

# THEmpire

Summer 2018



THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF ALUMNI, FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF  
ROMAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



***The Moment We Became Champions!***



# THE RCHS MISSION



Photo: Patrick Sweeney '15

Founded by Thomas E. Cahill in 1890 as the first free Diocesan Catholic high school for boys in the nation, Roman Catholic continues its tradition of excellence as it strives to offer a comprehensive academic curriculum within a disciplined Catholic environment. Enriched by its cultural, racial, and religious diversity, Roman Catholic provides a community where each young man can learn to appreciate and respect the uniqueness of others, while becoming a man of personal integrity. Roman Catholic High School strives to bring the Gospel values of Jesus Christ to its students, while forming a Catholic community which embodies the Christian spirit of service to all.

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## Dear Friends,



This summer promises to be a very busy one for Roman Catholic High School. Construction of our newest building, *The Howard Center for the Arts*, is slated for completion by the end of July. This will give us only a few weeks to get all the new classrooms ready for the opening of school. *The Howard Center* contains new music and art rooms, digital photography and piano labs, practice rooms and a Black Box Theatre. The dedication ceremony is

planned for September 18th. More information will be posted later this summer.

Work is also progressing on our new Wellness Center. With the Art Department moving from the McSherry Annex, the vacated space will be repurposed as an expanded weight room. New free weights and dumbbells, along with 50 different fitness machines have been acquired to form a state-of-the-art weight training facility. Additionally, treadmills, elliptical and erg machines have been purchased to assemble a cardio-room for our athletes and non-athletes alike.

The former band room, located in the attic of the 1890 building, is being transformed into a functioning court room. We have commissioned Strada, an architectural firm which has designed courtrooms for law schools across the country, to repurpose this space for our Mock Trial Program. Roman has one of the largest and most successful Mock Trial programs in Pennsylvania. Having an actual court room setting, will allow our students to hone

their legal skills, develop their strategies, and experience the professional setting of a trial.

Work is also planned to upgrade the classroom lighting to LED fixtures, replace the aging air conditioning system, refinish the original hardwood floors and relocate The Forum, Roman's school store, from the parking lot trailer to a room off the cafeteria.

Every alum, friend and benefactor of Roman can take pride in all the work being done to advance the mission of our fine school and set the foundations for continued and future growth. Think about all that is being done with only 11% of our alumni participating in our Annual Appeals. While a few have been incredibly generous, if more alumni begin to participate, so many more students will be assisted and more programs can be developed. Remember, no gift is ever too small to make a positive impact on today's Cahillites! Thank you, in advance, for your support.

I trust you and your families will enjoy a peaceful and relaxing summer.

God Bless,

Reverend Joseph W. Bongard '77  
President/Rector, Roman Catholic High School  
jbongard@romancatholics.com



## Dear Fellow Alums and Friends of RCHS,



As president of the Alumni Association, I am honored and humbled to represent the organization at various events throughout the year. One of most noteworthy events is our combined Baccalaureate Mass and Commencement Ceremony at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul. The solemn mass, the pomp and circumstance of the ceremony, the homily given by our rector, the speeches given by our graduates and

administrators, the list of college acceptances, and the amount of scholarship money awarded is a remarkable ritual which defines what Roman Catholic High School stands for and why we must support it.

Graduates of Roman are not only loyal but have a well-deserved reputation of fellowship and helping our brother students through contributions and support of fundraising events. On August 4th, the Friends of River Field will be celebrating its 25th Annual Day at the Bay. I mention this because this is a great time to socialize with fellow Alums. At the same time, proceeds from this event help fund River Field, which is the facility that our football and lacrosse teams utilize for practices.

As you know, Roman is steeped in tradition, and Cahillites are very proud of their history. Sometimes in order to maintain integrity and longevity, we must tweak them to adjust to changing times. This happened many years ago when the annual meeting of the Alumni Association was relocated from our school's campus to the Cathedral and Sheraton Hotel and renamed the Communion Breakfast. Later, a homecoming event was added back at school. The Executive Board of Trustees has enthusiastically approved plans to host this event at the school with a Mass and Open House-type celebration. Personally, I am excited about this as it will provide us an opportunity to walk the hallowed halls of RCHS and rub elbows with fellow Alums in a day of celebration.

Thank you for your loyal support and remember that individually our contributions may be drops in the bucket, but collectively they become a raging river of support.

Best Regards,

Tom Johnston '72  
President, RCHS Alumni Association

# NEWS AROUND ROMAN



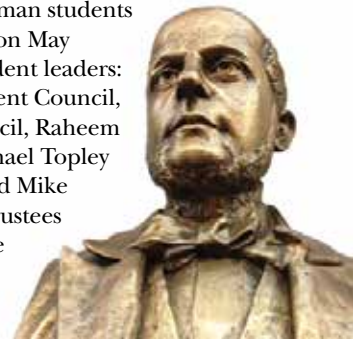
## Second Annual Day of Giving is Huge Success

On Thursday, May 24th, in conjunction with the Cahill Club Dinner, Roman held its second annual "Day of Giving." The campaign, promoted on social media, focused on alums, current students and friends of Roman to donate online. Overall, the day was a great success, resulting in 337 donations which totaled an amount of \$19,304. The generosity demonstrated by members of our community will truly impact Roman. You can donate to RCHS anytime by visiting [RomanCatholicHS.com/donate](http://RomanCatholicHS.com/donate).



## Sons of Cahill visit Founder's Grave

On the morning of Thursday, May 24th, Roman students commemorated Founder's Day, celebrated on May 27th, the birthday of Thomas E. Cahill. Student leaders: Brendan Storino '19 Vice President of Student Council, Grant Zindel '19 Secretary of Student Council, Raheem Murphy '19 President of Ambassadors, Michael Topley '19 President of National Honor Society, and Mike Pelone '77 member of Roman's Board of Trustees visited, prayed, and paid respect at the grave of our founder Thomas E. Cahill. This past tradition has now been re-established as a yearly celebration.



## Day of Prayer & Remembrance Held

On Friday, April 20th, the Roman Catholic community spent the day in remembrance of the victims at Stoneman Douglas High School. Seventeen student leaders orchestrated events and prayed throughout the day honoring and remembering the victims in Parkland, FL. It is our hope that through education, faith, and community no one should have to be the victim of school violence again.



Photo credit: Emily Cohen of WHY?

## Roman Reps at Rail Park Dedication

On Thursday, June 14th, Roman students proudly represented Catholic High at the opening ceremony for the first quarter mile of the newly renovated Philadelphia Rail Park, located just past Callowhill at 13th and Noble streets. The once-abandoned rail line has been completely revitalized.

It's wonderful for our students to be present for events in our school's vibrant neighborhood and surrounding Center City Campus.





## Cahillites Named Transformation Scholars for La Salle University

At the start of the second semester, Catholic High signed an agreement with La Salle University which allowed our 10th grade students to apply to the Transformation Scholars Program. This dual-credit opportunity was open to students in both the Philadelphia Public and Catholic High Schools, and only twenty spots were available. Ten of these positions were dedicated to individuals who were first generation college students.

On Thursday, April 26th, La Salle University held a reception for those students accepted into the Transformation Scholars

Program for the 2018–2019 academic year. Competition for this program was strong, and seven of the 20 students accepted to join this talented group of individuals are members of Roman's Class of 2020. As a Transformation Scholar, students will be taking one free 100-level course on La Salle University's campus in both the Fall of 2018 and the Spring of 2019 in the company of college students. The students accepted into the program are Eric Helmer, Lawrence Qin, Ryan Frank, John Gentile, Ethan LaFond, Darrel Vandelo, and Jacob Banji-Ajala.



## Investment Club is Established

**For the first time ever, an Investment Club was formed.** Back in the fall, Janusz Kowalski '21, who has a passion and interest in the financial world, approached Mr. Shanahan with the idea. A general announcement went out, and the first meeting had 13 interested students. The group discussed ideas such as competing in a virtual stock investment contest, watching internet videos, and hosting informational speakers for all members of the Roman community to attend. After three club meetings, the club hosted its first speaker in March. Mr. Matthew McKenzie of PNC spoke to the club and answered lots of questions. In late May, Mark Toner '13 came back to his alma mater to share his insights into his young career in finance. The club hopes to organize earlier next year and have an aggressive agenda going forward. Kudos to Roman's young Investors for this initiative!



Mr. Matthew McKenzie of PNC Bank speaks to the Cahillites of the Investment Club.



Mark Toner '13 returned to his alma mater to speak to the Investment Club. Mark graduated from Widener with a degree in Finance and is employed at Diamond State Financial Group.



# Congratulations Class of 2018!

**On Friday, June 8, Roman Catholic High School** held the 125th Baccalaureate Mass and Commencement Exercises at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter & Paul for the graduating Class of 2018. The Class of 2018 is made up of 178 students, who were accepted to 126 different colleges and universities both locally and nationally, including Villanova, University of Pennsylvania, Boston College, Fordham, Juilliard School, Haverford and Syracuse. One student will be attending Simon Fraser University in British Columbia, Canada. Over 95% of this year's graduating class will attend post-secondary institutions, and 1% will enter the workforce. Two of our graduates will be serving our country in the military. The Class of 2018 was awarded over \$21 million in a variety of scholarships and grants.

The Roman tradition of high academic achievement was showcased with the Class of 2018. We are very proud and excited to see our students continue their academic pursuits and further strengthen their abilities and talents. Congratulations and good luck to the Class of 2018! Remember you always have a home at Broad & Vine!



**Paul Bakare '18 shakes hands with Sister Maureen McDermott, I.H.M., the Superintendent for Secondary Schools for Archdiocese of Philadelphia after receiving his diploma. Paul will be attending Villanova University next year.**



**Kevin Muller '18, who will be attending the University of Pennsylvania, delivers the salutary address to all in attendance.**

## Loyalty Award Winners

Roman Catholic High School and the Alumni Association annually present the Loyalty Award at the Commencement Exercises to individuals who exemplify the spirit of Thomas E. Cahill. Congratulations to this year's recipients!



**From left to right: Barbara Henkels on behalf of the Henkels Foundation (generous supporter of Roman students through financial aid and scholarships), Michael Palone '77, (active and loyal alum), Sister Jane Russell, SSJ (administrative assistant for the College Admissions & Counseling office), Wilma Reyes-Berrios (faculty member for 12 years).**



**Nikolas Steaker '18, who will be attending Penn State University, proudly poses with his RCHS Diploma in hand!**



# Campus Improvements at Catholic High

As mentioned in Father Bongard's letter at the beginning of this edition, Catholic High is in the midst of a very busy summer involving multiple campus improvements. Phase One of the Vision of Promise Campaign will be completed as the Howard Center for the Arts will be ready for use at the beginning of the academic year. The former art room will be reconfigured into an expanded weight training area as part of the Wellness & Fitness Center and lastly, the former music room in the attic of the 1890 building is being transformed into a courtroom for our international powerhouse Mock Trial program. Below are three different student testimonials explaining how both grateful and excited they are for each respective project taking place.



## The Howard Center for the Arts

I am very excited for the Howard Center for the Arts to be open this school year. With a state-of-the-art fine arts facility I know we can develop the music program even further, especially the jazz program. I also look forward to the addition of a theatre program, as there will then be an opportunity as a musician to play in the pit band for the performances. I'm extremely grateful for all those who have donated towards the construction of this building, as it will provide many fun and beneficial opportunities for students for years to come. Music is my life, and the gift of music should be shared by all.

**Michael Raymond '20,**  
**South Philadelphia, St. Monica**



## The Wellness & Fitness Center

On behalf of the Roman football team and all other sports teams at Roman, thank you! Your gracious help for the construction of the new wellness & fitness center will hopefully bring better days to the Cahillite football team and all of our athletic programs. We will be going from an overcrowded and under equipped weight room to a much more useful and beneficial space. We will continue working hard but now that we will have a better facility, I know that we are steps closer to our goal. You not only helped this year's athletic teams but also the teams of Roman's future. So it is with great honor that I am able to say thank you.

**T.J. Fitzpatrick '19,**  
**Roxborough, Immaculate Heart of Mary**



## The Mock Trial Courtroom

Amongst the many things I'm involved in at Roman, Mock Trial is one of my favorites. This past year was my second year participating and I loved it! I made the Varsity A Team and we won the City Championship and competed in the State Tournament. During Saturday practices the teams usually practice their exams and witnessing in the library and various classrooms. A classroom is far different from a courtroom, so before a trial we set up where we should stand for certain times of the trial and it can be a challenge without the proper space. Fortunately, due to our music program moving to the Howard Center, the old music room is being transformed into a courtroom! This space is especially important for us so we can get a feel of what a courtroom would feel like before a trial. We will now appropriately go over how to approach the jury, judge, witnesses, and opposing counsel. For all the newcomers this is important so they can become the seasoned veterans that Roman Mock Trial is known for. I want to personally thank all those who have or will donate to our courtroom construction.

**Raheem Murphy '19,**  
**North Philadelphia, St. Martin DePorres**



## Class of 1967 provides new stained glass windows

Stained glass windows that were crafted by Michael Boos Studio in Munich, Germany for the Immaculate Conception Parish in Germantown were recently transferred and installed in Roman's Renaissance Hall. The ornate and beautiful windows are a Jubilee Gift by the Class of 1967 and are in honor of William "Billy" Keenan '67, a beloved classmate, loving husband, patriotic veteran and generous alum and philanthropist. A formal dedication will take place in September.

## Help us continue the "Vision of Promise"

Your unwavering support enables Roman to embark on the Vision of Promise. This transformational campaign will support programs and facilities that empower our students to realize their potential as lifelong learners and leaders equipped to make a difference.

The Vision of Promise is the application of educational best practices that make possible a reimagined 21st Century Campus for a 21st Century Education. The first phase of the four phase plan, the Howard Center for the Arts, will be dedicated on September 18, 2018. The second and third phases will provide a STEM Center and Fieldhouse with high-tech classrooms and much needed athletic facilities. Your investment in Roman Catholic's Vision of Promise will help deliver a better education experience for all students and thus a better future.

For more information about making a commitment to RCHS, please contact Patrick Plunkett, the Executive Director of Institutional Advancement, at (215) 627-5487 Ext 312 or [PPlunkett@RomanCatholicHS.com](mailto:PPlunkett@RomanCatholicHS.com)



From left to right: Kevin Marcinek '18, Zach Demusz '18, Joe Doyle '44, David Waskiewicz '18, and Greg Maddox '18 during an A.S.I.S.T. visit.

## Roman A.S.I.S.T.s its Loyal Alumni

By Billy Miller '18

The A.S.I.S.T. Program is one of the most special things we do here at Roman.

A.S.I.S.T., (Alumni-Student Intergenerational Service Team), connects Roman's seniors with older alumni in need of additional social interaction. Led by our very own Mr. Edward Keenan '54, this group brings joy to the lives of Cahillite alumni, and most recently, a few of us have had the pleasure to meet and talk with an alum who has lived an amazing life, Mr. Joe Doyle '44. At the age of 93, Mr. Doyle is still as lively and enthusiastic as ever.

Mr. Doyle grew up in Brewerytown, where he attended St. Ludwig German Elementary School. He then enrolled at Roman Catholic, where he was an active member of theater and the Cheerleading team, and he graduated in 1944. Within six weeks of his graduation, he joined the Navy, and he served in the South Pacific

during the end of World War II. Once he returned home, he began a career in education. He began teaching at an elementary school, and eventually became a principal. He then taught at a middle school, where he again became the principal. Finally, he taught at Olney High School, where he once again served as an administrator.

Working at each of these schools has given Mr. Doyle an understanding of young people at three different levels of education. He has a few children and many grandchildren, one of whom will be attending Roman in September, continuing the Cahillite tradition in his family. He now lives at Ann's Choice Retirement Community in Warminster.

Meeting Mr. Doyle was an incredible and enlightening experience. I along with fellow senior Julian Massey met him in

November, and seniors Zach Demusz, Greg Maddox, David Waskiewicz, and Kevin Marcinek met him in February, and each one of us has had an equally amazing time talking with him. He greeted us with donuts, so clearly he's in touch with us hungry high school students. After hearing his story, he showed us his yearbook from the class of 1944, along with his letter he received at graduation. It was so interesting to see what Roman was like during these days and how much it has changed.

It was also amazing to see how responsive and lively Mr. Doyle was. We had a lot of questions about his time at Roman and his life in general, and he answered us like he had just experienced all of these memories yesterday. In addition, he was so articulate and relaxed when speaking with us. It was obvious that his experience as an educator made it easy for him to interact with kids our age. It was also very clear that his love for Roman is still so strong. Every year he attends the Communion Breakfast, and he was very curious to hear how different it is now at Broad and Vine. Speaking with Mr. Doyle is something that I and all of my fellow seniors will never forget.

Thanks to Mr. Keenan, I along with many others, have had the pleasure to meet incredible Roman alums, and that experience is something that we will carry with us for many years to come.



For 12 consecutive years, our A.S.I.S.T. students have volunteered to help for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's Mass honoring the gifts of persons with disabilities and the deaf community, family, friends, and caregivers.



# The Spirit of Catholic High

By Ed Keenan '54

Member of the Executive Board of the Alumni Association & Moderator of the A.S.I.S.T program

In the storied history of Roman Catholic High School, commentators valuing the student body have, periodically, used the phrase “the spirit of Catholic High.” Often, it is used in relation to describe a sporting event or school activity. Some believe it is a pervasive feeling within the student body.

If such a “spirit of Catholic High” has a history (and it does), and it still exists (and it also does), can we define it? What is its etiology?

Certainly, each student’s commitment and loyalty to the school as well as the school’s own values and purpose are central to a shared spirit. So, too, is a student’s willingness to provide service to each other, as family, and to serve others outside the Roman family when called to do so. However, loyalty and service have at least two pre-requisites: a generous heart and a real model/mentor.

Roman Catholic’s founder, Thomas E. Cahill, had a magnanimous heart. He has been a model for 128 years of classes of students at Catholic High. The brilliant and life-giving Cahill poured the bulk of his life’s resources into an ideal...a secondary school...for immigrant and working class children like himself...a gratuitous gift that continues to this day...a cornerstone in which over six generations of young men have grown in understanding and faith as they search to become the whole man. Catholic High’s products flourished. Its models/mentors multiplied.

One such model of development in the early years was the inclusiveness of the creation of the Cahill Club. The Club’s very purpose was not only to serve the social needs of graduates but also their former classmates who may have had to leave school so as to work to help their families. The alumni founders put this rule in the by-laws welcoming their former classmates and friends. Is it appropriate to characterize this standard as “once a Cahillite, always a Cahillite?”

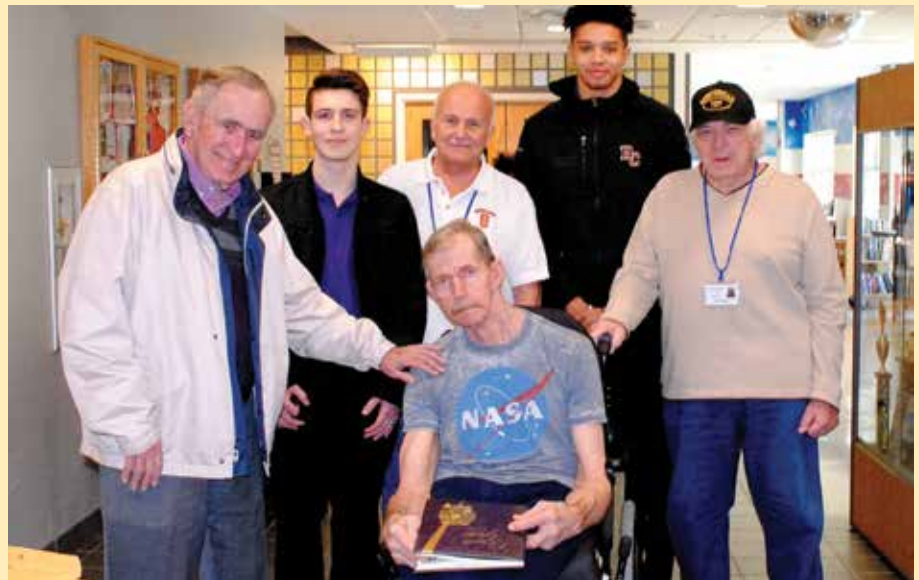
In the earliest days of the school at Broad and Vine, students and the alumni defined the school’s character. This caring and

inclusive cathedral of row-house residents of Philadelphia exhibited signs of a generous heart a century ago. Those signs endure into the 21st century.

In this century, and for the last 18 years, over 1,000 seniors have contributed to the well-being of many older alumni with

disabilities through the A.S.I.S.T program. And, in the last 12 years, over 250 juniors have assisted both adults and children with disabilities attend an Annual Mass at the Cathedral.

The spirit of Catholic High remains intact today.



This past year, Ed Keenan '54, current students Nicholas Shaw '19 and Seth Lundy '19 paid Louis E. Gerner '66 a visit as part of the A.S.I.S.T program.



# Homecoming 2018

**A cornerstone celebration of Roman's rich tradition is returning to its birthplace. The Alumni Association's Homecoming Committee is proud to announce an exciting change to this year's "Memorial Mass and Communion Breakfast." We have chosen Sunday, November 4th to celebrate Mass and Homecoming, which will be held exclusively at Catholic High.**

After several months of deliberation, the 17-member committee voted almost unanimously to change the event. Committee members were tasked with polling their classmates. No fewer than 12 former officers of the association were polled and virtually all gave their endorsement. The committee also raised the topic at the Spring Trustee meeting with virtually no dissent, and the Executive Board of Trustees gave an overwhelming vote of support.

We are actively planning the day's events and will continue to update you with all the details. Here is the day's timeline and other features:

- Doors open at 9:00 a.m. for 10:00 a.m. Mass held in the school gym. Student ambassadors and ushers will be available to help escort our guests, and the elevator is available for anyone who may need it.
- Mass will be followed by a short, 30-45 minute program featuring addresses by the Alumni leadership, the Rector and the Student Council. We will also honor our 50th and 25th anniversary classes and, of course, hold our annual alumni officer elections.
- Our Homecoming celebration commences immediately after Mass and will be held throughout the school with a variety of food and beverages served in the cafeteria, Library/

Renaissance Hall and first-floor areas. Televisions will be available for NFL football (the Eagles have a bye on this day, so come and root against the NFC East!). Student ambassadors will be available for tours, which will include the beautiful new Howard Center for the Arts!

Invitations will be mailed and posted on the RCHS website and social media in early September. Formal details regarding cost of attendance, parking and program features will be included. ***Save the date and spread the word!***

This day promises to be a day for all Cahillites to celebrate friendships and our rich tradition and history. The annual alumni gathering was actually held at the school in the 1920s and 30s proven by newspaper clippings unearthed by Chris Gibbons '79. So yes, we end an era, but in a true sense, return to its original foundation. Please make plans on November 4th to return as proud Sons of Cahill to celebrate our greatest tradition. Hurrah!

**Mike Pelone '77**  
**Chair, Membership Affairs**  
**Mjpelone@yahoo.com**  
**215-651-2209**

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, November 4th



# Congratulations to the Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2018!

These talented individuals were inducted on Friday, April 27, 2018 at the annual SHOF Dinner held at the FOP Lodge #5 in Northeast Philadelphia.

## 1980 Basketball Team

**Lenny DeMalto '04**, Football  
**Eddie Griffin '00**, Basketball  
**Evin Jones '05**, Football  
**BJ Kletcheck '05**, Lacrosse  
**Mike Long '83**, Football  
**Nick Magenta '06**, Golf  
**Chris McNesby '95**, Basketball Coach  
**Mike Ringgold '06**, Basketball  
**Bradley Wanamaker '07**, Basketball



Annual SHOF induction at school.



Pat Mundy '75, President of the SHOF committee and 2018 inductee Chris McNesby '95.

ROMAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL  
**SHOF**  
 SPORTS HALL OF FAME  
 Est. 1990

# Congratulations to the 2018 Cahill Club Award Recipients!

They were honored on Thursday, May 24th, at the annual Cahill Club Dinner held at the Flourtown Country Club.

**The Hon. Renee Cardwell Hughes**  
 Thomas E. Cahill Award  
**The Rev. Sean Bransfield '91**  
 Distinguished Alumni Award  
**Charles Taylor '12**  
 James McSherry '40 Award for Service  
**James Murphy**  
 Teacher of the Year,  
**Christian Medford '18**  
 Student of the Year



2018 Cahill Club Award Recipients.



Mr. Murphy gave a charismatic, comedic, and powerful speech on accepting the award for "Teacher of the Year."

# Upcoming Events



## Day at the Bay

Saturday, August 4, 2018 at Keenan's in North Wildwood, 2:00pm-6:00pm

## 50th Anniversary Memorial for Patrick E. Ward '66

Saturday, August 18, 2018  
 9:00am - Parade (700 N. Taney & 2600 Swain Streets)  
 10:00am - Mass at St. Francis Xavier Church  
 Reception at Parkway Memorial VFW Post 7650  
 RSVP: Commander George Ginder - (215)-713-4040

## Cahill Cup Classic

Tuesday, August 21, 2018 at the Union League at Torresdale,  
 11:00am Registration and Lunch 1:00pm Tee-Time

## Howard Center for the Arts Dedication

Tuesday, September 18, 2018 at  
 Roman's Howard Center for the Arts, 1:30pm

## Class of 2013, Five-Year Reunion

Saturday, September 29, 2018 - Venue & Time TBA

## Class of 2008, Ten-Year Reunion

Friday, October 5, 2018 - YARDS Brewing Company,  
 7:00pm-10:00pm.

## Greater Philadelphia Leadership Award Dinner

Thursday, October 11, 2018 at the  
 Union League of Philadelphia

## Homecoming 2018

Sunday, November 4, 2018 at RCHS

## Veterans Day Assembly (all Alumni Veterans welcome)

Thursday, November 8, 2018 at RCHS, 9:00am

## Roman Run

Sunday, November 11, 2018 starting at  
 Boat House Row on Kelly Drive

## Class of 1968, 50-Year Reunion

Friday, November 16, 2018 at  
 Flourtown Country Club, 7:00pm-11:00pm

## Annual Blue Mass of Thanksgiving

Wednesday, November 21, 2018 at RCHS, 10:00am

**The Classes of 1958, 1973, and 1978 are all planning reunions. Stay tuned for details!**

To plan your class reunion or register for any event, contact: Anne Hummel, Coordinator of Special Events & Alumni Relations  
 AHummel@RomanCatholicHS.com 215-627-1270 ext. 315



USS Juneau (CL-52), in New York Harbor,  
11 February 1942

## A Roman Catholic Alum and the Tragedy of the USS Juneau

By Chris Gibbons, '79 (Originally published on the WHYY website in honor of Memorial Day, May 28, 2018)

As I recently read through the various news articles that detailed the discovery of the USS Juneau by the South Pacific research exploration vessel, *Petrel*, on March 17, 2018, I immediately thought of the conversation I had with my Dad several years ago. Former Roman Catholic High School Alumni President, Paul Pincituro '69, had initially informed me that a survivor of the USS Juneau sinking was a Roman alumnus. I asked my Dad about it, and he told me that one of the ten survivors of the tragedy was not only a fellow Roman alumnus, but was also from his old St. Columba parish in the North Philadelphia neighborhood known as "Swampoodle." I compiled a research file on the ship's sinking because I thought that it would make for a good story someday. Following the news of the discovery of the Juneau, I sorted through my notes in the file, and could almost hear my Dad's voice, and "straight-to-the-point" delivery style as I read them: "They called him 'Chick' Wang. Lived on Lehigh Ave. Graduated from Roman in '34. Quarterback. Class President. Naval Officer. Became a doctor." I remembered initially thinking at the time that he never mentioned the Juneau, and that if I researched the story I may be able to reveal some things about the tragedy that my Dad did not know. It was at that moment that the memories from that conversation, as well as my earlier research into the story of the USS Juneau, came flooding back.

As chronicled in Dan Kurzman's riveting book, "Left to Die: The Tragedy of the USS Juneau", on the morning of November 13, 1942, Lieutenant Charles Wang, torpedo officer, had just finished inspecting the damage sustained by the USS Juneau during the previous night's battle. Although the Juneau had taken some hits, she could still fight, and her crew had performed admirably. Wang was resting at his station, eating a sandwich, when "a panicky voice cried into the earphones, 'Fish! Torpedo heading toward us!'" Seconds later, at 11:01 AM, Friday the thirteenth, it smashed into a magazine, and the Juneau blew up."

Wang was thrown onto the deck by the explosion. As he laid on his back, he opened his eyes and saw the radar antenna "spiraling straight down toward him." It smashed into Wang's right leg, badly breaking it in two places, his bones protruding through the skin. Wang managed to make it into the churning water and clung to the floating nets from the ship. Many of the survivors, most of whom were badly wounded, held on to the nets as well. Others found rafts, or simply floated in the water wearing their life preservers. These survivors eventually consolidated into a large floating group, desperately hoping for a rescue that would not come. As night fell, the wounded began to die, and the despairing cries of George Sullivan could be heard in the darkness as he searched for his four brothers. "Al, where are you?" he repeatedly cried out as tears streamed down his face. "Red, Matt, Frank, answer me! Where are you? It's your brother George."

The following morning, the sharks began to circle. Screams pierced the air as the sharks tore into the sailors still clinging to the nets. As the days went by, the initial group of about 150, now slowly dwindled down to a handful. The badly injured Wang was in a state of delirium from the pain. Two sailors volunteered to try to take Wang on one of the rafts to the island of San Cristobal some 55 miles away as the large flotilla of survivors was making "little headway because of the waves and the drag of the nets." If they made it, they would try to send a rescue ship for the survivors. Lieutenant John Blodgett agreed, and the men set off for the island.

The next several days would test the limits of human endurance. The blistering sun burned the skin off of their backs, and the extreme hunger and thirst drove some to madness. Some drank seawater, and dove underwater to imaginary "havens" where the sharks finished them off. A despondent and unstable George Sullivan told the group that he was going "to get some buttermilk and something to eat." He swam away before anyone could grab



Lieutenant Charles Wang at Roman - 1945

him, and the men soon heard his pitiful cries of "Help me!" as the sharks tore into him. Only seven men from this larger flotilla of survivors would be rescued. On November 19th, a PBY seaplane picked up five of the men, and the USS Ballard retrieved the remaining two the following day.

Wang and the other two sailors, in a remarkable feat of seamanship, eventually reached San Cristobal on November 19th where they were rescued by natives. The unbearable pain that Wang endured while still helping to navigate the raft to safety endeared him to the two sailors who were with him. "The courage that man showed during those days was something to behold," one of them said.

A total of 687 men from the USS Juneau lost their lives, including the five Sullivan brothers. Only 10 men survived the sinking. Lieutenant Charles Wang was the only officer to survive.

In 1947, Charles Wang married his wife, Marie, at St. Stephen's Catholic Church in Philadelphia. The parents of the Sullivan brothers were special guests. The Wang's raised three daughters, Celeste, Deborah, and Patricia, and Charles went on to a successful medical career as a pathologist. After enduring years of excruciating pain, he finally had his damaged leg amputated in 1980. Wang died in 1985 at the age of 70. He was chosen as one of Roman Catholic High School's "125 Men of Distinction" in 2015.

I asked my Dad if he ever met Charles Wang. He said, "Once. I was just a kid. He came back to Roman during the war. He said that if any of us ever went to war, to try not to be afraid, do what you're told, and listen to your officers." My Dad's eyes then welled up, and his voice cracked as he vacantly stared at a distant memory that only he could see. "He was on crutches...his leg was bad. He told us what happened."

It was at that moment that I realized that there was nothing I would discover in my research of Charles Wang and the brave crew of the USS Juneau that my Dad didn't already know.





# ROMAN ATHLETICS

## HIGHLIGHTS OF 2017-2018

# GOAL!

**Soccer's success continues with fourth straight trip to the PCL Title game**

By Mark Casasanto Sr. P'12, Assistant Coach

In the heat of last summer, a fairly young squad returned to the practice pitch ready to put in the hard work and sweat to get back at it. Only five seniors would return to the squad, but five experienced and talented seniors. The goal: a deep run into the playoffs, and with a little luck and determination, maybe some noise to be made in the finals.

After another victory in Wildwood against Camden Catholic on Labor Day Weekend, PCL wins began to stack up one after another... yet a healthy dose of non-league losses began to mount concerns as well. It was an interesting season in that way.

After a lopsided victory at Cardinal O'Hara, a Friday night match on the road at Ramp Playground versus Father Judge drew thousands of fans sporting either their purple or baby blue. It wouldn't be long however before Jared Dillon '19 took control and put the good guys up by 2 on consecutive rushes into the Crusaders' defensive end. Jared Fielding '18 and Josh Phillips '20 added the 3rd and 4th strikes in the second half to seize the night and the big W for the purple and gold.

The "Big Kid," Jared Dillon, stayed hot, and on the road and under the lights at Bonner-Prendergast, he contested for a 50/50 ball about thirty yards out before turning with it and firing a cannon blast to dent the net to grasp the hard fought victory in the Upper Darby night. Later in that same week however, La Salle would visit Lighthouse to post a 3 nil victory and dot the Cahillites record with its only PCL regular season loss.

Victories against Carroll, Ryan, Wood and McDevitt would close out the regular season and land the squad into the 2nd seed with a quarterfinal match-up against



Kevin Tobin '20 intensely makes a save during Roman's fourth consecutive PCL Championship game.

a familiar playoff combatant, Lansdale Catholic. Never an easy foe, Lansdale comes at you again and again and then some more. With Kieran Boyle's '19 strike standing as the only Roman tally on the board and a regulation tie, two scoreless overtime periods occurred which meant penalty kicks were in order. Our guy in the net, Kevin Tobin '20, held firm and with PK strikes by Fielding, Nate Lindner '18 and Boyle, the Cahillites prevailed 3-2 to advance to the semis.

Then in another semi-final classic at UGH against Archbishop Wood, a true nail-biter was on the menu until late in the match, when Mike Galdo's '18 tap-in while deep in the box launched the crowd into a frenzy! Our boys were headed to a fourth consecutive PCL Finals appearance!

And there we were again, La Salle vs Roman Catholic, new venue, Northeast High School, same participants. With purple pride evident in the bleachers, loud and vocal, our guys gutted out 70 plus minutes of near flawless play. Chances at both ends yielded nothing on the strength of each team's phenomenal keepers. With about 9 minutes remaining in the match however, La Salle would convert on a mad scramble in front of Tobin to put the heartbreaking game winner on the board and eventually capture their second consecutive title.

As Coach Jerry said afterward, "We played the game we needed in order to win the match." Young teams will go through that on the road to the ultimate goal. This run has just started to hit its stride. It is truly a Roman mentality and in a soccer sense, purple pride is back again at Broad and Vine.



Michael Kehan '18 dribbles the ball while the sea of loyal RC soccer fans observe.



# ROMAN ATHLETICS

## HIGHLIGHTS OF 2017-2018

### PINNED!

**Wrestling program has second consecutive history-making season with first State Medalist**

By Ed Berry '09, Assistant Coach



Mike Leyland '18 has his hand raised in victory after securing Catholic High's first ever state medal in wrestling.

The 2017-2018 wrestling season has been one for the history books for Roman Catholic. Not only did the Cahillites return to States for a second consecutive year, but we also picked up two consecutive postseason Outstanding Wrestler awards from Mike Leyland '18 at the PCL tournament and Jared Johnson '19 at the District tournament, crowning a PCL champ in Leyland and two district champs in Johnson and Malcolm Hunt '18. Hunt will be continuing his wrestling career next year at Ursinus College. Christian Petrucci '18, Dom Galasso '19, and Shaun Buffert '20 also had strong postseasons, each

qualifying for the Regional tournament in Bethlehem, PA.

Even with all of the success that others on the team achieved, it was big Mike Leyland who was Roman's MVP. During the season, Leyland made history every time he stepped on the mat as he inched closer and closer to becoming Roman's first 100 match winner, a feat he finally accomplished with a dominant 2:34 pin to place 3rd at the Sam Cali Tournament in New Jersey. However, the highlight of the season came when Leyland qualified for the State tournament in Hershey, PA, for the 2nd consecutive year. This time he became Roman Catholic's first state medalist finishing 7th in the heavyweight bracket, avenging his only in-season loss in the process with a dominant 1-0 victory over North Penn. His medal cements Roman Catholic in the Philadelphia wrestling history books as just the fourth Catholic League School to bring home a PIAA State medal.

### STRIKE!

**Bowling makes second consecutive appearance in the PCL Championship**

By Cole Wittman '18, Team Captain

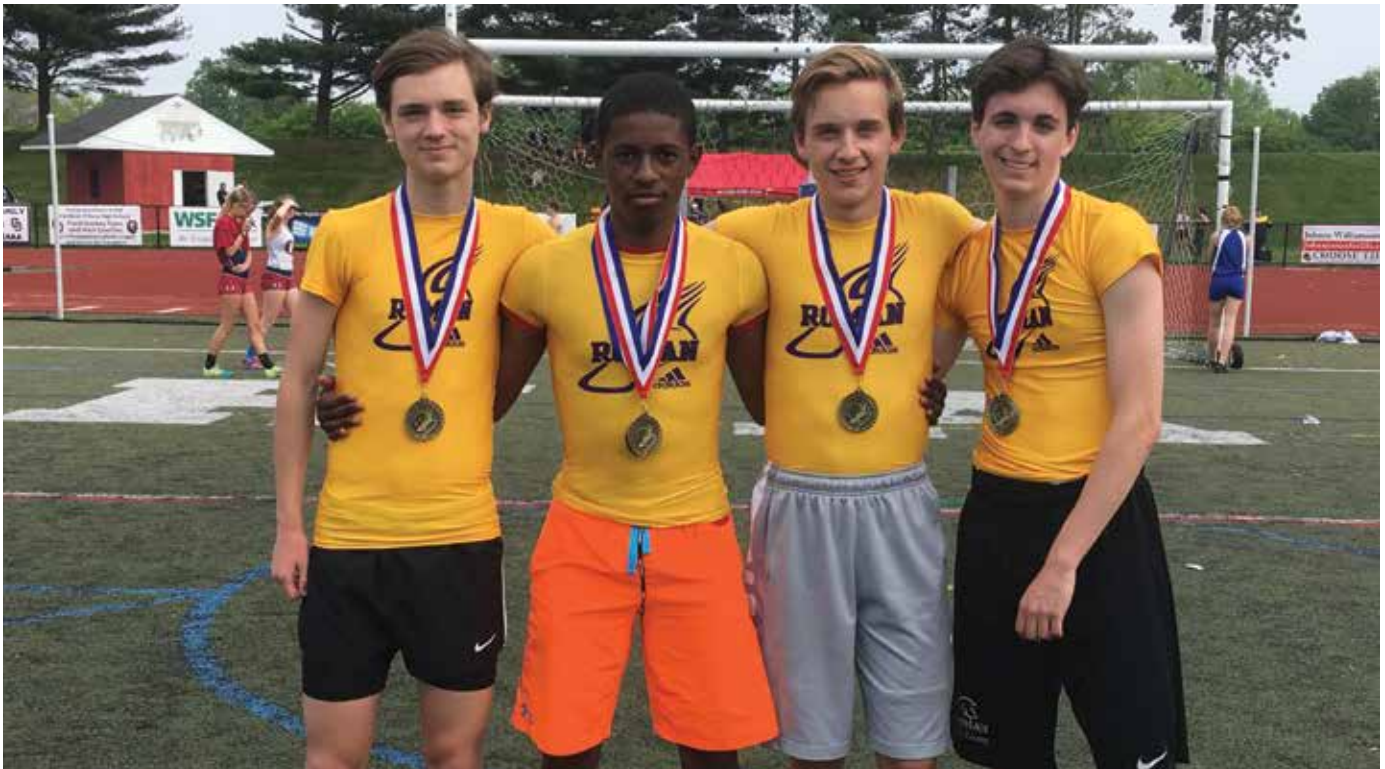
Coming off of their historic PCL Championship win last season, the bowling team expected to go back-to-back. The team started off well by winning their first three matches but a couple of unexpected losses had Roman finish second in the PCL for the regular season. The team rallied in the playoffs though, avenging a loss to Ryan and bowled their way back to another appearance in the PCL final. Unfortunately, unlike last year Roman came up short in the championship final but showed great sportsmanship throughout the contest. Although the team's dream of going back-to-back was shattered, the talented team had many individual achievements. Ryan Guth '19 was elected first team All-Catholic, and Cole Wittman '18 and Adam Moskal '18 earned second team All-Catholic.



Ryan Guth '19 prepares to bowl a strike.







PCL Champions in the 4x800 meter relay: from left to right: Joe Uholik '20, Mickal Haywood '18, Sean Hamilton '20, and Brendan Storino '19.

# RACE TO THE FINISH LINE!

**Track & Field program has break-out season with best-in-the-state speed**

By Mike Monahan '05 Assistant Coach


Roman's track team had an impressive year that saw them send athletes to the State Championships for both the indoor and the outdoor season. As the season got underway, RCHS track traveled again this year to Ocean Breeze in Staten Island to compete. While taking home a few medals throughout the first couple meets, it was the 4x200 team of Ollie Fisher '19, Karim Dittmar '19, Miles Jowers '20, and Malik Griffin '20 who took home a 4th place finish at the Freedom Games. Their time of 1:31.90 from the prelims was the 9th fastest time run all season long in the entire state of Pennsylvania. Griffin continued a strong season by putting up a second place finish at the Philadelphia Catholic League championships placing second in the 60m dash. The 4x200 took their talents back to New York to run at the New Balance Nationals where they finished 25th in the emerging elite section to cap off the indoor season.

As the weather began to get warmer, the track team started their outdoor season. The sprint team started where they had left off, taking 1st place in the 4x100

and 2nd place in the 4x200 merely a few blocks from Broad and Vine at the Temple Relays. As the year continued, Roman took to the Penn Relays to show off their speed. The 4x100 won their heat, but was unable to get out of the trials. This fueled their fire though as the Cahillites focused their efforts on the Philadelphia Catholic League Championships. RCHS kicked off the day with a 1st place finish in the 4x800 (Brendan Storino '19, Sean Hamilton '20, Joe Uholik '20, and Mickal Haywood '18). The 4x100 also outran every other team placing 1st as well. The sprinters were able to do a quick turnaround as the three athletes took home medals in the 100m (Dittmar 2nd, Griffin 3rd, and Jowers 6th), and then another 2 medals in the 200m (Griffin 2nd and Dittmar 6th). In the 400m Haywood and Gubler were able to secure 5th and 6th places respectively. Roman as a team placed 4th overall, a strong improvement from the previous couple years. There was a strong purple and gold presence at the District 12 finals, and the sprinters again showed their strength taking home the 4x100 title. Griffin and Dittmar pulled down 1st and

3rd overall in the 100m. Griffin also came in first in the 200m, with Jowers (6th) and Fisher (8th) not far behind. The 4x800 narrowly missed a state berth placing 3rd overall. Hamilton, running his third event of the day, also barely missed a state ticket with a 3rd place finish in the 800m. Haywood ran his fastest time of the year in the open 400m-50.81- finishing 5th overall. With all of the points added up, Roman secured an impressive 3rd place finish in the AAA Division. Roman did send a collection of runners again this year to Shippensburg for outdoor states, as the 4x100 finished 11th overall, and Griffin took home a 14th place finish in the 200m and a 15th place finish in 100m.

***Congratulations to all 17 of our sports teams on their competitive and successful seasons!***



Seth Lundy '19 makes a crucial block in the final minutes of the PCL Championship game.

# ROMAN CATHOLIC BASKETBALL... "TAPPING AT THE STONE" A REVIEW OF THE 2017-2018 SEASON

By the voice of Roman Basketball, Dan Hoban '92

PHOTO: CATHOLICPHILLY.COM

**T**hroughout the 2017-18 Roman Catholic Basketball season, second-year head coach Matt Griffin kept telling his players to keep battling, keep getting better, and stay hungry all the way. He made a point to remind his troops that several media "experts" picked the Cahillites to finish 6th or 7th in the ultra-competitive Philadelphia Catholic League. A constant point that was made in the media was that Roman had no player taller than 6'6". In basketball game programs, you can list size and weight as well as position, but you sure cannot list the size of a man's heart. "Keep tapping at the stone men, keep tapping at the stone," Griffin would say, game after game, as the Purple and Gold embarked on what would be another dream season. The "stone," if you will, was the Catholic League and State Championships.

The season began in Washington DC as the Cahillites took part in the Gonzaga DC Classic for the 3rd time in 4 years. Roman found themselves in the title game against the host, the Gonzaga Eagles, after solid, double digit victories over Riverdale Baptist and New York powerhouse Cardinal Hayes. Despite the loss against a Gonzaga team that

spent time ranked in the national top 10, Roman started the season 2-1 with wing Seth Lundy '19 and Lynn Greer III '20 earning spots on the all-tournament team.

The season became rocky in December as Roman fell to Philly rival Imhotep Charter, which finished 5th in the country. Several injuries caused the team to finish 3rd in the Junior Orange Bowl Tournament in Miami, Florida. Again, the team went 2-1, and Greer and senior leader Allen Bertrand '18 made the all-tournament team. After returning from the sun and sand of Florida, the team returned to the frigid Philly area to take on North Jersey's Mater Dei Prep. Starting a pattern that would prevail throughout the season, Roman rallied from a 12-point deficit to start the 4th quarter behind Lundy, Bertrand, and sharpshooter Hakim Hart '19 to win 59-49. Bertrand was named game MVP.

As the new year began, the Cahillites earned victories at West Catholic and Lansdale Catholic while falling by 2 points each to rival Neumann-Goretti and to league favorite Bonner-Prendergast in overtime. After the Bonner game, Lundy told the entire team, "We're not losing the rest of the way." Just like our Super

Bowl Champion Philadelphia Eagles, the Cahillites embraced the role of the underdog while bouncing back with wins over a talented McDevitt team and Archbishop Carroll in front of a classic Catholic League packed house. Following a heart-stopping home win against La Salle, Roman kept the streak rolling with blowout wins over Father Judge, Conwell-Egan, and Cardinal O' Hara. The stage was then set for a showdown in Warminster on a Friday night at Archbishop Wood. Revenge was on the mind of the Cahillites as Coach Griffin posted the score of last year's game in the locker room against the defending PCL champs. In another thriller, which included Lundy's second 30-point game of the season, the Cahillites survived two last-second shots by the Vikings to prevail 75-73. Many who were in the stands that night said it was one of the best PCL games they ever witnessed, with each side trading the lead and fighting on every possession. The last regular season game was a 77-71 victory against the Hawks of St. Joe's Prep at Community College of Philadelphia (CCP) which secured the Roman's spot in the playoffs. Prior to the game, Roman Catholic honored living legend Coach "Speedy" Morris '60 for his 1,000th career victory earlier in the





season. Morris' coaching career began at Broad and Vine in 1968 and now spans 50 years in the high school and collegiate ranks. For Coach Griffin's Cahillites, it was now time to win or go home. The PCL playoffs awaited.

On a Friday afternoon, again at CCP, Roman found itself on the wrong end of a double digit deficit against the La Salle Explorers. Down by 15 multiple times and trailing by 9 heading into the final quarter, Roman roared back. Outscoring the Explorers 23-4 in the final stanza, Roman claimed a 56-46 triumph and ended La Salle's quest for the PCL crown. Just five days later, Coach Griffin and the Cahillites found themselves back where their PCL season ended last year in the semi-finals at the world's greatest basketball arena, the University of Pennsylvania Palestra. The foe was St. Joe's Prep and Coach Griffin's former team and coach. With both teams trading the lead in the first half, Roman found itself trailing by four at the break. Coach Griffin and his staff did an outstanding job, telling the team that they had played their worst half of the year but were only down by 4. Roman responded by jumping on the Hawks right away, needing only 2 minutes to retake the lead for good. Roman built a 15 point lead at one point before some late Hawks heroics made the score look closer with the final being 69-66. Notable in this game was how well the team rallied in the second half after Lundy fouled out on a questionable call midway through the 3rd quarter. Senior forward John Kelly '18 did an outstanding job on Prep star Ed Crowell, limiting him to 9 points and only 2 in the second half. Kelly's physical play and never back down attitude was a key throughout the season, as he did many things that do not appear on stat sheets.

On a Monday night, it appeared that every basketball fan in Philly was present in the Palestra. The 9,000 in attendance saw a classic heavyweight battle between the ultra-talented Bonner-Prendie Friars and the gutty, tenacious underdog Cahillites. Both teams threw body blows as B-P ran out to an early 11-3 lead, only to see Roman rally back to lead by two at the end of the 1st stanza. Throughout the next 20-plus minutes, both teams traded baskets and the lead, with Roman rallying from a 5-point hole with 2 minutes left. After a critical Bonner turnover, Roman held for the last shot with 1:38 left. With Greer, Bertrand, and Louie Wild '19 sharing ball-handling duties, the entire Palestra crowd stood as Roman attempted

to break the 49-49 tie as the clock wound down. Coach Griffin elected not to call timeout, and Bonner elected not to apply pressure. In a play that will be remembered in the minds of Roman fans forever, Lynn Greer used Seth Lundy's high ballscreen perfectly and drove the lane, finding a cutting Hakim Hart with a no-look pass for a championship-winning layup with 1.1 seconds left. To coin a phrase from a 90's era Whitney Houston hit, it was truly "One Moment in Time." The various photos taken by the media the instant the ball went through the net show the Roman student section with incredulous looks on their faces, frozen forever on film with delirious joy. With one heart-stopping play, Roman Catholic Basketball had captured its 3rd PCL title in 4 years and the 31st overall in the 98-year history of the Catholic League. Showing the true character of this team, the 6'0" Louie Wild fronted the Friars 6'9" Tariq Ingram most of the second half due to foul trouble. Wild frustrated the Bonner big man and effectively took him out of the game.

After a letdown loss to 6A Public League top-dog Abraham Lincoln, the Cahillites regrouped to pursue its third PIAA State Title in the last four years. The question among Roman fans was if this group of players could go through the state playoffs without the size normally seen on a Roman roster. A 1st round victory over Pennridge erased some bitter memories of last year's upset loss in the first round. The stage was now set for an "instant classic" between Roman and Plymouth-Whitemarsh, a team that had been 28-0 and nationally ranked until the District 1 final. Despite being down by 15 points multiple times and constantly looking up at the Colonials, Allen

Betrand's tenacious mentality carried the Purple and Gold down the stretch. Seth Lundy and Lynn Greer made huge plays as well as the Cahillites roared back to stun the Colonials in front of a packed house by a 75-71 score. Several days later, the Cahillites were matched up against Central Bucks West, who stunned defending champ Reading in the previous round. Despite an early ankle injury suffered by Seth Lundy, Roman rode the efforts of Hart, and Bertrand to take down the Bucs, 75-56.

Mother Nature then got in the way, as winter storms delayed the semi-finals a full week from the quarter-finals. Roman took a three-hour bus ride to Chambersburg to take on a Pine-Richland team that was a state finalist last season. In front of a very pro Pine-Richland crowd, Roman was able to come back in the final minute to force overtime and pull out a clutch 81-73 victory behind a true team effort. The stage was then set for a true revenge matchup for all of the glory: Roman versus Lincoln for the 6A PIAA crown.

In a game that PCN television commentators said was one of the best they had ever seen, Roman and the Railsplitters traded baskets in a high-tempo affair that looked like an NBA pace. Roman led most of the way but could not pull away as Lincoln made several clutch three-pointers to remain in the fight. Behind Lundy's 28, Hart's 26, Greer's 20, and Bertrand's 14, Roman exacted some payback to capture the state 6A title. The "stone" was captured; mission accomplished. Congratulations to Coach Matt Griffin who was named Coach of the Year by USA Today and the PA Sportswriters Association. Seth Lundy was named 1st Team All-State, Greer was named to the 2nd Team, Bertrand the 3rd team, and Hart the 4th team. For everyone that loves Roman Basketball, it was truly a season to remember.



Roman Basketball: PIAA 6A State Champions.



# PAFA and Roman: Expanding Education through Art

As RCHS embarks on a new era of fine arts with the opening of the Howard Center for the Arts, we reflect on and celebrate the 25th anniversary of Roman's partnership with the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts.

At an early age, Thomas Paul Raggio '05 knew that art was his passion. Thomas was immersed in art as a child, but didn't begin his formal training until he began taking classes at Roman as a freshman. At Roman, Thomas studied under Joe Deissroth, who recognized Thomas' talent and zeal. He prompted Thomas to enroll in the After School Studio Art program at Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts (PAFA), a free after school art program offered to Roman students, where he could continue to sharpen his skills. Today, Thomas has showed his work internationally and is professor of Fine Arts at Rutgers University.



Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts

Ian Wagner '07 recounts a similar trajectory. By the time he entered his junior year at Roman, Ian had been taking two years of After School art classes at PAFA. The technical composition classes at Roman were a great complement to the artistic expression classes he got at the Academy. "I absolutely loved it, and couldn't wait to increase my skill set," Wagner said. He went on to get his Masters of Fine Arts at PAFA, and is the publisher of six illustrated books and a working artist and graphic designer.

"If it hadn't been for Roman, I never would have become an artist," says Wagner. "I never would have been introduced to the program at PAFA, which led me to become a working artist today."

Since 1994, PAFA has provided free studio art training to Roman students (grades 9-12) and more than 50 other public, charter and parochial schools in Philadelphia. The

program offers teens with little access to formal art training the opportunity to build a solid foundation in the fine arts. Students in this model program follow an honors-level curriculum through foundation drawing, painting and life drawing in the great traditions of American art set by Thomas Eakins in PAFA's historic studios.

Thomas, Ian and their colleagues at Roman all brought their eagerness to learn; PAFA supplied everything else. "Most high schools don't have the resources to offer programs at this level," said Raggio. "PAFA supplied students with materials, which made a huge difference. As long as you showed up, you were able to paint and draw with charcoal."

The partnership with PAFA was the brain child of Dan DiLella '69 who was a frequent visitor of the Academy during his time at Roman. As a student and alumni, DiLella has embraced the legacy of Thomas E. Cahill, founder of Roman Catholic High School, who emphasized the importance of giving back to the community.

"Roman Catholic gave so much to me during my formative years, and I have always believed in paying that forward for future generations," said DiLella. In the early 1990s, Dan approached Al Gurly, now the Chair of PAFA's After School Studies initiative, about an idea to offer a program that catered to students in the city. The discussion was the genesis for one of the most robust and successful arts programs for students in Philadelphia.

"Roman students have a unique opportunity to learn from all the resources the city has to offer, including its incredible access to arts and culture," said DiLella. "Programs like the one we have with PAFA can open their eyes to a completely new world of opportunity."

The skills Roman students have acquired at PAFA have helped many build professional careers. While at PAFA, Raggio was exposed to life drawing, color theory, and strong compositional studies. He also learned to develop and explain a professional art portfolio, which gave him a tremendous advantage when he went on to apply for arts school.

"It's not just being able to create a portfolio, you need to be able to talk about the art," explained Raggio. "Asking a 17 year old kid to talk about their work is incredibly nerve wracking. But through my experience with [Roman professor] Mr. Deissroth and at PAFA, I learned to do that, which is a huge differentiator for a young person."

Today, as a professor of Fine Arts at Rutgers University, Thomas Raggio tries to pass on the skills and confidence he learned to his own students as they pursue their careers. "Having the right people and experiences in my life at the right moment made all the difference," he says.

Thomas E. Cahill would certainly agree.

For more information on Thomas Paul Raggio and his work, please visit <http://www.thomaspaulraggio.com/>

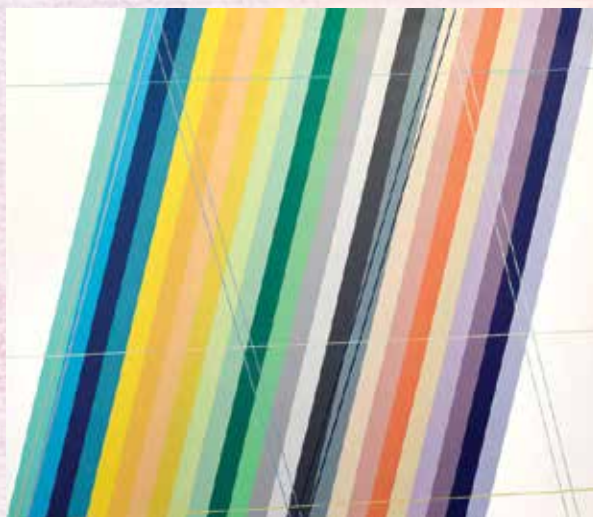
For more information about Ian Wagner's work, please visit [www.ianjfwagner.com](http://www.ianjfwagner.com)



## Thomas Paul Raggio '05



**Closer to You**  
60" x 84"  
acrylic paint on canvas  
2018



**Incognito**  
52" x 60"  
acrylic paint on canvas  
2018

## Ian Wagner '07



**PAFA After School Still Life Painting, 2007**



**Coming to Terms, 2013**



**PAFA After School 1st Drawing, 2005**



**PAFA After School Life Drawing, 2007**



**Clamshell, 2018**





**Roman Mock Trial's A Team after winning a fifth consecutive City Championship. Pictured (L-R): John Pensabene (Coach, Faculty Member), Nicholas Torelli '19 (Secane, Delaware County), Andrew Caroselli '20 (Fox Chase), Raheem Murphy '19 (North Philadelphia), Joshua Picciotti '18 (South Philadelphia), Nicholas Hamilton '19 (Huntingdon Valley), Grant Zindel '19 (Meadowbrook) Justin Vespasiani '18 (South Philadelphia), Steven Patton '08 (Head Coach).**



# The Dynasty Continues...Mock Trial Program wins fifth consecutive City Championship

By Nicholas Hamilton '19

The Roman Catholic Mock Trial Team continued their recent run of success during the 2017-2018 season. The season began with a trip to New York City where the team competed in the prestigious Empire Tournament, commonly referred to as the "World Championship" of mock trial. The tournament featured over thirty different teams from all around the world. There, Roman competed against teams from Korea, Georgia, Canada, and Oklahoma, and made it to the championship round for the second year in a row. Unfortunately, the team suffered a close loss, finishing second in the world to American Heritage High School in Florida. Joshua Picciotti '18 and Michael Caimi '20 received best attorney and witness awards respectively.

Next up, the program received the state case and had the challenging task of forming five separate teams of talented students (A, B, C, D, and JV), the team, which is the largest in the state, headed to Pittsburgh to compete in the annual University of Pittsburgh tournament. The A Team finished with an undefeated record and captured second place in the tournament and the B Team finished fourth, while the other teams narrowly missed placing. Timothy Krapp '21 and Justin Vespasiani '18 were honored as best witnesses while Joshua Picciotti '18 won best attorney. The following week, the team competed in La Salle University's Blue and Gold Invitational with the C Team capturing second place and the B team recognized as an honorable mention. Anthony Pantalone '19 and Michael Topley '19 were both honored as best witnesses. The team completed its gauntlet of preseason tournaments at the University of Pennsylvania's Ben Franklin Invitational. There the B Team finished in second place and the C

Team finished in sixth. Aidan Cotton '20 and Ryan Frank '20 received a best witness award and Anthony Kafel '20, Anthony Ellerbee '18 and Ryan Frank '20 won best attorney awards.

In March, the team arrived at the tournament that they had been preparing for all season: The City Competition. This tournament hosts a multitude of teams, all hailing from the Philadelphia region, with the winner advancing to the State Competition. The A, B, and C teams fought through tough competition to all advance to the quarterfinals, with the D Team being narrowly defeated in the qualifying rounds. The quarterfinals saw the B and C team pitted against each other, with the B team winning in a split decision (2-1). The A team defeated Germantown Friends B Team to advance as well. In the semifinals, the B Team was narrowly defeated by Saint Joseph's Prep while the A Team defeated Central High School to advance to the City Championship. The City Championship was hotly contested, with both teams being equally matched. In the end, Roman prevailed, beating the Prep and winning their fifth consecutive City Championship. Nicholas Hamilton '19 and Michael Caimi '20 won the best attorney and witness awards in the final round.

With their victory in the City Championship, the A Team advanced to the State Competition in Harrisburg, which features the best teams from Pennsylvania, where they narrowly missed qualifying for the semifinals. Next year, the team will likely continue its run of success thanks to their coaches: Steve Patton '08, John Pensabene, John Prendergast '08, Patrick Prendergast '13, Steven Johnson '10, Nicholas Guth '13, George Zindel '14, Andrew DiCicco '14, Vincent Capitolo '16, and Eric Love '13.



**Joshua Picciotti '18 examines the evidence of the case.**



**Nicholas Hamilton '19 skillfully cross-examines the witness.**



**Nicholas Torelli '19 prepares to be questioned on the witness stand.**





# Making an Impact for Roman



## EITC & OSTC Success Story: Elvin Ross III, Esq. '89

This past year, Elvin Ross III, Esq. '89, former Student Council President who founded, Legis Group LLC after working at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP and currently serves on Roman's Board of Directors, joined other individuals in

taking advantage of Pennsylvania's EITC and OSTC programs to shift his families tax dollars to provide tuition assistance to current Roman students.

"EITC and OSTC programs are easy ways for my family to support Roman. Instead of paying my tax dollars to the state, participating in these programs allows RCHS to provide tuition assistance to families of current students. It is one way that we all can help fulfill the mission of the school," Elvin recently stated.

In exchange for their contribution to the BLOCS (Business Leaders Organized for Catholic Schools) scholarship organization, Elvin and his family were awarded a 90 percent credit for their two year commitment to the program. The credit is applied against his family's total Pennsylvania personal income tax liability, not just the tax resulting from trade or business income, and also qualifies as a charitable contribution for federal income tax purposes.

The EITC and OSTC are tremendous tools for Pennsylvania taxpayers to provide much needed tuition assistance to families who want to send their sons to Roman. Taxpayers who discounted the benefit of the program may want to reevaluate their decision. It is possible that, now more than ever, participation in the EITC program would be a prudent decision. For information about providing tuition assistance through these programs, please contact Adam Gault '08, Director of Development at (215) 627-5487 Ext. 311 or by e-mail AGault@RomanCatholicHS.com.



## Charitable rollover makes it easier to give back

Since graduating from Broad and Vine nearly 60 years ago, Dr. Richard "Doc" Vassallo '59 has regularly been recognized for his service to others and for his many contributions to Roman. He was selected as one of the school's

"125 People of Distinction," was inducted to the Sports Hall of Fame for his athletic achievements, including his record in the hurdles that STILL stands today, and, every year with his foursome, has commanded the leaderboard at the Cahill Cup Classic. Doc is a long time member of the school's Board of Directors, contributing his wisdom to the board's design of the strategic plan that includes the "Vision of Promise" capital campaign.

This father of eight and grandfather of 19 is no stranger to always being resourceful in taking care of what's important to him. This past year, he was able to use a new tax law to satisfy his pledge to the Vision of Promise with an IRA Rollover gift. The Charitable IRA Rollover allows Doc and others who are age 70½ and older to make direct required minimum distributions and transfers of up to \$100,000 per year from individual retirement accounts to Roman without having to count the transfers as income for federal tax purposes. Since no tax is incurred on the withdrawal, gifts do not qualify for a charitable deduction, but may be counted toward an individual's minimum required distribution.

Although Doc and his wife Mary of 52 years did not receive a charitable income tax deduction, their gift was not counted as additional income for tax purposes. For information of how you can make a gift from your IRA account, please contact Patrick Plunkett, Executive Director of Institutional Advancement, at (215) 627-5487 or by e-mail at PPlunkett@RomanCatholicHS.com.

## EITC (Education Improvement) & OSTC (Opportunity Scholarship) Tax Credit program

### What is the tax credit?

The state tax credit program allows businesses and or individuals who pay Pennsylvania taxes to redirect their tax dollars to Roman Catholic High School rather than the state government.

### How does it work?

There is a simple, one-page form that you can fill out. From there Roman Catholic and BLOCS will handle the rest. You just have to submit your contribution to BLOCS along with a letter designating your gift for Roman Catholic High School within 60 days of approval. BLOCS will send you a letter verifying you have made your contribution and you send that letter to the state. Then the state will issue your tax credit.

### How much is the tax credit?

For a one year commitment you will receive a tax credit for 75% of your contribution. For a two year commitment you will receive a tax credit for 90% of your contribution.

### What is the money used for?

All monies allocated to Roman Catholic High School are used to provide tuition assistance to families so that students can have a quality Catholic Education.

# CLASS NOTES

1958



Recently, Judi & Tom Kearney '58 celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a trip to Ireland. While they were there, they had the opportunity to visit their former Ambler neighbors Essie & Don Brown '52 who live in Clifden, a quaint fishing village on Ireland's west coast.

1960

Congratulations to Coach **William "Speedy" Morris '60**, former basketball coach for Roman, La Salle University and current St. Joseph's Prep coach, on achieving 1,000 career victories this past season.

1966

After completing 31 years in United States Air Force, **Tom Gioconda '66** has been serving as director of Livermore National Laboratory in California for the past 8 years.

1967

Congratulations to our 10th Rector Reverend Monsignor **Francis W. Beach '67** who was honored by the Catholic Philopatrian Literary Institute with the Father Edward J. Sourin Award. Serving as Rector for 7 remarkable years, Catholic High is indebted to Monsignor Beach for his leadership, vision, passion, and enduring loyalty.



(From left to right) Father Bongard '77, current Rector, Monsignor Beach '67, 10th Rector of RCHS, Theresa Flanagan Murtagh, President of Catholic Philopatrian Literary Institute (Photo credit Tom Keenan).



**Rev. Monsignor Beach '67 addresses the crowd after receiving the Father Edward J. Sourin Award (Photo Credit Tom Keenan).**

1969

**Daniel DiLella '69** has been selected by the White House as the chairperson for the United States Semiquincentennial Commission, which will handle the celebration of the 250th birthday of the United States of American in 2026.

**Gerald Ross Malone '69** currently resides in Cheltenham and is working for a swimming pool supplier in Huntington Valley after previously working for 30 years at IBM and retiring from AT&T in 2004. He has been married for 29 years. He and his wife raised four children and are now enjoying their four grandchildren.

1970

Congratulations to **Tyree Blocker '70** on his recent retirement from the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) in March. He enlisted in the PSP in March 1975 and initially retired in January 2005. In 2015, Governor Tom Wolf provided Tyree the incredible opportunity to return to PSP and serve as the Commissioner. Tyree stated: "I owe a great debt of gratitude to Governor Wolf for having confidence in my leadership ability. It has been my sincere honor and pleasure to serve the men and women of the PSP and citizens of Pennsylvania as Commissioner."



**Mr. Edward Bernot, Principal, Mr. Joe Cunningham '70, and Brother Daniel Aubin, FSC, President.**

**Joseph W. Cunningham, MA, JD, '70** was honored by St. John Paul II Academy in Boca Raton, Florida, with the Lasallian Spirit Award in recognition of his living Catholic example. Joe serves on the faculty and teaches Latin I, II; Italian IV and Spanish I. Joe and his wife Clara are very happy in Florida where they watch out for alligators, iguanas, geckos and hurricanes!

1998

Congratulations to **Joshua Schoppe '98** on winning the 2018 Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's (LLS) Man of the Year Award. The LLS Man & Woman of the Year campaign is a 10-week philanthropic competition for leaders in local communities across the United States. Candidates and their teammates raise funds for LLS in honor of local blood cancer survivors. The title "Man or Woman of the Year" is awarded to the candidate whose team raises the most funds during the competition.



**Joshua Schoppe '98: 2018 Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's (LLS) Man of the Year.**



# CLASS NOTES

## 1999

On Saturday, April 28th, Roman's Crew program dedicated a boat in the honor of **Tom Gilroy '99**. Tom rowed for Roman during his time as a student and after graduating from the University of Pennsylvania in 2003 returned with his good friend Roger Ross '98 to coach Roman's crew team. He spent the next 14 years coaching first year novice rowers. Tom always preferred the beginners for the challenge of starting from scratch and being able to introduce the student athletes to a new sport. One of Tom's proudest achievements was coaching the freshman quad to gold at the Stotesbury Cup (one of largest high school regattas in the world) in 2012. Tom has taken a recent sabbatical from coaching this year due to the birth of his first child, Dalton Thomas Gilroy, RCHS Class of 2036.



From left to right: Evan Meadows '18, Tom Gilroy '99, Louis Iacovelli '18, and Head Crew Coach Zack Coons.



The boat named in honor of Tom Gilroy '99 is blessed.

## 2006

Congratulations to **Nick Capizzi '06** who married Danielle Crooks on Sunday, June 24th at the Ballroom at Ellis Preserve in Newtown Square, PA.



Nick Capizzi '06 proposes to his now wife Danielle at Niagara Falls.

**Gregory Dabrowski '06** was recently promoted to Vice President at JPMorgan Asset Management where he is a trader and portfolio manager for the Global Liquidity business in New York City.

## 2007

After graduating from Roman, **Eric Banecker '07** attended the University of Pennsylvania, earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree, majoring in English and Classical Studies. Graduating Magna cum Laude, Eric took employment as the Strategic Planning, Operations and Information Manager for the Office for Stewardship and Development of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Feeling a call to the Priesthood, Eric entered Saint Charles Seminary in the Fall of 2012. For the next six years, through the Program of Priestly Formation, the vocational call to Eric became clear. He was ordained a Deacon in May of 2017 and was assigned to Mary, Mother of the Redeemer Parish in North Wales. Completing his Seminary education, Deacon Eric would distinguish himself for his academic achievements. Graduating Summa cum Laude, he

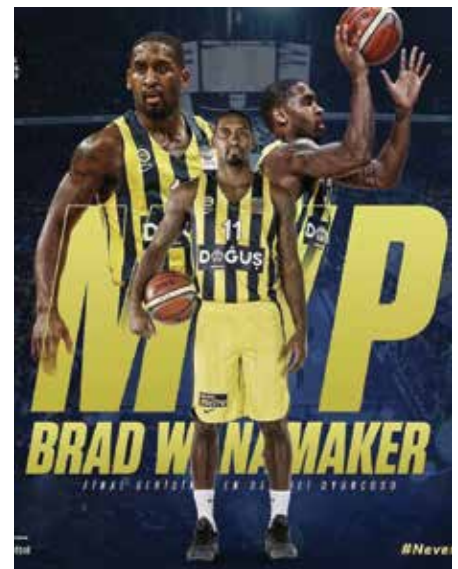
earned a Master of Arts Degree, in Theology, with a concentration in Systematic Theology, and a Master of Divinity Degree. In the Cathedral-Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, Deacon Eric was ordained a Priest on May 19. Archbishop Chaput has appointed Father Eric as Parochial Vicar of Saint Pius X Parish in Broomall, PA.

**Dave Rad '07** will be relocating to the Philadelphia area after 11 years in High Point, North Carolina. He has accepted a Middle School teaching position at Grey Nun Academy in Yardley.

Congratulations to **Bradley Wanamaker '07** on signing a one-year deal to play for the Boston Celtics in the NBA. He recently earned Finals MVP honors of the Turkish BSL League after leading his team to the championship.

Brad averaged a team-high 16.4 points to go along with 4.2 assists per game in the finals. He also helped Fenerbahce reach the 2018 EuroLeague Final Four where they dropped an 85-80 decision to Real Madrid in the title game. In 36 EuroLeague games, he averaged 11.3 points, 2.7 rebounds and 3.8 assists per game.

This is the second time in Brad's career that he's earned Finals MVP distinction. In 2015, he claimed the honor by propelling Brose Bamberg to the German League title in his debut season with the Bavarian team.



## Keep Us Updated

E-mail your class notes to  
[ClassNotes@RomanCatholicHS.com](mailto:ClassNotes@RomanCatholicHS.com)

# CLASS NOTES

## 2008

**Kyle Lorenz '08** recently graduated from Georgetown University with his Masters in Professional Studies (Real Estate) "MPS-Real Estate."

Congratulations to **Brian McBeth '08** who married Sarah Levandowski on Saturday, October 21, 2017. The two started dating during Brian's senior year at Roman.

**Shaun Rabbitt '08** has been the 8th grade lead teacher for United States History at MaST Community Charter School in Northeast Philadelphia for a number of years. He is engaged to his fiancée Sarah Daly and they are to be married in July 2019. Shaun recently graduated with his Master Degree in Educational Administration from the University of Scranton.

**Jeffrey Wilczynski '08** recently started a new job as a structural and specialty metal fabrication designer and detailer at Crescent Iron Works. He resides in Pennsport, South Philadelphia, and is happily raising a four year old daughter.

After graduating from Roman, **Carlton Wilks '08** went on to obtain his Master of Accountancy degree from The Pennsylvania State University with a minor in the Legal Environment of Business and a concentration in Art History.



While working in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in January 2018, Carlton Wilks '08 spent a weekend in Egypt and visited the Great Sphinx and Pyramids of Giza.



Cahillites in attendance for McBeth wedding: from left to right: Andrew Jaskel '08, Kyle Lorenz '08, Andrew Gillespie '08, John Prendergast '08, Steve Patton '08, Tom O'Mara '70, Brian McBeth '08, Kevin McBeth '70, Jim Brehony '70.

In the Fall of 2013, Carlton began his career in Assurance Services at Ernst & Young, LLP serving clients located in the Greater Philadelphia area in the healthcare, pharmaceutical and energy industries.

In April 2016, Carlton left the public practice for a position as an internal auditor for a global healthcare and pharmaceutical company based in Chicago, IL. Not only was this his first time living outside of Pennsylvania, but since then Carlton has had the humbling opportunity to travel abroad quite extensively over the past two years visiting over 40 plus countries along the way.

Currently, Carlton is on a special assignment in Zwolle, Netherlands helping his company's logistics entity with several projects as well as financial planning and analysis.

## 2009

**Andrew L. Thum '09** graduated in May 2018 from the University of Pennsylvania completing a dual degree in Nursing and Health Care Administration (MSN) and Health Law (ML). He is currently a registered nurse at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia pursuing a career in hospital administration. Andrew recently became engaged to Xavier Ann Weber in Ocean City, NJ where they have both vacationed with their families since childhood. Andrew met Xavier, also a nurse, while working at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. They plan to marry in the Fall of 2019.

## 2010

**Steven A. Johnston '10** graduated in May 2018 with a JD from the Temple University Beasley School of Law. He received a distinguished performance award for his work in the Temple Law and Public Policy Program and was a Rubin Public Interest Honor Society Fellow.

## 2011

**Octavius Blount '11** is currently working as the Coordinator for the Mayor's Office of Black Male Engagement and is tasked to help create an equitable Philadelphia for men and boys of color by eliminating disparities and creating opportunities.



Mayor's Office of Black Male Engagement

Octavius was one of the founding members of the Black Alumni Association at Arcadia University. The mission of the BAAAU is to promote the presence,



# CLASS NOTES

empowerment, and success of Arcadia University's black alumni, students, faculty/staff, and community. He was selected to be the Community Outreach Committee Chair. The BAAAU presented him with the inaugural 2018 Sankofa Award for Distinguished Achievement for exemplifying the spirit of Sankofa.

On January 24, 2018, Octavius was introduced at Arcadia University's 40 Under 40 celebrations as one of the most promising, accomplished, entrepreneurial, creative, and inspiring young alumni.

On February 1, 2018 the start of Black History Month, FunTimes Magazine honored Octavius as one of the 30 under 30 People to Watch in 2018.



**Matt D'Andrea '11** graduated from Bloomsburg University in 2015 with a bachelor's degree in Mass Communications. He also played ice hockey there. He worked two seasons with the Philadelphia Flyers as a member of the Fun Patrol. Matt ran a full marathon in June of 2017 and then left for the United States Air Force on July 11, 2017. Matt is now working as a Weather Technician for the Air Force.

## 2013

**Bobby Rowan '13** graduated from Temple University in May of 2017, and now he teaches sophomore English at Archbishop Wood High School. He also coaches and moderates the mock trial team, creative writing magazine, and serves as an adult leader for the Kairos Retreat.

## 2015

Congratulations to **Joar Dahn '15** on being nominated by Governor Tom Wolf to serve on the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Board of Governors as one of three student governors. The Board of Governors is the governing body for the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. It establishes policies, oversees the management of the State System and appoints the chancellors and university presidents. It also approves academic programs, sets tuition and coordinates the State System operating budget. Joar was also elected to his 2nd term as Student Government President at Bloomsburg University.



Joar Dahn '15 will serve his second term as Student Government President at Bloomsburg University this year.

## 2016

Congratulations to **Tony Carr '16** on being selected in the second round, 51st overall, in the NBA draft by the New Orleans Pelicans.

## 2017

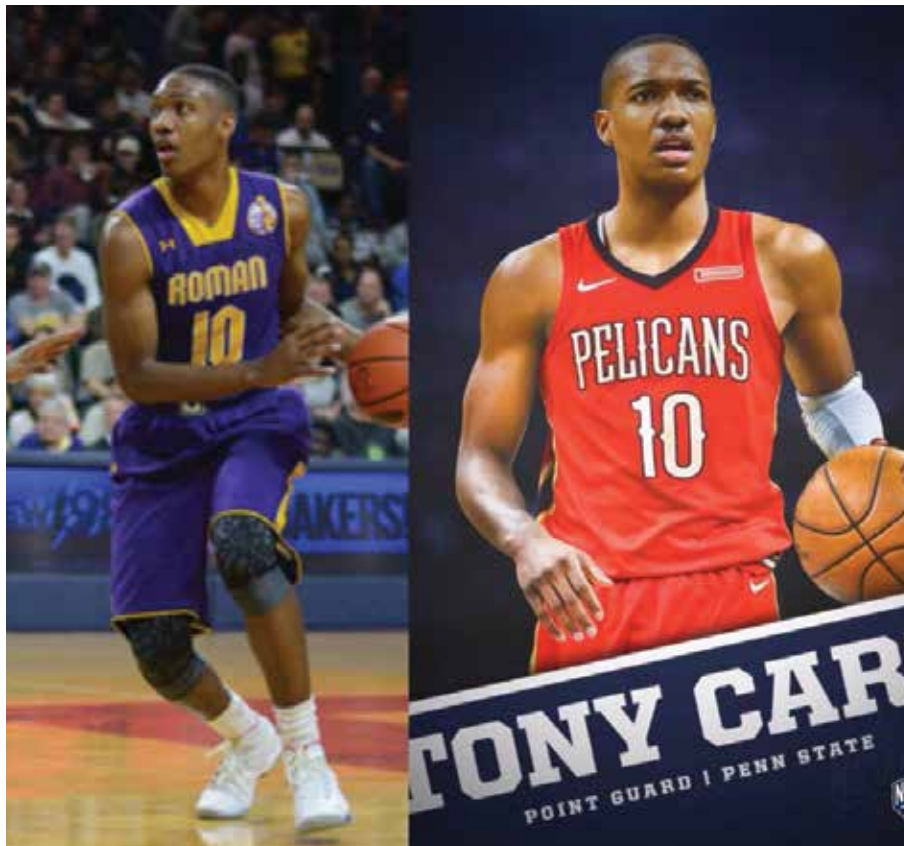
**Jake Hall '17** will begin his sophomore year at Temple University this Fall and is majoring in Sports and Recreation Management. In addition to his studies, Jake was elected the President of a student-run organization called SRPA-Sport and Recreation Professional Association while working for the Philadelphia Eagles for their game day staff. Jake also serves as a Trustee of the Alumni Association.

**Kevin Tryon '17** completed his freshman year of college at La Salle University where he is studying business and rows for the crew team.

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# IN MEMORIAM

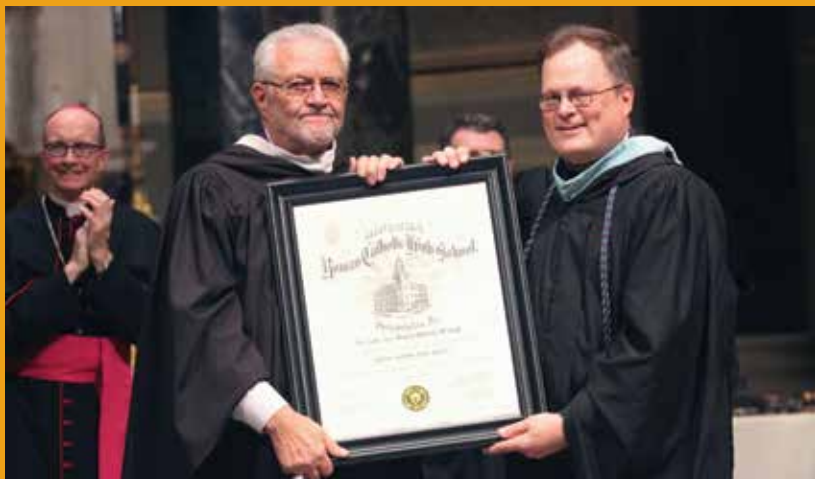
## Principal, Mentor & Friend

### Remembering Mr. Robert P. O'Neill

On June 6, 2018, The Roman community suffered a great loss when former principal, Mr. Robert O'Neill, passed away. The Mass of Christian Burial was held at Saint Albert the Great in Huntington Valley, where Mr. O'Neill was an active and dedicated parishioner. In addition to the pastor and pastor-emeritus, the Mass was concelebrated by Rector, Father Bongard '77, and former rectors, Monsignor Beach '67 and Father Brandt. Father Okon, former School Minister of Roman, delivered a moving and compassionate homily.

Mr. O'Neill's presence loomed large at the corner of Broad & Vine for over 22 years. In 1993, he was appointed as Assistant Principal of Student Services. While responsible for the good order and discipline in the school, Mr. O'Neill's concern for the students, as individuals, was his strength. While firm and uncompromising on disciplinary matters, he personally invested his time and efforts to assist students struggling with personal or family issues. Appointed as the 1st lay Principal of RCHS in 2002, Mr. O'Neill's genuine and sincere love for the students and Catholic High was evident in all he did. As a man of faith, who cherished being Catholic, Mr. O'Neill set a fine personal example of prayer and servant-leadership. His door was always open to student and faculty members alike. He cherished being at Roman and working with the young men entrusted to his care. He always looked for opportunities to share his optimism, his hope for the future & his sense of humor. In 2015, Mr. O'Neill retired from Roman Catholic High School. He did this in order to spend more time with his family and, specifically, to commit himself to assisting his adult daughter, who was in need of permanent, long-term care.

While the Roman family feels such a great sense of loss, this pales in comparison to the loss his loving wife and children feel. The comments and testimonials about Mr. O'Neill posted on the school's social media pages attest to the lasting impact this special man has had on so many. We pray that the fond memories of this faith-filled man give consolation to his family and to all those who mourn his loss. It is our common prayer that Mr. O'Neill will receive the rewards for the good life he lived, for the service he rendered, and for the love he shared. May he rest in Peace!



## Tribute to Paul P. "Pinch" Pincituro, '69 Former President of the Alumni Association

By Joe Mazur '70



From left to right: Paul Pincituro '69, Charlie Corkery '69, Ray Diding, Joe Mazur '70, and Steve Mazur '68 at the 2014 Communion Breakfast.

When I called him, I'd say "Hey Uncle Paulie" because I revered him. He'd answer, "My Nephew, Joey."

On June 1st, the Roman Catholic family lost a dear friend and brother Cahillite as Paul Pincituro, '69 suddenly left us. Paul was a very special man, a husband to his wife Chris, a father to his sons, Paul '97 and Patrick '01 and a grandfather to James, the newest love of his life. Pinch was a brother and friend to all and a Cahillite like no other. Jack Gannon '69 said "He was someone you could always go to and he never asked for anything in return (except maybe a Dalessandro's Cheesesteak)."

When we first met Pinch in the 60's, you knew he was special by the way he reached forward and back to be a friend and brother to everyone. As years moved on, that reach went much further as Pinch became a dedicated leader in the battle to keep Roman open. Tony Cousar '90 related how, "Mr. Pinch was the driving force that brought me to be a student at Roman," as he was with many others in the drive to reach the magic number of 250.

Charlie Corkery '69 said, "Pinch was a Savior when Roman needed one most, an icon, driving from school to school in his Bell Telephone van." Many others feel that way as well. As I said on Facebook, "Every time I look at a photo or see his name I experience a smile on the lip and a tear in the eye," and I believe the sentiment of Pat Murphy '69 says it best, "You could be out of sight but with Pinch, you were never out of mind."

We will all miss you Pinch, but we will never forget you. God Blessed Roman with Pinch. Now it's time for God to bless Pinch.



# IN MEMORIAM



Please remember and keep in your prayers our brothers and family members who have been called from this world to eternal life (as of July 3, 2018).

## Alumni

Frank Feiertag '39	Harry Fair '58
John McGuinn '39	Thomas O'Neill '58
Robert Gantert '44	Joseph Ruggiero '58
Donald Caldwell '45	Alexander Hardy '62
Longin J. Rohach '48	John Fassano '63
Michael Griffin '49	Robert Moore '63
Joseph McGrath '50	Leonard Roberts '64
John Donnelly '51	Dennis Hudecki '68
William Westervelt '51	Michael Warner '68
John Devenney '52	Robert Kahoun '69
Joseph McLaughlin '52	Paul C. Pincituro '69
James Dougherty '53	Frank William '75
Martin Keane '55	Thomas Paul '80
Charles Lekite '56	Robert Avington '98
John Crank '57	

## Family & Friends

**George Luis Bermudez** Father of Daniel Bermudez '18  
**Benjamin Berrios** Husband of Wilma Reyes-Berrios (faculty) & Father of Joshua Berrios '12  
**Edward Berry** Father of Ed Berry '09  
**Rose Cannon Lottier** Mother of Herbert J. Lottier '66  
**John Clarke** Friend  
**Ann Elizabeth Cram** Sister of Maureen Toman-Logan (faculty)  
**Joseph DiLella** Brother of Frank '68 & Daniel '69  
**Patrick Harris Sr.** Father of Malachi Harris '20  
**Severina Natali** Mother of Benvenuto Natali '71  
**Robert O'Neill H'15** Former Principal of RCHS  
**William Shanahan** Father of Patrick Shanahan (faculty) & Grandfather of Tai Shanahan '20  
**Reverend Karl Zeuner** Former faculty

### Editor's note:

*In our last edition Frank A. Kahoun '68 was incorrectly listed as deceased.*

# MEMORIAL OPPORTUNITIES

There are several opportunities available at Roman Catholic to memorialize a loved one or family member. The following items are available and can be inscribed with a particular dedication name.

Processional Cross & Candles	\$1,000
Altar Cross	\$150
Altar Candles	\$500
Roman Missal	\$200
Lectionary for Mass	\$125
Altar Cloth	\$300
Cruet Set	\$75



### Religious Artwork

Several major works of religious art from Saint Charles Seminary have been acquired. These original oil paintings are now hanging in the corridors of Roman, and reflect the Holy Family, Mary, and various saints. Memorial sponsorships are available, beginning at \$1,000. For more information, on these, or any memorial opportunity, please contact Father Bongard 215-627-1270 or [jbongard@romancatholicchs.com](mailto:jbongard@romancatholicchs.com)



Roman Catholic High School  
301 N. Broad Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

# Surf's Up!

## Roman Catholic High School Day at the Bay

Saturday, August 4, 2018

**Join us as we celebrate the  
25th Anniversary of Day at the Bay!**

The Cahillites will be at Keenan's in North Wildwood on Saturday, August 4, 2018 from 2:00pm to 6:00pm. Cost is \$30 per person in advance, \$40 at the door. Includes beer specials, food, and music. Must be 21 to attend.

RCHS Day at the Bay 25th Anniversary  
T-shirts will be available for sale! E-Mail  
AHummel@RomanCatholicHS.com  
for details.



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