

## A Step Along the Way Groundbreaking Ceremony

By Rich Clark

On February 6, under unseasonably blue skies and warm sun, and joined by nearly 200 of our closest friends, we celebrated the ceremonial groundbreaking of our new school building. The occasion was especially momentous as this will be the first new school built in our neighborhood in over 100 years, and we were grateful to be joined by Bishop Anthony Pilla, City Council President Kevin Kelley and Cleveland's Chief of Regional Development Ed Rybka.

At the groundbreaking, Saint Martin Board Chair Nick Howley called the crowd's attention to our fundraising success thus far and to the renewed sense of hope and commitment to our neighborhood the building represents. During his remarks Bishop Pilla reminded those in attendance that the students who attend Saint Martin are "all of our children" and that this building will be a visible reminder of our long held belief that all students deserve access to a high quality education that prepares them for college, career and life success. Saint Martin

proudly partners with over 150 organizations throughout Northeast Ohio through our Corporate Work Study Program, with the Cleveland Foodbank to provide nutritious food to local families each month, and with our students and their families to provide the programs and services that allow them to find joy and success in learning. Our new building will be a critical factor in the revitalization of the St. Clair Superior Neighborhood and will reinforce our commitment to be an anchor institution for the students and families we serve and within the wider community.

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#### **Spring 2016**

**President** Richard F. Clark

Vice President, Corporate Work Study Program Ann Davis

**Principal** Gary Sardon, Jr.

Human Resources Manager Kerry Capka

Vice President of Mission Virginia Malloy

Vice President, Advancement Laura Rayburn

Chief Financial Officer
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#### Mission

Inspired by the Gospel, Saint Martin de Porres High School is a Catholic college-preparatory high school that combines innovative academics with a unique work program preparing students of limited economic means to become men and women of faith, purpose and service.

#### Vision

Saint Martin de Porres High School prepares students for post-secondary success in education and work through a mutually transformative learning experience sustained by 21st century skills (communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking), good work habits and a commitment to justice and peace.

Please send questions or comments regarding the newsletter to Caitlin H. McDermott at cmcdermott@stmdphs.org

#### A STEP ALONG THE WAY GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY continued from page 1

We are proud of the results our students have achieved since we opened in 2004, including graduation rates, college enrollment rates and college graduation rates that far surpass the averages for students from similar economic backgrounds. We know that our new building will better communicate the love and respect we have for our students and will resemble more closely the college and professional environments where our students will find themselves after high school graduation. Mekdes Shiferaw and Destine Willis, who spoke at the event, both members of the Howley Scholars program, enthusiastically imagined what life will be like in the new building when we "move in" at the start of the 2017-18 school year.

Because of generous support of individuals, corporations, and foundation, Saint Martin de Porres High School began construction of Phase 1 on March 1.





#### TOUR OUR CONSTRUCTION SITE!

We welcome the opportunity to provide you with a hard hat tour of our building project. Please cal Sarah Lautenbach at (216) 881-1689, ext. 342 to make arrangements.

#### Students who attend Saint Martin are "all our children..."

-Bishop Anthony Pilla







## Spring Break Spent in Service to Others

During this year's spring break, 27 students and 8 adult chaperones spent their break on service immersion trips. Groups traveled to Chicago, Washington, D.C., Nazareth and Bethlehem Farms in West Virginia.

Each trip offered opportunities for students to participate in service, including home repair, visiting with those experiencing homelessness, distributing food in a food pantry, and hearing the stories of men who were formerly incarcerated. Taking these service opportunities one step further, the organizations who facilitated the immersion trips helped participants to reflect on their time, the stories of the people they met and the root causes of the injustices they witnessed. Each participant — adults and students alike — was encouraged to reflect on their immersion trip and make a deeper commitment to social change as a result.

#### **NAZARETH FARM**

Kerri Stewart, Taelor Majors, A'vri Cook, Katie Ravenal, Megan McGowan and Jim Mulhern trekked to Nazareth Farm in northern West Virginia to spend time living out the four cornerstones of Naz Farm: simplicity, community, service and prayer.

**Simplicity:** We survived on simple meals (virtually no meat for a week!), outdoor bucket showers and an evening without electricity, and we learned to appreciate the quiet and beauty of rural life.

Community: We shared meals, projects and daily existence with Naz Farm staff and with students and chaperones from four high schools, one each from St. Louis and suburban Washington, D.C., and two from San Jose and San Mateo, California,

and we shared food and conversation with local residents.

**Service:** We helped on home projects (including post hole digging, stair construction and patio demolition) near Naz Farm, and we packed lunches for children and painted rooms at the Clarksburg mission.

**Prayer:** We began each day and each project with prayer, and we rejoiced in student-led prayer and communion services.

Our students had a terrific week and had the opportunity to experience a different way of life, learn of the problems in rural Appalachia and bond with students from different backgrounds and cultures.

–Jim Mulhern, Campus Ministry Volunteer

#### WASHINGTON, D.C.

I wanted to go on a spring break immersion trip because one of my favorite parts of teaching is learning. I knew that by accompanying a group of students on this trip, I would learn so much about Washington, D.C. and its needs, about how God is calling me to work for justice back home in Cleveland, and about our students themselves. I was extremely nervous about taking such a large group of students, but gradually settled into a spirit of surrender. My colleague Erin and I had planned thoroughly and done all that was within our power to ensure a safe trip. All we had to do was put our trust in God—and He protected us!



One memorable moment from our D.C. Immersion happened on the last day. Our very last service assignment was to visit a nursing home and rehabilitation center and spend time with patients who don't often get to experience companionship. We were sent to provide a ministry of presence which, for some students, was more intimidating and challenging than tasks that required physical strength or stamina. Several of our students spent time with an older woman named Barbara. She had been in the rehabilitation center and away from her home for four years because of a tuberculosis diagnosis. She was anxious to return and be home with her husband. She was eager to have her strength and independence. Barbara was spirited, hopeful, encouraging, and open with the students. They admired her sense of humor and the persistence with which she faced her health struggles. They were shocked that anyone would open up to strangers so willingly and one student, in reflecting on her own life, said that meeting Barbara made her want to be generous and open to others' invitations of friendship. I think my favorite part of this trip was witnessing our students have so many person-to-person, soul-to-soul encounters with people.

-Vickey McBride Director of Campus Ministry

## Community Recognition

On Friday, April 1st Saint Martin de Porres High School was recognized by the Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. at their annual Community Investors Awards Banquet with a Service to Youth award. Gary Sardon received the award on our school's behalf and joined fellow award recipients including Habitat for Humanity and the American Heart Association. We are honored to be recognized by and associated with a national organization focused on community based programs and projects. We are looking forward to strengthening our partnership with the Top Ladies organization and youth service programs.

## Faculty Spotlight: Erin Conway

By Faith Hurley

Some of our community members come to us through a website or job description, but Erin Conway believes that God has brought her in our midst, guiding her to us providentially.

Erin joined us in 2015 as our 12th grade Theology teacher. Erin, a Hudson native, attended the University of Notre Dame where she was a dual Program of Liberal Studies and Theology major. During her college years, her passion for service and social justice was born. She carried this passion to Baltimore after graduation, where she volunteered for three years at St. Ignatius Loyola Academy, a Jesuit middle school for boys that is a part of the Nativity Schools network. There, Erin was able to cultivate her interest in teaching. leading the boys in the classroom (English) as well as out of the classroom in service learning. After a short stint at home in the greater Cleveland area, Erin went to the other side of the country to teach Theology at Xavier College Prep in Palm Desert, CA. During her three years with this community, she not only grew her teaching practice, but also her passion for service, leading students on service experiences in East L.A., the Mexican/American border, and El Salvador.

Her passion for social justice, however, called her to seek work with a school that serves students of modest means once again, as she had in Baltimore. She learned of the Cristo Rey Network by contact with Verbum Dei, our sister school in Los Angeles, CA, and also learned that her former Vice Principal at St. Ignatius Loyola in Baltimore, Mr. Gary Sardon, had recently accepted the position of Principal in a Cristo Rey School in Cleveland. Erin's call was clear: She wanted to empower kids who were often at the receiving end of service to go forth and serve, she wanted to get back in touch with her Baltimore experience, and she wanted to get back to family and Cleveland.

Upon joining our community, Erin was charged with teaching 12th grade Theology, which focuses on the question *What is my role in creating the just society God wants?* Through the lenses of social justice and vocation, Erin leads our seniors to struggle with the key questions: *Who am I called to be? What am I called to do?* 

During the pursuit of these questions, Erin had the students read the novel *Tattoos on the* 

Heart by Father Greg Boyle. The book tells the story of Father Greg Boyle, a Jesuit priest who founded Homeboy Industries, the largest gang intervention program in the world. It was during the reading of this text that Erin experienced a pivotal moment during this challenging first year of teaching:

I've always loved seminars. Most of my favorite teaching moments have happened during seminars. I love hearing students' thoughts, talking about books, and connecting stories to our real lives. When I came to Saint Martin, I hoped to create similar moments. I tried different seminar formats during the year in an attempt to get my students to talk about justice in real, authentic ways with varied levels of success.

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In most cases the conversation lagged or students repeated the same idea over and over. I rarely walked away from the experience with the feeling that students had really gained anything. This all changed in February.

I planned two seminars for our reading of *Tattoos on the Heart*, and this time I decided to try something different. Students completed a seminar prep packet with questions about themes rather than content. I asked students questions like: *How does Father Greg's work lead him to stand "in the right place" and why do you think he chooses to stand there?* and *Do you agree with Father Greg when he writes that "everyone is just looking to be told that who he or she is right and true and wholly acceptable"?* I hoped that more open-ended thematic questions would create a more authentic conversation.



On the day of the seminar itself, I let go of control and decided to ask the students to run the seminar. I'm still not sure where the idea came from — God, I guess (to borrow a phrase from Father Greg) — but I decided that I would not speak. I hoped that by trusting my students to control the flow of conversation, they would be able to talk about the text without being interrupted by my thoughts and without being guided by my expectations. I stepped out of the seminar and God stepped in.

As I sat in the back of the room listening and jotting down comments, our seniors talked thoughtfully, passionately, and respectfully about the text and its themes. They connected specific homie's stories to their own experiences and they spoke about God's love in a way that was entirely new. Students said incredibly insightful things about Father Greg and Homeboy Industries and love and God. When talking about why Father Greg chose his vocation, students said things like "Father Greg does what he does because he sees Jesus in the homies" and "G sees something in the homies before he meets them." When talking about Father Greg's example, a student said, "G shows the homies the right way so that even when they stray, they still know what is right and where to find them."

When students left, I was excited and humbled — excited about the breakthrough we'd made and humbled by God's obvious presence in my classroom that day. It was the first moment all year where it felt like I'd finally done something right. It was the first moment where I realized that my students had heard me. The experience repeated itself in all of my sections. Even a fire drill didn't derail one class! I found myself flooded with gratitude. After months of struggling to connect to the seniors and find material and ideas that engaged and inspired them, Father Greg (and God) helped me do what I hadn't been able to do on my own. My students embraced the challenge before them and they said amazing things! They got it. It clicked. And I was so proud.

## Creative Writing at Saint Martin: *Creating Our Class Book*

By Sarah Marcus-Donnelly

A dear friend recently reminded me, "Sarah, you have a body; you are a soul." We have bodies. Our bodies are selfish. They need things like food, air, water, warmth, and comfort. They constantly seek to "protect" themselves.

When I first wake up in this morning, I hear my body's voice saying, "I don't want to get up." Our bodies say, "I can't do it. This is too hard. I don't feel like it. I don't want to. I'm not smart enough. I don't have enough." Sometimes, we listen to this voice. But, if I pause long enough, if I can wait, sometimes, I am able to hear another voice. Sometimes, I hear my soul. Our souls cry out to us, "You promised you would go. You should get up. You could really be of service today. You can do this. You can try. Your actions matter. You matter." The student writers that I have the honor of working with and who are featured in our class book have listened to their heads; they've listened to their hearts; and, they are constantly working to listen to their souls. Every day, I am reminded of how lucky I am to be able to publish these brave, developing voices.

In order to be published in our class book, each writer has endured a rigorous editorial process, which has included a class performance of their work, a peer critique

workshop, and a one-on-one final "defense" of their vignette. These personal vignettes represent a medley of precious moments. They are witty and funny and joyful. They are devastating and painful and raw. Just like us, they do not exist in only one place, in only one time. They are both static and fluid. They remind us to give ourselves permission to be human. The vulnerability these students have displayed, the sacred trust they have placed in each other and in themselves, and the commitment they have to continue walking their journey with dignity and grace, is an extraordinary testament to their strength, perseverance, and character.

The artwork featured on the front and back cover of our book is a collage of several students' Post Secret Projects. For this assignment, each student anonymously shared a secret in the form of a post card. These postcards are prominently displayed on the walls of our classroom to remind us of our shared humanity: no one is better, and no one is worse. This outward demonstration of a

willingness to honor each person's potential of a willingness to have hearts that strive for forgiveness, and of a willingness to show up for class regardless of how we are feeling, is the emotional glue that holds us together.

The stories from our student writers speak to our collective faith in something greater than ourselves. One of my students aptly suggested that our collection could be called "Pain into Power." She's right; student stories are about transformations, and these incredible young writers deserve our time and our attention. They deserve so much more than that. Publishing student writing is a vital catalyst to empowerment and the ability to believe in one's own social efficacy. I am grateful to work for a school that supports this important mission.



Sarah joined the Saint Martin community in August 2013 as an English Teacher. She is the author of several poetry collections, and her other work can be found in places like NPR's Prosody, The Huffington

Post, McSweeney's, and Marie Claire. She is also the Series Editor for As It Ought To Be's High School Poetry Series: Gender, Identity, & Race.



"Publishing student writing is a vital catalyst to empowerment and the ability to believe in one's own social efficacy."

- Sarah Marcus-Donnelly

The next day when I walked into school for morning duty, it felt different. I was relaxed and for the first time, I felt really genuinely happy to see my students. God had stepped in and helped me to remember why I came to Saint Martin.



Faith joined the Saint Martin community in June 2005 as an English teacher. After 7 years of teaching she served the community for 2 years as an Instructional Teacher Coach, and in July 2015, she was named Dean of Curriculum and Instruction. Faith earned her Bachelor's degree from Miami University of Ohio and a Master's degree from John Carroll University. She currently resides in Cleveland with her husband, James Hurley (Director of Counseling Services at Saint Martin) and their two sons, Simon and Gus.

# RAYBURN NAMED VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVANCEMENT



Laura Rayburn joined the Saint Martin community as the Vice President for Advancement in February. Laura's extensive experience leading successful

fundraising efforts will be a powerful addition to our current development efforts, particularly as we focus on our capital campaign for the new school building. In addition to her professional expertise, we were impressed with what initially drew Laura to our community — a mentoring relationship with 8th grade students at Citizens Leadership Academy. Laura's commitment to young people and her investment in urban education affirmed for us that she was the perfect fit for helping to advance our mission and values.

Ms. Rayburn comes to Saint Martin after spending five years at the Great Lakes Science Center, where she was the Vice President of Development, responsible for raising contributed annual and capital revenue. Prior to working at the Great Lakes Science Center, Laura held previous leadership positions at The Cleveland Orchestra, Nestlé USA, and ICI Paints.

Born and raised in Shaker Heights, Ohio, Laura graduated from Kent State University with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing and Management. Laura was awarded one of two Graduate Assistantships' to the Boler School of Business at John Carroll University, where she earned her MBA with a concentration in International Marketing.

Laura and her husband, Tom, are active in the local Catholic community through their church, Communion of Saints in Cleveland Heights, and prior parish, St. Dominic in Shaker Heights. The couple live in Shaker Heights with Tom's youngest daughter.

## Relationships Make the Difference

### 10 Year Corporate Work Study Partner Celebration

By Ann Davis

When Dominion East Ohio signed on to be a Corporate Work Study Partner in 2006, it did so as a corporate sponsor and as a company committed to the neighborhood in which it works.

After ten years and work experiences with 23 Saint Martin students, Dominion has seen the results of its commitment to our students in the educational and career paths they have chosen. Alumni Justin Evcic '09 wrote of his experience at Dominion, "There were a lot of great people to work with at Dominion. My colleagues had a lot of respect for me and demonstrated professionalism. It was an amazing experience to work with them."



Dominion employees and Saint Martin students at this year's Partner Appreciation Luncheon.

Saint Martin's partnership with Dominion remains strong in 2016 because of the relationships that have been formed between the staff, faculty and students at Saint Martin and the professionals at Dominion. Rose Dziak, Manager, External Affairs, explained that it took them some time to get to know their students and their learning style in order to create a program that met their needs. Rose not only got to know students, but encouraged her colleagues to do the same in an effort to establish a positive relationship that would result in students feeling supported and a part of the team.

Junior Kyra Shields currently works at Dominion and shared her thoughts about her experience, "If I have questions, they encourage me to ask to better myself and to better my skills. And they tell me how much they love the students and will try to support us in everything we do."

In addition to their role as a Corporate Work Study partner, Dominion has made numerous grants to Saint Martin since 2003, including a recent commitment to the "Step Along the Way" capital campaign. The Dominion Foundation gifts focus on education that will "foster an understanding of energy in our economy and help develop

the capacity of the future workforce in the energy field."

Saint Martin would like to extend a special thank you to two individuals who have been abundantly supportive of our school over the years. Rose Dziak, Manager, External Affairs, is planning to retire from Dominion East Ohio with 43 years of service; and Bob Varley, Senior Policy Advisor, is also planning to retire with 38 years of service. Dominion East Ohio will be recognized at the Birthday Bash on May 14, 2016. We thank Rose and Bob and all of the partners at Dominion for their continued dedication and commitment to our students.



Ann joined the Saint
Martin community in 2014
as Vice President of
Corporate Work Study
Program. Prior to joining
Saint Martin, Ann worked
at University Circle, Inc
where she served as VP

of Public Affairs, responsible for establishing programming for neighborhood outreach and connections in and around University Circle. Ann has also worked as a marketinglommunications associate at Parker Hannifin and Cleveland Clinic. A graduate of Magnificat High School, Ann earned her Bachelor's degree in Communications from John Carroll University.

## Alumni Hall of Fame

By: Annelyse Giovanniti

As our current students bustle through the hallway near the cafegymatorium, they encounter a "Hall of Fame" above the lockers, representing all of the alumni who have graduated from four-year institutions. The alumni have an increased presence at the school in many ways, this being one of them.

Their names, Saint Martin graduation year, university that they received their degree from, and college graduation year are presented on certificate paper for all of the current students to see. Passing through, many current students and prospective students ask, "What are these?" These are all of the alumni who have walked these halls, been in their shoes, and successfully completed college.

"Stay the course...enjoy the process...It helps you grow mentally, physically, and spiritually."

.....

-Chris Barnes

In college counseling class, when asked what will motivate them to persist in college, one senior said, "The success of those who have come before me." Our current students are inspired by our alumni and our alumni are enthusiastic about sharing their wisdom. Sunni Wenson '09, Spelman College '14 who is featured in the "Hall of Fame," shared of her experience, "Having mentors has always been important to me and vital to my professional and personal growth. Knowing someone successful in my desired field that can

provide guidance and encouragement has contributed to my success and still does today." Christopher Barnes '10, Denison University '14 encouraged the Saint Martin family, "Stay the course. College will not be easy. In fact, it may be difficult to adjust to at first but with dedication and hard work you will adjust. Also, enjoy the process. College will be the best years of your life. It helps you grow mentally, physically and spiritually." The "Hall of Fame" shows the grit, success, motivation, and perseverance of our brothers and sisters who have reached their college goals.







Annelyse began her connection with Saint Martin in 2012 as a JCU tutor her senior year of college. Upon finishing graduate school at the University of Notre Dame, Annelyse returned

to Cleveland with her heart set on working at Saint Martin. She began her vocation at Saint Martin in June 2014 as the Main Office Coordinator and transitioned in July 2015 to the role of Alumni Support Advisor.



We are grateful to the Alcoa Foundation, which has been supporting Saint Martin de Porres High School since 2005. Over the past eleven years, the Alcoa Foundation has provided Saint Martin with over \$350,000 in support. According to Cary Dell, Communications Manager, Alcoa Forgings and Extrusions,

"Saint Martin de Porres High School delivers on its promise of providing a high-quality education and instills in its students the value of living life as a citizen scholar. Alcoal Foundation recognizes the excellent science and technology programs Saint Martin has implemented, opening exciting career choices for its graduates to pursue."

We are proud that over 25% of the members of our class of 2015 who directly enrolled in college last fall planned to pursue STEM-related majors, and we are confident that their interest was motivated by the engaging science classes that are offered at Saint Martin and by the experiences many of them have had working in STEM-related fields through their Corporate Work Study Program jobs. Alcoa's support validates the work we are doing at the intersection of education and workforce development, and is influencing our graduates' post-secondary plans. We are so grateful for the investment they have made in our mission and our students.

## Panel for Supervisor and Student Success

By Isaac Lorton

The students at Saint Martin are blessed to have one of the best faculty-to-student ratios in the country. The national average for public schools is 16:1, for private schools 12.5:1, for Saint Martin it is 1.3:1.

As our founding president Richard Clark likes to say, "We have 28 teaching faculty who are actually in the classroom, but when you count our supervisors, it is over 200." Saint Martin is unique in this way: there are 282 Corporate Work Study Program (CWSP) supervisors who teach, mentor, and train our students every week.

Saint Martin ensures our classroom teachers are well trained and coordinates programs to maintain their skills in educating and developing our students. But what do we have in place for the other 282 faculty members of our Saint Martin community?

Historically, the CWSP did not have specific learning opportunities for our supervisors to hone their teaching abilities. With our dedicated supervisors playing such an integral part in our students education, however, we thought it best to host some events for our supervisors to better themselves for the betterment of our students and, ultimately, the betterment of our Cleveland community. Vice President of Corporate Work Study Ann Davis wanted to highlight "communication and how best to work with our students."

To address this issue, Corporate Work Study hosted two panel discussions consisting of Saint Martin alumni and school faculty: one downtown at Progressive Field, thanks to our partners the Cleveland Indians, and the other on the east side in Beachwood thanks to OMNOVA Solutions Inc.

At Progressive Field the alumni consisted of Brittany Gregg '12, Michael Medrano '11, and Saiida Bowie-Little '15. Ninth grade English teacher Liz Telich and Dean of Students Monica Lawson represented school faculty.



The majority of the alumni panel shared that the greatest thing they learned from the Corporate Work Study Program was communication, which led to better relationships with supervisors and a better quality of work, and more successful interactions with others in the future.

"If it weren't for the program, and the mentors, and the supervisors, I wouldn't be where I am today,"

-Brittany Greg, Senior, University of Akron

Faculty agreed that being patient and building a rapport was the best way to go about reaching our students. Telich wanted the supervisors to know that "students work harder for someone they like and respect." Lawson added to supervisors, "Just be yourself," and the students will relate to that genuineness.

At OMNOVA Jason Medrano '12, Sharonda Smith '15, Chris Barnes '10, Arrison Kincaid '09, and Sarah Taylor '12 represented alumni, while Monica Lawson made another appearance alongside the Director of Saint Martin's Academic Resource Center Marina Bach.

In order to reach our students, Marina Bach wanted supervisors to "meet our students where they are at," with a "genuine love, respect and concern." Lawson said later the best approach to go about this is a "love sandwich," which starts with love, follows with a little toughness — whether it be discipline or constructive criticism — and ends with more love.

The alumni told the supervisors that the most loving and rewarding work environments come from building strong relationships through communication, setting a good work-ethic example, and trying to empathize with the student.

Sarah Taylor said that a supervisor reaching out to a student, conversing with them during the day, "shows the students that you're there for them and that you care, and it makes the student more comfortable with you too."

Although it is daunting at first, Chris Barnes shared that with the help of his supervisors he was able to navigate the Corporate Work Study Program.

"Coming in as a 14-year-old, I had no idea what I was doing, but one thing I learned was professionalism," he said. "The Corporate Work Study Program really helps you mature, fast. Being thrown into a work environment at 14 or 15 — as a teen — was probably one of the greatest experiences of my life."

The Corporate Work Study Program "is changing our city," Rich Clark said. And the supervisors "are part of a big movement."

Thinking about the bigger picture, he told the supervisors, "There are 30 of these schools in the United States — soon to be 32 in August — there are 10,000 kids, and 2,000 companies that are doing this day in and day out, and it's a long process to change where we are, but you're a part of that change and we need you to continue your work."

Magnify this sentiment across the country throughout the Cristo Rey Network, we just might change urban America one student at a time; with the help of our supervisors of course.



Isaac joined the Saint Martin community in August 2015 as a Saint Martin Volunteer Corps member. He is the Professional Development Coach in the Corporate Work Study Program. Isaac

earned his Bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame in 2015.

## Honoring our Seniors

By Mary Carney

"2016! 2016! 2016!" Walking into a pep rally, senior vs. staffulty basketball game, or any other all school event, this is the chant anyone will hear shouted by our proud senior class. Graduation is around the corner and they are embracing these last events of their senior year at Saint Martin.

As the year draws to a close the spring semester is especially full of significant senior events that honor and celebrate our Class of 2016. One event that I have been especially grateful to witness is our sports senior night basketball game. This event, which can sometimes be seen as just another basketball game, is very important to our seniors. This event brings together all the different aspects of our community families, classmates, faculty, staff, CWSP supervisors and coworkers, board members and friends of the community — together to celebrate our seniors who have worked so hard these last four years to participate, to improve and grow, and to lead.

On Saturday, January 30th, 16 senior student-athletes (3 female basketball players, 4 male basketball players, 6 cheerleaders, and 1 highstepper) were recognized at our senior night basketball games at John Carroll University. Several pieces made this evening exciting for our school community. First, it was a double header with both our varsity teams playing back to back. Second, we were playing our school's biggest rival, Horizon Science Academy. Third, we were playing on a collegiate court, using college locker rooms, and surrounded by actual gymnasium stands and seating. All very exciting and meaningful for our students, especially our seniors.

What made this evening even more special was the people in the stands that evening. Represented in the crowd were so many of the people who have helped in mentoring, supporting, loving and caring for our students throughout their four years at Saint Martin. Corporate Work Study Supervisors and coworkers of our students came to cheer on their Saint Martin student. For one of our seniors, Sha'Nautica Gardner, almost her entire department from the Cleveland Clinic - Graduate

Medical Education attended to watch her play in one of her last games as a Saint Martin Lady Lion basketball player. Some supervisors who could not make it sent gifts along to show their support. Also in the crowd were more than half of our faculty and staff members as well as Saint Martin board members. Finally, parents, guardians, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews were there to escort their senior to center court to be honored. Kerri Stewart had her two young nephews, her biggest fans, walk her out and stand with her in this important moment providing a perfect snapshot of each of the people in our senior's lives who stand with them and motivate them each day.

So many of the individuals present that evening represented an influential piece of Saint Martin's mission. Senior Ramon Clinkscales wrote to Corporate Work Study that Monday, "On Saturday we had a senior night basketball game and my supervisor took the time out of her weekend to come support me at the game. I really appreciate her doing this because that night meant so much to me." So many times we may overlook the simplicity of giving of our time and presence at an event or game, and yet, this is sometimes the most meaningful gift.



Mary joined the Saint Martin community in August of 2011 as the Tenth Grade Theology Teacher. In August of 2013 she continued to teach but also became the Director of Student

Activities and in June of 2015 she was named Director of Student Life, overseeing both Athletics and Activities. Mary earned her bachelor's degree from Loyola University Maryland in 2010.

# Moments of Joy in Student Activities & Athletics:

- "WE Are the Future": On Friday,
  February 19th, 18 of our Saint Martin
  poets, with the help and support of
  moderators and teachers, Bridey Clark,
  Tyler Hughley, and Vickey McBride, put
  on a powerful program celebrating black
  history. Each student chose an influential
  person in history and told their story
  through the art of poetry, providing voice
  and challenging us all to continue to act.
- Cleveland St. Patrick's Day Parade: Our drumline, step team, highsteppers, and cheerleaders, totaling over 40 student performers, marched in the St. Patrick's Day parade again this year, receiving several cheers and providing cheer and energy to the crowd.
- Seniors vs. Staffulty (Faculty & Staff)

  Basketball game took place the day before Easter break. This annual tradition is the one time of the year that seniors and staffulty members can talk a big game about their mad basketball skills in hopes of capturing the title of CHAMPION. The class of 2016 played some strong defense keeping the score low, but came up short as they lost to the Staffulty team.
- Project Snapshot: 11 Students participated in a three month photography workshop at the Cleveland Print Room over the winter. These students learned from professional photographers about the art of black & white film photography from start to finish, beginning with learning the science of developing photos in a darkroom and ending with matting and putting on a gallery opening that showcased their work throughout the program. Each student's work provided a small snapshot of their personal story... the beauty of photography!
- Not In Our School Week: Groups of 6 freshmen and 6 juniors attended workshops with other area high school students about diversity and inclusion through the Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio and Dare2Care Alliance. These students were so inspired and energized by these workshops that they are planning a special week, April 25-29th, that focuses on diversity and inclusion in our Saint Martin community

## Oh, the places you'll go!

### 2008

#### **DOMINIQUE AARON**

Ohio University 2013
Dominique graduated from Ohio
University in 2013 and went on
to pursue her Master's at her alma
mater.

#### **RICHIE CAPELES**

John Carroll University 2013

#### **JULIUS CLARK**

Cleveland State University 2015
Julius graduated from Cleveland
State University and works as a
Global Supply Chain Trainee in
Baltimore, Maryland for our
CWSP partner Sherwin
Williams.

#### **JASMINE CROOK**

Cleveland State University 2013

#### 1 KASONDRA DRAKE

Baldwin Wallace University 2012 Kasondra graduated from Baldwin Wallace in 2012 with a BA in Sociology. She's working as a mental health case manager.

#### **STEPHANIE DUGAN**

Cleveland State University 2014

#### **EVA FRENCH**

St. Johns University 2012

#### **6** KALLIE KRAWCZONEK

Kent State University 2012
Kallie completed her undergraduate studies at Kent State University in Sociology and Anthropology. Kallie attained her Master's in Sociology from Ohio University in 2013. She is back in Cleveland and works at the Centers for Families and Children.

#### **GARY MARTIN**

Fairfield University 2012
Gary graduated from Fairfield
University and spent several years
working in New York City upon
graduation. He has recently
moved back to Cleveland, taking
a job with Northcoast Reasearch.

#### SAMANTHA MUSSER

Miami University 2012
Sam is working at Saint Martin as the Operations Coordinator in the Corporate Work Study
Program department.

#### **AMANDA RASHEED**

Kent State University 2013

#### **KEYONI RATES**

Miami University 2012 Keyoni is working at Saint Martin as an Account Manager & Student Development Coordinator in the Corporate Work Study Program department.

## 2009

#### **KAYLA CHAMBERS**

John Carroll University 2014

#### **DELIA CRAWFORD**

Cleveland State University 2014

#### **ISABEL DEROBERTS**

Cleveland State University 2013 Isabel is working in commercial real estate brokerage while studying for her Master's in Urban Planning and Real Estate Finance and Development.

#### **RICARDO HENRY**

Bowling Green State University 2014

Ricardo graduated from Bowling Green and now works for The Albert M. Higley Co.



#### **5** SAVANNAH HOGAN

Ohio University 2013
Savannah moved to New York
City after graduating from Ohio
University. She is working at
Sunset Park High School working
with 10th-12th grade students.

#### **TYLER HUGHLEY**

Ohio University 2013
Tyler is working at Saint Martin as an English Teacher, while attending John Carroll University to earn her Master's degree.

#### **UNA ILISINOVIC**

Miami University 2013 Una graduated from Miami University in 2013 and works for a benefits administration company in Chicago.

#### **SABRINA JACKSON**

Notre Dame College 2013
Sabrina graduated from Notre
Dame College with a BA in
Political Science and is currently
working for her former CWSP
job, the Cleveland Municipal
Court.



#### **WILLIAM JONES**

Notre Dame College 2014 William works at the Ritz Carlton Cleveland as Guest Relations Coordinator.

#### PAULA KURTZ

Cleveland State University 2015

#### **JASMYNE LEWIS**

Cleveland State University 2014

#### **RENEE MAKEUPSON**

Notre Dame College 2014
Renee is working at University
Hospitals main campus as an
RN.

#### STEPHEN MILLER

University of Toledo 2013



#### SANTINO MONTANEZ

John Carroll University 2013

#### **ABBY MROZEK**

John Carroll University 2014

#### 2 SHILA RICHARD

Cleveland State University 2012
After Cleveland State, Shila started at Charlotte School of Law.
The Mecklenburg County Bar
Association chose her to be a 2016
McMillan Fellow. The McMillan
Fellowship Fund was created in honor of Judge McMillan and provides a summer stipend to law students desiring work experience with not-for-profit or governmental agencies.

#### ADELE SCHUMANN

Oberlin College 2013

#### **VALENTINE VOLK**

Cleveland State University 2011 Valentine graduated from CSU and received an MS from Case. She plans to attend dental school in the near future and has recently accepted an offer to be a part of the "Bridge That Bridges" program.







Loyola University of Chicago 2013 Lyla completed her undergraduate degree at Loyola University of Chicago and is currently pursuing her Master of Social Work from the University of Southern California.

#### **MARIAH WATTS**

LYLA WAKUT

Kent State University 2014 Mariah is a full-time teacher at Warner Girls Leadership Academy. She is on track to graduate with her Master's from Cleveland State in May.

#### **SUNNI WENSON**

Spelman College 2012 Sunni graduted from Spelman College in three years and proceeded to graduate with a Master's in Public Health from Emory in June 2015.

### 2010

#### **CHRIS BARNES**

Denison University 2014
After graduating from Denison
University, Chris returned to his
former CWSP job, MAI Capital
Management, to work full time
while earning his Master's at
Cleveland State.

#### **TYEASHA DOSS**

Kent State University 2015 Upon graduation from Kent State, Tyeasha is continuing post-grad studies at her alma mater.

#### CARLOS JOHNSON

Miami University 2014

#### **SHIRLEY JORDAN**

Spelman College 2014

#### NICHOLAS MAZZEO

John Carroll University 2015

#### **DAVION MORRIS**

Kent State University 2015

#### **RIVER ONWUDINJO**

John Carroll University 2014 Upon graduating from John Carroll, River landed a job in DealerTire's IT department.

#### **4** ARIEL POWELL

Oberlin College 2010
Ariel graduated from Oberlin
College. Right now, she is on a
two year fellowship through her
college teaching English at
Obirin University in Tokyo.

#### **INDIRA SAMUELS**

Case Western Reserve University 2014

#### **GEORGE TREADWELL**

Bowling Green State University 2014

#### **JAVIER WOODALL**

Central State University 2015

### 2011

#### **ASHLEY CAMPBELL**

John Carroll University 2015

#### 3 JEREMIAH PARKS

American Baptist College 2015 Jeremiah is a graduate student at Baylor University

#### **AUTUMN SMITH**

Wittenberg University 2015

#### SHAWNETTA STEVENS

Georgetown 2015

#### JAYDA WIMBLEY

Cleveland State University 2015

## Academic Signing Day

By Chris Tudico, Ph.D.

Every year high schools across the country honor the nation's best athletes as they "commit" to the college of their choice. At Saint Martin, we celebrate members of the graduating class who have distinguished themselves in the classroom by earning a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher. Past honorees have gone on to attend and graduate from colleges and universities such as Case Western Reserve University, Denison University, Georgetown University, Kent State University, Miami University, Oberlin College, and St. John's University.

Academic Signing Day is such an exciting time for our students and their families, as well as counselors, teachers, and staff that were involved in the college admissions process. For students, Academic Signing Day is a moment when attending college evolves from an abstract idea to reality and brings clarity to the next four years of their lives. Academic Signing Day has wider implications for the greater Saint Martin community and the values we hold. When we celebrate the accomplishments of all students pursuing a college education, we inherently convey how we view the significance of having a strong college-going generation that will not only enroll, but persist to complete their degree.

Sitting in the audience of Saint Martin's 5th Academic Signing Day on May 16th, 2012 was Anaika Falcon, an 8th grader from Hope Academy West. Taking in the ceremony, she thought, "One day that will be me." Four years later, Anaika's declaration came to fruition. Anaika, the Valedictorian of the Class of 2016, along with 11 of our most distinguished graduating seniors, signed commitment certificates to the colleges and universities they will attend in the fall at Saint Martin's 9th Academic Signing Day on April 29th.

Saint Martin recognized the following 12 exemplary scholars:

### RAMON CLINKSCALES – Bowling Green State University



Ramon has been a member of the basketball team and Men of Strength while at Saint Martin. He works hard both inside and outside the classroom. Not only is he always on top of his assignments, but he works two jobs outside of school. Sophomore geometry teacher Jimmy Smith commented, "Ramon has demonstrated a level of discipline that is exceptional for a student his age. He is an entrepreneur, and I know he will accomplish his goals." Ramon plans to attend Bowling Green State University to major in business, specifically merchandise design apparel. He is excited to challenge himself in college and achieve his dreams and become the first person in his family to attend college.

### NIYUBUNTU DESIRE – The University of Akron



Niyubuntu Desire has been a part of the Saint Martin soccer team for the last two years, and his favorite Saint Martin memory was when the team advanced to the first conference semi-final.

Outside of Saint Martin, he is a member of the African Youth Ambassadors and interns with Youth Opportunities Unlimited. Math teacher Keti Uppal said, "Desi has strong initiative and a love of learning." His inquisitive nature, maturity, and responsibility have allowed him to build strong relationships with many Saint Martin staff members. He plans to attend The University of Akron as a PCC Scholar this fall to study computer engineering.

#### ANAIKA FALCON – Miami University of Ohio



Anaika Falcon is a thoughtful, compassionate student with a strong love of literature. During her time at Saint Martin, she has been a member of the film club, National Honor

Society, and the school librarian, choosing the books that the school purchases. English teacher, Liz Telich said, "Anaika is a voracious and rapid reader, and a leader among her peers. She is a student others can depend on and go to for help." It is her love of reading and helping others that has led her to pursue her dream of teaching high school English. She plans to double major in English and Education at Miami University of Ohio in the fall.

### TIERRA FORD - Ohio University



Tierra Ford has been described as a reflective and persistent student at Saint Martin. She has been a valuable member of the track and cheerleading teams and a volunteer with Campus Ministry

events. College Counselor, Monica Logar, said, "Tierra is a great writer and a creative, compassionate person. She is hard working and will achieve anything she sets her mind to." Her eagerness to help people has led her to pursue a career in the helping professions. She plans to study psychology at Ohio University next year.

## ASHLEY HAWKINS – John Carroll University



Ashley Hawkins has been an important part of many groups at Saint Martin. She has participated in drumline and Student Advocates for Social Justice. She has also helped represent the school through the

Saint Martin Recruiting Force and National Honor Society. In addition to these activities, Ashley has also found time to engage in service through campus ministry. Liz Telich, Ashley's former English teacher, said, "Ashley has an easy presence, a natural smile, and a willingness to participate in a variety of activities. She is a natural leader in the classroom and a role model among her peers." Ashley plans to study psychology at John Carroll University this fall.

### MARTIN HAYES – Cleveland State University



Martin Hayes has been very involved at Saint Martin. He is a member of the baseball team, drama and poetry clubs, the Saint Martin Recruiting Force, and National Honor Society. In addition, he

gives back to his community through his volunteer work with Campus Ministry and at the Upcycle Shop. Theology teacher, Vickey McBride, said, "Not only is Martin a hardworking and cooperative student, but also a mature young man with the desire to be a helpful and compassionate classmate to his peers." In the fall, Martin plans to attend Gannon University where he will study English.

### MYRIAH LEE – Cleveland State University



Myriah Lee is a compassionate and hardworking student. She is a member of the National Honor Society, and she works as a page at a branch of the Cleveland Public Library. When

describing Myriah, Vickey McBride, theology teacher, said, "I am impressed with Myriah's work ethic when she encounters struggles and challenges. She sets an example of commitment and responsibility." Her work ethic will serve her well this fall when she attends Cleveland State University, where she will study nursing.

#### TINICA OSBORN – John Carroll University



During Tinica Osborn's time at Saint Martin, she has worked at the Cleveland Clinic, where she fell in love with the healthcare field. Her other activities include interning with Future Connections, playing

for the softball team, and National Honor Society. Dr. Christopher Tudico, Director of College Counseling, said, "Tinica excels in the classroom and is known for her positive contributions to the class." This fall, Tinica plans to attend John Carroll University where she will major in biology to one day become a nurse.

### KENNETHIA STEWART – John Carroll University



At Saint Martin, Kennethia Stewart has been a member of the Saint Martin Recruiting Force, the track team, and has participated in a variety of Campus Ministry retreats. Former Spanish teacher

Molly Vaughn said, "Kennethia is a quick witted, vivacious, and a fiercely smart woman. She possesses amounts of passion and intrigue that far exceed the norm for someone her age." Her Corporate Work Study Program job at Baker Hostetler further inspired her plans to become a lawyer. In the fall, she plans to study pre-law at John Carroll University.

### KERRI STEWART – Marquette University



While at Saint Martin, Kerri Stewart has truly embodied the values of work, study, serve, lead, and pray. She has been the captain of the volleyball and basketball teams, Vice-President of

Student Senate, a member of the track team, National Honor Society, and the Saint Martin Recruiting Force. College Counselor Monica Logar said, "Kerri is a shining light and is truly dedicated to living out the mission of Saint Martin. I know she will accomplish great things in her future." In the fall, Kerri plans to continue playing sports and volunteering at Marquette University where she will study athletic training.

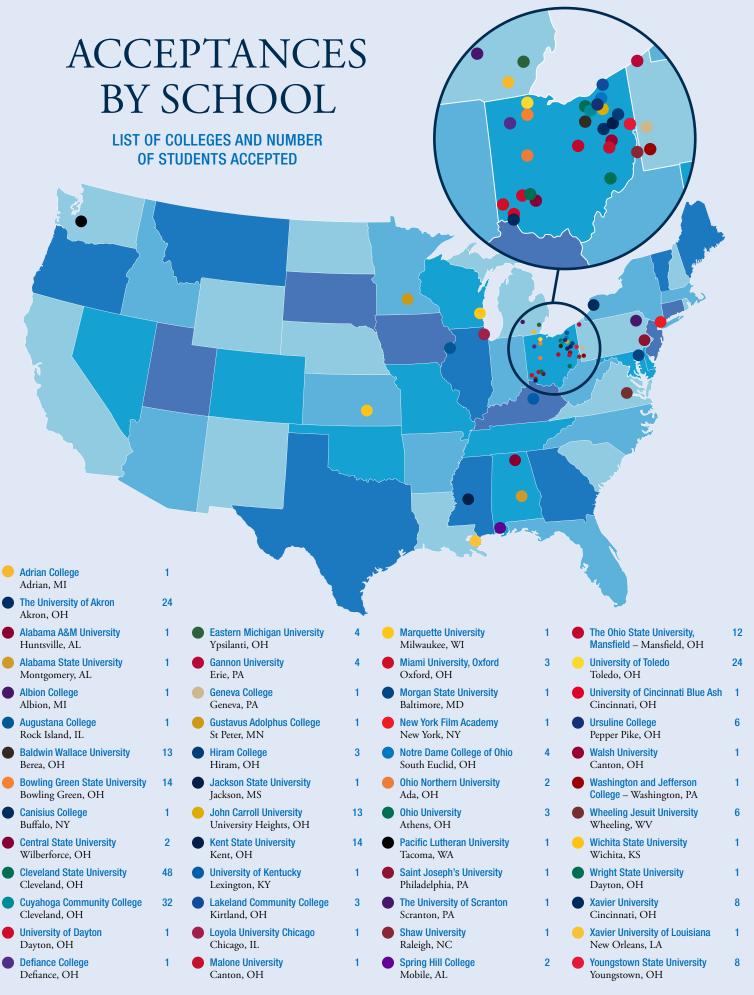
Continued on pg 15

# Academic Signing Day: *A Look Back*

By Dominique Aaron

Back in 2008, when I was a senior at Saint Martin, Academic Signing Day was a very special moment for my classmates and me. At other high schools, signing day is specified for athletes who were scouted by colleges and universities all around the nation. Since Saint Martin did not have a reputation for its athletic programs, students attending our school wouldn't have the opportunity to experience a traditional signing day. However, if you went to Saint Martin during those times or if you are attending Saint Martin now, you know that NOTHING about Saint Martin is traditional. Every student who attends Saint Martin is unique and possesses remarkable talents. Therefore, it was only right for Saint Martin administrators to borrow the concept of signing day and create a unique experience that celebrates the academic achievements of their graduating seniors. All too often those who are stellar in ways beyond sports are not recognized for their hard work and excitement to learn. Signing Day at Saint Martin has always been an essential component of the high school experience because it reminds students that they are valued, special, and leaders of the future. As a professional in higher education I am even more eager to contribute to Saint Martin's signing day tradition and legacy.

**Dominique** was a member of Saint Martin's first graduating class. She earned a Bachelor's Degree from Ohio University and will earn a Master's Degree in Higher Education from Ohio University this May.



## Junior Ring Mass

By Gary Sardon

On March 10th, the Class of 2017 celebrated Junior Ring Mass with family and Saint Martin staff. That night, I shared with the 84 members of the Class of 2017 how the Ring Ceremony marks the beginning of the end of their Saint Martin experience. It is a special event in our school's culture, but it does not mean that their work is done! I challenged them to recognize that their work is just beginning:

To you, the Class of 2017, tonight is your night! If you count kindergarten this is your 12th year in school, that's about 2,000 days, and about 16,000 hours. Wow! Think of the tests, quizzes, homework assignments. Think about all of the hard work and time you put in to get to this point.

This night is truly about you and how special you are to us. However, at the same time this night is bigger than you. Students and faculty have heard this before, but I think the sentiment fits tonight well. I had a former student in Baltimore who once told a story about Harriet Tubman in a speech. What he said was Harriet Tubman, one of the most widely recognized symbols of the Underground Railroad, at some point finally arrived in the North. She was surrounded by everything she could ever dream of, but she went back again and again because she realized it was bigger than her. Her love for her brothers and sisters was so strong that she risked everything that she had achieved to lead others to a better place.

Tonight, like Harriet, you have gotten to the "North". Graduation and college are right in front of you. However, you are not finished. Your work is not done. Your brothers and sisters need each one of you to stand up, be a man or woman, and fight for what's right. It's not acceptable to turn the other way and say it's someone else's problem. It's not acceptable to see one of our brother or sisters struggle and not help. You must go back to the "South" and lead your brothers and sisters to the promised land.

Tonight is a beautiful night. Celebrate each moment of it! You have earned it However, tomorrow, next year, ten years from now, when someone asks you what is that ring on your finger, I want you to say it's from Saint Martin de Porres High School, and it means that I have work to do.



Gary became the Principal of Saint Martin in July 2014. Prior to coming home to Cleveland, he previously served as the Assistant Principal of Saint Ignatius Loyola Academy in Baltimore and as an Adjunct Professor of English at Pontifical Xavierian University in Bogotá, Colombia. Gary earned his Bachelor's degree from Boston College and a Master's in Educational Leadership from Loyola University Maryland.

## ACADEMIC SIGNING DAY continued from page 13

#### SHAKURA WARREN – Kent State University



Shakura Warren has been a role model for her peers since her freshman year. While at Saint Martin, she has been a member of the track and cheerleading teams. When she is not at school, Shakura has

participated in the Future Connections internship program and worked part-time at a local restaurant and hair salon. Dr. Chris Tudico, Director of College Counseling, said, "Shakura is persistent, disciplined, positive, and friendly. She will definitely achieve anything she puts her mind to." In the fall, Shakura plans to attend Kent State University to discover her career options through the Exploratory Studies program.

#### MEISHA WHITE – Miami University of Ohio



Meisha White has been a part of many organizations at Saint Martin. She is a member of Student Senate, National Honor Society, film club, and prom committee. In addition, she has

volunteered many hours with Campus Ministry at the VA Hospital and through immersion trips. Assistant Principal John Fay said, "Meisha is very mature and eager for success. She has a drive to be successful in all things in which she is involved." In the fall, Meisha plans to study psychology at Miami University of Ohio, where she plans to continue giving back to her community.



Chris joined the Saint
Martin community in July
2014 as the Director of
College Counseling &
Postsecondary Success after
having served as a College
Advisor with College Now
Greater Cleveland and as

an Institutional Researcher with Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation. Chris earned his Bachelor's degree from Georgetown University and a PhD in Education from the University of Pennsylvania.





A Cristo Rey Network School

Transforming urban Cleveland one student at a time

6111 Lausche Avenue Cleveland, Ohio 44103

## **Upcoming Events**

## Tour our new building during construction

Wednesday, June 15th
We welcome the opportunity to
provide you with a hard-hat tour
of our construction project.

#### **Food Pantry**

Volunteer at our monthly partnership with the Cleveland Foodbank to support our families and neighbors. Pantry takes place the 3rd Saturday of every month.

#### Wellness Fair

May 19th | 4:30 – 6 pm

#### Artwalk

May 26th | 5 – 7pm

#### **Baccalaureate Mass**

June 2nd | 6:30 pm | St. Vitus Parish

#### Commencement

June 5th | 3 pm Line the street of St. Clair as we process to the Slovenian National Home for our Commencement Ceremony.

Contact Sarah Lautenbach at (216) 881-1689 ext. 342 for more information.











