

**The Haitian Project, Inc.**  
**Community Update: A Visit**  
**April 9, 2014**



Left to Right: Former prime minister Michèle Duvivier Pierre-Louis addresses the Philo (US Senior +1) and Rhéto (US 12th grade) students; Philo student Lithza Joseph poses a question to Madame Pierre-Louis; THP President Deacon Patrick Moynihan presents a certificate of appreciation to Madame Pierre-Louis in the presence of THP supporter and former board member Patrick Brun.

This week we had the pleasure of hosting Michèle Duvivier Pierre-Louis. Madame Pierre-Louis served as Haiti's prime minister from 2008 to 2009. She has been the Executive Director of the Knowledge and Freedom Foundation (FOKAL), a George Soros foundation aimed at Democratization, since 1995. She spoke to our Philo and Rheto students (U.S. 12th and 13th grade) about Toussaint Louverture, the leader of the Haitian independence movement in the late 1700s, as it was the day of his death.

This is not Madame Pierre-Louis' first visit to LCS. She has been a long-term supporter of our mission. In fact, she was first honored at LCS during the graduation ceremony of 1998.

Madame Pierre-Louis's talk took place in the Ti Jan Pyè Lwi library, which is named after her brother-in-law. Fr. Ti Jean died in 1998, a victim of Haiti's political violence. He was known for his humility and advocacy for justice. FOKAL was a major supporter in the founding of our school library.

Here are some comments from the students in attendance.

Mme Pierre-Louis' visit was significant because she spoke on the day of Toussaint Louverture's death. He worked to give us our freedom and as the prime minister, Mme Pierre-Louis also worked on behalf of the Haitian people. She shares the same pride in Haiti as Louverture did and she told us the importance of knowing our country's history. --Vanessa Nozea, Philo (U.S. senior +1)

Mme Pierre-Louis reminded us of our responsibility as future politicians and leaders of Haiti. To conclude her speech she left us with this sentence- 'Il faut apprendre, il faut comprendre, et il faut être fier d'être Haïtien' (You should learn,

you should understand, and you should be proud of being Haitian). --Abellard Jean Roudy, Philo (U.S. senior +1)

It was important for Rheto and Philo students to hear the presentation because it taught us about leadership and we need to be the leaders of the school. From Mme Pierre-Louis' speech, we can take the example of Louverture and use it in our own lives. She said she sees the future of Haiti in us and that gives me hope that we can help it become a better place. --Marc Kolson Dumarsais, Rhéto (U.S. 12th grade) student

Peace, Patrick

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The Haitian Project, Inc.

Office of Community Development

[\(401\) 351-3624](tel:4013513624)

P.O. Box 6891  
Providence, RI 02940

“What you receive for free, you must give for free.”

“Se gratis nou resevwa, Se gratis tou pou nou bay.”

--Matthew 10:8