Dear Thayer Society Donors,

Thank you for recognizing the importance of a St. Mark’s education and demonstrating your commitment to our students and our mission. Last year, leadership donors making gifts of $10,000 or more contributed $1,237,994—more than half of our total Annual Fund revenue.

Everyone in our community values the flexibility your unrestricted gifts afford the School to pursue innovative opportunities in the areas of academics, faculty development, arts, athletics, student programs, and more. These vital resources give St. Mark’s students an educational experience that develops the crucial skills that drive meaningful success: creativity, critical thinking, leadership, courage, and a sense of ethical integrity.

Your leadership as a donor plays an incredibly valuable role at this pivotal time for our School and sets a powerful example of philanthropy for others to emulate. I very much appreciate your support and partnership in ensuring that St. Mark’s students, our greatest priority, continue to thrive.

With sincere gratitude,

John C. Warren ’74, Ed.D.
Head of School

74 THAYER SOCIETY DONORS CONTRIBUTED $1,237,994 TO THE 2018–2019 ANNUAL FUND

THE THAYER SOCIETY FUNDS FOR EXCELLENCE represent targeted areas of the St. Mark’s educational program that profoundly influence our daily work of preparing students to lead lives of consequence. Gifts from Thayer Society donors have made an important impact on each of the vital areas highlighted in this report.

14 STUDENTS AND TWO FACULTY MEMBERS PARTICIPATED IN WORLD’S LARGEST ART FESTIVAL

Generous support from Thayer Society donors helped students and faculty travel abroad to participate in the 72nd annual Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland. Students served as actors, tech crew, and stage managers for a production of The Pillowman, directed by St. Mark’s Theater Arts teacher Christopher Kent. This trip gave the students a global experience and an inside look into the specific aspects of a theatrical production. Crew member Felicity Keyzer-Pollard ’21 shared, “I got to experience a new sound and light system, learn from professionals who are incredibly talented in what they do, and be a part of telling a story as amazing as The Pillowman. I am so incredibly thankful for the opportunity we were offered and the amazing group of people I got to share it with.”
Resources provided by Thayer Society donors helped St. Mark’s create a $100,000 Green Revolving Fund (GRF) designated for energy efficiency and sustainability projects with an attractive return on investment. The St. Mark’s community plays an integral role in identifying, analyzing, and implementing these projects. The savings accrued from these carefully selected initiatives will then be returned to the GRF for reinvestment in new projects. The GRF will promote community learning around smart energy efficiency investments and showcase the School’s sustainability efforts.

Financial aid makes life-changing opportunities accessible to students with exceptional potential from all backgrounds. A recent graduate exemplified the qualities of character and intellect that our School strives to instill in all of our students. She was an engaged and diligent student who cared deeply about making St. Mark’s a better place. She served the school as an outstanding leader for the Pathways program, the AISNE High School Students of Color Conference, the Opera Trip, and girls’ JV soccer. Teachers appreciated how she gave her all in each aspect of her life at St. Mark’s, and frequently remarked on her enthusiasm, preparedness, hard work, and great vision. She graduated in June, and is a freshman at Davidson College. The support of Thayer Society donors not only benefits students like her, but also allows all of our students to gain a deep appreciation for the breadth of experiences and perspectives within our diverse School community.

With the support of Thayer Society donors’ investment in this initiative, 43 faculty members were able to take advantage of a broad array of professional development opportunities, enroll in graduate classes, or attend educator conferences throughout the year.

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Thayer Society donors provided important support for the expansion of St. Mark’s strength and conditioning program offerings. The new T. Jefferson Coolidge Jr. ’50 Athletic Performance and Wellness Center and the refurbished Wiedergott Room have given the athletics department greater flexibility to provide the best workouts possible for our student-athletes and sports teams as well as the St. Mark’s community at large. On average, most varsity teams train in these facilities twice a week, while JV teams utilize these areas weekly. Strength and conditioning classes are offered each term to support training for off-season athletes. There are also plenty of open gym opportunities for all students and faculty members to work toward their personal fitness goals, either independently or under the guidance of our strength and conditioning instructors who create specific training programs for both teams and individuals.