

# Awards & Scholarships

## New Scholarship for GCS Grads

Thanks to a generous anonymous donor, Guardian Catholic School is pleased to announce the first annual Sisters of Notre Dame Scholarship of Excellence. This award is named in honor of the Sisters of Notre Dame for their dedication and commitment to the education of Guardian Catholic School students for over 50 years. The intent of this scholarship is to give deserving eighth grade students the financial means to continue a faith-based, high quality Catholic education at Bishop Kenny or Bishop John J. Snyder High Schools. It will be awarded annually to multiple eighth graders based on financial need, school attendance, academic achievement, and distinction in character and Christian ideals. It is renewable for 4 years if awardees continue to meet these criteria.

Nine students have received the Sisters of Notre Dame Scholarship of Excellence Award. Those students continuing their education at Bishop Kenny are: Connor Chatman, Cornelius Wilson, Bruce McCord, Jamon Prince, Ny'Reon Shuman, Payne Thomas, and Robert Wilson. Those students receiving this award and continuing their education at Bishop Snyder are: Christopher Hills and Ron'na Turner.

## Distinguished Graduates

This year marks the 10th year anniversary of the founding of the Townsend Scholarship. Named for longtime Guardian supporter and Board of Trustees member Ronald Townsend, the award is presented each year to high-achieving eighth-graders and provides them with a 4-year scholarship to Bishop Kenny, Bishop John J. Snyder, Bolles or Episcopal High Schools. The 2018 Townsend Scholar is Rachel Agbontaen, who will be attending The Bolles School this fall.



Rachel Agbontaen

Payne Thomas is the 2018 recipient of the Carla Harris Award, a scholarship established in 2017 by St. Pius V and Bishop Kenny alumna Carla Harris. An accomplished Wall Street veteran, Harris was appointed by President Barack Obama in 2013 to chair the National Women's Business Council and was named to Fortune magazine's list of "The 50 Most Powerful Black Executives in Corporate America," among many other accolades. The endowment she created provides scholarships for African American students to attend Bishop Kenny High School.



Payne Thomas

Ny'Reon Schuman has been awarded the Bishop John J. Snyder Peace in Christ Award, given each year to a graduating eighth grade student who demonstrates the love of God by consistently exhibiting those virtues modeled by Bishop Snyder, who faithfully served the Diocese of St. Augustine from 1979-2000. The selection criteria include academic achievement, humility, community service, church involvement, and concern for others. Ny'Reon plans to attend Bishop Kenny High School next year.



Ny'Reon Shuman

The 2018 Sisters of Notre Dame Distinguished Graduate Award recipient is Ron'na Turner, who will attend Bishop John J. Snyder High School. This accolade recognizes graduates of schools affiliated with the Sisters of Notre Dame as being outstanding witnesses to Notre Dame education. Ron'na has also been awarded the Patricia Tierney Scholarship, established by the University of Notre Dame in honor of Pat Tierney for her exceptional leadership of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of St. Augustine and her dedicated service to the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) program.

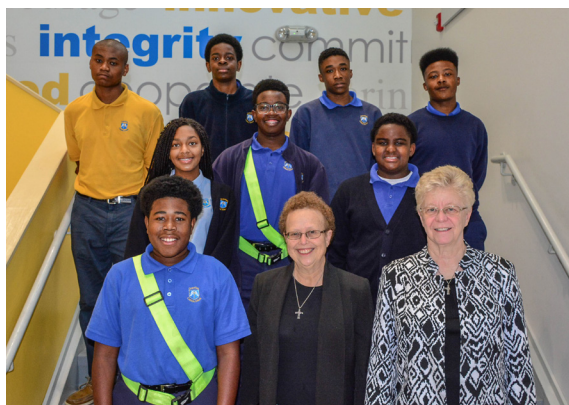


Ron'na Turner



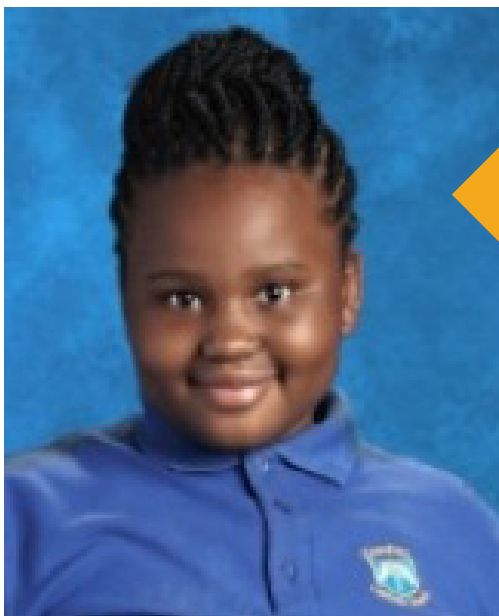
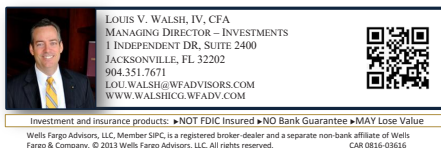
The Guardian  
Catholic Schools

P.O. Box 551699  
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Back row, left to right: Christopher Hills, Jamon Prince, Bruce McCord, Connor Chatman  
Middle row: Ron'na Turner, Ny'Reon Shuman, Payne Thomas  
Front row: Robert Wilson, Sr. Cynthia Shaffer, Sr. Dianne Rumschlag  
Not pictured: Cornelius Wilson

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Angel is on a waiting list for a scholarship. Won't you help by becoming her sponsor?

## Meet Angel,

a Guardian Catholic School student who possesses all the qualities necessary for a GCS Eagle to soar to success. Enrolled as a kindergartner, Angel Henry formerly attended St. Pius Catholic School and is currently a 5th grade student at GCS. Her love of learning and radiant smile is not hard to detect. Angel works diligently to learn new information and frequently encourages her classmates to remain focused and do their best. She looks forward to coming to school every day. Without hesitation, she will let one know that reading is her favorite subject. Her reading teacher will confirm that Angel can regularly be found immersing herself in various literary adventures. When asked what she likes best about the new GCS, Angel is quick to respond that her teachers are always prepared to teach the students something new and exciting. Along with her love of learning, Angel enjoys swimming, watching her baby brother, cooking, and especially baking her specialty --homemade chocolate chip cookies. Some day in the future Angel hopes to open her own bakery!

Please contact Mervin Denny at: [mdenny@guardiancatholicschools.org](mailto:mdenny@guardiancatholicschools.org).

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JUNE 2018

# The Messenger



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## A Year of New Challenges and Successes

"If you feel yourself hitting up against your limit, remember why you started down this path, and let that memory carry you beyond your limit." (Author unknown.) This quotation was chosen by the students of the first graduating class of Guardian Catholic School for the invitations to their graduation ceremony on May 29, 2018. There were many times during this school year when they felt they had "hit up against their limit." Change, transition, adapting to a whole new environment, having a new teacher every 45 minutes, and all the other adjustments that are supposed to happen when a 6th grader enters middle school, these 8th graders experienced once again! After nearly a year of acclimating to these changes, the graduating class of 2018 was able to experience a sense of unity, and their greatest challenges have become a source of shared achievement.

What brought them together? The common goal of raising \$2,700 to fund a class trip. What at first seemed like an impossible task became achievable with teamwork, cooperation, hard work and a special "key to success" - showing respectful behavior to everyone. Successful fundraisers throughout the year included a basketball tournament, carwash, school store, and a jeans day. These fundraisers enabled the students to earn enough money for their trip, and they are now looking forward to a class excursion to Islands of Adventure.

Amid the success and challenges of becoming the first graduating class of Guardian Catholic School, the students agree that they would want to remember the following advice: "Take pride in how far we've come. Have faith in how far we can go. But don't forget to enjoy the journey." -Michael Josephson



The Guardian Catholic School Class of 2018 at their graduation ceremony on May 29 at Holy Rosary Catholic Church

## Guardian Catholic School Class of 2018

Rachel Agbontaen	Jamon Prince	Kerrington Scott
Britney Cooper	Ron'na Turner	Ny'Reon Shuman
Alexis Cowart	Khalil Ward	Payne Thomas
Ma'Kenndi Daniel	Connor Chatman	Robert Wilson
Andril Grant	Willie Hills	Cornelius Wilson
Israel Griggs	Taron Ingram	Amari Johnson
David Hartley	Xadavia Lewis	Troy Taylor
Bruce McCord	Marrianna Merritt	Jazzmin Griffin

The mission of the Guardian Catholic Schools is to participate in God's work by providing advocacy, resources and governance to Guardian Catholic School. These resources enable the school to provide educational and spiritual opportunities to children and families regardless of financial situation or religious preference.





### Continuing the Dream

Mervin G. Denny, Executive Director of Advancement

Dear Friends,

This year has undoubtedly been a landmark one in the Guardian's history. It has been inspiring to see the students, faculty, and staff of Holy Rosary and St. Pius V truly come together as a single school body. As the first school year comes to a close, I had the honor of attending our "Moving Up Ceremony" and our very first GCS Graduation Ceremony, and I saw first hand the excitement, love and respect that our students had for one another and their teachers. What a better gift to give our students as they enter the next phase of their life! While our surroundings may have undergone a dramatic change this year, the Guardian mission remains the same – to offer a quality education to children in our community, regardless of financial need or religious belief. Your gift will make such a difference in a child's life.

With your support, we were able to provide some level of scholarship assistance to all 420 students enrolled at Guardian Catholic School for the 2017-18 school year. As we prepare for increased enrollment for the 2018-19 school year, we need your help to be able to provide the same scholarship opportunities to new and current students.

Each day that I walk onto our new school campus, I am prompted to reflect on how richly God has blessed us – with loyal donors, passionate educators, students eager to learn, and modern classrooms equipped with the resources needed for young minds to develop and flourish. None of this would be possible without our generous donors, dedicated board members, and community stakeholders. I want to extend my deepest gratitude to all of those who continue to make the Guardian dream a reality for so many children here in Jacksonville's urban core. I hope that you have a wonderful summer, and I thank you for helping us protect our students' potential.

Mervin G. Denny



Moving Up Student, Carlee Tranquille



Moving Up Student, Major Whatley

### Naming Opportunities Available

A limited number of new naming opportunities are available for the Guardian's *Build the Dream, Guard the Legacy* capital campaign. To learn more, please contact our office at 904-765-1920 or email [mdenny@guardiancatholicschools.org](mailto:mdenny@guardiancatholicschools.org)



Robbin Frazier

### Alum Spotlight: Robbin Frazier

Robbin Frazier is an alumna of St. Pius V Catholic School. She is a Group Vice President, Manager at SunTrust Bank responsible for leading a team of HR professionals handling Employee Relations activities. Robbin joined SunTrust in 2006. During her tenure, she has served as Team Leader in Employee Relations and a Leadership Development Coach. Before joining SunTrust, Robbin worked at Nelnet, Inc. in Jacksonville as a Senior HR Generalist. Robbin has a Master of Arts in Human Resources Management from Webster University and a Bachelor of Arts in Communication from the University of South Florida. She has also obtained her SPHR and SHRM-SCP professional certifications in Human Resources.

Robbin serves on The Guardian Board and is also an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. In May 2017, Robbin married her beloved Toby Frazier and feels truly blessed to be able to experience life daily with her very best friend. She strives to live with an attitude of gratitude, always extend grace and be the best person God created her to be.

Robbin Frazier was the Guest Speaker for the Guardian Catholic School first graduation class of 2018. At the ceremony, she shared stories of encouragement with the graduating class, parents, staff, donors and other attendants.

"As an Eagle of The Guardian Catholic School, remember to use your unique 'Eagle Eye' vision to maintain your focus on excellence and to always stay focused on God. And last, but certainly not least, don't forget you have wings for a purpose, so use them to RISE Up and SOAR."-Robbin Frazier



### Celebrating Success

Sr. Dianne Rumschlag, SND, Head of School

I'm amazed that we will soon complete an entire school year on our new campus. Architectural designs and building plans have lifted off the page—and now the dream has come alive in the faces of teachers, staff, children and parents working together in this new facility. It's time to pause and celebrate our successes! It has been my pleasure to collaborate with Sr. Cynthia Shaffer and Therese Jackson, our principals, to lead our school through this transition year. At the hub of our busy campus are dedicated administrators, teachers and staff providing steady and well-planned educational experiences. Every moment is a teaching moment. Evidence of thinking, learning, achieving, praying and serving our community is around every corner.

Gratitude takes a unique expression at this time of the year: in the joy expressed as our Pre-K students gather for their Moving Up Ceremony, in the pride we feel as we applaud our former students as they receive high school and college diplomas, and in the faces of alumni coming back to enroll their children. On May 29, Guardian Catholic School's first graduating class takes center stage. These twenty-four young men and women hold a unique place in our history. In looking back, I find myself pondering with the psalmist: "What shall I return to the Lord for all his goodness to (us)?" (Psalm 116:12) You have shared this journey with us in varied ways. God bless you, and thank you for your continued support of our children and mission.



- 1 Congratulations to Robotics Team students who received the Judges Award in recognition of their core values, professionalism, and team spirit.
- 2 Guardian Catholic hosted the 2018 Step Up for Students Rising Stars Awards. Among the awardees for Outstanding Teacher was first grade teacher Ingrid Scott. Five GCS students were recognized in the categories of High Achieving Student, Turn Around Student, and Outstanding Character
- 3 Thanks to a grant from The Community Foundation of Northeast Florida, Pre-K students and their parents were

- brought together throughout the year to engage in STEM activities.
- 4 The GCS Choir and first-graders were honored to be invited to sing at the groundbreaking for the new Heart & Vascular Pavilion at St. Vincent's Medical Center Riverside.
- 5 Two Bishop Snyder athletes and Guardian graduates placed in the recent FHSAA 1A State Track & Field Championships. Semaj McGhee placed first in high jump and long jump, and Jalen Chance placed second in long jump.

### 14th Annual Golf Classic



Left to Right: Josh Scobee, Mervin Denny, Jason Burhyte, Mike O'Hare and Ron Townsend at the 14th Annual Golf Tournament at Deerwood Country Club



Above: Numbered golf balls are released from the helicopter in this year's \$5,000 Helicopter Ball Drop

Right: The ten finalists for the Million Dollar Shoot-Out line up before attempting to shoot a hole-in-one to win a prize of \$1 million

The Guardian's 14th Annual Golf Classic, held on March 12 at Deerwood Country Club, was a great success, thanks to our Title Sponsor, Merrill Lynch/Bank of America, tournament Honorary Chair Josh Scobee and Chair Mike O'Hare. With tremendous support from participants, sponsors, and volunteers, we raised \$189,000 for student scholarships. One of the day's highlights was our first-ever Helicopter Ball Drop raffle. All tickets purchased corresponded to numbered golf balls, which were loaded onto a helicopter and dropped over the 9th green as onlookers eagerly watched to see whose ball would land closest to the pin. Frank Heath was the lucky winner, who generously donated the \$5,000 prize to the Guardian. At the end of the day, golfers and friends enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and cocktails as they watched the Million Dollar Shootout featuring the ten golfers with the best scores on the course's nine par-3 holes.



### Announcing the 15th Annual Ron Townsend Golf Classic



We are excited to announce the 15th Annual Ron Townsend Golf Classic, named in honor of longtime Guardian supporter and board member, Ron Townsend.

We hope that you will join us March 4, 2019 at Timuquana Country Club for this historic event.

### THANKS TO OUR 2018 SPONSORS



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