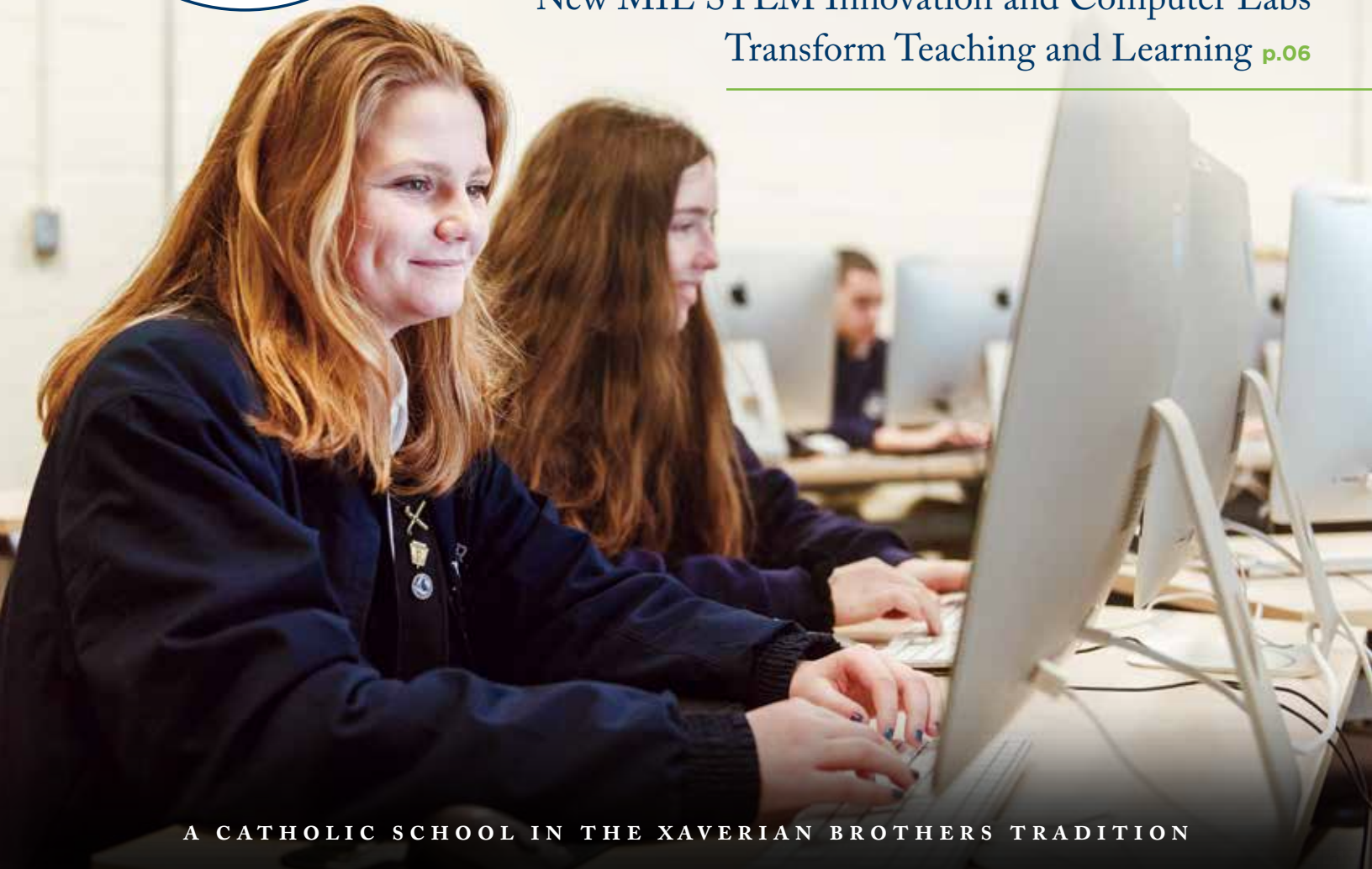




Connections

A MAGAZINE FOR THE ST. MARY'S RYKEN COMMUNITY

New MIL STEM Innovation and Computer Labs
Transform Teaching and Learning **p.06**



A CATHOLIC SCHOOL IN THE XAVERIAN BROTHERS TRADITION

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Dear Alumni and Friends,

First and foremost, I hope you and your family are well. If this virus has touched your life or a loved one's life, please know my prayers are with you. Fittingly, our alumni magazine is called "Connections," a word that has taken on a new meaning during this pandemic. We have learned to connect in different ways while adding the phrase "social distancing" to our vocabulary. This pandemic feels particularly difficult because, as a school community, we value togetherness at sporting events, fine arts performances and celebrations. St. Francis, patron saint of the Xaverian Brothers, once said, "It is not the actual physical exertion that counts towards one's progress, nor the nature of the task, but by the spirit of faith which it is undertaken." This faith, the hope in the unseen, makes our community distinctively connected. Please know that we are here for you, just as you are for others.

Life at SMR has changed but not stopped. As a 1:1 iPad school for the last seven years, our faculty and staff were ready for distance learning just two days after schools closed with an impressive eLearning platform. Our students have continued their rigorous college-prep education with a seamless transition to virtual school.

I am very proud of our community's response during this time of uncertainty. It has been inspiring to witness the school community come together on behalf of one another and in service to the greater good. Please read about specific details in the story on page 04.

This coming year marks our 40th year as St. Mary's Ryken, when the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth and the Xaverian Brothers had a vision to keep Catholic high school education strong in Southern Maryland. During this 40th year, it is a great time to come back to campus (when we are able) to be a fan at a

game in the Donnie Williams Center, tour the MIL STEM Innovation Lab, attend a school Mass or participate in Homecoming activities in October.

For generations, our community has collectively created life-changing experiences for students, alumni, faculty, staff, donors and fans. Thanks to you, this will never change. You are someone who continues to live our mission in the broader community and represents why we are so purposeful and faithful in delivering on our mission. For this, I am grateful.

Be well, be hopeful and keep in touch.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rick Wood
President and CEO

2020 CONNECTIONS

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Mary's Ryken is a Catholic, coeducational, college preparatory school community operated under the Xaverian Brothers' sponsorship dedicated to academic excellence and individualized student growth.

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Christina Fazio Bennett '04, animal keeper at Disney World's Animal Kingdom



Orchestra students before the Winter Fine Arts Festival

Five students were nominated for Tomorrow's Woman Award. From left: Raevyn Harris '20, Taylor Vaughn '20, Jamie Kost '20, Abigail Hupp and Julia Belvin



Alumni Heroes on the Front Lines of COVID-19

Alumni share their experiences being on the front lines of helping, healing, supporting and managing the pandemic in their local communities. Thank you for continuing the mission of St. Mary's Ryken long after graduation. We are Knight Proud!

Ann Marie Cullen, Class of 1982

Nurse, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore



Ann Marie is a staff nurse providing direct care to COVID-19 patients. "The saddest thing to deal with was that patients could not have any visitors.

Coming into the hospital, they lost their support system. They relied on the nurses to be there for them. Everyone has stepped up to meet this challenge."

Jacqueline Norris, Class of 2008

Firefighter/Paramedic



Jackie Norris is a Fairfax firefighter/paramedic stationed at Company 4 in Herndon. She moves between the firefighting and medic positions, depending on the day of her 24-hour shift.

Connor Bullis, Class of 2015

Chesapeake Custom Embroidery, Lexington Park, Maryland



"We have several hundred new shirts in a storage room and I suggested to my boss we make face masks out of T-shirts. We created a prototype, and the following day we moved into full production. We are producing masks for families, veterans, essential workers, retired couples, and even active duty military. I feel so fortunate that I can do something to contribute to our community during this difficult time. It is extremely rewarding and humbling."

Jay Mattingly, Class of 1999

Director of Emergency Services, Leonardtown



"As the coronavirus pandemic began to affect our region, daily assignments immediately shifted to ensure we were providing adequate service to our citizens and partnering agencies. I immediately provided additional manpower pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic and became an additional resource in all areas of emergency services. The daily collaboration among first responders, medical facilities, community donations of masks, and cleaning supplies, as well as food, has been truly inspiring."

Tom Mattingly, Class of 1964

Retired active fireman and administrator



“After 55 years of service with the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department, I can tell you our crews at LVFD have been prepared and trained to deal with the ongoing pandemic issues. We have crews on duty 24-7 and are ready to respond to calls of any nature.”

Nicole Hill Daniels, Class of 2003

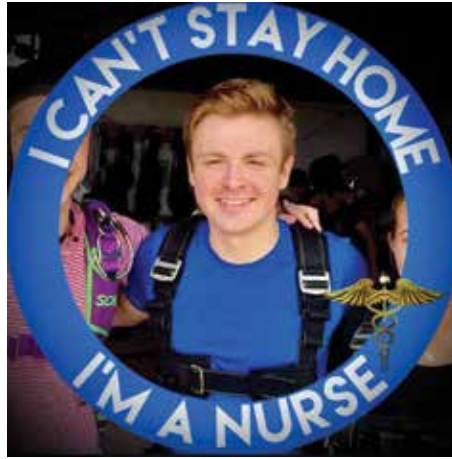
Director of Staff Development, Quality Assurance and Infection Control, Solomons Nursing Center, Solomons, Maryland



“As a nurse, I am worried about my patients, my co-workers, and my family at home. However, my calling as a nurse is to provide reassurance and aid in the healing process, and so that is what I will continue to do. To be a nurse is to put aside your own anxieties and fears and be a strong force for everyone around us.”

Nikolai Yamaner, Class of 2011

Nurse at Anne Arundel Medical Center, Annapolis, Maryland



“During a time of isolation, reaching out to someone by phone, doing an activity to raise your heart rate, developing a habit of meditation or prayer, tending to something living (be it a pet or plant), and finding something to get others to share a laugh.”

George Kennett, Class of 1975

Fire/Emergency Medical Services



“I have 47 years of service as a volunteer firefighter and emergency medical technician, joining when I was 16! I am a life member of the 7th District Volunteer Rescue Squad, and currently serve as chaplain. I pray daily for their safety and sanity, and I am very proud of each of them for the essential services that they provide to the community!”

Chris Romano, Class of 1969

Neuro-interventional Radiology, Montefiore Medical Center, Bronx, New York



“To keep up morale, we play ‘New York’ by Alicia Keys over the sound system every time a patient is taken off a respirator or discharged from the hospital. It’s nice to see people organizing to make trips to the grocery store for the elderly, and the entire city takes time at 7 p.m. to applaud from windows of buildings as a show of support to acknowledge each other’s contribution, including staying home. It’s a way of saying we’re all in this together!”

Grace Goodley, RN BSN, Class of 2016

St. Joseph’s/Candler at the Candler Hospital, Savannah, Georgia



“As an ER nurse in Savannah, I was proud to be on the front lines during this global pandemic. The multitude of learning experiences, exceptional teamwork, resilience, and positivity have made us better professionals. We are blessed to be able to serve the community and have felt appreciated every step of the way.”

St. Mary's Ryken Swiftly and Successfully Transitioned to eLearning

When Gov. Larry Hogan announced on March 12 that all public schools in Maryland would close effective March 16 due to COVID-19, St. Mary's Ryken was prepared. With the 1:1 student iPad program and an online classroom portal—used for turning in assignments and communicating among classmates and teachers—already in use by students and faculty, the transition to eLearning was almost seamless.

Administrators and faculty used two days to gather resources and prepare for the changeover. By March 18, all classes had transitioned to an eLearning platform and all faculty and staff had moved to teaching and working from home.

“As part of our daily curriculum, each St. Mary's Ryken student has his or her own iPad that they are required to bring to class every day,” said Principal Catherine Bowes. “We knew because of these tools already in place, the transition wouldn't be as burdensome on our families.

“Immediately, teachers began utilizing many apps and virtual resources to keep students engaged for teaching and learning,” continued Dr. Bowes. Some of these included: Nearpod, Flipgrid, Edpuzzle, Quicktime video, Explain Everything, Quizlet, Google Classroom, Google Meet, Google Suite (Drive, Docs, Slides, etc.), Zoom and YouTube.

“Teachers and students have been positive, and are working to make this a quality experience,” said Ms. Tara Everly, Project Lead the Way science teacher and head field hockey coach. “Teaching material that is normally very hands-on virtually can be a challenge, but we found reasonable work-arounds, and students made adjustments at home that allowed them to learn the material and for me to teach it effectively.”

Spanish and Media Services teacher Mrs. Terry Wood said she is proud of the faculty



Freshman Jayden Stewart and his younger sister during the second week of eLearning

and students who “took this and ran with it.” She added that she's always been impressed with the St. Mary's Ryken community, “and this just pushes it over the top how much everyone is looking out for each other.”

SMR also established a Knights eLearning Watch Team, a group of guidance counselors, coaches, staff and teachers who call or email students, monitor grades and offer support. “We used the feedback to make any necessary changes to the eLearning experience,” said Dr. Bowes. “We didn't just send 700 kids home and expect them to learn the same way. The data shows which students are not adjusting to the new setting. We helped those who needed it along the way by offering ways to get adjusted at home—suggestions for setting up study spaces, establishing a schedule for the day, ways to reduce anxiety and outlets for

exercise and fun activities.” The Knights eLearning Watch Team continued to check on students throughout the remainder of the school year.

“Despite the challenges brought by COVID-19, St. Mary's Ryken has done an incredible job of adapting, planning and executing an eLearning education,” said William Bubb, parent of a junior and freshman. “SMR staff communicated plans early, effectively, and implemented teacher and supplemental learning videos, online tools and virtual classrooms. Students adjusted within a few days, due to the preparation and execution by SMR staff. Students stay engaged, with their course work and with their peers. SMR's experience with eLearning tools already in place allowed our girls to maintain their educational pace, despite the pandemic. SMR's culture, the sense of unity among staff and among students, and their ability to teach, even under dire circumstances, has convinced us that we made the best choice for our children's education.”

Keeping with our Xaverian values and school mission, giving back to the community was also on the forefront of the school's objectives during this uncertain time. President Rick Wood maintained communications with the local health department and offered the use of the Donnie Williams Center if needed for an alternative care site. The school also donated



A “Happy Minute” as faculty and staff gather to celebrate accomplishments during eLearning

“Social media was a huge vehicle for us to keep our community connected,” said Mrs. Crystal Dunkin, dean of Faculty and Student Development.

The school created “Selfie Friday,” an opportunity for students and staff to send selfies with their pets, workspaces and pictures of any activities they’re participating in outside of their academics. The selfies were posted on the school’s social media profiles for all to see and comment.

Faculty and staff connected in multiple virtual ways as well—“A Happy Minute” at 3 p.m. on Fridays—by Zoom and every day at 11 a.m. faculty attended a faculty meeting by Google Meet. During the “Happy Minute” calls, Dr. Bowes asked, “What’s your silver lining?” Staff shared unexpected benefits they gleaned from this big change in their professional and personal lives.

“I shared that now I have the time to enjoy a sit-down dinner with my family almost every night,” said Dr. Wood.

“I’ve enjoyed the unexpected time at home with my two college kids,” said Director of International Programs Mrs. Cheryl Shevchuk.

“I enjoyed daily walks with girlfriends in my neighborhood—from 6 feet apart, of course!” shared Director of School Counseling Mrs. Christine Jaffurs.

SMR continued eLearning through the end of the school year on May 29. Individual graduation ceremonies were held for the seniors over the course of three days—May 20-22—in the Donnie Williams Center. The Class of 2020 graduates were the first to walk across the stage in the new building, and were greeted by President Wood and Principal Bowes. It was a personal ceremony for a very special class that included student speeches, time for family photos and the opportunity to take photos on campus. The recorded walks across the stage, presentation of diplomas and awards, as well as speeches, were edited together and aired on the school’s website for the entire community to view together.

food from the campus café to Three Oaks Center, a homeless shelter in Lexington Park, and cleaning supplies to the St. Mary’s County Emergency Management Services. “In this unprecedented time, the mission of our school was still very important and present,” said President Wood. He, along with Director of Development Ms. Jerrilyn Borneman, also made it a priority to stay in touch with older alumni in the local area by making well-check calls to ask if they were doing OK and if they needed anything. “Caring for our community and our neighbors was always on my mind—how can SMR help, and what can we do to support those who need it.”

In addition to maintaining a high level of academic rigor, keeping the community engaged while not seeing each other face-to-face on campus was also important.

With church Masses cancelled, keeping students connected to their faith life, the heart of our mission, was vital. Daily prayers were posted on the SMR portal. Live morning prayers were available by Google Meet presented by Campus Minister Greg

DeStefano. Coffee With The Counselors events continued virtually with over 55 parents logging in for the first event. By late April, live Mass was available every Friday hosted by the school chaplain, Father Scott Woods. Virtual Wellness Week emphasized spiritual, physical and emotional wellness. It started with a recorded reflection from Father Scott, included various activities and challenges throughout the week, and ended with live-streamed Mass from the SMR chapel on Friday.

“Being able to see our dear chaplain, Father Scott Woods, was for so many of our students, faculty, and staff a concretely visible connection to the physical plant of SMR and all of its robust spiritual opportunities,” said Campus Minister Mr. Greg DeStefano. “Father Scott is synonymous with the spiritual life of our school because he provides for us an easy bridge to the life of God, given freely to all.”

Students were encouraged to participate in the nationwide “Chalk-Walk” initiative to create colorful drawings on their neighbors’ driveways. Health and wellness programs virtually motivated the entire community through a QuarantEAM challenge and Couch to Fit program.

“We realized early on that keeping our community connected and engaged was going to be a very important component,” said Dean of Students Joe Wysokinski. “Everyone offered ideas and ways to stay in touch and active. I’m always inspired by how our staff rises to the occasion and puts the needs of our students first.”



Sisters Madilyn and Caroline Leahy show off their new skill: fishing!

New MIL STEM Innovation and Computer Labs Transform Teaching and Learning

Located in renovated spaces in Paschal Hall, the new MIL STEM Innovation and Computer Science Labs opened in September 2019. The timing was perfect for aerospace engineering, biomedical and computer science Scholars Program students to benefit from the flexibility, collaboration and improved technology that the spaces bring to teaching and learning. The spaces include a virtual reality system, 3-D printers, robotics arena, robotics build rooms and two large classrooms for labs and collaboration. Below, teachers and students reflect on how the new spaces have profoundly impacted their experiences.

Student-teacher collaboration and project-based learning are fundamental components to the national recognized Project Lead the Way curriculum. St. Mary's Ryken features Project Lead the Way curricula in the Scholars Program for the computer science, engineering and biomedical science tracks.

“Our STEM and computer labs allow our students to smoothly transition between abstract programming concepts and the concrete systems on which their software runs. One area where this is evident is in our growing robotics program.”

— Marcos Lindekugel, Project Lead the Way computer science teacher



Jonathan Smith with his aerospace engineering class in the STEM Innovation Lab

“As a teacher who shares the space, it is invaluable to have immediate access to supportive colleagues who are experts in chemistry, physics, computer sciences and math. An evolving Maker Space fosters a sense of community and lets creativity drive our students’ learning. “Odor Busting Athletic Bags” and “Futuristic Fasteners” that may one day replace zippers are just a small sample of the innovations our students have developed in this space.”

—Mr. Smith, engineering and math teacher





“In the aerospace engineering class, we built a remote-controlled plane from scratch. The body of the plane is made of styrofoam along with any 3-D parts that we design and print. Next, we attached the motors and propellers and were able to create this plane with minimal parts.”

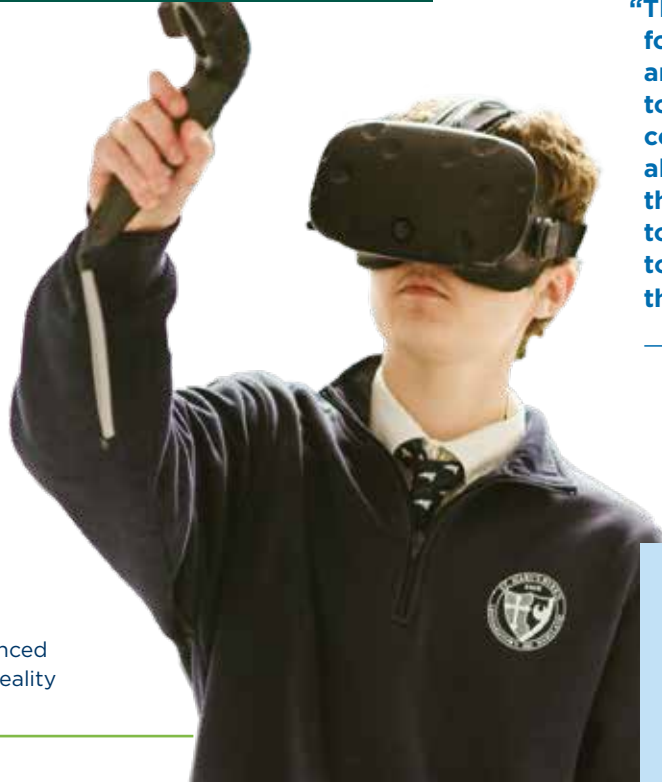
— Nikia Friday, Scholars Program engineering student



Principles of Engineering students display the robots they built and tested in the robotics arena.

“The STEM Innovation Lab has given students a prospective look into what it will be like to work in a collegiate-style STEM lab. Through the use of these labs, students are learning techniques that many wouldn’t learn until well into their college careers.”

— Bryan Kerns, Project Lead the Way biomedical science and math teacher



Students learn how to use advanced technology such as this virtual reality system used by Marcus Moher.

“The STEM Innovation Lab has the space for teaching theory as well as the space and equipment to apply that theory to hands-on projects. State-of-the-art computer software and 3-D printers allow all students to progress from the theory, to collaborative brainstorming, to computer-aided design and finally to an actual product produced by the printers.”

— Edward Szymkowiak, Project Lead the Way engineering and math teacher, VEX Robotics Club moderator, FTC Robotics Club moderator and UAS4STEM Drone Club moderator

St. Mary’s Ryken is grateful for the generous donation from longtime SMR friend and Ryken High School alum, Mr. Butch Long (RHS ’66), and The MIL Corp. His commitment and contributions to the space helped bring this project to fruition for SMR students.

Maurice I. Long Jr. ’66



Maurice “Butch” Long is deeply rooted in the fabric of the St. Mary’s Ryken community with a large legacy family that continues to grow to the next generation. His three daughters graduated from St. Mary’s Ryken: Jennifer Long ’88, Marisa Long Daley ’92 and Megan Long Sappington ’98.

Mr. Long served as our chairman and on various committees of the Board of Directors from 1991 through 2005, providing leadership and vision for SMR’s

future. Because of his dedication and service, he received the Pillar of the Community Award in 2007. His generous heart has benefitted numerous students through two scholarship funds he created and capital improvements to our campus supporting athletics and our STEM curriculum. He is a true Knight!

Mr. Long has been actively involved in numerous community organizations, including as president of the Southern Maryland Navy Alliance and chairman of the Workforce Investment Board. Mr. Long also oversees the MIL CARES

program, which coordinates dozens of community service and charitable events sponsored by The MIL Corp.

Mr. Long established The MIL Corp. in 1980 and serves as its president and CEO. He is responsible for the overall strategy and vision for the corporation, which provides innovative cyber, engineering, financial and information technology services to the federal government. He holds a B.S. in Information Systems Management from the University of Maryland, and an M.S. in Management and Computer Systems from The American University.



Community Highlights for

Archbishop Wilton Gregory celebrated the **First Mass** in the Donnie Williams Center and of the 2019–20 school year.



Students produced the fall drama production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by William Shakespeare.

Inaugural induction of the St. Mary's Ryken Psi Alpha National Honor Society. Seventeen members were inducted into the psychology club for students interested in the field of study.

St. Mary's Ryken Choral students helped celebrate unity of Catholic schools during All-County Mass in prelude to Catholic Schools week.

Students participated in a Healing and Remembrance Ceremony on Emancipation Day. See page 12.

Prestigious XBSS **Theodore James Ryken Award** was presented to Mrs. Sam Spaulding. See page 11.

Caroline Daley '20, left, was selected as Queen of Tolerance at the St. Mary's County Fair. Payton Parris '20 was selected as second runner-up.



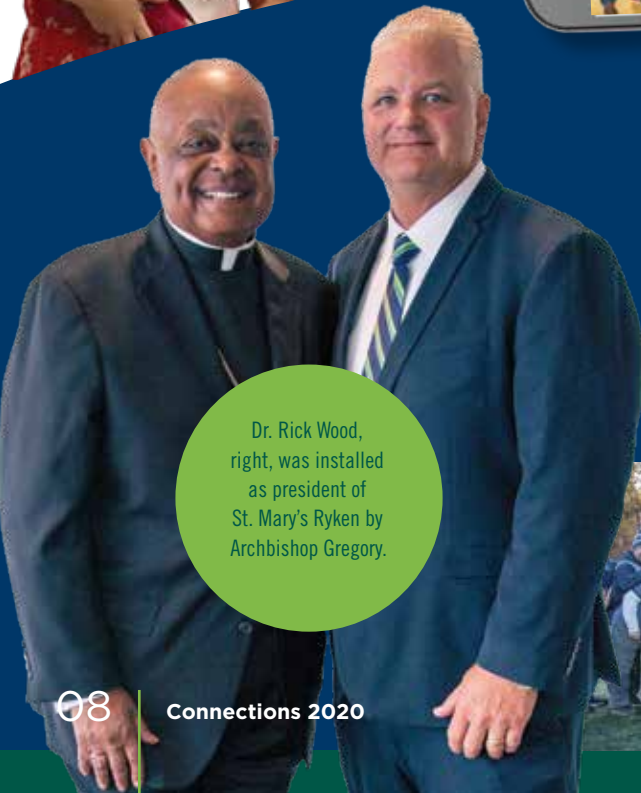
The SMR community—alumni, students, faculty, staff and parents—celebrated **Homecoming 2019!** See page 40.



Band, Choral and Dance students performed in their **Winter Fine Arts Festivals.**



Congratulations to Mr. Parker and Ms. Silvestro, who were named Archdiocese of Washington Teachers of the Year! See page 10.



Dr. Rick Wood, right, was installed as president of St. Mary's Ryken by Archbishop Gregory.

The football team captured its second consecutive WCAC Metro Division Championship.



the 2019–20 School Year



Lions Club and St. Mary's Ryken partnered to give gifts to almost 50 families during the Christmas season.

The St. Mary's Ryken Knight N-Gales professionally recorded the performances of "Still, Still Night" and "I Wonder As I Wander" as a special Christmas gift to the St. Mary's Ryken community. Listen here: www.smrhs.org/arts/choral-christmas-gift



District Veterans of Foreign Wars group honored history teacher Leif Liberg and 11th grader Luke Seep for their award-winning entries in the Veterans of Foreign War's annual Teacher of the Year and Voice of Democracy competitions.

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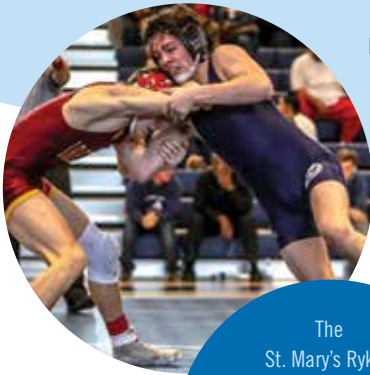
Future Business Leaders of America students placed in the top 10 at a regional conference.

The Class of 2024

registered for the 2020–21 school year! See page 33.

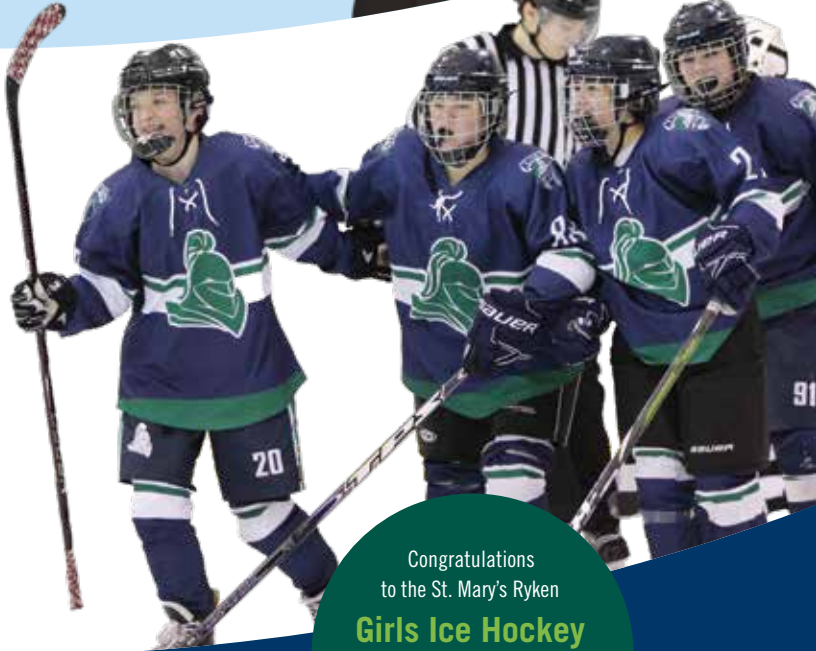


Three students participated in the Catholic University Academic Symposium: Ashley Mudd presented about the "Art to Heart" program, Michael Mazuc presented about "Improving Ground Station Performance" software for drone operators, and Luke Seep presented about "What Makes America Great" with a foreign perspective.



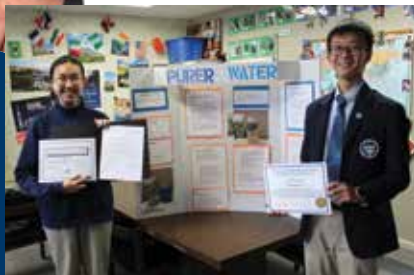
The St. Mary's Ryken Wrestling

team claimed its first-ever Washington Catholic Athletic Conference Championship. See page 14.



Congratulations to the St. Mary's Ryken Girls Ice Hockey

team, which won the Mid-Atlantic Girls Hockey League Blue Division Championship!



Kuidong "Richard" Li and Wenrui "Reibel" Li won first prize for the Resources Conservation & Development category in the St. Mary's County Science and Engineering Fair.

Fine Arts students invited local Catholic elementary schools to the performance of the play "Peter and the Wolf."



Fine Arts students performed during the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Breakfast at the St. Mary's College of Maryland. See page 13.



Congratulations to Archdiocese of Washington Teachers of the Year

Both teachers are members of the fine arts department. All ADW Teachers of the Year were celebrated during the High School Principals Association Mass in mid-October.

Veteran Teacher of the Year

Tessa Silvestro | *Theatre Director and Fine Arts Department Teacher*



Ms. Silvestro joined the St. Mary's Ryken community in 2010 and holds a master's degree from Roosevelt University. As a dedicated theatre teacher, Ms. Silvestro directs two major productions a year (drama and musical), provides audio and visual support for the entire St. Mary's Ryken community for various events, including community events, Grandparents Day and all-school Masses, and actively participates in and supports community theatre in Southern Maryland.

Ms. Silvestro dedicates a multitude of hours to providing students a space for creative expression and an opportunity to express themselves through the performing arts. According to the fine arts department chair,

Mrs. Kim Norris, "Ms. Silvestro motivates theatre students to perform outside of their comfort zone. For example, students will share the role they wish to play in a particular show, and Ms. Silvestro will encourage them to play a different role that will challenge the students and help them to grow in their craft. Ms. Silvestro has an uncanny ability to see something in students that says they can tackle the role effectively, and the students must trust that she will teach them how to be successful in that character."

St. Mary's Ryken students trust Ms. Silvestro, and our audiences can see the results in every show that she and the students produce—each one is more amazing than the next!

In 2018, Ms. Silvestro won an Outstanding Feature Actress WATCH (Washington Area Theatre Community Honors) Award for her performance in "Boeing, Boeing" with the Port Tobacco Players. Ms. Silvestro received the highest score of all the featured actresses in the 65 plays that were judged during 2018! WATCH is an organization for Washington-area community theatres.

Novice Teacher of the Year

James Parker | *Director of Bands and Orchestra and Fine Arts Department Teacher*

Mr. Parker has a master's degree in orchestral conducting and is director of band and orchestra at St. Mary's Ryken. In his second year as a SMR faculty member, Mr. Parker is a very active member of the community, having created and expanded programs to include a pep band, and the Knights Musical Mentors (KMM). In its inaugural year, KMM is a community-based program open to students in 7th and 8th grade who are currently taking band/orchestra at their school or lessons outside of school.



Led by Mr. Parker with help from SMR band students, the younger students are mentored and participate in the SMR fine arts winter concert.

Entering into his third year at SMR, Mr. Parker exemplifies the Xaverian charism of trust in and out of his classroom. One student noted, "I can always trust Mr. Parker to be there when I don't understand a concept in AP Music Theory (which is a lot), or when I just need a laugh. He's a funny guy!" In the same manner, his department chair, Mrs. Kim Norris, said, "Mr. Parker is taking students to new levels and constantly challenging them. I see it in his pep band, band students, as well as in AP Theory class. When I pop into his classes, I witness the students performing on a daily basis in front of the class, sight singing, doing a rhythmic exercise or maybe playing on a keyboard. Some of these students have never played on a keyboard. They are really asked to step out of their comfort zones, and they trust Mr. Parker that they are in a safe place to do so."

St. Mary's Ryken is blessed that Mr. Parker has joined our community!

Prestigious XBSS Theodore James Ryken Award Presented to Sam Spaulding

Susan “Sam” Spaulding, Latin teacher and world language department chairwoman at St. Mary’s Ryken, was presented with the prestigious Theodore James Ryken Award during a schoolwide liturgy to celebrate the Feast of St. Francis Xavier. It is the highest award in the Xaverian Brothers school community.

The Theodore James Ryken Award was established to recognize an adult member of the school community who, by their commitment and dedication, lives the mission of the Xaverian charism of education and strives:

To proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to participate in the school’s community of faith and to nurture members of the community, to be committed to academic excellence and to recognize the talents of individuals, to recognize the importance of educating the whole person, to fulfill the Gospel call to peace and justice.

“Thank you for this great honor; it is a privilege to be chosen as the recipient of the XBSS Theodore James Ryken Award this year,” Mrs. Spaulding said at the liturgy. “I am humbled to stand before you now, as just one little piece of this great big living organism that is St. Mary’s Ryken.”

Mrs. Spaulding holds a bachelor’s degree from The College of William and Mary and a master’s degree in Latin from the University of Florida. Since 2010, she has been a member of the SMR community, where her leadership, commitment to students and dedication to education is apparent. She has led international travel trips, served on dozens of school committees and continually inspires others to live a life of faith through her example in and out of the classroom. She serves on the board for the Maryland Foreign Language Association, promotes



Father Scott Woods, Peter Spaulding (Sam’s husband), Sam Spaulding, President Rick Wood and Principal Catherine Bowes

global citizenship and engages students through vivid storytelling.

“Mrs. Spaulding is always smiling around campus and is always encouraging those with whom she interacts,” said SMR President Rick Wood. “Mrs. Spaulding knows what Carpe Diem means!”

“It is here at St. Mary’s Ryken that I, for the first time in my teaching career, have had the opportunity to share my faith and to engage in deep conversations with my students about what it means to be a believer,” said Mrs. Spaulding. “Conversations about how things have changed since the pre-Christian Roman era, what it means now to do the right thing; and what it means to give back to our community. These are the kinds of things that St. Mary’s Ryken has given us the opportunity to learn, whether as young people or adults. I am grateful that I get to learn with all of you.”

Brad Chamberlain, dean of academics, notes that Mrs. Spaulding “is caring, intelligent, knowledgeable in her content area, and the kind of quiet leader that speaks softly yet always seems to have a solution in mind that makes sense for

individuals and for the school as a whole. Mrs. Spaulding is able to look at situations from so many different angles—what the department needs, what the students need, and what the school itself as an institution needs.”

Students always recount how special Mrs. Spaulding made them feel. According to Jamie Kost ’20, “I was able to experience Mrs. Spaulding’s love for her students and for Latin while I was her student. She inspired me to want to further my knowledge in Latin. Her positivity and encouragement made me look forward to Latin class every day. Her creativity made class fun, and sometimes we did not realize how much we were learning. She goes the extra mile and genuinely cares about all of her students and their success in Latin class as well as in life.”

What a teacher is, is more important than what she teaches. “As her former principal, I have witnessed Mrs. Spaulding embody the values of an XBSS teacher,” said Dr. Wood. “The TRUST that her administrators and colleagues have in her departmental leadership, the COMPASSION she shows for her students when life doesn’t always go as planned or the ZEAL she has for transferring her knowledge of an unspoken language while weaving in mythology and history and arts into her teaching, makes Sam an epitome of a Xaverian teacher. An old Latin proverb states: ‘By learning you will teach; by teaching you will learn.’ Mrs. Spaulding is a perpetual student, always seeking out opportunities to learn more, enhance the classroom or mentor those around her. Mrs. Spaulding brings value to our St. Mary’s Ryken community, not only as an excellent teacher, but as a person that changes the world around her for the greater good.”

Catholic Students Join Soil Collection Ceremony Remembering St. Mary's County Lynching Victim

By Mark Zimmermann, "Catholic Standard" | *Reprinted with permission*

In the dark of night on June 17, 1887, a mob lynched Benjamin Hance, hanging the 22-year-old African American man from the branch of a witch-hazel tree near the road to Newtowne Neck in Leonardtown, Maryland.

Hance, a Catholic who worked on an oyster boat, had been accused of making an "improper proposal" to a white woman and attempting to attack her. Three weeks after he had been jailed, but before he had gone to trial, the mob stormed the jail house, holding the jailer at gunpoint as they broke down the door with axes. Then they tied Hance up and led him away on horseback. The coroner's report later noted that a rope with a hangman's knot had been placed around Hance's neck.

On Nov. 1, 2019, a crowd of about 140 people gathered at that site, this time in the light of day, for a solemn ceremony to remember him and to commit themselves to working for racial justice.

"It's important to acknowledge this history and that it happened. It's important to learn from it so we don't repeat the same mistakes from the past," said Juliana Oladipo, one of about 50 students from nearby St. Mary's Ryken High School in Leonardtown who attended the ceremony at the Port of Leonardtown Winery Park.

That point was echoed by Jesse Harris Jr., a fellow member of SMR's junior class and of its Black Student Union, who said acknowledging that tragic event also involved recognizing the need for people to "walk forward in the future" together.

SMR students took turns reading a summary of the events surrounding Hance's death, and they also read a poem by Abel Meeropol about the horror of lynching, "Strange Fruit," with dancers from the school performing an original dance that they had choreographed after researching the issue. "Strange Fruit" was a well-known song by the African American jazz singer Billie Holiday. Also at the ceremony, members of SMR's choral group sang "On Eagle's Wings" and led the singing of the closing song, "Let There Be Peace on Earth."

Noting the importance of the students' participation in the ceremony, Dr. Catherine Bowes, SMR's principal, said, "Pope Francis said to kids, 'You are the now of God.' This is one way we can be the 'now of God.'... In our everyday lives, we stand up for justice and peace."

Karen Stone, the manager of the St. Mary's County Museum Division, offered a welcome on behalf of the many community groups that partnered on the event. She noted it was held on Nov. 1, Maryland Emancipation Day, the day in 1864 when the state adopted its new constitution that freed all those in bondage within its boundaries.

"Mr. Hance was accused of a crime but never received a fair investigation or trial," she said, adding, "Showing complete disregard for the legal system, the mob ended Mr. Hance's life and was never held accountable for doing so."



Camille Austin '20 and Taylor Ebodaghe '20 read the poem "Strange Fruit" during the ceremony at Port of Leonardtown Winery Park remembering Benjamin Hance, who was lynched at that site in 1887. (Catholic Standard photo/Michael Hoyt)

St. Mary's County Sheriff Timothy Cameron, who joined the St. Mary's Ryken students in reading an account of Hance's lynching, said before the ceremony, "Mr. Hance was lynched without due process. We are certainly a country of laws now." He added, "It's important to memorialize this, to ensure this is never repeated."

Also reading the narration during the ceremony was Dr. Janice Walthour from the St. Mary's County chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, who noted the jailer and his wife identified members of the mob to a jury that rendered no verdict and declined to ask the state to charge anyone for the lynching.

“Benjamin Hance was one of at least 28 African American victims of racial terror lynching killed in Maryland between 1877 and 1950 and is the only known documented victim in St. Mary’s County,” she said in concluding the narrative.

The Equal Justice Initiative has documented more than 4,400 lynchings of black people in the United States during that time frame. Hance’s story is documented in the new National Memorial for Peace and Justice, which opened in 2018 in Montgomery, Alabama, and includes 800 steel monuments, one for each county in the United States where a lynching occurred, each inscribed with victims’ names.

During the Nov. 1 ceremony in Southern Maryland, two jars labeled with Benjamin Hance’s name were filled with handfuls of soil from the site, with one jar going to the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, and the other jar staying in the county as part of a traveling exhibit to educate local citizens, visitors and students about that part of the nation’s and state’s history.

“By remembering them, we can remember where we come from, but also look to the future about where we ought to go,” Stone said before the ceremony.



Students perform an original dance at the ceremony remembering St. Mary’s County lynching victim Benjamin Hance. (Catholic Standard photo/Michael Hoyt)

Fine Arts Students Performed during Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Breakfast

Dancers Brent Bradford, Caroline Daley ’20, Tyla Frazier ’20, Ahryel McManhan ’20, and Mallory Moore ’20, with musicians Jesse Harris and Malaika Lewis performed a piece to “Glory,” from the film “Selma,” at the St. Mary’s College of Maryland annual Martin Luther King Jr. breakfast. They were invited following their participation in the Maryland Emancipation Day Benjamin Hance Soil Collection Ceremony, and updated their collaboration to reflect the themes of unity and peace.



Also during the ceremony, the pastor of St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish in Leonardtown, Father David Beaubien, recited a passage from St. Luke’s Gospel about Jesus’s suffering and death on the cross.

Then the priest offered a prayer, saying, “Through our gathering this afternoon, we consecrate this ground by our remembering a grievous wrong that was committed against justice and due process. Lord, repair our country and community and heal us of the sins of racism and injustice.... In return, may peace and reconciliation abound as we look beyond the veil of race and ethnic background and see each other as brothers and sisters in Christ.”

Beforehand, Father Beaubien noted the ceremony offered an important “gesture of reconciliation and repentance.” Hance was buried in an unmarked grave in the old St. Aloysius parish cemetery, located about a mile and one-half from the church.

In an address during the ceremony, Dr. Kyrone Davis—an adjunct professor in the School of Business at George Mason University—said lynchings were acts of terrorism, and he linked them to acts of

injustice against African Americans that began when slavery was introduced to the colony of Virginia in 1619.

“To date, African Americans have been terrorized in this country in one form or another for 400 years,” he said.

That history of dehumanization and inequality was also noted by Elliot Spillers, a fellow in the Equal Justice Initiative, who said that can be seen today in issues like mass incarceration affecting the African American community.

That day’s ceremony offered a remembrance for Benjamin Hance, a man lynched in that county, he said, adding, “We are telling his story, but as a whole, we are here to bear witness to the truth.”

Spillers said the soil collected that day on the spot of Hance’s lynching also harkened to the soil containing the blood of the enslaved and the sweat of those who labored in the civil rights movement, but he added that soil also represents “the opportunity for new life, for hope.”

And to represent that hope, a wreath of yellow flowers was placed on the site.

St. Mary's Ryken Wrestling Claims Its First WCAC Championship

By John Niswander, "The Enterprise" | *Reprinted with permission*

History was made on Saturday, February 1 at St. Mary's Ryken High School as the Knights wrestling team claimed the program's first-ever Washington Catholic Athletic Conference tournament team championship.

"This was the first time in history that we've won this, so this is great," St. Mary's Ryken head coach Philip Brown said. "We couldn't have done it without the support here of the school being phenomenal, from the administration to the athletic department. We couldn't have done it without them. It was a big team effort from everyone at the school."

Inside the Donnie Williams Center, in its first year of existence, the Knights were able to host the event with all 10 WCAC schools competing in the one-day tournament on Saturday.

"This was huge [to be able to host the WCAC tournament here]," Brown said. "We had a great turnout and everyone loved the facility. It was a privilege to host it here."

St. Mary's Ryken, which finished the regular season at 19-2 overall and 8-0 in WCAC meets, claimed first place with 220.5 points. St. John's of Washington, D.C., last year's tournament champions, finished second this year with 198 points.

"Today went great. It was a great positive experience," Brown said. "This was one of our goals that we set out to achieve at the beginning of the year. The guys pulled through and all of them wrestled hard."

The Knights had nine wrestlers competing in the 14 championship matches, and five prevailed to place first.

"Today went well," St. Mary's Ryken senior captain Blake Jury said. "We told everyone at the beginning that this was going to be



2019-20 SMR WCAC Wrestling Team Tournament Champions

a team effort and we needed everyone to show up. We had nine kids in finals, and five ended up winning. That speaks for itself. We all showed up to wrestle. A few of our kids had matches they probably should have won, but regardless we wrestled well as a team."

Jury, freshman Mason Buckler, junior Chris Albo, junior Tyriel Jefferson and sophomore Kaylen Perez all won championships in their respective brackets.

To start the championship matches, the hosts claimed the first three matches with Buckler (106 pounds), Albo (113) and Jefferson (120) earning titles.

Buckler won his title with an 11-2 decision over Keegan McMahon of Paul VI of Virginia. Albo pinned Ethan Vaughn of McNamara of Prince George's County late in the second period. Jefferson won his title with an early second-period pin over Luke Kowalski of St. John's.

At 132, Jury claimed his 181st career win for his

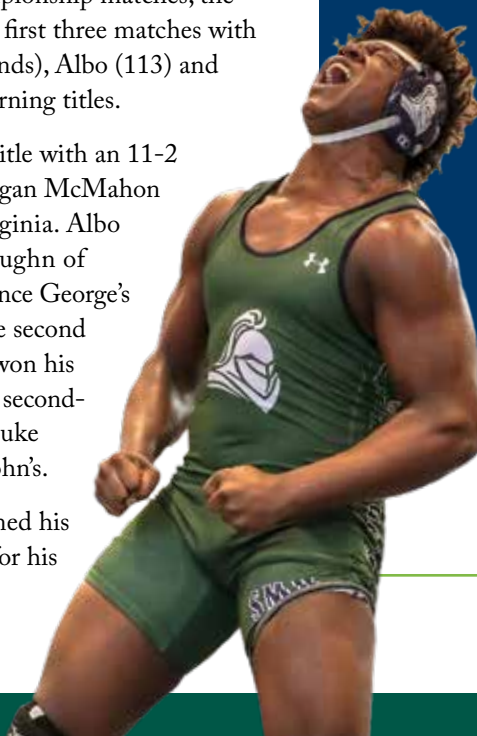
high school career with a third-period pin of Bishop Ireton's Finnian Sofield to claim the championship.

"I wrestled [Sofield] not too long ago and I beat him before, so I kind of already knew how he was going to wrestle in the match," Jury said. "I kept my position well and rode hard on top, turned him and then that was that."

St. Mary's Ryken claimed its fifth individual championship at 220 when Perez was able to pin Ryan Luetjen of Gonzaga of Washington, D.C. with 22 seconds left in the third period.

Knights senior Rodney Jefferson (138), sophomore Ezekiel Gayle (170), junior Daniel Ollum (182) and junior Will Johnson (195) each earned second-place finishes and sophomore Jordan Scarbrough (152) claimed a fourth-place finish.

At Maryland's Independent States Tournament, SMR finished 6th in the team competition, with Mason Buckler, finishing 2nd, Terrence McCauley finishing 3rd and receiving the Most Pins award. Chris Albo, Tyriel Jefferson, Aiden Weber and Kaylen Perez all finished 4th. Each of these wrestlers qualified for the National Prep Tournament, where Mason Buckler received All-American honors.



Kaylen Perez (photo by Darnell Marbury)

St. Mary's Ryken Seniors Develop Tutoring Program to Assist Rising Freshmen With Benchmark Test

This year, Mia Schaefer and four other St. Mary's Ryken seniors, Christine Shatrowsky, Matthew Padgett, Dillon Miller and Gavin Willis, continued with a program she founded last year—tutoring prospective rising freshmen for the High School Placement Test (HSPT), a necessary benchmark test every rising freshman must take to attend SMR, and to determine their placement level in their classes.

At the beginning of the 2018 school year, Mia approached Mrs. Amy Cricchi, SMR director of enrollment management, with the idea. “Because she works in the admissions department,” Mia said, “I knew she would be the perfect person to work with to help me execute my idea.”

Mia originally came up with this idea after talking with a few kids from a middle school where she volunteers. Some of them were considering SMR for their high school, but they were unaware that the HSPT was a part of the process. “That’s when I knew there was a need,” Mia said. “I came from a private middle school, and we were already given some preparation before taking the test. The kids at the public middle schools have never really had experience studying or practicing for a standardized test like the HSPT, so I wanted to be able to help them with the process.”

Mia sat down with Mrs. Cricchi and began to discuss the game plan. “She guided me through the process and provided advice when I needed it. I definitely could not have done it without her,” Mia says.

They went over how to contact parents of students who may be interested, what materials they should use, and who should help out and be the tutors. “We ultimately



Mia Schaefer '20

decided to have four other students help out with the program,” Mia said. “I knew exactly who to contact because I had some smart peers who I knew would be willing to help out.”

After selecting her four peers—Christine, Matthew, Dillon and Gavin—Mia and her team got to work organizing the materials and planning out the three tutoring sessions. The first session came quickly, but it was a success. Each tutor worked with a group of five or six kids and provided them with different strategies on how to approach different concepts, along with giving them numerous practice problems to test their skills. “The kids actually seemed willing to learn. Lots of them grasped the material quickly and picked up the strategies fairly well,” said Mia. The next two sessions seemed to come and go even quicker, but the tutors were satisfied with their work, and could only hope that they helped them enough to boost their scores from what they would have been without the tutoring.

Soon enough, the scores came back, and the kids who received the tutoring did very well! Some were placed in honors classes, and others received scholarships that factored in their performance on this test. “I was so excited that they were successful. I’m just so glad I was able to help them improve and relieve some anxiety they had,” Mia said.

“It was great to give back to my community by sharing my passion of mathematics with those younger than me. I am glad I was able to assist them in preparing for the HSPT,” Matthew states. Because of the success, the five tutors and Mrs. Cricchi began planning for next year.

“I really enjoyed working with these kids. I have always had a passion for helping others when it comes to education, so being able to give back in such an easy way was great,” Mia says.

“Providing these potential future Knights with preparation for the HSPT is a great way to let incoming students know that we want them to succeed and be an integral part of the SMR community. I really enjoy seeing the kids I tutored around campus as students,” said Gavin.

Along with helping the kids prepare for the test, the tutors wanted to make sure that these potential Knights felt welcomed and supported within the SMR community. “I had a great time working with younger students, and it’s neat seeing them on campus this year,” Christine states.

Mia and the four other senior tutors are extremely pleased with the success of this program, and hope to be able to find underclassmen to pass it down to for the coming years.



A group of local priests who support the SMR Spiritual Direction Program gather outside of Campus Ministry. From left: Father Marco Schad, Father Scott Woods, Father David Beaubien, Father Sam Plummer and Father Drew Royals

How the St. Mary's Ryken Spiritual Direction Program Transformed Our School

A Program History by Campus Minister Greg DeStefano

The St. Mary's Ryken's Spiritual Direction Program had a humble beginning back in the spring of 2012. SMR theology teacher John Olon and local priest Father Scott Woods took about 25 students, mostly male juniors and seniors, on a field trip to Blessed (now Saint) John Paul II Seminary in Washington, D.C., to explore seminary life.

They encountered something powerful. They saw other people not much older than themselves living lives devoted to Christ, with authentic happiness. After the trip, some participants began to ask, "What now?" A suggestion was made for Father Scott to come to SMR to meet with some of these students so they could work through the experiences they had at the seminary. They had seen priests as mentors to these seminarians and longed for something similar. This was the seedling of the Spiritual Direction Program.

Father Scott would meet with these students during lunch or a theology class to discuss what was happening in their lives. The ultimate goal was to grow their personal relationship with God. These young men were at various stages in their spiritual journey. Some were actively practicing their Catholic faith, others were not. Some were non-Catholic or even agnostic. But the Spiritual Direction Program was—and still

is—for everyone, no matter where they are in their faith journey.

The program grew very organically, through word of mouth. Within five years, the program included about 200 students and 10 priests. SMR increased staffing in the Campus Ministry Office to handle the logistics—correspondence with priests and scheduling of students. Teachers across many academic departments supported the program by allowing students to meet during class time. By 2017, SMR had enough priest support to warrant the addition of Daily Mass during Xaverian Hour (X-hour). It came to be commonplace for the Campus Ministry Office in Rupert Hall to have at least one priest present on any given day. Nowadays, there are two to three priests on our campus, and sometimes more!

In the spiritual direction sessions, the students are building a foundation of prayer in their lives and forging habits of virtue. Some are simply sorting out "the question of God" in their life. Others discuss their prayer life and ways to improve it. The priests also help participants discern the inner workings of the Holy Spirit, especially in response to moments of prayer or other times when God has been working in their lives.

The Spiritual Direction Program has come a long way from the seedling of just a few students in the spring of 2012 to a program that includes almost one-third of the school's enrollment.

Each year, there are students who find a home in the Catholic Church and make the decision to receive sacraments at the Easter Vigil. St. Mary's Ryken also has sent 19 alumni to the seminary or religious life. These men and women are very tangible fruit of this program. Currently, there are nine SMR alumni in the seminary for the Archdiocese of Washington—at least one from every class since 2012. There are also two women in professed religious life—both from the Class of 2014.

The Spiritual Direction Program has given many students the tools and the resources they need to grow in their relationship with God. Year after year, student after student has been impacted by this program and the opportunities it provides. Above all, the opportunity to encounter Christ and His love has been life-changing.

If you have questions about the program, please contact Mr. DeStefano by email at gregory.destefano@smrhs.org.

CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE CLASS OF 2020!

At each step of the way, you have demonstrated grace and perseverance.
Go forth and live the Xaverian values of Compassion, Humility, Simplicity, Trust and Zeal!



#SMR2020Strong

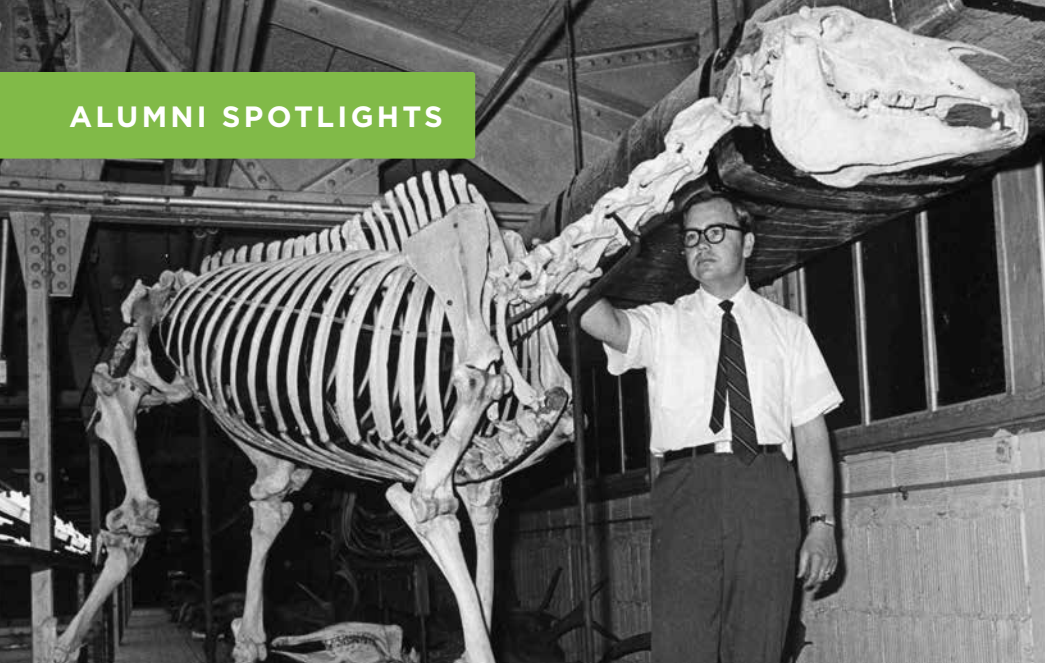
Sean Alderson
Vir'Leah Aldridge
Christian Alianti
Marisa Allen
Cade Atherton
Dennis Atlas
Trent Aughinbaugh
Camille Austin
Joseph Baden
Selena Balanta
Jordan Beaton
Isabella Beck
George Benedict
Danielle Bouchard
Briana Bowen
Jessica Bowman
Katrina Brillantes
Kaitlyn Brouillette
Dylan Brown
Janie Bryner
Lilly Bull
Henry Burke
Patricia Cain
Kimberly Caldwell
Christopher Callaghan
Nicholas Colasacco
Melody Coombs
Jessica Cullison
Drew Cunningham
Caroline Daley
Joseph Dameron
Jack Delaney
Liam DeLong
Madelyn DeSoto

Madison DeVane
Timothy Dixon
Cody Donaldson
Tyler Dooley
Jilliann Downey
Paul Dudash
Taylor Ebodaghe
Orianna Eldridge
Roy Fenwick IV
Nicholas Fernbaugh
Brian Ferrero
Drew Figueiras
Morgan Floehr
Riley Foster
Tyla Frazier
Hope Garland
Edward Getson
Jenna Gibson
Christopher Gleghorn
Nicolette Glut
Jackson Grahame
Mark Guadagnoli
Lawrence Guy
Raevyn Harris
Mackenzie Hayden
Mikayla Hefferon
Jaida Hendricks
Garrett Hickie
Mia Holland
Olivia Holson
Bianca Ingelido
Erin Jackson
Rodney Jefferson
Branden Johns

Olivia Johnson
Hannah Jordan
Blake Jury
Courtney Keller
Kayla Kern
Kyle King
Brady Kinslow
Jamie Kost
Sloan Koviak
Chase Larson
Austin Luther V
Marco Nicolas
Magpantay
Emily Massiglia
Michael Mazuc
Makayla McClary
Jacob McCourt
Shane McKenzie
Ahryel McManhan
Dillon Miller
Kirk Mitchell
Mallory Moore
Sean Morris
Claire Neace
Sydney Neal
Kathryn Newbold
Joseph Newton
Katherine O'Shields
Alicia Ojeda

Amy Olea
Cody Orwig
Jenna Owens
Rachael Owens
Matthew Padgett
Laura Papp
Payton Parris
Brendan Perry
Rezny Pilkerton
Demetrius Poole
Jacob Quasney
Grace Raddatz
Nicholas Ransom
Ethan Redding
Emma Redmond
Jason Reighard
Logan Reilly
Aleah Rhine
Jacob Richardson
Alexis Ridgell
Jared Riley
John Roberts
Kaela Robinson
Jahvin Rodney
Christina Rojas
Kristin Roots
Bryson Russell
Alyssa Salud-Benipayo
Madison Schadegg
Mia Schaefer
Zachary Schaff
Mary Schreyer
Christine Shatrowsky
Taytum Shipman

Diante Somerville
Ava Sprague
Amanda Stone
Margaret Sullivan
Nathan Swann
Rhiannon Tamburri
Dominic Taylor-Axtell
Grace Tennyson
Allison Thompson
Corionna Thompson
Elizabeth Trossbach
Aaliyah Usher
Luca Vasile
Taylor Vaughn
Genevieve Vavrus
Garrett Watkins
Tyler Watson
Aiden Weber
Colyn Webster
Kyle Webster
Lauren Weeks
Anna Weirich
Kathryn White
Dominic Whittles
Danielle Wilkerson
Gavin Willis
Alexis Wilson
Kasey Winegardner
Gabrielle Wise
Shane Wise
Bradley Worrey
Samantha Young



Photos courtesy of Smithsonian Institution Archives



A Glimpse Back in Time With Frank Greenwell (SMA '55)

Taxidermist and Nature Photographer for Smithsonian Museums

Frank Greenwell (SMA '55) joined the staff of the Smithsonian in 1957 as a taxidermist and soon became part of the team that prepared a 13-foot-tall African bush elephant, often called the Fénykövi Elephant, for exhibition in the National Museum of Natural History rotunda. His work did not keep him solely in the taxidermy studio, however. According to his bio in the Smithsonian Institution Archives, Frank went on scientific expeditions all over the world, collecting everything from a tiny shrew to the skulls of 12 gray whales. Later, according to the bio, Frank found that he preferred to capture the natural world with a camera and developed his skills as a nature photographer. After retiring in 1999, he moved back to Leonardtown and gave presentations about his travels and the animals he'd studied.

On April 4, 2020, just weeks after he submitted his responses for this Q&A, he died at the age of 83.

Following graduation from St. Mary's Academy, how did you make your way to Washington, D.C., to work for the Smithsonian as a taxidermist?

After graduating from St. Mary's Academy in 1955, I attended St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland. In 1957, I was hired as a taxidermist and accessory preparator for the Smithsonian Institution. As one of my first projects, I assisted in the mounting of the African bush elephant, which has been displayed in the U. S. National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) rotunda since its unveiling in March 1959.

Did you attend a special school to learn about taxidermy?

I took courses in taxidermy from the Northwestern School of Taxidermy. I learned taxidermy and related skills from a master taxidermist at the Smithsonian. Later I attended the Department of Agriculture Graduate School and George Mason University to further my education in both of my chosen fields.

Describe what it was like working on the team that prepared the Fénykövi Elephant for exhibition.

It was a monumental project, but working with a team of professional and experienced

taxidermists was a great learning experience for me. Techniques that I learned while working on this project helped prepare me for my future job as chief taxidermist and conservator. I thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the project.

Please describe another interesting Smithsonian exhibition that you were part of.

In the late 1950s I was part of a team that fabricated accessories and dioramas for NMNH's World of Mammals Hall. For this hall, I mounted small mammals and assisted in the restoration of classic taxidermy mounts collected in Africa by then-Col. Theodore Roosevelt in 1909-10. In the North American Mammals Hall, I completely restored the American elk case by refurbishing the foreground and creating a winter scene with Epsom salts; simultaneously, I improved parts of the background diorama with oil colors. Years later, in the same hall, I redesigned the pronghorn antelope diorama, supervised the mounting of replacement specimens and installed new plants, insects, etc., which I had collected in Wyoming.

What did you enjoy most about your work at the Smithsonian Institution?

I enjoyed all aspects of my work creating exhibits, dioramas, making accessories for the exhibits, and going on expeditions to collect flora and fauna for use in the displays. I also thoroughly enjoyed interacting with the public to answer questions and explain how we created the various exhibits. Conducting VIP tours of the National Museum of Natural History was also enjoyable.

Recount some highlights of your work over the years.

In addition to scientific expeditions to Panama, I conducted mammal surveys in most of the 50 states. I traveled throughout many parts of Australia. While on one of my two expeditions to the Northern Territory of Australia in 1989, I nearly lost my life when a tire on my land cruiser (full of scientific equipment and cameras) blew out and the vehicle rolled over several times, ending up in a ravine. I also collected tahr and chamois (goatlike animals) on the South Island of New Zealand.

In 1994 I traveled to Nepal to photographically document tiger habitat, collect accessories and investigate problems between tigers and people. While in the Annapurna section of the Himalayan mountain range, I trekked for 44 treacherous miles (round trip) to the foothills (approximately 10,000 feet high) of Machapuchare Mountain (22,000 feet elevation) to photograph and document the life of the Nepalese people



living in mountainous terrain. On this journey I crossed over several times the ancient spice trail used by spice traders in earlier centuries. Before returning home, I took a side trip to India, where I photographed the Taj Mahal, then continued on to Rome. Also, I traveled for the Smithsonian Associates program presenting slides about the expeditions and how different aspects of nature worked together to create our ecological system.

What drew you to nature photography?

Taxidermy and photography started to be a part of my life when I was a young boy as the result of seeing a beautiful cardinal lying on the sidewalk after being hit by a car. I wondered how I could capture and preserve this beauty that God had created. I looked in a Field & Stream magazine and found an ad for the Northwestern School of Taxidermy. This began my taxidermy career. To begin my second career of photography I ordered my first camera, which was a small box camera that you took the pictures with and then sent them away to be processed and a new camera was sent to me. This all began my love of taxidermy and photography. This helped me capture the wonder and beauty of Mother Nature to share with other people and to help them better understand the relationship of flora and fauna, also to admire the beauty that God has created for us—if only we would take the time to appreciate it.

Did you take photos for the Smithsonian, for personal use or another institution?

I took photographs for the Smithsonian for documentation of my expeditions and natural history subjects. On weekends while on my expeditions I would take photos for my personal collection.

What types of nature photos did you take?

I photographed any and everything I saw in nature. Also, I took still shots both in my studio and in the wild. My collection consists

of over 400,000 images. I am an accomplished professional photographer, and my photographs have appeared in countless publications, nationally and internationally. Much of my work has been exhibited in local galleries as well as many other areas of the United States.

How do you keep yourself busy in retirement?

Lots of ways! I stay busy by continuing to photograph all types of images, objects and scenery and experimenting with new camera techniques, and also by giving presentations of my various trips around the world. Additionally, I visit local schools to teach students about the different species of mammals to help them better understand the roles we all play to keep our environment safe, doing history re-enactments at Historic Sotterley in period costumes and serving on the Friends of Newtowne Manor House restoration project.

Please tell us about a fond memory of your years at St. Mary’s Academy.

I have many fond memories during my years at St. Mary’s Academy before it became a part of Ryken; it would be hard to pick one. Perhaps one my fondest was in our senior year, when our class presented an original one-act play called “Dismis Did It” written by a Professor Bob Dietz at Catholic University. It was a comedy about three thugs posing as three nuns. I was chosen for the role of one of the nuns. We heard it was enjoyed by all. In fact, at our 50th graduation anniversary celebration, the three “nuns” recreated it for our classmates.

Please tell us a bit about your family life.

I have been married to my devoted wife, Pat, for 57 1/2 wonderful years. The Lord chose not to bless us with any children, but He gave us a myriad number of nieces and nephews that we have loved, nurtured and enjoyed over the years. After retiring from the Smithsonian Institution, we moved to Leonardtown, where I was born and raised.

Kevin Hickey '91 Saves a Man From Drowning

A 74-year-old man vacationing on the Outer Banks of North Carolina is alive today thanks to the courage of a 1991 graduate and his son.

Kevin Hickey was vacationing with his family in Ocean Isle the week after July 4 when they heard screams coming from the beach. A girl was pointing to her grandfather in the water.

The man was so far out that Kevin could see only a head bobbing in the water, but without a second thought he ran straight into the water to save him. “I’m an accomplished swimmer, so I didn’t hesitate, I just ran out,” Kevin explained.



Kevin competed in the Ironman North Carolina 70.3 in October 2019 and in 2021, he plans to compete in the Ironman Maryland 140.6.

It did not take long before Kevin could no longer stand due to the rip current, and he realized he did not have a flotation device. Wondering if he should keep swimming or turn back to get his nephew’s boogie board, he looked back toward the shore. Upon seeing the expression on his face, however, Kevin’s wife, Lori, urged him to keep swimming.

Kevin reached 74-year-old Wayne Williams just as Wayne was pulled under water one last time. Kevin scooped him up and asked if he was OK. As he turned around to bring Wayne back to shore, much to his surprise, Kevin’s 15-year-old son, Mason, showed up behind him with a boogie board. Kevin and Mason situated Wayne on the board, held onto the ends, and kicked back toward shore. Once they reached a spot shallow enough to stand, the two carried Wayne, whom Kevin described as “weak” and “very white,” to the sand. Since the waves were rough, they warned Wayne before each wave hit. They finally made it back to shore, where “good Samaritans,” as Kevin called them, flocked to help. One brought a folding chair in which Kevin and Mason set Wayne, another laid a cool towel around Wayne’s neck, and a nurse, who happened to be spending the day at the beach, took his vitals.

Kevin remarked that the event brought everyone in his family closer together. “It brought joy to my soul to watch him grow up in an instant,” Kevin marveled about his son. Kevin observed that ever since that day at the beach, his son has seemed to understand the importance of family even more deeply, mentioning that Mason now seeks to spend time with his parents in situations where previously he had avoided them. “It’s through this and many other

small instances that I’ve seen a new level of maturity in him,” Kevin stated with pride.

Kevin also recalled the humility and modesty Mason had regarding the event, recounting that Mason later expressed to him, “I was just trying to do the right thing, to help someone else like you taught me to.”

“Personally, it was one of those moments in life where at the time you just react, and now I look back and realize it changed my life as much as it did my son’s and Wayne’s,” said Kevin.

Kevin goes on to share: “We got an unexpected Christmas card from Wayne this past holiday. In it he wrote, ‘Kevin and Mason, we just finished the best Thanksgiving I’ve had with my family, and are planning for a joyful Christmas ... I wouldn’t be here to experience these things without my two Angels saving my life. Thank you forever! —Wayne.’”

Kevin and his family have strong faith in God, and he and his wife try to instill this faith in their children, Morgan, 17, and Mason. These are the same beliefs that Kevin remembers his parents teaching him and St. Mary’s Ryken reinforcing in him. After their great efforts to help their children develop a love for selflessly serving others, Kevin and Lori saw a fruit of their labors in that Ocean Isle surf. Wayne’s wife shared with Mason that, although he might not realize it, they will forever remain a part of his life. “We will be at your graduation, your wedding,” she continued. Kevin noted that only after this moment did Mason realize that what he did affected not only one person but many people.



Kevin with his wife, Lori, and children, Morgan and Mason

In addition to his faith, Kevin attributes his leadership and character to his time at St. Mary's Ryken. When asked about the impact St. Mary's Ryken made on his life, Kevin responded: "It had a good impact. It was an environment I needed at that time in my life. It felt like a family rather than a school ... the smaller class setting helped me develop as a leader and a good person." While at St. Mary's Ryken, Kevin's leadership skills drove him to try several new things, like playing on the soccer team during his junior and senior year as well as starting St. Mary's Ryken's lacrosse team with four other students.

He carried his confidence and courage in trying new things with him well beyond graduation as he began competing in triathlons as an adult. In fact, his desire to compete in triathlons motivated him to learn how to swim. Kevin admitted, "I was

always into sports growing up, but I was never into swimming. I was a weak swimmer. I could dog paddle, but that was about it." He watched YouTube videos to teach himself how to swim and later acknowledged that learning how to breathe and how not to panic while swimming have served him immensely. Kevin revealed that he had confidence that he would not panic while rescuing Wayne because he had already habituated himself to stay calm in the water while teaching himself to swim.

Kevin continues to practice the leadership and faith he developed in his adolescent years. He encourages everyone to step beyond the familiar, insisting, "It doesn't matter how old you are—if you want to do something different, just do it. There's always going to be a learning curve involved, and you just might find a new passion." As of right now, Kevin looks forward to

learning self-defense and how to paint with his daughter during her senior year before she heads off to college.

Kevin's courage to begin something new not only helped him find a new passion but allowed him to save a life. Regarding his experience at Ocean Isle, Kevin reflected, "The little decisions we make in our lives truly affect others. The decisions we make in our lives are (going to) affect others positively or negatively, and so from this experience I've learned to smile a little more, to appreciate the little things in life, and to be willing to help out anybody I can because even the little things are important."

Kevin works as a senior specialist for the Cardiovascular and Metabolics Division of Johnson & Johnson's pharmaceutical branch, and lives in Raleigh, North Carolina, with his wife and two children.

Tobias van Esselstyn '91

Experimental Test Pilot at Gulfstream Aerospace

Tobias van Esselstyn '91 likes to travel in style. As an experimental test pilot for Gulfstream Aerospace, he's always among the first to fly the latest, sleekest private jets, but it's not all champagne and caviar.

An experimental test pilot takes the prototype and flies it to make sure it meets expectations of the client and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

Gulfstream Aerospace is a Savannah, Ga.-based company that designs, develops, manufactures, markets and services business jet aircraft.

"We spend a lot of our time mitigating risks before an aircraft is cleared for purchase and put into the market; it can take years," said Tobias. "We find ways to test the risk in a simulator if we can. Or, if that's not feasible, we set up tests in an aircraft where we have 'an out.' For some high-risk test events we may even configure the aircraft with a

parachute to aid in recovery if something unexpected occurs.

"Now, it's not so much that way," he said. "Now, it's much safer through thorough understanding of aircraft behavior and understanding test results versus predictive results. We approach testing in a very slow, methodical way—this is why it takes years to release an aircraft. We only proceed to clear a risk once we have a good understanding of our predictions and the results."

Sometimes he gets nervous before testing, but he says he's confident that the years of preparation will prevent calamity.

Tobias is a lead project pilot for Gulfstream's G500 and G600—fly-by-wire business jets that were released to customers and certified by the FAA in June 2018 and June 2019, respectively. A fleet of 24 aircraft is currently in service. The primary clients are high net worth individuals and Fortune 500 companies.



"We conduct our tests all over the world. It's not uncommon to fly to the Arctic Circle because we need to test in cold temperatures or the next day to fly to Montana to test in windy conditions," said Tobias. "This is one of the perks—being a world traveler."

After earning an aerospace engineering degree at Virginia Tech, Tobias joined the Marine Corps and flew helicopters and F/A-18s operationally before finding himself back in St. Mary's County, flying F-18s, attending Test Pilot School (TPS) and eventually becoming a test pilot instructor. While in TPS, he also earned his master's degree from Johns Hopkins.

Thinking back to his days at St. Mary's Ryken, Tobias attributes much of his success in college and inquisitive thinking to Brother Romuald and Brother Anthony, who both helped encourage his acumen in math and science.

"I was ready for the challenges at Virginia Tech primarily because of the brothers' teaching style, which made me think more inquisitively and develop critical thought. I wanted to pick at something and learn outside of the classroom—mainly because of their approach. Brother Romuald also instilled his work ethic, and that stuck with me through deployments and through tough decisions in life."



Tobias flying a Gulfstream G500 during a marketing photo shoot near Newport, Oregon

Twins From Class of '99 Bring Family Atmosphere to Joint Dental Practice

Drs. Jenny Owens Hawkins and Denise Owens Mullinix dreamed of practicing dentistry together; early this year that dream became a reality in their home community.

How long have you been practicing separately?

Upon being accepted to the University of Maryland School of Dentistry, we had the dream of practicing together. After graduating dental school in 2008, we both worked as associates for separate general practices in Southern Maryland. After a few years of working as associates, we each purchased individual family practices with the ultimate goal of merging the practices. We practiced separately for about 10 years. (Dr. Hawkins owned Pax Dental and Dr. Mullinix owned Bayside Dental.) In 2017, we developed the initial floor plan for a new, state-of-the-art, dental facility to make our dream of practicing together a reality. In March of 2020, our practices merged into Pax Dental.

What motivated you to combine your practices?

We spent our entire lives doing things together, from school to sports to friends. We make a great team. Although we are alike in more ways than not, our differences make us stronger and well balanced.

What benefits do you anticipate by working together?

Working together will create efficiencies in our business and clinical care. By combining our two teams, we can collaborate on ideas and strategize ways to fulfill our mission of providing the highest quality care for our patients.

Does Pax Dental offer a niche in local dentistry?

Our goal is to make our patients feel like

family. From the moment someone walks through the front door to the time they leave we want them to feel comfortable and valued. This was the main objective in the design of our new facility, and from the floor plan to the décor. We wanted a truly welcoming and warm place to help ease any anxiety. We have assembled an amazing team that shares our passion and commitment to our patients. Together, we are able to provide the ultimate patient experience.

Why is it important to both of you to practice in the town where you grew up?

Having grown up in St. Mary's County we know a lot of wonderful people. Our experiences and relationships reaffirmed our desire to serve the same community that has provided so much to us. It is an honor to be able to care for their oral health.

How did your SMR education benefit your educational journey after high school?

Our parents made a lot of sacrifices to send us to Catholic school. This motivated us from a young age to work hard. The challenging curriculum at SMR prepared us for our higher education. We developed a great work ethic and time management and study skills that enabled us to ultimately achieve our Doctor of Dental Surgery degree. SMR was a vital part of our success. We look forward to sending our own children to St. Mary's Ryken to provide them with the same Catholic education and experiences with which we were blessed.



“Not only do we practice dentistry together, we also live next door to each other. Our kids are more like siblings than cousins. We enjoy spending our summers on the water and all of the other seasons wishing it was summer! Family is most important to us. Our immediate family and most of our extended family reside in St. Mary's County. We owe a special thanks to our parents, Ralph and Alice Owens. From a very young age they taught us a strong work ethic and to be thankful for what life has given us. They owned a local business, St. Mary's Lighting, and worked very hard to provide for their family. Any success that we have is a result of the foundation that they set for us.”

Jenny and Denise have two other sisters who are also SMR alums, Beth '90 and Sharon '92. Their father, Ralph Owens, is a Ryken High School grad from the Class of 1969. The sisters have a nephew, Nate Swann, who graduated in May 2020 and niece, Lexi Swann, from the class of 2015. Another nephew, Owen Tippet, is a current SMR student in the Class of 2023.

Dr. Mullinix has been married to Matt for 10 years and they have two daughters, Sammie (8) and Danielle (5).

Dr. Hawkins has been married to Mike for 12 years and they have one daughter, Reagan (8), and two sons, Jace (6) and Bryce (4).

Christina Fazio Bennett '04

Animal Keeper at Disney World's Animal Kingdom

As part of her Animal Biotechnology and Conservation degree from Delaware Valley University, Christina Fazio Bennett '04 accepted an internship at the Palm Beach Zoo in Florida. It was there that she learned that zookeeping is her passion.

"I chose to study Animal Biotechnology and Conservation specifically because it covered classes of small, medium and large animals," said Christina. "As part of our graduation requirements, we had to take on an internship, so I was thrilled with the opportunity to travel to Florida and work at the Palm Beach Zoo. I worked for the primate and carnivore team of zookeepers, and assisted the veterinarians. I originally thought I wanted to be a veterinarian, but ended up falling in love with zookeeping during the internship."

Just before graduating in 2008, she took a position at the Wildlife Learning Center, a private zoo outside of Los Angeles that focused on education using over 70 different species of animals—everything from insects to wildcats and small primates.

"I worked at the Wildlife Learning Center for five years as a zookeeper and educator. Following this position, I trained animals for studio work in Los Angeles. It was a new experience to train giraffe, zebra, ostrich, and Japanese snow macaque (a species of monkey) for their time in the spotlight."

Christina then took a break from exotic animal keeping to take care of her own children in Fort Collins, Colorado. "While there, I volunteered at the Fort Collins Museum of Discovery in the live animal section and within two years I was running the department of the live animals. They have the only live black-footed ferret display in a non-zoo because just north of this area

in the mountains is the breeding facility for the re-release of these animals into the wild."

Ultimately, Christina's dream job was to work at the Bronx Zoo or at Disney's Animal Kingdom. Both of her boys were old enough to start school, and it just so happened that the Animal Kingdom was hiring for an animal keeper—so in 2018 her family moved to Orlando, Florida!

"I am an animal keeper at the Animal Kingdom Lodge," said Christina. "We work four 10-hour shifts a week; each week we work two opening and two closing shifts. Since Disney is a 24-hour operation, there are night keepers who only work nights."

At the beginning of each shift, the animal keepers bring the animals into the barn for their individualized meals. A nutrition team makes all of the grain diets and assists with each animal's nutritional health. After the animals have their meal, they go back out on their savanna.

Christina's savanna is one of six at the lodge and houses okapi (a relative of the giraffe), red river hogs, nyala, crown cranes, waterbuck, steenbok, Abyssinian ground hornbills, impalas, cape vultures and Thomson's gazelles. Each has a house name and an ear notch for identification.

"Each of the animal keepers definitely gets very attached to these animals," said Christina. "They become your babies. Even during your days off, we get updates from each other about the status of each animal and upcoming births or medical procedures. If we lose an animal, it's always very hard on the team."

"My favorite part of the job is making a personal connection with animals that most people have never heard of or even seen and being able to share them with guests," she



Christina on the savanna in Disney's Animal Kingdom

said. "It's very fulfilling and I feel like I am really helping."

Working in a zoo or being a keeper really helps spread the conservation message, too, Christina said. When she worked in Los Angeles, she brought animals to schools so the children, many of whom had never been to a zoo, could have that experience.

"We train the animals every day for behaviors that help with routine veterinary procedures and as a way to connect with the animals, as well," she said. "You can tell that the animals differentiate us from other humans, and we earn their trust and have a really special bond with them."

Christina adds that zookeeping really is a labor of love. "A lot of people coming into zookeeping think it's all about playing with animals, but about 80 percent of our day is cleaning up after the animals and the other 20 percent is training, observations and medical procedures. It's 10 hours a day of physical labor. Also, animals don't take off on the holidays or weekends—keepers work 365 days a year. I love my job, though!"

Christina lives in Winter Garden, Florida, with her husband, James Bennett '03, and their two sons, Rosario, 7, and Maximus, 5, along with their pets—leopard geckos, a Doberman mix dog and a guinea pig.

Christina's siblings, Anthony '05 and Lizzy '12, are also St. Mary's Ryken graduates. Her mom, Dr. Terri Fazio, served on the St. Mary's Ryken Board of Directors from 2001–2010.

Lauren Finkenauer '07

Research Scientist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in Silicon Valley

Working on a one-square-mile campus with the highest concentration of individuals with Ph.D.s in the country may seem intimidating to some, but for Lauren Finkenauer '07, she is enjoying the culture of working around and with such brilliant individuals every day.

After graduation from St. Mary's Ryken, Lauren attended the University of Maryland, College Park, and earned a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering. From there, she went to a private research university, Carnegie Mellon in Pittsburgh, and earned her Ph.D. in materials science and engineering. From there, she took the big leap across the country to the San Francisco Bay Area to become a post-doctoral researcher at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

"After two years as a post-doc, I applied for a full-time position in the lab where I was working, and was hired. It's the perfect fit for me. Now I am a full-time staff scientist," said Lauren.

As a staff scientist, Lauren is a member of the Materials Science Division, where she researches the characteristics of a number of materials, including liquid metals, ceramics, polymers, etc. Much of her other work is classified and supports national security, energy security, high-energy-density science, basic science and advanced technology.

"It's very interesting work," Lauren said. "I am very fortunate to be at the lab, in this position and on a campus with one of the highest concentrations of Ph.D.s in the country. It's amazing to be surrounded by such bright people wherever I go. I thoroughly enjoy being here."



Lauren receiving her Ph.D. in materials science and engineering from Carnegie Mellon in Pittsburgh

Looking back on her high school career at St. Mary's Ryken, Lauren fondly remembers her first memories of the campus. "I recall starting at SMR and being struck by the campus. I felt a feeling of trust and independence—and it's beautiful! I came from eight years at public school, so the smaller class sizes and the teachers really impacted me. SMR is a college prep school, which really did prepare me for the next step. The staff in place at SMR at the time were such a great resource for me and really encouraged me to think beyond high school. They were a great source of guidance about how to succeed."

Once Lauren got to college she quickly realized that earning Advanced Placement credits while at SMR placed her ahead of her peers. "I started a year or more ahead in my math and science courses in college because of the APs I took in high school. I was able to study abroad and take additional research classes. I had the luxury to explore more in college because of my high school experiences and opportunities."

"I loved Mrs. Liz Schuck. I still hear her voice when I'm in the lab thinking about mixing acids and water. I enjoyed a very well-rounded education at St. Mary's Ryken."

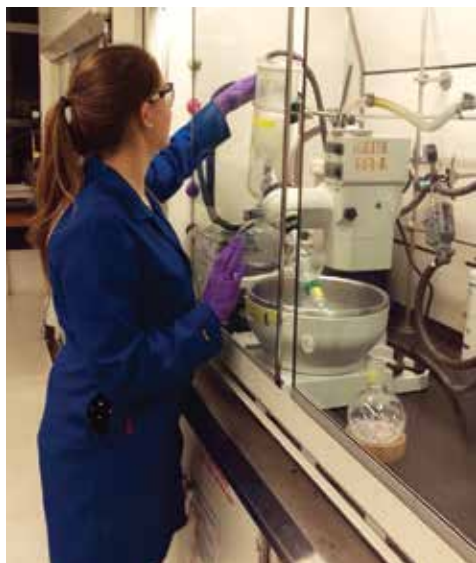


Jacquelyn next to a fallen giant sequoia tree in Yosemite National Park

Jacquelyn Blake-Hedges '09

Associate Scientist Making Protein-Based Cancer Therapeutics

When Jacquelyn Blake-Hedges first decided to study chemistry in college she didn't envision working in a lab helping to make therapies for cancer. Now, she's a successful scientist in the San Francisco Bay Area doing just that. After graduation from St. Mary's Ryken, Jacquelyn went to The College of William and Mary in Virginia to study chemistry and found that she liked lab research. From there she was inspired to go to graduate school to pursue a Ph.D. in chemistry, which she earned late last year from University of California, Berkeley. She specifically focused on biochemistry and engineering sustainable chemicals.



Jacquelyn while working in the lab

Currently, Jacquelyn is working as an associate scientist at Sutro Biopharma based in San Francisco to make protein-based cancer therapeutics. "My role is to improve the method used to make the proteins," said Jacquelyn. "I assist with making more usable proteins and optimizing all of the processes."

Jacquelyn continued: "I really enjoy the position because I get to be creative and learn something new every day about the world. It's amazing to me that we can study things so small and learn new things about them on a daily basis. In my job I enjoy being able to benefit a lot of people and hopefully save lives. I also have great colleagues."

Eventually, she sees herself moving up to a higher-level scientist role with more of a management position to oversee other scientists.

Similar to so many other alums, Jacquelyn attributes being able to take so many Advanced Placement science classes as the driving force toward a science career. "I had AP credits when I started college, which allowed me to take more of the 'fun' science classes. I knocked out a bunch of entry-level classes right away with those extra AP credits."

"I really valued the style of SMR teaching," said Jacquelyn. "For example, I learned how to write really well. Some of my peers in



Jacquelyn in a historical site outside of Oaxaca, Mexico

college were not as well trained in writing. The challenging courses also taught me discipline and prepared me well for my future schooling."

While at SMR, Jacquelyn played soccer all four years, which she attributes to preparing her immensely with the time management skills necessary for college and graduate-level education. "I also built teamwork skills, which I'm still using to this day!" she says. "A lot of my job involves working with others in teams to achieve company goals."

Ijeoma Ezeonyebuchi '09

Quality Assurance Engineer with National Public Radio



Ijeoma Ezeonyebuchi is a quality assurance engineer at National Public Radio. “Simply, quality assurance ensures quality—putting out the best product to our users,” said Ijeoma. “We act

as advocates for the user and create the best product for them by working out bugs, issues and crashes in the applications. This is accomplished by doing lots of testing in the product’s early stages.”

“My work at NPR is quite busy,” said Ijeoma. “I work to ensure that mobile apps work well and as our end user expects them to work. I work on making sure requirements from development through release are what we promised, that we are testing in the correct way, and that we release what we promised. We are consistently releasing mobile updates as well to improve the products.”

Ijeoma enjoys learning how all of the parts and pieces work together—from development to the design to the infrastructure and the entire system of the product. “A lot of the work is writing test cases and determining what our users are expecting from a product and making sure those expectations are integrated into a product. Testing is also key to making sure we account for what can go right and go wrong before a product is released.”

“I choose to work at NPR because the position involved new ways to work with technology and how tech is applied beyond what an average tech company is using it for. NPR gave me an interesting opportunity to work for a media organization using tech skills. Everyone here is very passionate about what they do. From journalists to podcasts producers—they are very motivated to bring

the best content to the users. Everyone is here because they want to be here, not because they have to be here,” said Ijeoma.

One highlight of Ijeoma’s position is the benefit of being located next to the music department and enjoying “Tiny Desk Concerts.” Different musical artists—some who are well known and some who are up and coming—visit the NPR office to perform mini concerts. “It’s a great benefit to be exposed to great music at work. I feel more well-rounded as a person because of my job at NPR. The Tiny Desk Concerts that stand out the most in my mind are Anthony Hamilton, Blue Man Group, and Corinne Bailey Rae.”

Giving back to others and presenting to the tech industry are also important to Ijeoma. After moving to the D.C. area about five years ago, she started attending Women Who Code meet-ups and eventually was encouraged to begin mentoring and providing workshops about programming to other women. This led her to host workshops to women over 18, in college, mid-career and even older about Java skills and programming. “It was as much a way to teach myself as a way to give back,” said Ijeoma. “Since I did have some experience, it was a good way to make sure I was helping others and maintaining my own skills. Through this process, I learned that I enjoy teaching and giving back to the community.”

“For the past two years as part of my position with NPR, I’ve been traveling and speaking at conferences to gain confidence and share my knowledge base on topics such as better city inclusion and quality assurance. It’s very different than meet-ups because the audiences are larger, and in one case, I was the keynote speaker. It’s a great way to share my opinions about my work in the industry and meet other leaders in

“SMR teachers were very supportive, helpful and available to answer questions. Mrs. Liz Schuck was so excited about science that she inspired me to pursue science-related courses in college. The faculty was very encouraging and helped motivate me to get where I am today.”

the tech industry. It’s interesting to learn about the tech industry from a global perspective—challenges others are facing and new developments.”

Additionally, Ijeoma says she indirectly mentors through coffee meet-ups. “I sit with young people interested in the tech or quality assurance industry and provide guidance about their resume or career path. I try to help others when I can with career advice and how to get into the quality assurance arena. It’s a great way to stay active in the tech community too. I was given a lot of help and guidance to get where I am; it’s the least I can do to give back to others in the same way.”

Ijeoma enjoys hiking, traveling, and time with family and friends, but her favorite hobby is listening to and exploring new types of music. She also has about eight years of experience playing trombone, baritone and piano. Ijeoma purchased a house last year and now lives in Crofton, Maryland.

Follow Ijeoma on Twitter for tech tips and advice: [@ijeomatests](https://twitter.com/ijeomatests) and on LinkedIn at www.linkedin.com/in/ijeomaezeonyebuchi

Dr. Cydney Smith '13

Family, Work Ethic and Faith Are Keys to Her Success

By the time Cydney Smith graduated from St. Mary's Ryken in 2013, she already knew exactly what she wanted to do with her life.

When she was a sophomore, she tore her ACL in her right knee, putting her basketball and volleyball dreams on hold. She went to a physical therapist to recover.

"I really loved my physical therapist," she said. "That was a tough time for me, and he was very helpful through my healing process. The entire process got me to think about what I wanted to do with my profession."

After high school, she earned her Bachelor of Science and Doctorate of Physical Therapy degrees from Saint Francis University in Pennsylvania. She attended Saint Francis on a basketball and academic scholarship, competing as a Division 1 athlete on both the basketball and volleyball teams. After completing her undergrad course work, and three years of graduate school, Cydney is now a licensed physical therapist with a special interest in sports medicine and women's health. She currently works at KConway Physical Therapy in Prince Frederick, Maryland.

Cydney said she's intrigued by sports medicine because she grew up around it, saw many injuries, and saw how devastating it can be to athletes. Her interest in women's health came from the lack of research in the field. "Women's health is something that just isn't talked about as much as it should be," she said. "A lot of times we treat men and women the same, even though we have different parts and slightly different anatomy. What might work for a man may not work for a woman. And because these topics might be a bit taboo, they haven't been researched in the same ways."

Her curiosity and passion for physical therapy allows her to love what she does. Her job consists of helping people through the rehabilitation process after a surgery or injury. She helps her patients get back to their prior function and helps them improve their function. She says her favorite part of being a physical therapist is "helping people get better. Helping people deal with painful injuries, they love you for it, and I love to be the person that helps facilitate that rehabilitation and that pain release for people."

While in college, Cydney struggled a little bit with her anatomy class. She used a technique that helped her study the biomechanics of the body. While she was conditioning, during preseason of basketball, she would think through the biomechanics of the way her body was moving as she was running, playing and shooting. She was using what she was learning in the classroom and applying it to real life.

Cydney attributes a significant amount of her success to her experience at St. Mary's Ryken. At first, she didn't want to come to SMR. She transferred during her sophomore year of high school. Once she acclimated, she found many reasons to love her decision. She loved the hands-on learning she received from her teachers and coaches, the smaller classes, where she felt like she could communicate with teachers more easily, and the acceptability from everyone.



"I felt like having access to those leaders is what was crucial to my success. I had that understanding of my own education. I think that was monumental in helping me transition into real life after high school."

Now excelling in her career, Cydney isn't settling with the status quo. She has set short-term and long-term goals for herself. As a new clinician, she wants to perfect her skills and make sure she has excellent patient outcomes. In five to ten years, she would love to move to an ownership role.

"I always want to make sure my patient care is first. Whether that's one-on-one with my patients right now, or if I do take that management or leadership role later on, I can show that anyone working with me or under me has that same drive to make sure that ultimately our patients know that when they come here they get better."

Family, work ethic and faith are her keys to success. "I think my faith is a major key to my success," she said. "Also, a strong work ethic has been instilled in me from birth. I also have excellent friends and so many family members around to support me. All of these mechanisms working together really set me up for success. I think my faith, my work ethic, and my family are all things that are extremely necessary in my future success, too."



While at MIT, Dakota won the best in the Operations and Power category at the American Nuclear Society Student Conference 2019 for his presentation on “Fuel Fabrication Tolerances Impact Assessment for the Low Enrichment Uranium (LEU) Conversion of the MIT Research Reactor.” (Photo courtesy of Taylor Tracey, MIT)

Dakota Allen '14

U.S. Naval Academy and Massachusetts Institute of Technology Graduate Is Training to Be a Submarine Officer.

Dakota Allen '14 graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA) in 2018 and immediately headed to graduate school at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where he graduated in May 2020 with a master's degree in nuclear science and engineering.

“I was fortunate that the Navy permitted me to attend graduate school immediately after completing the academy,” said Dakota. He was accepted into the MIT Nuclear Reactor Low Enrichment Uranium Conversion Project, and the Department of Energy completely funded his master's degree.

He became interested in nuclear fuel as an undergrad at the Naval Academy, where he performed simulations on different fuel types that can expand nuclear energy's capabilities. His research on the next-generation MIT reactor fuel fabrication is also contributing to the fuel development for high-performance research reactors.

Upon graduating from MIT, Dakota's next step is to head to Charleston, South Carolina, to complete Naval Nuclear Power School, which will prepare him to operate nuclear naval reactors on an aircraft carrier. After these 12 months of schooling, Dakota will then head out to the fleet and serve on a submarine.

“When I was at St. Mary's Ryken, some of my favorite classes were calculus and chemistry,” said Dakota. “When I got to the USNA, they didn't offer a chemical engineering degree, but they did offer a nuclear engineering program. I decided to take a chance, and I really enjoyed the study and look forward to putting what I learned into action with the Navy. It fascinates me. Nuclear power is a very helpful energy for our country, and I've enjoyed what I've learned so far through the Navy and while at MIT.”

“I choose submarines because the people are some of the best I've met in my life. I am excited to work with them for the duration of my career.”

Anna Shevchuk '18, USNA Midshipman, Experiences Local Internship Last Summer

“This experience was beneficial because I was able to get more exposure in the community of aviation, which I hope to service select someday,” said Anna Shevchuk '18. “I was placed with the unmanned unit UX-24 because I was still able to be with the squadron and participate in flight operations even though I was not at full strength due to a torn ACL injury.”

“I have not decided what I want to fly yet. I am very open to all the options the Navy has, which is a good thing because you do not necessarily get to choose exactly what you want. The good news is, I've heard that

whatever community you are placed with, you end up loving. I am very excited for my summer trainings in the coming years because I will have the opportunity to be with different squadrons and actually experience what it is like to fly. Normally in the summer time, we go on trainings in which we spend a week with each community including surface warfare, submarines, aviation and Marines. I'm looking forward to these summer programs because, even though aviation is my top choice right now, I want to see what the other communities have to offer and if I could see myself in one of those as well. Summer trainings are the best way to get exposure to the potential options and figure out what you do or do not like.”

Internship program exposes Naval Academy midshipmen to NTWL

By Donna Cipolloni, “Tester”
Reprinted with permission

Naval Test Wing Atlantic (NTWL) comprises four test and evaluation squadrons and the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School (USNTPS), and each summer, selected midshipmen from the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA) have the opportunity to spend four weeks interacting with squadron personnel.

Temporary assignment to the test wing offers midshipmen the opportunity to see, firsthand, almost every platform flown by the Navy and Marine Corps.

According to the wing's official summary statement on the internship program, while with NTWL, candidates are assigned directly to a squadron assisting in operations and

maintenance activities, which provides exposure to these critical functions, and constructive on-the-job training for the future junior officers. Interaction with flight test teams affords the midshipmen the opportunity to observe test and evaluation through all phases of the process.

“We send three groups of six midshipmen over the course of the summer, and the primary goal for this internship is to allow them to gain experience working with the various squadrons within NTWL,” said Cmdr. Michael Kauppert, internship coordinator for the aerospace engineering department at USNA. “They're able to work directly with teams of professional engineers, test pilots, and acquisition professionals while gaining exposure to the latest technology in the fields of flight simulation, material science, flight test, propulsion, electronic susceptibility, aircraft-ship integration, and unmanned aerial vehicles. They are also exposed to numerous platforms among the squadrons, which helps them make a more informed decision as they prepare for service selection in the fall of their 1/C (senior) year.”

USNA Midshipman Anna Shevchuk participated in last summer's internship program assigned to Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (UX) 24, the Navy's first Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) test and evaluation squadron, located at Webster Outlying Field.

Physically unable to fly in an aircraft due to recent knee surgery, Anna's placement within UX-24 was an optimal fit.

“The squadron said they were willing to support a midshipman, so I was fortunate to be able to come down here,” Anna said. “I've been observing and learning because



U.S. Naval Academy midshipman Anna Shevchuk stands next to the photo of an MQ-8 Fire Scout unmanned autonomous helicopter during her internship with UX-24 at Webster Field. (U.S. Navy photo by Donna Cipolloni)

I haven't been introduced to any of this before. Unmanned is becoming a huge part of warfare, so it's been interesting to see how they conduct their testing, developing and evaluating, and what kinds of capabilities the unmanned aircraft have."

Anna was able to see both sides of unmanned operations, from the bigger MQ-8 Firescout to the smaller tactical unmanned aerial vehicles.

"Midshipman Shevchuk observed and participated in critical MQ-8 and Small Tactical UAS test events that ensure the UAS being delivered to the Navy and Marine Corps flight operators will meet operational needs," explained Lt. James

Stranges, UX-24 project officer and midshipmen coordinator. "This ranged from ground testing the new MQ-8 operating system to payload flight testing of new EO/IR (electro-optical and infrared) sensors on the MQ-21 Blackjack."

With a desire to fly, Anna was happy for the opportunity to see flight from a different perspective.

"I know for sure I want to fly, but I don't know what yet," she noted. "I may not have necessarily chosen to come to an unmanned squadron if I'd been fully capable of actually flying, but it has definitely been good to see a different side of aviation. These internships give us a chance to experience a possible

career path, to see if it's something we're interested in or if we need to shift our focus to a different community. They let us experience what it's like to be working at a Navy installation rather than just being at school."

Stranges sees long-term benefits for the Navy as well.

"[UX-24] is a new squadron; we stood up in October 2018," he said. "This is an excellent program for midshipmen to participate in as it gives them insight into the latest technology that will be available to them when they arrive in the fleet. UAS is the way of the future, and the future leaders of the Navy and Marine Corps will benefit greatly from early exposure to the technology."

Jessiah Rojas '16

Theology Major and Football Coach at Ave Maria University

Jessiah Rojas '16, a graduate from Ave Maria University with the Class of 2020, earned a degree in theology, and also converted to Catholicism after high school. While at St. Mary's Ryken, he sustained a foot injury that ruined his chances of playing football at a Division I college. After the injury, he began to learn in theology class about human dignity and finding one's self-worth in God. "That really resonated with me because everything I had done up to that point had been to work toward a big Division I school, but I had lost all of that."

As Jessiah began to dive deeper into the Catholic faith, SMR theology teacher John Olon encouraged him to consider Ave Maria. Jessiah shares that, "If I hadn't come to Ave, I would have gone to a school just for football. When my injury got worse, I probably would have left." Looking back, Jessiah recognizes that his decision to come

to Ave was ultimately the best thing for him because it allowed him to complete his education while still being involved with the sport through coaching.

"I love it. Coaching is just like teaching. It's finding the best way for the individual to receive information because each person is different. If you ask my guys, I don't get on them so much if it is just a mistake; we'll talk it over and fix it. Just don't cross my non-negotiables—effort and communication—because those don't take any talent; that's just a deliberate choice."

After graduation, Jessiah is hoping to continue his work as a football coach. He points out that trust is key when it comes to discerning a vocation. "So long as you're doing your part and staying close to the Sacraments, the Lord will show you His plan when you are ready."

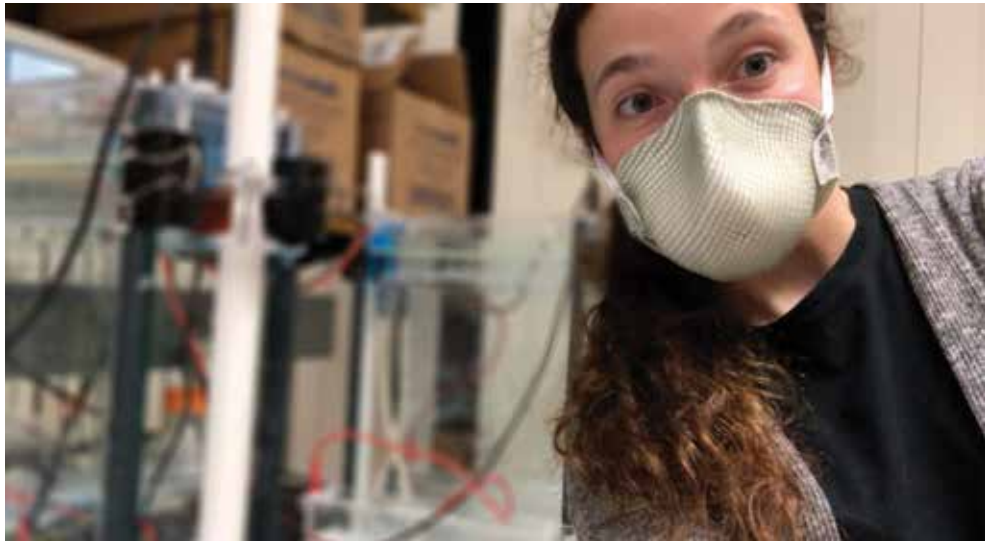


Checking In With Faith Davis '18, Rising Junior at University of Maryland, Baltimore County, in the Meyerhoff Scholars Program

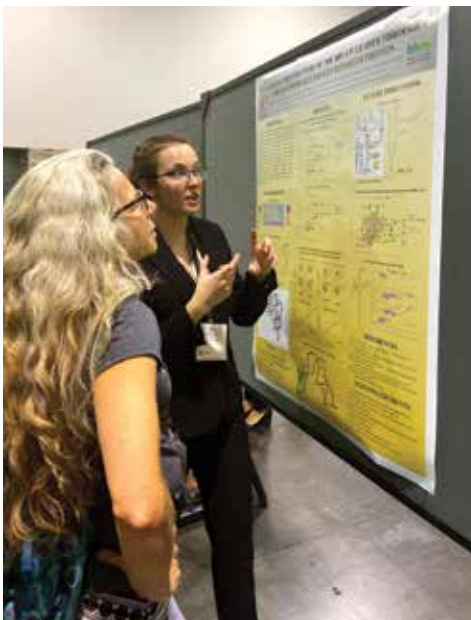
In what ways did SMR prepare you for the Meyerhoff program?

There are many ways that SMR prepared me for the Meyerhoff program, but there are two main components that come to mind immediately: culture and academics.

St. Mary's Ryken has an incredibly diverse community, so when I went to college, I found myself able to have shared cultural experiences with many of my peers that I know I never would have experienced otherwise. Additionally, SMR has a commitment to excellence that helped me feel right at home in the Meyerhoff program where the standard is ten times the norm.



Faith setting up a large-scale RNA prep after midnight on a late day in lab



Faith during a poster presentation session at ABRCMS, a national biomedical research conference, for which she won a presentation award


In terms of academics, I was able to be a teacher's assistant for two courses starting my second semester of freshman year because of my foundations in those subjects from SMR. In my sophomore year, I still find myself ahead in my courses thanks to the breadth and depth of the knowledge I gained at SMR. I also know where to go for help, am not afraid to attend office hours, and am able to teach myself thanks to the structure of many courses at SMR.

What is your goal following graduation?

Starting in the first semester of my freshman year, I have been conducting research in Dr. Michael Summers' HIV Structural Biology

Lab. I have also continued with my work as an emergency medical technician at Saint Agnes Hospital, and am beginning to shadow an infectious disease physician at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. I hope to combine these works with my social science research as a physician-scientist. Through the Meyerhoff program, I will be taking a practice MCAT this semester and will be applying to M.D.-Ph.D. programs in about one year. This will start the year after graduation and will consist of four years of medical training and three to four years of research training, before beginning a research-focused residency and then taking over my own lab in infectious disease clinical work.

Welcome to the Class of 2024!

 SMR Community Welcomes the Class of 2024. Watch video message: www.smrhs.org/admissions/learn/class2024welcome



Bridget Wunder Arnold '94, Jaden and Chris

SMR is pleased to welcome 170 students	From over 39 middle schools	Average GPA for incoming freshmen: 3.5	62 were accepted to the Scholars Program	57 merit-based scholarships were awarded
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Congratulations to the Class of 2024 Scholarship Winners!

YOU ARE INVITED TO ST. MARY'S RYKEN FOR OUR FALL OPEN HOUSE!

EXCELLENCE in ACADEMICS | STRENGTH in SPIRIT | LEADERS in the COMMUNITY

Presidential

Jaden Arnold
Emily Farrell
Tanner George
James O'Hara
Harris Smith
Luke Weilke
Elizabeth Wood

Principal

Shannon Cain
Joaquim Cariaso
James Ervin
Mackenzie Gorczyca
Joni Gordon
Beth Mancini
Marissa Pasko
Nathan Schiavoni
Matthew Seep

Leadership

Jaden Arnold
Shannon Cain
Matthew Cosgrove
Sarah Devine
Emily Farrell
Tanner George
Caroline Herdlick
Daniel Herdlick
Isabella Longmore
April Luzano
Meghan McCarthy
Mekhi Neal
Catherine Pensenstadler
Clara Pham
Reagan Pyles

Alina Sweeney
Kaylee Webb

Visual Art

Shannon Cain
Taylor Cunningham
Madeleine Goul

Dance

Sophie Hanks
Caroline Herdlick
Caitlyn Wirth
Elizabeth Wood

Instrumental

Drew Brown
Mackenzie Gorczyca
Jaxon Rhea
Luke Weilke

Vocal

Maura Schmeiser

Theatre

Hannah Rison
Samantha Rutherford

Blaine Whorl

Jaden Arnold
Sophie Hanks
Marissa VanMeter

Community Service

Mikayla Cole
Matthew Cosgrove
James Ervin
James O'Hara

Laurie Collins

Madison Brouillette
Shannon Cain
Jaxon Rhea

Tour the campus, meet our students and faculty and get to know our community.

OCTOBER 25, 2020 • 1 P.M.

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22600 Camp Calvert Road
Leonardtown, MD 20650

DISCOVER THE DIFFERENCE AT ST. MARY'S RYKEN!

Visit smrhs.org/OpenHouse to learn more.



Emily and Betsy Stabler Farrell '88

Alumni Class Notes

Class of 1952



Mary Ada Burch Candela and **Jack Candela**, both alums from St. Mary's Academy, celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary with daughters (SMA and SMR alums, MaryLee Candela Kreamer '75 and Leigh Ann Candela Keller '83) and grandchildren (SMR alums Lindsey Keller '16 and Emily Keller '12).

Class of 1956

Rick Lloyd used to work for William D. Mattingly's Studebaker dealership in Leonardtown growing up and he dreamed of owning a 1949 Studebaker Commander. He finally acquired one in 2006 and he joined the Honolulu Aloha Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America. In March 2019, the club president moved to California, so Rick took over managing the club of 96 classic car owners. "It's far more work than I envisioned, but I'm enjoying it more than I could have imagined!"



Class of 1962

Each summer, members of the Class of 1962 gather at Olive Garden for food and fellowship!



Class of 1963

Linda Hines Marshall is living in beautiful Lake Wildwood in Penn Valley, California, with husband, Greg (USNA '67). Her days are spent volunteering at Mount St. Mary's parochial school in Grass Valley, participating in the Daughters of the American Revolution, enjoying two grandsons in nearby Roseville and finding retirement very relaxing.

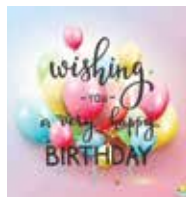


Class of 1967



William R. "Rick" Miesowitz shared the loss of his wife Paula of 38 years, after her battle with dementia and Parkinson's. "We all miss her smiles daily. Rest in peace, you are home at last!"

Class of 1968



Lauren Mattingly Roberts wants to wish the SMA Class of 1968 who are turning 70 years young this year a very Happy Birthday!

Class of 1978



Attorney **Shannon McClendon** has started an electric energy company, Demand Control 2, LLC, with co-founder Chris Hendrix formerly with Walmart (Walmart was the originator of self-supplying retail energy in the competitive markets). Demand Control 2 provides energy services and electricity to customers in competitive retail markets with an aggregate of 1 MW or more of demand.

Class of 1979



In February, **Ray Wernecke** was appointed by the governor to serve as a trustee of St. Mary's College of Maryland, the National Public Honors College. On April 1, Ray started the next phase of his career journey as a senior adviser for PSI Pax, a local small business supporting the Defense Department and our Navy. Life is good!

Class of 1985



David Delhomme is a freelance musician in Los Angeles and was a part of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (The Oscars) Orchestra, which aired Sunday, Feb. 9. He plays keyboards and guitars. He also was a part of the Grammy Awards in a finale segment bringing awareness to music in schools.



Susan Mudd Vogel was inducted into the Community Foundation of Southern Maryland Philanthropy Hall of Fame, and the Charles

County Commission for Women recognized Susan during Women's History Month in March. Susan has dedicated her life to serving others.

Class of 1986

Gretchen Heinze Hardman was promoted to Intergovernmental Affairs, Office of Governor Hogan. She serves as the Southern Maryland liaison to local elected officials and is the leader of the Southern Maryland Regional Task Force, which partners with state agencies to resolve issues affecting Southern Maryland.



Class of 1988



The 2019 Partners in Aging, Dr. Wayland Marks Gratitude Award was presented to **Margaret Bowes Kenerly**, a home health care social worker of many years in the Fredericksburg community. Margaret's professionalism and work ethic is well-respected throughout the aging community.



Tamika Langley Tremaglio was named one of the most powerful women in Washington by Washingtonian Magazine! Tamika is

the East Regional Leader for Deloitte Risk and Financial Advisory and serves as the Deloitte Office Managing Principal for the Greater Washington area. Tamika's litigation and business consulting experience spans over 20 years.

Class of 1993



Nate Buonviri published his second book in December 2019. "The Subtle Side of Teaching" points educators toward sustained energy, clear thinking and a positive outlook in the classroom. Nate is an associate professor of music education at Temple University in Philadelphia.

Class of 1994



Dr. Frederick Cox was named director of research and technology at the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Chemical Biological Center. He was also selected for promotion to the Senior Executive Service. As the center's director of research and technology, Frederick leads more than 400 government and contractor personnel in their mission to create capabilities to detect, decontaminate and protect warfighters against chemical and biological warfare agents.

Class of 2003



Eva Glaser moved from New York City to Denver and is working at the Mental Health Clinic of Denver as an early childhood mental health clinician. She is also a Presenting Denver Ambassador, teaching dance to young children.

Class of 2004

Jesse and Michelle Rinaldo Reuter welcomed their second daughter, Brooke, on July 9, 2019.



Class of 2005

Stephen and **Diana Stellway Washabaugh** welcomed their son Maddox on Oct. 6, 2019. Maddox weighed 7 lbs. 8 oz. and was 19.5 inches long.



Class of 2007



Yvonne Akporji Akukwe is a humanitarian affairs officer/senior adviser to the ambassador working closely with the United Arab Emirates ambassador to Nigeria to provide humanitarian and development aid to vulnerable communities. Yvonne married Chibu Akukwe on Sept. 24, 2016, and welcomed their first child, Zina, on April 10, 2018.

Class of 2007 (continued)

John Flowers and his wife, Jessica, met at West Virginia University where John had a great college career as a forward on the basketball team. John and Jessica graduated in 2011. The pair reconnected two years after graduation, got married, and their first baby was born on April 4—Violet Rene. They now call Morgantown home. John is known as the “WVU basketball ambassador.” He’s organized the annual WVU basketball alumni game for five straight summers and is now in his second year as general manager/player for Best Virginia, WVU’s team of alumni in The Basketball Tournament.



Lt. John Bellezza and **Lt. j.g. T.J. Munns** from the Class of 2011 take to the sky while in Patrol Squadron 30 (VP-30) flying the P-8A. Currently Lt. Bellezza is finishing up his instructor tour at VP-30 and Lt. j.g. Munns is in Patrol Squadron 16 (VP-16).



Class of 2009

Danielle Guy married her soulmate, **Joe Taylor '08** on Sept. 7 in Solomons. They live in California, Maryland. Danielle is a physical therapist and Joe is a civil engineer.



Morgan Miller married **Kevin Worcester '08** on June 29, 2019.



Class of 2010

Stephanie “Steph” Dameron, an English teacher and head softball coach at St. Mary’s Ryken, participated in this year’s Ride for Vocations. It was her third time participating in the 100-mile ride to promote vocations and support the priesthood. She was encouraged to participate by Father Larry Swink, the pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in La Plata, who knew of her background as a competitive athlete playing Division 1 softball at Radford University in Virginia. “Because of a leg injury, I couldn’t run,” Steph said. “So I got into biking because it was low impact and for a fantastic cause... (it was) something I really couldn’t say ‘no’ to.”



Lt. J.T. Gregg, USN, VFA-213 Jolly Rogers Squadron, coordinated the Super Bowl pre-game flyover of F/A-18 Super Hornets.

Bryan (St. Mary’s Ryken science teacher) and **Frances O’Hara Kerns** welcomed son **John Riley** on Sept. 15, 2019. John was born at MedStar St. Mary’s and weighed 9 lbs. 10 oz. and was 22 inches long.



Jonathan T. Luke, D.D.S., received his Doctor of Dental Surgery from the University of Maryland School of Dentistry, where he was a member of the Gamma Pi Delta Prosthodontic Honor Society. He recently completed his general practice residency at New York-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital. Jonathan has returned home to join his father’s practice. His father, Joseph T. Luke, celebrates his 30th anniversary of practice in Southern Maryland.



Class of 2012

SMR classmates from the Class of 2012 reunite for the wedding of **Ben Allen** and his wife, Amy.



Back row, from left: David Newsome, Greg Meyers, Keith Oliver, Casey Cole, Forrest Bowling, Victoria Thomson. Front row, from left: Ben Raley, Ben Allen



From left: Jacob Allen '22, Bryan Allen '16, Amy Allen, Ben Allen '12, Beth Allen, Todd Allen

Class of 2013



Patrick Geiger started a new position as a software engineer with Octo Consulting in Reston, Virginia. He is developing software on

both the client facing, front-end website and on the back-end server that supports that website for the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, which is part of the military. "It's an exciting job where I get to use modern web technologies, and I feel as though my work makes an impact."



Dr. Cydney Smith joined the KConway team in Prince Frederick, Maryland. Cydney is a licensed physical therapist and earned her Bachelor

of Science degree and Doctorate of Physical Therapy degree from Saint Francis University. During her tenure at SFU, Cydney was a Division I athlete on both the basketball and volleyball teams. See story on page 28.

Class of 2014

Emily Rose Bailey married Jacob Dean DeVos on Feb. 19, 2019, in Christ Chapel at Christendom College in Front Royal, Virginia. They greeted their first child, Andrew Joseph, on Nov. 11, 2019. Andrew is the first grandchild welcomed into both families and was baptized in Christ on Dec. 21, 2019, at St. Joseph Church in Morganza, by Father Louis Kolenkiewicz, Jacob's uncle.



Class of 2015



Andrea McCloskey graduated from St. Mary's College of Maryland in May 2019 and is an elementary school music teacher in Charles County.

Class of 2016



Audrey Dorrans graduated early from Florida State University with a dual degree in psychology and criminology and a minor

in Italian. Currently, she is studying for the LSAT and working at a revenue cycle management company as a research specialist. "It's a small company based in Florida and I recently acquired the certification for them to be recognized as a Women Owned Small Business!" said Audrey.

Sarah Papp and **Jacob Chase** were married on May 1, 2020. Sarah graduated from Christendom College and Jacob graduated from The Catholic University of America in May 2020.



Class of 2018



U.S. Naval Academy Midshipman **Anna Shevchuk** stands next to the photo of an MQ-8 Firescout unmanned

autonomous helicopter during her internship with UX-24 at Webster Field. Anna's temporary assignment to the test wing offers midshipmen the opportunity to see firsthand almost every platform flown by the Navy and Marine Corps. See story on page 30.



Friends and former teammates **Quinlan Jenkinson '18** and **Stephen Klotz '17** reunite for a college football game! Quin

attends Bloomsburg University and Stephen is at Mercyhurst University.

Support Knight-Owned Businesses

Consider these companies run by St. Mary's Ryken alumni and parents of current students for all your business needs.





Shannon K. McClendon
Attorney



Guy Financial Services



William C. Mulford II
Attorney at Law



Homecoming 2019

Homecoming Week started with a Class of 1971 reception in the new Donnie Williams Center. Members of the class, led by Donald Russell and Georgia Hurry Harvey, presented a plaque to President Rick Wood to honor the legacy of Donnie Williams. The Class of 1971 plaque lists the names of all of his classmates from Ryken High School and St. Mary's Academy and is located in the Burke Family Alumni Room in the Donnie Williams Center.



Donald Russell and Georgia Hurry Harvey present the plaque to President Rick Wood.



Members of the Class of 1971

From left, standing: Debbie Russell, Cathy Colonna, Bill Mattingly, Mike Russell, Mary Russell, Mike Mattingly, Brenda Mattingly, Anne McCoy Hayes, Linda Frederick Stahl, and Virginia Mae Anderson Pierce. From left, kneeling: Paul Colonna, Walt Hayes, Donald Russell and Georgia Hurry Harvey

2019 Reunion Celebrations



St. Mary's Academy Class of 1969



Ryken High School Class of 1969



St. Mary's Ryken Class of 1989



On Thursday, Oct. 10, SMR hosted a **Spirit Knight** at The Rex in Leonardtown. This year the band Unfinished Business, led by Larry Trader '85, entertained us! Old friends and new friends reconnected to share stories from the good ole days.

On Friday, Oct. 11, it was a beautiful day for the annual **SMR Golf Tourney** as just over 100 players took to the course! Alumni, parents and friends enjoyed a great day of golf at the Breton Bay Country Club. Our big winners were Michael Lusby P '21 and Maria Icaza. Following the golf outing, members of the SMR community gathered at the school in the Donnie Williams Center for a tailgate before the SMR football game.



Members of the Class of 1967 have joined the tournament three years in a row!



From left: Joanna Hosea P '21, Paula Wood P '16, '19, '22, Maria Icaza P '21, and Marsha Wentworth P '16, '18



Trae Brinsfield P '17, '21, left, heckles Doug Hosea P '21



Mary Whorl '00, President Rick Wood, LEEANNE Carr, scholarship recipients Claire Neace '20 and Jasmine Caniban, and Judy Carr

Homecoming Week celebrations ended with the annual **Blaine Whorl 5K Family Run** to raise money for the Blaine Whorl '02 Scholarship Fund. It was a memorable event for family, alumni and friends to gather and support the scholarship fund. This year marked the end of the annual run, so it was a bittersweet day for the family and our school community. Over the years, this event has raised over \$100,000 in Blaine's memory, and the scholarship it created has touched dozens of lives with the students who received it.

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facebook.com/StMarysRykenAlumni

 SMR High School page:
facebook.com/SMRKnights

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 @stmarysryken



Members of the Class of 1994 at the alumni tailgate held at the Donnie Williams Center



St. Mary's Ryken Class of 2009

In Loving Memory

Book of Intentions

Throughout the year during daily Mass, we remember the family and friends of our community who have passed away. To submit a loved one's name into our Book of Intentions, please complete the online form at www.smrhs.org/campusministry/prayer-request or contact the Development Department at 301-373-4162.

5/13/19	Mr. John B. Norris Jr. '61 (P '88, '91, '95, alumni spouse)	1/10/20	Mr. Joseph F. "Freddie" Hancock Sr. (P '76, '81, '82 '85, GP '05, '11, alumna spouse)
6/18/19	Mrs. Therese Owens Henderson '52	1/11/20	Mr. Frederick O. Troger (alumna spouse)
6/21/19	Ms. Sylvia "Jean" Alvey '57	1/22/20	Mr. Joseph "Alfred" Dillow III '42 (P '72, '76)
6/22/19	The Rev. Robert Schindler '47	1/22/20	Mrs. Linda B. Weigel (P '99, '02, '05)
6/29/19	Mrs. Jane Mathilda Samadi (P '77, '79, '80)	1/30/20	Mr. Carl P. Guy '66 (P '93, '95)
7/9/19	Mr. Craig Anderson (P '18)	2/4/20	Mrs. Brenda R. Raley Thompson '65
7/20/19	Mr. Michael G. Ransom (P '20, SMR coach)	2/7/20	Mrs. Anita Battenfield Meridith Nelson '63
7/29/19	Mrs. Lucille Sivak (P '71, '74, '76 '77, '80)	2/9/20	Mr. Edmund Wettengel Jr. (GP '11, '15, '16, '19)
7/30/19	Mr. Thomas J. Buckler Jr. (former SMR coach)	2/12/20	Mr. Jamie S. Hayden '88
8/1/19	Mrs. Mary L. Reeder (P '89, '99)	2/15/20	Mrs. Dorothy V. "Vicki" Kucher Hayden '64 (P '88, '90, alumni spouse)
8/30/19	Mrs. Sally M. Wise (P '16, '23)	3/21/20	Dr. William J. Donhiser '75
9/22/19	Mrs. Judith Bowling (P '82, '88)	3/30/20	Mrs. Patricia Anderson-Phillips (GP '23)
10/6/19	Mr. John Re (former employee)	3/31/20	Mr. John A. Cardello (P '86, '90 '93)
10/6/19	Sister Mary M. Thompson, VHM '51	4/4/20	Mr. Francis M. Greenwell '55
10/9/19	Mrs. B. Virginia Davis Huff '60	4/11/20	Mrs. H. Patricia Downs Troger '53
10/20/19	Mrs. Page Bogard (GP '23)	4/14/20	Mr. Henry F. Szewczyk (GP '10, '12, '15)
11/14/19	Mr. Erik Bush (P '23)	4/15/20	Mrs. Margaret Anne "Maggie" Meredith (GP '01)
11/19/19	Mr. Michael O. Emerson (P '80, '83, '84, '86, '88, '92, '95)	5/9/20	Mr. Patrick Sean Murphy (brother of Kevin '91 and Matt '00)
12/11/19	Mr. Stanley A. Moroz (P '88, '92, '95, GP '17, '18, '21, '23)	5/14/20	Mr. John Thomas Barolet '70
12/12/19	Mrs. Patricia A. Shorter Graves '50	5/15/20	Mr. Bernard E. Guy Sr. '58
2020	Ms. Mary J. Eastham (GP '92) (exact date unknown)	5/22/20	Mr. Robert Joseph Farrell Jr. (GP '19, '24)
1/4/20	Mrs. Loretta Beavan Norris '41 (P '60, '61, '65, '69, GP '79, '88, '91, '95)		

P = parent of alum GP = grandparent of alum

OUR XAVERIAN VALUES:

HUMILITY | TRUST | ZEAL | COMPASSION | SIMPLICITY

Finding Space in Your Heart

The year 2020 has been a challenge, but in darkness, there is light and a reawakening. The Knighthood has proven that we are stronger together. Our community has come together to provide cleaning supplies to our first responders and food for those less fortunate. We have come together in prayer for each other and those around the world affected by COVID-19. We have witnessed selflessness in our students, faculty, staff, alumni and our neighbors. Acts of kindness will always outweigh monetary importance, but during these difficult times, sometimes you just need to ask, can you help?

The St. Mary's Ryken Board of Directors has served the school extraordinarily well towards a sustainable future by adopting sound, ethical, and legal governance and financial management policies, as well as by making sure the school has adequate resources to advance our mission. As much as we plan for tough times, we are currently in uncharted waters. If you are in a financial position to make a gift to the Knight Fund, we promise to be good stewards of your investment in our school community. Your gift today will help SMR families financially impacted by this pandemic who are struggling to afford an SMR education.

Every gift will make a difference!



Scholarship Luncheon

Every year the donors who have established scholarships at St. Mary's Ryken—whether individuals, families, alumni, businesses or churches—are invited to campus to meet the students who are benefiting from their generosity. More than 200 donors and students annually fill the gymnasium for a meal and conversation. Donors hear about the hopes and dreams of the students impacted by their gifts; students learn the stories of their scholarships' namesakes and have the opportunity to thank their donors in person.



Todd Morgan with Abigail Hupp, Naima Ndeh, Mykayla Hayden '20 and Madison DeVane '20



Top: Joe Trent '86 is pictured with Jack DeLucco, Peyton Dziekiewicz, and Zaire Carter. Seated: Judy Combs P '84, '85, '86, '87, '91 is with her scholarship recipient, Jacob Richardson '20.

Grandparents Day

New this year, the grandparents of our freshman class celebrated Mass with the school community, were treated to private tours of the campus, including the new Donnie Williams Center, by their grandchildren, and then enjoyed a luncheon with their grandchildren.



Naima Ndeh and her mother, Shila Nkah, were surprised to have her mother's parents Margaret and Martin Nkah, who traveled from Cameroon in West Africa!



Nick Kovich with his grandparents, John Kovich and Mary Louise Bassford



Kolby Hayden with his grandparents Al '61 and Kay Guy '63 Hayden

#GivingKnights

We asked you to join the Knighthood and you responded, **YES!** Thank you to our alumni, parents, faculty and staff for showing your Knight Pride and donating to #GivingKnights on #GivingTuesday.

As tradition on Giving Tuesday, our students participated with a coin war, raising money for Xaverian Brothers missions and various acts of kindness in our community. Some of these included delivering treats to the Emergency Services Department (and then receiving a tour with alumnus Jay Mattingly '99, who is the director of Emergency Services), reading to local elementary school students, and writing notes of gratitude to parents and teachers.

Xaverian Society Reception

The **Xaverian Society Reception** on Feb. 19 was a night of gratitude to celebrate friends and benefactors who are committed to St. Mary's Ryken. Over the years, their steadfast generosity has made it possible for SMR to provide the highest quality of education for our students. The entire SMR community is grateful for their vision, leadership and dedicated service to our students, faculty and staff, and all the lives they have touched.



The girls basketball team visited Mother Catherine Academy to read to students.



Ernie '59 and Anne Drury '62 Bell, P '95, '90, '88, '85, GP '15, '16, '16, '21



Loretta "Tiny" Taylor (SMA '42), Robert Taylor (RHS '68) and Glen Ives P '04, '05, '06

SAVE THE DATE
for
**GIVING
TUESDAY**
on
Dec. 01



St. Mary's Ryken

A College Preparatory Catholic High School

22600 Camp Calvert Road
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A CATHOLIC SCHOOL IN THE XAVERIAN BROTHERS TRADITION

Upcoming Events in 2020-21* Please join us!

Golden Gathering

Sept. 27

Freshman Grandparents Day

Oct. 15

Open House for Prospective Families

Oct. 25 at 1 p.m.

Fall Band Concert

Oct. 29

Founder's Week

Nov. 30-Dec. 6

Giving Tuesday

Dec. 1

Fine Arts Festival—Instrumental

Dec. 4

Fine Arts Festival— Chorus and Dance

Dec. 11

Deadline to Make an Annual Fund End of Year Gift!

Dec. 31

Talent Show

Feb. 19

Orchestra & Chorus Concert

Feb. 27

Summer Knights Camp Registration Opens

March 1, 2021

Knight Gala

March 20, 2021

Fine Arts Festival— Instrumental

April 23, 2021

Fine Arts Festival— Chorus and Dance

April 30, 2021

Graduation for the Class of 2021

and Diamond, Gold and Silver
Ceremony for the classes of
1946, 1971 and 1996
June 1, 2021

SAVE THE DATE!

SMR Players 2020-21 Season

"Little Women" Musical

Nov. 12-15

"A Piece of My Heart" Play

Jan. 28-30 *New Winter Show!*

"The Music Man" Musical

April 15-18

HOMECOMING 2020

Sept. 27-Oct. 3

SMR Golf Classic

Friday, Oct. 2

Breton Bay Golf & Country Club

2020-21 Reunions

If your class year ends in "5" or "0",
please contact us if you are planning a
class reunion at advancement@smrhs.org.

Homecoming Game & Alumni Tailgating

Friday, Oct. 2

Knights vs. DeMatha Catholic High School

Join us before the game for alumni tailgating
in the Donnie Williams Center.

* Because it is uncertain how/if large groups will be permitted to gather, please check the SMR web site for updates prior to each scheduled event. Thank you for understanding.

OUR XAVERIAN VALUES: **HUMILITY** | **TRUST** | **ZEAL** | **COMPASSION** | **SIMPLICITY**