

All Saints Cathedral School Class of  
Graduating seniors: 33  
College-bound: 33  
Valedictorian: Elise Mike  
Salutatorian: Alani Gregory  
Admissions: Columbia University, Emory University, Boston University, University of the Virgin Islands, College of William and Mary, Arizona State University, Georgia Institute of Technology, University of Illinois at Chicago, Syracuse University, Florida Institute of Technology.  
Scholarship total: not available

### **33 All Saints graduates all move on to next level**

ARCHIVES: All Saints Cathedral School, St. Thomas, USVI



All Saints Cathedral School honored 33 graduates Friday night at the University of the Virgin Islands Sports and Fitness Center on St. Thomas.

ST. THOMAS - The graduating class of All Saints Cathedral School comprises 33 young people ready to take on the world.

The parochial school's graduating seniors all are bound for higher education - with the newly tasseled alumni headed for some of the most respected and prestigious universities in the U.S.

The close-knit class sang, danced, laughed, cheered and embraced as they culminated their high school careers Friday evening at the University of the Virgin Islands Sports and Fitness Center.

"What shaped me was my teachers, and not just what they taught me in class, but their dedication to us, the students," said valedictorian Elise Mike.

"When you think they actually pushed you to the end, they show you how much further you could go," the valedictorian said.



Dale Ward Garee celebrates his graduation Friday evening.

Mike is bound for Emory University on a full Robert W. Woodruff scholarship.

Expressing wisdom beyond her 16 years, the aspiring cardiac surgeon said, "you have to be thankful for everything you've been given in life, whether it's a success or failure, whether it was handed to you or whether you worked for it."

With hymns between speeches, students displayed their dedication to both academic excellence and religious reverence.

Alani Gregory, the salutatorian of the class, said her success was the result of a lifelong thirst for knowledge.

"I always wanted to learn. If I didn't know something, I would go look it up in the

dictionary or ask."

Her advice to fellow graduates is to be positive and "constantly inquisitive."

"When you're positive, it can change all negative situations," Gregory said.

Like her valedictorian counterpart, Gregory hopes to practice medicine. She said she was pushed to success by her competitive class.

She will be attending Columbia University in the fall on a Kluge Scholarship.

In her graduation speech she said her classmates are "brilliant, magnificent, versatile" although they have a "well-earned reputation of over-achieving nerds."

But that description is too simple, she told friends and family members who gathered at UVI. "We break the mold," Gregory said.

The Very Rev. Thomas Gibbs warned the students for whom he cares so deeply about bumps in the road and the disparities and injustices they are to encounter.

He delivered his keynote speech in a sobering tone, telling the graduating class: "You are privy to the unraveling of the American Dream."

Invoking Charles Dickens, he said these days are "the best of times and the worst of times."

As good as some have it, he said, the students are living in an age where they are witness to "the collapse of values, morals and standards."

But at the same time, "our young people are being equipped to achieve" in a way his generation was not, he said, and thus have an opportunity to shape the future in a way past generations could not.

Graduate Richard Bourne-Vanneck said the Class of 2006 is among the most "academically exceptional classes" the school has ever graduated, based on test scores and college admissions. The 17-year-old said that by academic standards his class is perhaps rivaled in recent history only by the Class of 1995.

But that is not what makes him proud of the group he will forever be linked to.

He understood the importance of his bond to classmates the day after one of their own died in a car accident last year. The entire class came together to provide support and comfort for each other, he said.

"I felt that tight bond through our entire school," Bourne-Vanneck said.

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