

MARET

NOSCERE VIVERE EST  TO LEARN IS TO LIVE

September 19, 2019

To Our Maret Community:

In February, we wrote to you about the School's decision to retain the law firm of Crowell & Moring LLP to conduct an independent, outside investigation of allegations of sexual misconduct or other inappropriate conduct by any Maret faculty. ([February 19, 2019 Letter to the Community](#))

Today, we write to tell you that the report produced by this investigation is now available. You can read it by clicking the link immediately below, or by copying the link address into your browser:

[FINAL REPORT](#)

Because the introductory section of the report describes in detail the events leading up to our decision to authorize the investigation, we will not recount those events here. We do encourage you to read the report so that you will have a direct and complete understanding of its contents. It includes the deeply disturbing findings by the investigators of evidence of "sexual misconduct or inappropriate physical or emotional boundary-crossing" between the mid-1970s and 2008. They received credible reports of misconduct involving a number of faculty members. They also determined that there was a "sufficiently high standard of credibility and severity" to name four of these former teachers. Thus, their names and the details of their alleged conduct are presented in the report.

We are very distressed that former Maret teachers crossed critical boundaries and took advantage of children in their care. We want to take this opportunity to state sincerely and forcefully: We are truly sorry.

We are also profoundly moved by the courage of victims who came forward to share their personal stories and to urge the School to bring them to light. We acknowledge the pain and distress of doing so. As current leaders of Maret, we offer you, personally, our most sincere apology for the abuse of trust and betrayal of innocence. We are also grateful to the family members and fellow former students who provided corroborating information. Thank you for making this report possible.

We acknowledge how difficult these findings will be for many of the students, families, and faculty who were part of the Maret community during these years. We apologize for the impact that learning of such transgressions might have on their memories of experiences at Maret. The fact that some teachers took advantage of and harmed the children in their care is wrong, entirely unacceptable, and affects us all.

It is important to note that no allegations of sexual misconduct by any current Maret employee were received during the investigation. Section III of the report, titled "Maret Today," describes the strong policies, training, and other safeguards currently in place to protect every student. Each year, we provide our faculty with comprehensive training about personal boundaries and mandatory reporting obligations. We review all of our procedures annually to maintain best practices for an independent school. ([Maret School Code of Conduct](#))

Maret strives for a culture in which no member of our school community feels isolated. We teach students to know our counselors and learn from them what to do - and who to go to - if they are afraid for themselves or a classmate. We teach them about healthy relationships, how to identify unhealthy relationships, and how to take immediate action. The ongoing conversations help to protect the health, safety, and wellbeing of all and guard our students against any future violations.

When we hired Crowell & Moring, a small Board Task Force was established to work with the investigators. This group consulted with other experts in the field to establish guidelines for how we would share the findings with our community. Importantly, we have endeavored to strike the appropriate balance between

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identifying accused perpetrators, protecting alumni and others who wish to keep their identities confidential, and taking every reasonable step to reduce the risk of any unfair public accusations.

We want to thank Laurel Pyke Malson and Rebecca Springer of Crowell & Moring. During the five-month course of the investigation, they interviewed more than fifty individuals and reviewed hundreds of documents. Using their deep experience with sexual misconduct investigations for independent schools and other organizations, they produced an uncompromising look at Maret's history.

We recognize that releasing this report cannot erase the past. We do, however, hope that by acknowledging this history, sharing this report, and expressing our sincere apology, it will be possible to advance the process of healing that is so thoroughly deserved by those in our community who have been harmed.

We will close by making three important points:

1. The release of this report is not a "final step" – the investigation remains open for anyone who has not yet come forward with relevant experiences or information but wishes to do so now. We continue to encourage you to contact our independent investigators:
 - Laurel Pyke Malson; lmalson@crowell.com; 202-624-2576; or
 - Rebecca Springer; rspringer@crowell.com; 202-624-2569.
2. As a reminder for everyone in our Maret community, both past and present: if you, or your child, have ever experienced abuse from any faculty at Maret, we encourage you to contact our Director of Counseling, Dr. LaNaadrian Easterling (leasterling@maret.org; 202-939-4064), and/or share that history with the District of Columbia Child and Family Services Agency (202-671-7233) or the Metropolitan Police Department (202-715-7300).
3. Maret provides resources and assistance to those harmed by faculty sexual misconduct or inappropriate boundary-crossing, including counseling through the Maret Therapy Support Program. Please contact Dr. Easterling for additional information.

You may have questions about the matters discussed here. Both of us, as always, remain available to hear from and talk with you. Thank you for your patience and forbearance as we navigate through this trying and difficult – but very important – process.

Sincerely,



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