



ST. MARY'S RYKEN  
A CATHOLIC COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

# Spring 2014 Connections

A magazine for the St. Mary's Ryken Community

Transforming the Classroom:  
iPads aren't just for e-books



*Inspiring Lives of Learning, Faith & Service*



# CLASS OF 1977 SCHOLARSHIP



Goal:  
\$25,000

Established  
by  
Paul  
Geraty '77

Several members of the St. Mary's Ryken Board of Directors - all alumni - are establishing two scholarships for students who desire a Catholic education and want to attend St. Mary's Ryken. If you are a member of the Class of 1977 or 1981 and wish to contribute to your class's scholarship, please contact Melissa Carnes in the Advancement Office at 301-373-4182 or by email at [advancement@smrhs.org](mailto:advancement@smrhs.org).

*The pride of a school lives on in the hearts of its alumni*

# CLASS OF 1981 SCHOLARSHIP

Goal: \$25,000  
Formed by Cathy Bowes '81, George Andrews '81, Scott Bowling '81 and Gordon O'Neill '81.





## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni, Parents and Friends,

As I reflect on the many accomplishments of our students and their involvement in the community, I realize that this spring edition of

*Connections* shares in many ways the impact our teachers have on their students. So often it is by invitation from a teacher who recognizes the potential a student has, that leads to encouragement to try something new and stretch one's talents and gifts. Teachers are the individuals who replace the insecurity of adolescence with the gift of confidence.

Throughout the school year, our faculty continually guide our students to see the needs for service that surround us. Freshmen and sophomores headed out weekly to a nursing home, shelter and veterans home.

Supplies were continually gathered for our troops, local food banks, and the pregnancy care center to name just a few. These actions which are part of the life of St. Mary's Ryken capture the message from the fundamental principles of the Xaverian Brothers, "Affirm your brothers and sisters in their gifts, for by doing so you enable them to realize the gifts that God has given them for service."

Thank you for your support to our annual fund and to our endowment campaign, *Foundations for the Future*. You have helped to provide so many programs that are not covered by tuition and to ensure the future of St. Mary's Ryken. These programs help us in the formation of our students so that they are continually prepared to love learning and to "Fall in Love with the Service of God."

May God bless you and your families.

Sincerely,  
Mary Joy Hurlburt  
President



**ST. MARY'S RYKEN**  
A CATHOLIC COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

## Spring 2014

Editor & Writer  
Denise Krumenacker

### Photography

Candid Color Photography  
Elena Dubas '98  
Anita Drury '84  
George Hurlburt  
LifeTouch  
Gina Liu, Class of 2014  
Andrew Smouse

Cover photo: Reid Silverman

*St. Mary's Ryken  
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 to  
individualized student growth.*

Send alumni news to  
[publications@smrhs.org](mailto:publications@smrhs.org)

St. Mary's Ryken High School  
22600 Camp Calvert Road  
Leonardtown, MD 20650  
Tel: 301-475-2814  
Email: [publications@smrhs.org](mailto:publications@smrhs.org)

# The Future of Classrooms is Here and It's Not Just E-books

St. Mary's Ryken students use iPads as educational hub



Latin teacher Sam Spaulding (standing) enjoys the student/teacher interaction the iPad fosters as she monitors student progress on a classroom assignment in Latin I.

If you have – or have ever raised – teenagers, you know what it's like trying to keep them organized. Not an easy task. Their schedules are packed with academics, athletics, and activities with family and friends.

Trying to keep track of all that stuff – school uniforms, sports uniforms and gear, backpacks, textbooks, notebooks, workbooks, agendas, band instruments and sheet music, pens and pencils and highlighters, calculators and rulers, art supplies, lunch and snacks – can be a nightmare.

Now, toting some of these, at least, is no longer a worry.

In the fall of 2013, St. Mary's Ryken introduced the 1:1 iPad program after three years of investigation and a trial year of the devices in classrooms.

"Students were familiar with using the iPad at home for social media and gaming, but they had a learning curve when using the iPad as an educational tool," said Principal Rick Wood. "We had three goals in preparing for the 1:1 program launch: to teach the faculty and students how to use the iPad as a classroom tool; to teach students how to use technology to create a positive digital footprint as members of society; and, to upgrade our website and to bolster our infrastructure to provide instant access across campus."

The iPads are served by the school's Wi-Fi network that already had internet content filters in place to keep students from straying to and logging on to potentially harmful sites. But, because students are active online both at school and at home, there are opportunities for "teachable moments." Students are now instructed about digital citizenship - how to use technology appropriately, be mindful of others, and recognize and avoid potentially harmful sites and activities.

All freshmen, sophomores and juniors were required to purchase an iPad. And, yes, it had to be an iPad. The administration looked briefly at a "bring your own device" program, but the only way to ensure all students have access to the same apps and the same learning environment was to require one particular tablet. (An iPad mini, which is less expensive, is an acceptable device as well.) Seniors were exempt this year, but could use a device if they wanted to.

The cost for books an incoming freshman faced – around \$500 for the six, main subject classes – equated roughly to the cost of a new iPad. Most e-textbooks on the book list for a St. Mary's Ryken student cost \$15 each. And, the iPads are making St. Mary's Ryken greener – less paper copies are needed. One faculty member went from making 21,000 copies last school year to zero this school year.

But, what began initially as a way to reduce textbook costs and to lessen the weight a student had to lug around in a backpack, wound up transforming the traditional classroom and student learning.

The iPad functions as an educational hub: students can read the textbook, take notes, record a class, and look something up – all on their iPads. The device also allows ready access to the new student portal on the SMR website, where students can submit assignments to teachers and where they have access to their class schedule, email and group spaces for each course.

“One of the biggest advantages with the website/iPad integration is the increase in productivity of work flow,” continued Mr. Wood. “Students complete work online and submit it to a teacher’s drop box. The teacher can mark up and grade the document online and send it back to the students, giving instant feedback on material and quickly identifying gaps in learning.”

“The iPad is awesome,” said freshman Taylor Brown. Even though this is Taylor’s first year at SMR, she still had to carry around a heavy backpack of textbooks in middle school. “It wasn’t much of an adjustment,” she said of having to switch to the tablet device. “I like the convenience of having everything on my iPad – books, schedule, calendar. And, I like the highlighting” for textbooks.

“Taking notes is easier on the iPad,” concurs freshman Krista Schaidt. “You can highlight in different colors and can zoom in on any spot on the page.” And, when teachers assign additional books during the year, Krista says the iPad makes this easier, too, “You just click, download, and there it is.”

According to Latin teacher Mrs. Sam Spaulding, “The best part of having iPads has been experiencing the interactive and constantly changing nature of this new educational technology in the classroom; the students can work together or with the instructor, and everybody is learning from each other, including me!”

“The iPads are used for so much more than textbooks alone,” she continued. “Students immediately have access to any document, video or image that I post for their use. They collaborate on projects, they communicate with staff and other students (and their parents when they need to!), they monitor their own grades, and they practice what they are learning on whiteboard and note-taking applications. Homework is posted and can be turned in online, and their classwork can be projected on the board from their own devices. Remember, too, that all these features are with them wherever they go, so work on their device can be done in school, on the way to school, or at home. “

As for finding that other soccer cleat or today’s lunch, well, some things a student still has to search for without using an iPad.



Students Taylor Brown (left) and Krista Schaidt (above) appreciate the convenience of having not only textbooks, but also calendars and schedules on the iPad as well.

Cover photo: Teacher Missy Frantz checks the work of juniors, clockwise from left, Bridget Flynn, Brian Bizier, Cody St. Clair and Gabrielle Evans. The students were writing a synthesis essay in preparation for the AP exam.

## The Flipped Classroom: Turning Learning on its Head



Natalie Seidel (left) says the best part of Joanne Person's (center) flipped classroom "is being able to go back and watch lessons again." Ben Greb (right) agrees: "You can keep going back until you understand something," he said.

**W**hen most of us hear the word "school," we think of a traditional classroom: a teacher teaches the day's lesson and students have homework that night to reinforce the concepts taught.

For several classes at St. Mary's Ryken, however, that sequence of learning has been turned on its head or "flipped."

What it means is that students read the new chapter and/or watch a teacher-created video on the lesson at home, and then come into class the next day to work on the problems, questions, essays, etc., associated with the lesson.

Math teacher Joanne Person decided to give the flipped classroom a try when she kept encountering the two biggest problems with homework: the first is that the student can't remember how to solve a problem, gets frustrated and then doesn't complete the homework; and the second is when a student spends a lot of time figuring out a problem, but figures incorrectly, and then goes on to make the same mistake on all homework problems.

"We now use our classroom time to work on the chapter's

activities and problems together, and to answer any questions about the concepts being introduced," she explained.

"I loved the idea, but wasn't sure how to actually implement it in the classroom," began Spanish teacher Crystal Dunkin. She applied for a fellowship through the Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages and won the SANS Inc./Mead award which provided her with a mentor and resources to focus on flipping her classroom.

The media have been filled with empirical evidence of the success of the flipped model both at the high school and college level. The National Education Association's Priority Schools Campaign, points to one dramatic example of a high school outside of Detroit where before the flip over 50% of freshmen failed English and 44% failed math. After the flip, the number of freshmen who failed English dropped to 19% and to 13% for math.

According to the website of the ASCD - a global community of superintendents, principals, teachers and advocates from more than 138 countries - a survey of 453 teachers who flipped their classrooms showed: 67 percent reported

increased test scores; 80 percent reported improved student attitudes; and 99 percent said they would flip their classrooms again next year.

“My students respond very well to the flipped model,” said Crystal. “They appreciate not struggling on their own to do a task, such as writing a paper, because we can use class time to do that now, and that is when they need me the most.”

Joanne concurs that the students took to the flipped method quickly because “it’s personalized and self-paced learning. Each student is able to go at their own speed without waiting for or trying to catch up to the rest of the class.”

Since the beginning of the year and the start of the flipped classroom, Joanne has seen improvements in student confidence in the material, work and skill level. She found, though, that students were not using their books as a resource because of the video lecture, “so now before every new concept they take notes from their e-books before I offer a video,” she said.

“My students have been very positive,” said Crystal, “and it makes me smile when I come into class and hear them re-listening to a video before an exam. If they miss a class, they like that they can still be on the same page with their peers. They can watch the videos any time they need to and, if it was a topic from the first month of school, they can go back, re-watch the video and there’s no struggle.”

Joanne is looking forward to implementing it into the senior math classes. “The flipped classroom model would be incredibly effective and efficient in a higher level math class because there is a level of discipline required for the model to really work well.”

Unexpected benefits cropped up for both teachers. Joanne



Robert Davis (left) and Reggie Parker (right) work on the classroom assignment in Joanne Person’s Algebra I class. Watch one of Mrs. Person’s lessons – [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bu\\_7wyV45Ew](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bu_7wyV45Ew)

found that parents watch the lessons, too. She has heard from many who enjoy watching the videos to refresh their memories and to be able to offer additional help to their child.

Crystal said she has much more time to spend with her students. “I’m able to build stronger relationships, I get better quality work because I’m present when the students need me the most.”

With the outpouring of positive feedback from students, both Joanne and Crystal plan to continue with the flipped model next year.



“I can’t imagine ever going back to a traditional classroom model,” said Crystal Dunkin (center) working with Katie Dowdle (right). Mrs. Dunkin received a SANS Inc./Mead Fellowship to begin the flipped classroom model. She presented on her flipped classroom experience recently at the North East Conference of Foreign Language Teachers in Boston, Mass.

## Founder's Day Mass

### MR. GEORGE STEWART RECEIVES THEODORE RYKEN AWARD AND NEW XBSS STEWARDS INDUCTED

Each December, St. Mary's Ryken, along with the other 13 Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools (XBSS), celebrates the founder of the Xaverian Brothers, Theodore Ryken, and presents the Theodore Ryken Award. The Ryken Award recognizes an individual for his or her commitment to Theodore Ryken's vision and dedication to an XBSS school. This year, Mr. George Stewart, maintenance technician, received the award.

For 12 years, Mr. Stewart has helped to take care of the SMR campus - both its buildings and its grounds. Even when not at the school, he is thinking of us. Recently, during his non-work time, he repaired and refinished a holy water font that was donated for the Chapel of Charity.

Each year, a group of 11 students are chosen by the faculty from very strict selection criteria. The XBSS Stewardship group works with Campus Ministry in their senior year to carry out the school's mission and Xaverian ministry in our school and global communities. This year's projects have included presenting a classroom program in honor of All Saint's Day, hosting a prayer service for incoming freshmen families and supporting the efforts of Catholic Relief Services in Haiti.

Juniors are inducted as stewards in December and join the stewards from the other 12 XBSS schools in March for a week-long retreat at the Holy Family Retreat Center in Connecticut. There they plan and design activities for their senior year.



During the Mass to celebrate the feast of St. Francis of Xavier, Mr. Stewart received the Ryken Award and eleven new XBSS Stewards were inducted. From the left: Ornella Baganizi, Katerina Pappas, Elizabeth O'Hare, Katherine Dowdle, Elise Carney, Alfonso Nazzaro, Hannah Lawrence, John Bullock, Connor Bullis, John Winslow and Trent Hall.



It's become almost a tradition for SMR students (and faculty) to serve at the annual CareNet Pregnancy Center Benefit Dinner. The 50 students served 700 dinners in 22 minutes. The faculty and other helpers were Debbi Corey, Mimi Li, Joanne Person, Nancy Reister, Liz Schuck and alumna Andrea Schuck '06, and Sharon Walsh.

## *Inspiring Lives of Service*

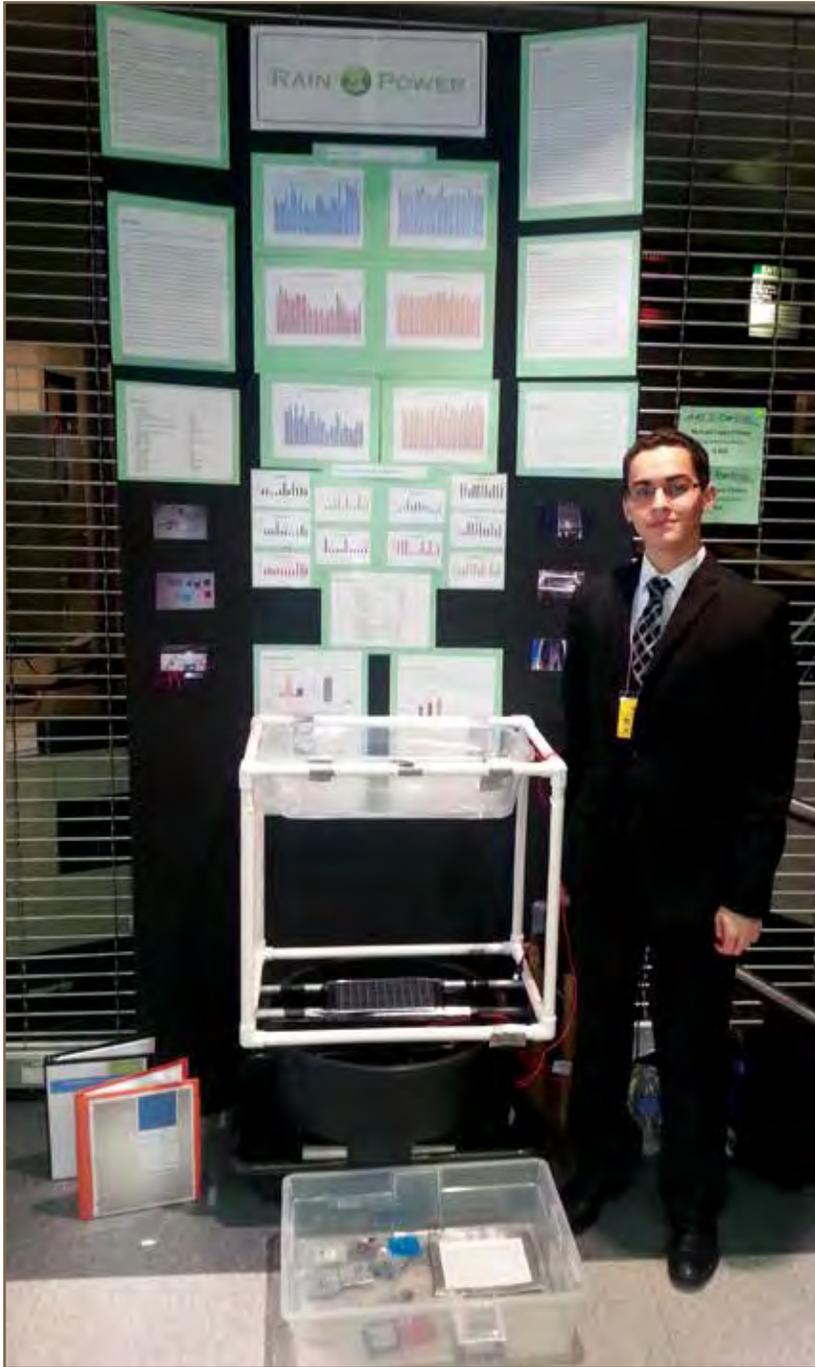
The History Department teamed up with the National Honor Society for the annual "Souper Bowl" food drive, in memory of Mr. Patrick Farrell. The groups collected over 1,000 items and \$850 (\$650 from donations; \$200 from the NHS Used Uniform Sale) for the Helping Hands food pantry.



Struck by the news that one out of every three homeless people in the U.S. is under the age of 18, students got to work collecting items for the "Teens for Jeans" drive. The students collected 153 pairs of jeans which were distributed to shelters in our community.



# SCIENCE & ENGINEERING



Michael Lopez (above photo) was the Senior Grand Award Winner and first place winner in the energy and transportation category for his project "Rain Power" at the 2014 St. Mary's Science and Engineering Fair. He also took home the "Southern Maryland Resource and Development Board Award," the "Southern Maryland Association of Realtors Scholarship for Outstanding Project" and an INCOSE award.  
*Photo: Mr. Michael Lopez*

Senior Michael Lopez is on a winning streak.

After taking home the top prize at the 2014 St. Mary's Science and Engineering Fair, he earned the Grand Award at the Prince George's Area Science Fair and now goes on to compete at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Los Angeles, California, in May.

Michael's project this year is a continuation and expansion of the project he presented at the St. Mary's science fair last year and for which he also won the Grand Award.

"I began with the question, 'Could I generate electricity?'" said Michael. "Basically, anything that moves can be turned into electricity." He started his work in the eighth grade with water waves and has continued with solar power, sound, wind and rain.

His project this year, "Rain Power," harnesses the energy in rainfall to increase the output of a solar panel by over 200%, using materials costing barely more than the panels themselves.

The system Michael built "would let you use solar panels anywhere," he said. "You can harness the power of a storm – using the energy in the rain and wind – to provide electricity. It's a sustainable system."

Michael hopes someday to apply for patents on his system, but, for right now, it is too cost prohibitive.

When not working on his science projects, he works on his presentation for the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) competitions. This school year, he and team member, Billy Frech, competed in the marketing category and took third place at the state level. They will now compete at the FBLA national competition this summer in Nashville, Tennessee.

In addition to FBLA, Michael is a member of the Key Club, the National Honor Society, and the robotics club. Outside of school, he volunteers with the Knights of Columbus at his parish, St. Aloysius Catholic Church in Leonardtown.

Michael is headed to the University of Maryland College Park this fall to major in electrical engineering.

# SCIENCE FAIR ACCOLADES

First Place Physics and Astronomy:  
 “Which Wing Design Generates the Most Lift?”  
 Senior Christian Egbert



Senior Christian Egbert, who also won a Sparkle Award at the science fair, briefed the Leonardtown Strategic Business Roundtable - held by Mayor Dan Norris '76 - on X-PAX (Xaverian Programs of Academic Excellence) at SMR, specifically the STEM-X program. X-PAX, now in its fourth year, is a highly selective program where advanced students are placed in accelerated curriculum concentrations for a more rigorous course of study. Program concentrations are in Computer Science; STEM-X; Medicine & Health Sciences; Language Arts & Social Sciences; and International Relations & Global Studies.

*Photo: John Walker*

Second Place Physics and Astronomy:  
 “Bouncing Basketballs”  
 Senior Carlee Joseph (right in photo below)

Third Place Physics and Astronomy:  
 “Radiation Infestation”  
 Junior Lindsay Hanf (left in photo below)  
*Photo: John Walker*



Third Place Chemistry: “The Convenient Fridge”  
 Senior Gina Liu  
*Photo: Minyue Li*



Best Use of Inexpensive Materials: “Fun with Faraday Cages”  
 Senior Madison Taylor  
*Photo: Shannon Rowland*

## Faculty and Student News



Congratulations to faculty members Mrs. Pat Borland (left) and Mr. John Pennisi (right) who were selected by their fellow teachers as this year's Archdiocese of Washington Veteran Teacher of the Year and Novice Teacher of the Year, respectively, for St. Mary's Ryken.

Mrs. Borland has been a beloved faculty member of the science department for 32 years. During her time at SMR, she has coached field hockey, cheerleading, robotics and Envirothon, to name but a few. Mrs. Borland received her undergraduate degree in biology from the University of Pittsburgh and her master's in secondary education from Duquesne University. She holds an Advanced Professional Certificate.

Mr. Pennisi joined the English department in 2011. He received his undergraduate degree in biology from Lenoir-Rhyne and his master's in English literature and composition from Washington College. He has moderated the literary magazine, the school newspaper and poetry workshops.



Congratulations to engineering teacher Edward Symkowiak (fourth from the left) who was awarded a "STEM Teaching Tools" grant from the Armed Forces Communications Electronics Association (AFCEA). The grant will be used to purchase new sonic ranggers for the engineering classes. The ranger is a device to collect and analyze real-world motion data, such as distance, velocity and acceleration. From the left: Ryan Oglesby, Jenalyse Edejer, Brad Hoover, Mr. Edward Symkowiak, Principal Rick Wood, Dean of Academics Barbara Ives, Mackenzie Loewe, Sydney Guy and Erin Balderson.

## Faculty and Student News



### National Merit Honors

Seniors Emily Grace (left) and Clare Tennant (right) were named National Merit Commended students. Students earning commended status are among the top 5% of those who participate in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Students enter the competition by taking the PSAT (Preliminary SAT)/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test in their junior year.

Emily is a member of the SMR Choir and has performed major roles in the school musicals during her four years. Clare is a member of the concert band and has been named to the Catholic University High School Honors Band and the WAMTC Honors Band for the past three years. Both students are members of the National Honor Society.

### Junior earns President's Volunteer Service Award

Junior Samantha Martinson (photo, right) has been honored for her exemplary community service with a President's Volunteer Service Award. The award was granted by the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program on behalf of President Barack Obama. Samantha is active in the youth group at Bethany Christian Church in Brandywine, has volunteered with the Prince George's "Warm Nights" program, helps prepare and serve meals for the homeless, and helps parishioners with home cleaning and repairs. She also works at the Universal Sports and Academics Inc. mentoring a group of 4-9 year olds. At St. Mary's Ryken, she is a member of the National Honor Society and a percussionist with the concert band.

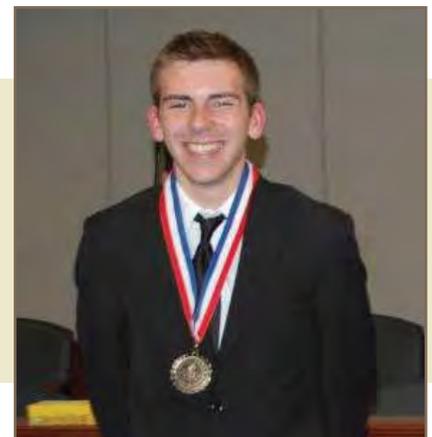


### Senior takes top honors in university math competition for second year

Senior Jane Kwon (photo, left) earned first place in St. Mary's County in the 34th Annual University of Maryland High School Mathematics Competition. The competition is open to all students enrolled in high school in Maryland and the District of Columbia and a total of 2,614 students participated this school year. Students needed high scores on Part I to move on to participate in Part II of the competition. Jane was among only 291 test-takers to qualify for Part II. She is a member of the National Honor Society and the Key Club, the student arm of the Kiwanis International volunteer organization.

### "Best Overall Attorney"

Senior Jared Franz (photo, right), an X-PAX student in the International Relations & Global Studies curriculum, was awarded "Best Overall Attorney" for the 7th Circuit in the statewide, mock trial competition sponsored by the Citizenship Law-Related Education Program (CLREP) in cooperation with the Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) and the Maryland Judicial Conference. The 7th Circuit includes schools from Calvert, Charles, St. Mary's and Prince George's counties. The SMR team, coached by teacher Leeanne Carr and attorney Samuel C. P. Baldwin, Esq., finished in second place in the 7th Circuit this year.



# Spring Musical



This year's spring musical told a tale as old as time – that true beauty lies within. Under the direction of the fine arts faculty, over 40 students took on many different roles to bring the story to life as performers, the pit band, stage crew, stage manager, set painters, props managers, and hair and makeup artists.

“Beauty and the Beast,” the stage version of the popular animated movie, featured several new songs as we followed the story of the young prince who as the Beast must learn to love and to be loved in order to defeat the spell placed upon him by an enchantress.

Director Tessa Silvestro guided the students to bring to life the townspeople and the servants of the Beast's castle who were slowly turning to inanimate objects because of the spell. SMR dance teacher Julie Daley served as choreographer; SMR Director of Bands Andrew Smouse served as conductor and music director; and SMR Choir Director Kim Norris served as vocal director.

Many thanks to the numerous parent volunteers who helped at all hours to make the musical a huge success (All of the performances were sold out!).





## Student News



In January, four SMR students performed in the Catholic University of America Honors Band at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. High school students from the Baltimore and Washington archdioceses were invited to participate in the rigorous audition process.

Congratulations to (from the left) sophomore Joseph Brown, junior Aidan Dollins, junior Chelsea Berger, and senior Ryan Miller for being selected to participate in the Catholic University of America Honors Band.

The day of the concert was filled with rehearsals and one of the highlights was a private concert and question and answer session with the United States Army Band "Pershing's Own" Saxophone Quartet and "The President's Own" United States Marine Band Brass Quintet.

The Honors American Literature class braved the weather and traveled to New York City in late January to see "The Glass Menagerie" by Tennessee Williams at the Booth Theater.

Teacher John Pennisi said it snowed for a good portion of the day, but everyone - the 59 students and 20 adults - thoroughly enjoyed the trip and the performance. "The students especially enjoyed seeing what they read in class come to life on the stage," said Mr. Pennisi.



Congratulations to the SMR students who were chosen to perform in the 2014 Washington Archdiocese Music Teachers Council (WAMTC) Honors Orchestra. Students were selected after a rigorous audition process. Two days of non-stop rehearsals culminated in an evening performance at Northwestern High School in Hyattsville, MD.

From the left: Benjamin Rhine, sophomore, violin; Clare Tennant, senior, principal flute; Emily Rawson, sophomore, double bass; Christopher Feist, sophomore, violin; and Joseph Brown, sophomore, clarinet/bass clarinet.

## Board of Directors Spotlight

Before becoming the 13th president of Misericordia University in November 2013, Dr. Thomas Botzman was the vice president for business and finance at St. Mary's College of Maryland. But, most of us in the St. Mary's Ryken community know him as a member of the board of directors and as a parent. His daughter, Gabby, graduated in 2013 and now attends Mount Union University. His wife, Vanessa, is a registered nurse.

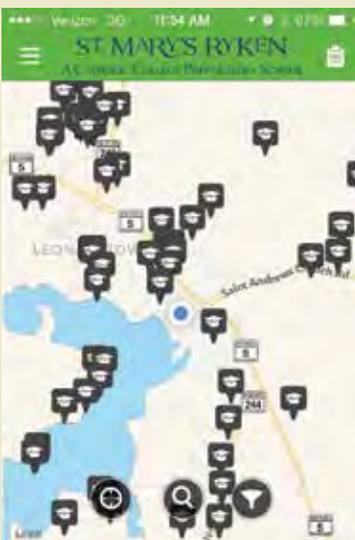
After receiving his undergraduate degree in polymer science from Case Western Reserve University, Dr. Botzman began working for the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company in Akron, Ohio, and is the holder of 12 U.S. and several international patents. He completed both his master's degree in economics and doctorate in business administration at Kent State University, and for several summers, taught international marketing and trade policy at the Universidad de las Americas in Mexico City (one as a Fulbright scholar), and for the University Studies Abroad Consortium in Turin, Italy.

As one who has been on the other side of the college selection process, he has the following advice for SMR students: "Carefully consider your choices in applying to a college or university," he began. "What's the mission of the university? Do most of the students live on campus and do they stay there on weekends? Will I play a sport, join a club, volunteer in the community, study late, perform in a recital or play? Of course, after all is done, the best choice is to apply to Misericordia University ([www.misericordia.edu](http://www.misericordia.edu))!"

Established in 1924, Misericordia is a Catholic university in northeast Pennsylvania, founded by the Sisters of Mercy. According to the university's website, "Service to others is woven throughout all that we do and is a passion for everyone associated with our university."



Tom with his wife, Vanessa, and daughter, Gabby, at Misericordia University. Photo courtesy of Misericordia University.



## You might be living near other alumni and not even know it.

Connect with your fellow alums by downloading the EverTrue app.

The SMR Alumni Office recently launched EverTrue, which allows you to find fellow alumni in your hometown, or locate them when you move or travel. Download the free app from the App Store or scan the QR code for more information.

Questions? Contact Alumni Director Suzanne Taylor at [suzanne.taylor@smrhs.org](mailto:suzanne.taylor@smrhs.org).



# *At Home in Napa*

## Alumna Julie Delaney Corley '88 finds her passion under the California sun

**A** glass of red or a glass of white. For most of us, that's the extent of our involvement with wine. As for the sniffing and swirling and aerating, we leave that to the experts. We know what we like and stick to it.

But, for Julianna Delaney Corley '88, known to her classmates as Julie, wine has become a way of life.

While a student at St. Mary's Ryken, she worked at a pancake house to pay her way through high school. Since both of her parents were educators - her father was director of what was then the Community College at St. Mary's (now the College of Southern Maryland) and her mom was an elementary school principal with a doctorate in education - Julie knew she would be headed to college and imagined being in the restaurant business one day.

After graduation, she attended classes at the community college and worked at the Old Field Inn in Prince Frederick, Md. There she moved from waiting tables, to managing the wine list, to eventually becoming the restaurant's manager. Julie found herself "being inspired by wine and everything about it." She loved learning about wine and educating herself about it.

So, "being young, with nothing to lose," Julie took a chance and headed to California. There, she studied at Napa College and the University of California Davis, graduating with a degree in viticulture and enology. Viticulture deals with grape growing and enology, wine making.

In California, she encountered a completely different attitude towards farming than she had back home: "Farming was perceived as uneducated and kids were trying to get away from it." Whereas in California, it seemed "more elevated and almost everyone - celebrities, sports stars - was trying to purchase land to farm."



Julie with her daughter, Ruby; son, Jackson; and husband, Chris.

Her first job out of college was with Opus One, a winery that began as a joint venture between Robert Mondavi and Château Mouton Rothschild. There she was the vineyard researcher, collecting data on climate, soil, fungus, rot, etc. After Opus One, she worked for a vineyard management company with 50 vineyards for five years.

Along the way, she met her husband, Chris, whose family has been farming and growing grapes for 45 years at Monticello Vineyards and Winery - one of the few family-owned and operated wineries left in Napa Valley. They have two children: Jackson, who is nine, and Ruby, who is eight.

With Julie as the grape grower, and Chris as the wine maker, the two started the barrelhead company and Jules Melange, “to combine all we find interesting in the world; wine, music, farming, art and many other discoveries we experience along the way,” said Julie.

As to what is involved in planting a vineyard, Julie drew a parallel to growing tomatoes. “You choose the variety you like and take samples of soil to figure out its properties – texture, drainage, nutrients – and match it to your variety.” Next, unlike tomatoes, grapevines must be grafted onto a root stock. “Grapes aren’t hearty enough to be grown on their own root, and good root stock ensures the vine can fight off disease and insects,” she explained.

Planting occurs in April and May, but vines must mature for three to four years before being allowed to fruit. “You have to think of it like a tree,” explained Julie. “For those three-four years, we prune and train the vines. Grapes are a lot like people: sometimes they need a lot of attention; sometimes they just want to be left alone. You have to keep working with them.”

Julie and Chris’s vineyards are in Napa Valley, about an hour north of San Francisco. The warm days (which can reach 100 degrees) and cool nights (down to 50 degrees) are perfect for the fruit. Once harvested and crushed, the wine must sit in the barrel for two years and the bottle for one. “The wine from the grapes we harvested in 2013,” she explained, “will be out in 2016.”

During the growing season, which lasts about 150 days, Julie is up at 4-4:30 a.m. and meets the field crew. At sunrise, they begin tending the fields. She sometimes farms and/or manages up to 2,500 acres, and travels from vineyard to vineyard – about an 80-mile radius – during the day, returning home by 2:30 p.m., in time to pick up the kids from school.

During the harvesting season, which runs from late August (for sparkling wines) to the end of October (for cabernet), she begins her day at 11 p.m. “For years in the industry, we would pick during the day. Workers had to toil in the heat and the grapes would be delivered warm. You need to start the winemaking process with cold grapes - - the temperature of fruit is important to help start the fermentation. The winery would have to take precious time to cool down the grapes. It was crazy.”

“Now, we pick from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. It’s cooler and more comfortable for the crews, and we deliver cold grapes to the winery first thing in the morning. You don’t need to get the temperature down; they can start the process right away.” That’s when her husband, Chris, takes over and works on the crushing.

If all winemakers basically follow the same process, what is the difference between a wine costing under \$10 and one that costs \$25 and up?

Julie and her crew cultivate the vines by hand to get the perfect berry and, at harvest, winnow out the woody material. Mostly, the larger growers of those under-\$10 wines “harvest everything – the leaves, the stems, all of the woody material.” Returning to the tomato analogy: “It would be like crushing your whole tomato plant for tomato sauce,” said Julie.

After harvest and before the next growing season, Julie fills her time as a consultant to other vineyards. She is currently developing two for private clients. She also finds herself traveling to Taiwan every six weeks, serving as a vineyard consultant with the Taichung Agricultural Research Station. “It’s exciting. It’s a new industry that’s just getting started,” she said.

Any advice for those of us who are challenged when it comes to choosing a bottle of wine? “Drink what you like, what you enjoy,” Julie emphasized. “Wine is to be enjoyed.”

Julie has shared her wine with the St. Mary’s Ryken community. For the cocktail reception at the 2014 Spring Gala, she donated several cases of Jules Melange, which guests enjoyed immensely.

Julie’s “Jules Melange” was served at the opening reception of the 2014 SMR Spring Gala.



Julie and SMR President Mary Joy Hurlburt.

## St. Francis Xavier Society

# The President's Dinner

At the annual President's Dinner on February 20, 2014, President Mary Joy Hurlburt honored the 2014 Pillars of the Community, men and women recognized for their service to the community, to St. Mary's Ryken and to Catholic education. Congratulations to the Pillars: Jim and Rosalie Hooper; the Knights of Columbus - St. Mary's Council # 1470; Steve Kupka; and Rick and Pauline Norris.

### **James and Rosalie Hooper**

Jim and Rosalie (shown in the photo, right) work together at Hooper & Associates, an appraisal, property management and real estate brokerage firm in Waldorf they founded in 1989.

"To me," said Jim, "service to our community requires dedication and volunteerism to strengthen the bonds of individuals to the region and to its environmental resources and history. By serving our community, we will continually preserve it for enjoyment by future generations."

"The importance of community service was instilled in my life by my parents, Rudolf A. and Eleanor Mae Carrico at a very young age," said Rosalie. "By their example, I learned giving back was personally fulfilling, and, more importantly, caring about the community enables positive growth within the region for enjoyment by all."

Their two children are graduates of SMR – Anne Hooper Bowen '01 and James Jr. '04.



### **The Knights of Columbus - St. Mary's Council #1470**

The Knights see service as the foundation upon which America became great, and, as such, serving local communities must remain central in all of our lives. By their example and spirit of sacrifice, they wish to pass from generation to generation the importance of working together for a common goal and respect for God's people and creations.

Established in 1910, the Knights of Columbus St. Mary's Council #1470 in Leonardtown serves the parishes of Holy Angels, Our Lady's Church at Medley's Neck, Our Lady of the Wayside, St. Aloysius and St. Francis Xavier. The Council donates annually to community organizations and to the Catholic schools associated with their member parishes: Father Andrew White, Mother Catherine Spalding and St. Mary's Ryken.



Over the years, the Knights have helped the SMR Knights by supporting the renovations of the girls locker room and the training room, the purchase of the stadium scoreboard, and the establishment of an academic, need-based scholarship.

*Capt. John Slaughter (center) accepted on behalf Council #1470. President Mary Joy Hurlburt (left) and Chairman of the SMR Board of Directors, Leonard Raley, presented the award.*

### Mr. Steven Kupka

Born and raised in Ohio, Steve entered the Navy after obtaining his bachelor's degree at Marquette University. He wore many different hats during his active duty including: naval aviator and flight instructor; commanding officer, Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron 15 (HS-15); senior systems engineer (Class Desk); and dean of the School of Program Management, Defense Systems Management College.

In the community, he has served as president of the St. Mary's County Kiwanis Club and for over 15 years worked as an RCIA team member and leader.

He taught theology at St. Mary's Ryken, served as the moderator of the Key Club, the Kiwanis club's student service organization, and regularly chaperoned dances, mission trips and campus ministry retreats.

"The definition of 'love' I would always teach my students," continued Steve, "is to want, will and work for the good of the other. As children of God, we are all obliged to look and act outside of ourselves to help our neighbors and our community for their benefit."

Since he retired from SMR at the end of last school year, Steve enjoys traveling to see his four children and his, now, ten grandchildren. Stefanie (in the photo above) gave birth to grandson Owen on St. Patrick's Day.



From the left: Steve Kupka, son Kyle, son Greg and Greg's wife, Stefanie.



From the left: Mary Ada Candela '52; Billy Fitzgerald; Priscilla Duke Wentworth '47; Dawn Drury; Richard and Deborah Braam; students C.J. Egbert, Rohan Singh and Gina Liu, and Bill Reuter.

### Mr. Rick and Mrs. Pauline Norris

Rick and Pauline Norris are deeply committed to finding ways to serve their community. Both prefer to work behind the scenes helping in any way they can. "We do what we can to make it work," said Rick.

"We support many community organizations because without them, we would not have strong leadership," explained Pauline. "Leadership helps our children to become successful adults. I believe for a community to work as a whole, everyone needs to help." Rick named a few of the organizations they support through their business, Rick's Jewelers – the Optimists, Three Oaks Shelter, the Knights of Columbus and Hospice House.

"Rick and I did not attend St. Mary's Ryken, but all of our very close friends attended St. Mary's Academy, Ryken High School and St. Mary's Ryken and have chosen to send their children to SMR," said Pauline. "The education they received helped them to become successful professionals in the work place and in life. In the year and a half that our children have attended, we have watched them grow. We are so proud of the young adults they have become." Their children, Stephen and Mallory, are both sophomores at St. Mary's Ryken.



# SMR Spring Gala



# A KNIGHT IN HOLLYWOOD



## The 2014 Gala Committee

Lynnette Ashton  
Amy Beckman  
Bridget Bland  
Megan Burroughs  
Melissa Carnes  
Robin Carrico  
Tina Carroll  
Trish Carruth  
Jean Combs  
Anita Drury  
Dawn Drury  
Billy Fitzgerald  
Gabrielle Forte  
Mary Joy Hurlburt  
Shannon Jarboe  
Faye Kepner  
Jill Knott  
Kimberly Lassiter

Alice Moreland  
Katie Nepini  
Cathy Pratson  
Kathryn Sohl  
Suzanne Taylor  
Ellie Tennyson  
Susan Vogel  
Kelly White



# WOOD



It was a night that harkened back to the glamorous world of old Hollywood. Guests danced the night away to music from the *Southern Maryland Swing Band* and *Night Life*, and didn't have to leave the dance floor or dinner table to bid on an item in the Silent Auction. Following up last year's success, bids were taken by cell phone. Thanks to the efforts of the Spring Gala Committee, the Gala was a beautiful evening in support of our students, raising over \$100,000 for the St. Mary's Ryken Fund, which supports tuition assistance and faculty professional development.



## Alumni News

### 1951

Dr. John Fenwick presented a check from the Class of 1951 to Margaret and Tom Jarboe for the Dr. J. Patrick Jarboe Mobile Health Center, named in honor of their classmate who passed away in 2012. The funds will be used to purchase a new mobile health care unit for the Medstar St. Mary's Hospital "Get Connected" program, which was formed under the direction of Dr. Jarboe and has provided primary health care services to more than 2,000 uninsured and underinsured St. Mary's County residents.

*Photo right: Seated are Helen Gibson Hewitt (left) and Marion Cecile Tennyson (right) holding their class photo. Standing (from left): Dr. John Fenwick, Margaret Jarboe and Tom Jarboe '87.*



### 1963

"I used to help people with their sight. Now I hope I can help them with their insight," said Larry Love '63. After graduation, Larry spent time in the Air Force and became an ophthalmologist, practicing for 35 years. His wife, Nancy, passed away in 2007 after battling a combination of illnesses, including Alzheimer's disease. He felt called to a vocation and, for the past few years, has been at the Blessed John Seminary in Weston, Mass. Larry will be ordained June 2014 in Tyler, Texas, and will serve as a diocesan priest there.



### 1984

Todd Jubeck '84 and his fellow West Virginia University alumnus and fraternity brother (Phi Kappa Psi), Frank Fumich, raised over \$83,000 for victims of the Boston Marathon bombing. The two found a unique way to deliver the money: they alternated running marathon distances (26.2 miles) for the 450-mile journey from Washington, D.C. to the finish line of the Boston Marathon. Each ran the equivalent of eight marathons from May 28 to June 1, 2013.

In the photo on the right, Todd is shown second from the right; his friend, Frank, is fourth from the right.



### 1996

Jay Sothoron '96 is now at Robert Morris University (Pa.) as an assistant coach for the men's lacrosse team. Jay previously served as the head coach for Wheeling Jesuit University for five seasons, and the team was named the NCAA Division II Most Improved Program in 2012 under his watch. Before Wheeling, Jay was assistant athletic director and varsity assistant head coach at SMR for five years. He was named the U.S. Lacrosse National Assistant Coach of the Year for secondary schools in 2006, and was promoted to associate head coach during the 2007 season.

## Alumni News

### 1998

#### Inspiring Lives of Service: Superstorm Relief Effort Brings Chance Meeting for Two Alumni

It was just a couple of days before Halloween in October 2012 when Hurricane Sandy - dubbed Superstorm Sandy - headed towards New York. The storm will be remembered for flooding subway tunnels and flattening entire neighborhoods, and it will be remembered by SMR alumni Elena Dubas '98 and David "D.J." Downs '98 for bringing about an unexpected reunion. Both live in New York and were friends on social media, but hadn't seen each other since high school.

Elena lives in Brooklyn and works as freelance photographer and as an assistant to artists for their projects. "I took part in the relief effort, because I felt very fortunate," Elena began. "The area where I live in Brooklyn - Park Slope area, South Slope - didn't lose power and didn't have too much damage because it is higher up. I thought it was important to help those that weren't as fortunate as me."

One of those without power was David. He and his wife, Cindy, live in Lower Manhattan and lost power for a week. For most of us, no power for a week doesn't sound too terrible, but David lives on the 33rd floor of a 76-story high rise. "Usually one elevator can remain in service, working off a generator," he said. "But, the generator lasted only a couple of days." He and his wife decamped to a hotel in Times Square until the power could be restored.

Like Elena, David was determined to help his fellow New Yorkers. He volunteered at a public library scrubbing off mold



and worked to get displaced residents to temporary voting places. "The schools used for polling places were either heavily damaged or serving as shelters," David explained.

Elena volunteered to help clean



David "D.J." Downs and his wife, Cindy (left) and Elena Dubas (below).

up debris at Coney Island and with the Red Hook Initiative, "which is only 10 minutes away from me on bike," she said. "I was sent to a church that was being used as place where people could pick up food, cleaning supplies, and other things. It was hard to see people who were still without electricity and who needed things to survive, when just nearby, things were relatively fine."



Turns out the distribution site at the church in Red Hook was being run by David's employer, Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens (B&Q). David is a senior project manager for the Progress of Peoples (POP) Development program at B&Q, which provides quality, affordable housing and links to social services for low-income residents.

"I recognized David and approached him to say, 'Hi,'" said Elena. "I hadn't seen him since we graduated. We were friendly to each other during high school, which is one of the great things about Ryken, because of the small size everyone knew each other, but I didn't know him that well. I have seen him a couple of times since the relief effort, so it has been nice to reconnect."

"The aftermath of storm brought people together in strange ways," said David. "Instead of checking in with each other through email and social media, we saw each other in person, which hadn't happened for some time."

"Only in a city of 8+ million people could I run into Elena again," he continued. "Despite the 15 years that passed since our time at SMR, we immediately identified each other and caught up quickly. It is terrific to have a renewed friend here in New York. And now I look more carefully throughout the city to see who else from SMR I might find."

Tree damage shows the power of the storm. Photo by Elena. You can see more of her photos on her blog: <http://postcardpassport.wordpress.com>.

# Alumni News

## 1998



David Kannarkat Verghese '98 was ordained a deacon for the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (the Redemptorists) in October by Cardinal Seán O'Malley of Boston. In the photo, David receives the Book of Gospels from the cardinal during the ordination Mass at St. Ignatius of Loyola Church, Boston.

He spent a year working with the Missionaries of Charity in Washington, D.C., before entering the Redemptorist formation program in Whitestone, N.Y., in 2004. In 2007, he became a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Washington, but, in 2009, rejoined the Redemptorist formation program in Boston. He completed his theological studies at Boston College in May 2012 and finished a pastoral year at St. Gerard Church in Lima, Ohio, in 2013. Rev. Br. David Verghese will be ordained Saturday, May 31, 2014, at St. John

Neumann Parish in Annapolis, by the Most Rev. Archbishop Edward Joseph Gilbert, C.Ss.R., Archbishop Emeritus of the Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. (Photo by Richard Curran.)

## 2002



Molly Mitchell '02 married Alex Berke on October 19, 2013, in an interfaith ceremony at St. Matthew's Cathedral in Washington, D.C. The couple met at George Washington University. From the left: Molly's mom, Julie Mitchell; Alex; Molly; Molly's dad, Van Mitchell; and Molly's sister, Megan Mitchell '05.

## 2005

Shannon Polvi '05 graduated from the University of South Carolina School of Law and will begin practicing in Columbia, South Carolina. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

## 2010

John Taylor Gregg '10, midshipman 1<sup>st</sup> class, has been promoted to executive officer of the 2nd Battalion at the United States Merchant Marine Academy, where he is a senior majoring in nuclear physics.

## 2012

Ben Allen '12, a sophomore at the University of Kansas (photo right), is part of the trio who won "Best Undergraduate Radio Sportscast" from the Kansas Association of Broadcasters in April for their "The Jayhawk Zone" radio show on KJHK Sports. Ben also hosts a "3 in the Key" sports talk show that is live-streamed each week.



Austen Deppe '12 has received an appointment to the United States Military Academy, West Point. He will begin attending this July.

# Alumni News

## 2012

Olivia Bowling '12 won the women's individual title for the second consecutive season, leading the Randolph-Macon Yellow Jackets to their second straight team title in the Old Dominion Athletic Conference Women's Golf Championship. Olivia is second from the left in the photo.



## 2013

Trevor Williams '13 earned a spot on the football team at Walsh University North Canton, Ohio, where he is a freshman. Trevor, who is on the defensive line and wears number 73, is majoring in government and foreign affairs.

## In Memoriam

Bert Abell '44  
Dec. 7, 2013

George Ferguson '51  
Dec. 12, 2013

Elizabeth Heard Bozes '53  
Jan. 11, 2014

Christine Simms  
Gardiner '88  
Jan. 29, 2014

John Briscoe '52  
Jan. 1, 2014

Edward Lawrence '48  
Nov. 27, 2013

Joan Hewitt Burroughs '51  
April 3, 2014

Jennifer Long '88  
Dec. 18, 2013

Arlene Candela Cullins '52  
Jan. 29, 2014

Patrick Weiland '71  
Jan. 9, 2014

Hilda Guy Drury '40  
Jan. 6, 2014

William Winters '65  
May 30, 2013

Clinton Duke '47  
Aug. 22, 2013

## Get Back in Touch

Join your fellow alums on Facebook at  
[www.facebook.com/StMarysRykenAlumni](http://www.facebook.com/StMarysRykenAlumni)

Want to see what is going on at school? The SMR school Facebook page is [www.facebook.com/pages/St-Marys-Ryken](http://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Marys-Ryken), but can also be reached by clicking on the Facebook icon at the bottom of the main website page: [www.smrhs.org](http://www.smrhs.org). No Facebook account is needed to see the main SMR Facebook page. Or, head to the SMR Social Media Hangout page - <http://www.smrhs.org/hangout> - to see a mashup version of all of our social media pages.



Pinterest  
[www.pinterest.com/stmarysryken](http://www.pinterest.com/stmarysryken)



Twitter  
[@stmarysryken](https://twitter.com/stmarysryken)



YouTube:  
[www.youtube.com/StMarysRykenHS](http://www.youtube.com/StMarysRykenHS)



## Corrections

The following corrections are from the 2012-13 Annual Report:

\*The SMR Consistent Giving Society should have included Mr. Larry & Mrs. Carol Pratt in the 10-14 years category, and Jason Weiland '93 in the 5-9 years category.

\*In Memorial Gifts, Mr. Stephen Raley should have been listed as a donor in memory of Eleanor and George Raley.

Apologies to the donors.



**ST. MARY'S RYKEN**  
 A CATHOLIC COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL  
 22600 Camp Calvert Rd.  
 Leonardtown, MD 20650

Non-profit Org.  
 U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
 Permit #38  
 Leonardtown, MD

A Xaverian Brothers Sponsored School

[www.smrhs.org](http://www.smrhs.org)

## Save the Date

To volunteer or for more information,  
 please contact the Advancement Office  
 at 301-373-4182 or at  
[advancement@smrhs.org](mailto:advancement@smrhs.org).

Graduation and  
 Gold & Silver Diplomas  
 May 27, 2014

Jenna Stone Memorial  
 Golf Tournament at Breton Bay  
 May 29, 2014

Alumni of the Year Recognition  
 May 30, 2014

SMR Golf Classic  
 Sept. 12, 2014

Freshmen Grandparents Day  
 October 15, 2014

Alumni Hall of Fame  
 October 16, 2014

Homecoming and Alumni Weekend  
 October 17-18, 2014



Scenes from the 2013 Blaine Whorl Memorial  
 5K Run/Walk

