



“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”  
*1 Peter 4:10*

Dear Yuma Catholic Faithful,

Over half of the school year is in the books now and it has been a great year so far! The number of students we serve continues to climb. This is due in large part to the school mission to focus on curriculum, faith, and responsible leadership.

Part of that responsible leadership is making sure our student body reflects the positive attributes of our community. Taking steps to help families with success-driven students from all sectors of the community afford to choose Yuma Catholic continues to be a goal for the administration and Board of Trustees. Having resources to lower tuition costs for parents is vital to that student choice.

The annual fund is one of the tools to close the gap on the set tuition and the actual costs to educate your student. Nearly every student has a subsidized education cost of \$1,520 from the actual budgetary expense. We are grateful that we have achieved 80% of our budgetary goal for the annual fund this year, but we still need your help to bridge the remaining gap.

Won't you love your Shamrocks by making a donation the week of February 12 through 18? We will launch the annual fund second semester request, by a drive focused on your student. Parents can show the love by making a donation in honor of a student, family member, and/or YC staff member and a Valentine will be posted on the Wall of Love at YC for two weeks or through February 24<sup>th</sup>. There will be some additional ways family members can demonstrate the love at different giving levels with a “You Rock” Candy Gram, YC Jolt Charger, or 20 oz. YC Viking Tumbler. Donors may name a recipient at the Pink, Red, Blue, Green, and Gold Levels. All levels of donations are welcomed and appreciated.



Please be a part of the annual fund for the final half of the school year!  
Your faith in our students and staff is highly valued.

## High School Placement Tests for incoming freshmen

**Saturday, February 18, 2017**

**Saturday, March 18, 2017**

**Saturday, April 15, 2017**

Tests will take place at **Yuma Catholic High School** and they will begin promptly at **8:30 am**.

**Pre-Registration is required**

**\$25 test fee**

Call Laura Cuen at 928-317-7902  
to register your child today

## 2017-2018 School Year Applications

We are now accepting applications online for incoming freshmen and new students.

If you have any questions please call  
Laura Cuen at 928-317-7902

[Click here to start your application now!](#)

## CHANGES COMING!

Current Students and Parents

Re-registration will be done through our RenWeb online enrollment feature for the 2017-2018 school year

**Registration fees will only be accepted via payment online**

Going forward any parents requesting a payment plan will be required to set up a plan through the FACTS website for automatic withdrawal.

Payment Options Include:

Monthly  
Quarterly  
By Semester  
Annually

# Shamrock Spotlight: Ana Deckey



Ana Deckey is a member of the graduating class of 2017 here at Yuma Catholic High School. Ana has been a very active student at YC. She is currently the student council president of her class and has been a member of the council all four years. She was inducted in the National Honor Society as a sophomore and currently holds a weighted 4.68 grade point average. She has also been a member of the soccer and track teams. Ana has taken part in our partnership with Arizona Western College by participating in dual credit courses that allow students to earn high school and college credit for those subjects. All of these opportunities and experiences have helped Ana reach her goal of not only going to college, but being accepted to the school of her choice and earning a generous scholarship.

Ana earned early acceptance to Claremont McKenna College in November. Claremont McKenna is one of the nation's top liberal arts colleges and is a part of a seven college consortium modeled after Oxford University. CMC receives over 7,000 applicants regularly and less than ten percent are accepted. When asked why she chose CMC, Ana pointed to the fact that she would have the comfort of a "small, tight knit community" at CMC, with the benefits of a larger university thanks to the consortium having six additional campuses and facilities to broaden her horizons both socially and academically. She also stated that, "CMC has a really strong network and is excellent at placing its students in competitive internships and in the end getting its student jobs or acceptances into top tier graduate programs." It didn't hurt that the campus was filled with students who seemed in Ana's eyes "shiningly content."

Ana's acceptance was just the beginning. She also received the McKenna Achievement Award. This award is only given to up to 10 incoming freshmen and is renewable each year. This scholarship funds classes, as well as, endeavors such as internships, research and academic travel abroad. Ana noted that a particular part of her application may have set her apart from her other future classmates. Ana led a team of high school photographers on a journey to document Yuma's vital agricultural heritage and economic stronghold. She commented, "In the end, I think the only thing that differentiated me was the fact I came from a town as distinctive and gritty as Yuma and the way I documented that in my application."

Early acceptance is a big deal at any college and Ana credits the help of the Yuma Catholic counseling department, namely, Mrs. Stallworth for driving her successful approach. Ana stated, "The standards set by (the)YC counseling department, to not only apply to college but lots of them, and to get it (college) paid for, are what make it such a great place to prepare for the next steps in your life." The counseling team that includes Terra Stallworth and Anna Gonzalez work from day one of freshman year to get Yuma Catholic students prepared for college. Ana pointed to Mrs. Stallworth's consistent support and encouragement as a key reason for how "achieving your goals becomes much easier" here at Yuma Catholic.



## Who Wants To Be A Lawyer?

Yuma Catholic is starting up a "Mock Trial" team headed up by Mr. Dean Cain. Participants who are interested in law and the procedures and methods of prosecuting or defending a case in an actual court setting are encouraged to apply. Attorney Richard Edgar will also be assisting students in their preparation for team competition on April 1st at Yuma County Superior Court.

Mr. Cain is also looking for a parent volunteer to cover the Saturday, April 1st competition as he has a previous commitment.

## Sports & Music News

Both boys and girls soccer finished their seasons on a strong note, qualifying for the upcoming playoffs.

Both teams begin state tournament play February 3rd in Phoenix. The links here show the entire brackets. [Boys Bracket](#) and [Girls Bracket](#)

The Golden Shamrock Choir will be singing at Diocese of Tucson School Board Endowment Dinner Concert at St. Augustine High School in Tucson on Saturday, February 4th. The choir and band will also be performing in Anaheim on March 17-18 for a Music Festival competing for ratings and rankings.

# Alumni Spotlight: John Jackson, Class of 2005

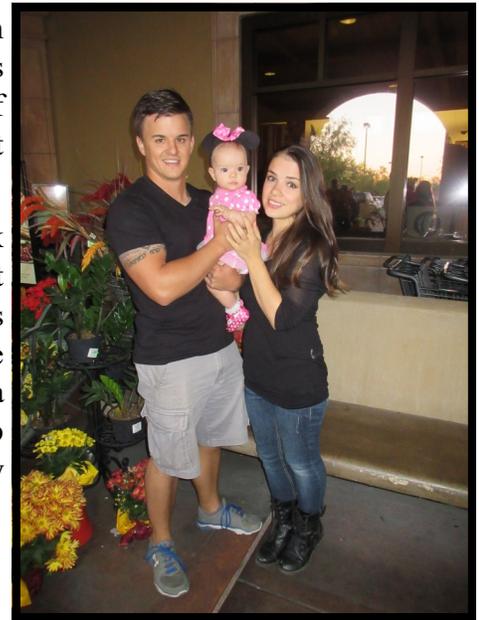
Written by:  
Elizabeth Williams  
Class of 2005

John Jackson graduated from Yuma Catholic in 2005. He attended Henley-Putnam University studying Business Management. John currently resides in Tucson and works as an investigator and security specialist for Tucson Electric Power Company. When reflecting on his time at YCHS, John recalled a favorite teacher, Mr. DeDecker. “Mr. DeDecker was my favorite teacher. History was my favorite subject. I could always tell that Mr. DeDecker put a lot of work into his classes and genuinely cared about teaching.” John also stated he is still close friends with several of his class mates.

We would like to recognize John as January’s featured alumnus having served as an infantryman in the United States Marine Corps for 5 years. He reflects, “hands down, it was the greatest honor of my life. Some of the best and worst moments of my life happened in the Marines. I consider my military service to be my greatest accomplishment.”

When asked to share advice to current students John expresses, “Don’t ever think you are going to have your life 100% figured out. Things will happen at the worst times, the options available to you will never be what you want them to be; life is going to break your heart. You have to work as hard as possible wherever you are and do the best you can with what you have available to you. That’s how you build a good life for yourself and accomplish your goals. I have seen many people give up on their goals because the conditions were not "perfect" or "ideal" for them, they never will be, so don't be that person.”

Thank you for your service, John Jackson!



## A Semester Filled With Generosity

At the center of our faith-filled family is the spirit of giving back to the community in both time and money. The first semester of the school year was no exception as our students worked together to raise funds and awareness for causes close to their hearts.

In September, Mr. Nash’s engineering class collected money during their fight song performance and Mr. Nash matched the proceeds. In all, the class donated \$500 to the Yuma Community Food Bank.

In October, again on behalf of the Yuma Community food bank, the entire student body took part in the KECY Food Bowl and brought in more than 6000 pieces of canned or boxed food. In November YC found out they won the food bowl competition, collecting more food than all the larger public schools in town.

The student council worked to raise money for non-profit organization called Sharing Down Syndrome of Arizona. The students created a month long contest between each class to raise positive awareness and “extra change for an extra chromosome.” The sophomores prevailed and in all the council raised

over \$1000 for the SDSA.

The student council got December off to a great start by inviting United Blood Services to campus for the first of two blood drives. Faculty, staff, students and parents helped donate 39 pints of blood.

Our National Honor Society continued their support of the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program. Students worked to collect toys and the NHS invited Marines from the MCAS to join them at the rib cook off to greet the community and raise money. In the end, the NHS delivered 6 large boxes of toys and \$624 in cash to the Marines.

Finally, our Spanish club looked to help some folks south of the border. Spanish club faculty advisor David Duran reached out to several organizations in need and the students chose the Bethel Orphanage in San Luis Rio Colorado, Mexico. The students sold snacks during athletic events and before and after school to raise funds to buy warm coats, clothing and some toys for the kids at the orphanage.

Looking forward to what happens this semester, stay tuned!

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FEBRUARY 11, 2017**

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