

Pirates' Treasure

2018-2019 Brings New, Exciting Additions to St. Mary's High School

page 6

IN THIS ISSUE

ON CAMPUS

CLASS OF 2018

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

MARIAN AWARD

3 ALUMNI BASKETBALL TOURNEY

8 CLASS NOTES

10 DEVELOPMENT

11 1885 SOCIETY

12

13

14, 15

16

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ON THE COVER: In January, St. Mary's hosted its second Embrace: Vocations Day, during which Catholic middle and high school students from the Colorado Springs area learned about living out the vocation God has prepared for them.

The *Pirates' Treasure Magazine* is published twice a year. Letters, comments, and article submissions are always welcome. The SMHS Development Office may be contacted by mail at 2501 East Yampa St., Colorado Springs, CO 80909, by phone at 719-635-7540 ext. 38, or by email at development@smhscs.org.

Alumni notes and class notes may be emailed to Amy Partain at apartain@smhscs.org.

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From the President

Gratitude

Thank you. It is fitting to start this first communication with you with an expression of my profound gratitude for the opportunity to serve the remarkable students, parents, staff and community of St. Mary's.

Gratitude for Catholic education should be like yeast in the dough. The more fully integrated the yeast, the more the bread will rise. The deeper our gratitude for St. Mary's, the higher we will rise.

Although I am new to this position, my family is not new to St. Mary's. Michelle and I have been blessed with six children; two St. Mary's graduates, two current students, and two more on the way. Our oldest entered St. Mary's 12 years ago, our youngest will graduate in 12 years.

During the last 12 years I have had the privilege of serving St. Mary's as a board member and a coach. Those experiences were not only rewarding, they will be helpful as I strive to further integrate myself into this superb community.

Like millions of others, my own personal experiences with Catholic education changed the trajectory of my life. Furthermore, Michelle and I watched as Catholic education changed the trajectory of our children's lives. Whether it was home school, grade school, high school, or college; all our children have been educated exclusively in authentic Catholic environments. We fully grasp the faith, knowledge and community goodness that is Catholic education.

In past leadership roles in the military and non-profit worlds, I learned the value of listening. I have already heard from many in the St. Mary's community, and I expect to hear from more of you. One of the great strengths of our Catholic Faith is the understanding that each of us is important to all of us. Like each particle of yeast, each of us is a critical element of something bigger than ourselves. The more fully integrated each of you is in our community, the more likely it is that we will all succeed in becoming that which God calls us to be.

I invite you to engage with our vital institution, and I invite us all to drink deeply from the fountain of joy that will flow when we gratefully serve the St. Mary's community.



Respectfully,

Robert J. Rysavy II

Nigro Named New Athletic Director

This year St. Mary's welcomes Vincent Nigro as our new athletic director and AP Biology teacher. Mr. Nigro has most recently been a teacher of science, math, and social studies at St. Peter Catholic School in Monument. He also served as their athletic director from 2013 to 2017. Nigro has been teaching since 1996, after retiring from the Navy following 22 years of service. This will be his second stint with St. Mary's having served as the freshman and JV coach for baseball, softball, soccer and basketball from 2002-2006.



Students Recognized by Rotary

On May 7, the Rotary Champions Program honored 12 St. Mary's student athletes during the Rotary Champion Awards Ceremony held at the Pike Peaks Center. The program is a city-wide program, sponsored by Rotary International, that recognizes scholar-athletes from each sport and their accomplishments in their schools and communities. Students are selected based upon their academic, athletic and community service.

Forensics Duo Finishes 5th in State

Andrew Beaudoin '18 and Brennan Zill '18 broke into the quarterfinals in public forum debate at the Colorado State Speech and Debate Tournament in March, finishing fifth in the state in the event. Beaudoin and Zill also both received the National Speech and Debate Association's Academic All-American Award.



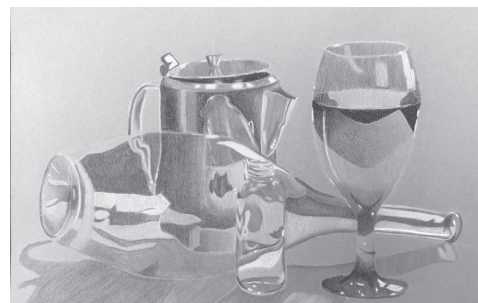
Andrew Beaudoin '18 and Brennan Zill '18 finished fifth in the Colorado State Speech and Debate Tournament in March.

Bradley Baker '18, along with Beaudoin and Zill, competed at the NSDA's national tournament this summer in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Beaudoin triple qualified in Extemporaneous Speaking, Congressional Debate,

and World Schools Debate. Zill qualified in Humorous Interpretation, Congressional Debate, and selected for World Schools Debate. Baker will attend Nationals in World Schools Debate.

Jumper Takes 1st in Art Contest

Audrey Jumper '21 received a first place award in 2D art for her charcoal still life drawing in the Tri-Peaks Student Art Show. Her artwork, as well as the work of other St. Mary's student artists, was on display in the Citadel Mall Imagination Celebration Space.



SMHS to Welcome 1st Hamilton Scholars

This spring St. Mary's offered three full-tuition scholarships for the 2018-2019 school year to deserving students who otherwise would not be able to afford a St. Mary's education. The Hamilton Scholar program was created from a proposal that Robert Delfeld '15 submitted to the St. Mary's Board of Directors. Delfeld named his scholarship proposal after Alexander Hamilton, who unable to afford education, was sponsored through school and went on to be instrumental in the founding of the United States.

New student applicants who met the criteria for the state free and reduced lunch program were considered for the scholarships based on academic performance and potential. Finalists had to complete an essay and an in-person interview prior to final selection.

Baseball Team Visits Denver Children's Hospital During Spring Road Trip

Faith inspires St. Mary's students to reach out to those around them. On April 12, the Pirate baseball team drove north for their game with Eaton and stopped off at the Children's Hospital Colorado in Aurora to visit with some of the younger patients there. Coach Bill Percy said the Pirate baseball players, coaches and patients enjoyed the time together. The team also visited patients at the hospital in 2017. Thanks to St. Mary's alumnae Maddie Miller '10 for helping to make this visit happen.

On Campus

10 Japanese Students Learn about PLTW During Week-Long Visit in March

Ten students from Japan spent the week of March 12-16 at St. Mary's to learn about the school and our Project Lead the Way engineering curriculum. During the week, the girls participated in a variety of classes and attended St. Mary's sporting events and toured local areas of interest. Thanks to all who helped make the girls' week a great one. A special thanks goes out to the five families who hosted the girls for the week.



Hikari and Nanako were pleased with the Rube Goldberg project they made in Suzanne Tibbitts' physics class during their visit.



Community service is a big part of life at St. Mary's. In the spring, several St. Mary's clubs came together to support an Easter basket project. The Campus Ministers filled more than 100 baskets that were delivered to area children.

Campus Groups Spread Easter Joy

Easter was filled with goodies for clients of Partners in Housing, thanks to the Christ-like service of students at St. Mary's High School. Our SMHS Campus Ministers put together 109 Easter baskets using items that were gathered through a joint effort between several St. Mary's clubs, including YPC, Senate, Campus Ministry, National Honor Society, and National Art Honor Society. The Campus Ministers are shown here with the finished baskets. It was one of many service projects performed during the year.



Bradley Baker '18 received the first scholarship awarded by St. Mary's Project Lead the Way engineering program. The scholarship was awarded by teacher Mike Kloenne during the May awards ceremony.

Baker Receives 1st PLTW Scholarship

This spring Bradley Baker '18 received the first Project Lead the Way STEM scholarship presented by St. Mary's. Presenting the scholarship at the May awards ceremony was PLTW teacher Michael Kloenne. During the 2017-2018 school year, St. Mary's added its fourth and final PLTW class and seniors presented their first capstone projects in May before a panel of local STEM experts.



Gala auction winners joined members of the St. Mary's competitive shooting team in July for a demonstration.

Competitive Shooting Team Hosts Gala Auction Winners for Demonstration, Dinner

In early July, the St. Mary's competitive shooting team hosted the gala auction winners from area events as a way to share information about the new team. Participants included St. Mary's alumni or past board members. Winners shot 100 rounds with members of the competitive shooting team and coaches worked with them, then the team provided guest with burgers, brats, potato salad, chips, watermelon and cookies. St. Mary's President Rob Rysavy was in attendance, and offered the prayer.

Sports Highlights from 2017-2018

Baseball

The baseball Pirates was finished stronger than it started. Once again the Pirates had one of the strongest schedules in all of 3A Baseball. They finished third in the very competitive Tri Peaks East. The Pirates won six of their last seven games. They played a tough playoff game against no. 1 seed Alamosa but came up just short. They finished with a 9-11 record.

Basketball, Boys

The varsity boys basketball team finished third in the Tri Peaks League, with a league record of 8-3 and an overall record of 11-13. The Pirates made the state playoffs as a no. 29 seed and upset no. 4 Platte Valley by the score of 57-53 to advance to the Sweet 16, where they lost to Colorado Academy 62-57.

Basketball, Girls

The girls basketball team won the Colorado 3A state championship, Tri Peaks league championship, and a Regional Championship. Three players earned all state recognition, including [Makenna Bodette '18](#), who was named 3A player of the year. The team finished 26-1 setting a new school record for wins.

Cheer

In December, our Pirate co-ed cheer squad won its third consecutive 2A/3A state championship. It is only the second time in school history that a Pirate team has captured three consecutive state titles. In the fall, Mia Johnson will take over as coach of the team.

Competitive Shooting

In July, St. Mary's High School competitive shooting team competed in Scholastic Clay Target Program National Competition held in Marengo, Ohio. [Kaden Westfall '20](#) finished first in the seniors/JV division of the handicap competition. St. Mary's five-person squad placed second in the seniors/JV division in BOTH handicap and doubles competitions. The team also placed first in all three disciplines—trap, skeet and sporting clays—at the SCTP 2018 State American Trap, Skeet & Sporting Championships in June.

Cross Country

Almost every runner on the team set a new personal record, and the whole girls team and one member of the boys team qualified for state. For the 2018-2019 season, the team will compete at the 2A level.

Golf, Boys

With two-time state qualifiers [Stephen Sabish '18](#) and [Jack Velten '18](#) graduating, there is an experience vacuum on the golf team for the 2018-2019 season. But [Peter Stinar '21](#) is eager to build on his freshmen success as St. Mary's best finisher at the 2017 state tournament.

Soccer, Boys

The boys soccer team finished the 2017 season with a 10-7 record and a no. 13 seed in the 3A Colorado State Tournament. St. Mary's picked up an exciting 2-1 win in the round of 32 against Eagle Ridge Academy before falling 1-0 in overtime against Salida in the round of 16.

Soccer, Girls

The girls soccer team was Region 1 champion again in 2018, the eighth straight league championship and 12th in the last 16 years. Finishing 12-4-1, St. Mary's defeated Bayfield in the first round of the state tournament before losing in the round of 16 to rival Manitou Springs.

Softball

The softball team qualified for the state tournament for the first time in 11 years, and coach Dave Hyland was named Gazette Preps Softball Coach of the Year. The team looks strong for 2018 after graduating only one.

Swimming and Diving

The swim team is looking forward to another fantastic season in 2018-2019, with a young team that includes 50-free state champion [Caitlin Cairns '20](#). The team lost only two seniors, including [Retta Smith '18](#), the reigning state silver medalist in diving.

Track and Field

The track and field team qualified 16 student-athletes for the 2A state meet in 2018. The girls 4x800 meter relay team finished second in the state shattering the school record by 40 seconds.

Volleyball

The volleyball team reached its team goal of making it to regionals, where the Pirates knocked off the higher seed on their home court. All three teams—varsity, junior varsity, and C squad—showed growth and improvement as the season progressed, with varsity peaking at the right time to make it to the regional tournament.

Read more at www.smhscs.org and watch for live streams of games during the 2018-2019 school year.

Educating Whole Student

New, Returning Electives & Programs make for exciting 2018-2019

The 2018-2019 school year is bringing some fun, new, or returning, courses to the line-up at St. Mary's High School. These offerings include several fine arts courses and the return of French. Offering fun and informative electives is all part of St. Mary's mission to educate the whole student.

Anna Sanzo, academic dean, said while St. Mary's college preparatory curriculum provides a deliberate academic experience, electives provide students opportunities to explore new interests or indulge in passions they already have.

"Our electives provide a balance to our rigorous academics," Sanzo said. "Electives allow St. Mary's to enhance its overall program and encourage students to grow through new opportunities."

In the coming year, students interested in the fine arts will have several new offerings including ceramics, drawing, and painting. Two sections of French will also be offered.

"Each year we must weigh the number of students interested with the resources we have," Sanzo said. "If we do not have enough students signed up for a class, that class is canceled for that school year, and will be re-evaluated to see if there



photo: The Gazette, Jerilee Bennett

Juniors and seniors dissected sharks during a November lab in Al Hartzell's microbiology course.

is renewed interest the following school year. This coming year we are fortunate to be able to take advantage of having teachers who are available to bring these electives to our students."

Also returning next year are three science electives—microbiology, marine science, and nuclear chemistry—that were added for the 2017-

2018 year and have been extremely popular with the students. Nora Frederick, who taught her specialty microbiology, was pleased with how her students progressed in this hands-on, laboratory-oriented class.

"This course has a college atmosphere to it because my students do all of the preparation and perform the experiments individually,"

Frederick said. “I supervise, but they don’t need me to hold their hands in the lab, which allows them to grow in technique and knowledge. Each student is responsible for their own learning and they are all excelling and enjoying the course.”

Another elective offering is the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) engineering curriculum, which is now fully implemented. PLTW courses offer students four years of electives that explore various forms of engineering including computer science. To provide even more opportunities to its students, St. Mary’s offers E-Dynamics online courses that allow students to study highly specialized courses such as culinary arts, hotel management and sign language.

“It’s wonderful that we can offer courses that are somewhat of a novelty, something different, that allow our students to explore subjects they are curious about,” Sanzo said. “Exploration of these more specialized courses is great experience for college and for considering career choices.”

Other Programs

In 2017-2018, St. Mary’s introduced its Hamilton Scholar program, which was motivated by a proposal from [Robert Delfeld ’15](#). The Hamilton Scholars program will return for the 2019-2020 school year. Consideration for the Hamilton Scholars program occurs as part of the St. Mary’s application process.

New student applicants who meet the criteria for the state free and reduced lunch program will again be considered for the scholarships based on academic performance and potential. Finalists had to complete an essay and an in-person interview prior to final selection.

Three new athletic programs were also introduced in 2017-2018. In the fall, St. Mary’s became the first high school in Colorado to have a competitive shooting team. The team, sanctioned by Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP), gives all students an equal chance to compete and letter in a sport for the Pirates.

Boys volleyball started in March as a club sport and in April three students competed at the USA Triathlon High School National Championships in Tuscaloosa, Ala. St. Mary’s is the first high school triathlon team in Colorado Springs.

All three sports should return in 2018-2019, with boys volleyball and triathlon returning as club sports. ●

Rysavy Named Next SMHS President

On July 1, Rob Rysavy assumed the role of president of St. Mary’s High School. Rysavy first became a part of the St. Mary’s High School family 12 years ago when his oldest daughter, Alex, entered the school as a freshman. Over the years he has served the St. Mary’s community in many ways, including coach and as a member of the board of directors.

Rysavy comes to St. Mary’s with more than 25 years of leadership experience, most recently as president and CEO of the Vitae Foundation in Jefferson City, Mo. Rysavy is a retired Air Force colonel and a U.S. Air Force Academy graduate. At the Vitae Foundation, a \$3.4M 501(c)(3) non-profit, Rysavy led a 30-member team responsible for all aspects of the foundation including extensive fundraising efforts.

Rysavy and his wife, Michelle, have six children. In the fall, the Rysavy family’s fourth child, Elizabeth, will enter St. Mary’s High School as a freshman. Their daughter Alex graduated in 2010 and son Robert graduated in 2012. In the fall of 2018, their son Mark will be a junior. The plans are for the Rysavy’s youngest two children—Mary and Katharine—to follow in their siblings footsteps as members of the classes of 2024 and 2030, respectively.

“It is a tremendous privilege to be asked to lead an institution with the history and tradition of St. Mary’s,” Rysavy said. “I am deeply impressed by my own experiences with the St. Mary’s family. We have certainly experienced academic and extracurricular successes in our time at St. Mary’s, but what is vastly more important to us is the spiritual, the whole person, benefits we have seen in our children and in the children of so many other St. Mary’s families. St. Mary’s has fostered a deeper, more authentic practice and appreciation of our Catholic faith.”



all photos this spread: Diane Torrence

Incredible '18

Next year the class of 2018 will represent St. Mary's from coast to coast and even into Canada

It seemed fitting that the St. Mary's High School class of 2018 would graduate on the first observation of the liturgical celebration, B. Mariæ Virginis, Ecclesiæ Matris, a memorial celebration devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary as the Mother of the Church. Pope Francis decreed that the ancient devotion be celebrated annually on the day after Pentecost. This year that was May 21, commencement day for St. Mary's.

Mary and her role as Mother of the Church was the focus of Bishop Michael Sheridan's homily at baccalaureate Mass. On the day of Pentecost he said Mary was gathered with the apostles in the upper room, praying for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Even today, he said, she is interceding in prayer for us.

"At the wedding in Cana, Mary told them to 'do whatever he tells you' and Mary also reminds us of what Jesus wants us to do," he said.

While it was an important reminder as the seniors go out into the world, Sheridan said they are equipped for the challenges ahead.

"Your Catholic education has informed you well of what God wants you to do," he said.

Of the 60 graduates in the class, 51 percent will attend college or serve in the military outside of Colorado. Together they earned \$7.9 million in merit scholarships.

Commencement speaker **Kevin Murphy '79** encouraged the graduates to carefully consider the choices they make because they will have consequences for the future.

"Life will be hard at times and

you may face challenges in your life," Murphy said. "Whatever I have faced in life, my faith has helped me through those difficult times and has taught me to not be so impulsive about my decisions."

Valedictorian **Halle Smith** said St. Mary's has prepared the seniors for the challenges that are ahead.

"I encourage my classmates to hold tight to the memories made in the Cove, to the lessons learned from Champ, and to the faith which St. Mary's has instilled in us," Smith said. "After all St. Mary's did teach us freshman year to not take life too seriously, while sophomore year taught us to always be prepared. Junior year taught us to keep persevering even when times are tough, and senior year taught us that St. Mary's will always be our home." ●

Class of 2018 Student Leaders



Valedictorian Halle Smith and salutatorian Andrew Beaudoin



Senior Senate officers were, from left: Faith Heery, treasurer; Juliana Menichiello, vice president; Chelsea Greenway, president; Stephen Sabish, secretary.



Senior class officers were, from left: Retta Smith, secretary; Grace Klein, treasurer; Brayden Adams, president; Eric Jumper, Senate adviser; and Jack Velten, vice president.



Prom King and Queen were Jose Barrera and Hannah McReavy.

Brayden Arthur Adams

Creighton University

Bradley Robert Baker

University of Colorado – Colorado Springs

José Antonio Barrera

University of Colorado – Colorado Springs

Andrew James Beaudoin

University of Michigan

David Joseph Bentley

University of Colorado – Colorado Springs

Parker Christopher Bock

Metropolitan State University of Denver

Makenna Grace Bodette

Adams State University

Haley Rose Bohannon

Wheaton College (Illinois)

McKenzie Elaine Boyer

Pikes Peak Community College

Mia Nicole Bukowski

University of Colorado – Colorado Springs

Sydney Rae Burtwistle

Pikes Peak Community College

Seth Allen Chambless

University of Colorado – Colorado Springs

Patrick Ryan Clemons

University of Colorado – Colorado Springs

Mary Lee Cummings

Benedictine College

Matthew John Depner

Washburn University of Topeka

Evan Anthony Dyches

San Diego State University

Tyler Joseph Englert

Colorado Mesa University

Joseph Gabriel Font

University of Colorado – Colorado Springs

Alexander Cullen Garduno

University of Colorado – Colorado Springs

Michael Lawrence Ghigleri

Montana State University – Bozeman

Elizabeth Claire Gibson

Franciscan University of Steubenville

Charles Anthony Gloumeau

University of Victoria – Canada

Royce William Gloumeau

Simon Fraser University – Canada

Chelsea Rae Greenway

Creighton University

Draven Parker Hackley

McCook Community College

Matthew Kenneth Haines

Central Christian College of Kansas

Faith Elizabeth Heery

Villanova University

Sean William Hiramatsu

University of Oregon

Theresia Lucia Huber

University of Colorado – Colorado Springs

Eric John Jumper III

University of Denver

Grace Catherine Klein

Loyola University – Chicago

Bradley Austin Kurtz

Arizona State University

Alexandria Katherine Lavezzi

Colorado Mesa University

Danielle Lillianne Loftis

Pikes Peak Community College

Jessica Elise Martin-Wegryn

University of Northern Colorado

Courtney Lynn Martinez

University of Colorado – Colorado Springs

Briana Albina McKamie

University of Colorado – Colorado Springs

Hannah Marie McReavy

Providence College

Juliana Vera Menichiello

St. Louis University

Nathan Grey Miltko

U.S. Navy

Ana Frances Muehlbauer

Colorado Christian University

Michael Albert Ott

University of Colorado – Colorado Springs

Jonathan LaPorte Padrnos

Gonzaga University

Alexandra Mary Christina Paglia

Regis University – Denver

Matthew Andrew Priddy

Metropolitan State University of Denver

Camden Michael Raedel

Colorado Mesa University

Mason Lloyd Ripple

University of Colorado – Colorado Springs

Stephen James Sabish

Gonzaga University

Rachael Marie Saghi

University of Mary – North Dakota

Marisa Kei Shigio

Colorado School of Mines

Thomas MyungEun Shin

Creighton University

Sydney Anneliese Silver

Illinois Institute of Technology

Halle Conway Smith

Gonzaga University

Retta Katlyn Smith

High Point University

Gavin Tate Sturtevant

Colorado Mesa University

Tara Grace Thomas

Colorado Mesa University

John Carl Velten

University of Oklahoma

Emily Brooke Wilcox

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

Brennan Michael Zill

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Damien Robert Zuniga

Chadron State College

Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2017 Includes 3 Athletes, 3 Teams

In October 2017, three athletes were inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame and three track teams were honored with Exemplary Sports Team Enshrinement. The contributions of the 2017 Hall of Fame class span 55 years.

Joe Morales '12, who is currently in medical school, was a four-year varsity starter during his soccer career at St. Mary's, which resulted in him being a four-time, first-team, all-league selection. He said the relationships he had during his high school career provided some of his best memories. Morales credits his time at St. Mary's High School with helping him achieve his goals.

"Attending and playing at St. Mary's has been such an integral part of who I am today," he said. "The education I received and support allowed me to pursue a Division I soccer scholarship and achieve many of my personal goals from both an academic and athletic perspective. I love SMHS and will always remember my great experiences as a student and athlete."

Softball inductee Dr. Caitlin Jacowski '05 was all-everything her senior year when she struck out 188 batters in just 144 innings and posted a 0.53 earned run average. She, too, said that St. Mary's was instrumental in helping shape who she is today.

"I think St. Mary's and softball both instilled in me a hard work ethic and fortitude. In school and softball you have days that are hard, that require more patience than others and require you to push through and continue to put in the hard work needed to achieve your goals," Jacowski said. "I have used these skills often while getting my degree at Notre Dame, completing medical school at Creighton and continue to use them now during my medical training."



photo: Diane Torrence

The Athletic Hall of Fame inductees and teams honored with Exemplary Sports Team Enshrinement were recognized during halftime of the Pirates football game on Saturday, Oct. 28.

Posthumous inductee Jim Kelly '57 was known as "Killer Kelly" during his SMHS career because of his spot-on outside shot. Kelly stood only 5-feet, 6-inches tall, but had a big heart. In his senior season, Kelly had games during which he scored 31 and 37 points. At the end of the 1956-1957 year, Kelly was named first-team, all-city; it was the first year that the all-city team was chosen. Bob Kelly, Jim's brother, remembered Jim frustrating his opponents during a game against rival Manitou Springs.

"St. Mary's spent almost the whole half just dribbling around. My brother was a big dribbler," Bob Kelly said.

In addition to the four individual inductees, three St. Mary's track and field teams—1965, 1966, and 1967—were added to the Exemplary Sports Team Enshrinement. During these three years, St. Mary's beat out 19 other private schools to win the state private school championships. It is for this reason that the three teams are being inducted together.

The Athletic Hall of Fame will take a break from inducting a new class of honorees during the 2018-2019 year, but will continue honoring Pirate athletes in the 2019-2020 school year. ●

Biondini '66 Receives 2017 Marian Award

When Mike Biondini '66 retired from the Widefield School District after 31 years, he wasn't sure what interests he would pursue. He was working toward joining an investment group when he heard that St. Mary's High School had a counselor position open. Interested in the possibility of returning to his alma mater, Biondini applied for the position and returned to St. Mary's. Fifteen years later, Biondini continues to serve the families of St. Mary's High School and last fall that service was honored when Biondini was presented the school's Marian Award.

The award, which has been given annually since 2001, is presented by the St. Mary's High School Board of Directors in recognition of unselfish service to others and outstanding contributions to the community.

Biondini said he is humbled by the recognition. "I'm in awe of this really," he said. "It's very special to get recognition for doing something that you really love. St. Mary's is a special place and the reason we're here is never lost on me for an instant."

Admittedly when Biondini returned to St. Mary's in June 2002, he never dreamed that a decade and a half later he would still be at the school. His original thought was that he would be at St. Mary's for a year or two and then move. But as the years passed, Biondini seized

new opportunities at St. Mary's, including assistant principal, golf coach for both the boys and girls teams, principal, and director of Counseling Services.

"For me it's always been about the kids," Biondini said. "As a student at St. Mary's, I had a great experience that prepared me well for the future. St. Mary's is providing a needed service to the community and filling a necessary niche."

While his time at St. Mary's has lasted longer than he originally planned, Biondini said he has never dreaded having to go to the St. Mary's campus.

"I dearly love doing what I do," Biondini said. "I have been fortunate to be able to step in and do what needs to be done. Things grow and prosper when people do what needs to be done and do it with a positive attitude. For me, serving St. Mary's has never been a job; it's been a blessing."

Part of that blessing for Biondini has been seeing his own faith grow. Biondini said working in education has taught him that students pay more attention to what you do than what you say. Students are always watching, he said, even when adults might not be expecting them to. That realization has led him to live out his faith in deliberate ways.

"For me faith is the way you treat people, how you interact with others and how you give," he said. "My faith is how I conduct my life on a



photo: Diane Torrence

Mike Biondini '66, with Bishop Michael Sheridan and Biondini's wife, Patty, was honored with St. Mary's Marian Award in November 2017.

daily basis. Teaching by example is important. I try in every way to live my faith and let the kids watch."

That is a trait that is reflected in the list of past Marian Award recipients. When he looks over the list, Biondini said he feels honored to be included, especially among so many people whom he has known and admired for so many years. Past recipients include: Leo Smentowski, class of 1954; Bambi Venetucci; Betty Faricy, class of 1970; and Colorado Springs Mayor John Suthers, also class of 1970.

"It is quite a distinguished group of people," Biondini said. "I'm in awe of the people who come forward to support St. Mary's."

For a complete list of past Marian Award winners, see page 14. ●

30 Compete at Alumni Basketball Tourney

On March 24, approximately 30 alumni took to the hardwood in our 17th annual Alumni Basketball Tournament, with a couple dozen family, friends, and supporters cheering from the stands! The finals for both the Open Division and the Recreational Division came down to game-winning three-pointers and provided a thrilling culmination to this year's tournament.

This year, for the first time, the final game in the Open Division was livestreamed to the St. Mary's Facebook page. The game is still available to watch. Go to www.facebook.com/SMHSColorado/videos and scroll down to the Alumni Basketball Game video.

Team KDO—Mike McGinnis '03, Chris McGinnis '98, Tommy Darneal '99, Andy Lorentz '97, and Jason Ingram '98—won the Open Division. Lorentz missed playing in the final game after sustaining an injury in the semifinal game.

The Gonzlows team—Matt Gonzales '08, Jacob Gonzales '17, Emily Gonzales '10, David VanGamplore '17, and Josh Whitelaw '08—rallied to win the Recreational Division.

You can see all of the photos from this year's Alumni Basketball Tournament on the event's web page at <https://www.facebook.com/SMHSALUMNIBBALL/>.



Bruce Hartley of open division Team GBC Lunch Loungers shoots as teammates Greg Miranda '94, far left, and Chris Schaibley '00, far right, look on and Anthony Pagano '11 of Team Cristelli blocks. Also pictured are Team Cristelli team members Rene Vizcarra '07 and Michael Garcia '07. (Not pictured Johnny Thomas '08.)

Again this year Ozzie Grenardo '91 headed up the planning committee to organize the event. Our 18th Alumni Basketball Tournament will be April 13. Visit www.smhscs.org/alumni/events/alumni-basketball/ for more information as the date approaches.

If football is more your sport, this year's flag football tournament will be held on

Oct. 6 as part of the Homecoming activities. The Homecoming game is Oct. 5. More information will be forthcoming, but you can stay up-to-date on the latest by checking out the event web page at www.smhscs.org/alumni-association/events/alumni-flag-football/ or following the event Facebook page at www.facebook.com/SMHSColoradoAlumniFlagFootball/. ●



Team KDO won 22-20 over Team Cristella in the open division! Team KDO are, from left to right: Chris McGinnis '98, Mike McGinnis '03, Andy Lorentz '97, Tommy Darneal '99, and Jason Ingram '98.



Team Gonzlows just won the recreational division of the 17th annual Alumni Basketball Tournament. They are, left to right: David VanGamplore '17, Jacob Gonzales '17, Emily Gonzales '10, Matthew Gonzales '08, and Josh Whitelaw '08.

Three St. Mary's alumnae— **Diana Huber '81**, **Kelsey Burkett '03**, and **Christina Whitelaw '10**—earned all-time greatest Colorado Springs player honors in March from *The Gazette*. Gazette Preps staffers oversaw the creation of a voting committee that brought a combined 176 years of coaching at the high school level to make the selections. We're proud that our Lady Pirates were well-represented!

Before the girls basketball Final 4 game in March, a few Denver-area alumni showed their Pirate pride as they gathered with some faculty and staff for pizza before the game. Pictured are: **Dick Bonelli '51** and his wife, Mary; **Natalie Godec '17**, **Sydney Ballweber '17**, **Maggie Hartman '16**, and **Dr. Suzanne Wheeler**, who both attended and taught at St. Mary's.



In May, 25 St. Mary's alumni from the 1950s, 1960s, and even one from the 1940s, gathered on the St. Mary's campus for our 2018 Alumni Luncheon. It was a chance for our Pirate alums to catch up with each other and reminisce about their St. Mary's days. The next luncheon for this group of alumni is scheduled for Sept. 26.

.....1970-1979.....

In November 2017, **Mary Ernster '74** wrapped up a stint on Broadway with the musical *War Paint*, which closed on Nov. 5. Ernster has spent 30-plus years in theater and is pictured here in *War Paint* in the role of Mrs. Trowbridge-Phelps (left) with Christine Ebersole (right).



photo courtesy Mary Ernster

.....1990-1999.....

Last summer **Sarah Bryarly '97** left her job as a landscape architect with the Colorado Springs Parks Department but not before overseeing construction of John Venezia Community Park. One unique feature of the park is "The Corral," a universally accessible playground that includes a slide made to control static levels so kids with cochlear implants can use it.

.....2000-2009.....

While on their honeymoon to Europe, newlyweds **Michael Garcia '07** and his wife, Theresa, had their marriage blessed by Pope Francis during his first Papal Audience of the new year on Jan. 3, 2018.



Rachel Marie Cinlemis '09 graduated May 25 from Western University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific in Pomona, Calif. Dr. Cinlemis will complete her three-year residency in pediatrics at Wright-Patterson AFB and Dayton Children's Hospital in Ohio. Rachel is active duty in the United States Air Force and was promoted to captain on May 23.



.....2010-2018.....

Patrick Calhoun '15 spent several weeks in Tanzania, Africa, as part of a medical team to perform a range of eye-related surgeries and treatment. The team operated from the University of Dodoma Hospital and performed more than 500 surgeries in five days. "I thank God for giving me the opportunity to do this. If I learned anything from this trip it is that in order to make change in the world we have to first, as individuals, allow Christ to change us."

Rachel Craft '15 has been named to the KCAC Scholar Athlete for women's soccer. Rachel attends Bethel College in Newton, Kansas. She will be a senior this fall.

Ben Stockelman '16 and **Josh Fowler '16**, who both now attend Gonzaga University, studied abroad last year with Ben in Germany and Josh in China.

In November 2017 **Dylan Tait '16** received the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Summit Award, which is given to the athlete with the highest GPA. Tait, who just finished his sophomore year at Colorado Mesa University, had a 4.0 GPA. You can see interview with Dylan at the end of this link: www.kjct8.com/video?vid=457850213

.....In Memoriam.....

The St. Mary's High School community mourned the loss of Don Nutter, who passed away November 19, 2017. The stadium field at The Grace Center for Athletics and Community Service is named in honor of Don and his wife, Jan.

Marian Award Recipients

2001

Leo Smentowski '54

2002

Father Rawley Myers

2003

Andrew Middlemist

2004

Leonard L. Buresh

2005

Betty Elliott Faricy '70

2006

John D. McCord

2007

Bambi Venetucci

2008

Don Mersman '71

2009

Thomas S. Kelly

2010

Bishop Richard C. Hanifen

2011

Chuck Murphy '54

2012

Leroy Hoelting

2013

Father Bill Carmody

2014

Jack and Bernadette
Johnston

2015

Nick and Margaret Colarelli

2016

John Suthers '70

2017

Mike Biondini '66

Development



photo: Diane Torrence

The foursome of (from left to right) Grant Smith, Marty Smith, Terry Madden, and Rich Nagl took top honors at St. Mary's 41st Annual Golf Classic took place at Kissing Camels Golf Course on Monday, Sept. 18.

Annual Tournament Mingles Fun, Fellowship, Fundraising

St. Mary's High School is a family united by community. Each year the school's Golf Classic provides a way to renew relationships, while supporting current and future Pirates.

The 41st annual Golf Classic, held in September 2017, raised almost \$20,000 for the SMHS Tuition Assistance Program. The 2017 event honored Roy Clennan for his long-term support and major sponsorship of the event.

The 42nd annual Golf Classic is set for Sept. 17, 2018, at the Kissing Camels Golf Club. Sign-in begins at 11:30 am and the day concludes

with dinner starting at 5 pm at the Garden of the Gods Club. Mortgage Solutions Financial is once again the title sponsor of the event, and Murphy Constructors will again sponsor the dinner. This year Chuck Murphy will be honored for his support of St. Mary's and the Golf Classic.

The Golf Classic provides lots of ways to get involved from playing to sponsorship to volunteering. Volunteering at the Golf Classic counts toward parent service hours for SMHS parents. Online registration and sponsorship information is available at www.smhscs.org/golfclassic/. ●

In Grateful
Acknowledgment
of the 41st Annual
Golf Classic Supporters

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Dinner Sponsor
Murphy Constructors
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2017 Winners

1st Place Team:
Rich Nagl
Terry Madden
Marty Smith
Garrett Smith '06

2017 Team Sponsors
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Madden Family
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Torrence Family
Tracy Family

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Gala Raises More Than \$130,000

A new venue and a glamorous theme brought out St. Mary's supporters in April for the 2018 Annual Gala. This year the event with its Hollywood theme "Lights, Camera, Auction" was held at the Cheyenne Mountain Resort.

The evening was filled with the much anticipated Gala events of the silent and live auctions, the wine pull, and the Dessert Dash. Added this year in support of the Hollywood theme was an appearance by Karolyn Grimes, who played Zuzu Bailey in the classic movie "It's a Wonderful Life." Grimes has been a supporter of Catholic education and credits her faith with helping her to thrive even when facing the most difficult of circumstances.

Gala attendees were also introduced to St. Mary's new president, Rob Rysavy. Rysavy said he was interested in the position because of the role that Catholic education has played in his life and the lives of his children.

"Catholic education changed the trajectory of my life," he said. "St. Mary's needs your generosity and know that when you contribute you are part of that life-changing presence in a real way."

The 2018 Gala grossed more than \$130,000 for St. Mary's. This year's Gift from the Heart special appeal raised a little more than \$50,000 in support



Each year the live auction at the Gala provides for fun competition as supporters raise funds for SMHS.

of teacher and student enrichment programs.

Emma Creech '19 and Kylie Barta '19 spoke before the Gift from the Heart Appeal, detailing the needs that would be addressed by the appeal. Barta noted that generosity of St. Mary's is being passed on.

"Our students give generously to Penny Wars, food drives, and baby drives," she said. "All of the generosity shown by our students comes from your example."

Outside the venue, St. Mary's displayed its newly-acquired and painted van with new graphics package, which was the focus of last year's Gift from the Heart appeal. ●

ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL ANNUAL FUND

The Annual Fund at St. Mary's High School is the endorsement of the school's mission by people who value the importance of affordable Catholic, college preparatory education for Southern Colorado.

The Annual Fund supports all facets of student life at St. Mary's, from academics to athletics to the arts. Your Annual Fund gift will make a difference in the lives of current students and will honor our rich tradition, helping secure the future for generations.

Make your gift today by giving online at www.smhscs.org or using the remittance envelopes that are received throughout the year as part of the Annual Fund letters.

A Catholic College-Prep Family since 1885
For more information about the Annual Fund, visit www.smhscs.org or contact the Development Office at development@smhscs.org or 719-635-7540.

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Save the Date

Sept. 17 Golf Classic
Oct. 5 Homecoming
Oct. 6 Alumni Flag Football Tournament
Nov. 1 Marian Award All-School Mass
Dec. 7 Mass of the Immaculate Conceptions and Grandparents Mass
Dec. 26 Alumni Social
April 13 Alumni Basketball Tournament

The 1885 Society Needs Your Legacy Help!

What is the 1885 Society?

The 1885 Society is a recognition of the St. Mary's Catholic Education Foundation (SMCEF, a 501c3 non-profit organization) given to benefactors who have remembered St. Mary's High School (SMHS) in their Estate Plan and/or have made a sustaining gift to the Foundation.

Why 1885 Society Needs Your Legacy Help.

Until recently in SMHS's 130 year history, our beloved high school had never sought an endowment to provide for tuition assistance for our students. Like most Catholic schools, SMHS had always depended on the Lord to provide through Diocesan and Parish Budgets, annual fundraising, and modest tuition. With the virtual elimination of Teaching Orders in our Church, and with the rise of State sponsored Charter schools (Government money used to open specialty public high schools competing with private high schools) tuition has increased, putting our students' families in greater need for tuition assistance in order to attend our Diocese's only Catholic high school.

What Can You Do for the 1885 Society?

By remembering SMHS in your Estate Plan with a gift of assets, you can craft a life-changing legacy that will impact St. Mary's, Catholic education, and deserving students long beyond your lifespan.

How Can I Get Started and Help SMHS through the 1885 Society?

SIMPLE, Just call St. Mary's High School Development Office at 719-635-7540, ext. 38, and let them know you'd like to speak with the Foundation Board President, and I will call you back to discuss your desire to help our beloved St. Mary's High School!

Thank you for your help!

Mick Pepper, President
Susan Ross, Member

Randy Cloud, Secretary
Dr. George Ulrich, Member

Mackenzie Barta '13, Treasurer
John Stinar, Legal Counsel



St. Mary's High School

Address Corrections

Your address is important to us! Please send your address and e-mail changes to St. Mary's High School by e-mail to development@smhscs.org, so we can send publications to you in a timely manner. Thanks for your help!