* (U.S. 12<sup>th</sup> grade) *Monitors* and *Philo* (U.S. 12<sup>th</sup> grade +1) *Guides*, titles given to demonstrate their increased responsibility for and leadership of the school community, they



Louverture Cleary School Class of 2022

anticipated new daily tasks and the need to set an example for the younger students, but the difficulties they faced could hardly have been predicted. Last year, as *Monitors*, they supported the *Guides* and administration through the COVID-19 pandemic and the many

(continued on page 2)

## THP Highlights

### Past, Present and Hope for the Future:

This spring, THP Director of Charism and Missionary Program Amanda Haluga visited a Modern History class at University of Connecticut Avery Point. Invited to speak during the Latin America and Caribbean unit, Amanda presented on Haiti's history, her experiences as a Missionary Teacher at LCS, and THP's plans for the future through the LCS Network. "It was great to see students engage with Haiti's unique history in relation to other nations and the news they hear. They were struck by LCS, its Charism, language program, and graduates' success. I look forward to seeing them become THP supporters—or even Missionary Volunteers!"

**Spreading the Word:** THP President Reese Grondin was interviewed in March on *GoLocalProv*, a Providence, RI-based news site which delivers information through multimedia, written, and video platforms. Discussion included the importance of education in Haiti, the life-changing power of the Louverture Cleary Schools Network, and the current political and economic situation in Haiti. One of Reese's many quotable moments during the interview: "We need people who believe in education, who believe in its transformative nature, who want to work in this mission with Haitians to change their country in a collaborative way that is meaningful and will bring true change to the country."

### 401Gives a Success—No (April) Fooling!

On April 1<sup>st</sup>, THP participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual 401Gives, a 24-hour online fundraiser benefitting Rhode Island nonprofits. With support not limited to the Ocean State, a total of 140 donors came together from all over to contribute to THP's most successful 401Gives campaign yet and to participate in matching gift opportunities throughout the event. Thanks to all those enthusiastic donors, THP raised an impressive \$27,390 this year, including a \$2,000 challenge gift from two generous THP community members. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this event a success while supporting the Project's mission to expand access to education in Haiti!

### Congratulations!

(continued from page 1)

changes the hygiene protocols brought. Then this year, as *Guides* themselves, they led the student body while unprecedented violence and unrest affected the Port-au-Prince area. Thanks to the stalwart leadership of the administration and these student leaders, the 2021-2022 school year was carried out successfully.

Demonstrating Louverturian spirit, this class supported one another and the school community, seeking ways to connect, stay healthy, and continue on their path to success. LCS Economics Department Head Djim G. (LCS '14), who taught their Economics capstone class, reflects, "The word that comes to mind when thinking about this *Philo* class is 'resilience.' These students have an incredible ability to recover from tough blows. They came across multiple difficulties on their way to graduation, but they always managed to keep their eyes on their goals while helping the youngest be at their best, as all great leaders would do."

In addition to proving their leadership in tough times, these young men and women held on to what made them shine as individuals and as a class. Their talent for music was often showcased at school assemblies, celebrations, and Masses. Their spiritual devotion was clear as they led the school in daily and seasonal prayer activities. Their dedication to sports was unmatched, many of them having been regulars on their elementary school soccer teams since they were old enough to try out. They look forward to studying medicine, business, psychology and more in university—and a couple even have their sights on playing professional soccer if given the chance!

LCS Principal Marjorie M. (LCS '07) was impressed by the class's ability to adapt and mature through the challenges. "I saw them growing a lot and become stronger leaders. They are creative and like to take initiative. They collaborate well with the administration and other students. They love the school and work

hard to make it better and are good examples for the youngest."

The Class of 2022 will be taking these abilities with them, along with other skills and values that they learned at LCS, to build a more transparent, just, and peaceful future for their country.

Here is a selection of quotes from this year's graduates:

***"After graduation, I would like to study legal and political sciences in one of the best universities in Haiti to become a good diplomat so that I can represent my country around the world. For Haiti, I hope there will be political stability. I hope we become this country where people will live without worries.... I hope Haiti will be a country radiating worldwide, as it has been in [past] time."***

– Emmanuel M.

***"In the future, I want to become a good businesswoman and influence others. I want to show to all ladies that they can trust their dreams and work for them. No matter their economic situation, they can achieve their goals and become independent women financially."***

– Marie Seth G.

***"The best lesson that I learned [at LCS] is to accept other people and cooperate with them while you are trying to be a great example. I will take this with me after graduation. I hope for the future of Haiti to see a lot of great change. I would like to have more educated people and more conscious people so that we change Haiti in years coming."***

– Pierre Friedman J.



Fondation Haitian Project Chair Patrick Brun listens to a commencement speaker with members of the LCS Class of 2022.

***"My hope for Haiti is to see that everyone can see the beauty that I see in the country: its beautiful places, possibilities and traditions. Then I want the country to explore its potential ... the natural and human potential."***

– Troy A.

***"I remember when I saw the school's system of trash management for the first time during the orientation days.... I want to replicate the LCS trash system in my community. My hope for my future is to go to university and after, come back to LCS to help the school because I would like to give back to the younger generations. My hope for Haiti is to see the country improve through the change in the hearts and minds of the people."***

– Norbewens C.

***"My plans after my graduation are to go to university, keep working hard to succeed, and get closer to God because I am grateful for what He has accomplished in my life. I will keep sharing what I have learned at LCS to the people of my zone [neighborhood] – for example, cleaning the street. I will keep being a model to follow through my behavior and be an important person for my society. One of my hopes for the future of Haiti is to see a change in Haiti, and to be part of that change by starting to be what I would like to see in my country. As Gandhi said, "Be the change you wish to see in the world." After ... we will be able to put ourselves together and build a new Haiti."***

– Gaïna D.

## Next Steps

(continued from page 1)

largest university scholarship and job placement programs in Haiti.

Driven by LCS's culture of excellence and with support from the DCCA, the next step after graduation for alumni is almost always university. In a country where less than three percent of the population holds a university degree, over 88 percent of LCS graduates attend university, pursuing fields such as medicine, economics, education, linguistics and business. To provide support for this costly and competitive next step, the program provides direct scholarships to at least 50 percent of each LCS graduating class, and the DCCA works to secure additional scholarships from other sources within Haiti. And while Haiti sees just 35 percent of university graduates remain in Haiti, *90 percent of Louverture Cleary graduates stay in Haiti.*

Stephanie V. (LCS '12) received a scholarship from the DCCA to obtain her accounting degree, which she puts to use

every day now as the DCCA's accountant. "Everyone wants to pursue their studies and attend university. In Haiti, it is very difficult to achieve this goal. There is just one state university and the cost of the private ones is very high. We LCS graduates are fortunate to have the DCCA, which is the continuation of LCS's mission to help rebuild Haiti by helping its alumni to achieve their goals. The DCCA has a huge impact on LCS alumni, including me, because it helps to make dreams come true."

Whether Louverturians enter the workforce right after LCS or after graduating university, they can do so with the support and connections of the DCCA's job placement and career development programs. Having grown in discipline, knowledge, and fluency in four languages (Kreyòl, French, English, and Spanish), graduates are exceptionally well-prepared and highly sought-after employees, managers, and entrepreneurs. The DCCA remains a resource for Louverturians long after they leave LCS. Its relationship with Haitian businesses provides opportunities for

LCS alumni to find employment and professional development, as well as to source in-kind support for the school to help continue to form future generations.

Fondation Haitian Project Executive Director Stéphanie B., who oversees the DCCA, reflects, "I am extremely proud of the work the DCCA does to support LCS graduates. It is the only program that I know of here in Haiti which in any given year supports over 100 students with full scholarships to four-year university programs. Also, the support to find job opportunities for graduates is key in our mission to help Louverturians thrive on a professional level. This is unparalleled in Haiti."

In the LCS Network, the DCCA will serve each of the 10 schools—one school in each diocese of Haiti—through regional offices. Its job placement, networking, and career development resources will continue to keep graduates connected and help them grow with opportunities to support themselves and their families, making a lasting difference in their country.

## LCS Scholarship Recipient Pursues His Passion

by HPN Staff

*Claud C. (LCS '18) was awarded a university scholarship through the DCCA, making it possible for him to study computer science at the Université Quisqueya in Port-au-Prince.*

**HPN: Why did you choose to study computer science?**

**Claud:** When I arrived at the end of my classical studies, I needed to choose and be wise in my choice because my life depends on it. So, day and night, I reflected on what my life should be after the seven years spent at LCS because this new stage requires a lot of concentration and determination. Fortunately, I received a helping hand from some LCS alumni studying and working in professional fields in Haiti when they came to school to guide the students in my class during our final year at LCS. We received orientation sessions about different fields of study. One group was composed of medical students and another was composed of economics students. When we received a visit from computer science technicians, that is when I found my career choice:

computer science. I have never regretted choosing computer science because I realize that it is crucial for the future, and I am very passionate about it.

**HPN: Why is getting a university education so important to you?**

**Claud:** At the end of my studies, I understood that university was where people go and, at the end of their courses, leave with their diplomas in hand to find a place in the labor market. But when I got to college, I immediately learned differently. Indeed, I have learned that university studies prepare the intellectualism of a country. Universities provide students with the capacity to research and produce to help the country organize itself better. So, university studies in Haiti are crucial for the country given the current standard of living of Haitians. Haiti needs more people with the knowledge to lay the foundations for national sovereignty. In short, university studies are crucial for the development of the country.

**HPN: How will you use your degree to**

**help Haiti?**

**Claud:** I feel disappointed to see at what level technology is used in Haiti, by individuals and the state.

Computer science opens the door to many fields of study. Haiti needs help especially in the way that people are using the new technologies because they are double-edged swords. Being able to use them correctly will help me a lot. I will be very helpful for the country because every young, educated person in a country helps the country on its way to success. I will help other people by teaching them how to use their computer equipment. I will put my skills at the service of the Haitian state because they need them. The study of computer science will be advantageous for the country because technology will be vital for the world in the years to come.



Claud C. (LCS '18)

### LCS Student Views

#### **Martine C., Philo student (U.S. 12<sup>th</sup> grade + 1)**

I am Martine, a Louverture Cleary Philo (U.S. 12<sup>th</sup> grade +1) student. I was born into a seven-person family, but both my parents died so I am part of a family of five now.

My family learned about LCS thanks to a friend of my mother, then my older brother attended. It was not for me at the time because I was not old enough for high school yet. When my turn came, she brought me [to register for the entrance exam] and fortunately, I was admitted.

I have become this whole new person with a lot of potential thanks to the education that Louverture Cleary gave to me. It helps me to explore my own ideas and makes me able to express them in different forms. The first gift I received from LCS is the opportunity to interact with different people and share my ideas.

To me, the education that LCS gave me is the gateway to success. Its education is not just about studying and succeeding for the next class, it is about living in community, contributing to its development, and the improvement of oneself. However, what I like the most about LCS is the love that bonds us together, and how we care about each other. For example, it is everyone's interest if anyone is sick. They would help this person so that they can get better, this makes us the family that we are.

At LCS, I am a member of the Cultural Committee, Craft Club, the Empower (Celebrate) Women Club, Book Club, and Debate Club. All of these offer

me some tangible benefits such as information and services, as well as many intangible benefits such as a sense of community and common purpose, and even the opportunity to volunteer.

After graduation, I would like to apply for university where I would study civil engineering or law. I would like to help rebuild my country.

#### **Mckenley S., Philo student (U.S. 12<sup>th</sup> grade + 1)**

My name is Mckenley S. I am 18 years old, and I am living with my sister, my mother, and my godfather. My father passed away when I was just three years old. We know how difficult things are in Haiti, and my mom always made efforts to find me a good education.

My favorite thing about LCS is the relationship that we are building together as students. We are like brothers and sisters. I can say that LCS gave me a second family. We share a lot of good moments and memories. Every time I think of the end of this school year, I feel a little bit sad about knowing that we will not be in the same place anymore. But we will definitely stay connected.

The education of LCS is really important because LCS is different from other schools. LCS is helping us to rebuild our country. The education that we receive at LCS is given for free. When we are LCS students, we can speak four



LCS Philo (U.S. 12<sup>th</sup> grade + 1) students Martine C. (left) and Mckenley S. (right)

languages which is good for our professional life and our future to get a job in Haiti. Also, the school gives us a package of good habits which can help us to face the life that is waiting for us outside of LCS. At LCS you learn how to live in a community, they show you how to share, work, and lead by example. The school is teaching us principles that help us to become better people. They taught us "to be the change that we want to see in the world."

Since I was a child, I always wanted to be an entrepreneur and I would like to realize this dream by having my own enterprise or business. I would get enough money to change the situation of my family and I will be able to employ people who need a job. I think economically it's a positive act for my country as we know how low the economy of Haiti is. And my hope for Haiti is to see one day my country among the greatest ones. I know it is not easy, I know it is going to be a long process, but we have hope that one day Haiti will be a better country.

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

Visit [www.haitianproject.org/donate](http://www.haitianproject.org/donate) to give today or for more information regarding **recurring donations, memorial gifts, planned giving, corporate matching gifts, gifts of stocks, bonds and mutual funds, IRA qualified charitable distribution**, and more. You can also contact us at 401-351-3624 or by email at [development@haitianproject.org](mailto:development@haitianproject.org) to learn how your tax-deductible donation can provide talented young men and women at LCS with a top-notch, tuition-free, secondary education steeped in service and civic-mindedness!

# Propagation of the Faith Supports THP’s Mission this Summer

by THP Staff

The Haitian Project staff is looking forward to summer in the Ocean State for more than just Del’s Lemonade and beach days—the Project has once again been invited by its home diocese of Providence, Rhode Island, to participate in Propagation of the Faith. Also known as Mission Sunday, this is an annual event when missionaries all over the world visit parishes to bear witness to and raise support for their work. This initiative is driven by the Pontifical Mission Society of the Propagation of the Faith, which promotes a universal missionary spirit of prayer and sacrifice among Catholics and supports the work of missionaries within the Church.

THP President Reese Grondin will be speaking at Masses in four parish communities during the month of July: St. Michael Parish in Esmond, St. Joseph Parish in Pascoag, St. Eugene Parish in Chepachet, and St. Philip Parish in Greenville. All are new to THP and will bring a fresh audience to the Project’s mission. Members of the THP staff and community will also be present to

engage with parishioners and share updates on Louverture Cleary School and THP’s exciting progress on the Model Campus.

On the opportunity to participate in the Propagation of the Faith, Reese reflects, “It is exciting to meet new parish communities and be able to share our mission. It is a true privilege to be invited to speak about the real change Catholic education is making in Haiti in the lives of our students, their communities, and their country.”

THP often notes that a mission is only as strong as the community that sends it. Thanks to the Diocese of Providence and the parishes that will welcome THP this summer, the Project is expanding its foundation of support, further enabling its mission to take root and change lives across Haiti through the Louverture Cleary Schools Network.

Check out the dates and locations where the THP community will be present to witness to the Project’s authentic Catholic mission work in the Church. If you are in Rhode Island, please join us!

July 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>

**St. MICHAEL PARISH**

80 Farnum Pike  
Esmond, RI  
Saturday vigil—5pm  
Sunday—8am, 10:30am

July 16<sup>th</sup>

**ST. JOSEPH PARISH**

183 Sayles Avenue  
Pascoag, RI  
Saturday vigil—4pm

July 17<sup>th</sup>

**ST. EUGENE PARISH**

1251 Putnam Pike  
Chepachet, RI  
Sunday—8am, 10:15am

July 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>

**ST. PHILIP PARISH**

622 Putnam Pike  
Greenville, RI  
Saturday vigil—4pm  
Sunday—8am, 9:30am, 11:30am, 6pm

## Cultivating a Link to the Community

by Jimi Grondin, THP Director of New School Construction

When thinking about The Haitian Project’s second school, the Model Campus under construction about 100 miles north of Port-au-Prince in the Diocese of Gonaïves, one tends to focus on things created with concrete. But there are creative plans for integrating Haiti’s flora into the design as well. The campus is currently surrounded by an eight-foot concrete block wall which stands about 15 feet inside the school’s property lines. In order to define the actual borders, a living fence will be planted to provide a buffer between the Model Campus and the surrounding fields. This living fence will prevent neighbors from building close to the school’s wall and will allow room for work crews to access its exterior. The fence will also be a beautiful and sustainable link to the community.

There are many native species appropriate for the fence. Several cultivars will be chosen to produce a diverse, renewable and practical barrier. Cocoplum, West Indian Cherry, and Passion Vine are all native plants that can be pruned into a hedge while also producing edible fruits. Bougainvillea,



*There are many native species that are appropriate to the local environment which can be used as a living fence.*

though native to South America, is ubiquitous in Haiti and provides a stunning (but thorny!) barrier. Vetiver, a grass whose vigorous thick roots are used to produce essential oils used in perfumes, is grown in abundance in southern Haiti. Napier grass, Moringa, and Jatropha are known by small farm holders the world over, with uses ranging from animal fodder, to medicine, to biodiesel.

Although a fence can be a barrier, this living fence will be a vital and sustaining link to the surrounding community—just like the school!

# Network's Path to Expansion Included in New Book

by Angela Mascena (THP Director of Institutional Advancement)

The Haitian Project is fortunate to have a community full of experts in a wide array of fields who donate their time and talents to its mission.

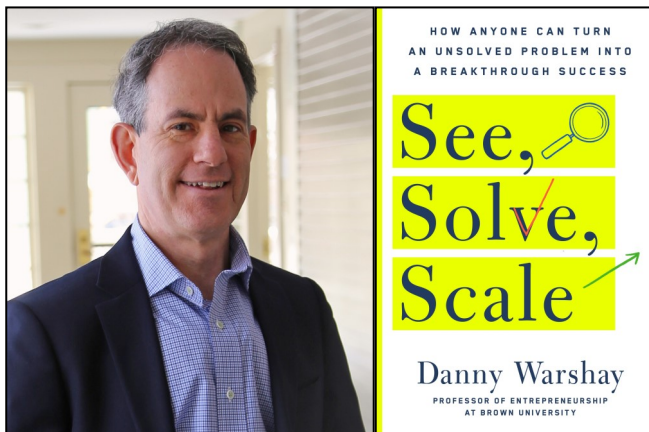
Specialists in education helped develop and enhance the curriculum at Louverture Cleary School. Engineers designed the buildings at LCS so that they can withstand severe earthquakes and weather events. Lawyers, accountants, videographers, graphic designers, fundraising professionals, and more have provided pro bono services to THP to make it easier to succeed at its mission on a frugal budget.

In short, it helps to have talented supporters. This was abundantly clear when THP President Emeritus Deacon Patrick Moynihan met with his friend Danny Warshay in December 2016 to catch up—and get a complimentary consultation from the business expert. Danny, Deacon Moynihan's classmate from Brown University, is an entrepreneurship coach, author, and Executive Director of the Nelson Center for Entrepreneurship at Brown.

In that one conversation, Danny set the Project on the path to expansion by encouraging THP to go all in on a big idea: the 10-school Louverture Cleary Schools Network.

Danny tells this story in his new paradigm-shifting book, *See, Solve, Scale: How Anyone Can Turn an Unsolved Problem into a Breakthrough Success*. Focusing on the entrepreneurial process, the book contains anecdotes about people and organizations that found a solution to a problem and scaled it in a sustainable way. The 20-year LCS Network plan to bring the impact of LCS to each diocese of Haiti serves as a prime example.

"Just as financial investors look for investments to grow financially, charitable donors also look for their investments to



THP Community Member Danny Warshay's book *See, Solve, Scale* focuses on the entrepreneurial process, containing anecdotes about people and organizations that found solutions to problems and scaled them in sustainable ways—including *The Haitian Project* and the *Louverture Cleary Schools Network*!

scale. I challenged him to think big," wrote Danny of his pivotal meeting with Deacon Moynihan.

Reflecting on the book, which *CEO Today* called "One of the 10 Most Inspiring Business Books for 2022," Deacon Moynihan remarked, "Danny's guidance literally lifted my eyes from the trench to the horizon. It made seeing the path to the big vision back to today as easy as doing a maze from end to start."

THP had long envisioned a future where there were enough LCS alumni in Haiti to fully transform the country's economy and institutions from within. But Danny's advice took this idea from merely a vision to a detailed plan of action.

"I can't thank Danny enough for his advice and friendship over the past 35 years," commented Deacon Moynihan.

As for Danny, he says "I'm grateful to THP and Patrick for sharing your story about achieving an even bigger impact in the book. Thank you for all you are doing to make Haiti and the world a better place!"

For more of this story and countless business insights from the man who quite literally wrote the book on entrepreneurship, check out *See, Solve Scale* wherever you get your books!

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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

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