

Rey of Light  
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DePaul  CRISTO REY  
HIGH SCHOOL

# MATTERS

## First Students Are Now College Graduates

*“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all of the seeds yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants.”*

*Matthew 13: 31-32*

This Gospel parable was read during DePaul Cristo Rey’s dedication when it first opened in June 2011. Among those in attendance that day were students about to enter as the first class of freshmen. Eight years later, the seed and school have flourished as some of those first students have become DPCR’s first college graduates.

Among those graduating this spring were:



**Aaron Carter '15**, bachelor’s degree in sociology, **Mount St. Joseph University**.



**Theresa Bruns '15**, bachelor’s degree in child & family studies, **Berea College**.



**Keion Humphrey '15**, bachelor’s degree in political science, **Loyola University Chicago**.

More photos of our first college graduates are inside on page 2.

Following in these college graduates’ footsteps, the seniors of DePaul Cristo Rey graduated on May 28.

Photos from the Class of 2019 are inside on page 8–9.

# First College Grads

## Set for October 8

Building on the success of the inaugural event last fall, a group of enthusiastic table captains will lead the second annual 2019 Champions of Change event on October 8, 2019, at the Cintas Center.

This year Champions of Change will be a one-hour breakfast (from 8:00-9:00 a.m.) to introduce the school to new friends and hopefully surpass last year's success which, in one hour, raised almost \$80,000 to support the school.

For more information on attending or serving as a table captain, please contact **Lisa Muething** at 513.861.0600 or [lisa.muething@dpcr.net](mailto:lisa.muething@dpcr.net).



**Kaniya Chapple '15**, bachelor's degree in psychological sciences, **Miami University**.



**Deanna Wilson '15**, bachelor's degree in health and wellness, **Mount St. Joseph University**.

*Not pictured: Salina Steinriede '15 who graduated last year with an associate's degree from Cincinnati State Technical and Community College.*

## From the President



Dear Friends of  
DePaul Cristo Rey:

We have known  
all year at DPCR  
that the cover of  
this issue of  
DPCR Matters  
would be devoted  
to members of

our inaugural Class of 2015 who would be the first to come full circle – AND GRADUATE FROM COLLEGE IN FOUR YEARS! My heartfelt congratulations to Theresa, Aaron, Kaniya, Keion and Deanna. You and your classmates will always be our firstborn children, and we are delighted to see you soar into your careers and step into the world of professional adulthood that you have prepared for, especially over these last eight years. Many more of their classmates and our younger students will soon be following suit – and we couldn't be prouder!

I am also pleased to announce, as a follow-up to our recent capital campaign update, that we will soon be moving into the first of our new buildings as the construction of our student center comes to a close. We can't wait to unveil these spaces that have

our students at their very core! What I really look forward to is our new and returning students gathering and using these new spaces. This project is a visible sign of just how many generous people care about their well-being, their education and their safety.

And lastly, I would be remiss not to thank **Sister Joan Elizabeth Cook, SC, Ph.D.**, (pictured with me on the right) as she finishes her second and last term as president of the **Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati**. When Sister Joan became president in 2011, she inherited the challenge of nurturing a ministry that was truly in its infancy. In fact the school was welcoming its first freshman class – among them these very students who are now our first college graduates. Sister Joan has indeed cradled this school, prayed us through a few hundred challenges, offered moral support and personal wisdom, helped us secure a strong financial future, and set us on a course toward future growth and maturity. I want to personally express gratitude to Joan for all of this – and much more – as she moves into the next adventure her life will present to her. Godspeed, Sister Joan!

Gratefully,

*S. Jeanne Bessette, OSF, Ed.D.*

Sister Jeanne Bessette, OSF, Ed.D.  
President/CEO



# Paul K. Ebert Named DePaul Cristo Rey Principal



**Paul K. Ebert** has been named DePaul Cristo Rey's third principal. Paul had been serving as interim principal since the fall of 2018 and was offered the position permanently following a spring search process that involved stakeholders from the faculty, staff, students, parents, alumni, Board of Directors, and representatives of the Cristo Rey Network.

Paul was one of the first faculty members hired when DPCR opened in 2011. He began as DPCR's first English/Reading teacher and advanced into roles as lead teacher, freshman dean and assistant principal. **President S. Jeanne Bessette** says,

"Paul has demonstrated a passion for our students and our school's mission over his eight years on staff. I have been most impressed with the vision he has articulated for our school's continuous improvement in the critical areas of teaching, school culture and student learning outcomes."

"While proud of our tradition of supporting all students to college acceptance, our focus has now shifted to teaching them to not only get into college but to sustain their high school success and persist through college," Paul says. As part of this, he is leading with a heightened focus on proactively addressing student mental health issues. "With all of the different stresses that confront our students in 2019, it is critically important that we support them both academically and emotionally. It's our goal that they develop social-emotional competencies to cope with different stresses in their lives and successfully graduate."

An alumnus of the University of Dayton, Paul holds a bachelor's degree in education and is enrolled in the Mary Ann Remick Leadership Program at the University of Notre Dame which prepares educators as transformational leaders in their Catholic school community while they earn a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership.

## First Phase of Campus Transformation Set to Open

The first phase of DePaul Cristo Rey's massive building project housing the Linda & Harry Fath Gymnasium, Bruin Café and the Ann & Harry Santen Performing Arts Center is set to open later this summer. This building also houses locker rooms, a weight room, athletic offices and campus ministry. The new cafeteria has an enlarged kitchen and dining area to serve and feed 200 students at a time. All will be open and ready when students arrive back on campus in August.

Work has already begun to demolish the current student center/gymnasium followed by the immediate start of construction on the three-story academic building.





# Rey of Light Raises Over \$700,000 For Scholarships

1.



2.

This year's Rey of Light Scholarship Benefit was the best yet – raising over \$700,000 for financial assistance for DePaul Cristo Rey students. Generous event sponsors, dedicated volunteers and over 500 guests contributed to this outstanding success.

Rey of Light was held on Saturday, April 27 at St. Xavier High School since DePaul Cristo Rey is undergoing major construction. **Linda Holthaus** and **Richard Zinicola** chaired the event, leading a committee of over 100 volunteers. The evening included cocktails, dinner, as well as silent and live auctions. The Fund-A-Need Paddle Raise for scholarships alone brought in \$310,000.

Rey of Light continues to be the school's most significant fundraiser, raising more than \$3 million in seven years – all for financial aid.

3.



1. Our enthusiastic students greeted Rey of Light guests.
2. Left to right: Principal Paul Ebert, President Sister Jeanne Bessette, OSF, and Co-Chairs Linda Holthaus and Richard Zinicola.





4. Abby Held, Executive Director of CWSP;  
past Rey of Light chair Tim Warning;  
DPCR board member Steve and wife  
Shannon McDevitt; and Eric Cook.







5. All of the past chairs of Rey of Light include (left to right): Jane Yost, Michele Schuster, Alison Warning, Assistant Director of Advancement Lisa Muething, Linda Holthaus, Julie Ross, Barb Bennie, and Pat Robertson.



6. Left to right: Tom and Kathy Liguzinski with Vicky and Rick Reynolds, DPCR Board member.

7. Moussa '22 sells raffle chances to Dan Bennie.



**SAVE THE DATE**  
for next year's  
Rey of Light on  
**APRIL 18, 2020!**

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## Raffle Winners

Rey of Light's lucky raffle winners were:

**Boston Ford** – First Choice Raffle; she chose the *Hamilton* in New York City Package.

**Anne Megerle** – Pearl Necklace donated by Alison Warning of Serendipity Jewelry.

**Dan Neyer** – Reds Diamond Seats Package donated by MSA Design.





## Congratulations Class of 2019!

With Olympian **Mary Wineberg** urging them to “Secure your gold and go for your dreams,” the seniors of DePaul Cristo Rey’s Class of 2019 ended their high school careers at a commencement ceremony on May 28 at **Mount St. Joseph University**.

Valedictorian **Heidi Cook ’19** addressed her classmates, and Ms. Wineberg, an educator and winner of an Olympic gold medal in the 2008 games, encouraged them to show unwavering perseverance in their quest for a college degree.

Sixty-three graduates have all been accepted to college, and collectively they have earned \$6.5 million in merit-based scholarships.

## On to College

The Class of 2019 have committed to 22 colleges and universities including:

Alabama State University  
Bennett College  
Berea College  
Central State University  
The Christ College of  
Nursing & Health Sciences

Cincinnati State Technical and  
Community College  
Eastern Michigan University  
Kent State University  
Miami University  
Miami University-Hamilton

Mount St. Joseph University  
Northern Kentucky University  
The Ohio State University  
Roosevelt University  
Shawnee State University  
Tennessee State University

University of Cincinnati  
UC Blue Ash College  
Warren Wilson College  
West Virginia University  
Wilmington College  
Wright State University



## Partnership with DePaul Cristo Rey Fits Michelman's Company Values



*Jayla '21 and Supervisor Rachel Perkinson at Michelman.*

Guests get a warm greeting when they enter **Michelman's** world headquarters in the Cincinnati suburb of Blue Ash, and it isn't unusual to find DePaul Cristo Rey student Jayla '21 behind the front desk. Answering phones, greeting guests and showing the company's safety video are all significant responsibilities for a 16-year-old, but Jayla is clearly up to the task.

"This school fits the values of our organization," says Michelman President and CEO **Steve Shifman** when explaining the firm's partnership with DPCR's Corporate Work Study Program (CWSP). Michelman manufactures environmentally-friendly chemicals and has locations in Asia and Europe in addition to the Cincinnati headquarters. "It's a phenomenal privilege to operate in the context of communities throughout the world. We actively engage in these communities and want to make them a better place," he explains.

"While all six of our company core values are reflected in our partnership with DPCR, our value of "giving" especially stands out," explains Human Resources Generalist

**Rachel Perkinson** who supervises the DPCR student workers. "The students give so much to us and we, in turn, are giving back to the community through the CWSP."

One of Jayla's responsibilities this past school year also supported the value of "giving." She managed Michelman's Adopt-A-Class community outreach program partnering associates as pen pals with students at two local elementary schools. Jayla's tasks also included customer research and preparing new-hire materials. In addition, she and student worker Kelly '22 were tasked with migrating electronic files from one format to another. "Over just six weeks, they migrated 2,600 attachments, saving us from contracting third-party software and IT staff," says Rachel.

"This is truly a partnership – while the students are gaining relevant experience, they do a lot of work," adds Rachel. "When the school year is over, we have to find someone to do the things they were doing!"

So this summer, Jayla has continued to work at Michelman. Not only is she gaining additional work experience, there's a direct connection to her college plans, as she explains. "My aunt opened a bank account for me and I have a goal to save half of my summer salary for college." The decision to work over the summer was an easy one for her because she has enjoyed both the work and the people at Michelman. "They treat me as an adult with work experience that gives me real-world knowledge, and they're like a family with each other," she says.

While Jayla isn't sure yet what she'll study in college she's considering careers in IT, law, accounting or as an entrepreneur. That underscores another of CEO Steve Shifman's reasons to support the CWSP partnership. "We all worry about talent attraction and this is a great way to attract future talent."





# Travel Abroad Is “Highlight” of Grad’s College Career

By Imani Vann ‘16



*This fall Imani Vann '16 will be a senior music major at Berea College in Kentucky. She reflects on her life-changing study abroad experience.*

Studying abroad has been one of the most exciting, yet challenging experiences I have ever faced in my college career. I spent four weeks traveling around Ghana, West Africa, in June of 2018, with a group of fellow students and instructors, exploring the enslavement, colonization, and decolonized African peoples with primary concentrations in music and literature. With the help and direction of tour guides, local instructors and local Ghanaians, we slowly learned how to become acclimated to the sweltering heat, terrifying traffic, and the importance of taking bottled water everywhere.

Each of the four weeks was spent somewhere new, beginning with Accra, the capital and largest city. My favorite visits were to Cape Coast and the village of Komfueku, two places I will always carry in my heart and on my mind. Cape Coast is home to the largest and oldest slave castle in the world, Elmina Castle. This is where I witnessed the true horror of the Atlantic slave trade. The few paragraphs I've read in a textbook cannot begin to compare to the actual wretchedness of walking through the dungeons and feeling the sorrow, pain and suffering that still lingers from all who passed through those passages.

In Komfueku we were able to fully submerge ourselves into the lives of Ghanaians and their culture. For a week, we lived with a host family, totally enjoying and participating in every aspect of whatever that day's event would be. When we attended the traditional events, the families or villagers would dress us in traditional Ghanaian clothing.

I am so grateful for many more memories and experiences, as well as so many lessons learned. One lesson that I will never forget is the importance of love and community. Throughout my journey I was accepted into the homes of Ghanaians whose environments were the complete opposite of many in America. However, all I encountered never complained about any situations that hindered them. Our host families and other families never failed to make us feel at home and a part of their family. All of these reasons have made this travel abroad a life-changing event for me and the highlight of my college career.

## This Spring at DPCR...





# Graduate Success Is a Goal with a Plan

Earlier this spring **Theresa Bruns '15** was marveling at how her life has changed. "It's four years since I graduated high school with my sweet little girl and now I've graduated college. I couldn't have done it without the support of DePaul Cristo Rey. The principal and teachers supported me and constantly checked on me in college," says Theresa, who graduated from Berea College on May 5. She crossed the stage to receive her diploma with her now five-year-old daughter, Vivian, by the hand. "I am seriously more than thankful for where I went to high school now that I've graduated college, moved to a new city and started a brand new amazing job."

It is the goal of everyone at DPCR to give our alumni the support and encouragement they need to complete college and find success similar to Theresa. More specifically, the Graduate Success Program exists to help DPCR alumni transition to and persist through college. Graduate Success Director **Larisa Wright** works exclusively with alumni offering

expertise, advice and support to help them learn to navigate and access their campus resources.

In addition, DPCR has a Graduate Success Fund. Alumni can apply for micro-grants from this fund to pay for things such as book bills, meal plans and small tuition gaps. It is most often the unexpected or un-budgeted expenses that derail students' college completion. As DPCR's alumni base grows with each spring graduation, this fund must grow too. Its long-term sustainability is the focus of the second phase of DPCR's campaign, **Securing Our Graduates' Success**. The goal of this campaign phase is to raise \$4 million as a restricted fund that will provide support to DPCR graduates into perpetuity.

For more information about supporting the Graduate Success Fund, please contact **President S. Jeanne Bessette** at 513.861.0600 or [jeanne.bessette@dpcr.net](mailto:jeanne.bessette@dpcr.net).







# <sup>8<sup>th</sup></sup> ANNUAL *Golf Classic*



*Western Hills Country Club*

## Western Hills Country Club September 23, 2019

- Four-person scramble format
- Skills contests on the course
- Proceeds benefit student tuition assistance

For more information  
contact: Lisa Muething at  
[lisa.muething@dpcr.net](mailto:lisa.muething@dpcr.net)  
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