



Greetings from CLS!

Well, the year is moving right along at Charlotte Latin – exciting things are happening! The **Lower School addition** will be complete by the end of spring and includes space for **The Nest**, Latin’s new childcare and preschool program. The Upper Schoolers are practicing **Fiddler on the Roof**, which will be performed February 18–20 in Thies Auditorium. And I suppose you could say that the **Class of 2010** is in the home stretch.

We’ve all been touched by the heartwrenching devastation in Haiti. Students, alumni and parents are finding creative ways to raise money for aid. It’s in times such as these that I am especially grateful to be a part of the Latin community.

Best,

Sally Gray Smith '82
Director of Alumni Affairs

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SERVICE WITH A BRRRRR.....

Despite the bitter cold temperature (think 14 degrees), on Saturday, January 9, 2010, volunteers from the Latin community worked on three Habitat for Humanity houses.

Thirteen alumni reported to Wabash Drive where they fully shingled not one, but two houses.

Thanks again to all who participated – we admire your skills, willing attitude and generous spirit!

The Charlotte Latin School Alumni Endowment funds:

The **INLUSTRATE ORBEM ALUMNI AWARDS** recognizes annually three teachers – one in each division – who exemplify sustained teaching excellence and a broad commitment to Charlotte Latin with a \$3,000 cash bonus.

The **ALUMNI ASSOCIATION DISTINGUISHED FACULTY CHAIR AWARD** comprises an annual \$15,000 contribution from the AGB to the School for its use as a salary supplement to recruit or retain an exceptional faculty member. Currently, two Alumni Association Faculty Chair awards have been awarded.

Become **A TWENTY-SPOT HAWK** by giving online:
www.charlottelatin.org/alumni/OnlineGiving.asp

For more information, contact Sally Gray Smith '82 at 704.846.7253 or ssmith@charlottelatin.org

HAITI in CONTEXT:

Reactions from a Recent *Medical Mission*

By Sallie Wilson '07

My dad and I decided to go to Haiti in August of last year. We were both interested in doing medical mission work and I had recently reignited my French language skills in France. Little did we know, we would be narrowly avoiding death, or at least tragedy, by leaving two days before the earthquake struck on January 12, 2010.

We stayed with Haitian-born doctors Hubert Morquette and Junie Hyacinthe and worked at their newly built mission hospital named King's Hospital in Port-au-Prince. Their complex includes a six-story hospital, an orphanage of sixty-four children, and a school of 108 children.



The author with two Haitian orphans at the King's Hospital complex in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Upon first arriving in Port-au-Prince on a Sunday night, the entire city seemed to be out and moving, with many people on foot despite the pouring rain. Those who were not walking were piling into vibrantly painted “tap-taps,” pick-up trucks with a rain cover attached to the bed that serve as Haiti’s public transportation. Upon asking Hubert why there were so many people outside, he explained saying Port-au-Prince was a city built for 600,000 people that has a population of 2 million. In other words, people were moving because they had little reason to stay in any one place. A “private home” (a house surrounded by high walls topped by concertina wire) like Hubert’s, the one to which we were driving, is an anomaly in Haiti rather than the norm.

It was not until the morning that the backdrop to this mass motion unveiled its full spectrum. Driving along the main road to Kings Hospital, named Maïs Gâté or “Spoiled Corn,” I saw a city lined by shacks filled with trash, goats, hogs, roosters, and dogs. No more than two or three open-air rooms comprised these dwellings. There was not much obvious evidence of starvation in the adult population on this particular road, but hunger plays a large role in the political instability in Haiti. About 80% of Haitians live on less than US \$2 per day. Children in the area, unlike the adults, did have the signs of malnourishment.

The most eye-opening part of the trip was not the sight of the shantytowns or the size of the stomach of a malnourished child, but the repetition of these sights. We drove to the beach on the Friday of our week-long trip. Again and again, we passed young children with stomachs that ballooned out in front of them due to malnourishment. Even at the orphanage, where the children are well fed, the two youngest orphans had enormous bloated bellies from being malnourished as infants.

The top of King’s Hospital had a commanding view of both a suburb of Port-au-Prince called Delmas and the surrounding valley leading to the coast. Few buildings were more than one-story high and a few rooms large (the hospital was the tallest building within the 360 degree view). Everything seemed to be falling apart except the mountains.

This is not to say Haiti is not beautiful. The white-sand beaches of Jacmel could be mistaken for other beaches in the Caribbean on which world-class resorts build their reputations. The mountains were lush, green, and terraced.

HAITI in CONTEXT... *Continued*

Haitian mangoes, pineapples, avocados, sugar cane, tomatoes, vanilla, papaya and coffee each explode with the kind of flavor that only comes from organic growth in naturally-occurring fertile conditions. The Haitian rum was enough to make my dad leave the gate of our outgoing plane to buy five duty-free bottles. Since the United States placed an embargo on Haiti in the 1990s, the country has never been able to reestablish strong trade relations.

Hubert and Junie, our hosts, were equally proud and critical of their community. Junie liked to discuss the adaptability of Haitians as evidenced in the move of all three of her children to Montréal. Hubert, being a gourmet chef, liked to discuss the cuisine. Hubert and Junie were considered part of the elite class in Haiti, both being practicing physicians, but used their position to lend much-needed aid to the 80% of Haitians living below the poverty line. Taking on a project like building and running an orphanage, hospital, and school

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in Port-au-Prince is not for the faint of heart. Their strong ties with American medical missionaries were upheld by their belief that resenting outside intervention was counterproductive.

When I found out the earthquake hit, I was shell-shocked, stunned, speechless, what have you. The most immediate change I could pinpoint with what little information was coming through the news was that the Presidential Palace had been damaged. I had a picture of it in the packet of developed photos I had just brought home from the drugstore. Without being able to articulate it at the time, I felt that all of the memories and stimulation that had painted my experience, the sights, the smells, the people, the sounds, had ruptured along with Haiti. This kind of heartbreak was new to me.

A day after the earthquake I heard from Lumière Medical Missions, the group that had organized our trip, and found out Hubert had called at 5:30 pm after the earthquake to say no one had died and the hospital was one of the few in Port-au-Prince still intact. Up until

the earthquake, King's Hospital was not open to patients due to lack of funds, supplies, and staff. It is currently filled to over maximum capacity. Hubert and Junie are working furiously performing surgeries on wounds and broken bones, and they are in desperate need of both doctors and supplies.

My main concerns for Haiti are: One, the thousands of homeless Haitians who now will have an even harder time of finding the food, water, and shelter we take for granted. Two, the escape of the inmates from the prison in downtown Port-au-Prince, which means there is a possibility some of the pro-Aristide gangsters responsible for the violence from 2003-2008 are now free. Three, the country itself had so far to go with its medicine. King's Hospital was in need of fundraising to establish a beneficent fund to support the many Haitian patients who could not pay full price for their necessary medical attention. Now, the attention of the world is on earthquake relief (as it should be). Thankfully, Haitian causes have become

the focus of charities nationwide, but to what end will Haiti be restored?

My mother had asked me earlier in the day

on the day of the earthquake what I thought the future of Haitian medicine was. I confided in her that I thought it could only go up from where it was. All we can hope is the aid and disaster relief efforts will fuel Haiti to a new height, establishing greater infrastructure rather than eliminating the recent but tenuous stability Haiti had due to an increase in police force and the recent capture of the leader of the gang responsible for the revolts by President Préval.

Haiti is not just a disaster-torn third-world country that deserves to be patronized or deserves misplaced pity and energy. I urge you to participate in the restoration process for the sake of its people and potential. Obviously, my favorite way would be to donate time or money to Lumière Medical Ministries, www.lumiereministries.com, but at the very least I urge you to resist becoming desensitized to the issue as the images of disaster become redundant and stress about daily life makes it easy to tune this crisis out. What the earthquake has not changed is Haiti's potential to be a thriving island nation with an intriguing identity. Now more than ever it needs help to get there.

Young Alums Swarm Angry Ale's



On Saturday, December 26, 2009, TONS of young alumni from the Classes of 1997 through 2006 descended upon Angry Ale's for some holiday fellowship.



More than 125 alumni enjoyed catching up with friends and former teachers, including Chris Downing, Buck Butler and Dr. Collins!

To subscribe/unsubscribe to this newsletter, please email ssmith@charlottelatin.org

To submit class notes, please visit www.charlottelatin.org/alumni/classnotes.asp

2010 MAY DAY PLAY DAY Auction!

FROM JANET MILLER ROGERS '84, one of our many alums who is also a current parent AND a wonderful May Day Play Day volunteer as well!

The 2010 May Day Play Day Auction committee is now seeking donations for the silent auction. In the past we have had success auctioning the following types of items: trips & getaways, use of vacation homes, tickets (sporting events, concert, theater), catering, round of golf, private lessons, and professional services. If you are an artist (professional or amateur), please consider donating some of your work to the auction. This can even be work you did while you were a student at Latin. All donations are tax deductible. If you have fond memories of MDPD (perhaps the dunking booth), we would welcome your donations.

For more information or to arrange for a local pick up, please contact Janet Miller Rogers '84 at jmrogers@carolina.rr.com or 704-953-2195.

Thank you!

Saturday
May 8, 2010
Come play
with us at
MDPD!



The Good Old Days
CELEBRATING 40 YEARS of FUN at CHARLOTTE LATIN SCHOOL!
MDPD 2010

