



The Chancellor

St. Thomas More School | Oakdale, CT | www.stmct.org

FALL | WINTER 2014

Headmaster's View



James F. Hanrahan, Jr., '72

The 2014-15 school year is underway and the campus is bustling with activity.

We have 135 students from all over the world settling in to improve their English, their SAT scores and ready themselves for higher education. Please

check out our website www.stmct.org for details on day-to-day happenings.

Also, please save the date, **Saturday, November 1, 2014**. Our annual **Parent's Day/Homecoming/Founder's Dinner** will be held then. Parent's Day takes place on campus from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Our teachers will be in their classrooms to meet with parents/guardians on a first-come, first-served basis. Lunch will be served from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. Our Homecoming Football game will begin at 2:00 p.m. vs. Williston Monson Academy. Lastly, at 3:00 p.m. our soccer players take on Hoosac School on our home field.

When the campus activities have ended, we will move on to the **Founder's Dinner at Foxwoods Resort Casino, in Ledyard, CT**. Prior registration is required and the cost is \$125.00 per person. **Any proceeds will benefit the St. Thomas More School Annual Fund**. This year we will be honoring **Mrs. Bridget Autencio**, Director of the Student Assistance Program and veteran of more than 20 years of service to STM. 🇺🇸

TRAVEL

Fr. Crawley – Ireland

Planting Seeds of Hope in a Foreign Soil

This past summer, I had the opportunity to travel to Europe and speak to parishes and schools about the wonderful things we do here at STM. The gospel often speaks about God's word being

like a seed that is planted in fertile soil; over time, the smallest of seeds becomes the largest of trees. I'd like to think of my time in England and Ireland this past summer as planting seeds, believing that one day, STM will harvest a large crop of Irish and English students.



St. Coleman's Cathedral, Cobh, County Cork, Ireland



Fr. Crawley at St. Coleman's Cathedral, Ireland

In many ways, I was the student in Europe learning how to communicate with kids, principles and pastors about our mission to give underachieving students a chance at reaching their full potential – it was

not easy, but anything worthwhile rarely is. However, after two months of promoting, ministering, and introducing our school, it became clear to me that what we



The Mission of St. Thomas More School

St. Thomas More School is an accredited college preparatory boarding school in the Catholic tradition for young men who have demonstrated intellectual ability yet have not realized their potential. Within a caring environment we strive to motivate, nurture and strengthen the intellectual, moral, physical and social development of every student.

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do at STM, in turning around and transforming student’s lives, makes us a very special place to be. I hope I never take for granted the opportunity to be a part of something so meaningful. I also pray I never take for granted the efforts of those, especially those in the Admissions Department, who have worked so hard in recruiting students from all parts of the world.

Now that I have returned home, I look forward to resuming my role as campus Chaplain and minister. It is my prayer that we continue to be a place where students grow, teachers shine, and God is glorified in the many ways we show the world that STM is a place where hope is born. ☺



Mami and Greg in Vietnam

Greg & Mami Ladd – Japan, Vietnam

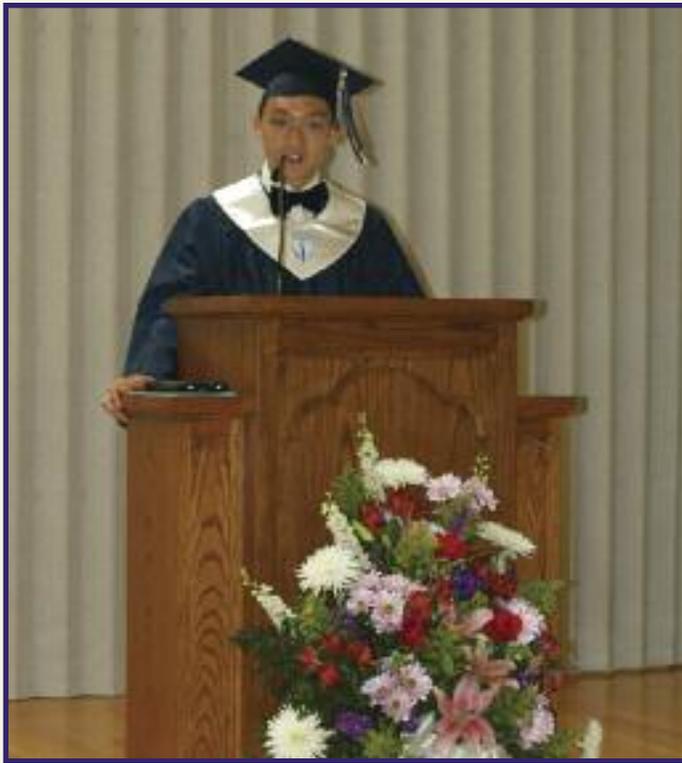


Haolong Bay, Vietnam

The Ladd’s travelled to Japan and Vietnam this summer. During their visit to Japan, they met with educational consultants as well as current students and parents. From there they travelled to Ho Chi

Minh City, Vietnam, where they met with education leaders and students in order to learn how St. Thomas More School might serve the rapidly growing population of Vietnamese students interested in international education. We are looking forward to welcoming our first Vietnamese student in the near future. ☺

Graduation 2014



Jun Roger Luo, '14

Graduation, '13-'14

Graduation Day at STM was held on Saturday, May 17, 2014 in Our Lady's Chapel at 1:00 p.m.

The students were led in to the ceremonies by Marshall Zhiyuan Li, '15 of China. Zhiyuan has attended school here since September of 2012 and is a member of the National Honor Society.

Father Michael Marigliano, OFM, CAP, Provincial Vicar, Our Lady of Sorrows Parish and Friary, New York, NY gave the commencement address.

The salutatorian address was given by Jun Roger Luo of China. Roger attended our school for three years, is a member of the National Honor Society and was the recipient of the Senior Math Award.

Valedictorian Sami T. Ahmed addressed the guests next. Sami is also in the National Honor Society and a three-year student at STM. He resides in New York, NY.

The Ryan Mullaly Memorial Award was given to Jean-Guy Griot Vernis Shapiro who joined us in July 2012. The Ryan Mullaly Memorial Award is given to



Guy Shapiro, '14 and Maura Howard

the senior who has overcome adversity while demonstrating remarkable determination culminating in his graduation. Guy is a resident of Lexington, MA and has gone on to Merrimack College

Another important award is The Board of Director's Award, presented to the underclassman who best exemplifies the STM way of life, displaying social, physical, academic and moral character. Luis Constantino, '15 was the recipient of this award. Luis has been enrolled in STM since September of 2012 and joins us from Brazil.

The highest award presented at STM is The Headmaster's Award. It is awarded to the graduating senior who best exemplifies the STM way of life, displaying social, physical, academic, and moral character. The student's name is engraved on a plaque that hangs in the Headmaster's office. The award was bestowed upon National Honor Society member Alek Dryden Burgess, whose hometown is Camden, DE. Alek is now attending the University of Delaware.

Graduation 2014

Seniors:

* Denotes Membership
in National Honor
Society

Sami T. Ahmed*
Taylen Anderson
Alek Burgess*
Felipe N. Cardoso
Kaiqiao Chen*
Mo Chen
Xi Chi
Wei-Hao Chiang
Kaseem Colebut, Jr.
James Dallman
Alexandre Doche
Keith Flynn
Keran Gao
Elliot Grey
Wongani Jere
Cheng Ji
Shintaro Kaneko
Hermes Kola Alagbada
Daniel Li
Jiawei Li
Xiaohang Li
Jun Luo*
Ning Ma
Rashad Marriott
Eric Paschall
Callan Pyfer*

Jean-Guy Shapiro
Harley Simmers
Zifu Song
Brendan Strobel
Giovanni Takanage
CanAkiraTakayama
Giovanni Travan
Taevon Walker
Haoqian Wang
Zhiyuan Wu
Joon Mo Yang
Yige Yao
Kyo Kyun Yoo
Wenhan Zhang
Zihui Zhang
Zhenhao Zhao

Post-graduates:

Cane Broome
ZiWei Chen
Calvin Crawford
Matheus Jakimiu
Francis Kiapway
Taverick Roberson
Tiago Siqueira
Travis Tomer
Scott Toresco
Yuta Watanabe
Michael Wells
Thomas Whipple
Joshua Williams

Fairfield University
Fairleigh Dickinson University
Fordham University
Franklin Pierce College
Hofstra University
Keene State College
Loyola Marymount University
Manhattan College
Merrimack College
Miami University, Oxford
Michigan State University
Mitchell College
Nichols College
Norfolk St. University
Norwich University
Oregon State University
Pennsylvania State University, University Park
Post University
Radford University
Regis College
Richard Bland College
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rowan University
Sacred Heart University
Saint Anselm College
Saint Joseph's University
Saint Michael's College
Seton Hill University
SNHU
St. Edwards University
St. John's University - Manhattan Campus
St. John's University - Queens Campus
St. Michaels College
Stony Brook University
Sunny/Binghampton
Sunny/Albany
The University of Arizona
The University of Scranton
The University of Tampa
Tulane University
Univ. of Delaware
Univ. of Toronto
Univ. of Virginia
University at Buffalo The State University of New York
University of La Verne
University of Maryland, Baltimore County
University of North Carolina at Greensboro
University of Oregon
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin Colleges- International
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Wagner University

College Acceptances, '13-'14:

American International Univ.
Anna Maria College
Assumption College
Ball State University
Boston University
Cal. St./ Northridge
Cal. St./ Humboldt
Cal. State/ Maritime
Champlain College
Chapman Univ.
Claremont McKanna College
Colgate Univ.
Colorado State Univ.
Dean College
Doshisha University
Drexel University
East Carolina University
Emmanuel College



14th Annual Golf Classic



Annual Golf Dinner

The 14th Annual Golf Tournament was held on Thursday, June 14, 2014 at the Norwich Golf Course in Norwich, CT. Despite pouring rain at 8:00 a.m., the weather began to clear at 11:00 a.m., when the players

teed off. There were 75 attendees in all. The foursome of Jon Hastings, Eric Woodward, Martin Hastings and John Ripp won the 1st Place Gross Award. Dex Taranto, Chris Taranto, Todd Zell, and Marti Taranto won 1st Place Net. 2nd Place Net was taken by Chuck Treat, Rick Glaser, Mark Stergio and John Szarzynski. The men's longest drive was won by Jim Brochu and the ladies LD went to Brenda Koblick.

Gold Sponsors included the Norwich Ophthalmology Group, the Science and Technology Magnet School of SE CT, The Nutmeg Companies and William W. Backus Hospital.

After the tournament the crowd enjoyed a reception and full-course dinner with lobster and prime rib as the main course back at the campus of STM. The day concluded with awards and raffle prizes. 🍷

New Administrators

JOHN BUSHNELL
– ENGLISH DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN



Mr. Bushnell's experience at STM began in 2009. Over the course of the past five years he has taught American Literature, World Literature, and Introduction to Literature. An ardent Bayern Munich fan, Mr. Bushnell is extremely passionate about soccer and serves as one of the varsity soccer coaches in the fall, while his winters are devoted to coaching the thirds basketball

team. Aside from being the English Department chair, Mr. Bushnell is also the Director of Residential Life. The first administrative position of his career came over the summer, when he worked as the Dean of Students for the Summer Academic Camp.

Mr. Bushnell is a proud graduate of Saint Michael's College in Colchester, Vermont, where he earned his bachelor's degree in History and became a member of the Phi Alpha Theta National Honor Society. He also studied art, culture, and German at the University of Salzburg in Austria. Mr. Bushnell's love for language and reading encouraged him to acquire a TESOL/TESL Certification from Oxford Seminars. As a former resident of the Green Mountain State, he fell in love with the outdoors and takes great pleasure in gardening and hiking with his wife, Allison. Mr. Bushnell also enjoys music, cooking, and sports.

LOU ALLEN III – ATHLETIC DIRECTOR



Mr. Allen did his undergraduate studies at University of Connecticut where he received a degree in Sociology. He is currently working on his Master's in Athletic Administration at Ohio University.

Lou is the Head Football Coach, has coached track and runs the weightlifting club. His hobbies include working out, spending time with his family, and reading. Mr. Allen is engaged to Melissa Baez and they welcomed their first child, a daughter named Yaslene, on April 28, 2014.

Both John and Lou are not just comfortable here at St. Thomas More School, but they are thriving. Part of the reason has to be they were both born here. John is the youngest son of former faculty members Steven and Gretchen Bushnell and Lou is the middle child of former faculty/board member Lou Allen and his wife Kathy. Despite the fact both were very young men when they left STM and went with their parents as they moved on to new endeavors, both John and Lou stayed in touch and were frequent guests to our community. Congratulation to both! 🍷

New Faculty

JEREMY KRUEGER – **COMPUTER TEACHER**

Mr. Krueger attended STM from the fall of 2007 to the spring of 2010. In his time as a student, Jeremy was the captain of the varsity football and varsity track teams. He was also an RA on Kennedy 2, a member of the National Honor Society and the recipient of the Headmasters Award. Jeremy graduated in the spring of 2010 and moved to New Rochelle, New York to attend Iona College. Jeremy considers his four years at Iona some of the best spent years of his life. During his time at Iona, Mr. Krueger wanted to have a social life as well as a professional life so he decided to join a fraternity. After getting into Delta Upsilon fraternity, Jeremy was lucky enough to become chapter president in his junior year and senior year. He also spent a lot of time working in the office of student development as well as several internships in New York City. In June of 2014, Mr. Krueger graduated with his bachelors in political science and a minor in sociology and history. Jeremy always knew that he wanted to return to STM and teach. In early May, he accepted a job as the computer science teacher for the academic year. Mr. Krueger is also very excited to be a Kennedy dorm parent in addition to fellow faculty member, Nico Gillis. Jeremy is very excited for the academic year to start and looking forward to all the new opportunities that are ahead.

GABRIEL MORTALI – **LANGUAGE ARTS, GLOBAL LITERATURE**

Gabriel Mortali was born in Old Saybrook, CT. He attended Wightwood School in Branford, CT, and graduated from Old Saybrook High School in 2004. Gabriel attended The New School in New York City, and earned his undergraduate degree in English and a secondary teaching license from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Here, he will be teaching Language Arts and Global Literature and coaching Cross Training and Thirds Basketball.

GREGORY PASACRITA – **PHYSICS, CALCULUS, PRE-ALGEBRA**

Gregory Pasacrita graduated in 2011 from Wheaton College of Norton, MA with a B.A. in Physics. While at Wheaton, Greg led the Ultimate Frisbee team in layouts and hammer throws. Originally from Yorktown Heights, NY, he has adopted the New England lifestyle and will even, on occasion, root for the Patriots.

Greg will be teaching Physics, Calculus and Pre-algebra in his first year at St. Thomas More School. Prior to joining the St. Thomas More School faculty, Greg was employed as a certified Building Analyst wherein he performed comprehensive home energy audits and educated homeowners on the importance of energy efficiency & conservation.

In his free time, Greg enjoys hanging out with his loyal dog, Cesar, reading, and contemplating the universe. He is also the lucky uncle of two beautiful nieces who are constantly finding new ways to make him smile.



Karl Helmstetter, '01, Mr. Tar, and Dennis Protzko, '02

Alumni Notes

HELMSTETTER, PROTZKO VISIT

Karl Helmstetter and Dennis Protzko stopped in to see Mr. Paul Tar and the rest of the gang at St. Thomas More School. Both have devoted their careers to education; Karl is a math and science teacher in the Charlottesville, VA school system and Dennis is a Post-Doctoral Scholar at the University of California at Santa Barbara. On a personal note, both are now married, and Dennis is expecting his first child later this year. 🍷



“James, Hope you are doing well. I was at T More a couple of years ahead of you. I graduated in 1969 – one of the few four year students. My wife and I were in Newport a few weeks ago and took the occasion to swing by. Place looks great. It’s still the same in many aspects but different as well. The administration building and church are wonderful additions. The improvements on the dorms and dining hall are nice. Never forget when your Dad had the brick facing added to the dorms. That French crew, I think out of Canada, worked 24/7 to get that done.

“We ran into a couple of teachers who were very nice. Wonderful to hear your mother is still living and in the original house. WOW! Saw your beautiful home down on the lake. I remember when each class was invited to have dinner once a year at the house.

“I’ll say one thing about Mr. Hanrahan. Whatever it was he believed in, he talked the talk and walked the walk. How else would one accomplish what he did in his lifetime. Probably the best public speaker I have ever heard. His lunch time speeches were better than TV. Not many around like that anymore.

“As a kid I had a few setbacks in my early schooling years so by the time I got to T More I was a few years behind. I tell my friends that in my senior year I could legally drink in my room. Not quite but it makes for a good laugh.

“I still keep in close contact with two graduates, Robert Barnes and Jack Cavedon. Jack was Ernie D’s roommate. Won’t bore you but I have so many funny stories about my time at T More. School definitely had some characters.

“FYI, I graduated in 4 years from the University of Louisville with a degree in marketing and management. While at (D-1) Louisville I walked on and earned a full football scholarship from coach, Lee Corso.

“After college I had a successful business career as VP sales and marketing for several companies, opened my own business 22 years ago here in Atlanta and just retired last year at 64. Been married for 35 years and have two lovely children.

“I share this with you not to brag but there is no doubt in my mind, if it wasn’t for James Fox Hanrahan and his vision, I doubt I would be alive today to tell it.

“God Bless, Take care”

Neal Boynton, '69 

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SAVE THE DATE!

14TH ANNUAL FOUNDER'S DINNER

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2014

FOXWOODS RESORT CASINO, LEDYARD, CT

HONORING MRS. BRIDGET AUTENCIO

DIRECTOR OF THE STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

6:00 PM – Cocktail Hour

7:00 PM – Dinner

7:45 PM – Program

Cost is \$125.00 per person and registration is required.

Please contact sschnaidt@stmct.org or (860) 859-1900 x107 for more details.