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Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

**John 14: 5-7**

## A Letter to Our Donors

### *Contributed by 5 Senior Class Members*

Our time at YC is coming to an end and although the term "senioritis" is used a lot at this time of the year we wanted to make sure you, our many donors and supporters know that we still have our eye on the ball and we plan to finish strong. We also wanted to say thank you and give you a glimpse of what your gifts of time and financial support mean to us and the other students here at Yuma Catholic.

The financial support begins with tuition assistance. There are five seniors contributing to the writing of this article. Of the five, four are receiving some kind of financial assistance. That ratio is very comparable to the entire student body based on the last year's annual report. Our Yuma Catholic Annual Fund is one of many ways to help students like us who wouldn't otherwise be able to attend YC fulfill their academic and spiritual goals.

This support allows the school administration to meet its enrollment goals that eventually allow the school to use the money to provide us all the things we've needed and experienced here during our four years at Yuma Catholic.

Let's start with the faculty. Hiring teachers that are willing to come early and stay late in order to help kids succeed are what we experience here. Our friends who attend other high schools tell us they don't have the same access to their teachers that we do. Yuma Catholic is smaller, but that doesn't mean we have missed out on anything. Our teachers set very high standards, they expect more because they are willing to put in the time to make sure we reach our goal. Each of us struggled at some point but thankfully our faculty and world-class counseling team is always watching and steps in to make sure we get the help we need.

Being able to take AP and dual enrollment classes on campus is another thing that separates our experience from other schools in Yuma. We have accredited faculty members who can teach these classes on campus and eliminate any unnecessary travel or hardship on the students and their families. Our small class sizes also allow us to get our questions answered timely and to have ample one on one time with our teachers when needed.

The faith-filled environment at Yuma Catholic is the biggest reason your help and support is most needed and most appreciated. We have the ability to express our faith in all aspects of our time here. We pray in class, at lunch, on the field or whenever and wherever the spirit hits us. We grow in our faith daily through theology classes, where teachers are open, honest and willing to have good conversations and answer our questions about where God is in our lives at that moment. Their guidance has helped us mature in our understanding of our faith and in our desire to use it in our lives and to help others.

We arrived on campus as freshmen unsure, fearful and with no understanding of the dedication it would require to achieve our dreams. We leave here prepared, focused and ready to face the challenges ahead of us. Your support played a tremendous role in our success. If you haven't already contributed to our Yuma Catholic Annual Fund, now is the time to do so. Your contribution will help the school reach its annual goal and go to support all the future Shamrocks! An investment in us is an investment back into Yuma.

### **Senior Contributors:**

**Maxwell Schiller** will attend the University of Pittsburgh

**Dru Martin** will attend Drexel University

**Mia Sterenberg** will attend the University of Arizona

**Sydney Young** will attend the University of Arizona

**Sam Cheung** will attend Point Loma Nazarene University

### **Upcoming Events**

National Honor Society Induction– 5/2

Cow Patty Bingo - 5/5

Corporate Tax Credit Breakfast @ YC - 5/11

FFA Student Banquet - 5/17

Senior Disney Trip - 5/18

Non-Senior Awards Presentation - 5/18

4th Quarter Ends - 5/18

Final Music Department Concert - 5/21

Final Exam Week 5/21-5/24

Baccalaureate and Graduation - 5/25

# Students Putting Their Faith Into Action

## Kairos Retreat

For the second year now, Yuma Catholic seniors and select junior class members embarked on a spiritual journey at the Whispering Winds Catholic Conference Center in Julian, Ca. Under the guidance of Mr. Godbout and Mrs. Meade, student lead small groups worked together to open up their hearts to God.

The atmosphere on a Kairos retreat offers seniors and juniors the opportunity to be with God and to experience His presence through their community. Kairos is more than a retreat it is a journey. Students get the chance to intimately reflect on their life and discern where God is calling them in the future.

The juniors are hand picked by Mr. Godbout and Mrs. Meade to attend because they exemplify the characteristics they are looking for in the leaders for next years Kairos retreat.

Here are two student perspectives on the experience of attending this Kairos retreat.

**Jenna Casares, Junior:** Kairos 2 was an eye-opening experience for me. As a junior, Kairos was an opportunity for me to learn more about God and my classmates in a way that I have not gotten a chance to experience. During the retreat, this became a reality. I learned more about my classmates through what they shared about their lives and what they face daily. I learned that through these experiences that we face, God works in us and through other people in mysterious ways to overcome these hard times and continue to bring the glory to Him ultimately. But most importantly, I learned about myself more than I ever have before. Kairos gave me a chance to evaluate how God has worked in my life and how I can respond to those things that He does to continue to show other people God's love and be an example to others around me.

**Julio Llamas, Senior:** In 2017, I was given the opportunity to experience Kairos retreat as a Junior along with some other classmates and the class of 2017. After months of preparation, the group of classmates who also experienced Kairos 1 and I, along with the coordination of Mr. Godbout and Mrs. Meade, returned to Whispering Winds, the retreat camp in Julian, California, to serve our class of 2018. This retreat is incomparable to the previous retreats we experienced throughout our freshman, sophomore, and junior year at Yuma Catholic. It is a three-day retreat that gets us out of our comfort zone three hours away from home. It's amazing to see the change in faces of the students from the time they got there to the time they left. Kairos is definitely an

impactful retreat that will only improve as the years go by. As a new tradition for Yuma Catholic High School, this capstone retreat will be something future students will look forward to coming in to Yuma Catholic.



## St. John Paul II Awards

The St. John Paul II Youth Awards are an annual event that recognizes outstanding youth leaders in the Vicariate of Yuma through the Diocese of Tucson. The Most Reverend, Bishop Edward Weisenburger presented the awards at a dinner on February 28th.

Three Yuma Catholic seniors were recognized this year for outstanding work here on campus and in the community.

**Joshua Rodriguez** for Prayer and Worship

**Julio Llamas** for Catechesis and Evangelization

**Sydney Young** for Community Service and Social Justice

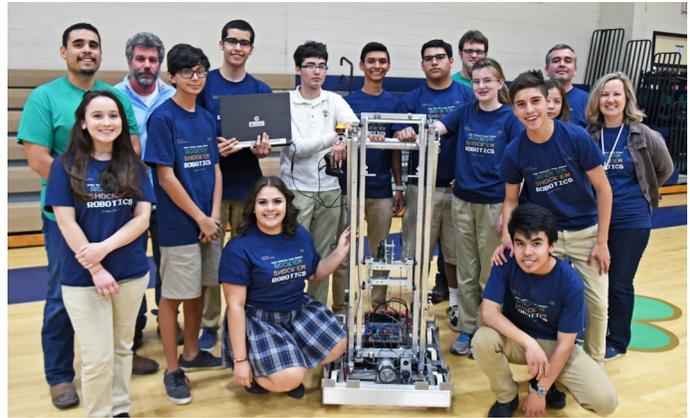


# Robotics and FFA Growing Through Competition

The Robotics Club returned from our inaugural competition at the Arizona Regional FIRST Robotics Competition held in Flagstaff, Arizona. We were amazed and inspired as we competed with and against over 60 teams from many different states, Mexico, and the Netherlands. We learned the meaning of cooperation as teams shared knowledge and tools with teams they would soon be competing against. Collaboration and strategy were clearly evident when alliances were announced and teams had to work together to defeat the opposing alliance. Each competition had us in an alliance with different teams. We had to meet quickly with the other teams to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of our robots and to devise a strategy that would focus on our unified strength.

Our robot sailed through the inspection process! We were able to participate in the practice rounds. We soon found out that in the engineering process; problem solving is ongoing. Our team had to make many modifications and repairs throughout the competition. One of our biggest challenges was to make our wheels gain better traction. The pits were alive with activity as teams continued to try and pass inspection and make repairs from damage caused during competition. We are proud to say that our robot was the first robot during the competition to be able to pull itself up off the ground and hang for the required amount of time! Unfortunately, we did not get to try out our ability to support the weight of other robots during our times of competition as many robots could not perform this task. Our programmers were successful in writing code for both the autonomous period and the tele-operated period.

We have decided to continue meeting as a team to reflect on this season, to build plans for next year, and to work on programming. Our mentors from General Motors fully supported this desire and have generously agreed to continue to mentor us in the off-season. The Robotics Club unanimously decided to “up their game.” Next year, they plan to attend not one, but two competitions; one in-state and one that is yet to be announced. They agreed to compete in the second competition during Spring Break so that it will not interfere with academics. Currently, we are in the process of cleaning out our workshop, which we share with football. We are dreaming big and would like to someday have a workshop that allows us to build and program all year! Next week, we will announce a public invitation to join the club and meet their future robotics leaders.



**For an expanded look at Robotics Check them Out Online @ [www.yumacatholic.org](http://www.yumacatholic.org) under Student Life**



Over the past couple of months, The Yuma Catholic FFA Chapter has gone to numerous events including CDE's, community service events, and the county fair. So far, we have attended the Harvest Dinner to support our community as well as the Salvation Army Dinner. For our Spring CDE's many of our teams placed at District, those teams include Job Interview, Veterinary Technician, Aquaculture, Meats Evaluation, as well as Agronomy. Next off was state, state was a big challenge but of course we managed to pull through, our very own Ed Morales placed for highest score in Aquaculture. We were very proud of him and the hard work he had shown.

We had many participants compete at fair, many of those ranging from large-stock and small-stock, as well as several other non-living projects. Over spring break, we saw many of those succeed at fair. They dedicated themselves and proved to be a tough competition against other chapters to earn what they deserved. Our own Isabel Herrera placing reserve grand champion for her pigeon in the breed competition, and Kaitlyn McBride winning reserve grand champion for her box quilt. Many others received purple and blue ribbons in both market and showmanship- a major success for all.

Yuma County Fair is one of the most vigorous competitions for any member that shows livestock. Though it is a week filled with stress, it is truly a labor of love-any member will tell you that. For our first year, we had an amazing turn out for all the exhibitors and gave some members a glimpse of what the livestock industry has to offer.

Now we focus on many exciting upcoming events, including but not limited to Summer CDE's. Hopefully this next conference we will have more of our teams place and to show our competition who is boss.

## Thank You Keithly-Williams Seeds!

We would like to thank Pat and Kirin Cooley and the entire Keithly-Williams Seeds team for putting on a fabulous fundraiser for the chapter on April 12th. The turnout of support and sponsorship was overwhelming!

The FFA chapter served as a gratitude for our sponsors. We thank and appreciate everything they have done for us, most importantly, the opportunities they have gave us. We look forward to showing our many supporters their investment in our chapter is time and money well spent.

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# Alumni Spotlight: Lucy Valencia, Class of 2008

Lucy Valencia, class of 2008, describes Yuma Catholic as, “one unique experience.” She elaborates, “The Yuma Catholic community is a gem in this region and I am endlessly grateful for the people who work so hard to maintain its roots and core values as they are, while always striving for more. Becoming part of the YC community means you’ll have opportunities to be your best self and to be surrounded by one of the strongest support systems to exist for high school students—you’ll be able to sharpen skills, develop academic strengths and make friends that you’ll possibly have for a lifetime. Strong academics are YC’s backbone but its bound by faith, values and a continual passion to pursue a greater good for all.”

As a student at Yuma Catholic, Lucy excelled in academics, graduating at the top of her class and extracurriculars as she was involved in varsity cheer, volleyball, and served as Senior Class President. She then attended the University of Arizona where she majored in Journalism and Business Administration. Currently, Lucy works for the City of Yuma in communications and public relations. “My favorite part of that job is working with local leaders to strengthen and boost ties with political entities and to form private/public partnerships south of the border in Mexico and in other countries. I love being able to help represent the greater Yuma region as part of an effort to boost quality of life and seek opportunities for economic development.” Selflessly, she also strives to give back, receiving an award from United Way of Yuma County for her work on VisionQuest. “Through VisionQuest, we are

doing eye exams in elementary and middle schools. So far, we have screened more than 2,000 children and plan on screening all of Yuma School District One,” Lucy states.

Thank you so much for your effort to continually better the Yuma community, Lucy! Interviewing you was such a pleasure. Your hard work and dedication make us proud to count you as alumni!



Submitted by:  
Elizabeth Williams, YC 2007

## Congrats to Our Science Fair Entries

Congratulations to the following Yuma Catholic Biology Students who placed in the Yuma County Science and Engineering Expo held recently at Arizona Western College. Emma Gwynn and Amanda Rodgers placed 3rd in the Chemistry and Biochemistry category for their project entitled "Oranges to Orange". Sofia Hebda and Austin Doten placed second for their project "Reflective Materials in Solar Ovens" in the Engineering and Technology category. Thank you to Mr. Cain for his direction with the projects.

An expanded version of the newsletter can be found online at [www.yumacatholic.org](http://www.yumacatholic.org)

The expanded version has more pictures and links to learn more about our programs and how our students are performing, so check it out!

## Shamrock All-Region Team

### Boys soccer

**Ramon Urbano (Sr)** 30 goals, 5 assists

**Eleuterio Gutierrez (Jr)** 30 goals, 10 assists

**Stockton Rush (Sr)** 3 goals, 1 assist,  
Defensive player of the year

### Girls soccer

**Ariana Leamons (Fr)** Player of the Year, 8 goals, 10 assists

**Corinthia Reyes (Sr)** 1 goal

**Isela Estrada (Jr)** 14 goals, 14 assists

**Danisia Ellin (Jr)** 83 saves, 11 goals against, 8 shutouts

### Boys Basketball

**J.R. Henderson (Jr)** Player of the year

15.0 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 5.3 apg, 2.7 spg

**Randall Voutt (Jr)** 14.8 ppg, 5 rpg, 1.1 apg

### Girls Basketball

**Sydney Neumann (Sr)** 9.5 ppg, 5.9 rpg,

### Wrestling

**Austin Blomquist (Sr)** 132lbs (51-8) Placed 3rd at State

**Richard Molina (Sr)** 170lbs (57-7) Placed 3rd at State

**Sam Cheung (Sr)** 182lbs (58-6) Placed 3rd at State

Congratulations to our soccer programs. The Girls reached their first final in the program’s history and the boys team won the 2017-2018 3A State Championship. **#fourpeat**