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Press Release

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Saint Mary's Hall Welcomes Bestselling Author Wes Moore

(San Antonio, Texas) - On April 14, the Saint Mary's Hall community welcomed bestselling author Wes Moore. Moore visited campus as a guest speaker for the 2015 Betty and Bob Kelso Speaker Series, which provides students with opportunities to learn from, and interact with, influential leaders. Past speakers include former NBA player and recovering addict, Chris Herren, bullying expert Rosalind Wiseman, and the late Olympian and World War II veteran, Louis Zamperini.

Moore is the author of *The Other Wes Moore*, a tale of two young men with the same name living in the same city, with very different futures. The book was an instant *New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal* bestseller which captured the nation's attention on what draws the line between success and failure in our communities. A vocal advocate for social justice, Moore is also the host of *Beyond Belief* on the Oprah Winfrey Network, and the executive producer and host of the PBS show, *Coming Back with Wes Moore*, which focuses on the re-integration of veterans and their return home.

In his presentation, Moore challenged Upper School students to consider who and what they will fight for now and in the future. He encouraged them to take personal responsibility because, "second chances become last chances." His core message was that our outcomes in life depend heavily on the expectations of those around us and the expectations we have for ourselves. Moore told the students, "It's dangerous not to have a goal or expectation for yourself. Expectations matter. We are a nation of self-fulfilling prophecies."

Saint Mary's Hall senior Jacob Miller said, "The most impactful thing that Wes Moore described was the idea that someone is not a product of their environment, but the expectations that others have of them, which in turn plays into the expectation that a person has of him or herself. The idea that your success comes from your inner expectations is very powerful."

The Saint Mary's Hall community wishes to thank Lt. Col Bob and Betty Kelso for their exceptional generosity, which creates tremendous learning opportunities for our students year after year.

Since 1879, Saint Mary's Hall has set the standard for college preparatory education in San Antonio by providing a wide-range of exceptional opportunities in academics, athletics, fine arts, and character education to create well-rounded students that are successful in college and life. Saint Mary's Hall offers exceptional opportunities for children ages 3 through grade 12.