

R-K Today

SPRING 2020

*A publication for the alumnae, parents, friends,
and benefactors of Rosati-Kain High School*



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On the Cover: Jhordyn Nolan Gunn '21 and Audrey Smith '21 were all smiles at the 3rd Annual Kaleidoscope Dinner Auction.

Rosati-Kain High School MISSION

Through a vibrant Catholic education, we cultivate the individuality, faith, talent, and aspirations of young women who will lead and serve the world.

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Letter from the DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT



Dear Rosati-Kain
Family and Friends,

As we began the last quarter of the 2019-20 school year, the R-K community had to adjust to changes that none of us could have expected. Our seniors were preparing for graduation, our juniors were excited about their Junior Ring, and our sophomores and freshmen were preparing to finish strong. The COVID-19 virus changed all of

these plans. Events and projects that our students were preparing for have now been cancelled along with the rest of their school year. In a recent communication to our parents, Dr. Goodwin expressed the following sentiment:

"We understand that the uncertainty of this situation may result in moments of anxiety or fear. With liturgies and church services unavailable to us, I find myself praying even more with the Scriptures. 'Do Not Be Afraid.' These words are recorded 365 times throughout the Bible, that's one for each day of the year. Because we have faith and we believe, we know in our hearts that God is with us and will never abandon us, and we have hope and we have peace. In times such as these, it is exactly this hope and peace that comes only from God that sustains us. It is this hope and peace that I am grateful for."

Today we find ourselves in quite a strange time. A time where distancing ourselves from each other is what is needed to move forward and what is best to stop the spread of this virus. We are in a time of uncertainty and I know for many, a time of fear. It is during this time that I have also been amazed by the spirit and generosity of the people of St. Louis that I have witnessed, coming together to help in any way possible. It is truly inspiring the way I have seen the community continue to support local small businesses and help however they can. I have also seen this same spirit within our R-K family. A community that I am truly blessed to be a part of.

It is due to our wonderful community, that we have been able to move to e-learning for our students quite seamlessly. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we are able to provide one-to-one devices for our students. Our faculty are also equipped with the tools they need to teach online courses and continue to connect with their students. Our staff is also able to work safely from their homes and practice social distancing to help flatten the curve. We are truly missing our students, and the R-K family we experience each day as we walk the halls at R-K, and we cannot thank you enough for allowing us to continue to educate our young women during this time.

You can be confident in knowing when you give a gift to Rosati-Kain, it does not just help one cause or one program. It allows us to continue to offer the variety of classes, extracurricular, and general opportunities that make R-K the school it is today and has always been. Rosati-Kain has always been a place where diverse voices are celebrated and encouraged. A place where each student can be her own unique self, choosing her own unique path. Your support helps us continue to provide that freedom to each and every student who comes through our doors, and joins our R-K community.

Your continued dedication to our young women as they create their own journey of faith and knowledge while at Rosati-Kain is greatly appreciated. Our students feel your support and are inspired by your efforts to help them succeed. In talking with the senior class recently, I discovered these young women find themselves honored to soon be called alumnae, and they cannot wait to stand alongside the amazing group of women we call our R-K sisters.

Please know that you are in our prayers, not just during this time of uncertainty, but always. Thank you for being a part of our R-K community.

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Stephanie Boyd".

Stephanie Boyd, '06
Director of Advancement & Financial Affairs

Kaleidoscope Auction

It was a night to remember! The 3rd Annual Kaleidoscope Dinner Auction held on Saturday, February 15, 2020, captured the mission and momentum of Rosati-Kain. Hundreds filled the R-K gym to support the young women of Rosati-Kain and to honor the man, the myth, the legend – Barry O’Keeffe.

There were so many moments of the evening that were great examples of the R-K community’s spirit and commitment to cultivate the individuality, faith, talent, and aspirations of young women who will lead and serve the world.

One of those moments came when Bryan Kasten, former faculty member and long-time friend of R-K, introduced Barry O’Keeffe as the 2020 Legacy Award Winner. In Bryan’s speech, filled with jokes and antics of the dynamic duo, Bryan shared this about Barry. “Barry O’Keeffe cut a broad swath through the halls of Rosati-Kain for 45 years and he did it with humor and joy and completely stress-free and inspired those feelings in everyone around him. Tonight it is only proper that he be rewarded.”

The crowd stood and cheered as Barry O’Keeffe took the stage to accept the award from Dr. Elizabeth Ann Goodwin, president of Rosati-Kain. Barry’s speech was filled with his dry, sarcastic wit, but also with moments of deep appreciation and respect for his time at Rosati-Kain. “A special thanks to all the students. You are the reason we are here. You are the reason why teachers love working at R-K. You are the reason that showing up for work is one of the most fulfilling occupations. You are the great success of Rosati-Kain.”

After the award presentation, the remainder of the program began with the announcements of our raffle winners! Congratulations to Monique Martin on winning the BIG \$10,000 raffle. Thank you to our outstanding community of supporters for their help in surpassing our goal with 107% of sales. R-K mom, Wendy Cordia, won the Golden Ticket this year. For just \$50, attendees could take a chance on winning any Live Auction item before bidding began. Wendy chose the All-Inclusive Beach Getaway to Cancun, Mexico with airfare for two.



During the \$100 level Fund-Our-Future, 104 paddles were raised!



Dr. Elizabeth Ann Goodwin, along with Bryan Kasten presented Barry O'Keeffe with this year's Legacy Award.



Eric Clark and Anjanette Morrow Clark '83 paused from bidding to take a picture at the Kaleidoscope Dinner Auction.

The Live Auction was even more exciting than last year, when a proxy bidder on the phone with an R-K representative resulted in a bidding war for the private dinner for 10 with an evening private tour of the magnificent Cathedral Basilica. The proxy bidder won the package finally at \$3,800!

Dan Buck was the auctioneer for the evening and led the crowd to an R-K record \$89,000 raised during the Fund-Our-Future portion of the evening. The most inspirational moment came during the \$100 paddle raise. With a matching gift of \$10,000, Dan challenged the sold-out

crowd to raise their paddle again during this level. A sea of 104 bid numbers were quickly raised meeting and exceeding the match!

The success of this wonderful evening was so humbling with the outpouring of love and support from alumnae, parents of alumnae, current parents, and friends of R-K. Rosati-Kain raised over \$230,000 in one amazing night of giving! Thanks to the support of so many, Rosati-Kain is able to continue our mission and Fund-Our-Future for the next generations of women of R-K.



Mary Ellen O'Keeffe strategically raises her paddle during the Live Auction.



Joyce Gieselman Hunt '63, Valerie Hubenschmidt Kinealy '63, and Marlene McCutchen Gentile '63 had a "mini" class reunion at the 3rd Annual Kaleidoscope Dinner Auction.

#ItCanWait

Randall Stephenson, Chairman, and CEO of AT&T, once told Cathy Coughlin '75, Senior Executive Vice President and Global Marketing Officer, "I want you to think about the AT&T brand as if it were my 13-year-old daughter. I'm trusting you to protect her reputation." And that is exactly what Cathy did. She loved what she did, and she took her job and AT&T personally. Such was her concern that she was deeply affected when parents began contacting AT&T asking for help after their son or daughter was killed in a texting and driving accident. Cathy knew technology was wonderful, but used in the wrong way could be dangerous. She was determined to get that word out and force a change. That word came in the form of a new AT&T campaign she developed in 2010 called 'It Can Wait.'

This nationwide campaign encouraged customers, businesses, and young people to spread the word and take the pledge: Never Text and Drive. At a time when cell phone providers were in steep competition with each other, Cathy was able to convince Sprint Corp., T-Mobile US Inc., and Verizon Communications Inc. to work together to make a difference. "We are the fiercest competitors," Cathy once said, "but this is one of those issues where everybody says, we have a responsibility here."

Although Cathy passed away in 2015, her legacy at Rosati-Kain continues as our students gathered for the first-ever #ItCanWait all-school assembly on March 10th. In coordination with AT&T representatives Ryan Luckey, AVP, Corporate Brand Marketing from the Dallas office and Jomo Castro, Area Manager, External Affairs from the St. Louis office, students were able to hear the stories of the lives affected by driving distracted. Mr. Castro shared this frightening statistic with our students and staff, "Sending or reading a text takes your eyes off the road for 4.6 seconds. At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of an entire football field...blindfolded."

One of the most moving moments of the presentation was hearing from Cathy directly, with the help of video from the launching of this program in 2010. In the video, Cathy takes the pledge to never text and drive, and says, "I'm taking this pledge for my 10 nieces and nephews, four of whom are driving."



The late Cathy Coughlin '75 who created the AT&T 'It Can Wait' campaign credited with saving so many lives.

Joining the presentation was Cathy's sister, Mary Schillinger and her family. Mary spoke to the students about Cathy's life and legacy and her love of R-K. "I need a favor from all of you in this room. I need you to help me get Cathy's message out. After today's presentation, I'm asking each of you to take the *It Can Wait* pledge and say you will not text/post/type on your phone while driving. Secondly, I need you to get on social media and help spread the message – put your phone down while driving – #ItCanWait. I want our message to go viral. Will you do those two things for me and keep my sister's mission alive? We can save lives today."

Representatives from St. Mary's High School were also in attendance. Laretta Divis, counselor at St. Mary's High

School was excited to be a part of this presentation. "The message of #ItCanWait seems to be something simple to communicate to our students. Many times the simple messages get pushed to the side because students, families, and school staff get busy with so many other things. I was grateful to Rosati-Kain for inviting St.

Mary's to participate because this "simple" message can save lives."

Our hope is that everyone can take Cathy's message back to their families and friends and help spread the word – **Never Drive Distracted.**



Facilities Manager Andy Anderson and Taylor Swanigan '21 take the pledge.



Jomo Castro from AT&T shares statistics about driving distracted.



MacKenzie Lotspeich '23, Ainsley Armstrong '23, and Jordyn Valentine '23 proudly took the pledge.

R-K Resilience

In early October of 1918, a second wave of the deadly Spanish Flu hit St. Louis and the City Health Commissioner Dr. Max Starkloff ordered the closure of schools, movie theatres, sporting events, and other public gathering places. Rosati-Kain High School closed for nearly two months during that pandemic.

Catherine Schario Maher, Class of 1920, a freshman at R-K during the Spanish Flu, left a handwritten note to her family recounting these days. Catherine wrote that when Rosati-Kain High School closed she went downtown with a friend, Rose Sherman to find jobs. She finally found one at Myles Millinery Shoppe for \$2 a week making hats. She didn't know how to sew at first, but quickly learned. She even had an order from Amelia Earhardt for a \$20 lined hat, which was tremendously expensive at the time. She knew Amelia Earhardt was an aviator, but didn't really know what that was, but the hat was beautiful. After two months, she went back to Rosati-Kain and brought with her a few skills she learned for sewing class.

During World War II, in 1943, every American contributed to the war efforts, including Rosati-Kain students. "War Shortages In Place" meant the following materials were being rationed in order to keep both civilian and Armed Forces going: food, shoes, metal, and rubber. R-K students gave up all clubs and dances that year, and for the Class of 1943, the students had no yearbook or prom. The most they received was a one page class day program. Although it was disappointing, the students knew lives were at stake and the Class of 1943 led the charge in supporting the war efforts by collecting stamps, war bonds, and scrap metal, and taking on more responsibilities at home on top of school. At this time, many women entered the workforce to keep the U.S. going while a good portion of our male population had left their jobs to go fight the war. Looking back over the years between 1942-1945, Rosati-Kain archivist, Jen Shephard Guidici '87, found that the students rose to the challenge, and did their part with both sacrifices and extra responsibilities.

In March of 2020, our country experienced another crisis – the pandemic COVID-19 or Coronavirus. While

our students were enjoying spring break, we received word that all Archdiocesan schools had to close to help combat the spread of this deadly disease. There were more questions than answers, but Rosati-Kain accepted the challenge and quickly moved into an E-learning environment for our students, faculty, and staff. With just a few days notice, teachers were able to transition their lesson plans to work in this new 'virtual' school. Students, especially the Class of 2020, were left with so many questions about school activities and special events coming up in the next two months. But even as the anxiety of the unknown plagued their minds, our students continue to rise above. Our R-K community rallied quickly to help and support each other and the St. Louis Community.

Our Campus Minister, Erin Brennan, made it a point to connect with all of our students through daily Instagram posts and weekly live "MinisTea Moments." Our Director of Wellness, Mary Wald, sent out emails with resources for parents and students as the pressure of being quarantined for multiple weeks began to build. Our President, Dr. Elizabeth Ann Goodwin, assured us through daily prayer that this too shall pass.

As our administration works tirelessly to navigate these difficult times, and works to reschedule some of these milestone moments, we rely on each other to remind us that while we may miss a few of the traditions we see each year, we hold in our hearts something more, something bigger than all of us. Together, we are finding ways to connect to our students, to connect to our alumnae, and to connect to our community. We are slowing down a bit, sitting down to eat dinner together, and even playing board games together. We are checking on our neighbors and supporting our favorite local restaurants by ordering curbside. And we are praying together. So while we may be physically separated from each other, we are learning new ways to be together even while we are apart.

This may not be how we envisioned the end to the 2019-20 school year, but once again, Rosati-Kain High School will rise to the occasion and be stronger because of it.

Student SPOTLIGHTS

Olivia Wilmsmeyer

Year in School:

Senior, Class of 2020
Valedictorian

Why did you decide to go to R-K?

I loved R-K because of the welcoming environment and all of the friendly people I met just while visiting. I knew Rosati-Kain was a place I wanted to be.

What Clubs or Sports are you involved in?

I am part of the varsity field hockey, varsity swim, and varsity soccer teams. I am the President of Science National Honor Society, and the Vice-President of National Honor Society. I am also involved in Mu Alpha Theta, Pro-Life Club, and Ping-Pong Club.

What are your favorite hobbies or after school activities?

I love to play sports and hang out with my friends and family!

What do you want to do after high school?

I plan to attend Rockhurst University in the fall to play soccer and study either nursing or engineering.

Who is your favorite teacher and why?

This is a very difficult question and I don't think I have a distinct answer. I love all of my teachers for their own individual reasons. Every one of them is unique and has played an integral role in my life these past four years. They have all helped me to become the young woman I am today and I can't thank them enough for all that they do! I'm really going to miss my R-K Family next year!

What is your favorite R-K moment from this past year?

This whole year was really unique for me because I have three other sisters at Rosati-Kain with me—my twin, Analiese '20, Ella '22, and Isabella '23. I loved being able to ride to and from school, practices, games, and meets with them. Seeing them in the hallways and butting in on their conversations with their friends was always a joy. The four of us have grown closer because of R-K! I can't wait to see the young women Ella and Isabella become because of all the great things Rosati-Kain has to offer!



Janyya Robinson

Year in School:

Senior, Class of 2020

Why did you decide to go to R-K?

I heard about R-K through my principal at the Sister Thea Bowman Catholic School. I

chose Rosati-Kain because it was very diverse. The environment was very inclusive from my first day.

What Clubs or Sports are you involved in?

I am a member of the Science Club, Diversity Club, NHS, and Science NHS. I am also a member of the school band.

What are your favorite hobbies or after school activities?

I like to volunteer at Memorial Hospital. I also enjoy playing my violin. It's purple!

What do you want to do after high school?

I am looking at Emory University in Atlanta and am interested in pre-med.

Who is your favorite teacher and why?

My favorite teacher is Ms. Hartenbach. She is a great Biology and Physics teacher. She is very understanding of the students and she is always super nice.

What is your favorite R-K moment from this past year?

My favorite R-K moment was October Day! This is a schoolwide festival event at the school with food trucks, zumba classes, and other fun activities for all the students to take part in.



Who's DOING What?

Alumnae on the Frontlines Battling Covid-19



Jeanie Greamaud Childs '73 has worked at St. Mary's Health Center for 44 years and is currently working on the surgical floor and filling in on the COVID-19 floor. Jeanie plans to retire this fall after her 65th birthday in November.

Alli Rohman Rosa '12 is a critical care pharmacist currently working in an intensive care unit in Salina, KS. During this pandemic, Alli has worked with her healthcare team to make decisions regarding medications that could be used to treat COVID-19 and shortages of medications and personal protective equipment whilst working on the frontline. She is especially thankful for the nurses and respiratory therapists caring for COVID-19 patients in her community. Alli is pictured here with her spouse, John, who is also a pharmacist.



Kim Washington '86 is making a difference in the COVID-19 fight. Kim is currently working with COVID-19 research studies at Washington University School of Medicine. For over two decades, Kim has been a Nurse Practitioner/Research Patient Coordinator for Infectious Diseases.



Aleeyah Thompson '13 is currently working as an Occupational Therapist in the nursing home setting in Kansas City, MO. During this pandemic, people are still having strokes, heart attacks, and fractures that prevent them from returning home from the hospital. Aleeyah is also the director of her department and has been meeting with

department heads to develop a strategy to contain an outbreak within the building if a positive case of COVID-19 is confirmed in one of their patients. The fight in the nursing home is very different from the fight that the hospitals have, but we have to support each other.



Colleen Blair Richmond '91 is currently a research nurse coordinator in the infectious disease department at Washington University. She has a masters in public health and graduated from nursing school

in 1995. She has been going to work through this pandemic, and her team started COVID-19 trials recently.

Lizzie Geerling '14 is pursuing her PhD in Viral Immunology at the Doisy Research Center at St. Louis University. She is working directly with COVID-19 to develop models that can be used and studied to further understand the virus.

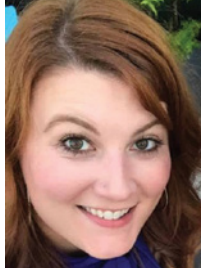


Who's DOING What?

Do you have some news you'd like to share with the R-K Community? Please send a short announcement along with a digital photo of 600 x 600 pixels or greater to rkdevelopment@rosati-kain.org

Alumnae

Annie O'Donoghue, '06 is the External Affairs Strategist at the National Council on Alcohol & Drug Abuse (NCADA) and President of NCADA's Junior Board, the Wellness Council, a group of young professionals, serving as ambassadors for NCADA and organizing wellness-related events. Annie worked with other members of the Wellness Council to create an alcohol-free space for people to socialize, The Sans Bar STL. This group has hosted 2 incredibly successful alcohol-free pop-up events in St. Louis, where guests can get wild not wasted, be social, and have a blast while sipping on mocktails.



Melody Federer, '06, a singer-songwriter, has a new single "This Town" available on iTunes. Her next album, which is the follow-up to 2017's "When the Dogwoods Bloom," does not yet have a release date. Melody also has a song out with Burt Bacharach called, "Bridges," that was released in January 2020. You can follow her on social media to find her latest gigs and music.

Rev. Charlin M. Hughes, M.S.W. '87, received a 2019 Power 100 Award at the 5th Annual Deluxe Power 100 Holiday Gala. Charlin started her journey of servanthood early on. Her breadth of intentional and impactful work as a community leader, advocate, and change agent spans more than 30 years. Charlin's limitless efforts have positively affected teen moms, the un-housed, families of the Normandy Schools Collaborative, and the community at large. Moreover, the unjust verdict in the Philando Castile case bolstered a need to help bridge the gap between police and community and as a result, Charline created Humanity in the Middle in an effort to do so.

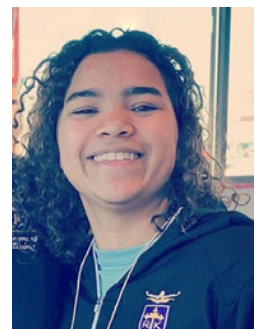


Current Students

Congratulations to student-athletes **Kari Ham '20** and **Alise Sextro '20** who signed to play Lacrosse in college. Kari will be playing for Missouri Western State University and Alise has signed to play for Maryville University.



Laya Young '21 placed 10th in the 50 freestyle at the MSHSAA State Swim Championship! Laya also set a new personal best and a new Rosati-Kain record with a time of 25.30. Congratulations, Laya!





ROSATI-KAIN
HIGH SCHOOL

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Have you remembered
R-K in your estate plans?

UPCOMING *Events*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR TODAY! BE SURE TO CHECK FACEBOOK AND THE R-K WEBSITE FOR CHANGES AND UPDATES

KOUGAR KLASSIC September 2020



Get your classmates together to win the 2020 Kougar Klassic. Donate during the month of September to get your class on board. This competition is all about class participation, not dollar amount! The winning class wins a happy hour in the Coughlin Courtyard!

UNIQUE BOUTIQUE Sunday, November 22, 2020



You've been balancing a busy life and it's time to grab your sister, girlfriends, and daughters and enjoy a fun and relaxing afternoon at R-K. Discover some of St. Louis' best shops and boutiques and meet new friends on Sunday, November 22nd from 1 pm - 4 pm.

KALEIDOSCOPE DINNER AUCTION Saturday, February 13, 2021



Celebrate all things Rosati-Kain at the 4th Annual Kaleidoscope Dinner Auction to benefit our most important asset—our students! Tickets go on sale in November 2020.