



# Connections

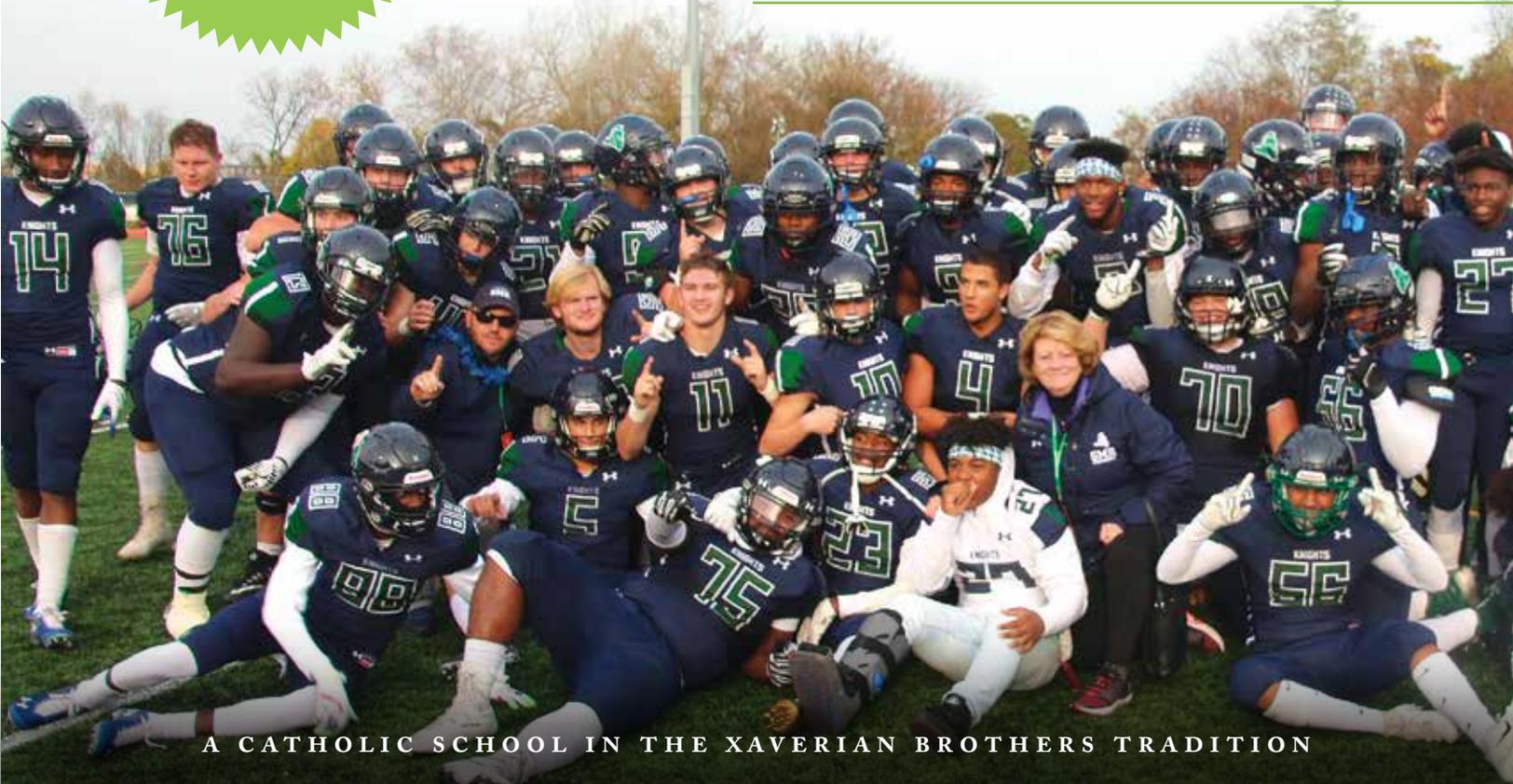
A MAGAZINE FOR THE ST. MARY'S RYKEN COMMUNITY

Donnie Williams  
Center Opening!

p.07

Beloved and Retiring President Mary Joy Hurlburt  
Celebrates with the Varsity Football Team  
Following Their WCAC Metro Division Victory!

Retirement story p.02 / Football championship story p.38



A CATHOLIC SCHOOL IN THE XAVERIAN BROTHERS TRADITION

## 2019 » IN THIS ISSUE

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Aerospace Engineering Course

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Perform at the White House

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Rob Kniaz '97



# Dear Alumni and Friends,

It's an exciting time to be a Knight as we prepare to welcome our Class of 2023, open the doors of the Donnie Williams Center and begin renovations in Paschal Hall to create top-notch classrooms and science labs in the new MIL STEM Wing!

It's a thrill to have the Donnie Williams Center, a health and wellness facility opening in August, not only for our students, faculty and staff, but to share with the entire Southern Maryland community.

I want to thank all of you—our most steadfast supporters of Catholic education—for your dedication to our strategic plan, which this building has been a part of for over 10 years. The culmination of this project is because of your commitment to St. Mary's Ryken and our students. The renovations in Paschal Hall are also a testament to our

pledge to cultivate lifelong learners who are also critical thinkers—creative, adaptable and collaborative. SMR continues to excel at providing our students this type of learning environment!

*Please read more on pages 7–9 about the huge impact these new facilities will have on the student experience and campus life.*

I conclude my final days as school president with an enormous sense of pride and confidence in our faculty, staff, board of directors and community to keep everything here at SMR moving to the next level of excellence. The school is poised for ongoing success, and I know that with the commitment and dedication of so many, we will continue to inspire a future of respectful, compassionate and honorable St. Mary's Ryken graduates.



Thank you for believing in St. Mary's Ryken and for giving our children the very best that Catholic education has to offer.

*Every day is a great day to be a Knight!*

God bless each of you,

Mary Joy Hurlburt  
President and CEO

## 2019 CONNECTIONS

### MISSION STATEMENT

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

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Cover photos, top: Members of the varsity football team pose with President Hurlburt following the WCAC Metro Division Championship game. Bottom row (L-R): Jonathan Smith, aerospace engineering teacher / SMR choral and Youth Honors Chorus students pose in the East Room at the White House. / Rob Kniaz '97 with his wife, Caroline and daughter, Charlotte



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Jonathan Fatoki is grateful to be part of the SMR community!

# Godspeed and Farewell, President Hurlburt!

Upon retirement President Mary Joy Hurlburt is honored with highest award in Xaverian Brothers school community.

“Mary Joy Hurlburt has been a trailblazer in leading the St. Mary’s Ryken community since she began her tenure over 30 years ago,” said Principal Rick Wood. “As an art teacher, dean of academics and principal, she was always focused on improving our school and preserving our heritage as a Xaverian Brothers Sponsored School. In 2005, she was the first woman to become president of any of the 13 Xaverian Brothers schools,” Dr. Wood continued.

“Words fail to express my tremendous appreciation for the gift of St. Mary’s Ryken in my life these past 33 years and the last 13 as president,” said Mrs. Hurlburt. “The decision to retire did not come easy, for I love our school, and the exuberant experience of being in our school is so much more than ‘work.’ To be part of the SMR community, to be a member of this inspiring family of

faith—students, parents, alumni, staff—is one of the greatest blessings in my life.”

## Mary Joy Hurlburt Is Recognized as a Trailblazer in Leading St. Mary’s Ryken Into the Competitive Private School Arena.

In Mrs. Hurlburt’s time at SMR, she has worked diligently to improve the campus, overseeing the construction of a turf field, track and stadium, creation of a Campus Ministry center with student meeting area, renovation of the fine arts spaces, installation of air conditioning in all buildings and, currently, the completion of a 48,000-square-foot wellness center and renovation of Paschal Hall for STEM Innovation labs.

“Our school president, Mrs. Hurlburt, has led our school closer to Christ not only by her words but also by her deeds,” said SMR

school chaplain Father Scott Woods. “Only God and her husband will ever know how many countless hours she has worked and how much she has sacrificed for our students, faculty and staff. She has stood on the shoulders of the giants who have gone before us and has continued to build up this community.”

Additionally, Mrs. Hurlburt completed the school’s first comprehensive campaign for an endowment and annual fund. She introduced a 1:1 iPad program—the first of its kind in the state of Maryland, added performing arts classes, added Chinese to the world languages curriculum, and instituted summer camp programs on campus.

As the most prolific fundraiser in the school’s history, Mrs. Hurlburt has raised over \$16 million, including garnering scholarships for financial aid, raising over

## The St. Mary’s Ryken Community Bids a Fond Farewell to Their Admired and Respected School President

In September 2018, President Hurlburt announced her intention to retire in June 2019. The SMR community has been blessed to have her guidance and steadfast commitment to the Xaverian Brothers charism and values through her tenure as the school’s leader.



President Hurlburt has been part of the SMR community for 33 years, beginning as an art teacher. She has been the school president for 13 years.



In December 2018 on the Feast Day for St. Francis Xavier, the St. Mary's Ryken community joined the 12 other Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools in a Mass to honor our Theodore Ryken Award recipient, President Mary Joy Hurlburt. This is the highest award in the Xaverian Brothers school community and was presented to President Hurlburt by Principal Rick Wood. From left: SMR board member Laura Roland, Principal Rick Wood, Father Scott Woods, President Mary Joy Hurlburt and George Hurlburt, Mary Joy's husband.

\$4 million for the endowment fund and over \$8.5 million for the current construction projects.

"Mary Joy often says: Everyone, through their uniqueness, brings something special to our school and makes it a better place," said SMR Board of Directors Chairman Jimmy Burke '86. "She has called out the graced potential of our students for many years and generously shared her own gifts and talents. We are tremendously grateful for Mary Joy's exemplary commitment and dedication."

She has always been a servant leader, being named to the board of directors at St. John's Preparatory School, Our Lady of Good Counsel High School and her alma mater, Academy of the Holy Cross. She is a member

of the Lexington Park Rotary Club, National Catholic Educational Association, St. Mary's Chamber of Commerce, Washington Catholic High School Presidents Association and the College Board. She has led the school through three strategic plans and four Middle States reaccreditation visits. She has been a lead presenter at national conferences and began a cross-curricular Holocaust education program that has been existence at SMR for over 15 years.

After receiving the Theodore Ryken Award in December, President Hurlburt spoke to the students and staff. "Through the years, I continually witness our teachers, counselors, campus ministry, our staff in the business office, development office, admissions, marketing and communications, athletics, facilities, technology, administrators and

assistants, our chaplain and most especially you, our students—all of you give witness to a commitment of working together, to support each other, and to serve each other. That is part of our Xaverian charism. Each of you are strengthening a community that recognizes no matter who you are, at St. Mary's Ryken you bring your individual talents to help all of us build a school community of learning, of faith and of service. Those are not just words, they are the living difference of our Christ-centered community. So today is my opportunity to say thank you to each and every one of you. This is a job that I love coming to. Today, this is not my award, this is your award."

Mrs. Hurlburt received her Master of Arts in teaching and supervision from Notre Dame of Maryland University and a

Bachelor of Science in studio art and education from Ladycliff College in New York. She has been blessed to be married to George Hurlburt for 45 years, have a wonderful son, Jimmy, and daughter-in-law, Carrie (both '93 SMR alumni) and two beautiful grandchildren, Eli and Minah.

“There has not been one other person that has impacted the St. Mary’s Ryken community in such a profound way,” said Dr. Wood. “She exemplifies the Xaverian values of trust, compassion, humility, simplicity and zeal through her personal life, faith life and work life. I have unending gratitude for the mentorship she has personally provided to me over my 23 years at SMR.”

During her retirement, Mrs. Hurlburt plans to enjoy more time with her family, especially her husband and grandchildren, and spend time relaxing by enjoying her passion for art and traveling.



President Hurlburt during the 2019 Knight Gala

## Honor President Mary Joy Hurlburt’s 33 years of dedication to the St. Mary’s Ryken community. Make a gift to support the Hurlburt Family Scholarship fund to become a part of her lasting legacy!

The fund was established by the Hurlburt family in memory of Mary Joy’s mother, Peggy Ellis, to honor her lifelong commitment to Catholic education. Awards are given to students with strong academic backgrounds and a demonstrated need for financial assistance.

**2**  
**EASY**  
**WAYS**  
**TO**  
**GIVE:**

**1. Make a secure online gift at:**

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

**2. Mail a check to the Development Office:**

St. Mary’s Ryken Office of Development  
22600 Camp Calvert Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650

*Please write Hurlburt Family Scholarship on the memo line.*

*Every gift is a blessing and appreciated!*

# Dr. Rick Wood Named New President of St. Mary's Ryken

Beginning July 1, Dr. Wood will be the new president and CEO of St. Mary's Ryken.

An extensive national search was conducted, and applicants from across the country were considered. Dr. Wood's tremendous qualifications, 23-year career at SMR, and his enormous devotion to our families, faculty/staff and the Xaverian tradition, make him the ideal next leader for our school.

Dr. Wood earned his B.S. in biology from the University of Maryland, College Park, and his M.S. in human resource development from Towson University. In 2017, he earned

his doctorate in school leadership from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Throughout Dr. Wood's 23-year career as a teacher, dean of student life, dean of academics, and principal at St. Mary's Ryken, he has consistently provided faith-filled leadership and developed programs that promote spiritual growth and educational excellence. He has nurtured positive relationships with teachers, parents, students, alumni and supporters.

Dr. Wood and wife Paula are lifelong local residents and have three daughters—a current SMR sophomore and two alums, from the classes of 2019 and 2016. He is a tireless advocate for SMR, and is known and respected throughout Southern Maryland. As an innovator of successful programs and a key contributor to the SMR Strategic Plan and Middle States reaccreditation, he understands the strengths and challenges of our school, and is well positioned to lead us to continued success.

"It is my honor and privilege to continue to serve and advance the mission of St. Mary's Ryken as president," said Dr. Wood. "I carry the mantle of good work that has been accomplished by Mary Joy Hurlburt and her predecessors who have built a foundation for excellence in collaboration with the Xaverian Brothers. For over 20 years, being part of the sole Catholic, college preparatory high school in the tri-county area, I have witnessed the transformative experience that happens in the lives of our young adults. I believe the difference in a great education and

life-changing experience is the community in which it takes place. I am inspired by the faculty, staff, coaches and administration that provide this holistic education for our student body. They foster and value a strong spirituality, rigorous academics, and an amazing extracurricular experience for our SMR community. I have always had great pride in SMR, and I am driven to put my experience and leadership to work in the next phase of St. Mary's Ryken's rich history, where success has been a tradition."

Dr. Wood's immediate goals align with the strategic direction Mrs. Hurlburt established for the school when she began as president 13 years ago. "My goals will be similar to Mary Joy's in terms of advancing the mission of the school by focusing on improving campus facilities and infrastructure, fundraising to enrich academic programs and resources for faculty and students, and to faithfully focus on enhancing the overall experience for our student community. It will also be one of my top priorities to continue to build strong relationships with our alumni and to keep bringing them back on campus for networking opportunities and Homecoming events."

Additionally, along with the development team, Dr. Wood will remain attentive to sustaining and growing the strong endowment fund. Most importantly, he will work closely with the admissions team on enrollment management initiatives including recruitment of mission-appropriate students in Southern Maryland.



Dr. Wood has been a leader in the St. Mary's Ryken community for over 23 years.

## St. Mary's Academy Alumna, Dr. Cathy Bowes, Selected as the New Principal

St. Mary's Ryken is thrilled to announce that Dr. Cathy Bowes has been named the new school principal effective July 1. Dr. Bowes comes to SMR with over 18 years of school leadership experience across a wide range of settings, including STEM magnet schools, career/technology, and performing/visual arts for high-performing schools in the Baltimore County area. She is also a St. Mary's Academy alumna from the Class of 1981.

"It is my great honor to join the St. Mary's Ryken community as their next principal," said Dr. Cathy Bowes. "Together with Dr. Rick Wood and our talented, committed leadership team, I look forward to providing visionary, mission-focused leadership for St. Mary's Ryken's fourth decade. This mission, to provide academic excellence and individualized student growth in a community of faith and diversity in the Xaverian tradition, will continue to prepare students who are able to think and problem-solve, communicate and collaborate in highly effective ways, and lead and serve with compassion, humility, simplicity, trust and zeal. I look forward to getting to work!" states Dr. Bowes.

Dr. Bowes earned her bachelor's degree in English from Georgetown University and her master's degree in administration and supervision from Johns Hopkins University. She has a secondary education teacher certification in English from Towson University. She earned her Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from Indiana University.

Dr. Bowes began her career at Old Court Middle School (Baltimore County) as an English teacher. She continued in the Baltimore County school system as a teacher mentor, then assistant principal for two

magnet schools and most recently for Eastern Technical High School, a College Board Capstone and Newsweek "Beating the Odds" school with a student body of 1,200. She has a proven track record of helping increase AP and SAT test scores. Her expertise lies in staff development, supervision of instruction, student programming and data-driven school improvement.

"Dr. Bowes joins our school community with a wealth of knowledge about student-centered instruction and preparation of students for college," said Dr. Wood. "It's an exciting time for her to join our team because the STEM classrooms and Innovation Labs in the Paschal Hall MIL STEM Wing will be complete this summer. I am confident that Dr. Bowes will help to continue the rich history of academic excellence and strong faculty and student relationships at St. Mary's Ryken."

"On behalf of the SMR Board of Directors, I am delighted that Dr. Bowes has been selected as the new principal of St. Mary's Ryken," said Mary Joy Hurlburt. "Dr. Bowes' tremendous qualifications and connection to our school as an alum make her the perfect leader to follow in Dr. Wood's footsteps as he transitions as our next school president."



Dr. Cathy Bowes (SMA '81)

# The Donnie Williams Center Nears Completion

As the St. Mary’s Ryken community arrives back on campus in August to kick off the school year, they will be greeted with the completed Donnie Williams Center—their new home for all-school events, health and wellness classes, athletic training, basketball, volleyball and wrestling contests and a modern facility to share with the Southern Maryland community.

All students will have new health and wellness course options, including an after-school intramural program. Student-athletes will benefit from contemporary, advanced exercise and strength training areas. And, faculty and staff will have designated hours before and after school to use the fitness equipment.

“It’s thrilling to have the opportunity to provide contemporary health and wellness course offerings to support the active lifestyles of today’s students, and modernized facilities for our competitive student-athletes,” said President Mary Joy Hurlburt. “This facility has been part of our strategic plan for over 10 years, and it’s because of the tremendous support from our dedicated donors, alumni and the board of directors that it’s come to fruition.”

“All of the benefits of the new facility support the expectations of students, parents and the staff—a healthier lifestyle and more options for classes and extracurricular activities,” said Principal Rick Wood. “The ability to offer new experiences for our students, such as an after-school intramural program, will offer students fun and safe activities and promote health and wellness among the student body. We look forward to being able to host robotics competitions, speakers series and eventually community events such as concerts on campus.”

Bridging the upper and lower campuses, the center also includes a stage, inside and outside gathering spaces for students, multipurpose room, gymnasium, locker rooms, training facilities, concessions, campus store, outdoor patio and common areas. With the additional

space on campus, the facility will also be used for graduation ceremonies, all-school Mass and other gatherings, such as prom and alumni events.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony and donor appreciation reception is being planned for early September.

## Donnie Williams Center Mission

The Donnie Williams Center integrates health and wellness curriculum and programs into St. Mary’s Ryken High School and the larger Southern Maryland community to benefit our students, staff and friends of SMR. The Donnie Williams Center is a centralized, all-inclusive wellness facility, designed to strengthen, inspire and empower our entire community on their journey toward a balanced and healthier lifestyle. Aligned with the St. Mary’s Ryken High School mission and Xaverian Brothers’ core values, the Donnie Williams Center is a place to gather, to connect and to explore wellness through intellectual, occupational, physical, social, emotional and spiritual activities.



Strength and Conditioning Room



The Donnie Williams Center. Photo taken May 2019.



Board of Directors Chairman Jimmy Burke '86 (P '19, '22) and board member Mary Lynn Stone (P '04, '06) prepare to lay the cornerstone of the Donnie Williams Center during a ceremony held in May.

## New Health and Wellness Courses in 2019-20!

Fitness, Yoga and Mindfulness

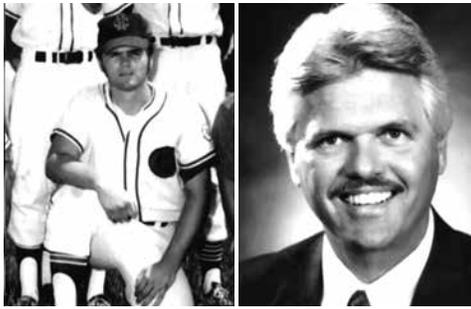
High Intensity Training

Strength and Conditioning



## Beloved Donnie Williams

A member of the Ryken High School Class of 1971, Donnie Williams attributed much of his success to the values and discipline he was taught by the Xaverian Brothers. Mr. Williams let the values shape the person he would become as he grew into a young man during his transformative years at Ryken High School. Mr. Williams was president of his class sophomore and junior years and vice president of student government his senior year. He was active in many clubs and extracurricular activities, and he is remembered as the catcher when the varsity baseball team won the Maryland State Championship in 1971. He was truly a Knight!



After graduation, Mr. Williams attended Salisbury University, and soon after he established two successful businesses, Alarm Guard and Advanced Property Rental. Through the years he became a very prosperous developer, entrepreneur and mentor to other individuals who were starting out in new business ventures or real estate. He loved helping people succeed, and he loved to serve others.

Before his death in May 2012, Mr. Williams established the Donnie Williams Foundation so that children would have the opportunities in life that he did not have growing up—places to come together, in formal and informal settings, to participate in activities after school.

The St. Mary's Ryken community is grateful for the support from the Donnie Williams Foundation. It is our pledge to honor his legacy by staying true to the Xaverian Brothers' values and ensuring the Donnie Williams Center is a facility where students, faculty, staff and the community are always welcome.

## Paschal Hall Receives a STEM Facelift!

Over this summer, the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) facilities in Paschal Hall will be enhanced and renovated. Modeled after university-level STEM labs, the SMR Innovation Lab and MIL STEM Wing will include a classroom, build space and collaboration space that will be available to all SMR students.

“The repurposing of Paschal Hall and the MIL STEM Wing intrinsically sets a dynamic marriage in place between the Scholars Program, Project Lead the Way curriculum and STEM labs,” said President Mary Joy Hurlburt. “Called by our mission and our Xaverian values, the commitment to this project is a testament to serving our students and supporting their future career paths.”

### PASCHAL HALL AND MIL STEM WING

Highlights of the new learning zones include:

#### Classroom Space



24-Seat Classroom



MacBook Pro Computers

#### Build Space



3-D Printers



Wind Tunnel



Construction Equipment for Robotics and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Program

#### Collaboration Space

5

Breakout Areas for Team Construction



Presentation Area



Full-Size Robotics Competition Space



Aerospace engineering students stand in front of the wind tunnel at Naval Air Station Patuxent River.

## Local Partnerships Help Shape Aerospace Engineering Course

Under the leadership of faculty member Jonathan Smith, the Aerospace Engineering course debuted in 2018-19 and covers physics of flight, navigation, orbital mechanics, unmanned aerial vehicles and aerospace careers.

“This project-based course provides students with a broad spectrum of aerospace topics while having the opportunity to use industry-standard software to build gliders, robots and test their projects,” said Mr. Smith. “Seventy-five percent of what we do is hands-on learning. Testing what we build is a key component, too, and gives students a more realistic idea of what to expect if they pursue a career in aerospace or mechanical engineering.”

Through partnerships with local industry leaders at the Naval Air Station Patuxent River, the Experimental Aircraft Association

and the St. Mary’s County Regional Airport, students are exposed to many real-life facets of aviation.

During a field trip to the Experimental Aircraft Association, students learned how to read maps, learned about navigation instruments, toured the airport and inspected aircraft and learned about the electronic systems in Trooper 7, one of the Maryland State Police medical evacuation helicopters.

During a second field trip to Naval Air Station Patuxent River, students learned about the tilt-rotor military aircraft V-22

Osprey, including how it’s designed, built and maintained. The class also toured a wind tunnel and a prototype facility where most Navy aircraft parts and structures are built.

“Due to our proximity to Naval Air Station Patuxent River, students also have the benefit of frequent guest speakers who are experts in the field of aerospace engineering,” said Principal Rick Wood.

Dr. Nicholas Kachman, a retiree with a background in the aerospace industry and the government who taught a mechanical/aerospace master’s degree course for the Florida Institute of Technology, visits the aerospace class on a weekly basis to assist students with their understanding of the aerospace industry and academia. “Dr. Kachman is currently advancing our students’ applications of propulsion systems and will assist with designing, testing and launching rockets in the near future,” said Mr. Smith. “We are very lucky to have his knowledge and expertise to learn from in the classroom.”

**Aerospace Engineering** is the third of the Project Lead the Way required courses within the Engineering pathway; the first two for freshmen and sophomores are Introduction to Engineering Design and Principles of Engineering. The pathway culminates with a senior capstone course.

**Internships** through partnerships with local industry experts and the Naval Air Station Patuxent River are also available for students with a strong interest in aerospace engineering.

“Our field trips have introduced me to experts in their fields and have given me insight into the endless possibilities of aerospace engineering. ...I have learned about the intricacies of flight planning and navigation tools from actual pilots and instructors. During our field trip to NAS Patuxent River, I learned about how aerodynamics are tested in the wind tunnel, and learned about how the V-22, an interesting tilt-rotor plane, works, and how much engineering and planning goes into making the plane efficient and useful.”

—**Junior Dillon Miller**

*Dillon is a Scholars Program student enrolled in the Engineering pathway.*



Aerospace engineering and math department teacher Jonathan Smith reviews students' rocket schematics. From left: Joseph Baden, Madison DeVane and Emily Massiglia

During visits to the school, Lt. Cmdr. Jocelyn Liberg, an assistant program manager for Systems Engineering at the Triton Program office in the Navy and a current SMR parent, reviewed case studies from the federal government about ejections.

“Lt. Cmdr. Liberg’s case study of ejection seat testing reinforced our studies of the physics of flight, thus validating the field of aerodynamics is far more than designing fast-flying maneuverable aircraft,” said Mr. Smith. “Additionally, her full flight suit regalia was the perfect lead-in to our study of flight physiology.”

Lt. Cmdr. Liberg also taught students how to evaluate video vs. technical writing and the value of both skills in an aerospace career.

“Through learning about aerospace careers, I have learned that many disciplines of engineering can be applied to the aerospace field,” said Dillon Miller. “Even though I

have always known that I wanted to be an engineer, learning about aerospace careers has raised my interest in mechanical, aerospace and materials engineering as possible college majors, and I know that they will all be able to translate into the aerospace field.”

Lt. Cmdr. Liberg visited other classes as well to cover topics such as the importance of being a leader on campus and amongst their peers, and developing good communication skills, both written and verbal, appropriate use of technology, encouraging students to develop their moral compass and understand that their integrity is invaluable.

“I hope that the students understand how important being a well-rounded person is to their work; that having a solid understanding of mathematics, physics, engineering, etc., is not enough to make them an excellent engineer,” she said. “Having a sound moral and ethical compass, strong oral and written communication skills, the ability to accept and offer criticism and praise tactfully, and how to use technology responsibly will take their important contributions beyond levels they had even considered.”

“SMR is very excited and proud to offer this course to our students,” said Mr. Smith. “The opportunities that exist in our backyard through relationships with local industry experts and aerospace engineers as mentors

is such an asset. This course will continue to flourish!”

Projects covered in the inaugural aerospace class included building gliders and rockets, fiber glassing, testing material force and building a simulated satellite scanner to map terrain.

“We looked inside one of the aircraft that the naval bases uses to test new technology. We saw the inside of the body of the plane, and our guide pointed out devices and tools that were not used on any planes—other than test planes—in the world. This was really interesting to me because one of the career paths that I’m interested in is joining the Navy and flying fighter jets, and then moving on to test piloting or designing new technology for naval aircraft. It was fascinating to be able to see some of the devices I might use in my future job and to learn what some of them are used for.”

—**Junior Emily Massiglia**

*Emily is a Scholars Program student enrolled in the Engineering pathway.*

# An evening OF gratitude

During the President's Dinner in February, President Mary Joy Hurlburt and the St. Mary's Ryken Board of Directors celebrated friends and benefactors who are committed to the same philosophies and ideals as our founders and who, through their wisdom and generosity, seek to ensure that the highest quality of education will be available for future generations.

*"The entire St. Mary's Ryken community is grateful for your vision, leadership and dedicated service to our students, faculty and staff, and all the lives that you have touched," said President Hurlburt.*



Col. Phillip and Maureen Farrell (P'01, '03, '07), Brian Harper '87 and Patrick Murphy '87



Board of Directors Chairman Jimmy Burke '86 (P '19, '22), Debbie and Mike Mummaugh and President Mary Joy Hurlburt

**Mike and Debbie Breck Mummaugh (SMA '74, P '05, '10)**

The Mummaughs' commitment to St. Mary's Ryken has been extraordinary and has left an indelible footprint on our campus. Mr. Mummaugh has been instrumental in the revitalization of the campus by helping to create the campus Master Plan that included the stadium, major renovations throughout the campus and the new Donnie Williams Center. The Mummaughs are active with the Leonardtown Lions Club along with numerous other charitable organizations in Southern Maryland.



Board of Directors Chairman Jimmy Burke, Lucille and Bill Reuter and President Mary Joy Hurlburt

**Bill and Lucille Reuter (P '05)**

The Reuters were at the forefront of leading the Foundations for the Future Campaign to secure a stronger financial future for St. Mary's Ryken. Their pride and gratitude for the school, and commitment to offering students in Southern Maryland a faith-based education, led to the creation of two scholarships in honor of their parents: The Joseph and Julia Bordell Scholarship and the Dr. William and Frances Reuter Scholarship. Thanks to their generosity, generations of future Knights will receive financial support during their years at St. Mary's Ryken.



Board of Directors Chairman Jimmy Burke and President Mary Joy Hurlburt with Christine Senese

**Christine Sterling Senese (SMA '72)**

Mrs. Senese has been a lifetime advocate for Catholic education rooted in the faith and traditions passed down by her parents, William and Marion Sterling. She is a true believer that St. Mary's Ryken is vital for the Southern Maryland community. Mrs. Senese created The Sterling Family Scholarship in memory of her late brother, William, to help provide a strong academic and faith-based education for others. She has been a visionary leader with the Vision Belief Pride campaign, and is always giving of herself to the school community.



Board of Directors Chairman Jimmy Burke and President Mary Joy Hurlburt with Mary Lynn Stone

**Mary Lynn and Joe Stone (P '04, '06)**

The Stones started the Jenna Stone Memorial Golf Classic along with their daughter Devin and her husband Kevin in memory of Jenna. This wonderful event has raised scholarship funds that have changed young people's lives in our community by providing an opportunity to attend St. Mary's Ryken. Mary Lynn and Joe's vision and leadership built the momentum to take the Donnie Williams Center from conception to fruition. Their dedication has been astounding over the years, creating a Stone family legacy at St. Mary's Ryken.



During a recent visit to SMR, Southern Maryland Community Resources participants pose with SMR dance teacher Julie Daley and SMR dance students.

## Art to Heart—A Humble Program with an Important Purpose

Southern Maryland Community Resources (SMCR), a nonprofit organization that helps to bridge the gap for individuals with developmental differences in our community, was established in 2013, and soon after a strong partnership with St. Mary's Ryken fine arts students was formed through the Art to Heart program.

“The Art to Heart program was our first program established with a companion community organization in 2014,” said Bonnie Elward, the executive director of SMCR. “It began very organically through a conversation with Beth Allen, SMR campus minister, about how to offer SMCR as another organization for SMR students to volunteer to satisfy their service hours.”

During these discussions, the fine arts department chair at the time, Andrew Smouse, asked if SMCR would be

interested in SMR developing a creative arts program especially for SMCR—of course, the answer was yes!

After a few logistical meetings, the Art to Heart program was born. Now, a five-year-long relationship between SMCR and St. Mary's Ryken has flourished.

*The Art to Heart program is simple, but it makes a big impact on the lives of the participants and student volunteers.*

Every three weeks at the end of the school day, SMCR members visit SMR to attend a dance or music workshop run by SMR dance teacher Julie Daley.

The program has evolved over the years. “A core group of 14 individuals attend at this point,” said Mrs. Daley. “They really enjoy just being with our students as well as participating in the music and dance activities.”

The dance class exposes members to different music and dance styles from other cultures. These activities and interactions directly

correlate and support the mission of SMCR, which is to provide inclusive social, recreational and educational programs to its members.

“When I help create opportunities for students to volunteer, I am teaching in a way that embodies the entire student,” said Mrs. Daley. “I am also giving the students an opportunity to care for disenfranchised, often-ignored members of our population, and encouraging the Xaverian values of zeal and compassion. As Jesus says in Matthew, ‘Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers, this you do unto me.’”

“The benefits are immeasurable to the participants and the students,” said Mrs. Elward. “Everybody has fun! For the SMR students, the interaction with the participants is a great bridge builder for understanding people with developmental differences. For our members, it helps to build confidence by trying different activities, and increases their balance and ability to follow directions.”

As the SMCR adults enter the school building, you can see the excitement and anticipation on their faces. The SMR students are just as delighted and think of the time after school as pleasant and even relaxing.

“I have learned more about character, friendship and leadership through the adults than I could ever teach them,” said junior Caroline Daley. “Many of the participants are nonverbal, but we still manage to encourage and include everyone. This experience has taught me that actions have a much more noticeable impact on someone’s disposition than words.”

“Our participants are also invited to the SMR dress rehearsals for the spring and fall productions every year,” said Mrs. Elward. “By having inclusive programs, our members learn very important social skills by interacting with the nondisability community that help them interact in their employment

and volunteering activities. Our members want to be contributing members to society and the community, to feel purposeful and have joy in their lives. They may not be able to communicate this in traditional ways established by society, but are so appreciative to be joining in these activities with the SMR students, faculty and community.”

SMR alumni remember the program fondly. Sophia Trentacosta ’18 is attending the University of Georgia, where she is double majoring in psychology and biology. “My involvement with Art to Heart encouraged me to diversify the communities in which I serve in. It inspired me to look beyond myself, and to try to understand the difficulties that other people face,” said Sophia. “This desire to diversify my communities is what led me to add a second

major in psychology. I actually came into UGA as solely a biology major, but I added a psychology major when I remembered how much I loved hearing the stories of the persons I interacted with through Art to Heart.”

Ashley Collins ’18 attributes her decision to pursue a career in occupational therapy to her participation in the Art to Heart program. “It is through my work with SMCR that I discovered occupational therapy and fell in love with the career. I chose to pursue this path because it encompasses care of the whole person. Art to Heart showed me the value in becoming an OT who can help individuals through an exploration of their goals and passions.”

As a student at SMR, Ashley always looked forward to the days she could stay after to participate in Art to Heart. “What I enjoyed most was the fact that it never felt like service work,” she said. “Instead, it was my favorite dance class of the month. Being able to share a love of the arts transcends all differences that exist between groups of people. The amount of love and acceptance that exists within the Art to Heart program is ineffable, and I will forever be grateful for the opportunity I had to be a part of it.”

In the fall, Mrs. Elward hopes to expand the activities available to participants by offering an inclusive dance company with the help of Mrs. Daley.

“Inclusive dance companies are on the rise around the nation, and I would love for SMR dancers to help mold and develop an inclusive company,” said Mrs. Daley. “Sharing something you take for granted helps create gratitude for blessings in one’s own life.”

*The St. Mary’s Ryken and Southern Maryland Community Resources Art to Heart program was recognized by the St. Mary’s Commission for People with Disabilities as the “Most Innovative Program” in 2015.*



SMCR participants have fun with a “Seussical, the Musical” prop.

## Special Accolades

### Three Students Named National Merit Commended Scholars

St. Mary's Ryken is proud to announce that three students from the Class of 2019 have been named National Merit Commended Scholars in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program—William Greer, Amanda Long and Catherine Nguyen.

This designation is given to students who place among the top 50,000 scorers of the more than 1.6 million students who entered the 2019 competition by taking the 2017 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

Congratulations to Amanda, Catherine and William!



From left: William Greer '19, Amanda Long '19, Catherine Nguyen '19

### Senior Earns Highest Score in St. Mary's County in the University of Maryland High School Mathematics Competition

Congratulations to senior Ana Carolina Lopes, who earned the highest score in



Math department chair, Selva Kumar with Ana Carolina Teixeira Salgado Pinto Lopes '19 and Dr. Rick Wood

St. Mary's County on the University of Maryland High School Mathematics Competition. This is a two-part test of mathematical insight and ingenuity. SMR students have been the highest scorers in St. Mary's County five times in the past seven years. This fall, Ana will attend Imperial College London.

Every fall, the University of Maryland holds a math competition for high school students enrolled in Maryland or the District of Columbia. About 2,000 students take the part 1 exam. Students who score well on part 1 are invited to participate in part 2 of the competition. Both parts require a sound knowledge of high school mathematics.

### Envirothon Group Wins Local Competition

Over the course of the school year, five St. Mary's Ryken Advanced Placement environmental science students traveled to a farm in Valley Lee, Maryland, to participate in Envirothon training. In April,

they competed against other St. Mary's County schools on their knowledge of current environmental topics alongside a test of practical skills, and SMR earned first place! The topics this year were soils, forestry, aquatics, wildlife, and a special fifth issue: Agriculture and the Environment—Knowledge and Technology to Feed the World.



Students with the 1st place trophy. From left: Club moderator and history teacher, Jackson Webb, Dylan Brown, Ethan Redding, Abigail Halterman '19, Caroline Daley, Robert "Bobby" Cooper (St. Mary's Soil Conversation Chairman and Ryken High School '76 alum) and Christine Shatrowsky



Caroline Daley and Christine Shatrowsky participate in Envirothon training on a farm in Valley Lee, Maryland.

The Envirothon is a problem-solving natural resource competition for high school student teams. In St. Mary's County, the Envirothon is sponsored by the local district with financial support coming from many local businesses, organizations and individuals.

In June, the SMR team will represent St. Mary's County at the state competition at St. Mary's College of Maryland.

## St. Mary's Ryken Team Sweeps the Brain Bee

Under the direction of Jason DeLucco, St. Mary's Ryken competed in the Southern Maryland Brain Bee at St. Mary's College of Maryland in February. Payton Parris, Christine Shatrowsky and Gavin Willis competed against other local high school students in several rounds to test their knowledge of the brain and behavior.

Students competed in teams and as individuals in question-and-answer rounds, practical neuroanatomy identification and mock patient diagnoses. The goal is to raise



Jason DeLucco '98 (history department) with Gavin Willis, Christine Shatrowsky and Payton Parris

awareness about the brain and nervous system and to increase student interest in neuroscience.

The SMR team won the group competition, and Christine won the individual competition. This is the first time in the 12-year history of the event that SMR won either competition!

## Science Bowl Team Competes in Regional Championship

The St. Mary's Ryken Science Bowl team competed at Montgomery College in the Regional Science Bowl Tournament. The SMR team placed in the top 16! Congratulations to seniors, EuiKwang (Josh) Kim, JunSu Park, Colin Thomas, Silu Wang and underclassmen, Kayla Gormley and Gavin Willis.

"This is an impressive placement, considering over 40 teams competed!" said Tara Everly, Science Bowl team moderator and Project Lead the Way Biomedicine and science teacher.

This is a national competition hosted by the Department of Energy. There are regional tournaments, and then the winner of each region gets to compete in Washington at

the national tournament. Science Bowl questions include subject material about math, energy, earth and space, chemistry, biology and physics.

## Impressive Presentations During Catholic University of America High School Academic Symposium

Congrats to Rebecca Arnold, Jay Collins, Cora Bessette and Seth Tyson, who presented at The Catholic University of America High School Academic Symposium. Rebecca presented a thoughtful piece from her AP Seminar class about drilling for oil in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge.



Rebecca Arnold, Jay Collins, Cora Bessette and Seth Tyson at The Catholic University of America

Seth, Cora and Jay showed the play they wrote for National History Day (the storming of the Bastille during the French Revolution) and then discussed the process they used to write the play and why they chose that topic.

WOW—GO KNIGHTS!



Jesse Harris, 1st vice president of MASC

## Sophomore Jesse Harris Named 1st Vice President of MASC

Many Student Government Association members attended the Maryland Association of Student Council Conference (MASC) in Ocean City, Maryland, this spring. Congratulations to Jesse Harris for being elected 1st vice president of MASC for the 2019–20 school year!

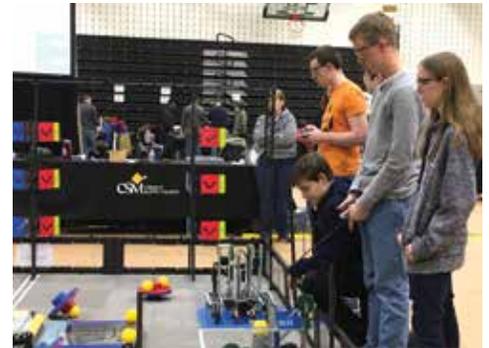
“As 1st vice president of the MASC, I plan to unite Maryland’s youth and encourage student advocacy and civic engagement,” said Jesse. “I believe that it is important to be a part of student organizations like MASC so that students can begin professional and leadership development at a high school level. Also, students are provided the opportunity to network and collaborate with others in order to plan events and complete various projects on the state level.”

## VEX Robotics Team Competes at Southern Maryland VEX League Championship

The SMR Robotics Team participated in the Southern Maryland VEX League Championship at the College of Southern Maryland. In the qualifying rounds, the Knights ranked 7th of the 31 teams with a record of 4-1-1. In the playoffs, SMR won the first round and advanced to the quarterfinals.



Thomas Howard and Matthew Maieli '19 discuss programming strategy.



Kayla Gormley, Thomas Howard and Cole Cantu (kneeling) are ready to start a match.

## FTC Robotics Team Advances to Semifinals

Congratulations to the SMR FTC Robotics Team, which participated in the Southern Maryland FTC League Championship. The robotics team advanced to the semifinals in the FTC qualifier held in Columbia, Maryland, in February. The team competed against 22 other teams across the state.

From left: Robotics team members Silu (Wendy) Wang '19, EuiKwang (Josh) Kim '19, JunSu Park '19, Matt Caldwell and Kayla Gormley

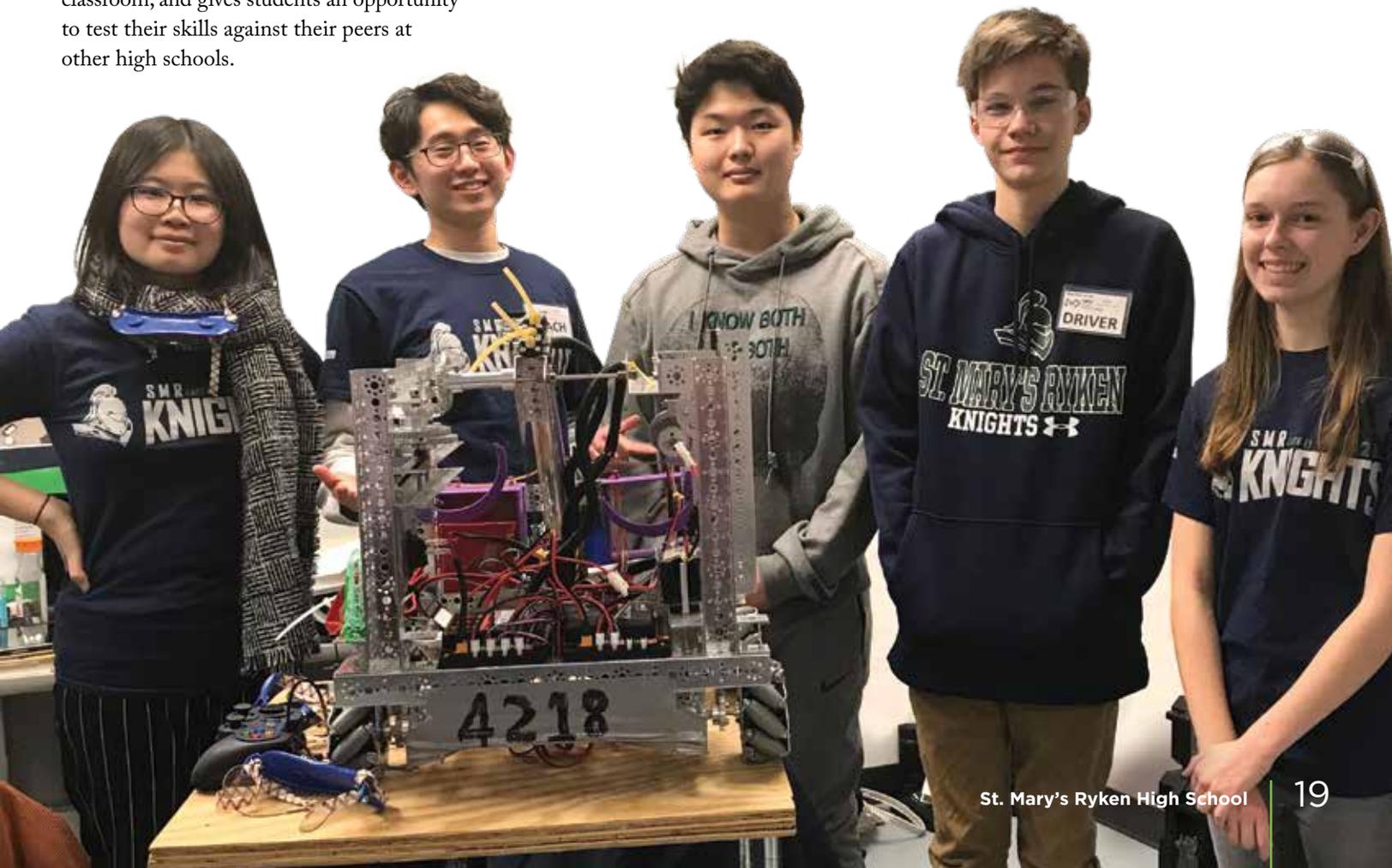
## Twelve Knights Compete in Southern Maryland High School Computer Bowl

Twelve members of SMR's Competitive Programming Club represented St. Mary's Ryken in the annual Southern Maryland High School Computer Bowl sponsored by SMECO. High school students across Southern Maryland raced to solve as many computer science problems as possible during the two-hour competition. The event attracted public and private high schools from Charles, St. Mary's and Calvert counties.

Participation in such events exposes students to challenges developed by industry professionals that reflect issues encountered by real-world developers. These types of problems are well beyond what a student typically encounters in the classroom, and gives students an opportunity to test their skills against their peers at other high schools.



From left: Jack Guerre, Matt Caldwell, Matt Maieli '19 and Ben Wheeley '19



## AP Latin Students Attend Largest Gathering of Latin Speakers in the World

The AP Latin class requires students to analyze texts in order to write essays with textual support. Living Latin in New York City, the largest annual gathering of Latin speakers in the world, offered our students the opportunity to examine and discuss, with experts in their fields, Latin authors from ancient, medieval and Renaissance times such as Livy, Descartes, Augustine, Hildegard and Erasmus.

More than 200 people attended the conference. Most were teachers or college professors, and about 30 were high school students.

Our SMR students had already read many of the authors, and discussing familiar themes gave our students an opportunity to share their thoughts with other students during the conference.

“My students most enjoyed the challenge of listening to professors speaking in Latin

and responding to their questions,” said SMR World Language department chair and Latin teacher, Sam Spaulding. “They told me it was a bit intimidating, but they all rose to the challenge, reading successfully and responding in Latin.”

“Traveling to New York City with my Latin class has been one of the most fun things I have done as an SMR student,” said senior Bryan Jones. “Not only was I able to learn more about the Latin language, but I was also able to see the city of New York.”

## Junior Class Trip Solidifies Classroom Learning With Real-World Experiences

In January, the junior class participated in the annual field trip to Washington to visit the United States Holocaust, Martin Luther King Jr. and World War II memorials.

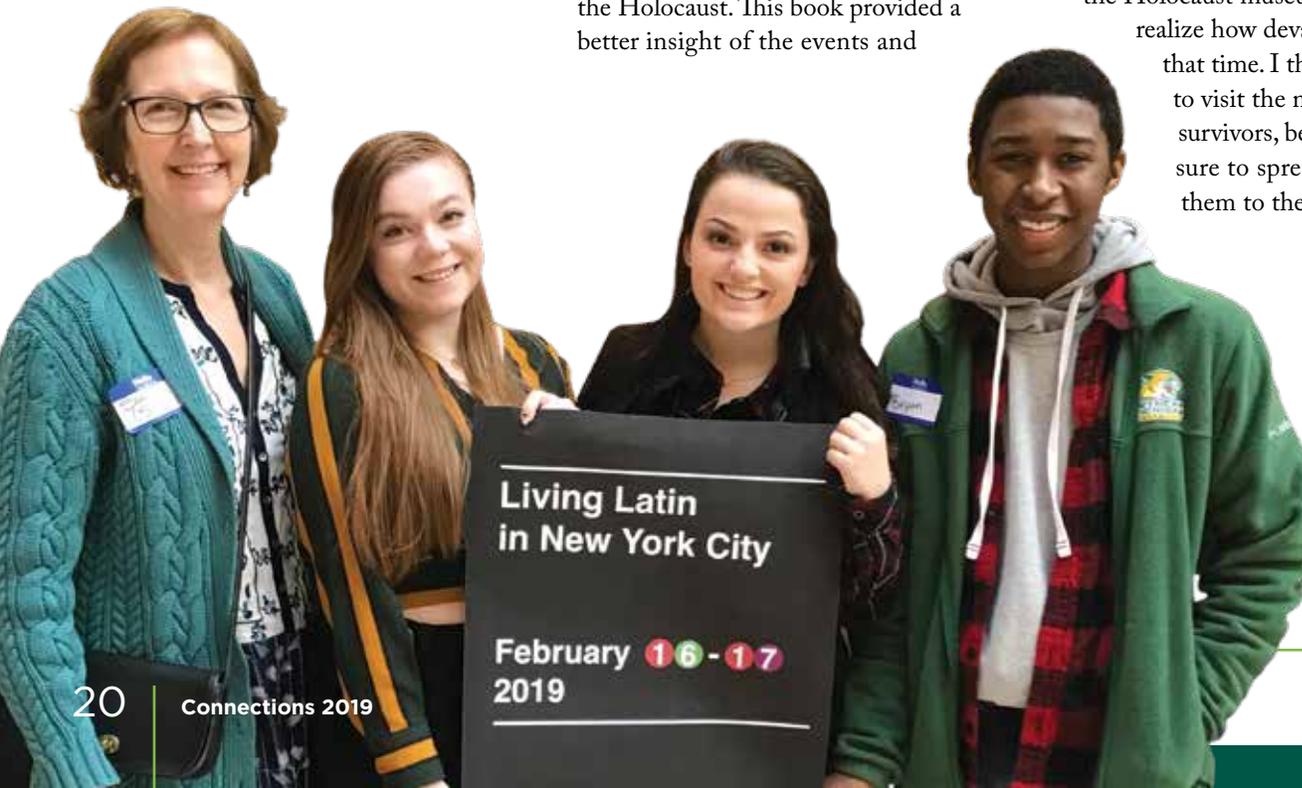
“This trip helped to solidify what we had been learning in many of our classes,” said Riley Foster. “In Nonfiction, we began reading ‘Night’ by Elie Wiesel, a memoir focusing on his personal experiences during the Holocaust. This book provided a better insight of the events and

impact of the Holocaust. Walking around these memorials caused the events behind them to be more realistic than just reading about them.”

The main portion of the trip was spent in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, which houses a collection of artifacts, statistics and stories from the Holocaust. “The exhibits in the museum, especially the model of a cattle car used to transport Jewish people and the drawings done by children in concentration camps, fully solidified what we had been learning in our classes and provided a better understanding of the brutality and discrimination Jewish people and other European minorities faced during the Holocaust,” Riley said.

“This was a very meaningful experience. The museums and monuments put the events of World War II and the impact of Martin Luther King Jr. into perspective,” said Jamie Kost. “The Holocaust museum replicated the horror that so many endured and gave me a small glimpse into the tragedy. It felt real with visuals, not just written in a book.”

“Being able to go see these sites in Washington, D.C., was a very educational experience,” said Gavin Willis. “Visiting the Holocaust museum really helps you to realize how devastating it was during that time. I think it is very important to visit the museum and talk to the survivors, because we need to be sure to spread the stories from them to the future generations.”



From left:  
Latin teacher  
Sam Spaulding,  
Amanda Long '19,  
Gabrielle Bricker '19  
and Bryan Jones '19



Junior class in front of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial

## Through Oyster Restoration Project Students Help Reverse Bay Problems

Oceanography and Bay Studies is a fall semester class that introduces students to physical and chemical oceanography. In addition to studying many facets of the ocean including the origin, waves, currents, tides, plant and animal life and topography, students take part in an oyster-growing project at the school dock.

Through the project, they gain an understanding of what problems are facing the Chesapeake Bay and how they can help reverse these problems.

“The restoration project consists of four phases. The first phase was to recover four discarded cages hanging from our dock,” said Ed Szymkowiak, SMR science and Project Lead the Way engineering teacher. “These cages were full, with some large living oysters still in them. The

Oceanography class removed the oysters, scrubbed and measured them, and then returned the oysters to the cages.” Later in the fall, the Breton Bay Oyster Program transplanted the oysters to a reef they have

been assigned to in Breton Bay by the Department of Natural Resources.

The Breton Bay Oyster Program provided SMR with new cages filled with spat attached to shells. “Phase 2 of our project consisted of planting new oysters. We are growing and monitoring these oysters (phase 3) on our dock for a year, and then this summer will return them to the program for transplantation to the reef (phase 4),” said Mr. Szymkowiak.

“I learned that in Breton Bay, restoring the oyster population is vital to improving the health of the bay,” said Elizabeth Trossbach. “Breton Bay is a great place to grow oysters because it’s calm and receives lots of nutrients for the spat to grow. It’s necessary for us as residents to do what we can to prevent runoff from crop fields going into the bay because this leads to an increase in algae and uses most of the oxygen out of the water that other organisms need to grow. “

“In addition to restoration projects like the one we worked, I learned there are other ways we can protect the oysters and keep



Elizabeth Trossbach and Cristian Aviles participate in the second phase of the program, putting new spat in cages to grow until they are transported to the reef.



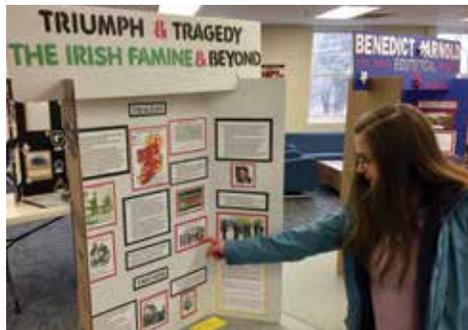
Breton Bay oysters

them healthy,” said Cristian Aviles. “Simply by keeping away from the oyster sanctuaries, going green by picking up trash that may wash into the bay, and avoiding throwing trash into the bay, we can help prevent the oysters from suffocating. Plus, the healthier we keep the bay, the better hygiene the oysters will have. If we follow these rules, we can make a huge impact on the lives of oysters.”

“I enjoyed going down to the water and having the opportunity to participate in growing oysters off our dock. It really brought to life everything we learned in the classroom.”

—Elizabeth Trossbach

## St. Mary’s Ryken Students Participate in St. Mary’s County History Day Program Facilitated by Historic Sotterley



Nicolette Glut discusses her exhibit on “The Irish Famine & Beyond” that she entered in the History Day program. Photo courtesy of John Wharton at The Enterprise

The inaugural program at St. Mary’s Ryken hosted by Historic Sotterley consisted of exhibits, written reports, video documentaries, website presentations and a live performance.

To view the complete list of SMR winners, please visit: [www.smrhs.org/SMCHistoryDay](http://www.smrhs.org/SMCHistoryDay).

## Partnerships in the Community Strengthen Internship Program

Local industry experts continue to offer St. Mary’s Ryken students internship opportunities in many exciting and forward-looking career paths.

This summer, seven SMR students have been selected to participate in the Aviation Electronics and Sensors (AESIP) internship program and the Radio Frequency and Antenna Demonstration and Instruction for Advancing Technology Education (RADIATE) internship program at Naval Air Station Patuxent River.

“I am interested in engineering and considering doing something in the military domain,” said Olivia Johnson. “Be it working on jets or trying to become a pilot myself, I really wanted that hands-on experience where I was able to see what daily life looks like for someone in that line of work, so I put in an application for the RADIATE program, and they happily took me!”

“I hope to learn more about aircraft systems and technologies like radar and sonar during my internship in the AESIP program,” said Colin Lombardi ’19. “I plan to take aeronautical science courses and hope my exposure to these systems and technologies helps prepare me for my classes. I will take a flight instruments class in my first year of college. I will be flying planes too, so the experience I gain from the internship will be closely aligned with what I plan to study

in college.” Colin is attending Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in the fall and plans to study aeronautical science.



Colin Lombardi, '19 AESIP intern

**The following organizations have developed new partnerships with St. Mary's Ryken, offering students internships during the school year, during breaks or over the summer:**

**Personalized Therapy LLC** • a leading orthopedic rehabilitation and behavioral health center in Southern Maryland; provides occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, ABA therapy, and psychological/counseling services to adults and children.

**AIRtec Inc.** • a local company with a worldwide focus on planes; offers students opportunities to learn more about plane engines, engineering, radars, weapons, etc.

**St. Mary's County Health Department Student Academy for Public Health** • provides an opportunity for rising high school seniors and college students to have hands-on experience in the field of public health.

New opportunities are emerging in cybersecurity, engineering, law enforcement, hotel and restaurant management, math and business.

If your business or company is interested in offering internships to SMR students, please contact Aaron Brady at [aaron.brady@smrhs.org](mailto:aaron.brady@smrhs.org).

“In the summer of 2018, I had an amazing opportunity to work at the Tall Timbers Marina in their oyster yard,” said Abigail Halterman '19. “I learned many new skills, increased my knowledge in the life cycle of oysters, and worked with incredible watermen in the aquaculture industry. I truly enjoyed every day on the yard. This work experience has solidified my desire to continue an education in marine biology and environmental science.”

Abigail's internship was a collaborative effort among many members of the SMR community. “Our strong connection to the history, ecology, culture and environment of the area sets Double T Oyster Ranch apart from other aquaculture operations,” said Amanda Meatyard '96. “Double T Oysters & Tall Timbers Development Co. recognizes the importance of community collaboration, educational partnerships, and ecological awareness as key features for success. We were thrilled to have Abigail work with us last summer and welcome other interns from SMR. It was a wonderful experience for everyone involved.”

Abigail Halterman '19 will attend the University of New England in Biddeford, Maine, where she plans to study marine biology.



# Servant Leadership and Campus Ministry— Hallmarks of the SMR Experience

## Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive Lends a Helping Hand

Students and faculty collected over 10 boxes of food plus \$951 during the fall food drive to support St. Mary's Helping Hands Food Pantry in Mechanicsville, Maryland. The Student Government Association packed and delivered the items to assist families during the Thanksgiving season.



Students, faculty and staff helped to provide for 51 children and their families during the Christmas season.

## Students Give of Themselves During the Christmas Season

### The St. Mary's Ryken Community Helps Brighten the Christmas Season for 51 Local Children

Annually, the St. Mary's Ryken community becomes "Santa Knights" by enriching the Christmas season for children in our local community. By providing items from the children's wish lists and other surprises to brighten the holiday for their families, the SMR community generously gives of their time and treasures. All SMR students, faculty and staff participate in the important event, which is organized by the Student Government Association.

"This is my favorite day of the school year because our school community comes together to think of others in such an impactful and meaningful way," said Principal Rick Wood. "How the SMR community responds to help these 51 children

and their families to have a Christmas that would not have been possible otherwise is nothing less than amazing."

### XBSS Stewards and National Honor Society Members Prepare WARM Meals

Xaverian Brothers Sponsored School Stewards and National Honor Society members prepared dinner on Dec. 23 and breakfast on Christmas Eve for WARM participants. The SMR community is so proud of our students who continue to be servant leaders and give of themselves during the busiest times of the year! Project WARM is a coordinated effort among local churches and other organizations in

Sarah Skane '19 prepares dinner for the WARM participants.





Back row: Peter Trossbach '19, Evan Domonkos '19. Middle row: Sydney Walker '19, Sarah Skane '19, Raina De La Cruz '19, Betsy Haley (director of marketing and communications), Jerrilyn Borneman (director of development). Sitting: Jennifer Tennant '19

St. Mary's County to provide meals and a warm bed for the homeless during the coldest months of the year.

"In taking on service leadership roles such as this one with WARM, I know I am prepared because I have watched and learned from the leaders in our SMR campus ministry," said Sarah Skane. "They



Back row, from left: Seniors Alexandra Wettengel, Abigail Halterman, Kellyn Murphy, Connie Benson and Sarah Skane. Front row, from left: Seniors Madison Dean, Sam Silverstone and Erin Sohl

have set such a great example for every student, and by participating in one service project, you are inspired to take on your own projects in the community."

### National Honor Society Supports Hospice Fundraiser

National Honor Society students support Hospice of MedStar St. Mary's Hospital's annual Festival of Trees fundraiser by decorating trees every Christmas. They take such care in the decorating that this year, Tidewater Dental pre-purchased the SMR tree before the students had even left the event!

### Caritas Café—Kinship and Compassion for Those Who Are Hungry

*Webster's Dictionary defines "charity" as "an organization set up to provide help and raise money for those who need help." The Latin word for "charity" is "caritas" and is defined as "Christian love of humankind."*

St. Mary's Ryken has partnered with the Southern Maryland Food Bank and serves meals weekly in Lexington Park to those who are hungry. Students within Campus Ministry coined the meal service "Caritas Café," and in the 2018–19 school year, students prepared and served over 1,000 meals!

"Currently, there is no evening soup kitchen in St. Mary's County, and a lot of the folks receiving food through our café program are homeless," said SMR campus minister Beth Allen. "This is a meal that they look forward to."

To continue to grow the program and the resources available to provide to the homeless community, students plan to raise funds next fall by serving coffee with specialty creamers at local Catholic church fellowship breakfasts.

"I enjoy being able to help people who are less fortunate than I am," said Lauren Standish '19. "It reminds me to be grateful for the opportunities I have and that one person can make a difference."



Lauren Standish '19 and Sarah Skane '19 prepare to deliver meals for Caritas Café.

## Mount2000—A Special Retreat With Faith-Filled Friends

A minibus full of students and members of Campus Ministry traveled to Mount St. Mary's University in western Maryland to spend the weekend living and learning about their faith life at the Mount2000 retreat. It was a weekend full of reflection, rejoicing and reconciliation with lots of faith-filled friends.



SMR students participate in a large Mass during the retreat.



SMR students spent time with alumni who are in the seminary. Back row, from left: Robert Murphy (from the Diocese of Burlington, Vermont), Jacob Allen, Luke Getson, Mark Mergner '13, Matt Getson. Front row, from left: Sarah Skane '19, Sloan Koviak, Rachel Seep '19, Carleigh Wood '19, Delayne Wood and Janie Bryner.

“The experience was amazing,” said Rachel Seep '19. “The Eucharistic procession was the best part because it felt so meaningful to be surrounded by a gym full of 900 other high school students on their knees praying, and hearing the band playing music. The retreat affected me spiritually in that I was able to open myself up more to God.”

## March for Life

In mid-January, more than 35 SMR students and three faculty members participated in the March for Life rally in Washington. Many other students attended with their church groups.

“Attending the March for Life rally with my SMR peers was an eye-opening experience,” said Catherine Nguyen '19. “In rallying with thousands of youth like myself, I felt united in the cause of the pro-life movement, knowing that I was helping make history.”



Students march toward the U.S. Capitol during the event.



## Support from Local Priests Is a Blessing

St. Mary's Ryken is blessed to have our chaplain, Father Scott, and other priests from the Archdiocese of Washington on campus on a daily basis. They lovingly pray with students, support our Spiritual Direction program and celebrate daily Mass. The SMR community is grateful for their support.

During Lent, students had the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Several local priests were on campus to assist with Lenten confessions, and students participated in confession during their English class times.

From left: Father Marco Schad, Father Scott Woods, Father David Beaubien, Father Sam Plummer and Father Drew Royals

## Catholic Schools—Learn • Serve • Lead • Succeed

*Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.*

—Proverbs 16:3

Catholic Schools Week is a chance for our community to celebrate the honor and joy of being a Catholic school. To kick off Catholic Schools Week, the SMR Choir participated in a Mass attended by elementary and middle schoolers from local Catholic schools.

“Kicking off Catholic Schools Week by performing for a communitywide event was a meaningful experience, especially since we were able to sing with younger students from the Catholic grade schools,” said senior Tyara Nguyen. “I was reminded of the strong values that are taught and practiced from such a young age. As an SMR student, I feel it is my duty to be a role model for younger students in terms of service, leadership and learning.”

During Catholic Schools Week, SMR joins as a school community for Mass. This year, the choir from Mother Catherine Academy joined our Mass as special guests. Later in the week, the National Honor Society hosted a faculty and staff appreciation breakfast.



NHS students enjoy making and serving breakfast for faculty and staff. Back row, from left: Ahryel McManhan, Gary Wynn (math department), Riley Foster, Jamie Kost, Payton Parris. Sitting: Elizabeth Schuck (science department), Kristen VanFossen (math department) and Catherine Dunn (fine arts department)



SMR choral students participate in Catholic Schools Week Mass at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Lexington Park, Maryland. Back row, from left: Lilly Bull, Maggie Sullivan, Ethan Redding, Lydia Bowman and Tyara Nguyen '19. Front row, from left: Choral Director Kim Norris, Alyssa Salud-Benipayo, Laura Papp, Katrina Brillantes, Leilani Friday '19, Raina De La Cruz '19, Catherine Nguyen '19, Sarah Skane '19 and Samantha Young

### Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Class

SMR is proud to offer an opportunity for students to explore joining the Catholic Church by receiving the Sacraments of Initiation. Any student who wants to receive Baptism, First Holy Communion, or Confirmation has the opportunity to learn more about the process and each step that is involved. The class is taught by a theology department faculty member and offered once a week to interested students.

## Retreat Program Encourages Servant Leadership From Freshman Year Through Graduation

### Seniors Help Lead Junior Retreats and Provide Spiritual Direction

One of the benefits of being a senior is having the option to participate in the junior retreat program by taking the role of a retreat leader and leading spiritual direction sessions. It provides the seniors with a chance to demonstrate their leadership abilities while also continuing to grow in their own faith life.



Sunset at Loyola on the Potomac, the Jesuit Retreat House in Faulkner, Maryland, where juniors and seniors stay during retreats

### Freshman Retreat Takes a New Direction With Service Projects

Starting this year with the Class of 2022, the freshman retreat program has taken a new direction and introduced community service as the main focus.

“The 9th-graders start the retreat after school by traveling to Lexington Park, where they divide into two groups—one group makes and serves dinner for the formerly homeless at the Three Oaks Center, and the second half of the group cleans up the area outside of the shelter. They also pass out coats and hot chocolate to those waiting for a ride to the WARM shelter for the evening,” said SMR campus minister Beth Allen. “We are helping to erase the lines that are often created between ‘us’ and ‘them’ and showing our students that homelessness is a real problem, and real people in our community are affected.”

The entire group then travels to Camp Maria Retreat Center for the night, and the next day spends time in reflection and spiritual direction. In the afternoon, they head back to Three Oaks, where they swap jobs.

Freshman Haley Walker reflects on her retreat experience: “The act of service makes everyone feel better in any situation. Whether you are the one being served,



Haley Walker and her sister Sydney '19 prepare apple crisp to serve the residents at the Three Oaks Center in Lexington Park, Maryland.

doing the serving, or a bystander watching it all happen, you will have some kind of positive emotion connected to the acts. Service has taught me to think of everyone as equal. The act of service encourages me to be compassionate, motivated and optimistic. I enjoy brightening people’s days, and will continue to do so.”

Other service projects include delivering donated furniture to individuals moving from homelessness to apartments, packing “breakfasts to-go” for the homeless in Washington, D.C., and making Easter cards for residents of the St. Mary’s County detention center.

“Part of our mission as a Xaverian Brothers school is to instill the importance of Christian

**Jennifer Tennant '19:** “As a retreat leader, I have experienced what is meant to love someone as Christ would. Every time I lead, I find that I do not know most of the students in the group. Even so, I find myself caring so much about every single one of them, wanting their spiritual growth and long-term happiness. Through this genuine concern for those students, I grow in my own spiritual life. This is what I experienced with my retreat leaders in the past. What goes around comes around.”

**Sarah Skane '19:** “I learned that everyone is at different points in their faith life, and it was great to see the changes that they were starting to make because of what they experienced while on retreat. It truly is a blessing to be able to participate as a leader and participate through programs like this at our school.”

**Sam Silverstone '19:** “Becoming a retreat leader helped me to become more comfortable speaking in front of my peers, but it also helped to jumpstart my dormant faith life.”



Class of 2019 retreat leaders Evan Domonkos, Sarah Skane, Jennifer Tennant and Sam Silverstone

service, and upon graduation it is our goal that all of our graduates become stewards for social justice in their communities,” said Principal Rick Wood. “This is why we felt it was important to show our newest students the importance of serving others, and what better time to do that than on their first retreat.”



NHS students expressed their gratitude to our local Sheriff’s Office by delivering coffee, doughnuts and handwritten notes to police officers serving and protecting our community. The SMR community is grateful to two alumni who always keep a watchful eye on the campus and talk with our students. Thank you, Lt. Rob Russell ’85 and Capt. Steve Hall ’88. From left: Capt. Steve Hall ’88, Ethan Gray ’19, Clarke Weddington ’19, Ashley Welch ’19, Carleigh Wood ’19, Riley Foster, Jamie Kost, Madison Dean ’19 and Lt. Rob Russell ’85

## Congratulations to the following students who were named Xaverian Brothers Sponsored School (XBSS) stewards for the 2019–20 school year.

XBSS Stewards are a group of seniors who act as living witnesses to Christ in our school community. The stewards serve on behalf of our school and are called to keep the spirit and traditions of the Xaverian Brothers alive by spreading excitement about faith, service and our Catholic identity. It is one of the biggest honors of an SMR student to be chosen as an XBSS Steward!

- |                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Danielle Bouchard | Ethan Redding        |
| Janie Bryner      | Mary Claire Schreyer |
| Lilly Bull        | Christine Shatrowsky |
| Nick Fernbaugh    | Zach Shepley         |
| Morgan Floeher    | Maggie Sullivan      |
| Erin Jackson      | Lizzie Trossbach     |
| Olivia Johnson    | Genna Vavrus         |
| Sloan Koviak      | Anna Weirch          |
| Dillon Miller     | Gavin Willis         |
| Sean Morris       | Alexis Wilson        |
| Claire Neace      |                      |
| Jenna Owens       |                      |
| Matthew Padgett   |                      |

## Giving Tuesday = Giving Knights During Founders Week!

We asked the St. Mary’s Ryken Knighthood community to help us reach our fundraising goal, and you responded YES! Thank you to our alumni, students, parents, faculty and staff for showing your Knight Pride and donating on #GivingTuesday during our Founders Week campaign to help us surpass our goal and raise \$19,000!

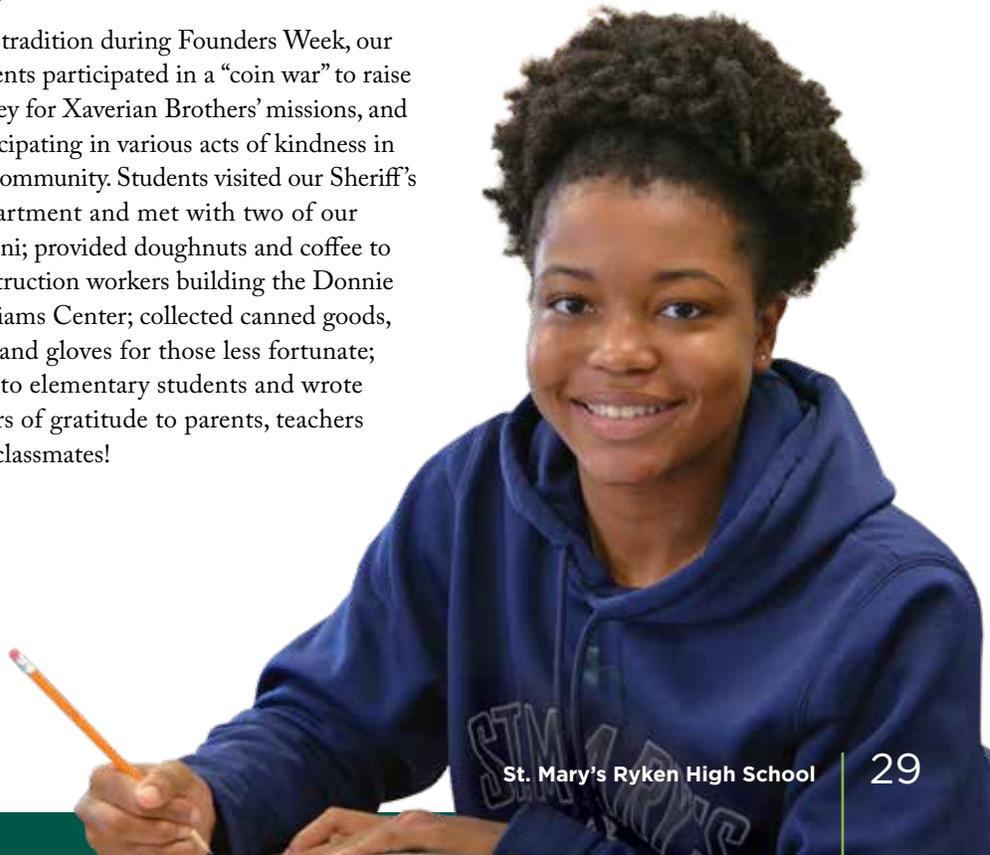
As a tradition during Founders Week, our students participated in a “coin war” to raise money for Xaverian Brothers’ missions, and participating in various acts of kindness in our community. Students visited our Sheriff’s Department and met with two of our alumni; provided doughnuts and coffee to construction workers building the Donnie Williams Center; collected canned goods, hats and gloves for those less fortunate; read to elementary students and wrote letters of gratitude to parents, teachers and classmates!

Save the Date for Giving Tuesday on Dec 3, 2019.

Help SMR Reach Our Goal to Raise \$20,000!



During English classes, students wrote notes of gratitude to their parents, faculty members and friends. Below is Chinwendu Ironidi.





Choral students perform in the East Room of the White House.

## Coloring the World With Their Talents— Fine Arts Students

### St. Mary's Ryken Students Perform at the White House

In December, 50 students from the St. Mary's Ryken chorus and SMR Youth Honors Chorus (4th–8th graders from local public and private schools) traveled to the White House to sing to guests in the East Room. They performed during the open house for White House employees and their families, then toured the White House.

From the White House Office: “Your group truly made the Holiday Open House a wonderful experience for all.”

“It was truly an honor for our choir to sing at the White House, and it was a blessing to represent our school community,” said Lilly Bull.

Kim Norris, the choral director and fine arts department chair, and Diana Washabaugh '05 conducted the students.

“I am very proud that our students were selected to perform,” said Mrs. Norris. “They have worked very hard, and it was a joy for them to be able to sing Christmas carols during the holiday season at such an important historical and significant government building as the White House.”

“Teaching a child about what it means to *give back* is a lifelong work of dedication by example,” said Mrs. Washabaugh. “As an SMR graduate, I can say with certainty that I witnessed active *giving back* in my teachers and peers; that spirit never left me. Watching our choral students perform brought me back to my time at SMR where I first developed my passion to pursue music. As their voices harmoniously whirled through one of the most historical landmarks in the world I couldn't help but feel that spirit of *giving back* whisper joy into my heart.”

While visiting and performing at the White House, sophomore Matthew Sterbenz visited the fireplace that his great-great-grandfather redid during John F. Kennedy's administration.

Miller Druck Marble and Stone was a company founded by Richard J. Miller, Matthew's great-great-great-grandfather in New York City in the early 1900s. Richard Miller later passed his business down to his son Edward (Matthew's great-great-grandfather).

When Jackie Kennedy was redecorating the White House in the early 1960s, Miller Druck, a highly respected company in the marble business, was chosen to redo the East Room's fireplace and mantel. Edward F. Miller Sr. oversaw the fireplace renovations, and he and his wife, Irene, were invited to the White House, along with the other contractors, for the unveiling.



Matthew Sterbenz's great-great-grandfather and -grandmother pose with first lady Jackie Kennedy during the unveiling of the East Room's new fireplace in the early 1960s. The photograph from the dinner with the Kennedys was displayed proudly in Matthew's great-great-grandparents' house. Edward Sr. is in the front row, third man from the right, and Irene (Matthew's great-great-grandmother is next to him in a light dress, holding a purse and sunglasses). The fireplace and mantel have not been redesigned since the Kennedys were in the White House.

Matthew is pictured here with his parents and siblings next to the mantel his great-great grandfather renovated.



Back row, from left: Samantha Young, Jane Mattingly, Maggie Sullivan, Lilly Bull, Megan Skane. Front row, from left: Natalie Fajerski, Katie O'Shields, Caroline Tedford '19, Blake Meyer, Julia Baddour and Katelyn Kovach

## Performing Artists Take Center Stage!

### Catholic University of America Honors Chorus Concert

In February, 11 SMR choir students spent the entire day in an intensive choir rehearsal and master class, which culminated with the 7th annual Catholic University of America High School Honors Chorus Concert.

Julia Baddour and Katelyn Kovach were selected to sing solos. Samantha Young was selected to work with Professor Rick Christman in a master class to prepare her solo and ensemble piece. The students were delighted to get a visit from SMR alum Brendan Harper '16, who is majoring in piano at Catholic University and plans to continue on to earn a master's degree in piano and orchestral conducting.

Kudos to these choral students who participated.

### Maggie Sullivan Performs with National Philharmonic Chorus

Maggie Sullivan was chosen by the National Philharmonic Chorus (NPC) to participate in its high school mentorship program. Maggie, a junior at SMR, was one of a handful of students in the Washington area chosen to audition and be invited by the NPC to be a member of the choir for the 2018–19 season. Maggie rehearsed and performed with NPC and its orchestra.



Maggie with her mom before a performance

“It’s amazing to be recognized by professionals,” said Maggie. “What I’ve learned from the rehearsal process, concerts and the music will stay with me throughout my future career. My experiences as an SMR fine arts student have encouraged me to seek out other challenges outside my high school experiences. I received a great deal of support from the fine arts faculty in the pursuit of these extra performance experiences.”

### Pep Band Debuts!

This year we established a Pep Band to play at sporting events around campus and throughout the community. The Pep Band will return next year, and we hope to have some alumni play with us at Homecoming!

### Concert Band Earns a “2” at WAMTC Festival

The St. Mary’s Ryken Concert Band participated in the Washington Archdiocesan Music Teachers Council Fall Band Festival.



SMR Concert Band at the Washington Archdiocesan Music Teachers Council Fall Band Festival

“I am very happy to announce that we received a 2 this year,” said James Parker, SMR director of band and orchestra. “A score of 2 is considered excellent!”

### Michael Mazuc Participates in All-State Senior Band



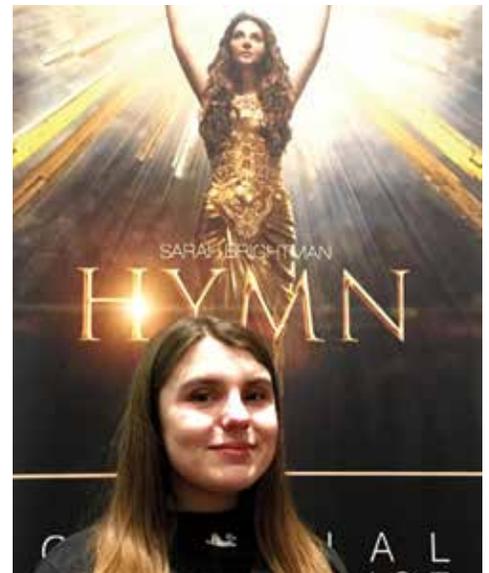
Michael performing during the All-State Band concert

Michael Mazuc auditioned for the All-State Senior Band on bass trombone and was chosen to participate. He participated in a three-day rehearsal process that culminated in a final performance with all of the selected students. For All-State Band, hundreds of students from all around Maryland audition to be part of multiple ensembles. Students submit an initial application, then receive the music they will need to prepare, and then they audition.

### Katie O’Shields Performs as Part of Sarah Brightman’s World Tour

In January, junior Katie O’Shields performed at the Hippodrome Performing Arts Center in Baltimore as part of the choir for soprano Sarah Brightman during her Hymn World Tour.

“Being selected to sing with Sarah Brightman was an honor, and I felt very fortunate to have the opportunity to perform with someone so accomplished,” said Katie. “I learned how to stay calm under pressure and how to conduct myself in a professional environment.”



## Visual Arts Students Share Their Talents

*Artwork created by fine arts students in Drawing, Painting, Photography, AP Studio and Studio 1*

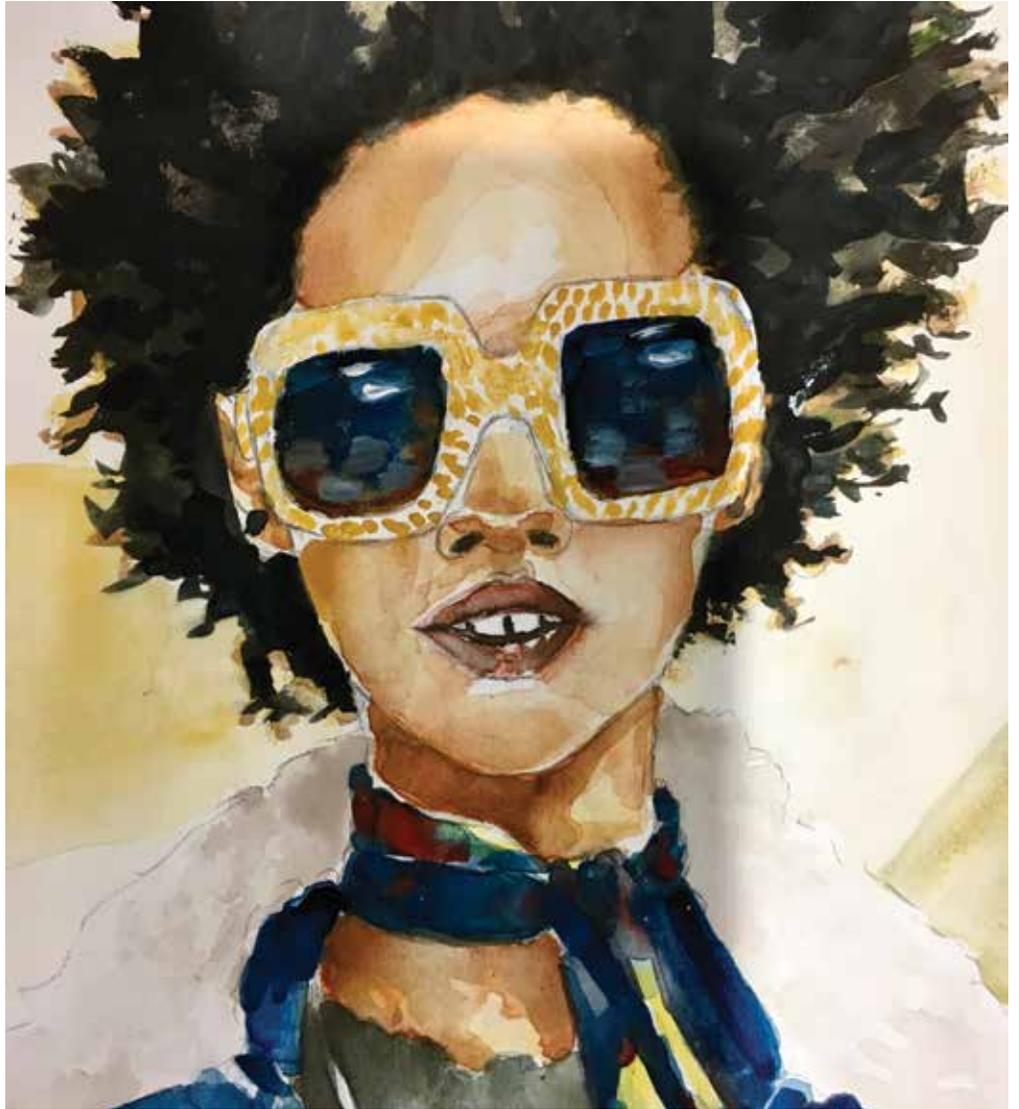
To view additional student artwork, visit: [www.smrhs.org/arts/visual-arts](http://www.smrhs.org/arts/visual-arts).



Erin Sohl '19



Emma Albright '19



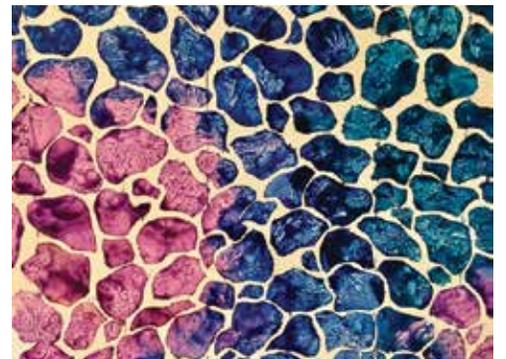
Sarah Walls '19



EuiKwang (Josh) Kim '19



Madison Sardo '19



Alex Wettengel '19



Choral students earn score of 1 at Solo & Ensemble competition.

## Students Earn Superior Score of 1 at Solo & Ensemble Competition!

In March, St. Mary's Ryken students, including the Knight-N-Gales (a group of elite female choral singers), performed at the Solo & Ensemble county competition.

The following students earned a superior rating of 1 and moved on to the state competition in May:

Julia Baddour, Julia Belvin, Lilly Bull, Natalie Fajerski, Catherine Krissoff, Zadie Krissoff, Richard (Kuidong) Li, Blake Meyer, Gianna Nazzaro, Taylor Quade, Katie O'Shields, Sofia Sherman, Megan Skane, Sarah Skane, Caroline Tedford and Samantha Young.

Katelyn Kovach and Peter Schumacher received a very respectful 2.

Jamie Bernardo, Natalie Fajerski and Catherine Nguyen did an amazing job accompanying the students.

## St. Mary's Ryken Players Present "The Miracle Worker" and "Seussical, the Musical"

In the fall production of "The Miracle Worker," SMR students told the inspiring and emotional story of Helen Keller and

her teacher, Anne Sullivan. Watching the story unfold on stage by the student actors was a moving experience for the audiences, in this student-produced drama performance.

This project was a very special one for theatre director Tessa Silvestro, who spent over two years studying every aspect of the production as part of her final thesis project for her Masters in Directing through Roosevelt University of Chicago College of Performing Arts. "William Gibson (the



Katherine O'Shields, Matthew Sterbenz, Caroline Tedford and Katelyn Kovach in "The Miracle Worker"

author) called ‘The Miracle Worker’ his love song to the art of teaching, and I can understand why,” said Ms. Silvestro. “As a teacher, I hope and pray every day that I can give my students everything that they need so that they can be successful learners and performers, just as Annie did for Helen.”

SAVE THE DATE  
for 2019–20 Theatre  
Productions!

November 14–17, 2019

“A Midsummer Night’s Dream”

April 2–5, 2020

“The Little Mermaid”



“The Miracle Worker” cast

“Seussical, the Musical’ was a sold-out, smash hit,” said Principal Rick Wood. “The students’ performance along with Ms. Tessa Silvestro’s leadership, Mrs. Kim Norris and Mr. James Parker’s musical talent combined to make an excellent show. The 43 students energized the audience and made the books of Seuss come alive. They sold out three shows, including the Sunday matinee! The special effects, lighting and colorful set also helped make it a professional production.”

*“A person’s  
a person,  
no matter  
how small.”*

—Dr. Seuss



Sergio Nazzaro '19 as Horton Hears a Who



“Seussical” cast



Full choir with choral director and fine arts department chair, Kim Norris

## Fine Arts Festivals Showcase Hard Work and Exceptional Talent



Caroline Daley, left, and Rachel Seep '19 during the Winter Fine Arts Festival



James Parker, director of bands and orchestra



Full concert band



Amanda Long '19 performing during the Spring Fine Arts Festival

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Jazz band

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String orchestra

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Maggie Sullivan conducts the St. Mary's Ryken Knight-N-Gales, a group of elite female choral singers, during the Winter Concert. She taught the group an arrangement by the Benedictines of Mary, Queen of Apostles, and conducted the piece during the concert.



From left: Catherine Krissoff '19, Blake Meyer, Lilly Bull, Katie O'Shields, Julia Baddour, Katelyn Kovach, Caroline Tedford, Julia Belvin, Natalie Fajerski and Maggie Sullivan (conducting)

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# SMR Athletic Teams Earn Three Washington Catholic Athletic Conference (WCAC) Championships in 2019-20!

## St. Mary's Ryken Football Wins WCAC Metro Division Title.

*(Reprinted with permission by staff writer Colin Stoecker, The Enterprise)*

In their return to the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference (WCAC) after a one-year hiatus, the St. Mary's Ryken High School football team captured the conference's Metro Division championship in a 43-0 victory against Bishop O'Connell (Va.) at Catholic University on Nov. 18.

The St. Mary's Ryken football program claimed its first-ever title this season after having its program completely turned around by second-year head coach Aaron Brady over the past two years, going from 1-9 to a 10-2 overall record playing in the WCAC Metro Division. The Knights went 19-3 in Coach Brady's first two campaigns as head coach, and after losing the season opener to Mount St. Joseph, a brother Xaverian school in Baltimore, the team won seven straight games.

St. Mary's Ryken won the clash of Knights for the WCAC title against O'Connell with plenty of room to spare as the St. Mary's County squad put the game out of reach with a flurry of points in the last three minutes of the first half. In fact, St. Mary's Ryken had extended the lead to 36-0 by the half, which invoked the running clock for the entire second half.

At halftime, the All-Washington Catholic Athletic Conference teams were announced, and senior running back Jonathan Wynn '19 was tapped as the Metro Conference offensive player of the year.

After stopping O'Connell on three plays on its opening

drive, St. Mary's Ryken responded by going 59 yards in just eight plays. Wynn carried five times for 36 yards, but it was Will McKay '19 who plowed into the end zone from a yard out to extend the lead to 43-0 with less than five minutes left in the third.

St. Mary's Ryken's closest game of the season was a home game Sept. 28 against Bullis, in which the Knights came back from behind to secure a 34-33 victory, scoring 10 points in the final minute to win.

The Knights lost one other regular season game, a non-conference decision the team dropped to Paul VI 27-24.



## The SMR Softball Team Took the WCAC by Storm

The 2019 SMR softball team took the WCAC by storm this season, reaching every goal set at the beginning of the year to win the WCAC championship.

At a team meeting in February, the coaching staff and players acknowledged that this was the best, most versatile and collaborative group of girls who had come through the program in the last four years. Immediately the Knights wanted to make a statement in the WCAC—but to do so would require establishing a program culture. Through preseason lifting and conditioning the team adopted the 1 percent rule—promising that on each repetition, swing, throw and pitch,

they would give 1 percent better effort and focus in hopes of bringing home a trophy in May.

After an early loss against Paul VI Catholic High School, SMR traveled to face a familiar foe, Bishop O’Connell, where they found themselves down 13-8 going into the top of the seventh inning. SMR scored five runs in the top of the seventh to send the game into extra innings, eventually winning the game 18-14 (10 innings) in a battle of the bats. This proved to be the turning point for SMR. SMR played O’Connell again at the conclusion of the regular season, a game that was deemed a 2-2 tie due to extreme weather.

During the playoffs, after beating St. John’s College High School 26-0 in a home WCAC quarterfinal game, SMR faced familiar adversity. Down 2-1 in the semifinal vs. Bishop McNamara, SMR rallied in the bottom of the seventh and scored two runs to win the game, walk-off style. In the WCAC championship, SMR found themselves in a similar position as in years past—facing Bishop O’Connell for the WCAC title. SMR came out firing, quickly scoring two runs in the top of the first inning. O’Connell responded with five runs in the bottom of the second. Yet the SMR Knights never wavered; in each huddle they chanted, “We are not losing this game!” The



2019 WCAC softball champions!

team rallied, scoring two runs in the top of the sixth to put pressure on O'Connell. Once again the two teams were in extra innings. In the top of the eighth the long ball proved to be the difference as SMR scored three runs off a homerun. This sealed the fate of O'Connell, and SMR stormed the field at the end of the eighth inning.

SMR concluded the season with a 17-2-1 record while individuals on the team collected various All-Conference accolades, including: Player of the Year, Coach of the Year, three 1st Team All-Conference selections, four 2nd Team All-Conference selections and three athletes with an Honorable Mention.

## Varsity Ice Hockey— WCAC Metro and Mid-Atlantic Prep Hockey League “A” Division Champs

The St. Mary's Ryken varsity ice hockey team brought home the second conference championship of the 2018–19 season by defeating Our Lady of Good Counsel 4-2 in the inaugural WCAC Metro Division ice hockey championship on Feb. 15. A week after winning the WCAC Metro Division championship, the team brought home the Mid-Atlantic Prep Hockey League “A” Division championship with a 4-2 win over Gonzaga College High School. This is the first MAPHL championship in the history of SMR ice hockey!

“The WCAC playoffs were a meaningful one, as the team had high hopes to bring SMR its first-ever WCAC ice hockey championship,” said varsity ice hockey coach Matt Billman. “After beating Bishop Ireton, we knew we would get our third shot at Good Counsel, who beat us twice already in the season. We knew after the first two games that we were the better team, but things just hadn't gone our way.



2019 WCAC Metro Division ice hockey champions!

We told ourselves that we can't let the same team beat us three times in one season. We were confident in the few days leading up to the game and knew the only outcome would be victory. Coming into the game we knew we had to strike first to get the momentum, and Shane Gregan (senior and assistant captain) got us on the board in the first 16 seconds. After that goal we knew it was our game. We continued to push until we built a 4-1 lead, and then it was up to us to hold the lead.”

This is the first season that ice hockey has been considered an official sport by the WCAC. Special congratulations to the 11 seniors on the team, head coach Matt Billman, assistant coach cam Beckner, and Director of Ice Hockey Operations Chris Palombi on this memorable season.

In the history of St. Mary's Ryken, the school has won six WCAC titles, including the titles this year by the football, ice hockey and softball teams. Previous titles were won in boys lacrosse in 2007 and softball in 2014 and 2015.

## Cheer Team Sweeps Team Awards at Maryland Independent Schools Meet

The St. Mary's Ryken cheer team competed at the Maryland Independent Schools meet and won the Varsity Division, Game Day Division and Stunt Group Division—sweeping the team awards!

“This team was so determined!” said Erin Thompson, SMR varsity cheer coach. “They



The 2018-19 St. Mary's Ryken cheer team

love to cheer, and it shows through their hard work and determination. They build each other up, win as a team, lose as a team and get along so well. I am very proud of each of them.”

Shining star awards were presented to senior Reagan Towers, juniors Rachel Owens and Lexi Wilson and sophomore Nikia Friday.

## Wrestling Team Continues to Break School Records

The wrestling team went 26-5 in duals this season under the guidance of first-year head coach Philip Brown. The team finished the year ranked ninth in the Washington Post All-Met Poll.

The team started competition in December with less than a full roster. They finished third in two tournaments before finishing second in the SMR Invitational. Coming together at full strength the team won the Northern High School Patriot Classic, topping 21 other teams. They then won the Bullis Duals.

At the WCAC Tournament, the team scored a school record 251 points to finish as runner-up for the second consecutive season. The Knights had a top 3 or better finish in 13 of 14 weight classes. Freshman Evan Eldridge, juniors Blake Jury and Sam Smirnoff won individual titles, and senior Alex Figueiras won his third consecutive WCAC individual title. Finishing in second place were sophomore Chris Albo, senior Gunnar Brodfuehrer, junior Rodney Jefferson and freshman Terrance McCauley.

At the Maryland Independent Schools State Tournament the team finished a school record sixth place (A Division) and had six wrestlers place out of the top 30 private schools in Maryland. Freshman Evan Eldridge was the top individual finisher in third place. Seven wrestlers qualified for the National Prep Tournament at Lehigh University, which was the most in school history as well!



Alex Figueiras '19



Blake Jury



St. Mary's Ryken's first girls ice hockey team with coach Chris Palombi

## SMR Girls Ice Hockey Team Breaks the Ice in Southern Maryland

*Reprinted with permission from Zach Hill '16 by TheBayNet*

Ice hockey has seen consistent growth in Southern Maryland over the past few years, and this past season marked a landmark for the sport locally. St. Mary's Ryken High School had so much interest that it managed to support an all-female roster of 23 players.

The deck was stacked against this team from the start: Not only were most of the players new to ice hockey, they did not even know how to ice skate. Plus, there is limited access to ice rinks in the area, which made practicing difficult. Not surprisingly, the team ended the season 0-5.

Still, head coach Chris Palombi called the season "a huge success."

"The team learned and grew together, even surpassing expectations," Mr. Palombi said. "Seeing their skills develop since day one, and their drive to learn and understand the nuances of the game, was unmatched to what I've experienced before as a coach."

The team had an omnipresent theme of being both students and teachers on the ice. Sophomore captain Robyn Strauss, who recorded a majority of the team's goals this season, said this team was unlike any team she had played on before in that she learned through the process of helping others.

"I think the difference with this team is this team was really focused on growing both as a person and a player," Robyn explained. "I felt it was partly my responsibility to use my experience to help the newer players learn the game. But I wouldn't say I felt weighed down just because I was experienced. I was beyond happy I was able to share something I enjoy so much with other people. ... This season we learned not only about how to improve in our hockey skills, but how to be a leader, how to be a good teammate, and how to use what we learn in sports in life."

While Robyn is a rising junior at St. Mary's Ryken, she says she's already looking toward playing in college.

Though the team's season had its ups and downs, every player can rattle off positive

memories from their experiences. A few players listed the team's historic first game as an exuberant memory, but there was an abundance of personal memories too. Senior Abby Halterman, who is planning to study marine biology and environmental science and play club ice hockey at the University of New England next year, had a few specific memories come to mind.

"The first practice we ever had ... half the girls didn't get on the ice because they had never skated before, and the other half on the ice were trying not to fall. I didn't ever think we would be ready to play, but the determination of everyone to improve was definitely seen at practice and even at our first game," Abby said.

"Another memory [was] playing at the Capital One Arena," she said. "The team had a day trip to watch the Capitals practice, play at the arena, and then watch the Caps game later that evening. Being out on the ice where the pros played was surreal. We definitely played our hardest that night."

Mr. Palombi has long-term visions of transforming the program into a “producer of future collegiate ice hockey athletes.”

“I’m looking forward to seeing how much more these girls will grow next year,” Mr. Palombi said. “The 2018–19 season was building the team and establishing a great environment for the girls to develop the love for playing the game. Check! Now it’s time to build off that and go to work in furthering their skill and flow of the game.”

On paper, the team’s statistics cannot truly encapsulate what made this team’s season unlike any other this writer has seen. The team’s work ethic, determination to learn, and immense positivity were incomparable. While this team will look to fight and record its first victories next year, hopefully this is just the beginning of the sport’s expansion through Southern Maryland.

## SMR Receives Safe Sports School Award

For the second time in a row, St. Mary’s Ryken has been awarded the Safe Sports School Award from the National Athletic Trainers’ Association.

The Safe Sports School Award recognizes secondary schools around the country that take the crucial steps to keep their athletes free from injuries.

“Most recently, we have greatly improved our communication with the counselors, dean of students and dean of academics about injuries and associated accommodations,” said head athletic trainer DJ Hayes. “Also, we have further integrated services for student-athletes with local physicians and coordinated an on-campus program for student-physicals. We also improved game

coverage by our athletic trainers to further improve the care given to the students.”

St. Mary’s Ryken is very grateful to Hayes and fellow trainer Amanda Ripple ’12 for managing a professional, healthy and positive athletic training program for our student-athletes.

In March, Mr. Hayes and Ms. Ripple were honored by the St. Mary’s County Commissioners and received a proclamation from the St. Mary’s County government declaring March as local National Athletic Training Month. Mr. Hayes and Ms. Ripple will continue to advocate for their profession and role in our community by providing the finest health care to the student-athletes at St. Mary’s Ryken.

“It is our goal to ensure each injury is properly treated and that each student-athlete receives the highest level of care for a quick and proper recovery,” said Ms. Ripple.



From left: Commissioner Mike Hewitt, Commissioner Eric Colvin, DJ Hayes, Amanda Ripple '12, Commissioner James Guy, Commissioner John O'Connor and Commissioner Todd Morgan (P '10, '12, '15)

# Faculty and Staff News

## Faculty Shine In and Out of the Classroom

### Theatre Director Tessa Silvestro Receives WATCH Award

Congratulations to Ms. Tessa Silvestro, SMR theatre director, who won an Outstanding Feature Actress WATCH (Washington Area Theatre Community Honors) Award for her performance in “Boeing, Boeing” at the Port Tobacco Players. Ms. Silvestro received the highest score of all the featured actresses in the 65 plays that were judged during 2018!



Tessa Silvestro during her performance in “Boeing, Boeing”

WATCH is an award event for Washington area community theatres. There are 27 theatres that are part of WATCH. Ten judges score aspects of each show.

## Luke Young and Bryan Kerns— Archdiocese of Washington Teachers of the Year!

Congratulations to Archdiocese of Washington (ADW) Teachers of the Year for St. Mary’s Ryken, Luke Young and

Bryan Kerns. Both were celebrated during the High School Principals Association Mass in the fall.



Luke Young has been a theology teacher at SMR for nine years.

### Veteran Teacher of the Year

*Luke Young, theology department and Student Government Association moderator*

Mr. Young was recognized as the 2018–19 Catholic High School Veteran Teacher of the Year for St. Mary’s Ryken. This award recognizes a veteran teacher from each Catholic high school in the Archdiocese of Washington who embraces teaching as a ministry, proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and demonstrates respect for the Catholic identity and the charisma of his/her school. Awardees possess the following characteristics:

- Models a leadership style of respect to all members of the school community
- Manifests a desire for academic excellence through continuous personal and professional growth
- Assumes responsibility for development of the whole student
- Engages in teaching within and outside the classroom that fosters the God-given talents and gifts of every student
- Seeks to transform students by responding to the Gospel call for peace and justice

Mr. Young is a member of the theology department and holds a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy from the Pontifical University Regina Apostolorum in Rome. Mr. Young is also the moderator of SMR’s Student Government Association. Over the nine years he has been a faculty member, Mr. Young has been a positive influence on the students he teaches as they are searching for the truth during their high school years. Through Social Justice and Morality classes, he brings students closer to God by providing them tools to stay morally grounded as they make their personal path in the world.

A Student Government officer says, “Mr. Young gives us a framework for charitable leadership in Student Government and the opportunity to exercise that leadership for the good of the student body and school.”

Mr. Young exemplifies the Xaverian value of “Compassion” by being passionate about the things God is passionate about. “Through the coherence of what Luke teaches in the classroom with his personal witness, students’ lives are changed by authentically wrestling with the ‘big’ issues of being human,” said theology department chair John Olon. “Nothing is more important than serving God through dedication to the pursuit of one’s vocation.”

Mr. Young says he is happy to be teaching, and SMR is blessed to provide a platform for his vocation.

### Novice Teacher of the Year

*Bryan Kerns, science department, assistant football coach, Summer Knights camp teacher and Freshmen Experience program teacher*

Mr. Kerns was recognized as the 2018–19 Catholic High School New Teacher of the Year for St. Mary’s Ryken. This award recognizes a new teacher from each Catholic

high school in the Archdiocese of Washington who embraces teaching as a ministry, proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and demonstrates respect for the Catholic identity and the charism of his/her school. Awardees possess the following characteristics:

- Demonstrates a commitment to the spiritual growth of the school community
- Manifests a desire for academic excellence and commitment to professional standards
- Demonstrates pedagogical awareness that includes both generic and content-specific techniques
- Recognizes the necessity for development of the whole student
- Cares deeply about the well-being of students, earning the respect of both students and teachers alike



Mr. Kerns with Orianna Eldridge, Kathryn White and Briana Bowen '19

Mr. Kerns graduated from Christopher Newport University with a bachelor's degree in neuroscience. He teaches Conceptual Physics to freshmen, and Medical Interventions to juniors and seniors, as part of the Project Lead the Way biomedical science program. Mr. Kerns is very involved in the SMR community, serving as an assistant football coach, summer camp instructor and a teacher in the Freshmen Experience summer program.

One student-athlete at SMR said, "He has high expectations and holds us accountable for our actions. He leads by example, and his goal is to mold us into good men, not just on the field, but in life as well."

Mr. Kerns epitomizes the Xaverian value of "Zeal" in his love for learning and transferring that zeal to the young adults he impacts in the classroom and on the field.

## Professional Development Presentations and Conferences

In May, **David Hamilton, SMR's director of college advising**, gave a presentation during the Potomac & Chesapeake annual Conference on Education on "A New Light on College Search Criteria."

This summer, **computer science teacher Marcos Lindekugel** will attend cybersecurity Project Lead the Way training.

**Theology teacher Ken Schreiber** will attend AP Research professional development training, which is part of the AP Capstone program.

Over the summer, SMR **Chinese teacher Grant Castner** is traveling to Shanghai, China, to participate in a **Fulbright Group Project Abroad**. In this exchange program, American teachers of various disciplines will collaborate and engage with Chinese teachers, students, principals and parents, eventually taking this knowledge and experience back to share with students in America.

"During our month in China, myself and fellow Fulbright participants will be attending talks; visiting museums, historic sites, classrooms, and student homes; watching films; and participating in numerous other exchange activities to broaden our knowledge and respect of Chinese education and its role in China's society," said Mr. Castner. "We will also be taking language classes and reflecting on the progress we have made as instructors of all disciplines sharing Chinese culture and incorporating it into units in our classroom."

Through all of these activities and curriculum design, Mr. Castner hopes to come back to the U.S. better equipped to share information about China with St. Mary's Ryken students, his colleagues and the surrounding community.

In support of Mr. Castner's project abroad, the Rotary Club of Lexington Park awarded him the **John Beaton-Marco Polo Teacher Travel Award**. This highly competitive award is provided to select teachers for travel to a destination of their choice for the purpose of enhancing instruction in the classroom.

In May, Mr. Castner presented at the National Chinese Language Conference in San Diego on methods for sustaining Chinese language programs. Presenting alongside two native Chinese teachers, Mr. Castner and his co-presenters led discussions on how to sustain Chinese language programs in public, charter and private schools. In November 2018, he also co-presented at the annual conference for The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, where he and his former mentor led a roundtable discussion on "Building Communication Skills Through Routine Activities." This roundtable presentation centered on sharing how to use daily conversation activities in the language classroom to foster proficiency in all different levels of foreign language students.



Grant Castner

## History Teacher Leif Liberg to Participate in “Understanding Sacrifice,” a World War II Study Program

*Originally published by The Enterprise newspaper, reprinted with permission.*

Everyone has a part to play in making, remembering and studying history.

St. Mary’s Ryken High School teacher Leif Liberg will be participating in “Understanding Sacrifice,” a World War II study program, to help bolster his own role in teaching history. He was one of eight professionals selected for the opportunity, organized by the educational nonprofit entity Maryland Humanities.

After completing research on a selected serviceman or woman, Mr. Liberg will travel this summer to Europe. Once he returns from his trip, the teacher will create a lesson plan for SMR students and make it publicly available online. He said the purpose of the research, the travels and the creation of a lesson plan is to help students understand that they don’t have to be a four-star general or have their name recorded in a history book to be remembered.

“We keep their (stories) alive” with the efforts of the four-part research program, Mr. Liberg said, adding that “our stories do matter.”

Brad Chamberlain, SMR’s dean of academics, said it’s great “to see (Mr. Liberg) is continuing to master his craft” by participating in the research program. “We’ve been blessed” to have a teacher who is willing to take “a deep dive” into history research for the benefit of students.

Principal Rick Wood added, “The best teachers are storytellers.”

Mr. Liberg said the project will help students understand other perspectives about World War II, such as how “the French have a complicated relationship” with occupation of half of the country by Nazi Germany.

He said unlike sites such as Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, French cemeteries are typically not open to the public. “You can’t just go in,” he said.

Mr. Liberg said his lesson plans would also encourage students to use primary source documents to complete projects rather than rely on websites like Wikipedia. He said “the instruction has changed” to include hands-on activities to “make sense of the assignment,” instead of having students memorize dates and battles.

Countries he plans to visit this summer include France, Luxembourg and Belgium. He said he’s worked previously with two of the people involved in the work program. Others participating in the research program have backgrounds in economics, theatre and other subjects. “It’s not strictly history teachers,” he said.

He said researchers will “get a first-hand look at all of the places (and) see for ourselves.” Researchers will also visit the gravesites or memorials for their selected servicemen and women, Mr. Liberg said; he’ll be traveling to the East Coast Memorial in New York City to honor Lt. John Laubach, the serviceman he chose to research.

The teacher said his research and lesson plan would center around the Battle of the Atlantic, one of the longest continuous military campaigns, and the use of German U-boats.

He said German Navy forces were deployed in excess at the end of the war to disrupt shipping in the Atlantic as “a last-ditch effort (to) stick it to the Allies one last time.”

Mr. Liberg said selecting Lt. Laubach to research was “a fortuitous pick” because the teacher and the serviceman are both



“The best teachers are storytellers,” said Principal Rick Wood. Photo courtesy of The Enterprise Newspaper.

graduates of Pennsylvania State University. He said Lt. Laubach’s name is included on a memorial at the college campus, and he may be one of the few who really know his story.

Mr. Liberg said the lieutenant junior grade died in 1945 after a German U-boat attacked his patrol boat “two weeks and some change” before Germany surrendered. He said patrol boats typically hauled targets on the water for aviators to practice dropping munitions on. The U.S. Navy investigated the incident and initially ruled it as a boiler explosion rather than an attack, despite at least “five guys who said they saw a U-boat,” Mr. Liberg said, adding that about 13 people died. He said that after additional investigations, which included looking into German Navy records, the U.S. Navy’s board of inquiry ruled in 2001 the incident an attack rather than an accident.

“It’s the only time the Navy reversed a decision” like this, Mr. Liberg said, adding that those who died in the attack now qualify for a Purple Heart for their sacrifice.

Mr. Liberg said he also hopes to include in the lesson planning how the American,

British and other Allied powers turned the war “around on its heels” after dealing with issues like a lack of technology and poor training to handle Germany and other Axis powers.

Researching the Battle of the Atlantic and other European military efforts is the fourth installment of the “Understanding Sacrifice” program. Previous topics include the Normandy invasion, the Mediterranean and Middle Eastern Theater, the Pacific Theater and the remainder of the European campaign. Mr. Liberg participated in the Pacific Theater portion while teaching at a school in Pennsylvania.

See <https://abmc.gov/education-resources> for previously uploaded lesson plans.

## Faculty and Staff Honored for Years of Service During Catholic Schools Week

At an all-schools Mass during Catholic Schools Week, faculty and staff were honored for their years of service and dedication to St. Mary’s Ryken. Thank you to the following faculty and staff members:

### 25 Years

David Kane

### 20 Years

Elizabeth Schuck

### 15 Years

David Hamilton

### 10 Years

JoAnn Depperschmidt

Christine Jaffurs

Nathalie McDermott

Kenneth Scheiber

### 5 Years

Teresa Atherton

MaryRose Depperschmidt '10

Ursula Gensley (earned in 2016–17)

David Hayes

John Raley '08

Joe Wysokinski



From left, back row: Principal Rick Wood, David Hamilton, Kenneth Scheiber, Joseph Wysokinski, John Raley '08, Ursula Gensley, Teresa Atherton, David Kane and President Mary Joy Hurlburt. Front row, from left: JoAnn Depperschmidt, Christine Jaffurs, Nathalie McDermott, Elizabeth Schuck and MaryRose Depperschmidt '10



## God Bless the Class of 2019!



Sydney Green and Djante McLaughlin



Reagan Towers, Ryan Summy, Shane Gregan, Kellyn Murphy and Gabrielle Leach

### SENIOR PROFILE

## Bryan Jones

“I have grown tremendously in my faith over the past four years at St. Mary’s Ryken. Coming to SMR, I did not belong to a particular faith. But now, thanks to the help of all of those in Campus Ministry, I joined the Catholic Church over the Easter holiday!”

*Bryan is attending Northern Michigan University in the fall and plans to major in public relations with a minor in biology.*

## SENIOR PROFILE

### Sarah Walls

“St. Mary’s Ryken provided me opportunities to have leadership positions in the fine arts that would not have been available elsewhere (such as the Fine Arts Honors Society, the new graphic design and photography classes and the Scholars Program). By taking advantage of these opportunities, I was able to become more confident in my art and where it stood, and I was able to help my community with artistic outreach.”

*Sarah is attending the Fashion Institute of Technology, where she will study fashion design.*



Congratulations to the following students from the Class of 2019 for completing the St. Mary’s Ryken Scholars Program and earning the Scholars Program designation on their diplomas. Each of these students received recognition at graduation and during the senior awards dinner.



## SCHOLARS PROGRAM RECIPIENTS FROM THE CLASS OF 2019

### Biomedical

Victor Bonilla  
Trisha Bowes  
Raphael Civil  
Raina De La Cruz  
Tyara Nguyen  
Shaniyah Ortiz  
Erin Ruthe  
Ryan Summy  
Clarke Weddington  
Carleigh Wood

### Computer Science

Sam Silverstone  
Gabriel Smith  
**Engineering**  
Andrew Beckman  
Leilani Friday  
William Greer  
Shane Gregan  
Abigail Halterman  
Kellyn Murphy  
Ryan Sanford  
Jennifer Tennant

### Global and International Studies

Julia Jones  
Arthur Masoero  
Catherine Nguyen

### Humanities

James Redding  
Krystal Shaw

### Visual Arts

Sarah Walls  
Alexandra Wettengel

*SMR also offers a Scholars Program track in the Performing Arts.*

“We are very proud of this group, the largest number of graduating Scholars to date,” said Dean of Academics, Brad Chamberlain. “They have spent years dedicated to a particular discipline, spent countless hours in labs, presented scientific study to public audiences, wrote and perfected lengthy essays, produced beautiful and moving works of art, and took a host of Advanced Placement and Project Lead the Way exams. They have truly earned the designation of Scholar, and we hope the lessons they have learned in their time at St. Mary’s Ryken will continue to serve them in good stead in the years to come.”

## Legacy Families

The Class of 2019 adds 21 graduates to our Legacy family at St. Mary's Ryken.



Bottom row, from left: Jimmy Burke '86, Abby Burke, Olivia Taylor, Jeff Taylor '86, Beth McKenney Thomas '85, Lily Thomas and Sydney Walker. Second row: Trisha Bowes, David Bowes '88, Mary Mayonado (SMA '80), James Mayonado, Dana Guy Jameson '89, Mary Thomas, Trent Greer, Kenna Oliver and Jimmy Walker '84. Third row: Jimmy Redding '95, James Redding, Patrick Murphy '87, Kellyn Murphy, Riley Love, Will Greer '83, Trisha Fenwick Carruth '88 and Craig Oliver '86. Fourth row: Betsy Stabler Farrell '88, Robert Farrell, Mark Love '87, Mark Wood (RHS '81), Abigail Wood, Thomas Carruth and Charlie Carruth '85



The Tepel Family



Sergio Nazzaro, Cecilia Robey, Gracen Ptack, Hannah Fink and Olivia Taylor



Madison Dean and Erin Sohl

#### SENIOR PROFILE

### Shane Gregan

“I was a captain on the varsity ice hockey team, and it felt like a second family—full of support during the season and in the classroom. The men I met and led will be lifelong friends. Our team was more than about winning games; it was about learning lessons and being transformed into men.”

*Shane will attend Penn State in the fall with an NROTC scholarship. He plans to pursue a mechanical engineering degree.*





Camryn Morris, Bryan Jones and Clarke Weddington



Joy Dewar and Evan Domonkos are presented the Knight Award by President Mary Joy Hurlburt.



EuiKwang (Josh) Kim and JunSu Park with their families



Joseph and Kelly White

#### SENIOR PROFILE

### Raphael Civil

“The Scholars Program Biomedical Pathway has thoroughly prepared me for college. The biomed classes have impacted my college choice, as I have realized over my high school career that I love science and I find it very fascinating. I intend to major in public health and become a pediatrician when I am older.”

*Raphael will attend St. John's University in Queens, New York.*



SENIOR PROFILE

**Catherine Nguyen**

“The classes and faculty at SMR have taught me to value quality work, practice time management skills and maintain a strong dedication to lifelong learning. The classes and faculty have prepared me for college—whether through the AP course options or invaluable learning resources—I am ready for college classes!”

*Catherine is attending University of Maryland, College Park, and plans to major in international relations and minor in psychology. Her career goal is to become a lawyer with a specialty in international law.*



# Congratulations to the Following Class of 2019 Graduates for Earning These Prestigious Awards

**Brother Lambert Academic Achievement (Highest GPA) and Xavierian Orator**

*Presented to the student with the highest academic achievement over their four years at SMR*

Catherine Nguyen

**Class of 2019 Speaker**

Raina De La Cruz

To view the Class of 2019 College, University and Service Academy Acceptance list, visit [www.smrhs.org/CollegeList2019](http://www.smrhs.org/CollegeList2019)

**Xavierian Award**

*Chosen by the SMR faculty, this student best exemplifies Xavierian values and serves as a role model for his/her peers.*

Peter Trossbach

**Knight Award**

*Chosen by their peers, this student best exemplifies Xavierian values.*

Joy Dewar  
Evan Domonkos

**Sister Sara Ann Abell, SCN, Service Award**

Lauren Standish

**Brother Clyde Student-Athlete Award**

Alejandro Figueiras  
Gabrielle Leach

**Cardinal’s Catholic Citizenship Award**

Sarah Skane

**Brother Edward Driscoll, CFX, Service Award**

Cameron Chase

**Christian Service Millennium Award**

*Awarded for providing over 1,000 hours of community service*

Cameron Chase  
Sarah Skane

**International Student Award**

*Awarded to the international student with the highest GPA*

EuiKwang (Josh) Kim

# Congratulations to the Class of 2019 Signed Student-Athletes

Twenty-eight graduates have signed to play sports in college.



Back row, from left: Gary Wynn (math department and football and track coach), Tommy Maddox (assistant football coach), Billy Johnson (assistant football coach), Principal Rick Wood, head football coach Aaron Brady, Bryan Kerns (science department and assistant football coach) and Joe Sanford. Front row, from left: Jonathan Wynn, Charles Barley, Lamar Keith, Evan Domonkos and Cameron Chase



Back row, from left: head girls basketball coach, Toyja Somerville, girls soccer coach Pete Staufenberger, head boys basketball coach, Walter Booth, boys lacrosse coach, Chris Perkinson, Tara Everly (science department and field hockey coach) and girls lacrosse coach Jeff Worcester. Front row, from left: Kaela Dothard, Kyleigh Cox, Gabbi Leach, Louis Tang, Ryan Summy, Brandon Pierpont, Jessica Limerick and Abby Burke

## Baseball

Ethan Gray *St. Mary's College of Maryland*  
Austin Watts *Brunswick Community College*

## Basketball

Kaela Dothard *University of Hartford*  
Louis Tang *Virginia Military Institute*  
Chris Weaver *Washington College*

## Cross Country

Sarah Skane *York College of Pennsylvania*

## Field Hockey

Jessica Limerick  
*Indiana University of Pennsylvania*

## Football

Charles Barley *Gannon University*  
Cameron Chase *Delaware State University*  
Evan Domonkos *Colby College*  
JaMarcus Holt *Frostburg State University*  
Lamar Keith *Bowie State University*  
Anthony Wilson *West Liberty University*  
Jonathan Wynn *Robert Morris University*

## Lacrosse

Gunnar Brodfuehrer  
*United States Coast Guard Academy*  
Abby Burke *Wingate University*  
Alex Figueiras *Chatham University*  
Emma Fisher *Salisbury University*  
Robert Guy *Marietta College*  
Riley Love *Marymount University*  
Brandon Pierpont *High Point University*  
Lauren Standish *Shenandoah University*  
Ryan Summy *High Point University*  
Alex Wettengel  
*Christopher Newport University*

**Soccer**

Kyleigh Cox *Longwood University*

Gabbi Leach *Coastal Carolina University*

**Softball**

Ahmira Miller *Montclair State University*

**Volleyball**

Ashley Welch *St. Mary's College of Maryland*



Standing, from left: Athletic Director, B.J. Pumroy, Zach Lesieur (cross country coach), Aaron Brady (head football coach), Brian Towers (baseball coach) and Principal Rick Wood. Sitting, from left: Sarah Skane, JaMarcus Holt, Austin Watts, Ethan Gray and Chris Weaver



Back row, from left: Delwin Harris (volleyball coach), Stephanie Dameron (English department chair and head softball coach), head football coach Aaron Brady and Athletic Director, B.J. Pumroy. Front row, from left: Ashley Welch, Ahmira Miller and Anthony Wilson



Standing, from left: Athletic Director, B.J. Pumroy, Chris Perkinson (head boys lacrosse coach and assistant athletic director), Jeff Worcester (girls lacrosse coach) and Principal Rick Wood. Sitting, from left: Robby Guy, Alex Figueiras, Gunnar Brodfuehrer, Alex Wettengel, Riley Love, Lauren Standish and Emma Fisher

SENIOR PROFILE

**Evan Domonkos**

“What I’ve loved most about my SMR experience is the faith life. Encountering friends and teachers who live their lives filled with a love for God has shown me how beautiful Catholicism truly is. This, with a combination of daily Mass and spiritual direction, has changed my life forever and given me purpose for the rest of my life’s journey.”

*Evan is attending Colby College, where he will also play football. He is majoring in geology.*

Evan is pictured here with his family and Coach Aaron Brady following the WCAC Metro Division championship game.



# Life Is an AdVENTURE!

A Q&A with Venture Capitalist Rob Kniaz '97, who lives in London.

## What is your favorite SMR memory or teacher?

Brother Romuald is of course the first memory that always comes to mind, but I suppose everyone says that! We used to use his computer lab and play a game of cat and mouse to hide games on it until he found them. I still hear his “noooooooooo” in my head when a number comes out wrong in any calculation I’m doing. Besides that, Mrs. Hurlburt’s yearbook homeroom was also a wonderful memory. She was always very kind and forgiving with our various acts of mischief, and many, many hours were spent in the yearbook closet putting out the 1997 yearbook (sent via several Zip disks to the printers with fingers crossed that all of the files got there in one piece).

## Which classmates do you keep in touch with?

Many of them. Facebook has made it so easy to keep in touch nowadays. We celebrated our 20-year reunion just over a year ago, which was wonderful. Sadly, not too many folks live over here, so we don’t see each other too often, but I try and catch up with at least a few people every time I’m back in Maryland.

## Did you feel prepared after graduating from St. Mary’s Ryken to enter college at the University of Maryland, College Park?

Yes, as a technical major, we had great prep for the math and science requirements, so the first year especially was easy to jump into and perform.

## Venture capital investment can be thrilling and disappointing; what keeps you in the game?

It was a combination of experiences that took me to my career path today in venture capital (VC). After college, I joined Intel in California in their sales and marketing rotation program, which gave me a great opportunity to learn the business side of the technology business. I studied at Stanford, then joined Google in 2004, where I was a product manager and ran a large portion of the “Ads by Google” business (called AdSense) that you see all over the web. I learned how the mergers and acquisitions part of the business worked in this job as well, leading our purchase of a Chicago company called Feedburner, which had raised money from VC firms, so I got to know them in the process and how they operated.

I came to London on an expat assignment and fell in love with the city. However, there weren’t many people with Silicon Valley experience, so I was able to join the VC arm of Fidelity and begin investing with them. Then a few years later I was able to spin this out with a colleague into our own firm, Hoxton Ventures.

VC is a very long-term-horizon field where your winners don’t become apparent necessarily for a long time. It’s certainly not a get-rich-quick type of business. I was fortunate to make some great early investments that are paying off now as they get closer to IPOs, and we have sold several companies already, often to buyers in Silicon Valley that were in my network from previous jobs. We have made 19 investments to date, so that portfolio of winners and losers together are what keep you in the game, and I hope the deals that we make today can become winners in

the subsequent five to 10 years. But, this business requires tremendous patience, as there are always ups and downs.

I think my overall proudest accomplishment is simply making it as a foreigner in a new country. It takes a long time to build local friendships and networks. Despite having a language in common, the cultures are surprisingly different, and it’s a challenge to effectively start from scratch when you’ve got very few existing relationships or friends.

## Where do you see the future in technology?

Technology is so broad these days it’s hard to single out any particular scenario, but instead focus on the idea of software being everywhere. You can look at every industry and see areas where technology will automate both physical and virtual tasks, create efficiencies and better organize human effort. From accounting to real estate to farming there are unprecedented amounts of software being added every day and only growing faster.

## How does living in London differ from the U.S.?

For us it’s the opportunity—there are lots of people trying to solve technology problems in California, but historically there have been fewer here. The engineers are just as good as American ones, but the costs of running a business here are lower, so we see it as a geographic arbitrage. And London is just an amazing city—the culture is spectacular, and it feels like the center of the world in many ways—travel, museums, restaurants, etc.

Surprisingly life in the UK isn’t all that different nowadays. I think more than 10 years ago it was far more difficult. Now you



Rob currently lives in London with his wife, Caroline, and daughter, Charlotte.

can Facetime with friends 24/7, watch sports live on streaming services, and even get most American things very easily on Amazon. But it's so much more varied in terms of cultures—it's amazing to have friends and neighbors from all over the world and to hear their stories and experiences.

**What has fatherhood taught you?**

My wife, Caroline, grew up in London and went to both Cambridge and then Oxford University, where she studied medicine. Clearly I married up! Our daughter, Charlotte, is 14 months old and absolutely

adorable. Fatherhood has certainly taught me patience—no matter what you spend or how clever you think you are, nothing can really stop a crying baby if they're upset. I think kindness is the most important thing to pass down to her. My father was always very patient and kind, and I want to role model that for her to guide her through life.

**What advice would you give to your younger self fresh out of college?**

Live dangerously. Take risks while you're young and can get away with it. I graduated as an engineer just at the trough of the dot-com bust, and most people were leaving Silicon Valley, not coming to it. I could have stayed close to home but thought it was exciting, and if I failed, so what, I'll just come back home to Maryland. When you're young you can afford risks that are far harder as you get older. Seeing my peers over the years, the most successful ones are the ones that upgrade jobs every few years and don't get lulled into the security of safe jobs.

**Who has been your greatest influencer or mentor? What blogs do you follow?**

Several of my managers at Google, though none are household names. Susan Wojcicki, who's the CEO of YouTube, was an early mentor, and there are several more who are now very successful in technology but aren't the brash CEOs you see on the cover of business magazines. I read dozens of blogs as part of the job, and actively use Twitter, so it's hard to narrow down to any specific sources anymore. I always make time to read The Economist every week, which covers nearly every topic.

**What are your three favorite things?**

My wife and daughter, of course. Then, despite living in a huge city, I'll always miss the smell of tobacco-curing barns and the beauty of the countryside in St. Mary's County. Nothing can recapture that feeling of home as a kid.

## The Stefko Family—A Legacy of Faith

Leaving a legacy can be interpreted in a variety of ways, but it generally refers to something passed down in a family. It can come in the form of generational wealth; power, or property; it can be an accomplishment that impacted and changed lives; or simply, it can be a virtue such as service to others.

For the Stefko family it has been a legacy of faith and family passed on to each generation. From an early age, learning what it meant to trust in God, Eugene and Mary Ann Stefko are living examples to their nine children, their grandchildren, and now great-grandchildren.

Linda Stefko Greer '99, the youngest, said that “growing up in a large family was wonderful! (Linda is married to classmate Derek Greer '99.) We always had someone to play with, and we found creative ways to spend time together. Some of my favorite memories are of Christmastime when all of us kids drew names and gave a meaningful gift to one of our siblings, setting up Dad’s manger scene, and fellowship around the dinner table.”

Eugene and Mary Ann believe strongly that parents should provide opportunities for children to hone their God-given gifts and talents that were provided to them so they can fulfill their purpose of being created. They made Catholic education a priority for



Mary Ann with three of her daughters

all nine children over a 30-year span from elementary school through college. “St. Mary’s Ryken was worth it,” said Mary Ann. “The faculty, administration and coaches all helped nourish our children academically, spiritually and morally.”

She continued, “When we ground our kids with this kind of perspective, it helps them choose more wisely when it comes to worldly influences. They’ll be more discerning when it comes to the character of people they might come to admire, less likely to follow the crowd when their friends invite them to activities that would harm their reputation.”

“I felt prepared for college, academically, spiritually and socially,” said Annette Stefko Williams '88. “My high school experience continues to be the critical time in my life that prepared me for the real world outside of my family’s direct influence. I felt well equipped to stand firm in my faith, maintain healthy relationships with others, and take on several leadership roles and responsibilities, while earning an academic record to be proud of.”

Christine Stefko Petrik '85, the oldest, is grateful for her parents’ early influence, and thankful that she and her husband, John, have been able to carry on the legacy of faith with their own nine children and now four grandchildren! They all attended Catholic schools all 12 years (or are still attending) and a few went on to Catholic universities. Reflecting on her high school years, Christine said, “I am grateful for all my teachers, because each in their own way



Mary Ann and Eugene Stefko

showed me how to live a faith-filled life. My favorite teacher was Brother Romuald. He was challenging, but fair. He was so intelligent and devoted to his vocation; just a wonderful role model for us all. He and Brother Anthony are the reason I majored in math and computer science in college. I felt very confident in the subjects they taught. The curriculum and discipline at SMR prepared me well for college.”

Now that the Stefko clan has grown, their faith life continues to flourish as they nurture the next generation to move closer to God. “My parents continue to be huge influencers in my life and inspiring examples of God’s love,” said Gina Stefko Costa '97 (married to SMR alum Nate Costa '95). “My mother is a woman of strong virtue. She taught me so much about unconditional love and a very special thoughtfulness for others. One



The Stefko Family

of my favorite pieces of advice my mother taught me as a little girl was that the very best gift you could give someone is to pray for them. My most favorite piece of advice my father shared with me was related to how to cope with losing a loved one.”

Their faith and family bond helped them through the death of their daughter/sister, Maria Stefko Turner '91, who died after a four-year battle with Hodgkin's lymphoma. “We believe that something good will come from every adversity that we encounter—

even the loss of our daughter Maria,” said Eugene. “When I discussed this concept with Maria prior to her passing, she said: ‘Something good has already come from this.’ She pointed to her daughter Rylee, whom she was three months pregnant with at the time of her cancer diagnosis. Her doctor had recommended that her baby be aborted so they could start chemotherapy immediately, but she refused.” Maria had two other daughters at the time, ages 4 and 2.

Maria's legacy continues through her husband and children, who are surrounded by many aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents. The family's appreciation of the legacy of faith and family will be with them.

That is how legacy is built to last.

Show Your Knight  
Pride! Coming Soon—  
an SMR License Plate!



The plate will display the SMR logo and read: “St. Mary's Ryken Knights” at the bottom of the plate. The cost is \$35. To be one of the first 25 to reserve a plate, submit your name and current tag number to Jerrilyn Borneman at [jerrilyn.borneman@smrhs.org](mailto:jerrilyn.borneman@smrhs.org).



## Young Alumni Panel

In January, five young alumni representing the classes of 2015 and 2016 returned to campus to share insights with our senior class about college, faith life, pursuing one's dreams and preparing for life after college.



From left: Robbie Boothe '15 (College of Southern Maryland), Rachel Stauffer '16 (Roanoke College), Madisson Wood '16 (Shenandoah College), Misty Bell '16 (University of Maryland) and Connor Bullis '15 (St. Mary's College of Maryland)

## Studying Abroad—Brittany Nwadike '18, A Knight Abroad

Brittany Nwadike '18 graduated from St. Mary's Ryken looking forward to starting at Elon University, a private liberal arts university in North Carolina, in the fall. After visiting many schools along the East Coast, Brittany found her dream college in Elon. "It had everything that I wanted in a school such as diversity, decent student body size, small class sizes, and volleyball." Brittany originally applied to the Honors program, and then was offered to be a part of Global Pathfinders, a new program giving freshmen the opportunity to study in Dublin, Ireland, their first semester.

With a passion for travel, Brittany jumped at the chance. She could hardly wait for the plane to take her on a new journey to learn and experience a wide range of cultures; the journey led her to 14 countries in four months! Brittany said the reason she had no hesitation to take the leap her first semester of college was because she felt that St. Mary's Ryken had prepared her for college and this experience. "I was so confident in choosing to accept this opportunity," she said. "I wasn't intimidated by the academic system or differences in the coursework because at SMR I learned how to manage my time in a productive way, and it made studying in a new country a stress-free process."

Before going to Ireland, she didn't really have much interest in the country and was surprised by how much she enjoyed it. After her first weekend, Brittany started to understand its charm. She said, "It is the greenest country I have ever seen, with breathtaking views of the ocean and cliffs from every vantage point! All of the Irish people that I encountered were extremely friendly, even though I was a complete stranger."

One of her Irish classmates who lived in the same dorm invited all of the Elon students to go home with him one weekend to County Limerick. She loved it and started to take journeys exploring other regions on the west coast of Ireland. She started with Galway and the Cliffs of Moher. Galway was a much smaller town in comparison to Dublin, but was full of authentic Irish culture. Walking down the streets you could hear live Celtic bands playing folk music in the pubs.

Brittany then explored one of the Aran Islands, home to about 1,300 people, off the coast of Galway, with a guide who'd lived there his entire life. She loved how the quaint towns were filled with history and culture. "I was even lucky enough to get one of the famous handmade Aran Island sweaters made from sheep's wool," she said.

Ireland was just the start of her adventures. She began visiting nearby countries, immersing herself into each of the different cultures she was discovering through its art, history, food, architecture and exploring the city and meeting its people.

Her favorite country was Italy, especially because of the museums and visiting the Sistine Chapel, the Vatican, St. Peter's Basilica, Michelangelo's statue of David, and The Leaning Tower of Pisa. "Learning about other cultures and meeting people was a great experience," she said. "I have also learned more about myself, like that I am more adventurous and independent than I originally thought." She can't wait to return one day and explore other parts of Italy and revisit some old sites!

Back at Elon during the spring semester, Brittany spent time navigating the campus and meeting new people, playing volleyball



Brittany Nwadike '18 exploring Ireland

and checking out sororities. She shared her own experience with the study abroad program and encouraged classmates and friends to take advantage of the program.

Brittany hasn't declared a major yet, but she is interested in majoring in public health studies and minoring in psychology with the hopes of going to medical school. Now that she has had time to reflect on her experience last semester, she said, "I am so happy for my time in Ireland and all of the wonderful people that I met there. I'm especially grateful that I am able to take back all of the things that I have learned from Irish culture. America could learn a lot from Ireland with how they stress the importance of spending time with family and taking care of the environment. They do an amazing job."

## Cori Eisele '13—Technical Visual Artist at Universal Studios

When Cori Eisele graduated from St. Mary's Ryken he knew exactly what he wanted to study in college and what career path he would pursue. A member of the Class of 2013, Cori was in the choir and a member of the theatre department. While at SMR, he took an interest in lighting and stage production, and he joined the stage guild. Now, Cori is working for Universal Studios Orlando as the lead technician for Universal Orlando's "Cinematic Celebration."

After less than a year in his new role, Cori programmed and managed the 2018 New Year's Eve lighting and fountain show at Universal Studios. "I find my job fascinating, and I love what I do," he said. "It's an exciting job because I am given new opportunities to work on Universal's newest projects."

After high school, Cori went to Full Sail University in Winter Park, Florida, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in show production and touring. His degree covered all elements of live entertainment such as live sound reinforcement, lighting design, video support for live screen production, in addition to all aspects of the visual entertainment industry including electrical, lighting, physics and equipment.

"While I was in college, I earned real-world experience by working for a band who performed for corporate events and wedding receptions," said Cori. "By helping them set up and run their lighting and sound for shows, I was putting some of what I was learning in college into action."

Immediately after graduating from Full Sail, Cori started working at Walt Disney World on projects that didn't necessarily interest him but would get him in the door and allow him to learn more about the visual arts entertainment industry.



Cori, top row, fifth from the left, is pictured with other visual artists following a light show at Universal Studios.

"I started at Disney working with characters, assisting bands loading in and out of stages at Epcot—basically I started at the bottom of the ladder. Eventually I worked on the Starbright Holidays drone show at Disney Springs. All of my Disney projects were fascinating, and I learned a lot about the industry, but eventually I decided to look for projects that I was more suited for."

At this point in Cori's short career, Universal Studios offered him a position as the lead technician on the Universal Orlando "Cinematic Celebration" team. "This impressive show happens at the end of every day at Universal Studios," said Cori. "It's a huge production that includes music, water and light that transforms the park."

As the lead technician, Cori manages the operation and technical aspects of the show—from the water fountains, lighting, projection and lasers.

From his adeptness with the programming and how quickly he learned how each aspect of the show functioned, Cori was asked to program the prestigious New Year's Eve show and take the position of lead engineer, programmer and designer.

"You can't really practice per se for these shows; it's a technical skill. You know the technical aspect, and you combine the artistic element with the technical skills. It's a lot

Visit this link to view the Universal Orlando Cinematic Celebration New Year's Eve show:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OuvOxc4tZdo>



of trial and error. A computer generator helps some to visualize what the actual fountains will display, and then you go on location to test the fountains and tweak the programming. It's thrilling to see how it all comes together at the end and see how the audience will react," said Cori.

"I watched the crowd react on NYE. It felt amazing to see their positive reactions. Creating that sense of awe is such a great feeling and why I do what I do. This is why I love working in the technical, visual arts industry."

Cori enjoys being involved with the highly advanced technology in the entertainment industry. "I enjoy the opportunities to lead, design and program new offerings for Universal Studios. Being with the company for less than one year, I have been given the opportunity to work on really cool projects! The industry is always changing, and I love it."

"I plan to stay with Universal and work on some of the larger projects such as Halloween Horror Nights and the Christmas celebrations. My goal is to be programming lighting and special effects year-round. Long-term, I would like to start my own business doing this same type of work."

Cori feels very strongly that his early career success is due to support he received from St. Mary's Ryken and his strong educational background.

"I definitely attribute my work ethic to what was instilled in me while I was an SMR student. This same work ethic impacted my success in college and my ability to achieve my goals. Participating in extracurriculars that had me staying after school and staying late to help with theatre productions while also staying focused on my studies helped me throughout college and with my current work schedule."

Cori raves about the support he received from the SMR fine arts teachers. "Tessa Silvestro (SMR theatre director) really impacted my career decision and supported my interests in the visual arts entertainment industry. You always hear: 'The teacher helps make the student,' and Ms. Silvestro helped make me what I am today. Kim Norris (SMR choral director) also helped me find this direction in my career. I left SMR knowing which college I wanted to attend and exactly what career I wanted to pursue."

While at SMR, Cori was also a part of the swim team. "I always felt that I belonged and had something to do that interested me. I made the best of friends and connections that I still have today!"

## SAVE THE DATE!

# You are invited to the St. Mary's Ryken Alumni Career Fair

### Looking for a summer internship or full-time opportunity?

Alumni business owners and alumni who are recruiting for employers in the Southern Maryland and Washington D.C. area will be present to recruit SMR alumni.

Attention employers and those from industries and trades—Interested in participating? Please contact us as soon as possible to reserve your space!

Employers who are attending will be listed on the SMR website by December 1.

<https://www.smrhs.org/support/connect/alumni-events>

If you are unable to attend, please submit your resume and cover letter to Jerrilyn Borneman, Director of Development at [Jerrilyn.Borneman@smrhs.org](mailto:Jerrilyn.Borneman@smrhs.org) by December 20 to have your resume shared with participating employers.

Questions? Email Jerrilyn Borneman at [Jerrilyn.Borneman@smrhs.org](mailto:Jerrilyn.Borneman@smrhs.org).

JANUARY

6

2020



# Carlee Joseph '14 Serves as a Role Model for Her Peers

As a dual-degree student at Meredith College and an award-winning athlete, Carlee learned to balance her time while still finding ways to get involved on campus and in her community.

Under the Cooperating Raleigh Colleges program at N.C. State University, Carlee graduated in May with a B.A. in mathematics from Meredith College and a B.S. in mechanical engineering from N.C. State.

“Meredith offers the best of both worlds,” said Carlee. “I knew that I wanted to pursue an engineering degree while playing lacrosse. There were no other schools in the country like Meredith that offered the small school benefits combined with the opportunity to attend one of the best engineering programs in the country, and had a lacrosse program.”

The Hollywood, Maryland, native was the captain of the lacrosse team and a member of Pi Mu Epsilon National Mathematics Honor Society. Pursuing degrees in math and mechanical engineering at two schools at once wasn't easy, but Carlee faced her challenges and found ways to succeed.

“St. Mary's Ryken prepared me for the intense academic and athletic schedule of a student-athlete at Meredith College,” said Carlee. “I came to Meredith understanding the importance of clearing time to study and practice while also making time to have a social life. The academic rigor at SMR taught me the importance of studying and keeping up with schoolwork. The athletic competition in the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference that I competed in while in high school taught me the importance of working hard inside and outside of practice every day to become the best player and teammate I could be.”

“Math and engineering are both difficult fields to study, but I have learned to prioritize

my time and focus on what is most important first,” said Carlee. “Lacrosse kept me focused and helped me to reach my highest potential academically.”

For two summers, Carlee landed internships that molded her career path. She completed internships through the Department of Defense (DOD) Pathways Program, which provides practical work experience to students pursuing science, technology, engineering and mathematics degrees.

In 2015, she worked for the Department of the Navy at Patuxent River Naval Air Station. In 2016, she worked at the Fleet Readiness Center (FRC) East in Havelock, North Carolina. In both positions she worked for Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) as an engineering intern supporting full-time engineers and gaining experience in the life cycle support of naval aircrafts, including research, repair, design, test and evaluation.

“Meredith has helped me to become a confident leader in the classroom—a trait that I know will benefit me in a male-dominated career,” said Carlee.

On the field, Carlee is one of Meredith's most decorated lacrosse student-athletes. She collected three USA South All-Conference honors and earned three All-Academic nods. Carlee has been named the team Most Valuable Player for two seasons, and is a two-time USA South Player of the Year.

She also led her team to three back-to-back conference championship titles and NCAA Tournament appearances to go along with a couple of Academic All-District, All-Tournament and All-Region honors.



“Playing lacrosse at Meredith has been the best experience of my life,” said Carlee. “I have made lifelong friendships that I will cherish forever. My teammates have become my family, and I am grateful beyond words for each one of them.”

Carlee is also a recipient of the Science, Mathematics, and Research for Transformation (SMART) Scholarship, which covers full tuition and provides her with a salary, a health insurance stipend, and a book stipend. In return, for each year of payment, she owes the DOD one full year of service upon graduation. She plans to work for NAVAIR at FRC East in Cherry Point, North Carolina, to complete the two years she owes.

The SMART Scholarship for Service program was established by the DOD to support undergraduate and graduate students pursuing technical degrees in STEM disciplines. This year, only 14 percent of applicants were accepted to the SMART program.

## Pilgrimage to the Saints of Italy—A Special Trip for Current Students and Alumni

Over Christmas break several St. Mary's Ryken students and alumni traveled to Italy to walk in the footsteps of the great saints and visit holy sites. This group already had a special bond before embarking on the trip through their connection to SMR and as previous camp counselors at the St. John Francis Regis Catholic Parish summer program in Hollywood, Maryland.

"I felt a connection with the SMR alumni. We became friends while at SMR, became even closer while working together at the St. John's summer camp program, and then being able to go on a pilgrimage together and receive God's grace as a group, truly made our friendship stronger," said SMR junior Sloan Koviak.

The group visited more than 13 holy sites and 28 churches in Italy.

"I learned about so many saints while I was in Italy. These insanely holy people, who were just normal people, who then experienced the love of God," said Sloan. "I also learned that you can't go on the path of holiness alone, you need a community of support, and for someone to hold you accountable. The trip strengthened my faith life by allowing me to see that by being a Catholic, there are going to be ups and downs, and along with the good there will be hardships



Students at the Basilica di San Silvestro in Capite in Rome



At the SSVM (Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matará) Monastery in Tuscania, Italy, where Sister Corredemptrix (Emma) Madden '14 now lives as a cloistered religious sister. Front row, from left: Nina Ferrero, Adriana Facchina '16, Amy Gateau '18, Sloan Koviak. Middle row, from left: Grace Raddatz, Rachel Seep '19. Back row, from left: Elizabeth O'Hare '15, James Showalter '18, Eric Bain '18, Peter Trossbach '19, Carson Phillips '18, Greg Lawrence '18, Adam Ferrero '18. Behind the gate: Sister Corredemptrix Madden '14

as well. With this, I have to pursue God through it all. Every experience is meant for God's glory."

"The most meaningful part of the trip for me was Adoration on New Year's Eve," she continued. "We were at Adoration daily, but this night I came to terms with a lot of things in my faith life, and got out of the slump of despair and read an important verse, 'Rejoice always' (1 Thessalonians 5:16). I was thinking, 'Okay, St. Paul, how do I do this, though?' Mainly, with despair comes a pride and an indifference or distaste to letting God take control and trying to do everything yourself when all you have to do is trust—trust in the Divine Providence. He will give you what you need because He

loves you, and He knows infinitely more about you than you do because He made you. So, that night has changed my faith life forever."

In the fall, Pete Trossbach '19 is attending St. John Paul II Seminary, and studying philosophy at The Catholic University of America. He explained that the trip helped to solidify his future plans and steadfast commitment to his faith.

"It was also great to see saints who exemplified great joy through Christ, like St. Philip Neri and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, to name a few," said Pete.

"The most meaningful part of the trip for me was being able to see and pray in front

of the tombs of so many saints, especially St. Pio of Pietrelcina and St. Boethius,” said Adam Ferrero '18. “It was very special for me to altar serve at the tombs of some of the saints and pray the Angelus with a large crowd and Pope Francis. “I was blessed to go with a great group of pilgrims, two very holy priests and SSVM sisters, and my younger sister Nina, who is currently a freshman at SMR. We have a very strong Catholic faith. It was very special for us to see Italy and to share the experience with her.” Adam currently attends Christendom College.

Elizabeth O'Hare '15 shared how she desires to be a saint.

“I received many graces through this trip, not the least of which was a rosary that touched the tombs of many saints,” said Elizabeth. “This trip inspired me to continue fighting and pursuing sanctity, because, as St. Therese of Lisieux taught us, God does not inspire in us desires which He cannot fulfill, so if He has given me the desire to be a saint, He will fulfill it.” Elizabeth is a senior at Mount St. Mary's University, and is currently studying biochemistry and biology.



Students pray before the tomb of St. Monica at the Basilica di Sant'Agostino in Rome.

## Alumni Gather at SEEK

SEEK is an annual five-day conference for Catholic college students for a time of prayer, fellowship, engaging speakers and inspiring entertainment. A group of SMR alumni gathered for a dinner together during their time at the conference in Indianapolis. The power of social media helped them find each other with over 20,000 college students in attendance! Madisson Wood '16 stated, “It's a blessing to be part of this larger faith-life community and then be able to take this energy back to our Campus Ministry at college. The speakers help you to see Christ in others with their powerful stories. The conference lets you encounter Christ in a life-changing way, and it was great to experience that with other SMR alums!”



Alums Patrick Bouchard '16, Madisson Wood '16, Madison Norris' 17, Elizabeth Bullard '16, Charlie Heinize '17 and Caroline Heisey '17 shared the SEEK experience.

# Homecoming 2018

## Blaine Whorl 5K Family Run/Walk

Homecoming Week kicked off with the annual **Blaine Whorl 5K Family Run/Walk** to raise money for the Blaine Whorl '02 Scholarship Fund. Family, alumni and friends braved the rain to support the event, and we had sunshine peeking out of the clouds by the end of the race!



President Mary Joy Hurlburt presents flowers to the Carr family. From left, Master of Ceremonies Glenn Carr, Leanne Carr, Judy Carr and Mary Joy Hurlburt



Why run across the finish line when you can strut? Verah Richards, the niece of Sue Ann Armitage '83, shows us how it's done!

## SMR Golf Tourney

Alumni, parents and friends of SMR enjoyed a great day of golf at the Breton Bay Country Club during the **SMR Golf Tourney**. Big winners for the day were David Bean '85, Ron Herberg '67 and Nikki Atlas (P '20). Following the golf outing, members of the SMR community gathered at the Olde Town Pub (run by alum John MacDonald '84) for a Spirit Knight and were treated to the tunes of Robbie Boothe '15.



Golf team members from the senior class: Garrett Daczowski, Greg Liverpool, coach and SMR history teacher Jason Early '04, Tyrik Pierre and Kyle Kerig

## Alumni Hall of Fame

On Oct. 26 SMR honored **Hall of Fame** inductees who demonstrated values such as leadership, integrity, determination, teamwork and sportsmanship.



The inductees include, from left: Vince Whittles (wrestling coach for 30 years), Dr. John Roache (RHS '58), George Andrews (RHS '81), Reinhold Herbery (RHS '67), Betsy Stabler Farrell '88 and Jimmy Burke '86, with President Mary Joy Hurlburt and Athletic Director BJ Pumroy.

## Alumni Tailgate Event

Before the big game, alumni gathered for our annual **Alumni Tailgating event** to enjoy some SMR camaraderie while reminiscing over the good ole SMR days!



Tracey Cullins Jubeck '88 with classmate Tom Oh '88 and his wife, Diana



Paul Haley and Becky Schaefer from the Class of 1994



Betsy Stabler Farrell '88 and Jef Graves '88

## Classmates Celebrated Their Reunions During Homecoming Weekend

**Classmates from 2008** gathered at The Front Porch in Leonardtown, Maryland, to reminisce about their high school years.



Raymond Rison, Connor O'Brien, Will Simms, Joe Taylor and Brad Clements

The **Class of 1988** celebrated their 30th reunion.



Duncan May, Mallory Bowles, Joshua Norris and Andrew Wascavage

### Follow Us on Social Media!



St. Mary's Ryken Alumni  
page: [facebook.com/StMarysRykenAlumni](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysRykenAlumni)



St. Mary's Ryken High School page:  
[facebook.com/SMRKnights](https://www.facebook.com/SMRKnights)



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## Gold and Silver Graduates Are Honored During the 38th Commencement Ceremony

Members of the Class of 1969 from St. Mary's Academy and Ryken High School joined the St. Mary's Ryken Class of 1994 to celebrate their 50th and 25th reunion years, attending the St. Mary's Ryken's 38th Commencement since SMA and RHS merged in 1981. They received gold and silver diplomas, and then attended a special reception to mingle with their fellow classmates and friends.

### Ryken Class of 1969



From left: Scott Ridgell (P '02), Herbie Smith, Gregory Dameron, Christopher Mileto, David Densford, Stephen Raley and Deacon Joseph Lloyd

**St. Mary's Academy Class of 1969**



From left: Linda McKay Gateau, Susan Usilton Gateau, Robbie Miles Loker, Philomena Norris Haley (P '94, '97, '99), Cheryl Drury Norton, Charlene Guy and Rosemary Mattingly Cox

**Class of 1994**



From left: Jennifer Grubbs de los Reyes, Bridget Wunder Arnold (P '21), Steve Vaulina, Bernardo de los Reyes, Becky Schaefer and Sharon Stokely Mudd

# Golden Gathering—A Special Day Filled with Reminiscing

In early May, alumni representing the classes of 1946 through 1968 packed Romuald Hall for the annual Golden Gathering celebration reuniting classmates and friends from St. Mary's Academy and Ryken High School. It was a wonderful time to reminisce about the good old days and take a peek into St. Mary's Ryken's future as our campus grows and flourishes. They enjoyed the fellowship of friends and sharing stories about their high school years with current SMR students. Bailey's Catering, owned by Eddie Bailey (SMA '53), catered the brunch.

President Mary Joy Hurlburt spoke to the group about how their legacy at SMR makes an impact through their generosity and sharing of their time and talents.



Dr. Rick Wood mingles with guests during brunch.



Ladies from the St. Mary's Academy Class of 1946, Thelma Wilkinson Hayden and Catherine Bailey Swann



Al Guy and Karen Graves Abell (SMA '56)

# Alumni Class Notes

## Class of 1942

**Loretta “Tiny” Taylor** was honored with the Order of the Ark and Dove by St. Mary’s College of Maryland. The award is for individuals who have given distinguished service to the college and demonstrate what it means to be great citizens.



## Class of 1951



The classmates send their condolences to the family of **Genevieve “Teeny” Delahay Kennett**, who passed away on St. Patrick’s

Day. They will always remember her bubbly personality and that she wouldn’t take any guff from anyone, either!

**Helen Gibson Hewitt** and her daughter **Rose Ellen Hewitt Guyther ’71** received certificates and ribbons for their length of service and dedication to volunteering with 4-H. Helen has been serving the organization for 55 years and Rose for 45 years.



## Class of 1971

**Linda Albaugh Stebbins** celebrated her 15th wedding anniversary with her husband, Bill, in March. They were married in 2004 with a family gathering at her parents’ home in Daytona Beach, Florida.



## Class of 1984



**Katherine Hall Schindler** received her master’s degree in cybersecurity policy and is currently working towards her Ph.D. in information technology with a

specialization in information assurance and cybersecurity.

## Class of 1985



**Al Gough’s** debut novel, “Double Exposure,” was published in March and is now available in bookstores as well as ebooks and audio books.

You can also binge this summer on two of his TV series: “Into the Badlands” and “The Shannara Chronicles.”

## Class of 1990



**Susan Himmelheber McDonough** is the principal of St. John’s Catholic School in Hollywood, Maryland.

**Kate Mitchell Crimmins and Derk Droze** (joined by friend Fredrika Hall Herndon) visited Athens, Greece, in October to celebrate fellow classmate Rachel Haynie’s husband, Omar Gharbi’s, 50th birthday.



## Class of 1992



**Barbara Smith Kappel**, a nonprofit leader and fundraiser, shared her experience in a major gifts webinar hosted by Due East Partners, titled “Fulfilling Dreams, Not Deadlines.”

## Class of 1996

**Amanda Meatyard** provided an internship opportunity for SMR senior Abigail Halterman at the Double T Oyster Ranch, which has had a lease from the state of Maryland to farm oysters since 2009. The Meatyard family has been working with oysters since they settled in Tall Timbers in 1917. See story on page 23.

### Class of 2004

**Rick Mattingly** and his wife, Michelle, started a new venture and bought Towne Florist in Leonardtown. They reside in Bushwood with their two children, Jackson and Bella.



### Class of 2005

**Diana Stellway** married Stephen Washabaugh on Sept. 1, 2018, at Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church in Chaptico, Maryland. Mr. and Mrs. Washabaugh reside in St. Mary's County. Diana is a Realtor with O'Brien Realty at the California, Maryland, office, and Stephen works as a lead technician with Southern Maryland Oil Co. Diana is still musically active in the community; she co-conducted the 8th annual SMR Youth Honors Fine Arts Showcase with Kim Norris in November, directs her church choir, and frequently sings for weddings.



**Blair Scroggs** married Charles Cresawn on Nov. 1, 2018, in an intimate ceremony surrounded by 40 of their closest family and friends at Adelphi Mill in Adelphi, Maryland. Blair also started a job as the social media and communications coordinator with the American Childhood Cancer Organization, where she manages all communication campaigns and social media outlets.



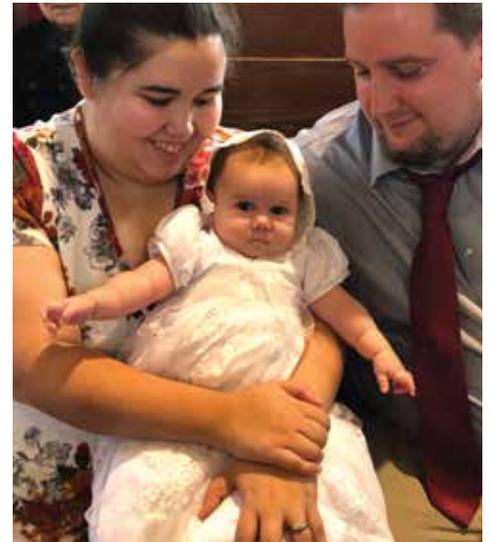
### Class of 2006

**Judy Spelz Haas** and her husband, Carl, welcomed their second child on Christmas Eve. Hazel Grace Leilani Haas weighed 8 lbs. 4 oz. and measured 20.5 inches long. She joins her big brother, Will Haas.



### Class of 2010

**Erin Mayonado Davis** gave birth to a girl, Elizabeth Wade, on Oct. 26. Erin and Joe gave her the middle name Wade in honor of Erin's father, James "Wade" Mayonado Jr. (RHS '80), who passed away. Grandma Mary Oesterling Mayonado (SMA '80) and uncle James Mayonado '19 attended the baptism.



**Meg Shreve Mulcare** gave birth to her daughter, Zoey, on Oct. 17, 2018.



**Fran O'Hara** married Bryan Kerns on Dec. 29, 2018, at St. Aloysius Catholic Church in Leonardtown, Maryland. Bryan is a science teacher at St. Mary's Ryken.



Newly promoted naval air lieutenants **Jason Torres** and **J.T. Gregg** are moving along in their flight careers. Jason is shown with his helicopter on the deck of the newest nuclear aircraft carrier Gerald Ford. J.T. is pictured gearing up to take off from a Baltimore Air Show fly-in last fall. J.T. is also legal officer of his combat strike fighter squadron.



### Class of 2011

**Rebecca Howard and Nick Jarboe** volunteered in Guatemala for a mission trip with Living Water International to bring clean drinking water to those less fortunate in that region. According to the organization's website, "Living Water International exists to demonstrate the love of God by helping communities acquire desperately needed clean water, and to experience 'living water'—the gospel of Jesus Christ—which alone satisfies the deepest thirst."



**Meghan Herring** is working as the lead clinician in Dr. David Mandell's Early Childhood Intervention Program at the University of Pennsylvania's Center

for Mental Health. Meghan works with children ages 3–5 with autism spectrum disorder and other behavioral challenges, helping them to learn functional communication skills through play. Along with her colleagues, she is conducting research to refine their clinical model with the plan to implement it on a larger scale, when Penn opens its own preschool.



**Morgan Hoover** was named assistant volleyball coach at Concordia College in Minnesota. Morgan graduated from Frostburg State University in 2016 with a degree

in recreation and park management, and she earned her master's degree in sports management from California University of Pennsylvania in the fall of 2017.

### Class of 2012



**Amanda Carroll** graduated with a Bachelor of Science from Virginia Tech in industrial and systems engineering in May 2018. Amanda started

a career with WestRock Early Career Development Program in Charlotte, North Carolina, as an industrial engineer.



**Elizabeth Fazio** is attending the Virginia-Maryland Veterinary Medicine School in Blacksburg, Virginia. It is a four-year, full-time program leading

to a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree. Only 126 people were accepted out of 1,656 applicants!

### Class of 2013

**Cori Eisele** is working for Universal Studios Orlando as the lead technician for Universal Orlando Cinematic Celebration. He recently programmed the New Year's Eve fountain and lighting show. See page 61.

**Rachel Heinze** finished with a 3.8 GPA in the MBA program at Mount St. Mary's University while thoroughly enjoying seeing softball from a new perspective as an assistant coach. She will be coming back to the Southern Maryland area and is looking forward to her next opportunity.

**Class of 2013 (continued)**

**Michelle Yates** recently married **Jack Brandenburg** also from the Class of 2013 at Herrington on the Bay in North Beach, Maryland. Jack earned his B.S. in environmental sustainability and his B.A. in chemistry from Wheeling Jesuit University and is now working towards becoming a certified indoor environmentalist with Environmental Solutions Inc. Michelle earned her B.A. in communications from Wheeling Jesuit University and is working with Kelly Generator & Equipment Inc. as their marketing coordinator. Michelle and Jack are thankful that SMR brought them together!



**Class of 2015**

**Lindsay Heinze** received her undergraduate degree in business management from Mount St. Mary's University. She will be going back to the Mount in the fall to work for the university as a graduate assistant while getting her MBA. Lindsay also earned

All-Conference honors in softball for the second time in her career with her Second Team All-NEC nod at third base.



**Deividas Zengulis** received the 2019 Sportsmanship Award from Penn State for his four great years as a starting basketball player. Deividas graduated in May with a degree in food science, studying the chemical composition of food; their physical, biological, and biochemical properties; food microbiology; and the interaction of food constituents with one another and their environment.

**Class of 2016**

**Kayla Collins**, a junior at the University of Scranton triple majoring in counseling and human services, theology and religious studies, and philosophy, received the Rose Kelly Award for an essay she wrote about Selva Kumar, a math teacher at St. Mary's Ryken.



**Class of 2017**

**Jake Pilkerton** had a big day as the first mate with the Leonardtown Anglers, catching a 71-pound yellowfin tuna at the

five-day White Marlin Open. Jake has been participating in the tournament since 2012, and fishing since he was about 6 years old.



**Class of 2018**



In the fall of 2018, **Jessica Hillian** was accepted into the first Hampton University STEM Scholars Program. In this program, she takes

advanced courses and participates in meetings with the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD). This program includes DOD internship opportunities and a four-year full-ride scholarship (amounting to about \$160,000). Jessica studies mathematics and plans to become an educator.

**Sarah Jean Kirby** is enjoying studying interior design and the creative opportunities it has provided for her. Two out of three of her artwork submissions were accepted into the school exhibition and now are hanging in Marymount University's art gallery!



# 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/BookIntentions](http://www.smrhs.org/BookIntentions) or contact the Development Department at 301-373-4162.

7/7/2018	Mrs. Frances A. "Teeny" Quade Holyoak '52	3/1/2019	Mrs. Tamara L. "Tammy" Van Dalsum Bennett (non-graduate '87)
7/19/2018	Mr. Stephen E. Wathen '47	3/10/2019	Ms. Mary Jane Mattingly '47
7/29/2018	Mr. Ernest J. "Ernie" Keller Jr. (P '78, '83, '83, GP '08, '12, '13, '16, '18, '20)	3/17/2019	Mrs. Genevieve T. "Teeny" Delahay Kennett '51 (P '75)
7/30/2018	Mr. Charles D. Downs (Friend of SMR)	3/29/2019	Lt. Col. Richard Herberg Jr., USMC Ret. '61
8/3/2018	Mr. William R. "Bob" Greer Sr. (P '83, '88, GP '21)	4/1/2019	Mrs. Hazel C. "Cathie" Ramos Reece '74
8/10/2018	Mr. Jeffrey L. "Jeff" Mattingly '61	4/15/2019	Mrs. Rosemary Barolet Watson '72
8/11/2018	Mrs. Gail E. Miedzinski Cook '77	4/28/2019	Mr. Kyle J. Compton (non-graduate '14)
8/26/2018	Mr. J. Michael "Mike" Colleary '76	4/30/2019	Mrs. Eleanor Josephine Quade Clarkson '60
8/29/2018	Mr. Russell C. Plunkett (GP '17, '21)	5/5/2019	Dr. Perry E. Sangalli (past board member 1988-94)
9/21/2018	Ms. Margaret "Marge" Wernecke (P '79)	5/18/2019	Mr. Anthony "Tony" F. Dubler '88
9/26/2018	Mrs. Lucy Loker Timmons '65 (P '88, P'90)	5/18/2019	Mr. Frederick A. "Rick" Tepel III '88 (P '19, '22)
10/9/2018	Mrs. Patricia A. "Patty" Norris Housley '69		
10/21/2018	Mr. Antonio J. "Tony" Malaspina (P '88)		
10/24/2018	Mrs. Julia M. "Judy" Raley (P '69, '70, '72, '74, '75, '78, '80, '86 GP '08, '10)		
10/25/2018	Dr. Guillermo E. Sanchez (P '84, '86, '88, '00 GP '15, '17, '20)		
10/30/2018	Mrs. Rebecca A. "Becky" Davis Dean '72		
10/30/2018	Mr. G. Peter Wigginton '54 (P '85)		
11/6/2018	Father Joseph J. Kleinstuber (Father K)		
11/10/2018	Brother Richard Hastings, CFX (Brother Ivo)		
12/22/2018	Mr. Joseph A. "Joe" Cooper '55 (P '79)		
1/3/2019	Mr. Thomas M. "Tommy" Combs '66		
1/8/2019	Ms. A. Virginia "Ginnie" Guy '43		
1/10/2019	Mr. Alex M. Fedenko '81		
1/15/2019	Mr. Steven E. "Steve" Crouse '79		
2/16/2019	Mrs. Donna Lynn Cooksey Price '72		

P = parent of SMR alum GP = grandparent of alum

## Grateful For Their Service to Our Xaverian School Community

### Father Joseph J. Kleinstuber

Father K helped SMR on many retreats and said Mass whenever needed. He will be deeply missed.

### Brother Richard Hastings

Brother Ivo lived on campus at St. Mary's Ryken when he retired from full-time ministry in 1997. He volunteered on the grounds and may have done some tutoring as well. He left Leonardtown in 2005 for the Xaverian Brothers retirement community in Danvers, MA.

# Thank You for Supporting SMR!

## Scholarship Luncheon

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



Will Sterling '95, Colleen Bergman and Christine Senese (SMA '72)



Judith Weiland, Hannah Phillips and Alyssa Taylor-Axtell



Taylor Alvey, Anna Weirich, Kennedy Dobson, Maria Schwartz, Lucille and Bill Reuter, Alexis Ridgell, Alejandro Figueiras '19 and Ryan Summy '19

## Grandparents Day

Each year, grandparents of our freshman class are invited to campus to share a meal with their grandchild and hear about high school life and SMR. At the luncheon, President Hurlburt recognized how treasured grandparents are to their grandchildren and to our school community, and praised them for being strong role models for our entire school.



Gabrielle Pierpont with John and Barbara Hoff



Douglas Pickerall and Ansley Owens



Mason McCauley with Barbara and Thomas Carruth



Garrison Neal with Carina and Thurmond Paige

## Top 5 Reasons to Support the Knighthood

Educational philanthropy allows schools like St. Mary's Ryken to thrive and offers an opportunity to give back to the next generation. Gifts to SMR show your Knight Pride and go to work immediately, having an enormous impact on students, faculty and the community.

### 1. Today's Knights Are Tomorrow's Leaders!

Let's give them the tools they need to succeed: microscopes, computer software, art supplies, library online services, etc.

### 2. Exceptional Teachers!

Your gift can help recruit and retain educators whose values and expectations shape young minds.

### 3. A Vibrant Campus!

SMR has 87 acres, seven buildings, multiple campus spaces and athletic fields where students learn and play. From electricity that powers the lights to maintaining the athletic fields, the Annual Fund contributes to the most basic campus needs.

### 4. Seize the Day!

A fruitful Annual Fund gives SMR the security to create an optimal environment for students to learn and grow.

### 5. Future Knights!

Whether you are passionate about the arts, technology, financial aid or the environment, your gift to SMR can impact that passion. Simply designate your gift to the program, scholarship or department in the area that most interests you.

If you are interested in establishing a legacy that will provide a Catholic education for future Knights, please contact the Development Office at 301-373-4162 or [advancement@smrhs.org](mailto:advancement@smrhs.org).



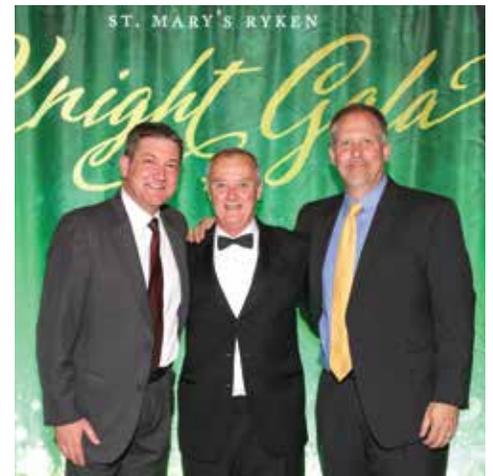
## Oh, My Knight Gala!

The St. Mary's Ryken community enjoyed a night of exceptional food catered by Ken's Creative Kitchen of Annapolis, dancing the night away to the sounds of NightLife, playing casino table games, and bidding on basket raffles and silent auction items.

The SMR Orchestra entertained nearly 400 guests during the cocktail reception. Thank you to our generous benefactors for supporting the event and all those in our community who came out to make it a great *Knight* raising money for our students. All proceeds will benefit campus improvements over the summer, and scholarship and financial aid for the incoming Class of 2023! Save the date for next year and make plans to join alumni, parents and friends on March 21, 2020.



Dawn and Samuel Nazzaro (P '15, '16, '18, '19, '21)



The MIL Corp. senior leadership team: Tom Clark, Ed Greer (P '99, '01) and Adam Ptack '90 (P '16, '16, '18, '19)



Tennyson Family: Pat, Elizabeth '15, Christopher '13 and Ellie



Terry and Rich Fazio (P '04, '05, '12) with Gabrielle and Larry Forte (P '12, '15)

## Knight Gala Silent Auction Ideas

SMR is looking for new ideas and items for next year's silent auction. Please contact Special Events Coordinator Brandy Duley at 301-373-4182 if you have ideas.



Principal Rick Wood with Father Scott Woods

# Welcome to the Class of 2023!

 The SMR Community Welcomes the Class of 2023! Watch video message: [www.smrhs.org/admissions/learn/class2023connections](http://www.smrhs.org/admissions/learn/class2023connections)

SMR is pleased to welcome <b>170</b> students	From over <b>36</b> middle schools	Average GPA for incoming freshmen: <b>3.49</b>	<b>52</b> were accepted to the Scholars Program	<b>61</b> merit-based scholarships were awarded
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**YOU ARE INVITED TO ST. MARY'S RYKEN FOR OUR FALL OPEN HOUSE!**

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

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

**SUNDAY, OCT. 27 • 1 - 4 P.M.**

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

**DISCOVER THE DIFFERENCE AT ST. MARY'S RYKEN!**

Visit [smrhs.org/OpenHouse](http://smrhs.org/OpenHouse) to learn more.

## Congratulations to the Class of 2023 Scholarship Winners!

### Presidential

Yaw Amponsah-Poku  
Emma Boelke  
Kathleen Cain  
Alexander Coughlon  
Ashlynn Dziekiewicz  
Zachary Maldonado  
Cassandra Massiglia  
Colleen Moore  
Madison O'Quinn  
Kylie Perraut  
Maria Rank  
Grace Rorke  
Olivia Snearly  
Andrew Stickney  
Moirra Teague  
Trinity Treadway  
Katie Wise

### Leadership

Emma Ashley  
Blake Bagley  
Terrence Bartlebaugh  
Madison Bishop  
Emma Boelke  
Kathleen Cain  
Maya Civil  
Sydnie Collins  
Alexandra Harrer  
Delaney Huiskens  
Cassandra Massiglia  
Henry J. Meiser  
Naima Ndeh  
Madison O'Quinn  
Kylie Perraut  
Katie Wise

### Visual Art

Alyssa Brown  
Katelyn Freese  
Isabella Owens

### Dance

Sydnie Collins  
Katie Wise

### Instrumental

Emma Boelke  
Kathleen Cain  
Matthew Hayden  
Romeo Norris

### Piano

Douglas Bogard  
Vander Wel

### Vocal

Alexandra  
Cheesebrow  
Megan Krukar  
Kylie Perraut  
Madison O'Quinn  
Charles Sullivan

### Theatre

Alexandra  
Cheesebrow  
Megan Krukar  
Madison O'Quinn

### Blaine Whorl

Matthew Floehr  
Katelyn Freese  
Lucia Geary  
Madeleine Hicks

### Community Service

Sean Foster  
Alexandra Harrer  
Megan Luther

### Laurie Collins

Paul Baden  
Victoria Schneider  
Olivia Snearly

John "Baylen" Dean and his mother, Christina Sterling Good '99





Madison with her parents Michael O'Quinn and Cindy Owens '92



Madison and her father, Rick Bishop '87

Class of 2024 Parents—  
Save the Date!

Application deadline:  
**December 8, 2019**

Scholarship Day: **January 25, 2020**

Questions about the admissions  
process? **Please contact  
the Admissions Team at  
admissions@smrhs.org  
or 301-373-4184.**



# DISCOVER THE Summer Knights Difference

AT ST. MARY'S RYKEN!

Academic, athletic and  
enrichment camps

Located on the beautiful,  
waterfront SMR campus!

Fun and affordable

Early morning and late  
afternoon camps

Taught by professional  
coaches and faculty

Save the date! 2020  
registration opens March 1

It's not too late for students  
in grades 3-12 to sign up  
for camps *this summer!*



SUMMER KNIGHTS  
**camps**  
@SMR

## JULY 8-11

A Week  
at Hogwarts  
Beginning Sailing  
Boys Basketball  
Cake Art  
Cupcake Wars  
Girls Lacrosse  
Health Adventures  
I'm a Poet  
and I Know It  
Make It New  
Art Camp  
Summer Sing Off

## JULY 22-25

STEM-istry  
Football  
Boys Basketball  
Boys Rugby  
Boys Soccer  
Cake Art  
Drawing a  
Summer of Fun  
Jewelry Making  
Babysitters /  
CPR Training  
Short Stories

## JULY 15-18

Boys Basketball  
Boys Soccer  
Intermediate  
Sailing  
Pep Band  
Summer Sing Off



Join the fun!



Visit [www.smrhs.org/SummerKnights](http://www.smrhs.org/SummerKnights) to learn more!



# St. Mary's Ryken

*A College Preparatory Catholic High School*

22600 Camp Calvert Road  
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Permit No. 38

A CATHOLIC SCHOOL IN THE XAVERIAN BROTHERS TRADITION

## Upcoming Events in 2019-20

### Freshman Grandparents Day

Oct. 18

### Open House for Prospective Families

Oct. 27 at 1 p.m.

### Drama Production

"A Midsummer Night's Dream"

Nov. 14-17

### Founder's Week

Dec. 2-6

### Giving Tuesday

Dec. 3

### Fine Arts Festival—Instrumental

Dec. 12

### Fine Arts Festival— Chorus and Dance

Dec. 13

### Deadline to Make an Annual Fund End-of-Year Gift

Dec. 31

### Summer Knights Camp Registration Opens

March 1, 2020

### Knight Gala

March 21, 2020

### Musical

"The Little Mermaid" April 2-5, 2020

### Fine Arts Festival— Chorus and Dance

April 30, 2020

### Fine Arts Festival—Instrumental

May 1, 2020

### Golden Gathering

May 3, 2020

### Graduation for the Class of 2020

and Diamond, Gold and Silver  
Ceremony for the classes of  
1945, 1970 and 1995

May 26, 2020

## HOMECOMING 2019

Oct. 10-19, 2019

### Spirit Knight

Thursday, Oct. 10

The Rex restaurant featuring Unfinished  
Business with Larry Trader '85

### SMR Golf Classic

Friday, Oct. 11

Breton Bay Golf & Country Club

### Homecoming Game & Alumni Tailgating

Friday, Oct. 11

Knights vs. Bishop O'Connell

Join us before the game for alumni  
tailgating on the SMR campus.

### Blaine Whorl 5K Family Run/Walk

Saturday, Oct. 19

SMR campus and Historic Leonardtown

2019 Reunions:

### Class of 1969

Contact Steve Raley at [sl.rale@gmail.com](mailto:sl.rale@gmail.com) or  
Robbie Miles Loker at [rloker@md.metrocast.net](mailto:rloker@md.metrocast.net)

### Class of 1974

Contact Susan Dyer at [susan.l.dyer@gmail.com](mailto:susan.l.dyer@gmail.com)

### Class of 1994

Contact Sharon Mudd at [smudd@ccboe.com](mailto:smudd@ccboe.com)

### Class of 1999

Contact Amanda Dix at [tak2thesky@aol.com](mailto:tak2thesky@aol.com)

### Class of 2009

Contact Danielle Guy at [danielleguy3@gmail.com](mailto:danielleguy3@gmail.com)

If your class year ends in "4" or "9", please  
contact us if you are planning a class reunion  
at [advancement@smrhs.org](mailto:advancement@smrhs.org).