

News from GREEN ACRES

Alumni Newsletter

November 2023

StM Day: A *beloved tradition continues*



St. Martin's strong community and the special bonds created between students of all grade levels was on full display as we celebrated St. Martin's Day on Friday, November 10. St. Martin's Episcopal School has celebrated our patron saint on his feast day since the 1950s. While the tradition has evolved throughout the years, the three tenets of the school's mission – Faith, Scholarship, and Service – have always been prominently represented.

An all-school chapel service represents Faith. The discovery hunt, which encourages students to work together and learn more about their school and community, emphasizes Scholarship. As the entire student body works toward the goal of supporting a chosen charity, they practice Service. StM extends its gratitude to Dads' Club member Andy Wittich '89 and Erika Wittich '91 for [taking the St. Martin's community's donations](#) to the New Orleans Mission.

This year, the time-honored tradition featured a new twist with addition of the StM Families! The family groups will highlight our strong sense of community and interdivisional ties that have been the hallmark of the St. Martin's experience for decades. Members of the families worked together to solve the scavenger hunt clues. Congratulations to the Schwartz Family (pictured below) on winning the scavenger hunt! The day included an exciting all-school pep rally, with a special visit from Sir Saint and the New Orleans Saints Cheerleaders for some extra Saints spirit!

St. Martin's Day is not only a fitting observance of the school's patron saint, but also a beautiful celebration of the school's diverse, strong, generous, and thriving community. [Check out all of the excitement!](#)



Saints Making Headlines



LHSAA All-Academic Composite Team
GABBY RUBIN AND COLE ANGERER

Saints Recognized in LHSAA All-Academic Award Program

Several St. Martin's athletes have been recognized by the Louisiana High School Athletic Association (LHSAA) for their academic achievements. Seniors Gabby Rubin (volleyball) and Cole Angerer (cross country) were named to the All-Academic Composite Team.

In addition, the following Saints were named to the Academic Class Team: Emerson Arensman (daughter of Roby Arensman '91, volleyball), Manny Bejaran (football), Thomas Garvey (cross country), Dominic Hogan (football), Alex Pevey (sister of Christian Pevey '21, volleyball), and Carter Scheuermann (cross country).

The Choir Takes Manhattan!



Congratulations to the choir on its outstanding performance at the Christmas Spectacular at Radio City Music Hall in New York City over Thanksgiving weekend. The group, led by directors, Mrs. Christina Comer '91 and Mrs. Lynne Bordelon, spent several days exploring the sights and sounds of NYC before performing as the opening act for the Rockettes.

[View photos from their performance.](#)

Season of Gratitude

GRATEFUL FOR OUR FAMILY

What an exciting response to our November Gratitude Campaign! We met our matching gift challenge, and are thrilled to say that a full 43% of the November donations came from our Alumni community—on Giving Tuesday alone, we raised \$18,665 for our School! Your contributions to St. Martin's enables the school to continue to honor its commitment to Faith, Scholarship, and Service by integrating innovation and technology into our beloved traditions. This generous philanthropy is a very meaningful step towards our annual goal of \$350,000. All proceeds from Annual Giving go directly into the budgets that support teachers in their efforts to continue to offer students the best educational experiences possible. [Thank you for being a Saint!](#)

Alumni Spotlight - Robert W. "Bobby" Merrick '62 *Supporting those who serve others*

**NAI Latter & Blum, Chairman of
the Board**

**Attended StM 8th - 12th grade
Martin de Tours recipient, 2002**

Since its founding in 1947, St. Martin's Episcopal School has been blessed with hundreds of outstanding alumni. As we reflect on this season



of gratitude, we are especially thankful for our Saints who have made a difference in the world around them, including Robert “Bobby” Merrick, class of 1962.

Bobby’s generosity has had an extraordinary impact on the St. Martin’s community and its campus, which bears his name from end-to-end, from the Latter & Blum Track to the Merrick Visual Arts Center, and the Merrick Conference Room inside Saints Hall. His support and vision for his alma mater goes beyond his named projects; Bobby has always recognized the resources and possibilities that the St. Martin’s curriculum provides, and he finds ways to champion the school’s continued growth for generations to come.

To add to his many service awards and honors, Bobby was most recently recognized for his 55 years of service to the United Way of Southeast Louisiana, which awarded him its inaugural Tocqueville Society Lifetime Achievement Award. This month, we sat down with Bobby to talk with him about his decades of service to the greater New Orleans community, and to thank him for all that he has done and continues to do for St. Martin’s.

What are some of your memories of your time at St. Martin’s?

“In general, I look back at high school as some of the finest four years of my life. Everything I needed to learn in life, I learned in high school. Some of my fondest memories include attending Chapel in the morning and singing the psalms.” Bobby is also quick to recall his time on the field, the court, and the track during his years at St. Martin’s. “St. Martin’s is blessed with a campus that’s amazing - nobody else comes close,” he says, referring to the 18-acre campus, including its practice field and the Latter & Blum Track, which he funded in April 2008. The 400 meter, seven-lane, all-weather track is quite a step up from the grass and dirt track on which Bobby himself competed, where he was an all-state member of the track team. He was also co-captain of the football team, and named MVP, All-District and Times-Picayune Player of the Week. In addition, Bobby was voted by his peers as “Most Popular” his senior year.

Bobby’s classmate and longtime friend, retired StM coach and teacher, Jim Marsalis ’62, recalls that Bobby was a “terrific athlete and nice guy... I like to think that his remarkable character incubated during his days at St. Martin’s.”

Marsalis points out that while Bobby may have been “Most Popular” senior year, Bobby’s dedication and philanthropy has never been about him. “His philanthropy is accomplished with a modesty that sets him apart. When I think of the spirit of St. Martin de Tours in a contemporary context, my thoughts immediately turn to Bobby Merrick. I love Bobby’s commitment to his community.”

At StM, we try to focus on Service as one of our core values. You have lived that! What does Service mean to you?

“I guess I’ve always had a bit of a bleeding heart. Growing up, I always wanted to help the underdog in our class.”

Just as his successes in real estate have allowed him to give so generously, his early years in the business first drew him to the United Way and its mission. “I first learned about the United Way because I had bought and sold the building that is now their headquarters multiple times. I remember I was 25 when United Way bought it, and I was curious about what they were all about. I became a campaign manager, so I quickly learned how much poverty is in this city.”

More than five decades later, Bobby has continued to work with the United Way where he has served on the Board of Directors and ultimately became Chairman of the Board of Trustees in 1999. In 2014, he became the first individual in Louisiana to join the United Way Million Dollar Roundtable, a national membership reserved for million dollar donors.

“I have been blessed, and that means I have an obligation to help others. I give because my heart tells me there are a lot of people hurting in our city.”

What advice would you share with young Saints for how to follow in your footsteps with a focus on serving others?

“Whatever you go into, become a student of it. Live it, breathe it, eat it, sleep it. Digest it 100%. Immerse yourself in it. I train new real estate agents when they first start at Latter & Blum, and I tell them, ‘If you follow my advice, you will be successful and make money. Your responsibility is to share that money with those who need it, because to whom much is given, much is expected.’”

Alumni Gatherings



Alumni Brown Bag Lunch

We were thankful to continue this beloved tradition of gathering with our Alumni parents and their students on the Van Slate Lawn. From our littlest Saints in the Cottage to our Seniors celebrating their last Brown Bag Lunch, students loved this special meal with their parents and grandparents.

[View More Photos](#)



Annual Golf Tournament

A lively group of alumni gathered on the course at Chateau Golf & Country Club on November 3 to support the annual Golf Tournament, which benefits the StM Athletics program. We were so thankful to see so many familiar faces, whose camaraderie helped create a memorable atmosphere in support of their alma mater!

[Click FORE more photos!](#)

Upcoming Events

Cookies with SANTA

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

- COOKIES & COCOA • ACTIVITIES & STORIES WITH ELVES •
- PICTURES WITH SANTA •
- STAY TO WATCH THE 4TH GRADE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM •

Alumni are invited **this Saturday** to bring their children and visit with Santa in the Saints Hall lobby for cookies, cocoa, crafts, and more! Take a picture with Santa and enjoy fun activities with Santa's helpers. Make it a day for the whole family and stay to watch the 4th grade perform "Charlie's Gift" in the Solomon Theater at 3:15 p.m.

Purchase tickets

Saturday, March 16, 2024

StM Annual Gala, "Havana Nights" on the Van Slate Lawn

Saturday, March 23, 2024

Alumni Easter Egg Hunt on the Lower School Playground

Friday, May 10 - Saturday, May 11, 2024

Alumni Spirits Weekend

Alumni Resources

- Contribute to our Scattered Saints section in [*The Bell*](#).
- Please submit your nominations for our [**Alumni and Community Awards**](#).
- Can't get to campus? [**View photos from StM events on our Flickr site**](#)

ALUMNI

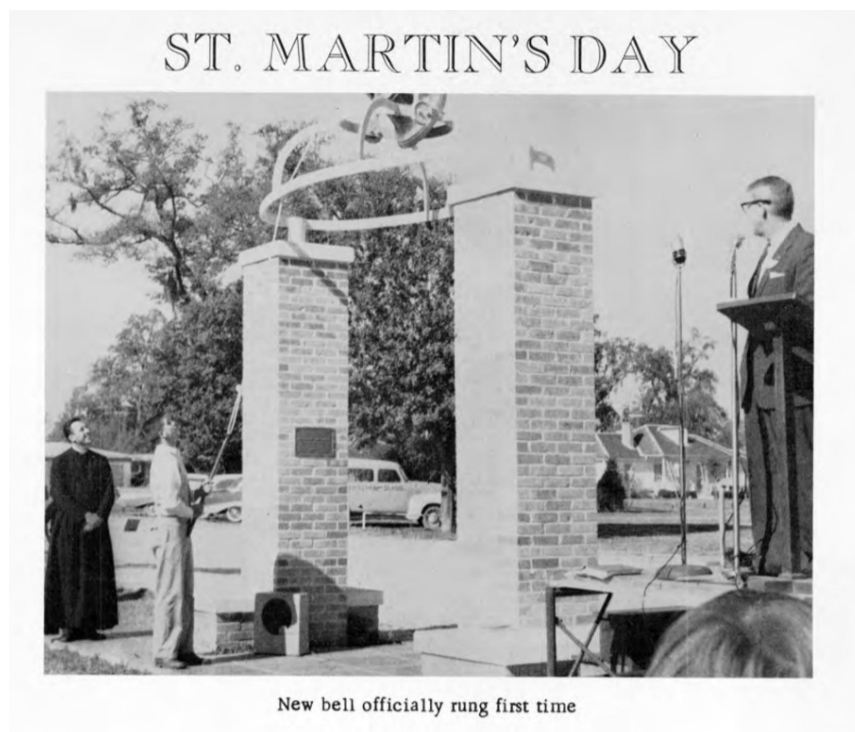


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Treasured Traditions

St. Martin's Day through the Years

Since the 1950's, St. Martin's Day has been a day to celebrate and strengthen the sense of unity and pride that characterizes our alma mater.



StM Day 1958 (Class of 1959)



1993



1982



1991



1998





1974



2017



2005



1998



New members of the National Honor Society look forward to the swearing-in ceremony.

1972

What are some of your favorite memories from your time at St. Martin's?
Email our Alumni Office to share your memories and photos!

*“Long live our dear
St. Martin’s that we
cherish and we love.”*



ST. MARTIN'S
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

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