

Class of 2016 Graduate Saint Basil Academy in Jenkintown

On Saturday, June 3, 2016, Saint Basil Academy, located in Jenkintown, PA, awarded high school diplomas to 72 young women who are now poised for the next phase of their life – college and university studies. The college-preparatory curriculum of Saint Basil Academy has prepared the graduates for acceptance to a wide array of colleges, including both private and state colleges, large and small universities, Catholic and secular schools. They will be traveling as far as the University of Tampa, and as close as Manor College. The graduating Class of 2016, having received 100% college acceptance, was awarded \$10,529,508 in Merit Scholarships.

While every core course at Saint Basil Academy is college preparatory, many students pursued even higher aspirations through Honors courses, Advanced Placement classes, and dual enrollment, particularly at Manor College through the Diocesan Scholar program. They have participated in the strong SBA Athletic Program, performed in musical ensembles and dramatic presentations, participated in Mock Trial, contributed to school publications and broadcast productions, and devoted countless hours to community service.

This year's two highest-achieving graduates were co-valedictorians, having cumulative averages that matched to the thousandths. Alyssa Urbano, of St. Matthew Roman Catholic Parish, will be part of the University Honors College program at University of Pittsburgh on an Academic Scholarship. She will major in Electrical Engineering. Alyssa, as a National Merit Commended Scholar for her exceptional performance on the PSAT's, was treasurer of the SBA St. Macrina Chapter of the National Honor Society, a member of the Mock Trial team, and served as captain of the tennis team. Alyssa was dually enrolled at Manor College as a Diocesan Scholar. Meredith Moore, a member of Our Lady Help of Christians Roman Catholic Parish, was accepted into Lehigh University as an Early Decision applicant, and will be pursuing Business Studies. At SBA, Meredith also was Diocesan Scholar, dually enrolled at Manor College. She served as President of the SBA St. Macrina Chapter of the National Honor Society, was a dedicated member of Student Council, and played field hockey and lacrosse on SBA teams.

The graduates, Class of 2016, were inducted into the SBA Alumnae Society at the Senior Recognition Assembly, which was held the week prior to graduation. The Alumnae Society is newly reorganized, with a new elected board that is meeting often to plan for growing active membership and becoming a stronghold in the school's life. The Alumnae Society's active membership consists of graduates from very recent years all the way back to the Class of 1952.

In the 82 years that Saint Basil Academy has graduated students, our Basil "girls" have made positive contributions in the world, starting with their own families and reaching out beyond their immediate communities to meet the needs of the Church, people in need, and communities beyond our borders. SBA has instituted a way of recognizing the good that so many of our graduates do by choosing but a few of the wonderful women who live the Basilian Legacy. The first two "Pillars of Success" were Jane Wagner DeSilverio, Class of 1952, and Vittoria Woodill, Class of 2005. Mrs. DeSilverio has a lifelong dedication to family, Church, community, Saint Basil Academy and the Sisters of the Order of Saint Basil the Great.

Ms. Woodill is a familiar personality on CBS Channel 3 and the lifestyle blog “Polished for Pennies.” Her personable character, charm, and skill make her a wonderful part of the communications media world.

Among the Saint Basil Academy graduates is a student from our Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy, parishioner of Annunciation BVM Ukrainian Catholic Church Marta Penkalskyj. At St. Basil Academy she was a member of the Ukrainian Society and the Mock Trial Team. She is also active in the Ukrainian community, having just graduated from the Ukrainian Heritage School with excellent grades, being an active member of the Plast Ukrainian Scouts, and participating in trips to Washington DC to speak with representatives about Ukraine’s situation. Marta graduated with High Honors, and will continue her studies at Manor College, where she was awarded a Presidential Scholarship to study the Liberal Arts.

As we congratulate the graduates of the Class of 2016 and their families, we wish them God’s Blessings on the road that they follow through life. May they find happiness, purpose, and opportunities to use their talents for the good of humankind and the Glory of the Lord. Mnohaya Lita! Many Happy Years!