

Remember When?



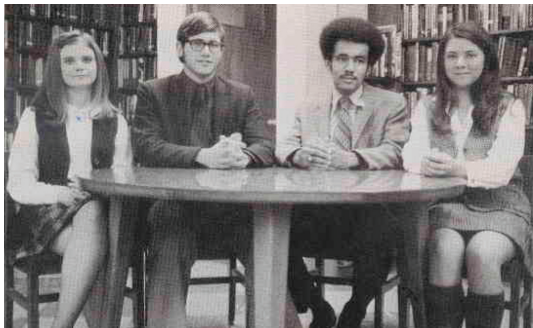
1950 Girls' Basketball Team



1963 Typing Class



1980 Carousal



1971 Senior Class Officers



Roanoke Catholic School

SINCE 1889

Blending learning with faith and faith with daily life



Roanoke Catholic School

Spring 2012

Alumni Newsletter

President's Message



“Seven years ago, Annette and I joined the Roanoke Catholic community when our daughter, Elizabeth, began second grade. Today, we have two daughters attending Roanoke Catholic, with little sister, Emma, currently a second-grader. Annette and I believe that a Roanoke Catholic education is the most treasured investment we can make in our children. The Roanoke Catholic community fosters spiritual growth, educational excellence, and the co-curricular development of each student. As your principal and head of school, I encourage all of you to come visit our campus and reconnect with our wonderful school community.”

—Patrick Patterson, Principal/Head of school

Mission Statement

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. Our fundamental task is the education of the whole person, blending learning with faith and faith with daily life. 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.

St. Andrew's Tuition Assistance Program

RCS Parent Quotes

“We are totally committed to Catholic education for our children. Our utmost thanks go out to the parishioners of St. Andrews. Without their financial support, we would likely not be able to send our kids to Roanoke Catholic. The opportunity to attend Roanoke Catholic is a uniquely special benefit for our children both spiritually and academically.”

“We are so thankful for the St. Andrew's Tuition Assistance Program! The financial assistance has been such a blessing to our family and allows us to continue to give our children the best Catholic education possible.”

Tuition Assistance

In November 2010, St. Andrew's Catholic Church began a Tuition Assistance Program for St. Andrew's families who desire to send their children to Roanoke Catholic School, but who need financial assistance in order to do so. This program is funded by the generous donations of St. Andrew's parishioners who seek to strengthen our parish commitment to the vital ministry of providing a Catholic education for our youth.



In the fall of 2009, a committee formed to address tuition needs. Working with Father Miller and the Parish Council, the following members formally established the Tuition Assistance Program at St. Andrew's Catholic Church: Rich Joachim, Kevin Stokes, Ginny Garza, Manny Garza, Debbie Finnegan, Phil Buchy and David Burns.

The driving force behind the committee was one particular 2005 document from the United States Council of Catholic Bishops. This document charged the entire Catholic community with responsibility for making available to its children a quality, affordable Catholic education.

*Young people are a valued treasure and the future leaders of our Church. It is the responsibility of the entire Catholic community—bishops, priests, deacons, religious, and laity—to continue to strive towards the goal of making our Catholic elementary and secondary schools available, accessible, and affordable to all Catholic parents and their children, including those who are poor and middle class. All Catholics must join together in efforts to ensure that Catholic schools have administrators and teachers who are prepared to provide an exceptional educational experience for young people—one that is both truly Catholic and of the highest academic quality.**

In April 2011, Roanoke Catholic School awarded \$8,300 dollars in St. Andrew's Tuition Assistance to 22 St. Andrew's families, helping 37 students receive a Roanoke Catholic School education.

Last October, Pat Reidy with The Knights of Columbus Council 562 sponsored a Pancake Breakfast at St. Andrew's to help support the Tuition Assistance Program. This breakfast raised over \$1000 in support of the program!

This April, Roanoke Catholic School will award over \$17,000 dollars in St. Andrew's Tuition Assistance to St. Andrew's parishioners. This is absolutely wonderful. St. Andrew's has such generous parishioners!

Although this program has been able to help many families, there are still families who would love to send their children to Roanoke Catholic School, but cannot afford to do so. The committee is looking for additional fundraisers to aid its efforts in assisting those families. For more information, contact Kevin Stokes at kevin.stokes@cox.net.

**Excerpt: Renewing Our Commitment to Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Inc., 2005.*

On the Hill

22nd Annual Shamrock Hill 1 Mile Fun Run & 5K Race



Another year, another successful fundraiser; twenty two years and counting! This fun-filled running event would not have happened without our wonderful parents, alumni, children, RCS staff, and sponsors. We were able to host over 650 runners, walkers and their families and friends on a beautiful, God-given day to participate in an event that has become an integral part of our school year. This event raised over \$10,000 for families in need of tuition assistance.



We would like to thank the following sponsors for their continued belief in our mission, a faith-based education in a safe, loving environment:

Advance Auto, Dr. Robert & Mrs. Carol White, Rick Woodson Honda, Vistar Eye Center, R. L. Price Construction, Inc., BB&T Bank, Blue Ridge Home Inspections, Commonwealth Restoration Services, Inc., Cornet & Cundiff, Inc., First Citizens Bank, FitStudio 365, Kristin Myers (Mary Kay), Margaret Macher (New York Life), Outdoor Trails of Virginia, Performance Title & Settlement, Inc., Tuck Chiropractic Clinic, Viva La Cupcake and the Westerhold, Sass, Whelan, Ruffing/Begeman, Wall, and Chisholm families.



The following sponsors were kind enough to donate door prizes, food, services and race bag stuffers:

City of Roanoke Police Department, Corn Beef & Company, Fabricare Center, Lee-Hi Bowling, Lee-Hi Skate Center, McDonald's (Vinton), Mill Mountain Coffee, Roanoke Bagel, Roanoke Natural Foods Co-Op, Tidy Services, U. S. Foodservice, VDOT-Salem, and Walter's Greenhouse.

A special thank you to Patrick Patterson and his family, Monsignor Miller, Mayor Bowers, Chuck & Julie Frost, Reed McGinn, Catherine Nolen, Debbie Stump, and Richie Harmon and his crew!



23rd Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade

Roanoke Catholic School Band, directed by Rafus Parham, marched in the 23rd Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 17. The band was joined in the parade by RCS students, parents, faculty and friends of the school, all showing their Celtic pride.

On the Hill

Casino Night and Silent Auction

This fundraiser was a huge success! Over 200 Roanoke Catholic families, friends, teachers and staff joined together for a fantastic event to benefit our school. On Saturday, March 24th, at St. Elias Social Hall this successful fundraiser brought in \$20,000 for a much-needed Lower School PA System and Upper School religious retreats. There were over 100 auction items, fantastic food, card game tables, horseracing, and a 60-foot Putt Challenge; there was fun for everyone! It was a wonderful night that brought the RCS community together to celebrate our fabulous school. This successful event would not have been possible without the support of all The Casino Night and Silent Auction donations. A very special thank you goes out to our leveled sponsors:

Platinum Sponsors: Jimmy Sardine's, Peters Creek Family Dentistry, Ayers Financial, Carter Machinery, James River Equipment, and Wiegandt & Doubles.

Gold Sponsors: Barrens, LLC, Brambleton Imports, Jamie & Cindy Clayton, DeHaven Transportation, Co. Inc., Eye Care and Surgery, P.C., HTF Mechanical Services, Inc., Dr. Christopher & Mitzi Keeley, Roanoke Oral Surgery, Inc., Rockydale Quarries Corporation, The Turf and Gardening Store, Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. and Bill & Molly Westerhold.

The Committee would also like to thank Patrick Patterson, Julie Frost, Kathy Futrell, Debbie Stump, all the RCS families, friends and local businesses who truly made this event a huge success for Roanoke Catholic School. We look forward to The RCS Casino Night and Silent Auction becoming an annual event for our school community to enjoy!!



Reunions

Upcoming Reunions

2012

1962: 50th | **1987:** 25th | **1992:** 20th | **2002:** 10th

Super Classic Class Reunion—classes 1952 through 1971: June 22-24, 2012

Friday, June 22	7-11 pm	Social Event at St. Andrew's Parish Hall
Saturday, June 23	Time TBA	Golf Outing
	6-11:30 pm	Dinner and dancing at the Hotel Roanoke
Sunday, June 24	9 am	Mass at St. Andrew's Catholic Church
	10 am	Tour of Roanoke Catholic School



Each of you has received the detailed information about this wonderful weekend of fun-filled events. It's difficult to believe that it has been five years since our last and most fabulous RCHS reunion. Of course, we think that this one will be the best!

Although our reunion will cover a large number of classes, just remember that the classes were very small and we are bound to each other through the camaraderie that only a small school can offer.

There are many large families represented in RCHS, so it should be fun seeing all the brothers, sisters and friends who attended RCHS and its successor, Roanoke Catholic School (RCS).

We need each and every one of you to make this year's Super Classic Class Reunion VI a success. If you have any questions, please call the development office at (540) 982-3532 x 110 and we will provide you with the contact information for your class representative.

Anniversary Reunions

If you are interested in organizing a reunion event for your class, please contact the development office at 540.982.3532 x110 or e-mail dstump@roanokecatholic.com. We are happy to make your reunion easy to plan and memorable for all!

Alumni Profile

Chris Hoeser '44

by Anna Eapen '13



When I was asked to interview an alumnus, I immediately assumed I would interview someone who had graduated fairly recently. When I met Chris Hoeser '44, however, I realized that he would give many people an entirely new perspective of Roanoke Catholic.

Mr. Hoeser, the son of immigrants from Munich, Germany, grew up in Vinton with his parents and brother. He joined RCS in 1st grade, and his family soon moved to Southeast Roanoke in order to be closer to school. Mr. Hoeser's mom worked in the cafeteria, while Mr. Hoeser was active in the school community. As a member of the basketball team, he remembers being coached by Fr. Walter Sullivan. He enjoyed playing football and was also elected to the position of class president. After Mr. Hoeser graduated in 1944, he went to the Virginia Military Institute. Later, he started working at Norfolk and Western. Currently, Mr. Hoeser resides in Roanoke County.

Of course, Mr. Hoeser's RCS was extremely different from what current students experience. His class had seventeen people, seven of whom are still alive. When he attended RCS, tuition was \$2.50, paid at regular intervals throughout the year. During World War II, the school had limited sports and social activities. Mr. Hoeser remembers walking to school, as the school had only one bus. Additionally, as many alumni will remember, nuns taught the classes. Now, as Mr. Hoeser observed, the days of the nuns have passed. He says, however, that RCS has much stronger academics and prepares its students well for college. The students also have more opportunities to go on school trips.

One thing that has not changed about RCS, however, is the community. Mr. Hoeser clearly remembers the relationships students had with nuns, just as RCS students today have with their teachers. Contrary to what many people believe, he says, the nuns were not too strict. Mr. Hoeser remembers one nun, Sister Hilda, who made sure that all of the students knew the responses at Mass. Another nun, Sister Hugh Francis, was a favorite among the boys, as she was very beautiful. While Mr. Hoeser remembers the nuns as being disciplinarians, he says they were still willing to joke around. One year, when the circus was in town, two boys called in to say that they were sick. They happily spent that day at the circus and came to school the next day. After everyone was in the classroom, Mr. Hoeser says, the nun held up the day's newspaper. The newspaper, coincidentally, had a picture that had perfectly captured the moment when the two boys were entering the circus tent! Everyone had a good laugh, and the boys did not even get into any trouble. Mr. Hoeser says that all of the nuns had an impact on him, as they taught him many important life lessons.

Students, of course, were still mischievous. One day, in chemistry class, a student lit a box on fire. When one of the nuns saw it, she ran to stomp it out. After stomping it out, she realized that she had gotten white powder all over herself in the process! Mr. Hoeser laughed as he looked back on these moments and said that he really enjoyed the RCS community, along with the camaraderie. He truly enjoyed the dinner and dance at the Hotel Roanoke that was held before graduation, and he proudly remembers receiving his diploma.

Mr. Hoeser said that his time and education at RCS greatly benefitted him. His education gave him the opportunity to go to college, and the religious education was the basis for his spiritual life. He would not change a thing about his time at RCS, which he fondly remembers. When asked for what advice he would give to current students, Mr. Hoeser replied, "Do the best you can, all the time."

Alumni Reflections

Looking Back

by Jim Potter '70

Roanoke Catholic's first state title, in any competitive sport, was claimed by the 1970 Chess Club.

High school is full of excitement and challenges: growing up from adolescence into young adults, forging relationships, pursuing academia, preparing for college, and dreaming about our future. But along the way you just may be fortunate to experience one extraordinary event that is undeniably life changing. This is my story.

My name is Jim Potter, class of 1970. Roanoke Catholic was my fourth (and final) high school. During my first day as a junior in September 1968 I was introduced to the numerous benefits of RCH that included a myriad of extracurricular activities, such as the Chess Club.

"Do you play chess?" inquired my animated classmate, Tony Laster. "I'm the captain of the Chess Club and we have our first meeting after school this week."

Since I knew the basic moves of the game, I showed up with new friend and classmate, Mike Attalla, who was eager to play. I was annihilated within 15 moves! I proceeded to play freshman Mark Shelor and the results were worse! Tony offered me a game but I knew I was dead meat before I could make my first move. I don't think I was a bad a chess player. My new friends had more skills and talent. They understood strategy and foresight, visualizing multiple moves, options, and variations. Simply, they were disciplined and had experience.

Over the weeks and coming months, Mark and Mike took me under their wings by introducing me to chess books for study, giving me a monthly subscription to *Chess Life*, and encouraging me to join the Roanoke Valley Chess Club located on Memorial Avenue, a few doors away and a turn of the corner from the Grandin Theater. For me, chess morphed from a social, carefree game to a serious tournament sport pouring out hours of mental strategy against an opponent over a board dotted with rooks, knights, pawns, and queens.

The following May of 1969, the Roanoke Catholic chess team participated in the Virginia State High School Championship hosted by the University of Virginia. Though I attended and played, I was not part of the four-man team that contributed to the teams' overall tally because I hadn't earned the rank. RCH placed second in the tournament, losing the title by half a point! Out in the parking lot I told my friends, "I want to come back next year and be part of the four-man team and win the state title." Tony, Mike, and Mark were equally committed, so the following year would prove to be a "mission possible" in our youthful lives. I had to qualify for the fourth seat by playing against the top contender vying for the same coveted position beginning the following school year. And I had the entire summer to prepare.

My friend Mark spent countless hours at my home during the summer of 1969. We played chess endlessly into the wee hours of the morning. Though I won only one game from him, I was improving. Pilgrimages every Friday night to the Chess Club became the weekly activity where all of us could gather catching up on the latest, honing our skills playing tournaments and studying aspects of openings, the middle, and end game strategies. Once school reconvened in September, Tony arranged the game that determined who would claim the fourth board. I was

Alumni Reflections

eager, ready, and fortunate, winning the seat well into my opponent's end game. My senior year was much more chess active than the prior year, as Tony arranged after school tournaments with Patrick Henry, Cave Spring, Andrew Lewis, William Byrd, and Jefferson High. RCH won every tournament, as the "front four" never lost an individual match. Now we were ready to return to Charlottesville in May 1970. And we were on a mission.

We arrived in Charlottesville late Friday afternoon, May 8, to an unexpected development. There was a martial law presence everywhere in and around UVA. National Guard, State and local police, and college security were on high alert status. You see, the prior Monday, May 4, was the Kent State shootings and the entire country was protesting and demonstrating its outrage. So here were four high school kids stepping into a Twilight Zone episode, a surreal atmosphere that was so combustible, one emotional spark could have ignited a mass riot! We were informed by the State Police that going to and from the tournament hall would have to be in groups of two and spaced no closer than 10 steps apart or, if caught violating this edict, we would be thrown in jail. With all this said, we did not lose our perspective or intense focus of competing against the other high schools.

After one of the strangest but highly exciting weekends of my life, our mission was accomplished. Roanoke Catholic captured its first state title in any competitive sport! In fact, our three point victory was a landslide in the chess world. But because of the sport's anonymity, our victory went virtually unnoticed, earning a paltry three sentence paragraph write up in the *Roanoke Times* juxtapose to the Obituary page! This was two years before Bobby Fischer beat Boris Spassky in Reykjavik, Iceland, for the World Chess Championship, earning Fischer his photo on the magazine cover of *Sports Illustrated* and *Sportsman of the Year*. In retrospect, the year leading up to our state title was a "perfect" year. I couldn't write a script that could top what life brought us. Because of space limitation, I have left out a year's worth of experiences that could easily fill a novel. Now there's an idea!



Jim Potter '70 with his chess trophy



Jim and RCH classmates
at the 1970 State Chess
Championship



Mark Shelor, Co-captain
Tony Laster, Captain
Mike Attalla, Sponsor
Jim Potter, Sec-Tr.

Yearbook photo of the 1970
chess team

Alumni Insider

Catching Up

Capt. Arthur F. Rawson, Jr. USN Ret. '35 wrote, "I started the New Year off right by clearing more paper off of my desk. The column 'Remember When' in the Roanoke Catholic newspaper struck my mind. Can't recall the special things I did back then. So it goes. Look forward to reading more of what goes on with us 92-year-old guys. I am moving it along with my very best wishes for the new year. Keep a zero bubble. My very best, Art."



Kate Campbell '70 wrote, "Blair and I are thrilled about the engagement of our son, **Matt Campbell '94**, to my team teacher and friend, Wendy Betters! An August wedding at St. Andrew's will be a wonderful addition to the many happy events experienced by so many of our family members and friends here on the hill."



Rick Stump '71 wrote, "My wife and I recently opened One Block East Art Gallery in the historic Shenandoah Hotel building in downtown Roanoke. It is a very fitting name for the gallery. In the '70s, I worked at the Army-Navy store 'one block east' of our gallery while attending RCH. Life has been full of wonderful events leading up to retirement. I have enjoyed spending more time designing and creating original wood and copper works of art, including tables, grandfather clocks and beds. After retiring, seldom would I venture into town; now I am right in the middle of it all. I enjoy seeing past and current RCS students out and about in the downtown area. My wife, Debbie, works at RCS, my CPA son, **Neil Stump '07**, works 3 blocks south and my CAT (Caterpillar, Inc.) son, **Ricky Stump '03** works in Richmond. We are enjoying life with our newest addition to the family, Arlo, our English Springer Spaniel."



Beverley Stover '86 wrote, "I decided to stay local and have lived and worked in the Roanoke area since graduation. After the birth of my daughter, Marissa, in 2001, I've managed to balance motherhood and work, and am continuing the tradition of a Catholic education by sending Marissa to RCS, too!" Beverley says "many things have changed on the hill, but the excellent education and well-taught moral values have not, and you can't put a price on a great education!" Although Beverley misses classmates who have left the area, she is "hopeful for a reunion soon!"



David Collins '88 was a recipient of the Drum Major Award for Justice, given January 20. This award goes to people who the Southern Christian Leadership Conference believes personify the goals and aspirations of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and help improve race relations in the community. David graduated from James Madison University, B.S., Political Science, 1993, and the University of Virginia, School of Law, J.D., 1997. He is a member of First Baptist Church in Roanoke.

Alumni Insider

Catching Up



Joe Sweeney '88 wrote, "Sarah and Sam are continuing the family tradition of attending Roanoke Catholic. Between Sarah's dance and basketball and Sam's soccer and wrestling, the taxi cab stage of our lives has begun. In May of 2010, Nina and Dr. Marie Malinchak opened Roanoke Partners in Health, a family practice clinic. Approaching the end of the second year of operation, Roanoke Partners in Health is growing and exceeding expectations. Nina was honored by the opportunity to deliver the commencement address for the class of 2011. I am in my 12th year at Roanoke Catholic teaching science and coaching football. After taking a group of students to the Grand Canyon in '07 and '09, I started the National Parks Experience program in '11. With family and friends so close, we are enjoying our busy lives."



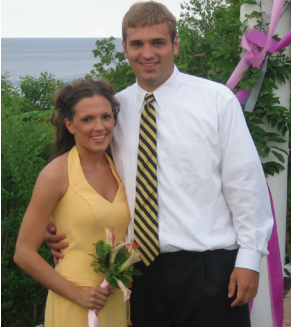
Philip "Charlie" Buchy, IV '95 attended the United States Air Force Academy for two years and played football both years. He then completed his degree in Civil Engineering at VA Tech, playing another year of football, this time as a Hokie. Charlie is currently a Project Manager for Rodgers Builders, Inc., a major construction company in Charlotte, NC, and considers two of his projects as highlights of his career thus far: managing the construction of the Bechtler Modern Art Building (similar to Roanoke's Taubman Museum), and supervising the construction of the Football Complex for UNC Charlotte's brand new Division I football program. Having competed in races such as the Louisville Ironman (2.4 mile swim, 112 mile bike, and 26.2 mile run), Charlie is an active triathlete. "Married to my beautiful wife, Allison, I also have two young sons, Charlie and Gabriel." (Charlie now goes by "Phil.")



Mark Buchy '97 reported, "I graduated from RCS and proceeded to the USAF Academy Prep School (Colo. Springs), where I played a year of football and obtained my full appointment to the academy. I then opted to attend UVA under a full ROTC scholarship. In 2002 I was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the USAF, awarded a 'pilot slot,' and shipped off to Texas to face one of the more challenging experiences the country has to offer. Persistence paid off when 'wings' were pinned to my chest and I was given the opportunity that few receive: to pilot the Air Force's newest aircraft (at that time), the C-17. Since then I have travelled to 36 different countries and obtained over 3000 hours of flight time, including 800 in combat. During this busy period, I was blessed with my wife, Leshia, and three children: Lexie, Reagan, and Luke. Still on Active Duty, the Air Force entrusted me with another scholarship for a second master's degree from the University of North Texas. Upon graduation, I will return to the USAF Academy as a professor in the History department."

Alumni Insider

Catching Up



Joe Buchy '00 wrote, “I graduated from James Madison University in 2004 with a B.S. in Integrated Science and Technology. Since then, I have worked for a leading engineering and consulting company in the DC area, now known as AMEC Environment and Infrastructure, Inc. As a project manager and environmental unit leader, I am responsible for several multi-million dollar environmental remediation programs that serve federal and commercial clients. I am currently pursuing my M.B.A. from George Mason University and reside in Arlington, VA, with my wife, Jackie.



Greg Szechenyi '00 wrote, “My business, Press Press Merch (www.PressPressMerch.com), offers Screen Printing & Embroidery locally and across the US to a variety of clients, ranging from soccer coaches to nationally-touring musicians. We are pleased to be celebrating our 10th year in business in the Roanoke Valley. Wife Lindsay, daughter Vada, almost three, and I are currently awaiting our second daughter’s June arrival.”

Charlene Deming '04 graduated with honors from William & Mary in 2008 and later earned a master’s degree in Psychology from Harvard University. For the last 3 years, she has been a research assistant and lab manager for Harvard professor Dr. Matthew Nock. Charlene was recently accepted into the Harvard Ph.D. Psychology program.



Brent Colin Turner '05 said, “I graduated from the University of Mary Washington in 2009 with a B.S. in Biochemistry and a concentration in Spanish. I am currently finishing a Master of Science in Reproductive & Cancer Biology at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health involving a thesis project focusing on oocyte biology and fertilization. After working as a medical scribe in an emergency department for five years, I began volunteering in the Baltimore community as an HIV counselor and a youth sex education teacher. I will be starting medical school in the fall at the Medical College of Virginia with plans to specialize in both family planning and reproductive endocrinology and infertility.”

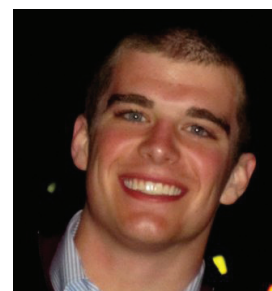
Douglas Deming '07 graduated with honors from Syracuse University in May 2011, earning a B.S. in Entrepreneurship and Emerging Enterprise from the Whitman School of Business. Doug is relocating to Silicon Valley, where he is creating a technology company.

Alumni Insider

Catching Up

Kaylyn Deming '08 is graduating with honors from Washington University in St. Louis, where she will receive degrees in both Psychology and Marketing. Kaylyn plans to pursue a career in Marketing Research and is considering employment in San Francisco, Chicago, and New York.

Charles Blevins '09 is in his junior year at The College of William and Mary. "I am a chemistry major/biochemistry minor looking to go to medical school in the fall of 2013 after graduation. I look forward to the alumni newsletters and emails."



Morgan Jessee '09 is studying Occupational Therapy at Jefferson College of Health Sciences. She also works for the Boys and Girls Club of Southwest Virginia as the Program Leader for the First and Second Grades.



Robert McClelland '10 wrote, "I lettered in football and lacrosse and played on the 2009 Lacrosse State Champion Team. I am now a sophomore Cadet at the Virginia Military Institute. As a cadet, I am majoring in history and am a member of the VMI Naval ROTC Battalion, where I am pursuing a career in Marine Corps Aviation. In the coming year, I am applying for a promotion to corporal and will be trying out for the VMI Club Lacrosse team in the fall. God Bless America." Pictured with Robert is his sister, **Gabrielle McClelland '16**, who was a starter on the RCS Varsity Basketball team and helped lead them to the State Playoffs.

We need your news!

Have you lost touch with your Roanoke Catholic School family? We can help you reconnect! Maybe you've moved, married, changed jobs, been promoted or had a new addition to your family. Whatever your "news" may be, send an email to jcooper@roanokecatholic.com, along with a photograph, and we will try our best to publish your update in our next newsletter.

Our History

Catholic Historical Museum

Wouldn't you love to open a treasure box?

When current RCS teacher Kate Campbell '70 was offered a Catholic school teaching position in Hendersonville, NC, she received a strong message that the Catholic Church is a treasure to be shared with the children! She asked her husband, Blair, to construct a beautiful treasure chest to attach to her classroom door welcoming the students with the message, "Receive the treasures that the Lord has given us!"

When Mrs. Campbell moved to Roanoke, she found that the Lord continues to share the treasures of the Catholic Church. On Campbell Avenue, she located the Catholic Historical Museum of the Roanoke Valley filled with records of all kinds, sepia-toned photos, and artifacts more interesting and beautiful than she ever imagined.

Wouldn't you love to hear the history behind the gorgeous parasol hanging from the ceiling? Wouldn't you like to count or compare the many crucifixes, statues, and pictures of the Saints? Did you ever wonder where the original Baptistry from St. Andrew's is located? Did you ever want to identify a relative, student or teacher from long ago? Would you like to glimpse the royal-looking attire once worn by priests? Are you curious about the boys who lived in the orphanage? These answers and artifacts are but a few of the many treasures tucked away in the little museum downtown, and there is even a gift shop!

Nick Centrone, President of the Catholic Historical Museum of the Roanoke Valley, cordially welcomes visitors to the treasure chest. A member of the Virginia Museum Association, CHM houses artifacts donated by local churches and parishioners in the hope of keeping our rich history alive. The Monstrance, originally used at Our Lady of Nazareth Church, is a wonderful example. Approximately 20 inches tall and embellished with amethysts, it represents a prime example of the museum's commitment to preserving our heritage. The museum hopes to further convey its purpose and presence in the Roanoke Valley. As community outreach, CHM offers a presentation by member John Wagner, who is available to speak to area groups detailing the Catholic Historical Museum organization and the museum's contents. The quarterly publication of the newsletter of the Catholic Historical Museum presents museum members with not only museum news, accessions, and needs, but also highlights of events in local parishes and Catholic organizations. Mr. Centrone emphasizes that the CHM is supported by membership and donations as it continues to cherish and protect our past and save the treasures that we have as we share them with others. Come, open the treasure chest of your faith!



Academics

Dance Program



I have heard it said, “If you build it they will come,” and I believe that is true. When Principal and Head of School Patrick Patterson decided to add a dance program to the renaissance program at our school last year, I happily accepted the Director of Dance position. I have been dancing for as long as I can remember; it seems like my mom put tap shoes on my feet and directed me to a stage as soon as I could walk. I enjoy movement and love sharing my passion for dance with others.



We have established that there is a need for the dance program in our school, and the program has grown since we started last year, with enrollment growth at 85%. Dance classes are currently held in a classroom with tile floors, so imagine the difference a sprung dance floor, mirrors, barres, and sound system would make for the children. Having additional funds to further develop the program would create an atmosphere of creativity, life-long passion, and learning.

Our long-term goal is to build a Performing Arts School. I want to create a climate where children will thrive and become our future leaders and entertainers. Some children are “drowning in their inadequacies” and dance can be one thing that can help them develop a sense of worth. I know we can make a difference.

Considering our current economic situation locally and throughout the world, we need assistance. Knowing our strengths and weaknesses helps us to develop a better, stronger program. I know that all things are possible with God, so first I am requesting prayer. I want the dance program to become what God wants it to be, nothing more, but nothing less. I am also requesting financial support, so we can physically develop an appropriate dance space.

If you cannot afford to give or do not feel led to give financially, we would still appreciate your presence. The dancers perform annually at Our Lady of the Valley and at the Lower School Talent Show. I am so proud of the students and would love for others to see what they have accomplished. The dance program reaches the students, parents, teachers, and beyond. Some RCS teachers and parents have even joined our ranks in the the finale of the talent show.

To build a dance studio in an existing classroom would require a dance floor (\$2,500-\$10,000), mirrors (\$1,000 to cover one wall), barres (\$300), and a sound system (\$500-\$3,000). I hope you will consider making a tax-deductible donation to the dance program at Roanoke Catholic School. We have applied for a grant from Taubman Sustainability Grants, and I believe we will be more likely to receive financial assistance from them if they see that we started fundraising at home. Thank you for your time and for allowing the students at RCS to dance!

—**Mitzi Keeley**, Director of Dance and RCS parent

National Parks Program

The second year of the National Parks Experience program is well underway. Yosemite National Park has been the focus for this year's class, as students have studied the geology, ecology, and history of the park. We will spend spring break exploring Yosemite. This exploration includes four days backpacking in the back country of the park. Yosemite promises to be much different from the Grand Canyon, the site of the previous year's trip, with cooler temperatures and snow. We have partnered with the Yosemite Field Institute to make this experience educational as well as enjoyable. Two guides from the Field Institute will teach us about Yosemite and show the students many of the things they have read about in the months leading up to this trip.

Next spring the National Parks Experience will be taking a group of students to Havasu Indian Reservation, which is located in Grand Canyon National Park. We will spend four days hiking and exploring this remarkable place. Our guide from the Grand Canyon Field Institute, Jack Pennington, will ensure that this experience is educational and unforgettable.

Thank you to all who have supported the National Parks Experience program through donations and/or purchasing Christmas ornaments. The money raised from ornament sales and donations has been used to purchase equipment and cover some of the costs associated with the trip. Thank you to John Futrell and Outdoor Trails for providing the equipment and sound advice about how to prepare for our trip.

If you are curious about the National Parks Experience, please visit their website at nationalparksexperience.org. You can learn about the program, see pictures of previous trips, and much more.

—**Joe Sweeney '88**, Director of National Parks Program and RCS Parent



On the Inside

Campus Ministry Program

The Campus Ministry Program at Roanoke Catholic School is thriving!

March for Life Trip: RCS celebrates life! In conjunction with their local churches, our students participated in the annual diocesan pilgrimage to the March for Life in DC. This overnight trip was a wonderful opportunity to join the larger Catholic community and witness the vibrancy of our faith. The night before the March, students from the Richmond and Arlington Dioceses joined other participants for Adoration and Mass. The following morning, they attended a Youth Rally and Mass with thousands of others from around the country before beginning the March to the Capitol. We are so proud of our students for standing up, speaking up for those without a voice!



Rosary Club: Each day during break, students meet to make hand-knotted twine rosaries and learn more about Marian devotions. This new club is extremely popular with students who have made hundreds of beautiful rosaries in every imaginable color. Each rosary is combined with a prayer card from the Knights of Columbus, packaged in a pretty organza bag, and sold for \$5 each. The Rosary Bags make great holiday gifts, ideal as stocking stuffers, birthday presents, and First Holy Communion and Confirmation gifts. Contact Allison Welch at awelch@roanokecatholic.com to purchase, or support with a donation. The Rosary Club can turn a \$20 donation into almost \$100 in sales! All proceeds will be used to support a 2013 student Pilgrimage to Rome.

Pilgrimage 2013: Campus Ministry is in the process of selecting a tour company for an Easter Week Pilgrimage to Rome, during which students will experience first-hand the history and tradition that we study all year. Please keep us in your prayers as we plan this exciting pilgrimage.



Prayer Buddies: Once each month, Upper School students get together with their Lower School Prayer Buddies for fun and fellowship. It is a treasured time indeed. Thank you to Saint Andrew's for donating the palms so that we could re-enact Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. After the re-enactment, we discussed His love for us as we transformed the palms into keepsake crosses. This program continues to be a blessing to all involved.

Praise & Worship: We are thrilled to announce the creation of an RCS Praise and Worship Band. This is a unique opportunity for students to gather together in the chapel before school starts and pray twice; that is, sing! It is awesome to see students share their gifts and talents in praise and glory to God. What a beautiful way to start the day.

On the Inside

Campus Ministry Program



Class Retreats & Fish Frys: Many thanks to Kevin Stokes and volunteers for the wonderful Lenten Fish Fry each week to support our Upper School retreat program. We were able to provide most class retreats at no additional cost to the students. Each retreat had faith and community-building elements, and offered special opportunities for growth. The eighth grade and tenth grade retreats were lead by Peer Ministers and took place at St. Elias; the ninth grade experienced a NET Ministries retreat. National Evangelization Teams' Ministry Retreats are dynamic, high-energy retreats lead

by young adult volunteers who are inspiring, funny, and deeply faith-filled. The eleventh grade retreat was held at Wilderness Adventure. This retreat was a welcome respite from daily toil. The class members met to pray, celebrate their accomplishments and challenge themselves physically and mentally. The twelfth grade opening retreat, held at Camp Jubilee, Catawba, VA, had a service and team-building component. The Class Retreat Program is integral to the curriculum and always evolving. It is truly a blessing that the RCS community, past and present, supports the retreats both in prayer and financially.



Library

Even if you can't get to the RCS Library to check out books, you can always check out the library's new webpage, which is located on the RCS website under the Resources tab. In addition to library-related documents, the library webpage connects students to the outside world and the outside world to the RCS library. Through the RCS Portal, for example, students can find internet resources to support their academic work and fuel their imaginations. Alumni are, of course, welcome and encouraged to make use of the resources on this webpage, and also to support the library in any way possible. Two means of support are linked on the bottom of the webpage: you can contribute by buying books either for yourself through our online Book Fair (May 11 - 31) or for the library through our SOS Library Webpage, where you can choose a book or just make a donation. Either way, the library and its webpage are here for the whole RCS community to use and enjoy. Check it out!

On the Inside

Roanoke Catholic students recognized for leadership in the community



Congratulations to **Carly Cook '12** for her outstanding job representing Roanoke Catholic's Fellowship of Christian Athletes Chapter at the Annual FCA Valleywide Celebration Banquet on Tuesday, March 27, at the Salem Civic Center. Carly shared with the audience how FCA has helped her as a leader on and off the sports fields, in her ability to create and implement programming for our RCS FCA, and most importantly how FCA has helped her grow in her faith. Congratulations to Carly for a job well done.

Ann Clare Levy '14 has been named a Distinguished Finalist in the 2012 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards in Virginia and will receive an engraved bronze medallion to commemorate this event. A founder of "U.S. Kids Care," a nonprofit organization which coordinates the efforts of 150 young members in a variety of charitable activities, and as current Executive Director of the group, she has helped raise more than \$18,000 to support Boys & Girls Clubs of America, the Red Cross, the Ronald McDonald House, and schools and hospitals in need. In addition, Ann Clare has received the President's Volunteer Service Award "in recognition and appreciation of her commitment to strengthening our nation and for making a difference through volunteer service." Senator John Edwards and Senator Mark Warner have also sent Ann Clare recommendations for her work.



Samuel Gerstemeier '12, Lt. Governor of the Key Club, leads and represents the Southwest Virginia chapters of the Key Club to the Kiwanis. Recently, **Molly Wharton '12**, President of the Roanoke Catholic Key Club, **Alicia Iott '12**, chapter Vice President, and Sam spoke to the Kiwanis Club outlining this year's activities, including raking leaves for senior citizens in the fall, contributing food baskets to Manna Ministries, and sponsoring a Ping Pong tournament to raise money for the Eliminate Project, the Kiwanis Club's effort to provide immunizations to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus.



The Kiwanis Clubs of Botetourt-Roanoke-Salem, in cooperation with *The Roanoke Times* and *Play By Play* magazine, held the 44th Annual Kiwanis Roanoke Metro Basketball Awards Banquet at the Salem Civic Center Sunday, April 1. Thirteen Roanoke area high schools were represented by both the girls and boys varsity basketball coaches and their school's Unsung Hero nominees. The unsung hero is described as someone who renders service "beyond what is ordinary or expected and for doing so without regard for attention or receiving in return; but rather, it was the right thing to do and needed to be done." Recognized as Roanoke Catholic's unsung basketball heroes were **Sadie Pilgreen '15** and **Sam Silek '12**.

The Wrestling Program Celebrates Another Successful Year



The RCS Wrestling Team completed a 20-5 dual record this year. Of these matches, the wrestlers' conference record with private schools in the Virginia Independent Conference was 7-1. (Out-of-conference competitions with public schools were 13-4.) The school's program produced 6 All-State Wrestlers, 5 Catholic State Champions, and 1 National Prep Qualifier for Lehigh University. Five RCS wrestlers fought their way to the VIC Championship Round and 1 took the VIC Championship! The team also won 2 public school tournaments and placed 2nd and 3rd at 3 other public school tournaments. They finished the season with the Virginia Independent Schools Division III State Championship, also

finishing 7 out of 32 for all divisions at the state tournament. In other words, the RCS Wrestlers not only beat all of the Division III teams, but outscored all of the Division II teams and acquired 7th place overall in the VISAA (state) tournament.

The Celtics also won the Commonwealth Catholic State Championship held at Benedictine High School in Richmond. The team finished 2nd at the Virginia Independent Conference Championship, behind then-number-1 in the state, Liberty Christian Academy. The coaching program was voted "Coach of the Year" from three different organizations: Roanoke Middle School Coaches, Virginia Independent Conference Coaches, and the Virginia Independent Schools Athletic Association Coaches.

The program currently wrestles in the old lower school cafeteria, which was converted to a program area. The program has been influenced by coaches associated with USA Wrestling and the fine people at the Virginia Tech Wrestling Program. Since its beginning in 2000, the team has been guided by Coach Dave Burns and Coach Robin Leonard.

Swim Team Makes a Big Splash

The RCS Swim team had a phenomenal season this year. Not only was Coach Tudor named coach of the year by the Virginia Independent Conference, but the VIC Swimmers of the Year were Shane Tudor '12 and Kylie Patrick '15. Five of our swimmers made the VIC Men's All-Conference team: Shane Tudor, Sal Russo '12, Keith Clark '12, Michael Craddock '15, and Steven Rosendahl '13. Equally, five of our Celtic ladies made the VIC Women's All-Conference team: Kylie Patrick, Reagan Johnson '13, Hannah Tudor '14, Alicia Iott '12, and Katie Brajdic '12. Some of our swimmers qualified to swim against others from up and down the east coast in the Eastern Zone Sectional swim meet.

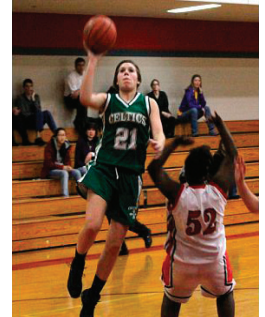
Michael Craddock swam 200 meter breast stroke at the Eastern Zone Sectional Meet and achieved NCSA Junior National Cut, which means that he has qualified for a national swim meet this August in California. Shane Tudor swam at Eastern Zone qualified for the finals in 100 meter free style and swam his best time in the 100 meter butterfly. He will be swimming for George Mason in the fall.

Sal Russo qualified to attend USA Junior NCSA swim meet this year and was only half a second off from making the finals to swim for the Olympic time trial cut. His relay team in the 200 meter medley placed 17th out of 80 teams. During the five-day meet Sal had qualified to swim for four of those days. He will attend Mars Hill College in the fall.

Athletics

Girls Varsity Basketball

With a sophomore being the oldest player, RCS fields a young varsity team; however, they had a great year. The girls finished 5th in the Blue Ridge Conference, and they also made it to the state playoffs as a 10 seed. Their over-all record was 23-10 and their district record was 8-5. The following girls made the Blue Ridge All Conference Team: Catherin Cullum '15, Olivia Clark '16, and Gabby McClelland '16.



New Era in Celtic Boys Basketball Begins

The 2011-12 Roanoke Catholic boys basketball season was an adventure in challenges and adjustments. With this school year's new direction in both mission and athletic thrust, RCS boys' basketball moved toward recapturing the glory of Catholic hoops history, back to the days of "Pete" Wiggins, Bob "Boomer" Ayersman, and the hard-nosed, everyday student-athlete who earned Catholic athletics respect.



With those changes, some student-athletes chose to transfer to other schools in order to achieve their goals, leaving the basketball program with only 2 varsity players. As a result, RCS played an abbreviated varsity schedule of 8 games by merging our 2 seniors with the junior varsity team. Our purpose was to allow seniors Sam Gerstemeier and Sam Silek to complete their high school basketball careers without losing the privilege of representing Roanoke Catholic as seniors. The team played a 29 game schedule, playing 8 varsity games and 21 junior varsity games.

Versus varsity competition, the Celtics were 4-4. Against junior varsity competition, the team record was 10-11, ending the season with a 14-15 overall record. The JV team lost in the finals of the Virginia Independent Conference (VIC) Junior Varsity championship game to Virginia Episcopal School.

Highlights of the season were upset wins over both Liberty Christian Academy and Virginia Episcopal School at the end of the season. The team's improvement was evident in the way players complemented one another in outstanding wins over some of the best teams in the VIC.

Though the team will lose its seniors, next year's varsity team will play a full schedule with a young, but experienced team. If all return, the Celtic varsity will consist of 7 juniors, 3 sophomores, 1 freshman, and 2 eighth graders. We are excited about the future of Roanoke Catholic basketball. Come join in the excitement and help us rejuvenate Catholic hoops history.

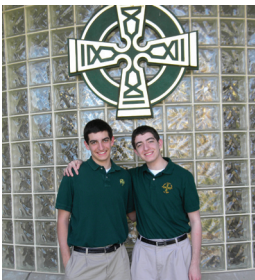
—**Leon Caldwell**, Boys Basketball Coach

What's Happening

Enrollment



The Enrollment Committee has been hard at work this winter, producing another commercial for the local FOX affiliate (visit roanokecatholic.com to view commercial), holding an Open House during Catholic Schools Week, and helping to design a new billboard message, “A Catholic School for all Faiths.”



We hosted our second Open House on March 30th during the school day so prospective parents could see how each classroom is managed. In addition, the 2011-12 student ambassadors have been in the community at local parishes, sharing their message about RCS and welcoming any opportunity to speak about the school.

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| May 11 | May Crowning, 1:30 pm at St. Andrew's Catholic Church |
| May 18 | RCS 5th and 6th grade Band Concert from 7-8 pm in the school cafeteria |
| May 19 | Prom at Jefferson Center, Fitzpatrick Hall, 8:30-11:30 pm. Walk-ins begin at 7:30 pm at St. Andrew's Catholic Church |
| May 30 | Closing School Joint Liturgy, 9 am at St. Andrew's Catholic Church |
| June 1 | RCS 7th grade and Upper School Band Concert, 7-8 pm in the school cafeteria |
| June 8 | Baccalaureate, 6 pm at Our Lady of Nazareth Church |
| June 9 | Graduation, 11 am at St. Andrew's Catholic Church |
| June 22-24 | Super Classic Class Reunion VI—Classes 1952 through 1971 |

Development

“When my wife and I were considering a school for our sons, Drew and Liam, we wanted a school that would not only provide them with an excellent academic opportunity, but also would provide an outstanding overall environment in which to pursue this opportunity. We looked no further than Roanoke Catholic.

As each of you venture through your life’s journey, I hope you are able to return to Roanoke Catholic to rekindle your memories from your time at RCS and to share your experiences with today’s students. I look forward to hearing from you and working together to ensure RCS is better than ever for future generations.”

—**Steve Nagy**, Development Chair and RCS parent

We appreciate your support

Help sustain the legacy of education at Roanoke Catholic School and consider making a gift today. For your convenience, use the enclosed envelope, call (540) 982-3532, or give online at www.roanokecatholic.com at Support RCS, Make a Gift Today.

Annual Fund
2011-2012 Goal \$250,000
Opens the educational door
Provides continued academic opportunity
Makes a difference

The Roanoke Catholic School community wishes to acknowledge the generosity of all who have shared their gifts with us. Alumni, parents, faculty, staff and friends who have given freely of their time, talents, and resources to further the goals of Roanoke Catholic are greatly appreciated.

MIHI VIVERE CHRISTUS EST

For Me To Live Is Christ