

Marietta Johnson points out one of the eight names in her family that appear on the walls of Graduate Hall. Formerly referred to as the study hall, the room was transformed over the summer to list every graduate of the school during its 109 year history.

BURNING THE MIDNIGHT OIL LIFE ACADEMICS

16/17

GRADUATE HALL

Raymond M. Potts

YEARS BETWEEN

MARIETTA JOHNSON GETS IT.

"To me, the Graduate Hall is the essence of St. Mark's: it's community, it's excellence. It's following through with each individual student," said the veteran of 43 years in the classroom here. She gets the significance of history and tradition — those traits that were immortalized this past summer when the study hall in Centennial was transformed into a powerful repository of history: a listing of every graduate of the school, from 109 years back — onward to the most recent graduating class, the class of 2015. And for Johnson, the names on the wall — eight in her family alone — forever etched on the rich cherry wood panelled walls, Marietta Johnson does most assuredly get the meaning of the new Graduate Hall.

Story continues, next page

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WITH A CONNECTION TO COUNTLESS ALUMS, MARIETTA JOHNSON IS NOW ABLE TO SEE THE NAMES OF ALL HER FAMILY MEMBERS AND STUDENTS WHO HAVE WALKED ACROSS THE COMMENCEMENT STAGE.

HOW THE YEARS HAVE GONE BY

Continued from previous page
Johnson's story is not unlike many other families who, for generations, have entrusted their sons to the teachers and administrators here, to shape them, to mold them, as one of the school's ideals says, "from boys to men."

"There are quite a few people in there that have dads, brothers or cousins up there," Johnson said. "It's unifying and shows the importance of the individual to this institution."

With many of her own family members on the walls, the significance of the names is not lost on her.

"I have an uncle who graduated from the Terrill School [a school from which St. Mark's derived] in 1915 and [my grandson] Walter graduated in 2015. That's a difference of 100 years," she said.

Eugene McDermott Headmaster David Dini recognizes the unifying qualities of the project that took more than 20 years to come to fruition.

"It recognizes everyone that's graduated from the school in a consistent standard way, and I think it's a real equalizer," Dini said. "You may have a distinguished alumnus next to somebody's name that you might not know, and that's really special."

Dini also sees it as an important link to the school's past.

"It adds a greater sense of place, and an enhanced awareness about the importance of our history," Dini said.

For Dini, the school's 18th headmaster, the walls of the Graduate Hall are steeped with

history and are enhancements to the breadboards around campus listing the valedictorians, student leaders and Headmaster's Cup winners of years past — historical markers of the Legacy Project completed only a few years before.

Director of Development Jim Bob Womack '98 views the names on the walls as an opportunity for teachers to connect with the past.

"I hope faculty can walk in and see the years of boys that they've poured into to create success in their lives," Womack said. "Those faculty members can walk in and remember what they've done to make this place special. They're the ones who have created our success."

Johnson herself senses these experiences as she points to the name of students whom she taught in fifth grade, many long years ago.

"I see the names on the wall, and I see how he really grew so much here at St. Mark's," Johnson said. "It makes me aware of them and how they grew, and how they developed, and how they became their own person."

The walls tie her to the past, not just through family but also through all the students Johnson has interacted with over more than four decades she has served the school.

"I think that's a strength of St. Mark's," the veteran educator said. "There's an emphasis on community, and serving the community. All of that is a part of encouraging the whole boy to reach his potential. Not just to educate him, but to reach his full potential."



LOOKING BACK Giving a speech at the Graduate Hall Dedication, Board of Trustees President Taylor Wilson '81 (upper left) points towards the name of graduate Wallace Hall '80 as he stands in attendance next to Eugene McDermott Headmaster David Dini. While newly-refitted with names lining all four walls, the Graduate Hall is still a working study hall, and Charlie Hubbard (upper right) puts the finishing touches on an English paper in the peace and quiet. Showing his pride in his son's accomplishments, maintenance staffer Jose Muratalla (above) points to his son's name in the class of 2012 roster.

Charles A. Beatham
J. William Cline • James Ed Flemister
L. Frost • Edward W. Gildart, Jr.
Jerome Hayes • William Moore Heltzen
Jones • Irwin Filbert Klumb • Douglass Knott
Iner Lewis • Robert Lyle Marshall, Jr.
Rogers • John Robert Shelton
pison • John C. Touchstone
Elbert White, Jr. • M.E. Wolfe

stin, Sr. • Roland Frank Beers, Jr.
Everett Lee DeGolyer, Jr.
hn Aspinwall Lahee • Fletcher G. Lippitt, Jr.
arland • Jake J. Mead III
ard Robinson • Theodore Lawrence Rogers
• Charles Emmett Washburn

Blackmon, Jr. • George Frederick Brannon, Jr.
lement • Mark Anthony Clement
English • Davis Foster • David Garey
eash Hubbard • Walter J. Hunsucker, Jr.
h • Patrick M. Lynch
Eugene McLean • Eugene Ransone Mead
s, Jr. • Jack Irvin Potter
s • Harry G. Secker
Thompson • Lansing S. Thorne
des • Earl Julius Wiley

Bekins • John Roy Black, Jr.
Macon Cave • William Russell Cornett
has, Jr. • Fred Hull
Lane, Jr. • William R. Maxwell
an, Jr. • Ralph Edward Nungesser
• Harold Wayne Stanley • Pat Tucker

Wesley Bass, Jr. • William S. Burford
Philip Hening Crowder Jr.
ian Austin Hulsey
Matthews • Robert Bernard Maxwell
ack Max Newman, Jr.
Wesley Capers Stripling

Wesley Bass, Jr. • William S. Burford
Philip Hening Crowder Jr.
ian Austin Hulsey
Matthews • Robert Bernard Maxwell
ack Max Newman, Jr.
Wesley Capers Stripling

III • George Thomas Black
ppell • Hal Shelby Dew
ry Brown Lee • John Selby Makel
es T. Montgomery • Gene Moore
Marvin Redding
Don Ross Smith

rris Van Zandt • Norman Pierce White
t, Jr. • Donald E. Brooks
el Egan • Arias Ernesto • Henry Exall, Jr.
Jones • John Paul Karcher
• Forrest Hopkins Muire
Sawyer, Jr. • Vincent B. Tarlton
Young

rt B. Drinkwater, Jr.
William Armstrong F

UNFORGOTTEN NAMES Framed by over 5,400 names along the walls of Graduate Hall, Marietta Johnson stands among the names of family members, past students and all the rest of the graduates whom she has gotten to know during her decades at St. Mark's.

Gerald Thurn Robertson • John Howard Hammen, Jr. • Curtis E. ...
Richard Kent Walker • Charles Herbert Warren • Edward Gerald Wood

1949 Charles Clinton Booth • Joe Bill Burnett • William James Cliff
David Lewis Florence • Ray Knight Ford • Ralph Hoover Frankenberg
Stephen John Hay, Jr. • John Frederick Hickman • William Lewis Ker
Thomas Corbin Mashburn • Jack Mayberry • Robert Redfield McAlp
George Moore Milldrum • Don Eugene Miller • John Beverly Moon •
Keith Lane Reddick • Harvey Elliott Seligson • R. Taber, Jr. • Ro
C. Edward Yager • David Livingstone

1950 Malcolm Owen Bor
Robert Conner Dawson
Page Haynes Johnson •
John Porter Ownby • R
Walton H. Stewart • Fri

1951 Frank MacAda
Robert Roy Epley • Jo
Justin Latham Lucy, J

1952 Tony Cortez Diaz
Frederick McKinney Pen

1953 David Laurence Cobb
Joseph Clark Ferguson, Jr. •
John Frees Hyman, Jr. • John
William Charles Pickens • Dala

1954 Stillman Roby Abbott •
Henry Werner Davis • Joh
Robert West



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