



Visit us at [www.yumacatholic.org](http://www.yumacatholic.org) or call us @ 928-317-7900 for more information

***Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."***

**Matthew 19:14**

Yuma Catholic Family,

We are off to a great start this year. Our enrollment has grown now for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row. We are working hard to make our school not only the best in Yuma County, but in the State of Arizona as well. Currently, our student enrollment is 377 with 112 freshman, 105 sophomores, 8 juniors, and 74 seniors. Next year we look forward to having over 400 students.

Our faculty and administration are hard at work updating our curriculum to match the ACT College and Career Readiness Standards. The teachers have been placed in Professional Learning Communities (PLC) in order to map out their curriculum. We know the hard work that the faculty and administration are putting into this endeavor will pay off with increased ACT scores amongst our students. Our teachers have also updated our lesson plan templates and have instituted a school wide grading procedure that will in turn increase the academic rigor of the school.

On October 7<sup>th</sup>, we held a Future Shamrock Day for all the private schools in town. We welcomed over 100 students from St. Francis, IC, Yuma Lutheran, and Southwest Christian schools in order to plant the seeds for the future of our school. They were able to experience the life of a high school student by attending a few classes, partaking in the Homecoming Pep Assembly, and rubbing elbows with their future peer leaders. It is our hope that the families of these students see the benefits of continuing their child's education at Yuma Catholic. We will be holding another Future Shamrock Day in January with an emphasis on the students who come to us from the public school system.

As we proceed further in the school year we have two large "irons" in the fire. We are currently working feverishly to create an Future Farmers of America (FFA) program here at YC. We believe this program with an emphasis on Agricultural Science and Agricultural Business will be a tremendous asset to our school. We have had continued support from the community as we have begun the process to assure that we have an AG program

beginning in August of 2017. We are also working with several individuals to create a partnership with STEDY (Southwest Technical Education District of Yuma) in order to form a variety of classes here on the YC campus that would be offered at night in order for our students to be able to acquire even more college credits. These classes will be offered only to YC students on our campus. Although we are a college preparatory school, we feel that the offering of these courses can enlighten our students and expose them to some possible career pathways. There will be more information to come in the near future regarding both FFA and STEDY.

Finally, we would like to celebrate the accomplishments of Tori Pena. Tori has been selected as a National Hispanic Scholar. The invitation was extended to students who scored among the top 2.5% among Hispanic and Latino PSAT/NMSQT test takers in our region. The National Hispanic Recognition Program recognizes about 5,000 of the 250,000 Hispanic/Latino Juniors who take the PSAT. The National Hispanic Recognition enables students to highlight their outstanding education achievement to top colleges and universities.

Thank you to all our teachers, parents, and community members who continue to support our school so that students may reach for the stars and accomplish all that they do here at Yuma Catholic. If it wasn't for your support, our students would not be able to flourish like they do. I pray they one day return to Yuma and bless our community with knowledge.

God Bless,

Rhett Stallworth  
Principal  
Yuma Catholic High School



**Thank You**

**To our committed match donors:**  
*Yuma Investment Group*  
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*Dr. George Deckey*

**Dates to Remember**

**November 29th:** Online Day of Giving  
<http://www.yumacatholic.org/support/dayofgiving.cfm>  
**November 30th:** Deadline for See's Candy orders  
**December 3rd:** Rib Cook Off, 11am to 3pm  
**December 19th:** Music Department,  
Winterpalooza, 6:30pm

# Advancement

*“if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.”*

**Romans 12:8**

The first quarter of the 2016-2017 school year is in the books and many student-led initiatives really made a difference! The Shamrock Legacy Team (SLT) began their work sharing the value of their Yuma Catholic High School experience with 100 eighth graders at the Future Shamrock Day. The SLT articulated their vision of the Shamrock difference and you will begin seeing those messages as the Annual Fund requests mail out this year. Expect to see one per quarter and hold onto to them to see the whole picture. These student ambassadors are sharing why their Yuma Catholic education is important to them.

The Yuma Catholic students share a commitment to serve their community and they put tremendous effort into it. The 377 YC students raised over 6,600 cans of food for the Yuma Community Food Bank/KEYC Food Bowl. The Engineering Class also made a \$500 donation to the Food Bank this quarter. The students are serving others to build a strong future for our community.

Just as the students are pledged to serve, we hope you will support our students by donating what you can to the Annual Fund. Receiving donations for the Annual Fund is an important component of keeping tuition affordable for more families. Yuma Catholic High School subsidizes the educational cost for each student

by \$1,520 totaling nearly \$575,000 annually. That means the difference has to be made up each year through fundraising with the Annual Fund and the special events. Nearly 70% of the student body receives tuition assistance through Corporate Tax Credit, Individual Tax Credit or Support-A-Shamrock, without the additional fundraising efforts the families' share of tuition costs would be higher and require more resources from families that may not have it.

The Annual Fund is a school year opportunity to demonstrate your support of our students. Please give what you can, when you can. It does not have to be a one-time offering. Every gift counts no matter the size! We will be sending out reminders and we will have a special Day of Giving on November 29, 2016. We will be encouraging the entire community to give something that day via our on-line giving tool:

<http://www.yumacatholic.org/support/dayofgiving.cfm>

Please stay tuned for more information about the **Day of Giving** and how your donation will serve the YC students and also drive the students' service to others.



## 'Rocks on TV!



Shamrock Legacy Team

Left to right: Back row: James Stover, Hayden Gerber, Jordan Grasis, Mia Sterenberg, Amy Zhen, Max Schiller Front Row: Dru Martin, Emily Skibitsky, Jenna Casares, Lexi Davis, Sydney young Not Pictured Sam Cheung and Bethany Johnson



Over 6600 cans collected by the students for the KEYC Food Bowl!



Students from the area private schools enjoying Future Shamrock Day

## Reunion: Class of 2006



Left to right: Damarice, Gilda, John, Samantha, Stephanie and Steven

Another homecoming weekend, another 10 year reunion! The Class of 2006 took their reunion to the next level by joining the students on campus throughout the week and sharing their stories and their time with the student body.

Gilda Alvarez led the students in their daily prayer service Thursday morning. Gilda's message was one of "faith, hope and love and (about her) journey thus far." She touched on how it was a difficult decision to leave YC to head to college in Kansas, but her trust in Christ and the understanding that He had a plan for her, a hope and future (Jeremiah 29:11) gave her the courage to make the journey. Gilda continues to live and work in Salina, KS today and as she told the kids that morning, listening and looking for God in her life on a daily basis has filled it with confidence and joy, while working in the community serving others.

On Friday, Gilda was joined by Stephanie Costanza, John Peach, Samantha Landesman and Steven McKelvey to a form an alumni panel that spoke and took questions from all four classes. Each took a few minutes to discuss their personal journey and how YC was a large contributor to building the foundation they needed to make it through good times and bad times. Their backgrounds have taken them all over the world as members of the military, fashion industry, agriculture and community service workers. Steven has become a leader in the AG community in Yuma and Samantha serves here as a Agency and Program Director at the Yuma Community Food Bank. Stephanie lives in LA and works in the world of television and fashion, as a model and spokesperson. John went to the University of Arizona where he was a member of the Naval ROTC program and he is currently a Lieutenant in the Navy, working on his MBA at a post graduate Naval institution in Monterey, CA.

The student's questions ranged from "What's Justin Beiber like?" to "What was it like to be a student-athlete in college?" and the panel gave very thoughtful and honest feedback to the kids at each interaction. The panels messages included ones of having confidence in yourself, in who God made you and don't be afraid not knowing what you want your life to be, because it's likely to change before you leave college, as it did for many of them. A quote from Steven summed up nicely how each of them managed to be successful in college, "Study hard, Pray often and hunker down."

After each session the students stayed after to have one on one time with some of the panel and as you can see in some of the attached photos the conversations were intent on learning more and finding out information or answers that might help them be more successful on their own journeys.



## Alumni Spotlight: Jennefer (Terkelsen) White



Jennefer 'Jenny' White (Terkelsen) graduated from Yuma Catholic in 2004. She attended Gonzaga University and the University of San Diego studying Biology and Accounting (respectively). Jenny currently resides in Yuma and works as an auditor for Terkelsen, Smith & Tyree, PLC. When reflecting on her time at YCHS and how it may have guided her career path, she stated, "Although it may not be the first thing that comes to mind when people think about auditors, my job focuses heavily on relationship building. The community at YC helped to instill in me the knowledge that building and maintaining meaningful personal relationships can open doors for you and will also help you through tough spots. I've carried that with me, and believe it has helped me tremendously."

As October's featured alumnus, Jenny has accomplished much personally, professionally, and graciously reflects, "I went to great colleges, have lived all over the country, traveled, and have a fulfilling professional career. However, what I am most proud of is that my family and I have chosen to make Yuma our home and are working to give back to and better the community that has given so much to me."

In true Shamrock fashion, she shared encouraging advice for current students. Jenny said, "You are unique and wonderful - there is no one just like you. Even though your friends may have similar interests or goals, they are not YOU. Don't be afraid to do things for yourself and to do them alone. More importantly, there will be many times you are alone in life, not by choice. Keep your Christ in focus and maintain your faith."

Submitted by: Elizabeth Williams, Class of 2005



# The Naquins: A Summer of Travel and Service

Chloe and Belyn Naquin are seniors and juniors, respectively, here at Yuma Catholic. This summer they had the opportunity to partake in two, very different, adventures. These adventures would teach them both a lot about themselves and the cultures they were traveling in together. Through a program called Bold Earth these young ladies headed off to China and Fiji!

**Bold Earth is a travel summer camp adventure program founded in 1976, by Abbott Wallis. Find out more at <https://boldearth.com/>.**

Since Bold Earth offered so many choices, it required the girls to talk through the many options. Chloe had already experienced Europe and Belyn was looking to find a place that was a contrast to what US culture provides. Fiji and especially China fit their criteria the best.

China was mostly a “sightseeing trip” according to Chloe as they spent a great deal of time traveling around the entire country. Their service commitment on this trip was to spend time at a “vocational school” assisting students and teachers. The school was focused on the vocations within the hotel and restaurant industry.

The girls both noted that China was extremely “busy,” especially the big cities of Hong Kong and Beijing. The Chinese understanding of “personal space” is quite different than the US and if you weren’t willing to protect your place in line or move fast enough while walking you would quickly get pushed aside; however, both Chloe and Belyn found out that the Chinese love to get pictures taken with Americans and they were often stopped and asked for photos.

The high note of the China trip was the travel, including the modes used to get them there. The girls enjoyed their first high speed rail trip and a good night’s rest in a “sleeper car.” They also spent time on small planes and buses as well. Belyn discovered that Northern and Southern China are very different culturally and economically. Chloe “learned how to barter,” in the town of Yangzhou, one of the poorest provinces that had many market places where the locals sold their goods. The girls enjoyed that China offered so many different landscapes and experiences, big “crazy, crazy, crazy” cities, dodging cars and people, and small villages where the pace was much slower and friendlier.

In Fiji, the girls found a place whose culture fit them perfectly. Chloe described it as “go with the flow” and Belyn noted that “everyone was so friendly and had great attitudes.” According to Chloe, “Fiji is one of the friendliest places in the world; the Fijians are also Christian and very conservative. In the village we all had to wear a tie up “skirt” called a Sulu.”

This trip had two specific purposes, one of service to the community and the other to educate and certify the travelers in open water scuba diving. The group committed to two service projects. One on the island of Kiowa and the other was on a farm owned by their dive instructor. On the island each of the travelers was “teamed” with a local family, who they lived with for the three days they were there and as a “member of the family” they each took part in the daily duties required of that family. They also worked as a group to “beautify” the area as it had just recently been hit by a cyclone and there was debris everywhere. The farm was hit very badly as well and they help replant a crop of kava root, which is a main source of income for the village.

They spent lots of time with the children in the village playing with them during their recess at school. Chloe had a Polaroid camera with her, which fascinated the kids, even running back to their parents with the pictures. When asked where they came from, they referred to Chloe as the “pulani,” which means white girl. The girls had mixed opinions on the Fijian food, which is heavily based on seafood. Neither girl is a huge fan of seafood; however, Chloe said “it didn’t hinder anything! We were always full and happy.”

Finally, when asked about advice for others who might like to take a trip to an unfamiliar place the girls gave me their trip motto, “TIC” and “TIF.” “This is China and This is Fiji.” Chloe elaborated “They are not the United States.” You are not “back home, so dive in and don’t hold yourself back, don’t be afraid to try new things (and) don’t just go to a place, Experience It!”



The United States Marines will be on hand so...**Bring a toy to the Rib Cook Off**

Yuma Catholic High School  
Rachel Determan  
Memorial Rib Cook Off  
14th Annual Family Fun Event  
December 3rd, 11am to 3pm

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