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### MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL & HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Alumni, School Families and Friends of Roanoke Catholic,

As the first quarter comes to a close in our 126th year, God's grace continues to shine upon our campus. Leaves change colors, students change into their winter uniforms, and plans begin for the new year. Students at Roanoke Catholic have experienced some incredible highs these past nine weeks. Spiritually our students continue to grow as they celebrate Mass every week with our new Priest Chaplain, Father Matt Kiehl. Our students continue to enjoy celebrations on athletic fields, within the classrooms, and in the arts, where our new

drama club prepares to take the stage along with our choir and dance programs for our first-ever Nativity Play. Their growth spiritually and academically are a visible light for all of us.

Staff has enjoyed the opportunity to connect with alumni and friends from Roanoke to Richmond and all points in between. Plans are underway for events scheduled this spring and throughout the summer to connect old friends



with new. The stories we have shared during these visits continue to confirm for all of us that Roanoke Catholic School is truly a home for current and former students. Friendships and connections made here are lasting ones.

Strength in our enrollment initiatives continue to produce great results as we welcomed 77 new students this year and welcomed "back" 394. Capital improvements over the past several years have given us a beautiful campus to enjoy for years to come. Plans are underway to purchase our own green space for athletic facilities that will serve our campus for another 126 years. We hope you enjoy this magazine and the stories within the pages as they highlight some of the great things happening here at Roanoke Catholic and by our alumni. We ask that you keep all of us in your prayers and that you enjoy the upcoming holiday seasons.

God's blessings upon all of you,

Patrick W. Patterson

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### Inside







### Soth Reunion for Class of 1965

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### **Cover Story**

17 Cheng Sullivan faces challenges with tenacity

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### 4 - IN THE CLASSROOM

### New engineering class is 3D experience

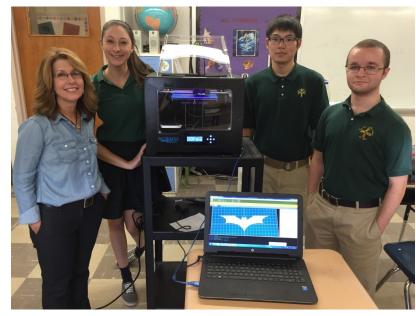
WE KNOW BATMAN IS HIGH-TECH. Now the superhero, along with a new 3D printer, is helping a group of Roanoke Catholic seniors get a start on a career in engineering.

Thanks to student interest and an anonymous donation, the school bought the 3D printer this summer. 3D printers use plastic filament to create three-dimensional solid objects from a digital file.



Upper School math teacher Donna Nickels gave up her planning period to lead the students on their high-tech exploration, which so far has produced iPhone cases and various Batman-inspired items.

"We live in a very technologically advanced society and we have to be able to offer this technology to our students so they can better



From left: teacher Donna Nickels, Maki Bima, ZiLu "Jay" Huang and Joe Baker

understand our world and maybe consider a career in engineering," says Ms. Nickels. "If you don't try it you may never know if you like it."

In addition to the mechanics surrounding 3D printing, the class also features computer-aided design (CAD) programming, some marketing and even fundraising.

### RCS, Slime & Rube Goldberg at Virginia Science Festival

IT SHOULDN'T TAKE 100 DOMINOES, six marbles, a rocket, mousetrap and Hot Wheels car to ring a bell ... unless you're an RCS 5th grader in Tim Carlin's class.

In September Mr. Carlin inspired his students to create "Rube Goldberg machines" — creatively engineered contraptions featuring complicated chain reactions to perform a simple task.

Students divided into teams to create 11 different machines. Mr. Carlin then took a piece from each machine to fashion a "Master Rube Goldberg," which was on display Sept. 26 at the second annual Virginia Science Festival in Roanoke.

For the festival, RCS teachers and students also demonstrated to hundreds of attendees how to make homemade slime and string ultraviolet beads into bracelets while RCS parent Steve Andes explained electricity through circuit boards made by Roanoke-based TMEIC.





Above: Teacher Tim Carlin demonstrates the 5th Grade's "Rube Goldberg" machine.
Below from left: teachers Mary Lupsha, Catherine Schlesser, Lisa Brajdic and Tina Gibson; students Naomi Hemphill, Samantha Schlesser and Meg Hemphill; and parent Steve Andes prepare the RCS exhibit for the Virginia Science Festival.

### RCS students graduate with up to a year's worth of college credits

"We are an investment that pays dividends again and again."

BY NEXT SPRING, RCS SENIORS Abby Secamiglio and Nathanael Pilar will not only finish high school but also, depending on where they continue their education, their freshman year of college.

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Jon Reynolds is one of three RCS teachers who are also college adjunct professors in the dual-enrollment program.

How? Because both students will graduate Roanoke Catholic with 21 college credits thanks to the school's partnership with two Virginia colleges.

Secamiglio and Pilar are just two of 118 Roanoke Catholic students

currently "dual-enrolled" in a state college, earning valuable – and increasingly expensive – college credits while still in high school.

Through an existing program with Virginia Western Community College,

they are earning 12 college credits in English plus three college credits for an advanced Spanish class. Starting this year, the entire senior class will earn six credits in U.S. government under a new partnership that the Catholic Diocese of Richmond has forged with Richard Bland College of William and Mary.

The government course is taught by Roanoke Catholic's Jon Reynolds who, like school Spanish teacher Robin Underwood, holds an adjunct professorship at Richard Bland



College. Likewise, Roanoke Catholic English teacher Mike Fallon holds an adjunct professorship at Virginia Western Community College.



"Our goal is to enhance our students' academic offerings and give our families even more value for their hard-earned tuition dollars by lowering their future college costs," says Patrick Patterson, Principal and Head of School. "We know it's an investment for families to send their children to Roanoke Catholic. But our dual-enrollment program – coupled with the fact that our graduates annually earn more than \$3 million in college scholarships – proves that we are an investment that pays dividends again and again."

RCS students have the potential to earn as many as 24 college credits. In the coming years, Roanoke Catholic hopes to add courses in the fields of psychology and sociology through the dual-enrollment initiative.

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### Latino Heritage Day at Roanoke Católica



"AT ROANOKE CATHOLIC SCHOOL, we celebrate the uniqueness of each of our students and what makes them special," Principal and Head of School Patrick Patterson said October 14 to open RCS' Latino Heritage Celebration. "We get to see some incredible things, culturally, that we're able to offer because of students and their families who have joined our community."

The celebration was coordinated by Isabel Marinez, RCS Segura Representative, and the school's Latino families as part of National Hispanic Heritage Month. RCS cafeteria walls featured displays from several Hispanic countries while the families prepared and served a home-made fiesta for all students and teachers: Colombian empanadas, Mexican tamales, Guatemalan chicken, along with quesadillas, churros, and pinada treats.

The culmination of the celebration: fabulous dancing by our students and parents. *Muchas gracias!* to everyone involved with this event.

### OUT & ABOUT - 6 Thank you ... from Roanoke Catholic



On September 10, Roanoke Catholic School hosted a Donor Appreciation Reception atop Center in the Square in downtown Roanoke to thank our major donors whose contributions in fiscal year 2014-15 allowed us to surpass our \$250,000 Annual Fund goal; raise \$365,000 to fund academic scholarships, extracurricular programs and capital improvements; and secure \$98,000 in Education Improvement Scholarships Tax Credits, which provide tuition assistance for deserving families.

Thank you for supporting our mission of blending learning with faith and faith with daily life.

### Bienvenidos de Vuelta Celtics

\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_

Matt O'herron and Turbitt, O'herron, & Leach p.l.l.c.

Injury Law and Workers' Compensation

### Richmond Reunion at The Gefferson OUT & ABOUT - 7







On October 16, we brought Roanoke Catholic to Richmond! Alumnus Robert Hardie, '83, and his wife Molly Hardie graciously sponsored a reunion for us at the fabulous Jefferson Hotel. The free event featured good food and drinks and Celtic tunes by dulcimer musician Timothy Seaman. Thanks to all who attended, and we look forward to doing it again!

(1 Remington Rand, '05, with Ann Randolph Goddard. 2 from left: Ricky Stump, '03, and wife Jocelyn; Kevin O'Meara, '03, and wife Elizabeth; Kyle White, '03 and wife Eve. 3 Fr. Tom Miller, recently retired pastor of St. Andrew's in Roanoke. 4 Principal Patrick Patterson and Virginia Leonard, '49. 5 from left: Fran DeWitt Via, '81, and sister Helen DeWitt Ryan, '76. 6 Pauline Donato Lea, '85, and husband Glen.









### Korean exchanges

**Left:** In recognition of Roanoke's ties to sister city Wonju, South Korea, Mayor David Bowers in August greeted RCS' two Korean students, senior Su Ji Hong (left) and junior Wonjong Lee, who started RCS this year.

**Right:** A few weeks later during an economic development trip to South Korea, Bowers took time to visit Wonjong's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tae Sung Lee (left). Dr. Paul Oh, RCS director of International Admissions (seated by Bowers) arranged the meeting.



### 8 - HOMECOMING







Roanoke Catholic celebrated Homecoming on October 5 with a victory over Craig County 47-12. During halftime, senior Abby Secamiglio (right) was crowned Homecoming Queen. Above from left, Homecoming Week's "Dynamic Duo Day" featured Jeb Bush and Donald Trump (aka Alec Connor and Nathan Behan); Cat in the Hat's Thing One and Thing Two (Maria and Joseline Rufino); and New England Patriots QB Tom Brady and NFL referee (Brendan Snow and Charlie Sass).



# RCS senior Alex Gomez helps unload donated items from RCS bus to Roanoke City Schools

### For Homecoming, Roanoke Catholic collects supplies for homeless students

From The Roanoke Times (Oct. 1, 2015)

Roanoke Catholic School students and teachers filled a bus with donations for homeless students in Roanoke's public schools, one of the largest donations so far.

Four seniors from the school helped drop off the supplies at the Roanoke City Public Schools' administrative offices Thursday afternoon, surprising city officials with the delivery.

It's Roanoke Catholic's Homecoming Week, and when they saw the city schools' request for assistance last month, teachers and students decided to dedicate this week to collecting donations, said Allison Morgan, a physical education teacher at the school who helped organize the fundraiser.

"It was a great turnout from our school," Morgan said. "We're all thankful."

Roanoke has identified 290 homeless students so far this year, and city educators expect that number to increase. During the last school year, 604 students experienced homelessness at some point.

Morgan said Roanoke Catholic wanted students who face homelessness to know they will be supported.

"We care about them and we stand behind them," she said.

Roanoke Catholic started collecting supplies on Monday. They took the list of supplies the city posted on its website and divided the list among each of the grade levels, Morgan said.

The result overflowed from boxes and filled the school's bus.

Justin McLeod, a spokesman for the city schools, said Roanoke Catholic's donation is the largest they've received.

### Pope Francis visit to U.S. inspires excitement at Roanoke Catholic

1 RCS students and Principal Patrick Patterson help Fr. Mark White of St. Andrew's Catholic Church ring the bells of the old Bell Tower at the moment Pope Francis' plane landed on American soil. 2 WSLS-10 reporter interviews senior Annie Lupsha for a news story about the school's anticipation. 3 RCS chaplain Fr. Matt Kiehl shares on WDBJ7 his experience being in Washington, D.C., for a papal Mass and Pope Francis' address to Congress. 4 RCS 3rd graders Anna and Thomas Stadnyk travel with parents Lisa and John to the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia, where they see the papal procession (background photo courtesy of the Stadnyks).









### **RCS students win Lions Club Peace Poster contest**

Each year RCS art teacher Kimberly Spencer, working with the Mount Pleasant Lions Club, provides her 7th grade students the opportunity to compete in the Lions International Peace Poster Contest. The competition is open to children ages 11 to 13, who are encouraged to express their visions of peace through art.

Below left: Robert Stutes, chairman of the Peace Poster Contest,

judges the entries. Below right: Mrs. Spencer poses with, from left, 3rd place Lily Rodil, 2nd place Clara McDaniel, and winner Izzy Sorrentino, whose art will now advance to the Lions Club district competition for southwest Virginia. One international grand prize winner and 23 merit award winners will be selected.





### **ON YOUR MARK ... SHAMROCK HILL RUN IS MARCH 12**





1 Mile Fun Run|8:00 AM 🐉 5K|8:30 AM 🚱 Roanoke St. Patrick's Parade|11:00 AM

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### We know what your RCS teacher wants for Christmas!

Mrs. Lupsha

Mrs. Campbell

### Be part of our online campaign: "All My Teacher Wants for Christmas"

You can check off your favorite RCS teacher from your Christmas list ... we've done the work for you!

We recently asked our teachers to identify an item, program or experience that they'd like to enhance their teaching. They gave us their list — from cool circuit board kits and classroom organizers to Bible books and educational subscriptions.

(Then we added in some gift card treats for themselves.)

Starting Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 26, through Giving Tuesday, Dec. 1, you can visit www.roanokecatholic.com and select the items you want to buy with a tax-deductible contribution to the school.

We take care of the rest!

All that's left for you to do is come to our Christmas Party on December 8 when our teachers open your gifts.

Questions: contact Michael Hemphill,









### Class of 2017 celebrates tradition of Ring Day

RINGS ARE MORE THAN FINGER DECORATION ... at least at one of Roanoke Catholic School's most beloved traditions — Ring Day — that was celebrated October 22.

Since 1981, RCS Ring Day has signified for the junior class "your relationships with each other and the commitment to be there for each other," said Dr. Chris Keeley, '85. He received his ring 32 years ago and this year served as keynote while watching daughter Courtney, a member of the Class of 2017, receive her ring. "Being part of a class at Roanoke Catholic is a unique opportunity where you actually know and are able to be friends with everyone."

Reading from a script written by Courtney Keeley, classmate Charlie Sass said at the service:

Throughout our lives ... rings surround us. When an infant first graces the earth, one of the first things he or she touches is a parent's hand. The ring on that hand, the child will soon learn, symbolizes his or her parents' love for each other and for the child. That ring is a promise to all members of the family. This class ring, like all other rings, is about a stage in our lives that revolves around commitment, relationship and family.

While Ring Day service focused on the 32 members of the Class of 2017, the students took time to thank those responsible for their journey.

"To our parents ... thank you for loving us unconditionally despite our mistakes, minor rebellions and other moments that were not our finest," said Riley Whalen. "And to our teachers, you have done so much for each and every one of us ... we appreciate everything. Thank you!"

### **Ring Day traditions**

- Rings are blessed at Prayer Service overseen this year by newly ordained Deacon Barry Welch (pictured below).
- ◆ Rings are turned the number of times as your graduation year: 17 for this year's recipients.
- ♦ The first turn is by the wearer's best friend.
- ♦ The last turn is by the wearer's sweetheart, punctuated by a kiss.
- Roanoke Catholic rings are worn with the school name facing the wearer until graduation, when they're then turned to face outward.



### New drama club brings to life Nativity Play

More than 30 Roanoke Catholic students — from preschoolers to high school seniors — auditioned to perform in a Nativity Play directed by the school's new director for theater arts, April Corbett.

Accompanied by Christmas anthems sung by Roanoke Catholic's choir — The Celtic Singers — and the RCS Dance program, the drama club will present the Nativity Play on Dec. 3 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help and Dec. 4 at St. Andrew's Catholic Church.

"I have had a great time teaching drama workshops in the mornings to the students as well," says Corbett. "We have almost 50 students that are participating in Drama Club workshops and this is just the first semester. I can't wait to see how we grow in the coming years."

In addition to the roles of the Holy Family, shepherds, Magi, angels and beasts, students are also learning about directing and the backstage jobs of costume and set design.

"We have a lot of plans for next semester including Live Stations of the Cross and a couple of spring productions,"



April Corbett directs, from left, Connor Cline, Meg Hemphill, Gracie Holmgren, Jordan Doubles and John Purcell for Nativity Play.

says Mrs. Corbett. "It is such a joy to be part of the wonderful family of Roanoke Catholic and to get to experience drama with such an awesome group of children."







AFTER TWO ANKLE SURGERIES and twice as many children, Cathy Connelly thought her cross-country days were a thing of the past.

There had been a time when the sport was her present and future. As the top runner of her team at Villa Maria Academy in Buffalo, N.Y., she claimed a Catholic state championship and earned a scholarship to Canisius College, a Jesuit school also in Buffalo. She took the top spot on the team her freshman year and all looked bright for a promising collegiate career. But then she suffered her first ankle injury that sidelined her for her sophomore and junior years. She returned to racing her senior year but lacked the spring in her step that once defined her running, and after college hung up her shoes.

"I was humbled from getting injured and burnt out because I shouldn't have gotten injured and I didn't let the injury heal until it was too late," she recalls. "I would still run, but I wasn't running competitively."

Her Canisius cross-country experience hadn't been a complete bust. As a freshman she met teammate and senior Al Connelly, a top runner from Philadelphia. Engaged her sophomore year, she married Al after graduation and followed him to Roanoke where he'd found a job.

Together, after the birth of their first child, Samantha, they began training for a marathon. But the news of a second child, son Danny, sidelined her again.

Years passed, two more children arrived – daughter Carolyn and son Ryan. Cathy's only running was along a sidewalk pushing a kid-filled jogger. Eventually, she and Al enrolled their children at Roanoke Catholic, where Cathy also became a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher. But when it came time for sports, the kids gravitated to soccer, basketball, baseball and hockey.

It wasn't until Samantha was in 7<sup>th</sup> grade when she announced she wanted to run for Roanoke Catholic's cross-country team.

"I didn't even know the cross-country program existed," Mrs. Connelly says. "We had no idea the kids



would have a desire for it. But then Sam expressed an interest in it and we were back full force."

Full force, indeed.

In 2014 she volunteered as the team's assistant coach. When the head coaching position opened up this year, she agreed to lead. Working with husband Al and local crosscountry guru Richard Amstutz (father of RCS runner Caleb Amstutz, '15), she crafted a workout regimen that began in June. Not one to sit back and blow a whistle, Mrs. Connelly and Amstutz (and Al when his job allowed) insisted on running with the team, coaching every step of the way.

"I don't know any other way to do it," she says.

Parent Barbara Andes loves the program. She has been cheering Roanoke Catholic cross-country teams for years, from niece Anna Berding, '97, and nephew Evan Berding, '01, to daughter Alice Ann Mahoney Clark, '08, son Kit Mahoney, '12, and now 7<sup>th</sup> grade son Frank, who is on the middle school team. "Cross-country is by far the best sport

for any kid. Every place counts. Every kid contributes. Having the Connellys' experience and enthusiasm, personally and professionally, is such a benefit."

Under Mrs. Connelly's leadership, Roanoke Catholic's cross-country squad is blossoming into a powerhouse. At the Virginia State Catholic Cross Country Championships (VSCC) on Oct. 27, RCS' middle school boys, running against 8th-10th graders, came in third place overall in the 5K race. On the girls' side in the junior varsity race, all five Celtics finished in the Top 10 and took first place. Winning it all was daughter Carolyn, 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

As an 8<sup>th</sup> grader, son Danny set course records this year at all but one middle school

meet. At VSCC, he ran with the varsity team and finished fifth overall with a blistering time of 16:41, getting beat only by two seniors, a junior and a sophomore.

"These middle schoolers," says Mrs. Connelly, "if they stay together they will be a powerhouse."

Daughter Samantha, 10<sup>th</sup> grade, leads a varsity girls team that has only one junior and no seniors. The same holds true on the varsity boys squad, which came in fourth overall at VSCC led by Danny and 10<sup>th</sup> grader Zack Grinde, whose 17:32 earned a 10<sup>th</sup> place overall rank.

Then there's the youngest Connelly, 4<sup>th</sup> grader Ryan. Too young to be on the team roster, he still paced a 21:18 at the Knight's Crossing Invitational 5K open race in September.

"There's a bit of stubborn determination in them," Mrs. Connelly admits. "Competitive nature is in their blood."

But her motivation for her runners isn't medals and rankings, but personal successes. She takes great pride in

Jesse Derringer, 10<sup>th</sup> grade, who over the course of the season dropped more than 11 minutes off his 5K time to running VSCC in 21:56.

"I want to see them do it for a life-healthy choice," she says. "I did a lot of reading and over the summer and went with a 'strength-running' approach because I got injured [in college] and I didn't want any kid to go through that. I want to teach them the proper way."

That being said, she has an individualized plan for her young team: "I want to get them to the next level each year so that by their senior year, if they have the dedication, they can earn a college scholarship."

She should know.



### ON THE FIELD - 17



heng Sullivan is an active 17-yearold high school student at Roanoke
Catholic School in Roanoke. Though
his favorite subject in school is math,
sports are what he really loves. He
enjoys playing baseball, basketball,
and soccer, but his passion is football.
Like most kids his age, Cheng is also
learning how to drive. He is just like
any other athletic teenage boy, but
with one exception: Cheng only has
one arm.

Cheng was almost eight years old when his mother Kathleen adopted him from an orphanage in China. He doesn't remember much about his life in China aside from one memory of clutching a soccer ball.

"Once his English was strong enough, he would tell me, I don't want to talk about (China)," said Kathleen Sullivan. It wasn't that China had been so terrible, she explained, but he was 100% focused on embracing his new life in America. "He was so intent on learning English, he rejected the Chinese language."

Kathleen remembers waiting at the State Department with Cheng while his adoption paperwork was finalized. Cheng played with other children at a

neighboring park, adapting to their games with his one arm. "Part of what makes him so strong and outgoing," his mom believes, "is that he wasn't coddled in China. I think I would have stepped in to assist had I been there when he was a baby."

Playing sports not only helped
Cheng develop physical strength and
stamina, but it also broke the language
barrier when making friends. In second
grade, when he began school in
America, Cheng enjoyed playing
kickball during P.E. and at recess. If he
was ever worried about being
different, his mother would simply tell
him, "Kids might look at your arm at
first, but don't worry about it; they'll
get over it."

Kathleen has a vivid memory of the day Cheng learned to play baseball. It was in August of 2006, and they had just moved to Roanoke. "We were at a park watching an adult softball team play. Cheng was watching the action on the field intently. One of the players noticed Cheng and gave him a bat and ball. We went out to figure out how to do it.

"I threw the ball to him so he could field," Cheng's mom continued. "I pitched to him to hit a few times. Pretty soon, he took the ball from me, tossed it with his foot, and hit like that."

Cheng made the move from public school to Roanoke Catholic at the beginning of sixth grade. Patrick Patterson, Principal of Roanoke Catholic, remembers meeting Cheng for the first time back in 2010. "He struck me immediately as a kid who wanted a change and his mom was passionate about this working out for him." Now, says Patterson, "Cheng is seen as a role model. He is admired by the faculty and staff."

One wonders what it is that pushes Cheng to go out for the team and try new things. Cheng's response is simple: "It's just who I am. I just do it." His mother agrees, saying, "His attitude is, 'I'm not going to sit on the sidelines."

It was in middle school at Roanoke Catholic that Cheng began playing football. Now a junior, Cheng is in his second year on the varsity football team.

"Everybody loves him," said Joe Sweeney, Assistant Football Coach and Upper School Science teacher at Roanoke Catholic. "He's out there (on the field) because he can do it."

Coach Sweeney remembers the first time he saw Cheng practicing with the team, when Cheng was in eighth grade. "We knew he was an athlete. He's got great athletic skill." Of course, a concern for everyone involved, especially Cheng's mother, was how to protect him from injury.

Aside from taping down his right shoulder, the main protection Cheng relies on is strategic placement on the field so that he leads with his left. It's a strategy that works. "He's fast and he tackles well," said Coach Sweeney. "He scored a touchdown his very first game."

Kathleen has nothing but praise for Cheng's coaches. "He's been fortunate. All along we've been blessed with good coaches who are interested in building character."

It is apparent that Cheng feels supported, on and off the field. "The coaches help me protect myself from getting hurt. They are helping me do what I want to do."

Cheng's advice to someone who wants to try something new but is afraid they can't do it? Simple: Ask for help. "Ask someone, like a coach or instructor, about what they're doing. Ask them how they can help you accomplish your goal."

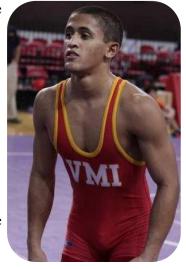
Kathleen Sullivan tells her son, "It's a gift to be able to inspire others." By observing, asking for help when needed, and taking action, Cheng Sullivan is accomplishing things many others wouldn't dare to try.

"I'm glad God created me with one arm," said Cheng, "and that I am a Christian."

### **18 - ALUMNI UPDATES**

Armando Herrera Dos-Reis, '12, won a national title

for Virginia Military Institute at the U.S. Intercollegiate Boxing Association men's national championship. About 150 boxers from 28 schools participated in April in the national tournament, hosted by 2014 champion University of Michigan. Armando won the title at 132 pounds, helping VMI win the overall men's championship.



N c a a S S 7 t t C T R

Molly Wharton, '12, is a senior cadet at the U.S. Military Academy and plans to graduate in the spring. She was featured in *The Roanoke Times* in June and has been selected to represent West Point during Thanksgiving break when she visits Roanoke Catholic on November 23.

Emilee Jane Meggers '08, will wed LCPL Alex T.
Priestley on December 19,
2015, at The Windmill Winery,
Florence, Ariz. Emilee
welcomed Alex back from
seven months' deployment in
Kuwait on Oct. 22. Their first
home together will be Twenty



Nine Palms Marine Base in California.



Elena Petrocci, '08, graduated North
Carolina State University in 2012, and is currently a 1st Lieutenant in the U.S. Army serving at Joint Base Lewis
McChord as a Medical Service Officer. "I also remain best friends with Dr. Race and the former cross country girls!"

Richard Wayne Stump II, '03, married Jocelyn Riebe

on October 3 at St. Andrew's Catholic Church. They now live in Chesterfield. Since 2007 he has worked for Carter Machinery, currently in a Product Support role working with 60 of Carter's largest customers in the Richmond area.





Larissa Matos Grant, '99, and her husband Darrin, who retired in 2014 after serving 20 years in the U.S. Army, remodeled a 25-ft RV into a tiny home for themselves and two-year-old son Efrain. "We sold or gave away most of our possessions and now we are full-time travelers!"

Kathryn Smith Bozic, '97, graduated from Roanoke College, moved to Atlanta and began an advertising career at *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. She then spent seven years at *The Washington Post* and recently moved with her family back to Atlanta where she is currently Sales Director for a tech start-up called Resonate. She met her husband, Dan, while living in

D.C., and welcomed their daughter, Anna Harper, on September 21, 2012. She enjoys keeping up with her classmates from RCS on Facebook and hopes to help plan a great 20th reunion in 2017.



The New York Cimes

U.S. ATTACK

HIJACKED JETS DESTROY TWIN TOWERS AND HIT PENTAGON IN DAY OF TERROR

### New York's Twin Towers and Roanoke's Two Hills

Margaret O'Connor, '66

IN A STRANGE, SAD WAY, the 9/11 terrorist attack on New York's World Trade Center brought journalism's highest honors to Roanoke Catholic alumna Margaret O'Connor, '66.

As photography editor for The New York Times that tragic day and the months that followed, O'Connor oversaw the photographers – and the selection of the photographs – that visually captured the attack and its aftermath both in New York and in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Under her stewardship, the newspaper's photography teams won two Pulitzer Prizes in 2002, as well as the 2002 Pictures of the Year Award for best use of pictures.

While the accolades for the photo coverage of the twin towers' destruction marked the crest of her career, it was a different "twinning" in Roanoke that formed

the foundation of O'Connor's life. In spring 2015 while in Roanoke for a sister's memorial service, O'Connor came to "The Hill" and stood in the shadows of St. Andrew's Catholic Church and Roanoke Catholic School. She looked across the Roanoke Valley to Mill Mountain, at the foot of which stands her childhood home.

"I felt like my whole life was between these two hills," she recalls. "I feel an important attachment to Roanoke."

After graduating Roanoke Catholic in 1966, she attended Sacred Heart Junior College in Belmont, N.C., then transferred her junior year to East Carolina University for its art school, where she earned a BFA degree.

In 1974 she moved to San Francisco and began freelancing for the San Francisco Examiner before joining the staff as an artist and designer. In 1984 she took advantage of an Examiner leave-of-absence policy to go to New York where she landed a job as a designer at *The Wall* Street Journal. Three months later she joined the art department of *The New* York Times as an art director and in

1998 was named director of the photography department.

Looking back a half-century later, O'Connor, now 67, says her 12 years at St. Andrew's Catholic School and Roanoke Catholic were vital in her development.

"I received individual attention and a confidence that allowed me to try to do anything within reason," she says. "I felt a certain courage and it enabled me to be a pioneer of sorts to

pursue some things I wanted to explore."

In 2004 she moved to Paris as part of a New York

Times team sent to revamp The International Herald Tribune newspaper, then returned to New York as the *Times* director of news design. In 2008 she retired and in 2014 moved back to California.

Now settled near Berkeley, O'Connor says she looks forward to returning to Roanoke in 2016 to celebrate her 50<sup>th</sup> reunion with her Roanoke Catholic classmates, many with whom she still stays in contact.

"I just like the whole small school experience where you make good friends that you keep for a long time," she says. "St. Andrews was our parish and my parents were devout churchgoers. My three siblings all went there and my teachers knew them because they had come before me ... it was a real family atmosphere because the church was intertwined with everything. The intimacy that came from that was pretty special. I don't think that happens too many places."

- Michael Hemphill

Photo Credits: Margaret O'Connor, by Michael Nagle. Tower "exploding" from the Pulitzer "Breaking News' portfolio, showing the final demise of the south tower of the World Trade Center, by Chang Lee, New York Times. Page 1 of New York Times, September 12, 2001.



"I received individual attention and a confidence that allowed me to try to do anything within reason. I felt a certain courage and it enabled me to be a pioneer of sorts to pursue some things I wanted to explore."

### **20 - ALUMNI UPDATES**

Pete Landry, '93, lives in Charlotte, N.C., with wife Jennifer and daughter Emma, who is in 8th Grade at Charlotte Latin School. He is a senior executive within the Life Insurance organization at Wells Fargo Advisors. He spends a lot of time involved with Emma's dance studio and routinely travels throughout North and South Carolina to competitions.

Stefanie Ramsey, '88, completed her doctorate in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies in May 2015 from Virginia Tech, and is currently an Instructional Specialist for Richmond Public Schools, overseeing K-12 Athletics and Health & Physical Education.





Sheri Hedge Carroll, '87, recently started her 10th year as an Exceptional Children Teacher Assistant. Her youngest son, Thomas, is a senior in high school and her oldest, Jake, is a freshman at Western Carolina University.

Pete Reilly, '84, graduated Dickinson College and moved to Philadelphia to start a career in the insurance business. After stints in Washington, D.C., Roanoke (where he married his wife, Vicki, with whom he recently celebrated their 25th anniversary), and Grand Rapids, Mich., he was transferred back to Philadelphia where he lives today. He has two children: son Gregory, a sophomore at Penn State Honors College; and daughter Sarah, who's planning to attend James Madison University on a lacrosse scholarship.

Diane V. Brogan, '73, earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology at Roanoke College in 1977 and earned an Master of Science in Administration of Justice at Radford University in 1989. She retired from the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice in 2002 after 26 years of service and has taught Sociology and Criminal Justice at Roanoke College since 1992, first as an adjunct, then since 2005 as a Senior Lecturer.

Anne Harmon Hogan, '71, of Hardy owns a private duty nursing company called Care N Home. Her children, Jennifer Buffey Cooley and Jonathan Buffey also graduated from Roanoke Catholic.



Carol Bush Saunders, '64, has been retired eight years and recently celebrated her fifth anniversary to husband Fred Saunders by traveling west to all the states she's never visited. She has a daughter, Lisa; son, Gary; three granddaughters and one grandson.

Michael Bentley, '64, recently presented a lecture on climate change and Pope Francis' *Laudato Si* encyclical at the Franciscan Center in Greensboro, N.C. He also led a workshop on "connecting children to nature," based on his 2014 book of the same name, at the Virginia Environmental Education Conference. A resident of Salem, he



taught eight years at Virginia Tech and retired from the University of Tennessee, but still teaches part time at Hollins University and volunteers as Education Associate at the Virginia Museum of Natural History.

**Dennis Sharpe, '63,** lives in Virginia Beach and retired May 31, 2014, after 46 years with Graybar Electric Co.

### **FRIENDS**

Josh Baumgartner, attended Roanoke Catholic from 1992-2000, and is vice president of public policy and strategic issues at the Roanoke Regional Chamber.

Prior to his role with the chamber, he worked in several political consulting roles in Washington, D.C., Richmond and Charleston, S.C. He holds a Master of Arts in political science from The Citadel Graduate College and a Bachelor of Arts in history from Hampden-Sydney College.



His sister, Allie Dominguez, is a 2009 graduate of RCS.

**Joanne Dooley Greeley**, of Seattle, Wash., passed away March 19, 2015, one month before her 80th birthday. She would have been a member of the Class of 1953, but her father's job relocated the family to New York in 1948.

**Theodore Woods** of Roanoke passed away August 12, 2015. He attended Our Lady of Nazareth and Roanoke Catholic through 10th grade in 1962.



On October 24-25, the Class of 1965 celebrated its 50th Reunion since graduating Roanoke Catholic School. We were thrilled to welcome back to "The Hill" nine members of the class for a tour. For most, this was the first time they'd set foot inside Roanoke Catholic since graduation. Below left, the class posed inside their senior year home room, Upper School Room 201. Below right, Pat Godlewski Oberlin left a message for today's students:

"Members of the class of 1965 were here!"

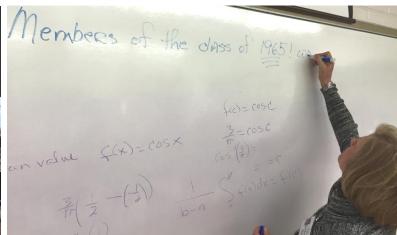
Above, from left: David Sharpe, Va. • Brian Davis, S.C. • Joe Riener, Va. • Kathy Brady Estes, Va. • Jim Hedrick, S.C.

Gwen Woody Naples, Va. • Jim Alouf, Va. • Marilyn Montano, Va. • David Meador, III.

Maureen Middlecamp Mason, Ohio • Pat McDonald, Va. • Sharon Hammersley Brammer, Va. • Jerry Guzi, Va.

Anna Marie Humphreys Richardson, Va. • Jan Skibinski, Va. • Pat Godlewski Oberlin, Va.





### Join in the planning for RCS Class of 1966's 50th Reunion

Planning has begun for the 50th Reunion festivities for the RCS Class of 1966, tentatively set for a weekend in September 2016.

Contact Susan Brickhouse for more information: brickhousesusan@yahoo.com.

### RCS exceeds \$250,000 in state tax credits contributions

Just 100 days into our fiscal year, Roanoke Catholic School has broken the \$250,000 mark in contributions raised under the state's Education Improvement Scholarships Tax Credits program, saving donors more than \$160,000 in state taxes while providing tuition assistance for families who desire a private school education for their children.



"This new funding source allows us to truly live out our mission as a Catholic school," says Principal and Head of School Patrick Patterson. "We are 'catholic' in its original meaning – universal and open to all regardless of income and background, who aspire to our standards of academic excellence, familial values, and faith in the Gospel."

In 2013, the General Assembly enacted the Education Improvement Scholarships Tax Credits (EISTC) program to provide financial assistance for families wishing to move their children out of the public school system. In addition to the standard federal and state tax deductions a donor can claim for a charitable gift, EISTC donations also qualify for Virginia tax credits equal to 65 percent of the donation. In other words, the credits alone allow donors to save \$650 on their Virginia tax bill for every \$1,000 they donate.

Since July 1, Roanoke Catholic has secured \$266,000 in EISTC gifts ranging from \$500 to \$100,000. Seventy new students have enrolled at Roanoke Catholic with EISTC assistance, in turn

saving the state about \$4,000 per pupil in expenses.

The Virginia Department of Education approved the Catholic Diocese of Richmond's McMahon Parater Foundation to receive donations under EISTC. The minimum donation allowed is \$500. The maximum amount for individuals is \$125,000 per year. There is no maximum for businesses.

### Testimonial from regional financial advisor about EISTC

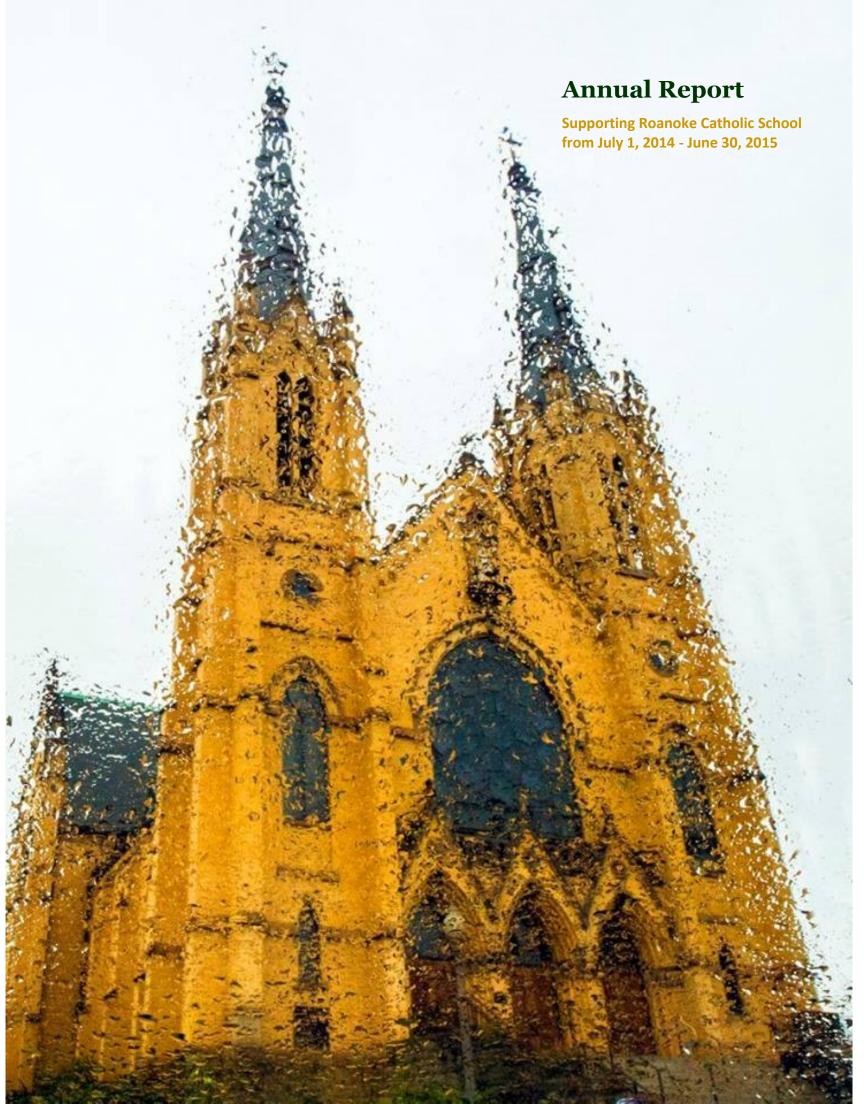
Pamela "Pam" D. Poldiak, CPA, CFP®, is a Founder and Senior Financial Planner at Partners in Financial Planning, LLC, a Southwest Virginia-based fee-only financial planning and investment management firm. She writes the following testimonial based on her experience working with Roanoke

Catholic's development team and the Education Improvement Scholarships Tax Credits (EISTC) program.

"I love the fact that the EISTC program allows my clients to help a charity and also help themselves at the same time. The tax benefits are fantastic, especially for those with high incomes. You can even make the donation using appreciated securities, increasing the tax benefit even more. Roanoke Catholic made the process super easy for both me and my clients. The EISTC program is a win-win for everyone. My client gets a tax benefit and the education program gets much needed funds.

"It almost sounds too good to be true, but luckily it's not. As long as the state still has funds available for the program as a whole, educational organizations can accept as many EISTC-eligible donations as they can use. Roanoke Catholic assured me that they will be able to put all EISTC-eligible donations to good use. They see a significant financial need among families who want to give their children a great education, but who can't afford to pay full tuition costs. They want to provide a quality education to as many families as possible, regardless of income level — and the EISTC program is helping to make that happen."

For more information, contact Debbie Stump,
Director of Major Gifts and Education Tax Credits,
<a href="mailto:dstump@roanokecatholic.com">dstump@roanokecatholic.com</a> | 540.982.3532



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### **OUR VISION**

Roanoke Catholic School is dedicated to excellence in education and to the spiritual development of youth within the framework of the Gospel and the tradition of the Catholic Church. Welcoming all faiths, we strive to instill in our students a lifelong commitment to learning, to Christian values, and to community service.

We are dedicated to achieving these goals in a supportive Christian community.

### **OUR MISSION**

The fundamental task of Roanoke Catholic School is the education of the whole person, blending learning with faith and faith with daily life.

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