40th Anniversary

Connections

A MAGAZINE FOR THE ST. MARY'S RYKEN COMMUNITY

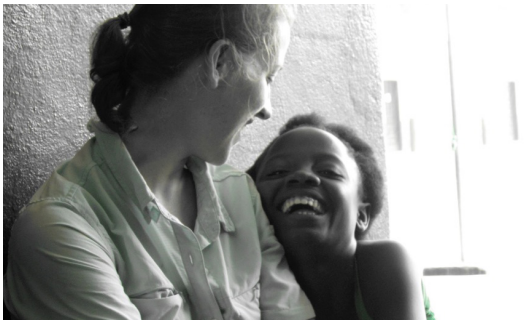
A CATHOLIC SCHOOL IN THE XAVERIAN BROTHERS TRADITION



KNIGHTS ARE MAKING A WORLDWIDE IMPACT.

2021 » IN THIS ISSUE:







30 | Alanna Daley '16, a True Servant Leader in Los Angeles

32 | Alumni Missionary is Called to Serve

35 | Globetrotting With Tim Moore (RHS '77)



Dear Alumni and Friends,

People. Community. Faith. A hero's journey…

In comparative mythology, a hero's journey is a common template for a story that involves a person who goes on an adventure, is victorious in a decisive crisis and comes home changed or transformed.

Our faculty, staff, administration, students and parents were all called to rethink the ordinary world of "school" and embrace the call for adventure in preparation for the 2020–21 school year. During this journey, our SMR community put into practice everything we have learned to overcome new obstacles. We were all tested and found many allies during this journey. A major ally was you, as a supporter, a donor, a prayer partner. Your gifts and talents helped provide new technology tools, protective equipment and scholarships to add to our quiver, which enabled us to open in August and stay open all year long. There are few high schools in the state that can boast about the consistency of delivering academic, athletic, fine arts and faith programs in the way that SMR accomplished during this pandemic. You are a member of this group of heroes because of your unending support and belief in our school and our journey.

The true beauty of this year shone through our faculty as they embarked on their own hero's journey while encouraging a crowd of young adults to follow them. Their journey was about sharing living gifts and healing discomforts. They have retrieved the treasures that exist within each of us — strength, love, wisdom, meaning and purpose — that we have to offer the world. Our teachers, with their belief in Christ, have helped each of our students come to this light. Transformed by a hero's journey individually and collectively, we have learned that hurt and happiness can coexist and create a world of love, compassion and empathy.

This pandemic has changed our world, the period of ordinary was transformed into crisis and we were all challenged to become a better version of ourselves and what we value. Our strength in our faith, our love for our brothers and sisters in Christ and the beauty of this world is our reward as return from the many adversities that were presented during this last school year.

As we look forward to the next school year and welcoming back our students in a more "normal" setting, we will be a stronger community because of our triumphs, because of our challenges and because of your support. I am so proud to be a member of this St. Mary's Ryken community where every day is truly a *Great Day to Be a Knight!*

God bless you and your loved ones,



Dr. Rick Wood
President and CEO

CONNECTIONS MAGAZINE 2021

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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Cover photos, L–R: Alanna Daley '16 was a servant leader to the Los Angeles community / Amy Spelz Travis '98 at an orphanage and school in Liberia / Tim Moore (RHS '77) with classmate and colleague Roman Pausch in Australia in 2018

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Brother Cornelius E. Hubbuch, CFX, principal, Ryken High School (1969–76), reflects on his time at RHS. See page 24.



Students benefited from in-person learning starting in August 2020.



Robyn Strauss ’21 with her parents Graham and Maureen during the Class of 2021 sign delivery day.

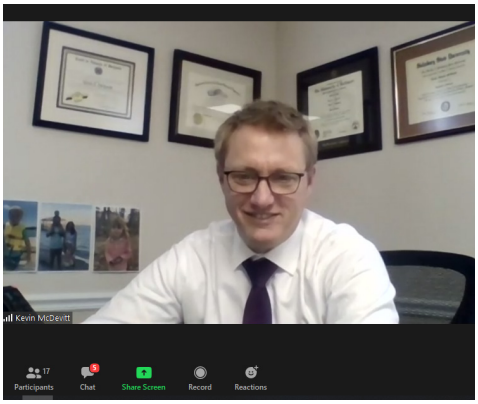
Students and Faculty Persevered Through an Extraordinary School Year

In August 2020, St. Mary's Ryken welcomed students for the new school year utilizing a hybrid learning model. Students attended in person two days a week and attended virtually two days a week. By March 2021, students began learning in person four days a week, and by April, they were on campus five days a week. A fully virtual learning option was available all school year as well.

"Early on in the school year, we were blessed to receive new technology called Acendo Vibe," said Principal Catherine Bowes. "The speaker, microphone and camera 3-in-1 unit enabled SMR faculty members to engage remote learners more effectively in real time. Faculty utilized the wide-angle camera to hold class discussions with all in-person and remote students simultaneously. This helped create a more student-centric learning experience and build classroom culture. This meant that our students learning remotely participated in classroom discussions, could see and hear lectures, and ask questions in real time. Acendo was a game-changer for us and became one of the main tools to help students and faculty better engage with each other remotely."

From September through March, Enrichment Fridays offered students and parents opportunities to stay engaged with their peers and SMR administrators through events such as Coffee With the President & Principal, an Internship Speaker Series, in-person service-learning opportunities and meet-ups with clubs and honor societies.

Many alumni supported the Internship Speaker Series including Al Gough '85



Kevin McDevitt '93 presented during the Internship Speaker Series on Zoom from his law office in Leonardtown, Md.

"At the beginning of the year, I was still able to go on campus two days a week, which allowed me to develop friendships even without having a normal start to the school year," said rising sophomore Hannah Rison. "The teachers were very helpful with the at-home learning situation, and I learned a lot about independence. Now that we are back to school on a normal schedule, I have met new people in my classes and had the opportunity to make new friends in the middle of the school year too. I have been able to work on projects with groups, which is something I didn't do as much as a hybrid student. I am very grateful that I have had the opportunity to be a student at St. Mary's Ryken and have been able to attend school in person. I have made a lot of new friends, done well in my academics, and I am so happy that this will be where I attend high school for the next three years."



For virtual service-learning, students created cards for residents of local nursing homes who couldn't have visitors during COVID-19 restrictions.

who discussed his career in the movie and television industry, Kevin McDevitt '93 who presented about his journey to becoming a criminal defense attorney and John "Pat" Brennan '09 who discussed his lacrosse career at West Point, years in the Army and new start-up business, ReSupply (see page 34).

Campus Ministry events continued to provide spiritual programs to enrich the school community, including in-person and virtual service-learning opportunities, spiritual direction, adoration in the Chapel during Lent, grade-level retreats and monthly schoolwide Masses.

Fine arts performances continued with slight alterations to the norm. Students and faculty members were very resourceful and found unique workarounds to produce two plays, two musicals, a spring festival and a concert cafe outdoors!



The Spring Fine Arts Festival was performed in the stadium to allow for social distancing.

"Guests were able to attend in person, socially distanced, and with enhanced sound equipment. The experience was just as awe-inspiring as customary by the St. Mary's Ryken Players," said Tessa Silvestro, SMR theatre director.

Due to COVID restrictions, the athletics seasons started in an odd order but still kept student-athletes busy. Winter sports started first with practices and games beginning in December, followed by fall sports in February and spring competitions in April.

Student-athletes traveling to away games didn't miss a beat while class was still in session. The newly installed Kajeet Smart-Bus, a school bus Wi-Fi solution, allowed students to complete online assignments and attend class virtually while traveling to away games.

Events to celebrate the accomplishments of the Class of 2021 were highlights of the year. In December, seniors gathered to celebrate Christmas with a tree-decorating event. By March, they were able to attend the first football game of the season followed by a bonfire on campus. In April, they "chalked their parking spot," received a special delivery at home including a Class of 2021 yard sign, and enjoyed the Senior Gala at the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department Social Hall. Their last month was topped off with a senior college assembly, baccalaureate Mass and commencement ceremony, all held on campus.



Engineering students test their projects using the wind tunnel in the MIL STEM Innovation Lab.

With great excitement, St. Mary's Ryken will welcome students for the 2021–22 school year with five-days-a-week, in-person learning on Tuesday, Aug. 24! A virtual option will be available too.



Opening night of "The Importance of Being Earnest" in the fall of 2020



Student-athletes were still able to practice and compete, although sometimes out of their normal season.

Highlights of the 2020–21 School Year



Julia Baddour '21 and Luke Getson '21 stand in front of the Christmas tree decorated by their class.

For the second year in a row, students participated in the Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Celebration hosted by the St. Mary's College of Maryland. This year, the SMR campus was a drop-off site for nonperishable foods and gently worn clothing items, and students contributed pre-recorded performances of the national anthem and dances.

Sophia Sherman performed at the Maryland Music Educators Association Fall 2020 Solo and Ensemble Festival. She earned a score of 1 (superior rating) for her vocal and instrumental performances. She plays the clarinet and piano and sings in the alto vocal range.



SMR Introduces "Households" to Students to Encourage Connections Among Grades.

See page 18.

The Caritas Resource Center, located on the St. Mary's Ryken campus, **assisted over 100 local families** who were moving from homelessness to housing.

See page 16.



The highest award in Xaverian Brothers' Schools was presented to Mrs. Kim Norris.

See page 08.

About 45 local families were surprised by Christmas gifts from the SMR community during the annual Santa Knights event.



A Hudl camera was installed in the Donnie Williams Center Performance Court to live stream basketball and volleyball games.





Josh Nguyen and Peter Schumacher were named **National Merit Commended Students.**

A BIG Knight shout-out to sophomore Henry Meiser! Henry is the state environmental affairs coordinator for the Maryland Association of Student Councils. He recently led the development and coordination of the Climate Solutions Now Summit, which was focused on Maryland House Bill 583 and Senate Bill 414, the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021. Henry served as a moderator of the summit, which was held in March.





Congratulations to Archdiocese of Washington Teachers of the Year—

Mrs. Wood and Mr. Liberg!

See page 07.







We are proud to announce that all three of the nominees for the 2021 Tomorrow's Woman Award from the St. Mary's County Commission for Women are St. Mary's Ryken Knights. This award honors an extraordinary young woman who has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to community service.

Emily Litten '21 was selected as Tomorrow's Woman!

Ninth graders participated in a hybrid virtual engineering lab in partnership with the Washington, D.C. nonprofit Engineering Tomorrow. Each student received a kit, pre-packaged and filled with lab materials and supplies. Students learned some of the intricacies of bridges—their uses, their limitations, their cost—and then began building their own models using the supplies they were given. Students stayed socially distanced but were able to have a hands-on lab learning experience.



The Class of 2025

registered for the 2021–22 school year!

See page 45.



Evan Greer with his parents, Derek '99 and Linda '99



SMR earned the College Board AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award for expanding young women's access to AP Computer Science Principles for the 2019–20 school year.





Harrison Rivers with his mom, Stephanie.

Selam Taylor with her mom, Shannon Rowland P '14, '16, '18, '19



CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE 167 SENIORS IN THE CLASS OF 2021!

Your faith, determination and commitment to excellence are applauded.
Go forth and live the Xaverian values of Compassion, Humility, Simplicity, Trust and Zeal!

40th Anniversary

#SMRClass2021

Clayton Allen
Michael Anderson
Thomas Annulis
Rebecca Arnold
Cristian Aviles
Julia Baddour
Gavin Barford
Zoe Beardsley
Andrew Beckman
Connor Bell
Gregory Belvin
Julia Belvin
Karsyn Bennett
Colleen Bergmann
Jasmine Bohnhoff
Alecia Bonefont
Allison Boothe
Jamaree Bowman
Brent Bradford
Sandra Bradley
Blake Brinsfield
Rachel Broughton
Ariana Bubb
Matthew Buckler
Jestin Butler
Matthew Caldwell
Jasmine Marie Caniban
Laci Cardova
Sydney Chamberlain
Hannah Collier
William Coughlon

Layla Cozart-Amos
Katherine Craig
Ian Craven
Lindsay Daczkowsk
Tucker Davila
Adanya Day
Madison Dean
Sophia Dean
Alexander Deese
Crescila Eva Deleon
James Devine
Patrick Devine
Reece Dickie
Gavin Dobson
Fei Du
Peyton Dziekiewicz
Imani Eubanks
Gianna Facchina
Natalie Fajerski
Dajah Farmer
Oluwatomisin Fatoki
Caitlin Flatley
Taylor-Rene Flemmings
Kylie Flerlage
Lila Flores
Gary Ford
Elissa Freeman
Nikia Friday
Naomi Fuller
Emily Gardiner
Luke Getson

Aliya Gimatdinova
Kayla Gormley
John Gott
Molly Guy
Erin Hall
John Hardman
Matthew Harrer
Jesse Harris
Michael Hayden
Mykayla Hayden
Robert Heisler
Emilie Hickey
Robert Hicks
Dwuane Holland
Jaeden Hosea
Jared Hutson
Chinwendu Irondi
Ann Irvin
Derrick Jacobs
Aaron Jasper
Tyriel Jefferson
Carsyn Jones

Shauna Kearney
Hoerim Kim
Katelyn Kovach
Karmen Krechman
Nikita Kuzminov
Meghan LeSage
Malaika Lewis
Ertan Li
Kuidong Li
Emily Litten
Yu Liu
Vladan Malavrazic
Jeremiah Martin
Nicholas Matthews
Jane Mattingly
Michael Mattingly
Caili McCarthy
Connor McGibbon
Lailah Merai
Blake Meyer
Brin Moore
Aidan Morris

Ashley Mudd
Katherine Murphy
Gianna Nazzaro
Joshua Nguyen
Jisu Noh
Trevor Nored
Daniel Nwadike
Tomilola Oladipo
Daniel Ollom
Brooklyn Paton
Anthony Pavan
Anthony Pensenstadler
Maelia Perham
Daniel Pesetsky
Drew Pettis
Hannah Phillips
Ava Pierpont
Trinity Plemons
Devin Posey
Leah Prince
Raquel Rawlins
Jaida Rhea
Tyler Richards
Thomas Roberts
Darlene Salvador
Rebecca Schindler
Peter Schumacher
Maria Schwartz
Sage Scott
Luke Seep
Dennis Sepede

Raychel Shields
Abigail Simmons
Daymone Simmons
Dayvone Simmons
Jailah Simpson
Megan Skane
Jack Smith
Rebecca Smith
Daphne Spencer
Matthew Sterbenz
Ethan Strain
Robyn Strauss
Anastasia Stump
Reagan Sutton
Caroline Tedford
Molly Thompson
Tyler Tran
Emily Trossbach
Macy Van Meter
Owen Vandergriff
Cameron Viator
Clara Watkins
Hannah Wetherald
Dezmond Williams
Banks Wills
Hannah Wilson
Christian Wirth
Charles Woolridge
Nicholas Worch
Hojung Yu

Congratulations to Archdiocese of Washington Teachers of the Year

Veteran Teacher of the Year

Terry Wood | *Spanish teacher, media specialist and EdTech systems administrator*



Terry Wood was selected as the St. Mary's Ryken High School 2020 Veteran Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Wood received her bachelor's degree in Spanish from St. Mary's College of Maryland and a master's degree in Educational Technology Leadership from George Washington University. She is in her 20th year as a member of the St. Mary's Ryken community, where she wears many hats including Spanish teacher, media specialist and EdTech systems administrator.

Mrs. Wood is well respected in the St. Mary's Ryken community by faculty, staff and students alike. Dean of Academics Brad Chamberlain says, "There has never been a time when I reached out to Mrs. Wood for help and she was not ready, willing and able to assist. She is a consummate team player and an asset to any teacher or student she works with."

Likewise, Dr. Catherine Bowes, principal, says, "Mrs. Wood has been instrumental in supporting her colleagues by becoming educated about new technologies needed for learning during the pandemic. She is a great example of a servant leader. She uses her intellect and knowledge to support our shared mission. She does this with humor, grace and thoughtfulness. The care she gives to our adults she also gives to the students in her charge."

In the classroom, Mrs. Wood incorporates storytelling through Comprehensible Input and engages students in a variety of ways. Class of 2024 member Emily Farrell stated, "Mrs. Wood is lively and enthusiastic while teaching us Spanish. She truly wants us to have a love for learning. Not only does she make learning enjoyable, she makes sure every one of her students understands the material and helps us if we need it."

When asked about working in a Catholic school, Mrs. Wood said, "We are brought together through so many different blessings to form a unique and wonderful family of belief, one that truly cares about each other."

"Mrs. Wood is a true gift to St. Mary's Ryken," said Crystal Dunkin, dean of faculty and student development. "She is always available to help, day or night. Her calm, steady leadership and dynamic classroom instruction is unparalleled. It is such an honor to work alongside Mrs. Wood. She truly lives the mission and vision of St. Mary's Ryken."

Novice Teacher of the Year

Leif Liberg | *History teacher*



Leif Liberg was selected as the St. Mary's Ryken High School 2020 Novice Teacher of the Year. Mr. Liberg, a history teacher at St. Mary's Ryken, embodies faithful service, excellence, best practices and innovations in Catholic secondary school teaching. Mr. Liberg has been at St. Mary's Ryken since the fall of 2018. He received a Bachelor of Arts in history from Penn State University and a master's degree in education from Gwynedd Mercy College.

Mr. Liberg has received many awards and accolades reflective of his commitment to excellence, including the VFW Department of Maryland District 1 High School Teacher of the Year, VFW Post #2632 High School Teacher of the Year, and being selected twice as one of eight teachers nationwide for the National History Day's Understanding Sacrifice program. His research was published by the American Battle Monuments Commission.

Abigail Simmons '21 said, "Mr. Liberg is truly an amazing teacher. He is always animated and has a way of keeping the class engaged at all times."

"Mr. Liberg has been a special teacher since the moment he came to our campus," Mr. Chamberlain said. "He is student-centered, friendly, and the very epitome of what a professional educator should look like. He works diligently with his students and treats each of them as an individual deserving of respect, which, in turn, is why he is so respected and admired by his students. He is an expert in his craft and a role model to all of us about staying engaged in your content and continuing to learn and take risks throughout your career."

In addition to excellence in teaching, Mr. Liberg's faithful service and commitment to Catholic secondary school teaching is evident in all that he does. He said his favorite part of working in a Catholic school is "the fact that prayer is central to what we do, not an afterthought. We also get to come together as a school community to celebrate Mass and hear from a variety of talented priests."

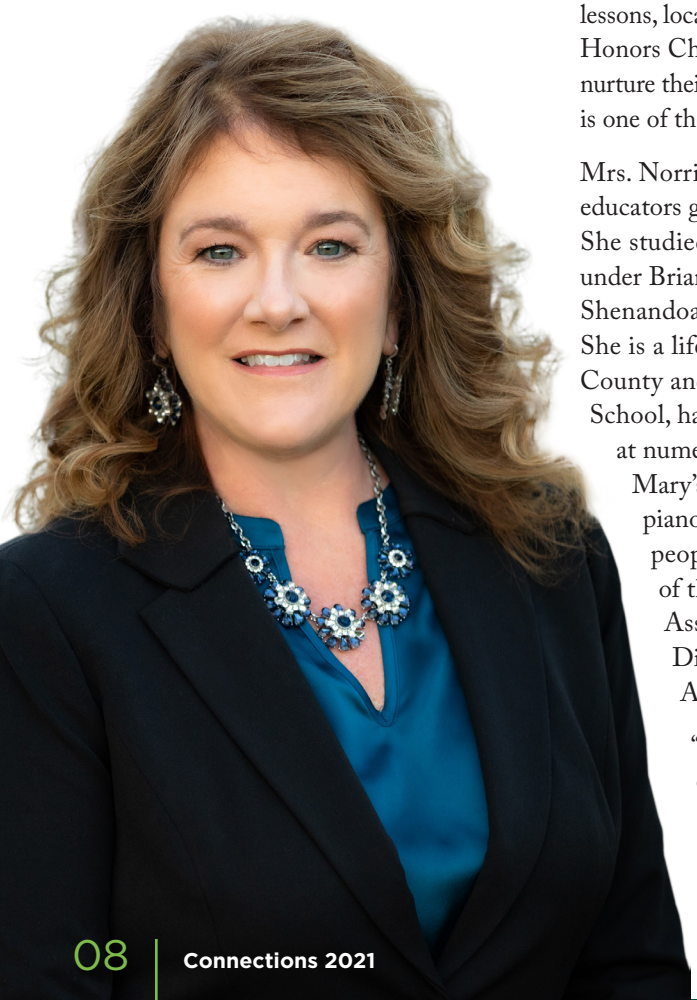
"Mr. Liberg is a beloved teacher, mentor and life coach," said Principal Bowes. "He grows each child in his care with kindness, high expectations for engagement and learning. He models Christ in his care for the individual, championing the rights for those in need. Children love being in his class for his engaging way of teaching history—especially World War II—and his way of making each of them feel treasured."

Xaverian Award Presented to Mrs. Norris

Kim Norris, choir teacher and Fine Arts Department chair at St. Mary's Ryken, was presented with the prestigious Theodore James Ryken Award during a schoolwide virtual liturgy to celebrate the Feast of St. Francis Xavier. This 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.



"I am so humbled today to be standing here and receiving the Theodore James Ryken Award," Mrs. Norris said during the ceremony. "No other award would mean so much to me. I am so grateful for every day that I get to work with these amazing students, faculty and staff. The level of fulfillment that I get from seeing them succeed cannot be measured. The level of fulfillment I get from creating beautiful music and memories with these students cannot be measured. I have watched and worked with many of these students from a very young age, either through private piano lessons, local youth choirs or the SMR Youth Honors Chorus. To watch them and help nurture their love of music and service to God is one of the greatest things I can witness."

Mrs. Norris had many influential music educators growing up for singing and piano. She studied piano at St. Mary's College under Brian Ganz and choral directing at Shenandoah University Conservatory. She is a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County and has taught at St. Michael's School, has been a pianist and organist at numerous Catholic churches in St. Mary's County, and has taught private piano lessons to hundreds of young people. Mrs. Norris is a member of the Maryland Music Educators Association, American Choral Directors Association and National Association for Music Education.

"Mrs. Norris has been a member of the SMR community for 10 years, where her leadership, commitment to students and dedication to education is apparent," said SMR President Rick Wood. "At SMR, Mrs. Norris created the Youth Honors Chorus, Concert Cafes, the SMR Show Choir and the Knight-n-Gales (an elite women's choir). She has 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 has produced professional DVD videos and CD recordings of these groups that were distributed to our larger community. She constantly is looking for ways to showcase students' talents through community performances and state and regional competitions. Her preparation of the students for school Masses transforms the faith experience for our school community. Organizing bi-yearly trips to New York and Disney World expands the fine arts experience that our students will have and creates lifelong memories. She has redesigned and refined concerts, productions and performances to ensure they are high quality and professional."

SMR Principal Catherine Bowes says, "Mrs. Norris' gift to her students and colleagues is her expertise in choral music delivered with her equal trust in God and the innate goodness of each of us. This makes her a powerful Catholic educator. She assures that each child in her care meets their full potential. She goes beyond what is usual when in a child's best interest. I can't imagine a more consummate Catholic educator and leader of our impressive fine arts programs."

James Parker, dean of Student Life, said, "The love Mrs. Norris has for her students is admirable. Kim cares about the musician

in her students but more about their humanity. There are many instances when she cannot speak about her students without tearing up. That love extends to her colleagues as well. On my first day at SMR I walked into the basement of Romuald (Hall) and was met with a big smile and open arms. Kim has always been an advocate for what is best for our fine arts faculty and students. I am proud to call Kim a colleague but even more proud to call her friend."

"What a teacher is, is more important than what she teaches," said Dr. Wood. "Through the years, I have witnessed Mrs. Norris embody the values of an XBSS teacher. The TRUST that her administrators and colleagues have in her departmental leadership, the HUMILITY in her accomplishments, 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 the language of music and faith life makes Kim an epitome of a Xaverian teacher."

LEED Gold Certification Award

St. Mary's Ryken earns a green building design award for its recently completed Donnie Williams Center.

According to the U.S. Green Building Council, LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is the most widely used green building rating system in the world. Available for virtually all building types, LEED provides a framework for healthy, highly efficient, and cost-saving green buildings.

"We are thrilled to receive this certification," said St. Mary's Ryken President Rick Wood. "From the beginning stages of the planning process, our goal was to create a center that fit into the landscape of our campus while also empowering our entire community on their journey toward a balanced and healthier lifestyle. This building and the LEED certification fit within our Xaverian values by our stewardship and respect for God's creation."

The Donnie Williams Center, which officially opened in August 2019, is centrally located on the school's 87-acre campus and is used for many events including Mass, dances, induction ceremonies and indoor athletics. The 48,000-square-foot, modern, spacious facility fills with natural light and is a favorite gathering space for students, faculty and staff.

The building scored high in several categories in the LEED report, such as materials and resources, water efficiency, indoor environment quality, regional priority credits and innovation and design.

Project partners include: Hord Coplan Macht architecture design firm and Scheibel Construction.

For additional information about the Donnie Williams Center and interior and exterior photos, visit: **www.smrhs.org/donnie-williams-center**.



For information about community events and rental space in the Donnie Williams Center, please contact Mr. Brian Loewe at brian.loewe@smrhs.org or 301-475-7687.

Passion Profile: Sydnie Collins ’23

Sixteen-year-old Sydnie Collins (a.k.a. Sydnie Chandler Monet) believes it’s time for the youth of America to take the lead in becoming the change that needs to occur in our country.

Originally published by Southern Maryland Woman magazine in November 2020 | *Reprinted with permission*

A rising junior at St. Mary’s Ryken, Sydnie is the founder of Live Your Future Educated Inc. (LYFE), a nonprofit organization, and host of the podcast “Perfect Timing.” As an academic honor roll student, she has been the recipient of a leadership scholarship and scholarship in fine arts. Sydnie is known as a daughter, sister and friend to many.

Tell us about your passion for giving back to the community at such a young age:

I am a 16-year-old podcaster who is hosting an international broadcast called “Perfect Timing.” Like other teens, I understand Generation Z is more likely to use social media to communicate, share and shop. “Perfect Timing Podcast” was established for the sole purpose of serving young adults by giving them a safe place where they can feel free to use their voices to promote, educate and bring awareness to what is important to them.

Youth empowerment comes in many forms, and I want to use my platform to let my peers know that their voice matters and is heard. If they see me doing it, then my actions may inspire one more person to gain enough confidence to start something that they are passionate about.

I once read that a man’s gift makes room for him — God has put a gift or talent in every person, one that the world can make room for. I want to be a part of God’s perfect timing story because we all have one.

What motivated you to start “Perfect Timing”? What is the focus?

During the pandemic, I started to feel lost. I did not know how or what to do with all this free time. So, in mid-May (2020), my mother challenged my sister and me to start a YouTube channel to talk with friends



“I can guarantee that St. Mary’s Ryken has set me up for success with their support of my podcast. The leadership skills that I have acquired will help me in college and my other future plans.”

— Sydnie Collins

A new "Perfect Timing Podcast" episode is released every Monday at 2 p.m.

In June and July of 2020, four of "Perfect Timing's" episodes made the top 10 in ratings on Elite Conversation Life Talk Radio, and Sydnie was honored as the No. 2 host for June, July and August. In August, "Perfect Timing" episode 11, "The Impact of a Mother's Love and Support," was rated No. 1 on their platform. Additionally, Sydnie is the only teen among 30 podcasters with Elite Conversation Life Talk Radio. "Perfect Timing" merchandise is available for sale on her podcast website (https://perfecttimingyouthpodcast.godaddysites.com), including T-shirts, masks and jewelry.

Perfect Timing

Where to listen:

SOUNDCLOUD · Spotify · Apple Podcasts · iHeart MEDIA

@ECLifeTalkPodcast

about how they were feeling. In early June, I kicked off my podcast, and it is one of the most passionate undertakings that I have ever done.

It is truly rewarding and has given me so much joy and hope for our future. Each of my episodes features in-depth conversations about topics the youth are passionate about and occasionally guest star top experts from around the country. I want listeners to be inspired and learn how the youth are taking charge of their own dreams as they tell their stories, in their own words.

I recently featured Faith Blackstone, the 17-year-old activist and artist behind the iconic portrait of George Floyd, and James Jobson-Larkin, a 15-year-old ballet dancer and musician, who shared his experiences and love for the arts. I invited Dr. Howard Haft, executive director at Maryland Primary Care Program, to discuss the impacts of COVID-19 on teenagers (which was highlighted during one of St. Mary's Ryken's virtual learning days for students to enjoy).

Recently, I also had the honor of speaking with Julie Kent, artistic director of The Washington Ballet, on finding hope and perseverance through dance. My fellow teens and I are breaking barriers now and will continue to do so in the future.

What has this experience of starting your own podcast been like? Talk about your struggles and successes:

Since starting my podcast, I have met some amazing trailblazers and had the opportunity to build new partnerships. Hearing my guests speak about things they are passionate about has given me more than one reason to continue. If one person's voice can inspire another person, then my work is not in vain.

As far as struggles, I would say with every new venture comes obstacles we do not plan for. Finding and securing sponsors to support what you are doing is a challenge when you are confined to your home and not able to network outside of it.

My reward is knowing I am using my talents to make a difference in bringing youth on my platform to discuss topics, dreams and achievements that matter to them. Many say that they are proud of me, but my true reward comes from above.

Advice to other girls looking to have their voice heard:

If you believe in yourself others will believe in you, too. Keep striving and believing that you can achieve all things. Your voice and dreams matter—do not let anyone take away your voice!

What do you envision for the future?

My future is so bright that I can see my name among the stars! I am still learning and growing every day, and I am planning to take advantage of opportunities aligned to my core values and what I believe in, such as being a motivational speaker. I also am seeking gift donations for baskets that I will be raffling off to help with the expenses from managing a podcast.

Alex Wyvill ’12, Ryan Braam ’14 and Ken Scheiber

Their unique paths to ordination

Alex Wyvill ’12

Ordination in September 2021

Alex Wyvill’s path to ordination began after completing four years at Vanderbilt University in 2016. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy and German studies with a minor in music, and then he enrolled at St. John Paul II Seminary in Washington, D.C. For the past three years of seminary, he has been in Rome, which has been quite challenging for him in several ways.

“The flavor of Rome takes some getting used to,” said Alex, an SMR graduate from the Class of 2012. “I’ve been thrown into a very difficult situation by being immersed in foreign culture, language and a really large community. There are 140 people from all over the country living here, and compared to seminarians who still live in the States, those who are relocated to Rome are uprooted in a much bigger way. By being uprooted so much, you need to put your roots down with God and your community — including the priests in charge of forming you. Your same support system is not as accessible and present. But, because of that, there is a unique challenge and opportunity to lean on God and form a close relationship with Him.”

Last year while in Rome, Alex became very sick with COVID-19. “When all of a sudden you can’t do anything — such as meet your responsibilities — and still the world doesn’t fall apart, and people show up in big ways to help and provide for you — with care packages, hot tea — and covering my responsibilities for me — that’s when you realize that God provides and He’s a redeemer. Even at my weakest, my sense of reliance and trust in God strengthened.”



Alex greets Pope Francis while in seminary at the Vatican in Rome.

For Alex, ordination to the diaconate isn’t just another step on the journey to priesthood. “Being ordained is the moment when my brothers and I will make three promises — celibacy, prayer and obedience — that will change the rest of our lives. It is the ‘all-in’ moment where the Church invites me to lay down my whole life, and I get to respond, ‘I do.’”

Alex will be ordained Sept. 30 at St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome. He will finish seminary in spring 2022 and will then return to Rome for a final year of studies before entering full-time ministry in the Archdiocese of Washington.

Ryan Braam ’14

Ordination in June 2021

Ryan Braam ’14 entered the seminary after his freshman year of college at The Catholic University of America. “My first year at CUA I was a ‘regular student,’ and my sophomore year, I entered the seminary and continued studying at CUA. I’m currently in my sixth year, and at the end of this year is when I’ll be ordained a deacon,” said Ryan.

“Ordination to the diaconate is considered very significant,” he said. “This is when you publicly make your commitment to do what you plan to do after seminary, which is become a priest. Technically, I’ve been ‘free’ to leave at any point, but ordination to the diaconate indicates a permanent



commitment to the service of God. I will be able to preach at Mass, baptize kids, and properly receive the vows during a wedding ceremony. A deacon can also offer prayers at wakes and committals."

Ryan will be ordained June 19 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. He will finish with seminary the following summer in 2022.

Ryan explains what he is most looking forward to after becoming a priest: "As a priest I will be able to share with others all of the ways God has blessed me and been good to me in my life. He has given me the foundation and bedrock to know and love Him more deeply."

Ken Scheiber, St. Mary's Ryken theology teacher

Ordination in June 2021

Ken Scheiber's ordination process started more than five years ago with a 16-page application, detailed background check, multiple interviews, and a review board just to enter the program. After he was accepted, he completed five years of classes, seminars, practicums, and ministerial assignments.

"As part of the ministerial assignments, I've worked in prison ministry, hospice care, and a food pantry," said Mr. Scheiber, an SMR theology teacher. "So, the formation process has a way of pushing you beyond your comfort zone. Academically, it was easier than I expected. Since I had already been to graduate school twice, the school part was the easiest part."

"I have really wanted to live the life of a saint.… What else are we living for if not that?" said Mr. Scheiber. "However, that is difficult and requires a community of believers. Pope St. John XXIII once used the image that people are saved like grapes on a vine—in bunches. Deacons are called to represent Christ the Servant to the faithful. So, deacons have a special relationship to the humanity of Christ, the way that Christ is like us. They have a special role in fostering Christian community and ministering to all people along these lines, and I have always found contemplating the humanity of Christ to be spiritually fruitful. Furthermore, I have always been interested in the deacon as an intersection between the horizontality (reaching out to others) and verticality (reaching out to God) of the faith. Additionally, many people that I am close to confirmed this calling for me through their prayers. So, it has been a combination of intellectual affinity, spiritual movement within me, and the spiritual movements of others."



After ordination on June 26, Mr. Scheiber plans to continue teaching at SMR. However, his plans will depend upon what parish he is assigned to and which ministry he is assigned to serve. "Deacons are given two assignments," said Mr. Scheiber. "First, they are assigned to a parish, where they will serve in a sacramental capacity (e.g., baptisms, weddings, funerals, preaching at Mass, etc.). Second, they are assigned a ministry of charity (a social-concerns ministry) that they are responsible for fulfilling in the general area that they are assigned. That ministry can be almost anything from education to prison ministry, homeless ministry, hospice care, nursing home facilities, etc. My assignment is ultimately going to depend on what Cardinal Gregory (Archbishop of Washington) decides."

Ryan Braam, one of Mr. Scheiber's former students, will vest him at the ordination.

"I'd like to encourage everyone to reflect on what their calling from God is," Mr. Scheiber said. "Every person has a responsibility to be open to God's calling them to a religious vocation (e.g., priesthood, diaconate, religious life). Too often today we plan out our lives in ways that we think are going to make us happy, but what really makes us happy is knowing that our choices are cooperating with God's reason for creating us. So, think about why God has given you the life he has given you so far… and what He may be preparing you to be."

THE SMR TEAM:

Going Beyond Expectations!

Administration



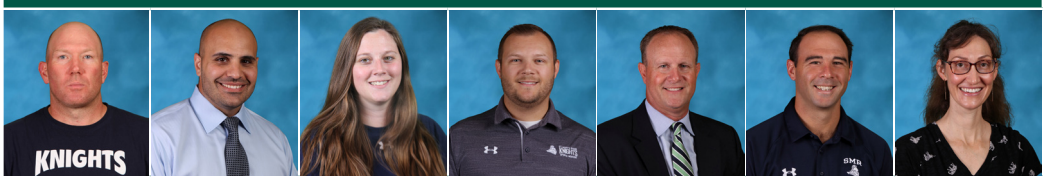
English



Admissions



Athletics



Business



Fine Arts



Campus Ministry



History



International Programs



Science



Thank you to each St. Mary's Ryken faculty and staff member for your steadfast commitment to our students.

Dr. Rick Wood
President and CEO

Dr. Catherine Bowes (SMA '81)
Principal

Computer Science



World Languages



Counseling



Student Life



Development



Theology



Learning Differences Support Services



Facilities



Administrative Support Services



Math



Communications & Marketing



Information Technology





Students outside of the Caritas Resource Center after a day of boxing items for upcoming moves.

Caritas Resource Center

Helping community members move from homelessness to housing

The St. Mary's Ryken Caritas Resource Center, located in repurposed spaces in Paschal Hall, has been a hub of activity since mid-2020. Partnering with the Three Oaks Center, which helps provide the homeless in St. Mary's County with stable housing and resources, Caritas has been the spot where members of the community can donate much-needed household items for homeless community members who are moving into stable housing. The donated items—such as furniture, kitchen items and household essentials—give these individuals security, a sense of belonging and a less stressful experience as they transition to permanent housing.

"Most of our deliveries have been to people in our community that have been living outside in tents or staying in very inexpensive hotel rooms," said SMR Campus Minister and Caritas Resource Center Outreach Coordinator Mrs. Beth Allen. "In both circumstances, families generally need the entire house set up—from coat hangers to full room set-ups. The donations have been covering it all."



A student packs toiletry items for local community members.

Through a voucher system, community members live in an apartment or townhome. To receive a voucher, they must have an income. It can be from a job, unemployment or disability, and 30 percent of that income is put toward the rent.

In the past year and a half, students, faculty and staff, and members of the local community have assisted with these moves. It truly is a community-wide effort and a strong way for SMR students to provide service to those in need.

"It's been very humbling to see the impact on the students as they 'put a face' on homelessness and move past their own misconceptions of this part of our community," said Mrs. Allen, who added that "caritas" is Latin for "love of humankind." Caritas also comes from the motto of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth who sponsored St. Mary's Academy. "I am blessed to be with students that 'erase lines' between the 'us and them' and truly recognize our oneness as a community. It is the kinship designed by God."

Rising senior Nina Ferrero remarked: "Working with Mrs. Allen in the Caritas Resource Center has been an eye-opening experience. I always hear about the less fortunate in other countries, but I never realized how many people need help right in front of me. It is obvious that God has a hand in this beautiful work!"

The moves (and donation pick-ups) go in spurts, but students and staff have assisted with at least one each week. "During the summer of 2020, students and staff were very busy with multiple pick-ups every day and 4–7 moves a week," said Mrs. Allen. As of April 2021, the Caritas Resource Center has assisted 109 families and individuals moving into secure housing with all of their essentials.

"My favorite part about being involved is seeing the smiles on people's faces when they see Mrs. Allen's truck pull up," said rising senior Abigail Hupp. "They all know that something good is bound to happen when that truck comes around. Whether it's clothes from our clothing ministry, donated furniture, or even things as simple as toiletries that my peers and I have neatly packaged, there is always something to hand out to the lines that are waiting for us. As beautiful as all that is, the most amazing part is every project in the Caritas Resource Center is student-led. It's amazing to see that so many students are willing to take charge and help the community. This is truly an amazing ministry, and I thank God for all that He's blessed us with, so we are able to help His children."

Last December, Maryland Sen. Jack Bailey '83, an SMR alum, honored the Caritas Resource Center with a citation in recognition of the effort with helping those moving from homelessness to housing.

As the services of the Caritas Resource Center grow, Mrs. Allen and her team of helpers are able to serve the larger community of our student body, including Calvert and Charles counties. They also take essentials to those currently homeless and partner with addiction rehabilitation centers. "We provide essentials to those who enter the programs with little to nothing," she said.

"It is our honor to give our time, talent and treasure to those in our local community in His name."



If you would like to volunteer your time or support the Caritas Resource Center with donations, please email crc@smrhs.org.

A group of students and faculty pose after an afternoon of packing boxes and preparing meals in the Caritas Resource Center.

St. Mary's Ryken House System Builds Camaraderie

Even amid a global pandemic St. Mary's Ryken still made changes to improve the experience of their students. In the beginning of the 2020–21 school year, the SMR House System was created.

The mission of the St. Mary's Ryken House System is to foster authentic community and build unity across all grade levels and interest groups while creating a school culture that competes with pride, spirit and familial charity. Major tenets of Catholic social teaching form the foundational principles that guide the House System: life and dignity of the human person, and solidarity.

How does this work? All students, faculty and staff are randomly placed into one of the four Houses—Bruges, Concordia, Nazareth or Caritas. Competitions of various types are held throughout the year in which points can be earned on an individual or team basis for each house. Students stay in the same house for their four years as a student.

Each house has a distinct color under which it competes. Bruges is green and Concordia is gray, representing the heritage of the Xaverian Brothers and Ryken High School. Nazareth is blue and Caritas is white, representing the heritage of the Sisters and St. Mary's Academy. The students from each house are in the process of designing the coat of arms for their respective houses.

For those of us who profess belief in Christ, we know that without Him there can be no true peace. As a Catholic school we are in the business of educating young people and leading them to the truth of Christ. It is our duty to show how Christ can bring peace to every human heart. It is this peace, this presence of Christ, that casts out all sin and fear from within.

This is the philosophy behind the establishment of the House System. We are to be one human family, and this is best lived out in the community of the Church. The House System, in its most perfect form, will embody this spirit and be an example of the faith, hope and love of Christ and His family, the Church.

On a practical note, the House System has provided more opportunities for the building of vertical relationships at SMR. Within each House there are eight advisory groups. Each advisory is comprised of students from every grade level, offering each student the ability to learn from their peers both older and younger. The seniors and juniors will naturally take on a leadership role, while the sophomores and freshmen will benefit from this leadership and in turn become leaders themselves.

The points each House accumulates goes toward an end-of-year goal of winning the House championship and earning bragging rights for the next year…plus ice cream parties and other fun social gatherings on campus!

The Houses of SMR

These names all have significance within our larger SMR heritage, of both Ryken High School and St. Mary's Academy:

Bruges - Green
(Broozh - rhymes with rouge)
City in Belgium where Theodore J. Ryken founded the Xaverian Brothers

Concordia - Gray
Harmony; from the motto of the Congregation of Xaverian Brothers, *Concordia res parvae crescunt* ("In harmony, small things grow")

Nazareth - Blue
Town in Kentucky where the Sisters of Charity was established

Caritas - White
(KAH-ree-tahs)
Love for all; from the motto of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, *Caritas Christi urget nos* ("The love of Christ impels us")

Esteemed Xaverian Leaders Reflect on the Past



Brother Cornelius E. Hubbuch, CFX, Principal, Ryken High School (1968–76)

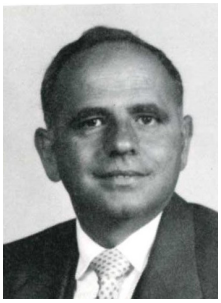
Congratulations and my profound gratitude to all who continue to make St. Mary's Ryken such an outstanding Catholic high school in Southern Maryland. We Xaverian Brothers are absolutely delighted with the way you have built on the Xaverian legacy and have made SMR better than ever!

My time at Ryken High School goes back to 1968, and I remember meeting with the Xaverian Brothers leadership team in Baltimore. They had decided to close Ryken High School, so I went up with strong support from the faculty and staff to ask them to not only let us continue the school but to expand it. We were given a two-year grace period to see if this could be done, and the rest is history—thanks to a dedicated faculty of brothers and other men and women who helped to make it happen.

I remember working with the leaders of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth—Sisters Barbara Thomas and Barbara Peterson—when we met with Cardinal William Baum about merging St. Mary's Academy and Ryken High School. I can't say enough about how wonderful the sisters were in their ability to collaborate and to help create a new school for all of Southern Maryland.

Here we are, 40 years later, and we see the result of the cooperation and planning that made way for what we now have—St. Mary's Ryken!

Brother Richard Angarola, CFX, RHS '60, St. Mary's Ryken Principal (1983–88)



When I had the opportunity to join the Ryken High faculty in the fall of 1980, I truly felt that I was coming home to the school from which I graduated 20 years before.

What a momentous school year 1980–81 was to be. The entire school faculty of Xaverian Brothers and lay faculty, as well as the 200 boys, their parents and alumni, were anticipating it with some fear and trepidation, as this would be the last year of Ryken High School.

About two miles away at St. Mary's Academy, the same scenario was being played out, although with a different cast—the wonderful Sisters of Charity, the 200 or so girls at the school, their parents and alumnae. They also felt the anxiety as their beloved school would be closing after 99 years of service to the Southern Maryland community.

At RHS, I assumed the duties of assistant principal to Brother Matthew Burke and quickly learned that several of my own former classmates had sons at school. That year was filled with the usual tasks of running a school including shooing Brother Rom's goats away from the buildings, and other responsibilities that are the normal and sometimes not-so-normal things that go into running a school.

Added to all of the above were the never-ending meetings between the faculties of RHS and SMA in preparation for the consolidation of both schools; construction of new facilities for the girls' locker rooms and bathrooms; choosing the name of the school and school colors; how to bring together the curricula of both schools; the melding of the faculties of both schools; and probably another 1,001 other questions that both schools had, and how these questions would be resolved.

To say that the school year was tension-free would not be an accurate statement. All of us—the RHS community, the SMA community, and all the supporting entities of each school—were fearful, and in some cases doubtful, that this new school, St. Mary's Ryken, would succeed.

It is now 2021, the 40th anniversary of St. Mary's Ryken High School. The work and the dedication that the Sisters and the Brothers, as well as the lay faculties of both schools, put into this endeavor have been extraordinary.

But most importantly, you—past and present students—have made SMR what it is today.

SMR continues to live the legacy of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth and the Xaverian Brothers. The work, sweat, tears and doubts of 1980–81 no longer seem relevant. We succeeded, and today SMR is a wonderful testament to Catholic secondary education in Southern Maryland.

Congratulations to all who have come before and to all of you presently part of St. Mary's Ryken.

Ad multos annos, SMR.

(continued, next page)



Mrs. Mary Joy Hurlburt, St. Mary's Ryken Principal (2000–2005), St. Mary's Ryken President (2005–2019)

My reflection of my time at St. Mary's Ryken is filled with thoughts of so many terrific colleagues, students and alumni. It is our growth in Xaverian Sponsorship, however, that I hold highest. Xaverian Brothers' Sponsorship truly defines the culture and climate that students experience at St. Mary's Ryken. Our school is centered in the charism of the Xaverian Brothers. Our values of humility, trust, compassion, simplicity and zeal make our Catholic high school community thrive.

As I reflect on St. Mary's Ryken's history I am grateful to the Brothers for the faith-filled, enduring work they continue to do to center us in the Xaverian charism. Throughout the years I was blessed to have worked with teachers, administrators and staff who were committed to their profession and to "fostering themselves and our students toward God."



Brother Edward Driscoll, CFX '62, General Superior, Xaverian Brothers

We travel many roads in life. Some are memorable. Others less so. Some roads beckon us to seek new horizons. They capture the imagination. Touch the heart. Roads point us in a certain direction. At the end of the summer in 1961, about 20 teenagers from Boston, Massachusetts, and Brooklyn, New York, were heading to St. Joseph's Juniorate in Leonardtown, Maryland. We were thinking of becoming brothers. We would attend classes at Ryken High School. The journey was long. We spent several hours on the Senator, the Pennsylvania Railroad train service from Boston to Washington via New York. Brother Scott met us at Union Station for the bus ride to Leonardtown.

Unspoken "self-forgetting" was happening to some of us. I was no longer surrounded by the familiar urban culture of city life. The unfamiliar culture of rural life in Maryland was beckoning us to a new horizon. In 1961, Route 5 was a two-lane road. A number of townships had strict speed limits that made the trip seem even longer.

My memories of RHS are fond. I was a student there for only one year. However, I gained a lot from that one year. I learned to "go just beyond myself." RHS had about 200 students. The majority of students were from St. Mary's County.

The education at RHS was second to none. With the simplest resources (basically dedicated teachers and disciplined students), brothers like Constantine, Pacificus, Scott, Ignatius, Cosmas and Mauritius created a learning environment that encouraged excellence with a clear emphasis on the students' honor, although there was no formal code. As a small example, at RHS there were no locks on the book lockers. No need.

RHS also formed us for real life. I learned to understand and appreciate what I have in common with others. At the same time, I learned to accept our diversity of backgrounds, cultures, accents, ways of expressing ourselves, our different life views and values as gifts. Differences did not divide us. Our working together was really emphasized. It created a harmony in which we were able to grow in responsibility. We were in this together. A salt

Inspiration for the reflection from Brother Ed Driscoll

Just Beyond Yourself by David Whyte

Just beyond yourself. It's where you need to be.
Half a step into self-forgetting and the rest restored by what you'll meet.
There is a road always beckoning.
When you see the two sides of it closing together at that far horizon
and deep in the foundations of your own heart at exactly the same time,
that's how you know it's the road you have to follow.
That's how you know it's where you have to go.
That's how you know you have to go.
That's how you know.
Just beyond yourself, it's where you need to be.

From "The Bell and the Blackbird," Many Rivers Press, 2018

of the earth simplicity, trust, honesty, respect and friendliness are words that capture the spirit of what I experienced at Ryken. It truly was the "Land of Pleasant Living."

My relationship with Ryken has continued over the years. I witnessed Brother Cornelius Hubbuch and the Brothers' community work tirelessly to keep the school open. The Sisters of Charity of Nazareth and Xaverian Brothers were committed to keeping the benefits of a Catholic education available to Southern Maryland. Under the leadership of Brother Matthew Burke, Sister Mary Ellen Johnson and Brother Richard Angarola, St. Mary's Academy and Ryken High School merged, building on the strengths of both schools. These leaders went beyond themselves to give us this legacy we call St. Mary's Ryken.

Twice I served as a member of the Board of Directors. I am so grateful for what has happened in recent years in terms of spiritual formation of students and faculty and the focus on academic excellence, with the development of a challenging curriculum that responds to the needs of today's learners. I know the Xaverians are indebted to the leadership of Mrs. Mary Joy Hurlburt and Dr. Rick Wood for their life commitment to a school I am proud to call my alma mater.

At a recent Board Development program I attended, the presenter described outstanding leaders. They are women and men "who want to bring something new into the world. They have a deep desire to contribute to the lives of others. They innovate out of love asking the question, 'What can we make happen?'"

For the past 40 years, SMR has been blessed with heads of schools, teachers, parents, students and board members who truly love and value the school's mission. The SMR community has taken risks. It has gone beyond itself to bring something new into our world. Their message to us is simple: Just go beyond yourself, it's where you need to be.

Proficiat! Ad multos annos.



Mary Elizabeth Miller, SCN, St. Mary's Academy Principal (1972–81), Provincial, Sisters of Charity of Nazareth

In the spring of 1885 two Sisters of Charity of Nazareth (SCNs) traveled from Kentucky to Leonardtown, Maryland, to consider opening a much-needed school for the area. SCNs accepted the challenge, and on Aug. 27, 1885, three Sisters of Charity of Nazareth arrived at Leonardtown Wharf by steamboat to open St. Mary's Academy. While it seems that this was the beginning of our long history in Southern Maryland, actually our foundress, Mother Catherine Spalding, was born in Charles County, Maryland, but moved with her family to Kentucky in 1798.

With the year 2021, we celebrate another milestone! The 40th anniversary of the merging of two schools, St. Mary's Academy and Ryken High School. The opening of the "new" school was the culmination of several years of study and working together as faculties in preparation for this venture. Although the decision was hard for faculty, staff, students and alumni of St. Mary's Academy to accept, over time it has proved to be beneficial to all concerned in continuing the legacy of Sisters of Charity of Nazareth and Xaverian Brothers in the education of the youth of St. Mary's and surrounding counties.

It was my privilege to visit St. Mary's Ryken in April 2021. It was truly a delightful afternoon, and so exciting to see all that has occurred and how the school has continued to grow and thrive over the past 40 years! In HOPE and TRUST we look forward to continuing the tradition of excellence in education at St. Mary's Ryken over the next 40 years and beyond!

Blessings and Congratulations!



On Saturday, April 24, family, friends and classmates, along with Father Scott Woods, gathered in the Chapel of Charity on the SMR campus to celebrate the memory of Matthew Shannon Aaron '94. A bench in Matt's memory was placed outside of the SMR Campus Ministry.

Support Knight-Owned Businesses

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





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Attorney



William C. Mulford II
Attorney at Law

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Law Offices Of Sue A. Greer
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Simms-Mattingly Insurance Agency Lexington Park, MD - Mechanicsville, MD Two Agencies-One Goal-exceptional customer service
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Celebrating a Tradition

This year marks our 40th anniversary as St. Mary's Ryken (SMR). Because of the fortitude and determination of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth and the Xaverian Brothers, St. Mary's Academy and Ryken High School were merged to combine their vision of continuing Catholic education to serve high school students in Southern Maryland. Here is a timeline of significant events in our school's history.

1981

The newly formed high school — SMR — opens in September on the grounds of the former Ryken High School with 560 students. Brother Matthew Burke is the principal. The St. Mary's Academy grounds become home to the College of Southern Maryland.

Brother Matthew Burke continues as SMR principal through 1983.



St. Mary's Ryken 15th anniversary in 1996

1996

SMR celebrates its 15th anniversary.

Harry L. Swaney is appointed as SMR's first president 1996–2003

Dr. Jonathan M. Grant, SMR principal 1996–2000

1998

Brother Romuald Stuedle dies. He served 30 years between Ryken and SMR. The Class of 1998 established a scholarship in his memory.



Brother Romuald Stuedle

1999

The performing arts building, Romuald Hall, is constructed. The building houses a 320-seat theater and Media Center and also becomes home to the history department.

Many other renovations are finished: The new cafeteria is dedicated as Alumni Hall; refurbishments to the exterior of Paschal Hall and its classrooms are completed; the lower fields and tennis courts are completed and dedicated.

The building known as the Brothers' House is refurbished and dedicated to Brother Lambert Bents. It is now known as Lambert Hall and houses the Business Office.

2006

SMR celebrates its 25th anniversary.

2007

The Knights football team begins its first season.

2009

In June, construction begins on a new stadium with a turf field and six-lane track.

2010

The SMR Stadium is completed. There is seating for 1,000 spectators, a state-of-the-art turf field and a six-lane track.

The basement of Romuald Hall is finished and houses practice spaces for the band, orchestra, chorus and dance.

The Summer Knights Summer Camp Program begins, inviting students from Southern Maryland to campus for academic, athletic and enrichment activities from June–August.

2012

The Garden of Remembrance is dedicated in June.

SMR begins the 1:1 iPad Program, the first of its kind in the state of Maryland.

The new Greene Murphy Campus Ministry Center is dedicated on Dec. 19 in honor of Capt. and Mrs. Patrick Murphy and in memory of their parents.

2016

The SMR Scholars Program, featuring seven pathways in humanities, fine arts and STEM, debuts with curricula from the nationally recognized program Project Lead the Way.

2017

A groundbreaking ceremony is held for the Donnie Williams Center, a health and wellness facility between the stadium and Lambert Hall.

of Success!

1982

The first SMR class graduates and, according to one of the new graduates, "To our surprise, within the first three months of school, we (former Academy and Ryken students) really began to blend in well, to become one. Instead of the competition we anticipated in the beginning, we began working together; every day we became closer and closer until we became one happy class."

1983

Brother Richard Angarola, CFX, is principal 1983–88

1988

Harry L. Swaney is selected as SMR's first "lay" principal, serving 1988–96

1989

Xaverian Brothers celebrate the 150th anniversary of service in education.

1992

Cardinal James Aloysius Hickey visits SMR to bless the new chemistry lab in Paschal Hall.

1994–98

Rupert Hall undergoes interior and exterior renovations. Computer labs are installed.

SMR builds a partnership with the Navy at Naval Air Station Patuxent River to enhance its STEM curriculum.

1995

Internet connectivity is available on campus.

2000

Mary Joy Hurlburt, SMR high school, principal 2000–05

The lower athletic fields are renovated, and four tennis courts are built to accommodate the expanding athletics program.

2002

The library in Rupert Hall is renovated to become the Chapel of Charity in honor of the Sisters of Charity and is in memory of Sister Sara Ann Abell, Sister Alberta Abell and Sister Pauline Abell.

2002 - Chapel of Charity in Rupert Hall



2003

The Rev. Paul S. Tipton is appointed as SMR's second president 2003–05

SMR joins the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference (WCAC), the most prestigious private school athletic conference in the country. By being part of the WCAC, SMR student-athletes are more likely to have the chance to continue to play their sport in college.

2005

Mary Joy Hurlburt is appointed as SMR's third president 2005–19

Dr. Glenn P. "Rick" Wood is principal, 2005–19

2019

Mary Joy Hurlburt retires as SMR's third president.

Dr. Glenn P. "Rick" Wood II is appointed as SMR's fourth president.

Dr. Catherine Bowes, SMA '81, is appointed principal.

The Donnie Williams Center opens and becomes the campus hub for many types of school, community, spiritual, sporting and alumni events.

The Class of 1988 Memorial Garden is created in memory of departed classmates.

The MIL STEM Innovation Lab opens in Paschal Hall.

2020

The Caritas Resource Center opens to assist the less fortunate in the local community move from homelessness to housing.

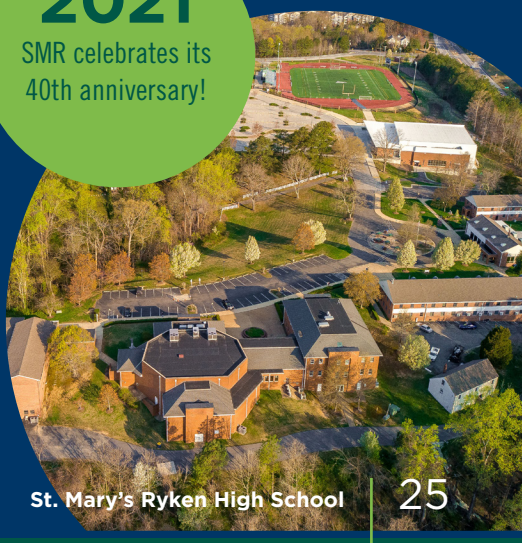
Paschal Hall's MIL STEM Innovation Wing, which includes a computer lab, robotics arena, STEM spaces and wind tunnel, is named in honor of Maurice I. Long Jr. '66.

The Romuald Hall Auditorium is renamed Mary Joy Hurlburt Theatre in honor of former president Hurlburt.

A grand piano is purchased for the fine arts program.

2021

SMR celebrates its 40th anniversary!



Roberts Family Horse Racing Legacy

Anyone who glances through the Rosecroft Raceway track programs is bound to see the names of driver Jonathan Roberts ’99, trainer Megan Roberts ’01 and owner William “Bib” Roberts quite frequently.

Original published Dec. 21, 2020, by Ted Black from Southern Maryland News | *Reprinted with permission*

William “Bib” Roberts was once among the regular drivers at Rosecroft when it was still a half-mile oval — it was reconfigured in 1989 to its current ⅝-mile circumference — and he was no stranger to winning the top classes with pacers such as Abba Dabba Doo, Southern Sam, Trapeze and later stakes with Yankee Co-Ed. But Roberts has since turned over the reins, per se, to his son, Jonathan Roberts, and daughter, Megan Roberts.

Last summer at Ocean Downs, a half-mile harness racing track in Berlin, Maryland, five miles west of Ocean City, Jonathan collected the 4,000th win of his career. A 1999 St. Mary’s Ryken High School graduate, Jonathan has far exceeded the dash win total that his father attained during his career. But he has failed to stop learning from him.

“My dad has taught me more than I can ever imagine,” Jonathan said. “He knows more about training and caring for horses than anyone else I’ve ever met. From the time I could walk I started hanging out with him at the barn, and I think I always knew I wanted to race horses. Along the way, he’s given me a lot of confidence.”

Trainer Megan Roberts never had any aspirations of driving trotters and pacers



Longtime local standardbred trainer William “Bib” Roberts, left, and daughter and trainer Megan Roberts ’01 stand in the winner’s circle as their pacer Rocktavius returns after capturing the $11,750 Open Handicap in 1:51.3 on Dec. 13.



Jonathan Roberts ’99, left, Megan Roberts ’01 and their father, William Roberts, stand in the paddock at Rosecroft Raceway with Dr. Nipntuck.



Brandywine native and 1999 St. Mary's Ryken graduate Jonathan Roberts guides Admiral Ballsy back to the winner's circle after steering the aged pacer to victory in the $12,000 Open Handicap on Nov. 29.

in races — very few women actually succeed in that profession — but she has also followed in her father's footsteps as a conditioner.

It is not uncommon to see all three of them in the winner's circle at Rosecroft with one of their top pacers or trotters, such as Open winners Judge Bob and Rocktavius and their new acquisition, Starship, which has won three of four starts at Rosecroft.

"I still enjoy working with the horses every day," Bib said. "But I don't think that I'll ever start driving again. Now I just train them and drive the truck and watch Megan and Jonathan go to work. It's very rewarding to me to see what both of them have been able to do. Jonathan likes to win, and he doesn't always drive my horse in every race, but that's his choice."

On several occasions at the Rosecroft fall meet that concluded on Dec. 23, with a 14-race card that included a trio of $20,000 Open events, Jonathan has often bypassed sitting behind Rocktavius, a pacer that his sister Megan trains for their father, in order to drive Admiral Ballsy for trainer Richard Malone Jr.

That move has not always proved beneficial to Jonathan as Rocktavius and youthful catch driver Luke Hanners have beaten them on several occasions.

"I know my dad and Megan would like to have me drive every one of their horses, and I understand that completely," Jonathan said. "But I'm usually going to take the horse that I think gives me the best chance of winning. It doesn't always work out that way, but that's racing. No matter what happens and no matter who wins, they're still my family."

In a sport that has typically been dominated by male trainers and drivers, Megan is one of the growing number of female trainers who have done very well in harness racing locally and nationally.

"I don't think people realize how much work goes into training horses," Megan said. "You jog and train them in the morning, then race them at night. It makes for some long days, but I watched my dad do it for a long time. It's definitely something I love, and I can't see myself doing anything different. Of course, it's special when Jonathan wins with one of Dad's horses."

(On the evening of Dec. 16) at Rosecroft, contested over a rain-soaked "sloppy" surface, Jonathan won five races, including the first two for his sister. Sansa won the opener for pacing fillies and mares and Callmegaga capped the early daily double by taking the second race for trotters. The tandem was later third with Judge Bob in the $12,000 Open Handicap for older trotters.

Susie Thompson ’88

Leap of faith

Susie Thompson ’88 spent many years as a food and nutritionist specialist and certified health and wellness coach, a job that helped pay the bills and gave her some fulfillment in assisting others in achieving their health goals. Yet she yearned for something more.

“I genuinely have a passion for cooking, and I enjoy experimenting in the kitchen. Unfortunately, my job didn’t allow me to be creative. I’ve thought about starting my own business for about five years but was afraid to leap.” Fast forward to 2020 and one giant leap of faith (with encouragement from her husband) and—voilà!—Beach Shack Sauces was born.

Susie’s husband, Chris, has a strong business acumen with a successful career in turning around failing businesses and launching new ones. “He’s always encouraged me to start my own business,” and on July 4, 2019, sitting on the beach near their home near Lovers Key, Florida, they talked about the dream and began making it a reality.

Below is a Q&A with Susie about her business and early success:

What inspired you to create your line of sauces?

The inspiration came from my passion for cooking. I love to experiment in the kitchen and create new dishes. As I experiment with bold, fresh, tropical flavors, I often think of my favorite Wolfgang Puck quote: “Cooking is like painting or writing a song. Just as there are only so many notes or colors, there are only so many flavors — it’s how you combine them that sets you apart.”

What is your favorite sauce, and why?

Pineapple Mango Habanero—I enjoy the flavor palate. As the fruity flavors build, you suddenly get the sharp, spicy heat of the habanero, then the hot spiciness begins to mellow with the sweetness of the fresh tropical fruit, and the layers come together perfectly.



How did you choose the name Beach Shack Sauces?

As I was brainstorming, I wrote down many words, phrases and ideas, trying to pick the name. I thought about the direction I wanted to go with the tropical sweet heat and my happy place. Whenever I need a day to breathe and decompress, the beach is the first place I always want to go! The name just came to me soon as the words came out of my mouth, and I knew that it would be my brand.

What is it like to launch your product line?

It’s like drinking from a fire hydrant! Every day presented new challenges. Developing



Susie and her two sons

the recipes was extremely satisfying. Dealing with state and federal regulations, labs, and process authority was the most challenging part.

Once I built my team, I set a goal to launch the business in 190 days. I knew it was crucial to paint a vivid picture of the direction we were going, keep everyone motivated, and pull in the same order. On the evening of Feb. 28, 2020, I sat back, amazed at what we've accomplished. I paused to reflect on the failures and success and how proud I was of what we've accomplished. After the quick celebration, reality set in, and I remember thinking all this work was the entry cost—I can't let up now.



Susie with her husband Chris

Have you always enjoyed cooking? What is your favorite meal?

I've always enjoyed cooking as a child. I spent a lot of time in the kitchen with my father, who was the most significant influence on my love for cooking. My favorite dish is Thai Boat Noodle Soup.

You married your high school sweetheart—what took you from Southern Maryland to Florida?

I met Chris in the spring of 1986. I went into Pizza Hotline (owned by RHS alumnus George Heinze '80) to pick up an order. He started a conversation with me, and over the next few months, the relationship grew. We've been together for 35 years and just celebrated our 32nd anniversary.

We lived in Calvert County until 2005, before Chris was offered a promotion and was transferred to Charlotte, N.C. In 2007 an opportunity presented itself to move to Florida. When he told me about the chance to live at the beach, it took seconds to make that decision, and we've been in Florida for 14 years.

Tell me about your family.

I have two sons, a grandson, and two granddaughters. I guess you can say my enthusiasm for cooking has transferred to my family. My oldest son enjoys cooking and has become a great pit master. My youngest son enjoys cooking and experimenting with developing new recipes. My oldest granddaughter has developed a passion for cooking; she recently told me she wants to go to culinary school.

Did you have a favorite teacher or class during your years at St. Mary's Ryken?

SMR was a great experience! It was when I made real friends, picked up good social skills, and quickly learned a lot more about myself than ever before. I had some fantastic teachers that were warm, accessible, enthusiastic, and caring; I have very fond moments of my Spanish class with Mrs. Bennet.

My positive SMR experience goes well beyond graduation. When I announced I would be launching my business to my classmates, their support was overwhelming. I remember one day when I was having a bad day and second-guessing myself, the doorbell rang, and I received flowers from the Class of 1988! I can't express how comforting this show of support was at a crucial time for me. When I announced the website's launch, once again the Class of '88 rallied to show support. I made my entire month's sales forecast in three days!

What advice would you give your high school self now?

Don't dwell on disappointments or view unfortunate events as regrets. Without pain, you would have never grown. Without mistakes and failure, you would never learn. Without breakups, you would have never met someone new.

To learn more or order Beach Shack Sauces, visit: **https://beachshacksauces.com/**

Alanna Daley ’16

Servant leader in Los Angeles

Alanna Daley ’16 graduated in May 2020 from Providence College in Rhode Island, where she studied biology and Spanish. When she finished, she had the goal of incorporating her Spanish skills into health care—somehow.

Alanna says it was “divine providence” that she ended up in Los Angeles at the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Hospital as a population health coordinator.

“Sister Julie, who oversees the mission where I lived and who coordinates the assignments for the missionaries, is familiar with St. Mary’s Ryken, the position involved using my Spanish education from high school and college, was in the health care field and involved working directly with people,” said Alanna. “The opportunity just felt right.”

In August 2020, Alanna began her journey to be immersed in a Spanish-speaking community helping individuals and families in the population health department of the L.A community hospital in a missionary role, part of the Saint Joseph Worker Program. The program was sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

Alanna’s foremost responsibility was to promote primary care. “I was charged with finding people the highest quality, lowest cost care and to make sure no one fell through the gaps. I conducted outreach over the phone to make sure everyone is following up on their quality care measures from Medicare standards, such as mammograms and flu shots. I also assisted patients with finding the location for the procedure or connecting to resources.”

Beginning in January 2021, the position drastically shifted gears, due to so many COVID-19 patients in the area where the hospital was located. “We were outreaching to our patients for vaccine appointments and to let them know that we had the vaccine available. I was continuing with preventative care outreach but also managing patients coming in and out of the clinic. Our goal was to vaccinate 1,000 patients a week.”

Alanna lived in a 10-bedroom convent with six other recent college graduates. “It’s a beautiful space. The nuns who run the mission support programs throughout the city. They work in prison ministry or health



Alanna, first on the left, is pictured here with the other missionaries that she lived and worked with and Sister Julie Fertsch who directs the program (second from right).



Alanna volunteered for a year at the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Hospital in Los Angeles as a population health coordinator.

care. They have a very go-getter attitude. It was inspiring,” said Alanna.

The missionaries received a budget for food and gas and shared four cars. “We each received $125 a month for expenses. Being on such a strict budget took some getting used to, but there is a lot to take advantage of outside in California such as the beaches and hiking.”

“Being on a budget, living in the convent and working in a Spanish-speaking health care setting made me question my priorities and what is worth spending money on and what I can go without. I did miss going out to dinner with a friend, for example. But the experience made me more appreciative of money I do spend. I am more creative and appreciative now.”

“The nuns have a saying,” she continued. “Serving the neighbor without distinction and treating people equally. They truly have compassion for everyone, and this experience has solidified my desire to work in health care,” said Alanna. “Now, I’m trying to decide if I want to stay on the operations side or move to the clinical side or patient facing side of health care. I am interested in population health across the country, and it is a fairly new field. It’s very interesting to see how qualitative and quantitative data is used to fix gaps in health care across a community.”

Alanna’s missionary role concluded in May 2021 and in the near future, she plans to attend graduate school.

Patrick Bouchard ’16

Called to serve



Patrick is pictured here with the other missionaries with whom he served at St. Anthony’s Shelter for Renewal (From left: Max, Declan, Alex, Cookie (the cat), Nick and Patrick).

Following graduation from Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio, Patrick Bouchard ’16 found joy by becoming one of six missionaries at the St. Anthony’s Shelter for Renewal in the Bronx, New York.

“After college, I knew through serving and surrendering myself to God, I would find joy,” said Patrick. “God called me to St. Anthony’s. I felt a calling to serve the poor and homeless in New York City. It’s a 24/7 calling to help, and I was glad to be there and help the men.” Patrick lived in the men’s-only shelter and volunteered there every day from August 2020—May 2021.

Franciscan Friars of the Renewal run the shelter and live at St. Crispins. The shelter’s mission is dedicated to the ongoing work of renewal of the whole person. It is a safe haven for single men over 18 who are homeless in the New York metropolitan area and who are personally committed to taking the necessary steps for healing and recovery.

Patrick says he’s experienced first-hand how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the poor and homeless tremendously in New York City. “Single mothers are relying on our food pantry, and men who can’t pay their rent because they lost their jobs are relying on our rooms. The poor are reminding us that the Lord is here and taking care of us.”

“The shelter hosts 20–30 guys a night,” he said. “They come in off the street because they need a clean, warm place to sleep. It’s a drug-free and alcohol-free environment. Due to COVID the limit is now 20. The men come in around 6 p.m. in the evening, we do an intake and then around 7 p.m., we all have dinner together (the missionaries and the men). Then, we play games such as basketball, ping pong, or watch movies. It’s lights out at 9:30 p.m. when the men go to their private rooms.”

The missionaries sleep on the same floor as the men, Patrick explained. The missionaries get up at 4:45 a.m. and wake the men around 5:30 to get them going for the day, have breakfast, take their medicine and return their valuable items. “As part of the shelter’s mission, it is really important for us to establish relationships with the men,” he says. “It’s the first stable environment they have been in, and they will get very emotional when you tell them they have their own room, and a nice, good cooked meal, every day. It’s a restaurant-quality meal, every day. This is the go-to four seasons homeless shelter in NYC. Everyone refers homeless men to us because of the benefits and safe atmosphere.”

After the men leave the shelter for the day, the missionaries have a full day of activity consisting of holy Mass and prayer, discussing any issues with guests or anyone who is having a rough time. “We are here for the men and we are oriented to serve them,” said Patrick. The missionaries also have catechesis, recreation and quiet time.

Patrick was on hospitality duty as part of his mission work. This meant he was responsible for refilling cleaning supplies, towels and soaps. “Some men show up at the shelter’s door with nothing. Once they get here, they can have whatever they need or want. These items help them get cleaned up to find a job and feel secure.”

With an emphasis on renewal of the poor and homeless, the friars and missionaries put “Windex on their dignity,” Patrick says. “We try to clean it up and bring it back to light. If we can restore that in one person, we have done our job. We as missionaries and friars can only restore the shelter’s guest dignity by pouring what we receive from prayer. It is not by our merit, but by the love we pour out that only comes from Jesus.”

“The toughest part about this service for me is when someone comes to the door and all of our rooms are full. What we tell them is, come back the next day at 9 a.m. It’s a first-come, first-serve basis. He will get a spot the next day,” said Patrick.

Patrick’s undergraduate degree is in political science with a minor in philosophy. Based on his experiences at St. Anthony’s Shelter, he plans to go back to Franciscan in fall 2021 and pursue a master’s degree in mental health counseling.

“You have to find joy on the journey,” said Patrick. “I’ve learned that I want to continue to help and support people who are struggling, and by pursuing a degree in mental health counseling, I will be able to do that. My parents taught me that love is demanding and requires sacrifice. My love for God brought me here and His calling for me is guiding me along this path.”

“Looking back to my experience at SMR, Mrs. Beth Allen (SMR Campus Minister) taught me how to serve. She was my third mom—the Blessed Mother Mary being first, then my mother and then Mrs. Allen. She always greeted us with a hug and was open to talk about college and life choices.”

Amy Spelz Travis ’98

Dedicated to safeguarding children

Amy Spelz Travis ’98 credits St. Mary’s Ryken with grounding her in faith and helping her discover herself. Amy considers her classmates and teachers as mentors, friends and supporters, who encouraged her to see the best in others and try to make the world a better place. And that is precisely what she continues to do today as an international advocate for child safeguarding and protection.

The first small step in her journey was choosing a college with a strong Campus Ministry program, one that provided retreats and service programs along with a diverse study abroad program. “Thanks to Sarah Kane’s retreats (SMR campus minister while Amy was an SMR student), the service we did through school, and the teachers and classmates who asked us big questions about ourselves and the world,” Amy’s mind and heart were opened to the world.

After studying international relations at St. Joseph’s University in Philadelphia for undergraduate school, Amy furthered her education at European Peace University in Austria, earning a master’s degree in Peace and Conflict Studies.



Amy at the orphanage and school in Liberia with a fellow staff member

“It was a challenging, extraordinary, and unconventional experience that exposed me to many different perspectives from my western-centric view of peace and conflict,” Amy said. “With 45 students from 26 countries and everyone living and working in a one-house-style dorm with a small kitchen, there was little personal space beyond one’s bedroom. The food and smells were at times a significant tipping point for people when they were stressed or frustrated, and we put into practice regularly what we were learning so that we could all live together.”

Amy jokingly refers to this experience as “Peace Camp,” but the time she spent with fellow students taught her much more beyond the walls of her own life experiences in the United States. She learned about the Israel-Palestine conflict through the eyes of peers on both sides. Another classmate shared his story of being kidnapped as a child to become a soldier for the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia. They visited a Nazi concentration camp, ate dinners with locals, and studied in a castle. Amy feels blessed to have learned with this diverse group of people.

These early experiences, coupled with Amy’s zeal for service and justice, gave her the desire to engage with the world by actively living out her faith to make a difference in the world. Travis spent 14 months at an orphanage and school in Liberia from 2010 to 2011, creating a comprehensive child protection program. The most difficult things about her job are knowing the prevalence and methods of child exploitation and abuse and convincing organizations that their children were in danger. Influencing organizations to make safety go beyond checklist compliance is challenging. Still, she perseveres with a vision of making all organizations child-safe spaces. She creates

child protection policies, training videos for staff and children, and risk assessments for nonprofits.

"The reality of what is happening and can happen to children and vulnerable adults are horrifying, but what keeps me going is knowing that with education, it can be prevented," she said. "I can bring compassion and healing to those who are surviving abuse. We must bring people into the fullness of their humanity, working for the common good. When we create safe spaces, adults and children can both thrive."



Amy spent 14 months at an orphanage and school in Liberia creating a comprehensive child protection program.

As a consultant and international advocate for child safeguarding and protection, Amy provides free resources for charities worldwide through her website and Child Protection Toolkit (http://amystravis.com/toolkit/). Amy was a Campus Minister at St. Mary's Ryken from from August 2004–June 2005.

Fun Facts about Amy:

Finding Joy:

Amy finds her joy in the simple pleasures of time spent with her husband and children. Amy loves to read to her toddlers, especially "Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type" (Doreen Cronin), "Nanette's Baguette" (Mo Willems), and "Happy Hippo, Angry Duck" (Sandra Boynton).

> "It was a challenging, extraordinary, and unconventional experience that exposed me to many different perspectives from my western-centric view of peace and conflict."

For her growth, she is reading "Racial Justice and the Catholic Church" (Bryan Massingale); "Jesus Feminist: An Invitation to Revisit the Bible's View of Women" (Sarah Bessey); and "White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism" (Robin DiAngelo). The last fun books she read were "The Boys in the Boat" (Daniel James Brown) and "The Namesake" (Jhumpa Lahiri).

Her SMR Days:

Reflecting on her time at St. Mary's Ryken, she said that she enjoyed most of her classes at SMR, however, freshman World History with Mrs. Martinez stands out. "I love history. Mrs. Martinez brought it together as a story. Projects like the 100 Questions, interviewing my grandmother on her life story, were very different from what I'd done before. And who could forget the 1215 tattoo! (a reference to Mrs. Martinez's joke to students that they should have the date 1215 tattooed on their left butt cheek to always remember the Magna Carta, a critical document that laid the groundwork for democracy)."

What would you tell your 18-year-old self today?

"Don't be so serious!" Amy said she was so focused on grades, getting a scholarship and attending a great university that she would stress out and worry too much to do everything perfectly. "Grades are important, and you need to try and to be focused, but it's OK to make mistakes. It's OK not to know what you want to do. There is no perfect or single correct path to your future. You are never too old to make a change or start something new."

What are you watching/reading/listening to in your spare time?

Amy likes to watch "This is Us," "Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist," and "The Great British Baking Show" while she exercises or works on craft projects.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

"No idea. I could not have predicted that this is where I would be if you asked me 10 years ago, and I'm sure I have no idea where I'll be in another 10. But I'm excited about the journey." Amy added, "In the meantime, I'm trying to utilize the lessons I learned at SMR: work hard, have faith, trust, be compassionate, live simply, humbly, and enjoy the present."



Amy at the orphanage and school in Liberia

John "Pat" Brennan '09

Helping nonprofits stay true to their mission

In 2018, as a United States Military Academy West Point graduate fresh out of Army service, John "Pat" Brennan '09 and three other West Point classmates launched the company ReSupply.

"We are a veteran-founded organization that began on a military base in Georgia trying to make it easier for military families to donate their gently used goods to nonprofit thrift stores," said Pat. "Quickly, our founder Paul realized that this was an issue that families faced across America, so he set out to help nonprofits all over the country receive more donations, by making giving simple."

Pat offered his human resource, financial planning, and logistics skills that he honed while in the Army and jumped at the opportunity to join the company in Boston. At the time, the primary goal was to build the business and the customer base. "Between four of us, we called and called and called customers to build the business," said Pat. Now, ReSupply is in 30 states and 300 nonprofit stores from Hawaii to Maryland.

"What we offer nonprofit thrift stores and charitable organizations is an easier method to pick up donated items. Essentially, we are a tech company that allows these organizations to increase donations, reduce costs, and track data," Pat continued. "Our management software handles the pickup of donated items and drop-off of these items from the donor to the organization."

ReSupply offers two tech options for nonprofits — the Legacy platform and another called Priority Pickups. The Legacy platform is an app that allows a donor to upload a photo of an item they desire to donate and submit the item to a single charity or many charities. The charities decide whether they would like to accept the items. For a monthly fee, the app provides fundraising, route management, scheduling and donor management for the nonprofits.

The Priority Pickups enhanced service allows donors to schedule a pickup of their items within 72 hours. A minimal fee is charged to the donor to pick up their items and distribute their donation to organizations who decide to accept it. "By using Priority Pickups, Habitat for Humanity in Boston stopped running their donation pickup trucks altogether," Pat said. "The third-party drivers picked up items for them, left a tax receipt with the donor, and we were able to offer this service to the nonprofit for free. It's a great way to get rid of your stuff with very little effort and help nonprofits in the process."

According to Pat, the ultimate goal of ReSupply is to offer the donor a better experience because you are helping the community, saving money, and keeping your belongings out of the dump.

"The challenge in our business is relationship management," said Pat. "When we do a great job, we help more people because the nonprofits are helping more people. A dollar to a charity is a bowl of soup, a shirt on someone's back or assistance to a homeless person. Managing expectations and relationships is extremely important. Trust is key to our business. Our customers believe in us and understand that we support their mission and brand. Our goals are their goals."



Pictured in the center, Pat salutes an Army officer during a commissioning ceremony.

"Our company was built and grown by military veterans. We all have the same goals and objectives in mind — to expand ReSupply to continue to help nonprofits with their missions and to train veterans to help them with future job success in the tech space."

Pat continued: "ReSupply wants to make giving simple. There are people everywhere that need help, and we want to help them. Our goal is to be the premier software for nonprofit organizations and to support their brands. We want to maintain our focus, which is to help more people and help nonprofits with their missions."

Pat contributes almost all of his success and mental toughness to Coach Jon Sothoron (Pat's SMR lacrosse coach), his years at St. Mary's Ryken and his lacrosse coach at West Point, Joe Alberici.

"If I take all of the skills that Coach Jon and Coach A taught me, these skills built my mental toughness and what it means to be accountable. The experiences from playing on their teams is invaluable to my life experiences after high school, in the Army and now with ReSupply. You don't realize what you get out of these experiences until you go through them."

"What I learned from SMR is, you show your seriousness, you don't talk about it. You show your value, and your work speaks for itself. The work we have done with ReSupply is evidence of this thought process. SMR made a significant impact on my life, and that school is like my family."

Globetrotting With Tim Moore (RHS '77)

Tim Moore '77 grew up reading National Geographic magazine, and "through them, I traveled everywhere, and they stimulated my love of science and exploration." Tim wanted to be a meteorologist, but the University of Maryland did not have an undergraduate program, so the self-proclaimed weather nerd chose geology. "It has allowed me to travel to many real and symbolic mountains. It is the reason why I have friends all over the world."

Tim is a geologist and the owner/managing director of Cipher Consulting Pty. Ltd., in Brisbane, Australia. He is also a visiting distinguished professor at China University of Mining and Technology in Xuzhou, China, and adjunct associate professor at the Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane. Tim's company specializes in understanding and exploring organic-rich sediments, including coal, coalbed methane, and shale gas.

"I love being a geologist," Tim says. It was a course offering at Ryken High School back in the 1970s and taught by Brother Vincent. "He was dynamic and had a flair about him." From a course offering to a career! "My passion is looking back into deep time, and geology lets me time travel to hundreds of millions of years in the past. It always blows my imagination!"

Tim received his bachelor's degree at the University of Maryland and his master's and Ph.D. degrees at the University of Kentucky. He is considered world-renowned for his fieldwork as a sedimentologist/coal geologist and his work on rocks from the Devonian age (about 400 million years ago) right up to modern sediments. He has published more than 260 papers on deposits from all seven continents.

"And one of the best things about being a geologist is meeting a cornucopia of different people. Recently I was in Xuzhou, China, with my wife, Aretha, and son, Micah, on the way to Inner Mongolia. Before departing from Xuzhou, I met new colleagues from Vladivostok, Russia—we will soon be publishing some papers with them."



Tim with his wife Aretha and their son Micah

Tim has also been able to work with his best friend, Roman Pausch '77, whom he has had a continuous friendship with for the last 48 years—since they were both freshmen at Ryken High School in 1973! Roman, retired from Cornell University's prestigious laboratories, has over 30 years of field and laboratory experience interacting with plants and the atmosphere. Most of his field experience has been in remote parts of the world, including Thailand, Myanmar, Colombia, and Peru, as well as the U.S. and Germany. Many of the field locations, such as deserts and rainforests, present logistical and environmental challenges.

Roman and Tim have collaborated over the years, and Roman is part of the Cipher team. Earlier this year, they even co-authored a paper together on what the paleoclimate was like 105 million years ago in Inner Mongolia. Time travel with your best friend doesn't get any better than this!

From small-town Leonardtown to world traveler, these experiences have given Tim a greater perspective on human relations, meeting people of different cultures and backgrounds. "I sometimes wonder how the world would be if world leaders could not rule unless they, during their childhood, had lived in many places around the globe—and not in sealed-off compounds, but cheek to jowl with real people. Would we still have the xenophobia we see today? Would there always be a lack of understanding, compassion, and empathy that seems to be spreading like dirty tentacles across the world? My guess is, we would not."

Tim and Aretha hope to see a different world for their son, Micah, who has traveled worldwide and has had the opportunity to interact with children from different cultures. One thing is for sure, from generation to generation, every parent has the same wish for their children—the hope of a better world to live and grow.

For more on Tim, follow his blog at **https://www.ciphercoal.com/blog/**



Ryken High School track team

Alumni Make Rosaries for Former Teachers

In the fall of 2020, Elizabeth Trossbach ’20 spearheaded an effort to make rosaries for each faculty and staff member at St. Mary’s Ryken.

“I was so excited that Gregory DeStefano asked us to make rosaries for our former teachers! I am grateful for my time at St. Mary’s Ryken and the formation and inspiration I was offered through the devoted faculty and staff. It was during my time at SMR that I acquired a deeper understanding of what it meant for Mary to be our Mother, especially through the Holy Rosary. The rosary is such a gift from our loving Mother. Even though these rosaries were so simply made for our former teachers, there is no gift as alumni we would rather give than the graces the daily rosary offers those who desire to know Her Son.”

—Elizabeth Trossbach ’20

Evan Domonkos ’19, Marco Magpantay ’20 and Peter Trossbach ’19 assisted Elizabeth with the rosary project.





Elizabeth just finished her first year at Franciscan University of Steubenville, where she is studying Catechetics.

Fall Events

Huge alumni support for the annual golf tournament

The annual SMR golf tournament was held on Oct. 2 with a sold-out crowd! Alumni teams represented six decades of Knights from 1966 through 2017! It was a beautiful day on the golf course and a great time was had by everyone. The winners were members of the Class of 1966—Chip Gateau, Bill Cusic, Lloyd Montgomery and Craig Norford. Men's Closest to the Pin was Boyd Radford, and Ladies Closest to the Pin went to Nikki Atlas, P'20,'24. Longest Drive went to Mark Jackson Dameron and Sydney Guy'17.



Young alumni return to make their mark at the annual golf tourney! Sydney Guy '17 playing with Connor Banagan, Madisson Wood '16, and Tyler Cryer '16.



Mason Short '11, JJ Raley '08, Jerry Short, and Austin Short '15.



Our best-dressed team goes to these ladies! Joanna Hosea P '21, Maria Icaza P '21, Paula Wood P '16, '19, '22, and Marsha Wentworth P '16, '18.

$25,000 Raised by #GivingKnights on Giving Tuesday!

Because of you, #GivingTuesday was a huge success! We are grateful to our alumni, former and current parents, Board of Directors, faculty, and staff for helping us raise $25,000 and making our 2020 Founders Week Day of Giving Back to the Knighthood our best ever!

Your generous gifts supported the urgent needs of the school. We are grateful for your trust in our mission by investing in Catholic education at St. Mary's Ryken.

Please save the date for the next Giving Tuesday on Nov. 30, 2021. Thank you, #GivingKnights!



On Giving Tuesday, students wrote notes of gratitude to family and teachers. SMR English teacher and softball coach Stephanie Bolin '10 received a note from her student, Genna Bucklew.

Alumni Class Notes

Class of 1956

Germaine Narutowicz Vadas and her husband, Jim, will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary in September! They have five children and 11 grandchildren ranging in age from 15 to 31. Germaine is still a part-time seasonal employee at Ladew Topiary Gardens, and is the senior staff docent. She is the longest-serving employee!

Germaine shared that she has fond memories of her 11 years at St. Mary's Academy. After graduating from Catholic University in 1960, she and her husband built a life in Bel Air in Harford County on a small farm. "I guess all those years in St. Mary's County prepared me for wanting to board horses and learn to muck stalls, throw hay and help build fences. However, we are retired from that now, and the fields just get hayed! She hopes to reconnect with classmates. Pictured below: Germaine and Jim surrounded by their kids and grandkids.



Class of 1975

In March 2021, **George D. Kennett** was inducted into Naval Installations Command (CNIC) Fire & Emergency Services Hall of Fame as Inductee #41. This Hall of Fame was created in 2003 to "recognize significant and distinguished contributions" to the United States Navy Fire Service. George retired from Naval Air Station/Naval District Washington, Patuxent River, MD in 2008 after a 29-year career, including 12 years as the installation fire chief. George is pictured below with his son, Steven, who graduated last year from Charles County's Emergency Medical Services Training Academy. Steven is the family's third generation to be involved in fire and emergency services. "I had the honor of pinning him at his graduation ceremony!"



Class of 1984



Nick Flerlage and his wife of almost 30 years, Beth, work side by side and specialize in helping active professionals or retirees locate or market local homes to suit their changing needs. They are recognized for their superior knowledge of the Venice, Florida lifestyle. It's actually how they earned the title of "Lifestyle Locators." They are consistently in the top 3% of all RE/MAX agents, have been inducted into the RE/MAX Hall of Fame, and have been voted "Best of Venice" for the past seven years.

Class of 1987



Stirling Gardner received a Two Comma Club Award, which recognizes entrepreneurs in digital marketing who achieve $1 million revenue in a year's time.

Class of 1999

Meghan Sochowski Rhode and her husband, Robert, are excited to announce the birth of their daughter, Ellie Mae, joining big brother Thomas to the family. She was born Feb. 10, 2021, weighing 8 lbs. 7 oz. She is a healthy, happy little girl.



Class of 2004

Jason and Malisa **Early** welcomed their son, Charles River, on May 3, 2020. River arrived at 2:23 a.m., weighing 7 lbs. 3 oz. and measuring 19.5 inches long.





Christa Harmon is celebrating 14 years in her career with Barefoot Graphics, a family-owned and -operated sign and print shop in

Southern Maryland. Christa loves being an aunt to her sister Katie's three children and enjoying time to travel.

Class of 2005

Ryan Reuter married Kira McMurran on May 1, 2021 at St. John Francis Regis Church in Hollywood, Maryland. A reception attended by family and friends was held at Woodlawn in Ridge, Maryland. Patrick O'Brien '05 served as his best man. Spike Meatyard '05 and Reed Sothoron '01 served as groomsmen.

Following the reception, the new Mr. and Mrs. Ryan Reuter headed off to the Maldives for their honeymoon. They are residing in Manhattan, where Ryan is an investment banker with Cantor Fitzgerald and Kira is a court attorney with the State of New York.



Class of 2007

Elizabeth Wathen Kandler and husband Elliott welcomed their first baby, John Michael, into the world on April 22. John Michael will follow in his mother's footsteps and graduate with the SMR Class of 2039!

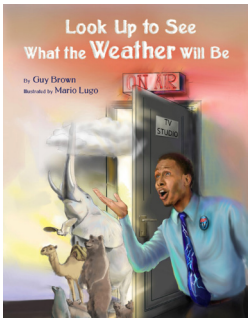


Amanda Hanson Matheny shared the wonderful news: "God blessed us this past fall as we welcomed our precious son, Landon Kyle, into the world on Oct. 9, 2020, and he is everything we could have imagined and more. We are truly blessed!"



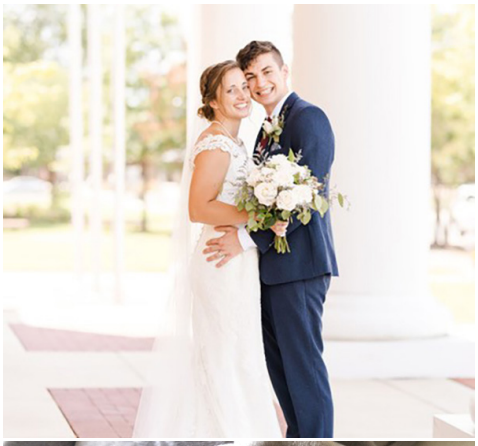
After eight years in the military, **Paris Scott** transitioned to the medical device industry, where he is the senior engineer at Edwards Lifesciences. Paris works with different teams to ensure products comply with medical regulations in different global markets.

Class of 2010



Guy S. Brown, a meteorologist, started a new job in September 2020 in the Twin Cities as the morning meteorologist on KARE 11 and is publishing his first children's book this fall!

Stephanie Dameron married Will Bolin on July 22, 2020, at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in La Plata. They are residing in Dameron, Maryland. Stephanie and Will are proud to announce that William Joseph Bolin IV was born on on May 18, 2021!





Eli Matthews was the first baby born in the new year at St. Mary's Hospital. Congratulations to **Hannah Seaquist Matthews** and her husband **Tom** '09!



Class of 2012

Aleksey House '14 and **Preston Dabbs '12** were engaged in Park City, Utah, on a skiing trip. They were visiting Aleksey's younger brother, Ian, who is stationed at Hill Air Force Base. Aleksey and Preston will marry in fall 2022. From left: Chandler Dabbs '15, Ian House '19, Aleksey House '14 and Preston Dabbs '12



Class of 2013

Christian Jarboe is working as a video creator for a Washington, D.C.-based recruitment marketing company called Stories Inc. At the end of 2019, his team completed an assignment for Dell Technologies that took him on a series of travels from Panama to Egypt, the south of France, Japan, China, Singapore and India. Travel slowed in 2020 due to the coronavirus, and they began creating video content remotely through the use of video kits that are sent directly to clients.

Christian also earned his pilot license in spring 2020 and is enjoying getting out and flying when he has time!





Nick Stellway recently earned his CCIM designation in commercial real estate. He serves the tri-county area and is selling and leasing warehouses ranging from 10,000–100,000 square feet.

Class of 2015

Andrea McCloskey and Allen Windsor welcomed their baby girl, Aria, on Dec. 3, 2020. They will be married on Aug. 14, 2021.



Class of 2016



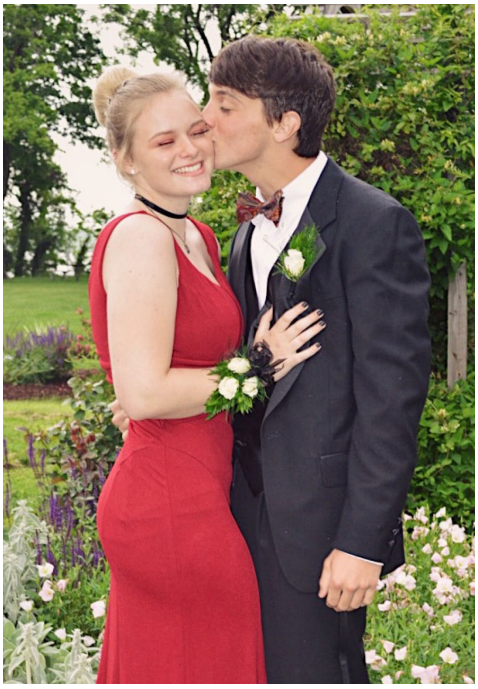
Stephen Klotz is a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps, and graduated from Mercyhurst University with a degree in Intelligence, a minor in Chinese, and a concentration in Asian Studies. Stephen completed Marine OCS in November 2020 and is commissioned as Second LT Marine Intelligence. He is now attending The Basic School in Quantico, Virginia, where he will train and be educated to the high standards of professional knowledge, esprit-de-corps, and leadership to prepare for duty as company grade officers in the operating forces, with particular emphasis on the duties, responsibilities and warfighting skills required of a rifle platoon commander.

Class of 2017



Gia Beaton will be attending the Duke University School of Law in the fall as a part of their Class of 2024. Gia graduated from Villanova in May 2021.

Camryn Dougherty and **Tucker Jameson**, the Class of 2017 Prom king and queen, are to be married June 19, 2021, in Dallas!





Cameron Dziekiewicz graduated magna cum laude in December 2020 from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, with a B.S. in computer science. Cameron started a position as a software engineer at Northrop Grumman Space Systems in the beginning of February 2021 working on a web development project for space software. He will start his master's program in the fall.

Carmen Schrodel graduated in May 2021 from James Madison University with a Bachelor of Science degree. She will be attending George Washington University to pursue her master's in public health.



Chris Skane has been accepted into the UMBC graduate school in the computer science program for spring 2021. He graduated with his B.S. degree in computer science and mathematics in May 2021.



Follow Us on Social Media!

SMR Alumni page: **facebook.com/StMarysRykenAlumni**

SMR High School page: **facebook.com/SMRKnights**

@stmarysryken

St. Mary's Ryken 40th Anniversary Reflections

I was in the first sophomore class when Ryken High School opened in 1956. I watched this great school being built and am so proud to see your progress over these past 66 or so years. Keep up the great work. Many great memories!

—John C. Iannone '59



When I was at St. Mary's Academy, we once had a special day outside as a May celebration. Three little boys dressed as pages in court and the little girls danced around in pastel dresses. Sister Mildred and Sister Frances Dechantal taught us many Marian hymns to sing. The whole town was invited, and everyone loved it. This was a glorious day I have treasured all my life.

—Lucille Abell Nunn '49

I was blessed to have had administrators, teachers, coaches and club moderators that encouraged me to grow spiritually, academically, athletically and socially. They all cared about all of us students, and they appreciated our gifts. They also gave me a vocation, as I serve at a Xaverian school in Baltimore, Mount St. Joseph. My sister Nicole also works at the Mount. Enduring personal relationships, a collaborative approach to problem solving and a sense of a band of brothers and sisters working to help our students, I learned from all who worked at Ryken.



George Andrews, left, with his siblings, Derek '83 and Nicole '86

—George Andrews '81

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/PrayerRequest** or contact the Development Department at 301-373-4162.

4/4/20 Mr. Eugene D. Birge (Alumnae Spouse '51)
5/18/20 Mrs. Frances H. Wilkinson Duke '54 (Alumni Spouse '47, P '70, GP '93)
5/21/20 Mrs. Paula Luskus (P '86, '87, '88, '90)
5/27/20 Mr. Rudolph J. "Rudy" Baliko (P '88)
6/5/20 Ms. Joan M. Mullen '67
6/8/20 Mr. Scott Collier '92
6/8/20 Mrs. Mary Jane Wood (P '80, '81, '84, '88, '91, GP '16, '18, '19, '21)
6/13/20 Mrs. Rebecca J. Long Birge '51
6/14/20 Mr. Walter "Chuck" Davis Jr. (P '02)
6/15/20 Mrs. Ethel M. "Sis" Clements Garner '59
6/23/20 Ms. Ann Mattingly '41
6/23/20 Mrs. Teresa Spalding (GP '15, '16, '21)
6/24/20 Mr. Bernard F. Beavan (Alumnae Spouse '54)
6/28/20 Mr. Jeffrey H. McDonald (P '14)
6/29/20 Mr. Harold E. Proctor Sr. (P '86)
7/4/20 Mrs. Grace Ann Quade '72
7/13/20 Mrs. Jannette P. Norris (Alumni Spouse '63)
7/20/20 Mrs. Pat L. Taylor (Alumni Spouse '79, P '02, '04, '05, '07)
7/26/20 Mr. David H. Mattingly '61
7/27/20 Mrs. Theresa L. Mandley Keiser '76
7/29/20 Mrs. Joanne McGilloway (P '14, '18)
8/6/20 Mr. John F. Junek (P '87, '92)
8/6/20 Mrs. AnnaMaria Radosevic (GP '17)
8/22/20 Mr. Tanner M. Jameson (Former Student '18)
8/27/20 Mr. Danny M. Fluhart (Alumnae Spouse '60)
8/27/20 Mrs. Marilyn Dixon McKay '42 (P '62, '66, '70, '73, '74, '78, GP '02, '07)
8/29/20 Mr. W. Edelen Gough Jr. '46 (P '80, '81, '84, '87, GP '11, '16)
9/16/20 Ms. Edna W. "Sissy" Wathen Burch '58 (P '81, '84)
9/19/20 Mr. Glenn W. Johnson '78
9/23/20 Mrs. Caroline Hayden Murphy '48
10/5/20 Ms. Betty Lou Stone (P '77, GP '06, '08)
10/5/20 Mrs. Olivia A. "Libby" Wathen Wood '77
10/8/20 Mr. Mark Eversberg (Alumnae Spouse '72)
10/11/20 Mr. James Russell (GP '02, '06, '10)
10/16/20 Dr. John F. Fenwick '51 (P '79, '81)
10/21/20 Mrs. Nancy L. Schroeder Sheck '67
10/22/20 Dr. Patricia Wilson (Friend of SMR)
10/28/20 Mrs. Kay Hall (GP '23)
10/28/20 Mr. Joseph E. "Lindy" McKay (P '76)
10/29/20 Mrs. Martha "Janie" Greenwell (Alumni Spouse '75)
11/6/20 Mr. James A. Wilt (GP '10, '12, '15, '18)
11/7/20 Mr. H. Thomas Waring (P '61, '65, '68, '78 '79, '81, GP '97, '16)
11/8/20 Mr. C. Allen Lacey '76
11/18/20 Mr. Warren J. Guy (Alumnae Spouse '68)
11/20/20 Mr. J. Eric Kelly '79
11/25/20 Mr. Timothy B. Missler '88
11/27/20 Brother Matthew Burke, CFX (Former Board Member and Former Faculty)
11/28/20 Mr. Stephen Nelson Sr. (P '22)
11/30/20 Mrs. Nelma Stassfort Julian (P '79)
12/6/20 Ms. Rose V. Clements Just '56
12/10/20 Mr. James F. "Bubby" Spalding (P '87)
12/12/20 Mr. Edwin P. Johnson III '74 (P '92, '07)
12/15/20 Mr. William E. Bailey '53 (Alumnae Spouse '58, P '77, '81, '83, GP '04, '10, '13, '18)
12/23/20 Mr. Louis Giampiccolo (P '77)
12/26/20 Mr. James Somerville (GP '23)
12/28/20 Mr. Stephen M. Waters '67
1/1/21 Mr. Joseph E. Farrell (Alumnae Spouse '70)
1/3/21 Mr. William C. "Bill" Moody (Friend of SMR)
1/4/21 Mr. William "Billy" Pilkerton (Alumnae Spouse '89)
1/11/21 Lt. Col. Paul R. Julian Jr. (P '79)
1/16/21 Judge C. Clarke Raley '60 (Alumnae Spouse '62, P '80, '89, GP '10, '12)
1/17/21 Mrs. M. Jeanette Brown (Alumni Spouse '56, P '85, '87, '90, GP '17, '18, '20, '24)
1/18/21 Mr. Arthur Masoero Jr. (P '19)
1/19/21 Mrs. Donna J. Cranford (GP '19, '20, '22)
1/20/21 Mr. Joseph H. Cullison (P '80, GP '06, '13, '14)
1/22/21 Mrs. Caridad Angelina Roa Schaller (P '74, '76)
1/23/21 Mr. Alec E. Forsman '80
1/24/21 Mr. Warren M. Callis Sr. (GP '15, '16)
1/26/21 Mr. George P. Winchester (Alumnae Spouse '79, P '12)
2/5/21 Mrs. Mary Patsy Dyson Tutt '66
2/5/21 Mr. Clarence Breabham "Skip" James III (GP '16, '18)
2/13/21 Dr. José A. Quesada-Embid (P '94, '97)
2/21/21 Mrs. Sarah Crecelius (P '74, '78, '83, GP '01, '02)
2/27/21 Mrs. Robena McKay Keatley '42 (P '71, '72)
3/2/21 Mrs. Betty Aldridge (GP '08, '10, '16, '19)
3/5/21 Mrs. Peggy Thompson (GP '13)
3/18/21 Mrs. Delores Greer (P '77, '82)
3/19/21 Mr. Raymond J. Robinson '80
3/23/21 Mr. Raymond "Buddy" Combs (P '98)
3/24/21 Mr. James T. "Jim Tom" Tennyson (Alumnae Spouse '51, GP '03, '13, '15, '18, '20, '23)
3/26/21 Ms. Shirley A. Mulloy (GP '10, '12, '15)
3/26/21 Mrs. M. Agnes "Aggie" Owens (Former Employee, P '78, '80, '87)
3/29/21 Mrs. Beverly Elkins (GP '16)
4/5/21 Mr. Joseph W. Vallandingham Jr. '75
4/10/21 Mrs. Margaret T. Cullison (P '80, GP '06, '13, '14)
4/10/21 Mr. Carl H. Dubac (Friend of SMR)
4/12/21 Bridget O'Neill (P '79, '81, '82, '84, GP '13, '16, '23)
4/13/21 Mrs. Margaret L. Wheeler (Alumni Spouse '47, P '70, '72, '76, '84)
4/21/21 Mr. James Nehf (GP '17)
4/22/21 Mr. George L. Welch Sr. (P '85)
5/4/21 Ms. Gene M. Smith Paca '45
5/5/21 Judge W. Russell Cullins Jr. '48 (Alumnae Spouse '52, P '72, '73, '75, '76, '77, '82, '80, GP '99, '01, '02, '05, '07)
5/5/21 Mr. John C. "J.C." Wiegman '66
5/7/21 Mrs. Charlotte Shackelford GP '10, '13, '16, '18, '20
5/8/21 Mrs. Debra Hayden Griffin '78
5/18/21 Ms. Bonnie Clare Boelke, GP '23
5/19/21 Mrs. Jacqueline Goldsborough Bond '52
5/20/21 Mrs. Ethel E. Wiley, GP '87
5/21/21 Mr. William J. "Billy" Huseman, Sr., Alumnae Spouse '44, P '70, '76
5/21/21 Mrs. Debra Woods, Friend to SMR
5/24/21 Mrs. Ernestine "Pretty" Clarke Hewitt '41

P = parent of alum GP = grandparent of alum

In Memoriam: Brother Matthew Burke, CFX 1938–2020

Brother Matthew Burke passed away peacefully on Nov. 27, 2020, at Nazareth Home. Brother Matthew served as principal of St. Mary's Ryken from 1976 to 1983, overseeing the merger of St. Mary's Academy with Ryken High School.

Brother Matthew was born in Brooklyn, New York, to Cecilia and John Burke, and grew up in Queens. He is survived by three loving sisters: Deborah May, Jacqueline Clifford and Patricia Smith. Two sisters pre-deceased Matthew: Virginia Wenz and Carole Poletto. His mother died when he was a child, and his father later married Lucille Connolly Burke.

Upon graduation from William Cullen Bryant High School in Long Island City, Queens, in 1956, Brother Matthew responded to God's initial call to our way of life. He entered the Sacred Heart Novitiate in Fort Monroe, Virginia. In 1958 he pronounced his first vows as a Xaverian Brother. He would continue his formation at Xaverian College in Silver Spring, Maryland, earning his Bachelor of Arts in Latin and Greek from Catholic University. He graduated in 1962 with highest honors.

Over the course of his life, Brother Matthew gradually answered the question, "What is my gift to others?"

The leadership of the Central Province readily recognized Brother Matthew's gifts. Indeed, he was blessed with many talents that served his pursuit of academic excellence and educational leadership. In 1962, Brother Matthew was assigned to Nazareth High School in Brooklyn, which had just opened. He was a successful teacher, blessed with a personal charisma that endeared him to his students. Many remained in touch with him as adults.

A life-long learner, Brother Matthew did graduate studies at Catholic University and at St. John's University. He earned a Master of Arts degree in secondary education from Michigan University (1967) and a Master of Science degree in educational administration from St. John's University (1968). In 1967 he was appointed deputy principal of Nazareth High School and then from 1969 to 1975 he served as Nazareth's principal. Brother Matthew completed his doctoral studies at Fordham University in 1976.

From 1976 to 1983 Brother Matthew served as principal of SMR, where he was responsible for implementing the merger of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth's St. Mary's Academy with Ryken High School. Brother Cornelius Hubbuch, the outgoing principal, had arranged for the merger. Indeed, it was an arduous task that benefited from Brother Matthew's gifts, especially his tenacity.

After leaving SMR, Brother Matthew spent a sabbatical year at the Jesuit Institute for Spirituality and Worship in Berkeley, California.

From 1984 through 2001 he served in congregational leadership. He was the first director of Xaverian Brothers' Sponsored Schools (XBSS), having established the program. He also served as provincial of the American Central Province from 1988–94 and as general superior from 1995–2001. He also volunteered for a year in Romania, teaching in a seminary.



Brother Matthew Burke, CFX 1938–2020

From 2003 to 2009, Brother Matthew was involved with various ministries in Kenya, including serving as regional director from 2004–09.

Upon return to the U.S., Brother Matthew was guest master at one of the XBSS houses in Florida and then returned to Baltimore and was involved with Catholic Charities, setting up a center for Hispanic ministries at the Assisi House at St. Patrick's, where XBSS once ran an elementary school.



Top 5 Reasons to Support the Knighthood

The COVID-19 pandemic has profoundly challenged education systems worldwide and is fast-tracking the exploration of new approaches in education delivery. We are grateful to our supporters of the Knighthood for responding to our call for action to assist our school during these turbulent times.

Every dollar counts and benefits every facet of the school. Gifts to SMR show your Knight Pride and go to work immediately, having an enormous impact on students, faculty, and the community. Below are five ways that your gift makes an immediate impact:

1. **Today's Knights:** Investment in today's students supports tomorrow's leaders. St. Mary's Ryken is one of the few high schools in Maryland that successfully launched in person starting in August 2020! Our students are resilient and KnightStrong!
2. Recruiting and retaining **Exceptional Teachers** whose values and expectations shape young minds and who support Catholic education. Our everyday heroes adapt quickly to keep our students focused on their education and college goals.
3. Our 87-acre, college-like atmosphere — with seven buildings, multiple studying spaces, and athletic fields — is the **Vibrant Campus** where students learn and play. The Annual Fund contributes to the most basic campus needs, from the electricity that powers the lights to maintaining classrooms and the athletic fields.
4. **Seize the Day!** Annual Fund dollars enable SMR to give our students the ability to learn and grow in an environment of mutual respect and nurtures a faith-filled view of existence. By graduation, a St. Mary's Ryken student is a young adult who is well prepared for college and committed to Christian service and responsible citizenship.
5. **Tomorrow's Knights!** Whether you are passionate about the arts, technology, financial aid, or the environment, your gift to SMR can impact that passion. Designate your contribution to your favorite program, scholarship, or department to shape future leaders in that area of interest.

To support the Knights, please visit **smrhs.org/gift**. Every gift no matter the size is appreciated!

Welcome to the Class of 2025!

SMR is pleased to welcome **170** students	From over **42** middle schools	Average GPA for incoming freshmen: **3.52**	**50** were accepted to the Scholars Program	**58** merit-based scholarships were awarded

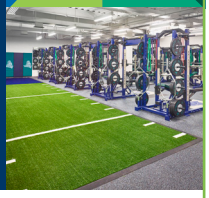


Hunter Russell with his mom, Rachel '99









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FALL OPEN HOUSE!

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

During our in-person event, meet students and faculty, tour the campus and get to know our community.

OCTOBER 24, 2021 • 1 P.M.

St. Mary's Ryken Campus
22600 Camp Calvert Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650

DISCOVER THE DIFFERENCE A ST. MARY'S RYKEN EDUCATION WILL MAKE FOR YOUR CHILD!

Visit **smrhs.org/OpenHouse** to learn more and take a virtual campus tour.



Jackson Wallace with his parents, James and Christina '97

Congratulations to the Class of 2025 Scholarship Winners!

Presidential
Delaney Garner
Emilie Garrabrant
Evan Greer
Ryan Guy
James Pawloski
Kenzo Wiesert

Principal
Connor Greenwell
Noah Johnson
Romi Landreth
Daniel Owens

Leadership
Lacey Boswell
Makayla Cross
Donovan De La Cruz
Rawlins Don-Simmons
Joseph Fry
Delaney Garner
Matthew Green
Evan Greer
Joshua Hedderich
Margaret Hutchinson
Santino Madello
Jacob Olson
Lillian Peshek
Aubrey Rawlings
Benjamin Richards
Hunter Russell
Madison Wood

Dance
Gianna Lopez

Piano
Alexander Smith

Visual Art
Lila Daczkowski
Rawlins Don-Simmons
Carlota Dormido
Lillian Gwynn
Addison Lyons
Lillian Peshek
Madison Wood

Instrumental
Nyla Brewster
Raymond Dean
Joseph Fowler
Daniel Masoero
James Nelson
Edwin Salvador
Alexander Smith

Theatre
Donovan De La Cruz
Allan Encarnacion
Ryan Hupp
Romi Landreth

Vocal
Donovan De La Cruz
Allan Encarnacion
Romi Landreth

Blaine Whorl
Alessandra Valmonte

Community Service
Caden Costanzo
Donovan De La Cruz
Evan Greer
Santino Madello
Charles Somers

Laurie Collins
Rawlins Don-Simmons
Ryan Guy

St. Mary's Ryken
A College Preparatory Catholic High School
22600 Camp Calvert Road
Leonardtown, MD 20650

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A CATHOLIC SCHOOL IN THE XAVERIAN BROTHERS TRADITION

2021–22 School and Alumni Events Please join us!

HOMECOMING 2021

SMR Golf Classic
Oct. 1

Homecoming Game & Alumni Tailgating
Oct. 1
Knights vs. Good Counsel
Join us before the game for alumni tailgating in the Donnie Williams Center.

2021–22 Reunions
Please contact us if you are planning a class reunion at **advancement@smrhs.org**.

Knights Uncorked, an Evening of Bourbon, Beer and Wine Tasting
Sept. 10

Sophomore Grandparents Day*
Oct. 12

Freshman Grandparents Day
Nov. 1

Open House for Prospective Families
Oct. 24

Founders Week
Nov. 29–Dec. 4

Giving Tuesday
Nov. 30

Youth Honors Chorus Concert
Dec. 3

Chorus/Dance Winter Concert
Dec. 9

~~Concert Band/Orchestra/~~ Jazz Band Winter Concert
Dec. 10

Deadline to Make an End-of-Year Gift to SMR
Dec. 31

Summer Knights Camp Registration Opens
March 1

Knight Gala
April 2

Fine Arts Festival—Instrumental
April 28

Fine Arts Festival—Chorus and Dance
April 29

Golden Gathering
May 1

Baccalaureate Mass
May 22

Graduation for the Class of 2022 and Diamond, Gold and Silver Ceremony for the classes of 1947, 1972 and 1997.
May 31

SAVE THE DATE!

SMR Players 2021–22 Season

Fall Play: Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot or Holmes for the Holidays"
Nov. 4–7, 2021

Winter Play: "Almost, Maine" by John Cariani
Jan. 27–30, 2022

Spring Musical: "Guys and Dolls, A Musical Fable of Broadway"
April 7–10, 2022

** Because we were not able to invite guests to campus in 2020, Sophomore Grandparents Day is being celebrated in 2021.*

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