

SUMMER
2016

Patterns

The Magazine of St. Martin's Episcopal School

Two roads diverged...
Preparing students for the forks in life's road

**Farewell and Godspeed:
Celebrating our 2016 Graduates**

**St. Martin's eighth graders' trek
through America's Grand Canyon**

AWARDS

Boys Baseball

DUNWOODY SENIOR
BASEBALL LEAGUE
CHAMPIONS

OFFENSIVE MVP
Matthew Turner
Tommy Fry

DEFENSIVE MVP
Will Sjostrom

WARRIOR
Finn Shaw

Boys Golf

MAAC ALL CONFERENCE
Charles Kyle
McCord Grice

WARRIOR
Jack Embleton

MOST IMPROVED
Jack Duerr

Girls A Soccer

MAAC ALL CONFERENCE
Caroline Belisle

WARRIOR
Caroline Perry
CJ King

MOST IMPROVED
Claire Gannon

Boys & Girls Tennis

WARRIOR
Mallory Arrigo
Sophia Costarides

William Olmstead
Patrick Olmstead

Youth Passing League

WARRIOR
Lee Fenstermacher

HUSTLE
Cale Lennon

MOST IMPROVED
Connor Kritzer

Girls B Soccer

WARRIOR
Antonia Stanek
Lily Steck

HUSTLE
Sophia Steck

Spring Sports Wrap Up:

intensity • hard work • determination • fight



SMES' baseball team was the league champion for the spring season. At right, kindergarten student Dallas Gardener serves as bat boy for the team. "I really liked getting the bats and throwing and catching with the guys in the dugout," said Dallas.

St. Martin's athletes took to the fields, courts and greens for Spring 2016.

"This was an amazing spring sports season," said Athletic Director Mark McDaniel. "On a daily basis, I saw intensity, hard work, determination and fight from our players."



A-Girls Soccer and Boys Baseball won their league championships. The Golf Team tied for second in the league scramble and took home trophies for 1st and 2nd place in the individual contests. SMES' Youth Passing League team missed out on the championship by just one point in overtime of the final game. Both boys and girls tennis teams made it to the semi-finals with solid seasons. The B Girls Soccer team played in the inaugural 7-on-7 league and were upset in the semifinals by just one goal scored in the last minute of the game.



Clockwise from top left: St. Martin's tennis teams; players in the Youth Passing League; the Girls A Soccer team with trophy; golfers Charles Kyle and McCord Grice.

Way to go, Warriors!

Patterns

EDITOR

Kathy Florence

CONTRIBUTORS

The Rev. Dr. James Hamner IV
Kristi Gaffney
Michele Davis
Kathy Florence

Photography:

Kristi Gaffney
Blythe Marsau
Stefanie Taylor

ADMINISTRATION

The Rev. Dr. James E. Hamner IV
Headmaster

Cindy Alexander
Principal, Early Childhood

Dr. Mary McPherson
Principal, Elementary School

Tony Shaffer
Principal, Middle School

Tracy Ballot
Director of Advancement and External Affairs

John Cunningham
Chief Financial Officer

Blythe Marsau
Director of Admission and Financial Aid

The Rev. Stefanie Taylor
Chaplain

The Rev. Dr. John McCord
Church Rector

.....
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St. Martin's Episcopal School. Please direct
any letters, comments or news items to:
St. Martin's Episcopal School
3110-A Ashford Dunwoody Rd.
Atlanta, GA 30319
Attn: Kristi Gaffney
(404) 288-0719
www.stmartinschool.org
kgaffney@stmartinschool.org

Mission Statement :

St. Martin's Episcopal School is dedicated
to providing a quality education of the whole
person in a loving, Christian atmosphere,
which fosters lifelong learning.



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Two Roads Diverge:
Preparing students for the forks in life's road

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St. Martin's eighth graders trek across the Grand Canyon's South Kaibab Trail
leading toward Cedar Ridge.

View this magazine on your tablet at issuu.com.

from the headmaster



*"Two roads diverged
in a wood,
and I-
I took the one less
traveled by,
And that has made
all the difference."
—Robert Frost*

Dear Friends:

Many of us may remember these famous concluding words of Robert Frost's famous poem "The Road Not Taken."

In a sense, one could view one's life as a series of choices, decisions to go in one direction and not in others. These choices form who and what we are. Where we go to school, what job we may pursue, or even who we marry.

While schools often offer common curriculum and a series of similar experiences, students also have a wide variety of choices – what sports to play, what foreign language to study and many other choices such as music, art or drama.

At St. Martin's, we encourage our students to try a variety of areas of study and activities, to help them in their ongoing journey of self exploration, to discern their unique gifts, skills, and talents.

"Choose wisely" is one of the iconic sayings from the popular movie "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade." Of course, the cultivating of wisdom is a complex, often lengthy process, of reflecting on the choices we make, some good, some not. Unfortunately, it is usually from our poor decisions that we can learn the most. We want our students to make wise decisions and choices to become thoughtful individuals of character and integrity.

I hope you will enjoy this summer edition of *Patterns* and learn more about the myriad daily choices of our students and faculty and how those choices impact their lives. I also hope you and your families will enjoy a relaxing and renewing summer.

Best wishes to everyone,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "James E. Hamner, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

P.S. Our variety of summer camp programs are well underway. It's not too late to register for these fun activities!



Dr. Hamner leads St. Martin's graduating eighth grade students in the annual "Clap Out" ceremony.

SMES' Annual Day of Service

Students, parents, faculty, church members participate; many benefit near and far



March 20, 2016

St. Martin's Episcopal School and St. Martin's Episcopal Church joined forces on Palm Sunday for a Day of Service. More than 100 volunteers fanned out to a variety of service opportunities including a blood drive, campus clean up, sorting of shoes collected to donate to developing nations and packing food to help change the story of childhood hunger in Georgia.

Food was packed assembly-line style off-site at our partner Action Ministries and each bag of food will provide six nutritionally balanced meals for local students in need of weekend hunger relief.

Parents, students, parishioners, teachers, scouts and administrators worked to complete all of these projects on this annual Day of Service.

Something special, indeed



The rest of Atlanta learned what St. Martin's faculty and staff already knew when the Atlanta Journal-Constitution named St. Martin's Episcopal School among its list of Atlanta's Top Workplaces.

Results of the annual list is based solely on the results of an anonymous employee feedback survey.

After receiving notification of the initial nomination, Elementary School Principal Mary McPherson provided Workplace Dynamics with an email listing of the entire St. Martin's staff for the third-party administrator to send the survey and analyze the results. Each company surveyed required a survey response rate of at least 35 percent and St. Martin's employees responded at 90 percent.

"When I learned the news of the award it validated what I've known for the past 17 years – that I work someplace very special," said McPherson.

For more information on the AJC Top Workplaces, visit ajc.com/s/business/topworkplaces/#top-stories

FROM THERE TO HERE, AND HERE TO THERE, FUNNY THINGS ARE EVERYWHERE



Status quo-amiss and wacky clothes were the order of the day when St. Martin's students and teachers celebrated Dr. Suess' birthday. The beloved author's birthday is March 2.

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Ringing clear: Messages of POP

Power Over Prejudice



Lessons of kindness, love and compassion for all was the theme of POP — Power Over Prejudice — Day. St. Martin's parent and sports agent Molly Fletcher spoke to elementary school students and reiterated the school year theme, "We're all in this together."

Middle school students heard from Dominic James, a 22-year-old Nashville recording artist who has been touring the country spreading awareness through his music of the effects of bullying.

Warrior thespians: Superior marks



St. Martin's Drama Club members attended the Georgia Jr. Thespian Festival at Columbus State College. SMES thespians scored 'superior' in three acting entries and three musical entries in individual events. The superior scores qualified all six entries for the International Festival this summer to be held at the University of Nebraska. In addition, St. Martin's qualified two students in tech/design. Congratulations to all 32 students who attended the state festival.

Science Olympiad team scores

St. Martin's Science Olympiad team took home four Top 20 awards at the state tournament that included teams from 66 schools held May 14 at Kennesaw University.



The after-school program hones teamwork, scientific skills and critical thinking. The winning entries: **Water Rockets** (8th), **Wildlife Safari** (14th), **Which Way is North** (15th), and **Grasp a Graph** (18th).

The team medaled in the DeKalb County regional competition.

Flash mob delights students, kicks off arts celebration



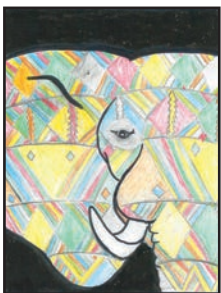
A routine fire drill was anything but. Teachers and administrators had a surprise for students with a flash mob and all-school dance party on the field to kick off St. Martin's Celebration of the Arts.

Celebration of the Arts

Roars with visual arts and stage performances



Stage performances of *The Lion King, Jr.* and a visual art show featuring African-themed art from each SMES student made up the 2016 Celebration of the Arts held April 14-17. Congratulations to the performers and crew for three excellent shows and to art contest winners (left to right, below) Top: Kate Postell/Katelyn Porter, Sapna Goel, Katherine Khajavi, Bottom: Adelaide Hanna, Abby Baird and Jack Wilkins.



Bonjour, francophiles

SMES French students win big in Francophonie contest



French student winners: Adelaide H. (3rd); Mary Claire F. (5th); Emma S. (5th); Thea X. (4th); Emily J. (1st); Tate O. (3rd); John David L. (2nd); and Brendan B. (4th). Not pictured: Eden S. (2nd) and Vandy N. (1st)

St. Martin's elementary school French students won 10 awards — two from each of the 1st through 5th grade levels — in the Atlanta Francophonie Festival drawing contest held in March.

An annual event offered on all seven continents to celebrate the French culture and language, the 2016 festival is the first in which elementary students were invited to join high school and middle school students. More than 400 students participated in metro Atlanta and SMES students took 10 of the 40 prizes awarded. Students were asked to illustrate one French word from a list of 10 and include a sentence in French.

Medical care, Indian culture ruled on Dr. Hamner's day off

The Bhatia family took over for Dr. Hamner on Friday, April 1 for the annual Headmaster of the Day. Students enjoyed learning about the importance of urgent care procedures and experienced a snapshot of Indian culture. Indian jewelry, sari, henna tattoos and a delicious Indian-themed lunch were all part of the special day.



Golf Tourney scores for SMES



Eighty-three golfers made up 21 teams and gathered at St. Marlo Country Club on May 2 for the 14th annual golf tournament. The one-day event raised more than \$28,000 for the St. Martin's endowment fund. Golfers enjoyed lunch, a putting contest and the opportunity to team with a SMES middle school golfer. An awards ceremony and dinner was held after the tournament. The Awards Atlanta team, made up of Chuck Lisowski, Brad Cast, Chris Nama and Brent Humphrey walked away with the tournament hardware.

Sweet lessons in economy, marketing and production

Integrated curriculum, tasty to boot: The fifth grade cookie sale

Fifth grade students put their imaginations and skills to the test with the annual Fifth Grade Cookie Sale. After testing and scaling recipes, baking, marketing and packaging, the students presented their wares in the middle school atrium. Cookie prices ranged from 75 cents to \$1 and all profits were donated to the UGA Marine Extension Service on Skidaway Island during their spring field trip visit.



Making Good Samaritans: “Kids Helping Kids” project teaches giving back, brings help to many

For the 20th year, St. Martin's students in all grade levels participated in an annual spring service project to benefit the Good Samaritan Health Center.

Students brought in donations to stock the center's first aid kits as well as items of hygiene and comfort for the patients of the non-profit center located in downtown Atlanta.



STEAM Night sizzles



It was a STEAMy May night: A collaborative effort of the science, technology and art departments when St. Martin's 4th and 5th grade students presented their STEAM Fair projects to parents and visitors at St. Martin's STEAM Night.

St. Martin's STEAM-based curriculum emphasizes science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics.

farewell

St. Martin's bids farewell to our Middle School Principal and to several beloved teachers.

Pat England has retired after 19 years of teaching at St. Martin's — 17 years as a 4th grade teacher and the past two years as religion teacher.



Pat England

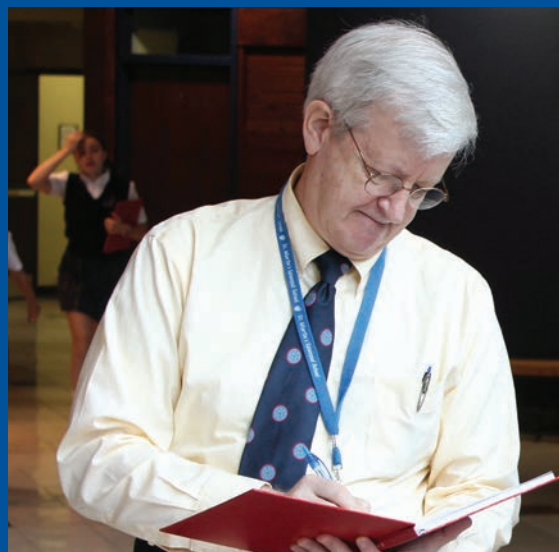
"I have loved all of my days here at St. Martin's, even the ones that presented challenges. I have felt humbled to have been embraced by such a loving community. The staff, teachers, clergy, those who prepare and serve our meals and those who clean up our messes have all become like family to me. But most of all, the families and the students have been so life-giving to me. They have been and continue to be a reflection of God's love for me, and I will always be grateful for the opportunity to share in their journey."

After six years at St. Martin's, fifth grade teacher **Kathleen Pease** will be leaving St. Martin's to move back to her hometown of Columbus, Ga. to be closer to her family. She will be teaching fourth grade at Brookstone School and spending lots of time with her nieces and nephews.

Kindergarten teacher, **Shauna Finch**, who has taught at SMES for six years will be leaving to spend more time as a mom.

Assistant Librarian **Marlies Lepore** will be moving to Washington, D.C. for a new job opportunity for her husband Chris, who is also a member of SMES' Board of Trustees.

In addition, we bid farewell to teachers **Hillary Tate, Miki Howard, Karrah Kijanko, Justin Clark, Wendy Steck, Ashley Self, Lee Ann Bradshaw** and **Sally Cann** who will be pursuing new ventures.



Skeeter Lee, St. Martin's Middle School Principal since 2006, retired this summer. He and his wife Dana will move to Cape May, N.J. There, he looks forward to relaxing and trying out his new canoe. In the photo above, 8th grade students gave Mr. Lee a canoe as their graduation gift in hopes that he will enjoy it in the coming years.

See excerpts from his poignant graduation speech, page 28.

Faculty News

Mr. Collins ties the knot

Middle School science and religion teacher Brandon Collins married Chloe Brock on May 21 at 550 Trackside in Lawrenceville. The couple honeymooned in Greece.



Coming soon to Actor's Express



SMES Drama teacher Heidi McKerley has completed work with fellow playwrights Renee Clark and Heidi's husband Jeff McKerley on a musical, "The Fine Art of Forgetting."

The new musical has been selected as one of four from across the nation to be presented at the first-ever Atlanta Musical Theatre festival. Performances are scheduled at Actor's Express on August 1 and 2.

**Congratulations! Today is your day. You're off to great places!
You're off and away! - *Dr. Seuss***

Class of 2016

Oh, the Places You'll Go...

By Kristi Gaffney, Marketing and Communications Manager

In many ways this famous introduction to Dr. Seuss' "Oh, the Places You'll Go!" sums it all up for the St. Martin's Class of 2016. Student Council President Megan Moffett chose to use excerpts from this wise book in her reflection speech to illustrate an overriding theme of "the journey to success."

On May 27, 62 St. Martin's 8th graders processed into the Cathedral of St. Philip to ceremoniously close a chapter in their individual books of life. Some students spent 11 years at SMES while others joined their classmates just for middle school. Either way, the Class of 2016 shared many important milestones as they journeyed through the ups and downs of childhood and into early-adolescence. They shared this special experience at St. Martin's and will bring it with them as a foundation toward their individual paths to success. As Moffett said, "St. Martin's lit a fire in me and I think it lit a fire in the class of 2016. That fire will continue to inspire. We will go on, we will learn more, we will grow more, we will do more and we will give more."

The ceremony was highlighted by the commencement address given by retiring Middle School Principal Skeeter Lee. Mr. Lee has given



“More than a school, St. Martin’s is a spirit. Like a shadow I shall never forget the special attention I got from my teacher



Top: Megan Moffett and Middle School Principal Skeeter Lee addressed the congregation at the 2016 graduation ceremony. Below: Excited graduates prepare for their next steps toward high school. At right, top: The Class of 2016 wear the colors and logos of the high schools they will attend in the fall. Bottom, right: Students and faculty “clap out” the 8th graders in a St. Martin’s tradition as they enter the Honor’s Day assembly.

much heart and soul to St. Martin’s during his 10-year tenure and his address used the alphabet to highlight some of the fundamentals of education. He specifically spoke of the middle school years – or the Fs, Gs, and Hs otherwise know as faith, gratefulness and helping. Lee went on to challenge students to be interesting innovators, have a joyful attitude, be kind to others and to always keep learning at the forefront as they traverse through high school and beyond.

A week to remember

The graduation ceremony culminated a week’s worth of events for 8th graders as they attended a number of events including a special breakfast hosted by the SMES Advancement team, an off-campus luncheon, a final chapel service and the traditional 8th grade ‘clap out.’ A St. Martin’s tradition, the clap out invites 1st through 7th grade students to line the hallways while the 8th graders process around the campus led by Dr. Hamner who ceremoniously rings the St. Martin’s bell. Students clap as 8th graders pass by and this sometimes-emotional tradition welcomes the soon-to-be graduates into the gym for the annual Honors Assembly.

Honors Day recognizes outstanding achievements

The Honors Assembly recognizes outstanding accomplishments by both elementary and middle school students in a number of academic and service-related awards.

But the assembly’s first award goes to an outstanding SMES teacher. The Reeder Excellence in Teaching Award recognizes a teacher who is characterized by positive contributions to the school. This teacher is committed to students first of all and he or she exhibits qualities such as a positive attitude, loyalty, dedication, flexibility and good relationships with students, parents, administrators and other teachers. In addition to this honor, the recipient receives a generous stipend from the Reeder Foundation. This year’s Reeder Award recipient is Middle School science teacher Alan Shafir. The Reeder Award is peer nominated and previous award recipients choose the recipient.

One of the highlights of the Honors Assembly is the announcement of the 8th grade Oglethorpe Award winner. To be considered for the Oglethorpe Award, students must be a good citizen of the school and community, and exhibit intelligence, compassion, enthusiasm, responsibility and common sense. Faculty members nominate students and a committee determines the winner. This year’s award recipient is Sydney Royal.

In addition to the day’s awards, the 8th grade class presented Mr. Lee with a special parting surprise. A canoe and custom SMES-logoed oars were unveiled from behind the stage’s curtain and Lee emotionally accepted this thoughtful gift. He assured the audience it would be put to good use in his retirement.

We wish the members of the Class of 2016 all the best as they continue onward toward their journeys to success.

where it goes where I go, where each of us will go from here.
 s and coaches and the lessons they taught me.” – *Megan Moffett*



**GOOD LUCK TO OUR
GRADUATES AS
THEY HEAD TO NEW
SCHOOLS IN THE FALL:**

Dunwoody High School
 The Galloway School
 Paideia
 Greater Atlanta
 Christian School
 Holy Spirit Preparatory
 School
 Holy Innocents'
 Episcopal School
 Marist School
 The McCallie School
 Mount Vernon
 Presbyterian School
 Pace Academy
 Pope High School
 Riverwood High School
 St. Pius X High School
 Vienna International School
 The Westminster Schools
 Woodward Academy



The school year's top awards — the **Reeder Excellence in Teaching Award** and **The Oglethorpe Award** were awarded to Middle School science teacher Alan Shafir and 8th grade graduate Sydney Royal, respectively.

A favorite among students and staff alike, Shafir has taught at St. Martin's since 2007. Pictured accepting the award above at left, he also coaches girls and boys soccer and is an eighth grade advisor and the lead teacher for the Grand Canyon trip. Shafir has three children, ages 2 to 5.

Pictured above at right, Sydney Royal has been an active student and scholar at St. Martin's. She was named to the Honor Roll for 6th, 7th and 8th grade and played on SMES' volleyball, basketball and tennis teams. She also enjoys the piano and is active with the North Atlanta Volleyball Club.



What are your current CAREER goals?

A microbiologist or neurobiologist. **Kyra Graap** • An archeologist or a lawyer. **Andie Miles** • I want to be a teacher or a realtor. **Rylee Shannon** • My career goals are simple: Make Bank and Have Fun. **Davis Futrell** • My career goals are to keep a single job for at least 10 years, make a decent living, and be remembered as a hard-worker that benefited his field of work. **Skeet Fortner** • I want to be an NICU nurse. **Lily Steck** • My career goal is to go into engineering. **Cale Lennon**

Breakfast for lunch. **Sydney Royal** • Chicken fingers. **Jack Embleton** • Burgers! **Ryan Ferguson** • PB&J. **Will Sjostrom** • French toast. **Sydney Smith**

What is your favorite SMES LUNCH item?



Italy because it is culturally rich and the architecture there is very beautiful. **Emma Halaburt** • I would go to Heaven to talk with Jesus, my grandfather Harry Neuhaus and my dog, Jumbo. **Jago Fleming** • France — to learn more about it. **Lee Fenstermacher** • Jamaica, because it's so pretty and I've always wanted to go! **Campbell Lott** • The Galapagos Islands because I was planning on going there with my grandparents, but my grandmother had a stroke so we couldn't go. **Brandon Connor** • Africa to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro. **Mitchell Maloney** • Down under to Australia because it's summer when we're in winter. **Matthew Dillard** • Bermuda. **Zoe Demetry**

Where would you like to TRAVEL?

SMES graduates speak...

Where will you attend HIGH SCHOOL?

What are you looking forward to?

What are you nervous about?

I will be attending St. Pius X. I am looking forward to trying out for volleyball and I'm nervous about how big it is. **Sara Hall** • I will be attending Holy Innocents' Episcopal School. I'm looking forward to playing sports and am nervous about harder material. **Grant Esler** • I am going to Vienna International School in Vienna, Austria. I am most nervous about the IB program because I have heard it's really hard. I am most excited about making new friends. **Antonia Stanek** • I am going to Westminster. Go Wildcats! I am most looking forward to making new friends and trying new clubs and activities. I am most nervous about finding the right group of friends that I can stick with for all four years. **Charlene Bohrer** • I will be attending Pace Academy. I'm looking forward to making new friends and I am very nervous about the academics. **Reggie Harris** • I will be attending Marist. I'm most looking forward to meeting new people and I'm most nervous about the academics. **Connor Rahiya** • I will be attending Riverwood International Charter School. I look forward to the bigger environment, but am nervous about the new classes and teachers. **Mallory Arrigo**

How many YEARS did you attend St. Martin's?

11 years. I began as a beginner! **Mollie Albert • Jordan Wissman •** Since Kindergarten— 9 years! **Shannon Murphy • Taryn Murphy • Lily Jane Hamilton •** Three years – Middle School! **Lucy Brumbaugh • Tommy Fry • Paddy Gannon • Annette Hall • Charlie Hawk • Robin James • Isabel McNamara • Gracie Morris • Caroline Perry • Simon Tolbert • Emily Wood • Ali Rab • Sydney Royal •** Just 8th grade – **Christensen McLaren**



The 50th anniversary **Lauren Goines •** Playing volleyball with my teammates last fall **Jenna Bertschi •** The 5th grade Skidaway Island trip when I sank and got stuck in the mud and Dr. Mac had to help me out. She called me her “muddy buddy” and it was a funny experience. **Abby Gillin •** In 4th grade when I signed the wood that was being used for the new middle school building. **Megan Moffett •** Going to Skidaway for the 5th grade field trip. I also enjoyed the events leading up to Skidaway like the Cookie Company. **William Payne •** Winning the baseball championship. **Matthew Turner •** The 8th grade and EC Halloween parade. **Annette Hall**

What is your favorite MEMORY of St. Martin's?

Gatlinburg in 6th grade. **Patrick Olmstead •** Disney World with my friends in chorus. **Charlotte Lennon •** The 5th grade trip to Skidaway. **Benjamin Brown •** The 6th grade trip to Gatlinburg. **William Olmstead**

What was your favorite FIELD TRIP other than the Grand Canyon?

What is your favorite SMES TRADITION ?

Spirit week. **Ian Purrington •** When the 8th grade sat in the balcony in the chapel, but now it is when the 8th grade pairs up for the Halloween parade because I did it when I was in Kindergarten, and I got to do it again, but as the older one. It made me realize how much I have grown up since I was a pink princess. **Ruthie Roberts •** The middle school annual trip to Winshape. I always look forward to this trip and I'm extremely upset that it was my last time going this year. I love bonding with my classmates in the outdoors, and I love getting to do the high ropes courses. I'm going to miss Winshape a lot! **Taylor Rand •** The 8th grade car wash. **Caroline Seelke •** My favorite SMES tradition is the school dances. **Leilani Mitchell •** Field day because it is a fun way to spend the last days of school with your grade and class making one last memory together. **Virginia Gwin Fortner •** The 8th grade soccer game at the end of the year. **Tiger Turner**

St. Martin's: The river

By Michele Davis, Middle School English teacher and a chaperone for the 2016 Grand Canyon adventure

The movie *A River Runs through It* is a tale about fly fishing and two brothers' choices. While our 8th grade trip did not entail fly fishing, our trip to the Grand Canyon was certainly about rivers cutting through the landscape—and the symbolism of the choices students have... and will make.

Our bus snaked through the Oak Creek Canyon, Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Glen Canyon, and Zion National Park, and students sang pop songs, watched movies, and deepened friendships.

Our guides, Eric and Korey, from Grand Classroom reminded us to look out to the grandeur every so often, and discussed the centuries to thousands of years that it took to carve the incredible structures. The river running next to our bus seemed meek, almost unnoticeable compared to the Hoodoos in Bryce Canyon, or the red sandstone cliffs in Zion. It was

easy to forget that the river was the reason for the remaining beauty.

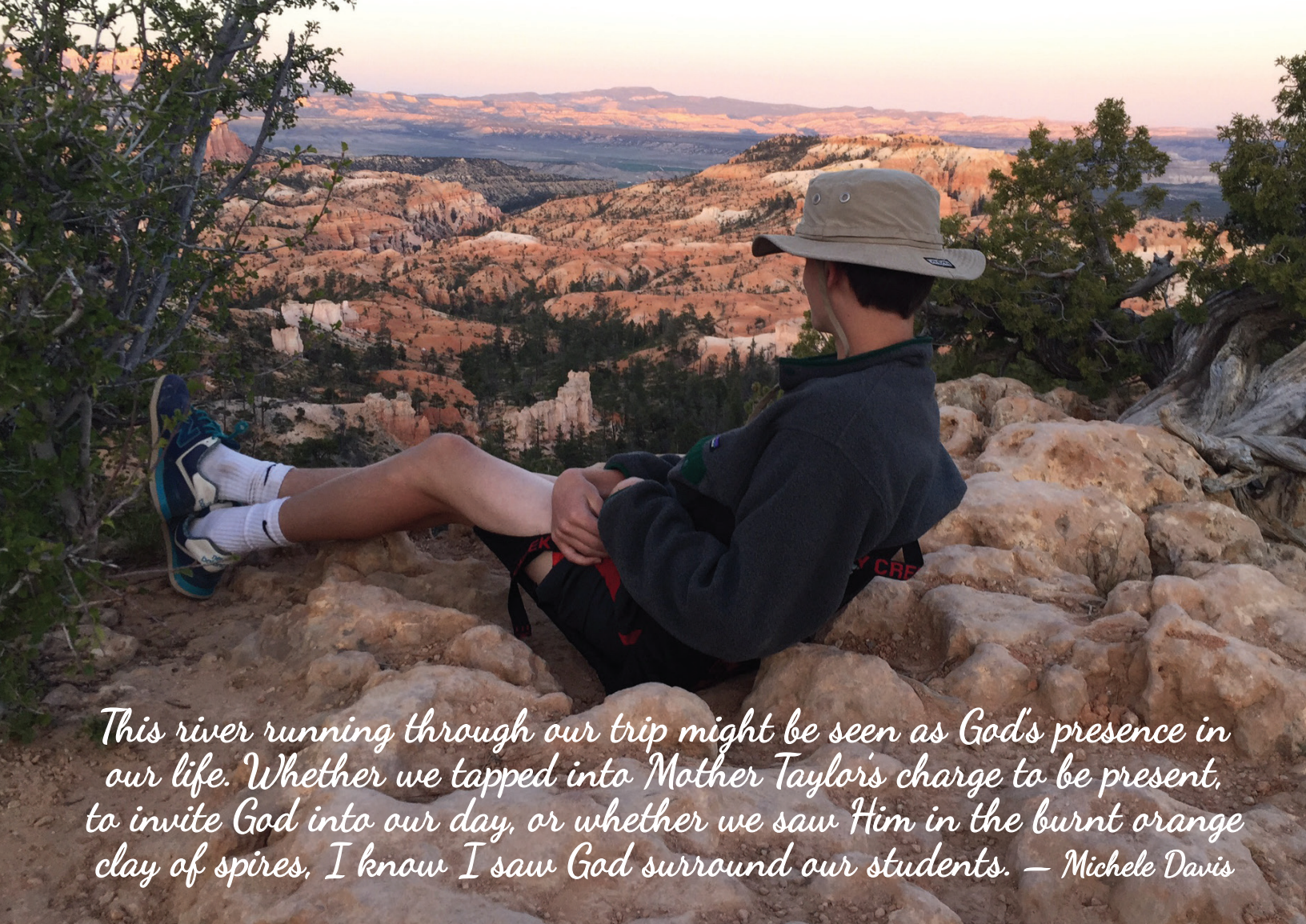
At St. Martin's, student accolades are a lot like these natural monuments: the activities; the athletics are the grandeur of a student's life.

It is the river — our studies and our faith — however that quietly shape who we are. Whether we have struggles in Science, or have ease in English, how we approach our studies, how we cleave to our faith, carves us like the river in the Grand Canyon.

This trip is a part of us now, a bend in the river. On the first day just seven miles north of Sedona, Ariz., watching students freeze at Slide Rock, yet encouraging each other to form water trains to brave the frigid, natural water slide or to jump from the rock cliffs certainly carved all of us. I see why students treasure this trip. They laugh



that runs through us



This river running through our trip might be seen as God's presence in our life. Whether we tapped into Mother Taylor's charge to be present, to invite God into our day, or whether we saw Him in the burnt orange clay of spires, I know I saw God surround our students. — Michele Davis

together, and huddle in a large 8th grade group uncaring of cliques or differences, but instead are simply the 8th grade.

Day One

That first evening, having dinner watching the sunset's light change the red rocks, students ate slowly and enjoyed the time together. The rush of the previous week was gone and they were relaxed. We teachers clung to to-do lists, medicine bags, and looked for guidance from the few that had made the trip before. We certainly enjoyed the beauty, but had the weight of safety on our minds. Our river on this trip might create a few more gray hairs or wrinkles in our face, but we know our dedication to St. Martin's and to our students make this trip run smoothly.

Day Two

Our stop on Day Two, the Kaibab Trail — Starting at 7,260 feet elevation and traversing down 1,040 feet on switchbacks, the three-mile hike is grueling on the way up, and for many students, this was a huge triumph. With exhausted muscles, students felt pride accomplishing such a trek. This will be a deep carving for some students, one they will be able to tap into when faced with future fears.

Day Three

The float trip through Glen Canyon, just below Glen Canyon Dam, is a marvel of sheer rocks. Driving through a two-mile tunnel to get there, we donned hard hats and traipsed down the metal steps to quickly board our industrial pontoons. Three hours later, swimming in the forty-seven degree water, students' shrieks echoed on the canyon walls.

Day Four

The next day began with sledding, rolling, and letting the sand from the Sand Dunes fall through our fingers. Our 8th graders felt joy that matched them in 1st grade. Uninhibited, they squealed as they ran down steep and deep dune sides. Early on fourth day, Reggie hurt his knee badly at the Sand Dunes and needed immediate attention. The concern students showed for Reggie offering thoughtful prayers and kind words, then great applause when he came out of the hospital, again shows how this trip carved our 8th grade students.

Fifteen students volunteered to stay behind, to ride the bus back to a small town where we could get medical attention for Reggie, and miss a hike through the Hoodoos in Bryce Canyon. These students willingly followed me to the park

with their Crazy Creek chairs and their journals in tote. A 45-minute personality test left us in stitches; some parts totally true—others so incredibly false. We laughed at ourselves easily and I know I will always remember that part of the trip. I hope students will remember to be flexible, to be open to change, and not to take oneself so seriously. Afterward, having dinner in Bryce Canyon with the whole group back together, we journaled along the rim. Seeing Mother Nature's canvas and how sunset changes the light in just seconds was noticed by all.

Day Five

We thought we had seen all of God's beauty, but making our way through the tunnel to Zion National Park, awestruck is a word many of us used on the fifth day. Massive sandstones of pink, red, and cream and this road took us from the heights of the canyon, driving down into the national park. Lunch under huge cottonwood trees, we refueled for our last hike of the trip. Some traversed up a fairly rigorous hike; others walked to the entrance of the Narrows. Nature fueled us, and we were ready to head back to Atlanta.

This river running through our trip might be seen as God's presence in our life. Whether we tapped into Mother Taylor's charge to be present, to invite God into our day, or whether we saw Him in the burnt orange clay of spires, I know I saw God surround our students. He could be seen in the quiet journaling along the rim of the Grand Canyon, in the arms linked walking along the Sunset Crater trail, and in rocks stacked in the Narrows. Student smiles show how faith and friendships have shaped them.

The river we might say then, is St. Martin's—all that we are, all that we mean to each other—and this river, St. Martin's— certainly runs through all of us.



St. Martin's annual 8th grade trip to the Grand Canyon originally began in 2006 with a grant secured by former Science teacher David Taube. The trip serves as the culmination to both our students' time at St. Martin's Episcopal School, but also to a year of Earth Science study.



volunteers

Spotlight on Richard Jaynes, Board of Trustees Chair

St. Martin's welcomes Richard Jaynes as the incoming Chair of SMES' Board of Trustees. We sat down to get his thoughts on the future of St. Martin's...



Richard and his wife Shannon Jaynes have two sons and have been a part of the SMES family since 2006. Sons Lewis and Patton began SMES in Kindergarten. Lewis graduated from SMES in 2015 and is a rising sophomore at Marist School. Patton is a rising 7th grader.

Richard grew up in South Carolina and moved to Atlanta after graduating from Clemson University. This is Richard's fourth year serving on SMES' Board of Trustees.

St. Martin's Episcopal School is dedicated to providing a quality education of the whole person in a loving, Christian atmosphere, which fosters lifelong learning.

St. Martin's mission statement is the Board of Trustees' compass for making decisions and offering direction when it comes to the welfare of the school. The Board has also developed a strategic framework to complement that mission and act as a map outlining the objectives, goals and measures of success we have as a school community. With these, we can continuously improve the school by focusing on key initiatives and tracking our progress every year.

Parental volunteering and fundraising

Parent participation in volunteering and fundraising are the cornerstone of St. Martin's and we do a great job at both. There are so many ways for parents to get involved and our parents are eager to assist. Our PTO drives our parent involvement and it does an amazing job recruiting and coordinating volunteers every year. The PTO contributions not only include a great assortment of community events but also important fundraisers that benefit the fiscal health of the school.

Leading the overall fundraising efforts, our Advancement team relies heavily on active parent participation to successfully run critical efforts like the Annual Fund, our largest annual fundraiser. Another important component to the long-term success of the school is the Endowment. The school's Endowment has benefited recently by two very generous gifts: An anonymous \$500,000 gift this past December intended to "inspire others to give" and \$100,000 contribution from the Goizueta Foundation as part of its larger \$325,000 STEAM grant announced this past May. The St. Martin's community will hear more about this in the coming years, but the Endowment is truly a generational gift that will ensure St. Martin's continues to be a leader in Pre-K – 8th grade education for many years to come.

What changes do you foresee over the next five years?

As we look at what it means to be a Pre-K-8th school in Brookhaven today and through to 2021, I think you will see continuous improvement across the St. Martin's experience – both in the classroom and across the community. We are very fortunate to have the tremendous foundation created by those who came before us. We will continue to set the bar high and work diligently for the benefit of our students, parents, faculty, alumni, and everyone who is part of the St. Martin's community.

What is your favorite St. Martin's tradition?

The list is long but at the top of the list would be the 8th grade 'Clap Out.' It is an emotional event for students, faculty, administration ... and probably most of all, parents. You drop them off as children with their red bags for kindergarten and watch them walk out nine years later as young adults.

spotlight

TWO ROADS DIVERGED...

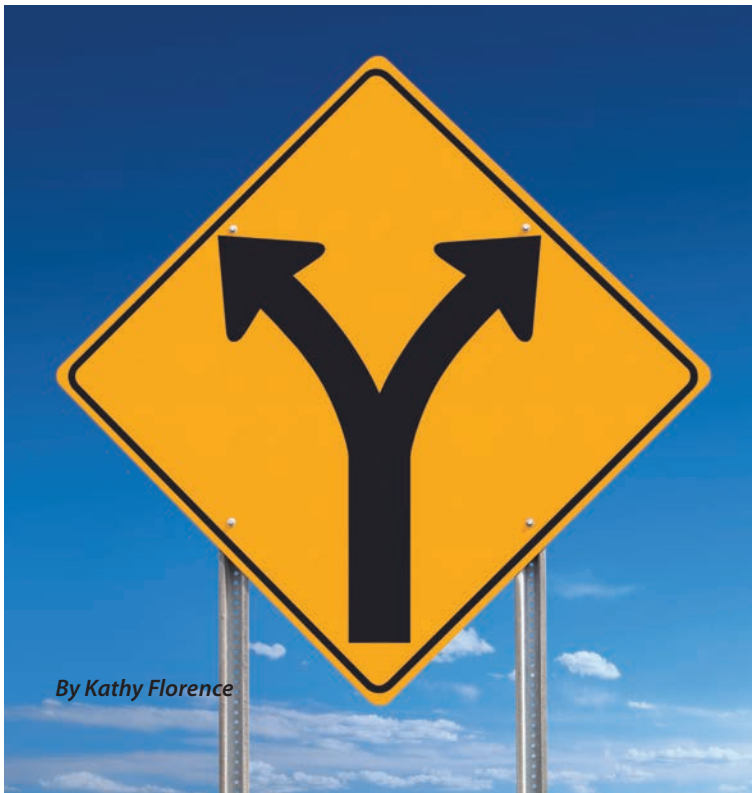
The Road Not Taken by Robert Frost

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.



By Kathy Florence

PB&J or grilled cheese? The red balloon, or the yellow balloon?

Early decisions prepare children for bigger ones to come, but how does one prepare for the true forks in the road: The decisions that indeed shape futures, point an arrow toward potential destiny, and create the path that affects all points forward?

What if you'd taken the other path when two roads diverged?

Think of the defining elements of your life: your current job; a significant other; your home. How many pieces of life came together to make each element your truth?

Would those elements of life be the same if you hadn't run into a colleague who mentioned a new position he/she had heard about? Or if you'd stayed home from the party? Perhaps if you hadn't made a wrong turn. If you'd inadvertently deleted an email.

In fact, any single, seemingly insignificant action can affect all others even when we are simply moving through our daily lives.

And then once in a while, we actually find ourselves standing at the fork of two distinct paths, and the reality of how one choice or the other will impact our future is forefront and real: Its impact, frankly scary.

Our high school graduates stand at what is often the first fork

Good practice for life's choices — and often defining decisions — begin with choice of school. Indeed, the first major fork that one faces is the same that our St. Martin's alumni from the class of 2012 have found themselves at these last several months: Choice of college.

Harrison Ray (*SMES Class of '12*), 2016 graduate of Pace Academy, found the fork leading toward two amazing opportunities, but neither was the amazing opportunity he'd imagined.

"I've been interested in military service for quite a while," Harrison said. "But I'd recently come to the conclusion that I'd like to be a part of the United States Navy."

When college acceptances came in, he found scholarship opportunities at West Point with a door wide open to a career in the U. S. Army, and at Georgia Tech to join its revered ROTC program.

But the Naval Academy? Wait-listed.

"I weighed the pros and cons with my family, and had many conversations with my dad, who is a West Point graduate," Harrison said. "But I've made the decision to

pursue the opportunity at Georgia Tech." "I can reapply to the Naval Academy next year, and even if that doesn't work out, I see great potential with the Georgia Tech and ROTC path."

Harrison will be putting his focus on a degree in nuclear engineering with an eye toward service with the Navy once the degree is complete.

Twins Erin and Caroline Barnes (*SMES Class of '12*) had shared the same high school and each selected Mount Vernon Presbyterian School for its similarity in size and climate to St. Martin's. But when it was time to select a college, they each had different ideas for both direction of major study and campus style.

Mount Vernon's Senior Boot Camp held the week before senior year, helped the students pair down school choices, prepare drafts of admissions essays and set themselves up for the application process.

"I want to pursue an engineering program, and Caroline is interested in the arts. She'd like to be a photo journalist," said Erin. "I really wanted a large school with SEC football and Caroline was open to smaller school options."

After applying to seven schools, Erin narrowed down her choices to Mississippi State, LSU and the University of Georgia. She visited each and loved all three campuses.

"At that point, it came down to simply imagining myself at each campus." In the end, both girls selected the University of Georgia, though they are ready and prepared to separate for the first time and will have separate roommates and likely separate dorms. "I



thought about this decision for months, and for me, the right decision just slowly came into focus,” added Erin. “I made my decision in mid April and a few days later went to the Georgia G-Day spring football game. I looked around the stadium, along with 93,000 others all there for the University of Georgia, and I knew I’d made the right choice.”

But sometimes, you have to take a step or two down a path before the road shows itself as the right one

Jill Florence (*SMES Class of '04*) had happily accepted her place as a freshman at Texas A&M for the following fall, when in the spring of 2008 a previously ignored option at Georgia Tech pulled her right back into the college decision.

“My thinking changed for me during a conversation with my uncle who pointed out the benefits of college contacts for networking once it’s time to look for a job. Those contacts would have been plentiful for Texas, but I knew I wanted to return to Atlanta some day,” she said. “Suddenly, Georgia Tech felt right after all.”

“I don’t think you ever get the luxury of knowing if you made the right choice. I know I could have been happy either place, but I’m very comfortable that my choice of Tech has led me to where I should be.”

Jill has recently joined Newell Brands’ Atlanta office as an associate on its Strategic Business Solutions team.

The stakes can be even greater

Often, it’s the career path itself that changes. And many times there are years of invested college study and work following one direction before a fork in the road presents itself, either for a new opportunity or perhaps because the original plan didn’t feel right after all.

Skeeter Lee, SMES’ recently retired middle school principal, was pursuing a career in the insurance industry after college. A career development program with a major firm allowed him the opportunity for a four-day workweek, so he spent weekends working at a youth camp in Vermont. When a colleague pointed out his talent for working with kids, his first reaction was to say, “but I don’t know anything about that.”

It was a simple, “You know more than you think you do” reply that turned Lee’s sights toward a career in education.

For Early Childhood music teacher Mimi Deupree, raising a family created a need for redirection. Her senior vice president position at a bank required hiring a nanny for her two young children. After replacing nannies several times, Deupree and her husband re-thought their direction.

She left the high-ranking bank position, stayed home to raise their children and then later pursued her love of music to become a music teacher.

“It was the right decision for us and I shared the formative years with my children,” she said. “I’ve never looked back.”



Sometimes another person redirects our path

For many educators, it's the personal influence of a teacher that directs them toward a career in teaching. For Middle School teacher Thais Diaz, that impactful teacher was her son's. Because her son struggled with ADHD and a learning disability in mathematics, Diaz was forced to change his school. His new teacher empathized with Diaz's family's challenges as she had a son with similar struggles.

"Mrs. Lawrence brought the joy of learning back to my son," she said. "I was so touched by her kindness and the positive impact she had on him, that I decided to leave my career in software technology and become a teacher."

"I really wanted to be like Mrs. Lawrence. Ten years later and I get to be around young minds all day and truly feel that I make a difference every day," she said.

Liza Suarez came to the United States from Colombia to study English and return to her native country to become a journalist and continue work in the public relations industry. It was a chance meeting with a man who she couldn't even communicate with that changed her destiny.

"I knew very little English and he knew no Spanish, but he was persuasive and I fell in love," she said. "I followed my heart." After redirecting her path and graduating with a master's degree in human resources development at Georgia State University, she was offered the opportunity to teach, so she went back to school for a Spanish teaching certificate and married the man who is now her husband.

"I would gladly repeat this journey again," Suarez said. "My family in Colombia is proud of my accomplishments and thanks to technology, we get to see each other almost every day. My destiny changed for good, and turned out to be better than I ever thought."

Journalism initially tempted Cathryn MacArthur, an alumni from the Class of 2004 and a long-term substitute teacher at St. Martin's. After writing for school newspapers at St. Martin's and in high school, she entered Appalachian State University with journalism in mind but changed her mind after the first semester.

"I tried several options before graduating with a political science degree, then went to Washington, D.C. to pursue a career as a lobbyist. That didn't seem right, so I tried city planning and spent a year at UNC Charlotte," she said. "It wasn't until I accepted a long-term teaching position at St. Martin's that I knew I wanted to be a teacher."

The tools

What are the tools that St. Martin's alumni and educators find most helpful when making a big decision?

Pro and con lists, for one. Talking decisions through with a valued friend or family member can help clear thoughts.

"I spent a long time talking with my dad," said Harrison Ray. "Our conversations helped me see an alternative path to my goals."

In business, decision-making exercises expand the pro and con list to the PMI process: Scoring the Pluses, Minuses and Intriguing aspects of each decision. Likewise, creating a personal algorithm graphing possible outcomes, resource costs and long-term options in a decision tree graph can be helpful. Another option, a timeline that might graph possible expectations for each choice.

Sometimes a simple leap of faith is the best option

"I have thoroughly debated many decisions regarding career and family in my life," said SMES Director of Advancement and External Affairs Tracy Ballot. "When I was presented the option of moving to Atlanta — without a job, or friends there; a place I'd never even visited — I thought, 'What's the worst that can happen?' It's been 20 years since I made that decision and I have absolutely no regrets."

"I was petrified of making a mistake," said Jill Florence. "I realize now that we are rarely faced with paths that are right or wrong. They are simply different, with different rewards along the way."



PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE

Chris Gutschenritter, Class of 2003

Chris Gutschenritter is living in Chicago and working as a consultant with Accenture, a global leader in management consulting services and solutions. He has plans to transfer to the company's New York office later this year.

In Chicago, Chris enjoys exploring the city, Cubs' games, beach and the great Chicago pizza.

High School Marist College Miami University, Ohio

Study Accounting

Most influential teacher at SMES My fourth grade teacher Mrs. England. She made everything fun, interesting and did a tremendous job preparing us for our middle school years.

Something special you learned at SMES I learned very quickly how great the people at SMES were. Surrounded by the best faculty and friends, I learned how much everyone cared about one another and I made lifelong friends and relationships.

Dream job President of the United States

Person I'd most like to meet Ted Turner

Favorite Celebrity Woody Harrelson

Least Favorite Celebrity Alex Rodriguez

Favorite food steak

Favorite book Where the Red Fern Grows

Favorite movie The Cowboy Way

Favorite way to give back Habitat for Humanity

What advice do you have for current students at SMES? Do the right thing; good things happen to good people. Work hard, have fun, enjoy the ride and make the most of your experiences and opportunities.

My favorites: ☒ Books ☐ Movies ☐ Surfing the Net

☐ Sweet ☒ Savory

☒ Baseball ☐ Football ☐ Tennis



class notes

1996

Caroline McGreaham Rose and her husband Brett Rose welcomed son, Alexander "Xander" Adair Rose, on March 6.

year?

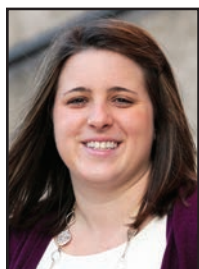
John Paul Papadopoulos married Pia Papadopoulos on June 8 in Parga, Greece.

2001

Emmarie Huetteman married Christopher Trepky on Feb. 29 in a ceremony with their families on the Tidal Basin in Washington, D.C. The couple have been together since meeting at the University of Michigan in 2005.

2004

Jill Florence has joined Newell Brands' Atlanta office



Jill Florence

as an associate member of its Strategic Business Solutions team.

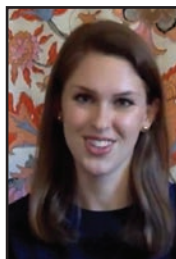
2006

Chaz Duffy performed in "The Light in the Piazza" at Theatrical Outfit as understudy to the two male principals and also appeared in the ensemble.

2008

Jake DeLany graduated cum laude from Mercer University with a degree in accounting and minor in finance where he was president of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. He will intern this summer with Price Waterhouse Coopers and will attend the University of Georgia next year for a masters degree in accounting.

Edward Duke graduated from Sewanee and will begin work with United Distributors in Smyrna as a sales representative this summer.



Hannah Hoff

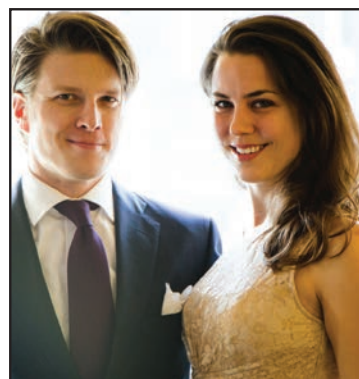
Hannah Hoff shared a video with St. Martin's students about the work of the Good Samaritan's

Center. Hoff learned about the non-profit center while a kindergartner at SMES and had the opportunity to work with the group last summer.

Meghan Matthews graduated from the University of Mississippi with an undergraduate degree in Elementary Education. During her undergraduate studies, Meghan was an active member of Phi Mu, Jump Start, and a student teacher at Lafayette Elementary School. Meghan was also recently inducted into the Kappa Delta Pi National Education Honor Society and was named to the Dean's List and Chancellor's List. Meghan will



Friends since they were SMES classmates more than 25 years ago, Kennerly Long Jordan, Sara Harwood Snavelly, Caitlin Goodrich Jones, were on hand to meet Xander Rose, infant son of Caroline McGreaham Rose (holding baby) and her husband Brett.



Christopher Trepky and Emmarie Huetteman

Keep in touch!

Please send your news and photos via email to alumni@stmartinschool.org

Visit our Alumni pages online at www.stmartinschool.org and on Facebook and Twitter!



John Paul and Pia Papadopoulos



Erin Huff (position in photo) was named one of five "Kids Who Care" by 11 Alive.



Elizabeth Harvey received a proclamation from Dunwoody Mayor Denis Shortal.



Chad Nelson (front, left) will play football at Elon.

begin her Master's program in Elementary Education at the University of Mississippi this summer.

2009

Susan Bloom is a senior at Georgia College and State University. She is currently interning for a New York record label.

Gardner-Webb junior **Mary Walker Mixon** and doubles tennis partner Rokia Sacko have been named Second Team All-Conference posting a 12-8 record at No. 2 Doubles.

2010

Dave DeLany will be a junior at the University of Georgia majoring in finance and international business. He is a member of Sigma Chi and the fraternity's executive committee.

Emma Duke, a business major specializing in computer science at Georgia Tech, has been consistently named to the Dean's List in her first two years of study. She spent the first three months of 2016 in the South Pacific on a study abroad program and was chosen as a Denning's Technology and Management scholar.

Olivia Haas is studying political science and Spanish in the honors program at Converse College. She recently co-founded the college's first radio station. This fall she will be living in NYC while studying and interning through the Bard Globalization and the International Affairs program.

Camilla Grayson and **Jeanne Davis** are both deejays for the University of Georgia's WUOG radio station.

2011

Callie Cardenas completed her freshman year at Auburn where she was named to the scholarship club for her sorority, Gamma Phi Beta and was named assistant director for the University Program Council and an athletic recruiter for prospective football players and their families.

2012

Meghan Clark, Isabel Gregor and **Laura Sundal** graduated from St. Pius X. They are set for freshman years: Meghan at the University of Tennessee, Isabel at Auburn University and Laura at the University of Georgia.

Dear SMES family,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the SMES community for their thoughts and prayers. You called while I was sick and I have received cards and emails from many teachers and parents. Plus, I heard that I was on the prayer list. I am so touched by this kindness. I want to thank everyone from the bottom of my heart.

I do not know if you have heard but earlier this year my doctor pronounced me cancer free. I am slowly recovering but feel so happy and healthy. My family is overjoyed and I hope to share this with the SMES community.

I am graduating Berry College with honors as a psychology major, family studies minor. In the fall I begin an internship at Walt Disney World. Afterwards I will attend graduate school in clinical psychology. I am ready to move on to the next chapter in my life and feel so grateful for the love and support from the SMES community.

Sincerely,

*Stephanie Looper
Class of 2008*

class notes



Sally Smith (r) with Maria Kepler



Devin Cochran



Emma Smith with selections from her art portfolio.



Phillip Game, Cece Conrad, Nic Hewett, Mollie Belisle, Kyle Blasingame and Ian Thomas (Class of '13).

Elizabeth Harvey and **Samantha Daily** each won their Girl Scout Gold Awards this spring. Elizabeth's "Power of the Pencil" project was aimed at the children's daycare center at the Mary Hall Freedom House. Samantha created a "Love of Books" Lending Library at the Covenant House homeless shelter.

Erin Huff was honored as one of five outstanding high school students granted the "Kids Who Care" Award from 11 Alive. Erin started a "Teen Girls' Life Group" for middle school girls at Decatur United Methodist Church for her Girl Scout Gold Award project. Her goal was to educate and empower girls to have faith in themselves to help them through middle school and beyond. She will attend Clemson University in the fall.

Alexandria Cannon received Holy Innocents' Episcopal School's 2016 Citizenship Award, conferred upon a senior who best exemplifies outstanding conduct toward other students, faculty, school and community. She will attend George Washington University.

Sally Smith will enter the University of Georgia as a freshman in the fall. She received the 2016 Citizenship Medal from St. Pius X.



Kelly Millsaps

Kelly Millsaps graduated from St. Pius X and will attend Georgia State University to pursue a degree in nutrition.

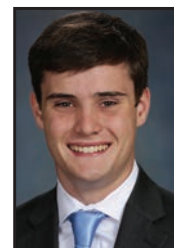
Chad Nelson received an athletic scholarship to play football as an offensive lineman at Elon University in the Fall of 2016. He was also named to the Georgia Athletic Coaches Association AAAA All-State Team, the AJC AAAA All-State Team, and the 6-AAAA All Region Team.

Monday, May 23 was proclaimed **Elizabeth Harvey**/Prudential Spirit of Community Day by Dunwoody's mayor. Elizabeth was recognized for her outstanding volunteer contribution to the community. She is attending Georgia Tech.

Devin Cochran received an athletic scholarship to play football as an offensive tackle at Vanderbilt University. Devin is also the AA State Champion in the Shot Put with a throw of 53-03.50 this Spring.

Emma Smith was recognized for outstanding achievement in art at Riverwood International Charter School's annual honors and awards

night. She will attend Georgia College and State University.



Harrison Ray

Harrison Ray received a four-year Naval ROTC scholarship to Georgia Institute of Technology. Harrison

intends to major in nuclear engineering and hopes to be commissioned in the Navy after graduation.

Charlotte Spaeth was named Riverwood International Charter School's "Most Likely to Travel the World." She will begin by attending University of Colorado-Boulder in the Fall.

2013

Kristin Elliott played on the tennis team at Dunwoody High School. The team played in the 2016 state championship tournament.



IN MEMORIAM

PARKER BERMAN
CLASS OF 2013

A message from our 2015-16 PTO co-presidents

Dear Members of the St. Martin's PTO:

.....

Friends since their days at St. Martins, Holy Innocents' students **Phillip Game, Cece Conrad, Nic Hewett, Mollie Belisle, Kyle Blasingame** and **Ian Thomas** dressed in their best to attend the HIES prom this spring.

Clementine McCard received the Geraldine Cate Award at Saint Mary's School in Raleigh, N.C. for outstanding performance in voice.

2014

Diane DeLany will be a Junior at St. Pius X where she is a varsity cheerleader, a member of the National Honor Society. She also coaches middle school cheerleading at SPX.

Addie Duke has completed her sophomore year at Greater Atlanta Christian School and earned a varsity letter in tennis. She enjoys art, particularly video production and photography. She spends time at Camp Mikell in the summer and will travel to Ireland with her J2A group in July.

2015

Gracie Ackaway played on the tennis team at Dunwoody High School. The team won regionals and played in the 2016 state championship tournament.



*Mendy Eskew and Cathy Fisher,
PTO-Co-Presidents 2015-16*

This was a very good year for our organization and community. We want to thank each of you who contributed your time and financial resources toward making it so successful and thank you for the opportunity for leadership.

Particular thanks go to our PTO chair volunteers who organized, planned, communicated, and stewarded our robust array of 40-plus programs and events. We simply couldn't have done it all without you!

The 2015-16 school year allowed for certain thoughtful changes in PTO programming and behind-the-scenes details. The year began with upgraded communications. We produced a flagship

brochure to help new and prospective parents understand the scope of St. Martin's PTO. Simultaneously, we were able to implement upgrades and features to make our school website PTO pages more navigable, timely, and informative. Parents and teachers greatly benefited from these additions.

Also, on-line ticketing and purchasing were established for a number of family events and fund-raisers. Parents asked for and appreciated the ability to purchase without the use of paper checks. Alongside this upgrade, the school Warrior Store received a well-deserved face lift. The entire store was brought on-line to make it easier for parents to purchase items from the store and have the items delivered to them.

There was a conscious effort this year to have a Fall Fund-raiser, not just with dollar signs in mind, but nobly reinforcing St. Martin's core value of service. As such, the normal budgeted fall fund-raiser became two, with a sale of Christmas trees, wreaths and ornaments during first semester and a shoe drive for the needy in the spring. Both came very close to their financial goals but, equally as important, the goal of serving others was met with the latter. The final change for 2015-16 was the inaugural Winter Social—a new casual parent fundraiser alternating years with our legendary Fling Gala. The community gave its support by generously raising over \$80,000 through sponsorships and an on-line auction. Proceeds directly benefit the new STEAM academic initiative school wide.

Many PTO activities are break-even events meant for community building such as the Father/Daughter Dance and Family Fun Event. But PTO funds raised through other initiatives such as book fairs and community rebates, provide for many important committees like Teacher Appreciation and Hospitality. Funds raised also allow the PTO to make a year-end contribution to the critically important St. Martin's Endowment Fund.

Again, we are most grateful for the support from each of you. Our successors, Shara Sanders and Paige Feagin and their seven-member executive board team, will welcome and appreciate the same as they aim to uphold the school's mission statement.

Enjoy your summer!

Mendy and Cathy



Excerpts from graduation speech, May 27, 2016:

If grades 1 - 5 are the A, B, C, D and Es of education, the F, G and H are the Middle School years.

For F, it's all about faith. I do hope that your time in the Middle School has shown you the importance of having a strong faith. You have seen it in Mother Taylor's chapel talks, and in all of the service projects that the school has undertaken each year. You have seen faith lived out in the goodness and kindness of your classmates as you helped each other throughout the school year. You have lived your faith as you worked with younger students. By living faithfully, I hope that you know that God is near each one of you, and your faith, lived out each day, is what has made St. Martin's a special place. Please take what you have learned at St. Martin's and continue to live your faith.

For G, be grateful. Each one of us has achieved what we have accomplished with the help of others. None of us can accomplish very much without the aid of others. Be grateful to all of those who have made it possible. As I look back on my life, I see all that my family did for me. I do hope that, through the miracles of modern technology, my 88-year-old father is watching. "Dad, thank you for all that you have done for me and for your granddaughters. Thank you for your guidance and for the gift of family."

For H, be helpful. The world is a better place when people look for ways to aid others. In Middle School at St. Martin's, you learned to deepen your faith, to be grateful and to be a helper.

High school years are the letters I, J, K and L which represent the freshman, sophomore, junior and senior years. These four years will fly by and then you will go to college.

For the letter I, be interested. Take the time to be interested in your new school community. Take the time to talk with people face-to-face. Ask about their families, their ideas and their concerns.

J, be joyful. In life, one of the few things that you can actually control is your attitude. Being joyful is wonderful and is contagious.

And K, be kind. In 1902, the American writer and philosopher Henry James wrote one of my favorite quotes. He said, "Three things in human life are important. The first is to be kind. The second is to be kind. And the third is to be kind."

And finally, for the letter – L, be a life-long learner. Embrace the opportunity to learn every day.

From Pablo Picasso:

"The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away."

Alums return for annual Blue and Red dinner

CONGRATULATIONS!
***ALUMNI FROM THE**
CLASS OF 2012
ARE HEADED TO:

Elon University
Georgia College and State University
University of Georgia
Columbia University
Auburn University
Florida Atlantic University
Berry College
Cosmetology School
Louisiana State University
Georgia Tech
Samford University
Mississippi State University
University of Colorado
Emory at Oxford
University of Mississippi
Savannah College of Art and Design
Clemson University
University of North Georgia
Kennesaw State University
Georgia Southern University
Middlebury College
George Mason University

**If we missed your college or career path, please let us know.
Keep in touch via
alumni@stmartinschool.org*



More than 100 St. Martin's alumni from the class of 2012 and their families gathered for the annual Blue and Red dinner in early May. Speaker Tatiana Gibson Jordan (*Class of '95*) addressed the students as they leave high school and make preparations for their next steps. Jordan, co-founder and CMO of PRIVET and host of NBC's Atlanta affiliate show, "Atlanta Tech Edge" spoke to the students about how her time at St. Martin's gave her a strong moral and spiritual foundation that still serves her today.



St. Martin's

EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

St. Martin's Episcopal School
3110-A Ashford Dunwoody Road
Atlanta, GA 30319



Fifth grade students took their ceremonial walk into middle school at St. Martin's annual "Crossing of the Green" at the close of the school year. The 2016-17 school year will mean new uniforms, a new classroom building, new challenges and many new opportunities for these students.

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