



## CLASSICAL EDUCATION, MOZART AND THE CLASS OF 2022

By John Heaton, Headmaster

In this edition of QUID NOVI we highlight the class of 2022. While you might be meeting them for the first time, we are preparing to say our goodbyes at a soon-coming graduation! Many of the members of this class started right here in kindergarten; others joined them along the way. Just yesterday—it seems—I was opening their car doors, greeting them as they scurried off into their kindergarten classes, and chuckling at their oversized backpacks. Their cuteness was mightily endearing, but as they’ve grown into young adulthood, that fondness has turned into deep and abiding affection. What they’ve become fills me with hope for the future. Together, they have spent years acquiring the necessary tools of learning to succeed wherever

their paths take them.

Classical educators like us often find ourselves in the position of having to defend our approach. We are in a skills economy, we are told, and students must be prepared for global competition. Education must focus on skills . . . which is another way of saying nothing! Nobody knows what kind of world this class will inherit, and there is no way to impart the particular skills needed for what we don’t know. Anybody who got a computer science degree in 1987 has had to upgrade training more often than Microsoft releasing its next version of Windows!

Consciously or unconsciously, many have bought into the fallacy that raw talent can take the

*continued on p.5*

### WHAT'S NEW?

#### NCS Alum Sharrett Publishes First Book

New Covenant Schools alum and experienced freelance photographer with the New York Times, **Luke Sharrett** (2007), has recently published his first book. *Eye Contact: A Photojournalist's Search for Meaning and Manhood* explores the question, “What does it mean to be a man?” The book highlights

Luke’s decade-long behind-the-scenes views of such places as the White House, Air Force One, Navy SEAL boats, hurricanes along the Gulf Coast, coal mines in West Virginia, and Roswell in New Mexico. It ends with Sharrett facing his fears and participating in a mass parachute drop on the 75th

anniversary of D-Day in Normandy. You will enjoy viewing Luke’s photographs and reading about his journey. *Eye Contact* may be purchased here <https://www.lukesphoto.com/eye-contact>. Congratulations to Luke!



# H O N O R A R I A

## NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS CLASS OF 2022



### RYLEE AMES

**Entered New Covenant:** Kindergarten  
**Co-Curricular:** Girls Tennis | Volleyball 2  
**Recognition:** National Latin Exam *cum laude* | Art Fair 2nd place Mixed Media | Senior Thesis Honors | *Magna cum laude* 2 | *Cum laude*  
**Thesis Title:** "A Nazi at the Door: Addressing the Justification of Lying to Save a Life"



### MAKENZY BATES

**Entered New Covenant:** 4th Grade  
**Co-Curricular:** Drama Production 4 | Engineering Competition | Track & Field 4 | Yearbook  
**Recognition:** Science Challenge 3rd place team | Art Fair Best in Show, 1st place Photography, Sculpture & Mixed Media, 2nd place Painting, Photography & Sculpture, 3rd place Painting | Track & Field 3rd in State-Discus | DAR Essay Competition - District and Regional winner | *Magna cum laude* 3  
**Thesis Title:** "For the Greater Good: Different Eugenetic Movements and their Ties to Scientism and Nationalism"



### ANNA BURTON

**Entered New Covenant:** Kindergarten  
**Co-Curricular:** Track & Field 4 | Yearbook Editor-in-Chief 2 | Basketball 4, Co-Captain | Girls Tennis, Captain | Volleyball 2 | Cross Country  
**Recognition:** Gryphon Award Basketball & Tennis | Poetry Recital Finalist | *Cum laude* 3  
**Thesis Title:** "Depression: The Epidemic of Overprescription and the Overuse of Antidepressants without Regard to Holistic Approaches"



### GIOIA CALABRETTA

**Entered New Covenant:** 9th Grade  
**Co-Curricular:** Drama Production 4 | Engineering Competition | Girls Tennis 4, Captain | Soccer | Literary Magazine  
**Recognition:** National Latin Exam *Summa cum laude* | Poetry Recital Finalist 4, Class Winner 2 & Rhetoric Winner | Best Actress Award | Gryphon Award Tennis | Most Valuable Player Tennis | Art Fair Best in Show, 1st place Sculpture 2 & Photography | 3rd place Sculpture, Mixed Media | Science Challenge 3rd place team | Senior Thesis Honors | *Summa cum laude* | *Magna cum laude* 2  
**Thesis Title:** "There is No 'There' There"



### MADELINE DUNCAN

**Entered New Covenant:** Kindergarten  
**Co-Curricular:** House Council | Swim Team 4 | Track & Field 4 | Cross Country 4 - Captain |  
**Recognition:** National Latin Exam *Maxima cum laude* 2 | Poetry Recital Finalist 2 | Most Valuable Runner Cross Country | Most Improved Runner Award Cross Country | Gryphon Award Cross Country & Track & Field, Swimming 3 | Science Challenge 3rd place team | *Summa cum laude* 3  
**Thesis Title:** "The Nose Knows! Or Does It? How the Abilities of Dogs are Beneficial to Human Life"



### DALTON FOSTER

**Entered New Covenant:** Kindergarten  
**Co-Curricular:** House Council, President | Basketball 4, Co-captain & Captain | Lacrosse 4, Co-captain 2 | Track & Field | AMC Math Competition 2 | Engineering Competition | Soccer | Golf  
**Recognition:** National Latin Exam *Maxima cum laude* 2 | Most Valuable Player Basketball | Defense Award Basketball | MVP Lacrosse | All Conference Lacrosse | Poetry Recital Finalist | Most Improved Player Award Basketball | *Summa cum laude* | *Magna cum laude* 2  
**Thesis Title:** "Keeping Our Roots and Our Guns: A Historical Argument on the Right to Keep and Bear Arms in the Second Amendment"



# H O N O R A R I A



## OWEN HELM

**Entered New Covenant:** 11th Grade

**Co-Curricular:** Track & Field 3 | Indoor Track 2 | Lacrosse | Swim Team | Cross Country | Baseball

**Recognition:** Indoor Track Regional Finalist, 2nd place in Pole Vault | *Magna cum laude* 2

**Thesis Title:** "Smooth Operator: A Discussion of Imperialism in Africa and its Newest Recruit"



## MICHAEL MAROTTA

**Entered New Covenant:** 7th Grade

**Co-Curricular:** House Council – Vice President | Swim Team 4 | AMC Math Competition 2 | Engineering Competition | Lacrosse

**Recognition:** Most Valuable Swimmer Award 3 | Swim Team State Finalist 2 | All-Conference Swim Team | All-State Swim Team | *Magna cum laude* 3

**Thesis Title:** "The Technology Strikes Back: The Unintended Consequences of Technology and its Effects on the Human Brain"



## SAIGE KNAPTON

**Entered New Covenant:** Kindergarten

**Co-Curricular:** Soccer 4, Co-captain | Volleyball 3, Co-captain | Engineering Competition | Peer Tutor | Basketball

**Recognition:** National Latin Exam *cum laude* | Gryphon Award Basketball | Most Improved Player Award Volleyball | Rotary Club Ethics Award | *Summa cum laude* | *Magna cum laude* 2

**Thesis Title:** "International Adoption, Helpful or Harmful: The Issues and Policies of the International Adoption System"



## SKYLAR MCCURLEY

**Entered New Covenant:** Kindergarten

**Co-Curricular:** Swim Team 4 | Mexico Missions Trip

**Recognition:** Gryphon Award Swim Team | Poetry Recital Finalist | Senior Thesis Honors | *Cum laude* 2

**Thesis Title:** "Test Tube Babies: The Christian Ethics Behind In Vitro Fertilization"



## CAROLINE MAROTTA

**Entered New Covenant:** 7th Grade

**Co-Curricular:** Swim Team 4 | Yearbook Design Editor 3 | Mexico Missions Trip | Track & Field

**Recognition:** Most Valuable Swimmer Award 2 | All-Conference Swim Team | Swim Team State Finalist 3

**Thesis Title:** "Inherited Genetic Diseases, Are They an Easy Fix? The Use of CRISPR-Cas9 to Alter Genetics"



## BRIë OLSON

**Entered New Covenant:** Kindergarten

**Co-Curricular:** House Council | Volleyball 4, Co-captain | Track & Field 4 | Basketball 4 |

**Recognition:** Most Valuable Player Volleyball | Most Valuable Athlete Track & Field 2 | All-Conference Volleyball, Track | Gryphon Award Basketball | All-Conference Basketball Team | Most Improved Player Award Basketball | Poetry Recital Finalist 2 | Senior Thesis Honors | *Summa cum laude* 2 | *Cum laude*

**Thesis Title:** "The Importance of the Thin Blue Line: Why Backlash on the Police Force in America Harms Society"



## JACK MAROTTA

**Entered New Covenant:** 7th Grade

**Co-Curricular:** Lacrosse 4 – Co-captain 2 | Swim Team 4

**Recognition:** All-Conference Lacrosse 2 | Most Valuable Swimmer Award | Gryphon Award Swim Team | Defensive Award Lacrosse | Bank of the James Citizenship Award

**Thesis Title:** "How'd We Get Here: An Examination of Intelligent Design and its Opposing Views"



## SOPHIE REDMOND

**Entered New Covenant:** 11th Grade

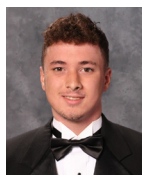
**Co-Curricular:** Drama Production 2 | Soccer | Cross Country 3 | Lacrosse 2 | Track & Field 2

**Recognition:** Best Actress Award | Art Award 2nd Place Mixed Media | Track & Field 3k school record | Cross Country Most Memorable Runner 2 | *Magna cum laude* | *Cum laude* 2

**Thesis Title:** "I Don't Want to Go to School: Motivation Tactics and the Decline of Desiring Education"



# H O N O R A R I A



## **WILLIAM ROONEY**

**Entered New Covenant:** Kindergarten

**Co-Curricular:** House Council | Lacrosse 4 | Soccer 2 | Track & Field | Basketball

**Recognition:** Most Improved Player Award Soccer | Rotary Club Ethics Award

**Thesis Title:** "Leading in War and Peace: An Analysis of the Leadership of Napoleon Bonaparte"



## **JOSIE SCRUGGS**

**Entered New Covenant:** Kindergarten

**Co-Curricular:** Volleyball 3

**Recognition:** Magna cum laude | Cum laude 2

**Thesis Title:** "Animal Assisted Therapy: Why the Continuation of Animal Assisted Therapy Should be Supported"



## **WILL SPRUILL**

**Entered New Covenant:** 4th Grade

**Co-Curricular:** House Council | Swim Team 4 | Lacrosse 4 | Cross Country 2 | Soccer | Track & Field

**Recognition:** Most Improved Swimmer Award 3

**Thesis Title:** "The Perfect Utopia: What is Wrong with a Perfect Society?"



## **ELISE UMINN**

**Entered New Covenant:** 3rd Grade

**Co-Curricular:** Track & Field | Swim Team

**Recognition:** Most Improved Swimmer Award

**Thesis Title:** "The Mental Prison: Why PTSD is Found in Prisoners and How We Can Change Our System"



## **ELIANA WALKER**

**Entered New Covenant:** 1st Grade

**Co-Curricular:** House Council | Volleyball 4, Co-captain | Basketball 4, Co-captain | Soccer 3, Co-captain | Cross Country 2 | AMC Math Competition 2 | Engineering Competition | Work-Study Aide

**Recognition:** National Latin Exam *Maxima cum laude* 2 & *cum laude* | Classic Learning Test 10 Southeast Regional Scholar and National Distinguished Scholar | Poetry Recital 4, Class winner 2 | All-Conference Basketball & Volleyball | Most Improved Player Award Volleyball | Senior Thesis Honors | *Summa Cum Laude* 3

**Thesis Title:** "The Reality of Holistic Healing: The Benefits of Choosing a Non-Toxic, Alternative Approach to Cancer Treatment"

## **CLASS OF 2022—COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES**

Anderson University (2)  
Appalachian State University (2)  
Cedarville University  
Christopher Newport University (2)  
Grove City College  
James Madison University (3)  
Liberty University (10)  
Old Dominion University  
Randolph College  
Sweet Briar College  
United State Marines  
University of Lynchburg (8)  
University of Tennessee (2)  
University of Virginia (2)  
Virginia Tech (3)  
Western Carolina University  
William & Mary

## **EARNED SCHOLARSHIPS**

**RYLEE AMES**—Liberty High Achiever Scholar, Liberty Academic Scholar

**ANNA BURTON**—Liberty Academic Scholar, Liberty High Achiever Scholar, Hopwood Scholar

**GIOIA CALABRETTA**—Academic Scholar

**MADELINE DUNCAN**—Volunteer Explore Scholar

**SAIGE KNAPTON**—Liberty Champion Scholar, Academic Scholar, High Achiever Scholar

**CAROLINE MAROTTA**—Founders Scholar

**JACK MAROTTA**—Eccles Scholar, Presidential Scholar

**MICHAEL MAROTTA**—Hopwood Scholar, Perry Honors Scholar

**SKYLAR MCCURLEY**—Founders Scholar

**BRIE OLSON**—Founders Scholar, Denmark Scholar, AU Gold Scholar

**JOSIE SCRUGGS**—Hopwood Scholar, Sigler Scholar

**TOTAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP = \$738,920**

## EVERYONE

### SCHOOL OF RHETORIC CONCERT

Our School of Rhetoric students in strings, band and choir will be performing in a Spring Concert on **Monday, May 16 at 7pm** in the Moomaw Center. Students participating should arrive in concert dress. All are invited to come enjoy their performances.

## MAY BREATHER

**There will be no school on Monday, May 9.**  
*Enjoy the breather!*

### CINCO DE MAYO

There will be a schoolwide Cinco dress day on **Wednesday, May 4** in celebration of Cinco de Mayo. All students, faculty and staff are invited to wear jeans with a red, green or white top.

### CUIRIM HOUSE FUNDRAISER

New Covenant has partnered with Cuirim House Mission in Nogales, Mexico for years as a way for our Rhetoric students to experience foreign missions and live into Jesus' Great Commission. There will be a fundraising lunch on **Wednesday, May 4** for the School of Rhetoric to support next year's mission team. A meal of chicken tinga, tacos, tortilla chips and Mexican Cokes will be served for \$8. Donations to the mission are welcome! We will celebrate Cinco de Mayo with a

red, green and white uniform day! (See previous announcement.) The director of Cuirim House, **Brian Donohue**, will be our guest speaker at Rhetoric chapel at 8am in the Moomaw Gym.

### AP EXAM SCHEDULE

Those students in the School of Rhetoric who are enrolled in AP courses will sit for testing on their respective dates/classes as follows:

**Wednesday, May 4** – English Literature and Composition

**Thursday, May 5** – Statistics

**Monday, May 9** – Calculus (although this falls on our May Breather the nationally administered AP tests will still be held)

**Tuesday, May 10** – English Language and Composition

**Friday, May 13** – Latin

*continued from p.1*

place of training, which is, of course, the foundation of a skill. Skill is nothing more than a trained practice, and, as the adage goes, "Practice makes perfect." But the new rock-solid conviction is advanced anyway, along with its companion idea that children's esteem must be built by continually telling them that they are great, as if nothing they produced needed much correction.

Both of these fallacies are supported with the familiar citations of musicians or artists, such as Mozart, whose talent, we would be led to believe, could be recognized as nearly mature at birth. Not only is this untrue, but even if it were, it would hardly be a fair standard against which average children should be measured. Mozart had an unbelievable ability to remember large swatches of notes, but at an early age he figured out how to put this innate ability to good use.



It took him hours of practice to do it. He could sit down at a keyboard and perform for the average hearer an improvisation that seemed spontaneous. In reality he was merely linking up musical progressions he had spent hours committing to memory, much as the medieval minstrel could link up previously worked out literary couplets and epithets on the fly, tailoring them to a local audience to the amusement of all.

There are never any shortcuts, although some minds can take the curves faster. This explains the astonishing fact that when Mozart put his composition on paper, he made few corrections. His charts give the impression of simple genius *minus* work. What we have come to discover from Mozart's letters, however, is that his

work was done inside his very smart head, where he went over and over his scores repeatedly before he picked up a pencil.

Repeating an action again and again enables self-criticism. Educational experts in our day avoid repetitive learning as mind-numbing. Afraid of boring children, avid to present ever-different stimulation, the enlightened teacher is told to avoid routine. But in doing so they deprive children of the experience of studying their own ingrained practice and modulating it from within.

As the class of 2022 completes its work in just a few days, they will conclude a long regimen of study which included plenty of repetition and memory work, but it also imposed a year-over-year routine of study habits and practices upon which these students will be able to build. As their skill develops, the contents of what is repeated can change. Our seniors, for

*continued on p.8*



# PERMANENT THINGS CAMPAIGN

## FINANCING PHASE IV: HOW WE REACH OUR 10-YEAR GOAL

\$1,217,609 RAISED TO DATE

### School of Rhetoric Commons



Before



After

STRATEGIC RESERVES \$500,000

DEBT RETIREMENT \$500,000

Classroom Addition Goal: **\$500,000**

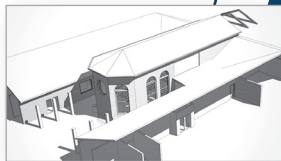
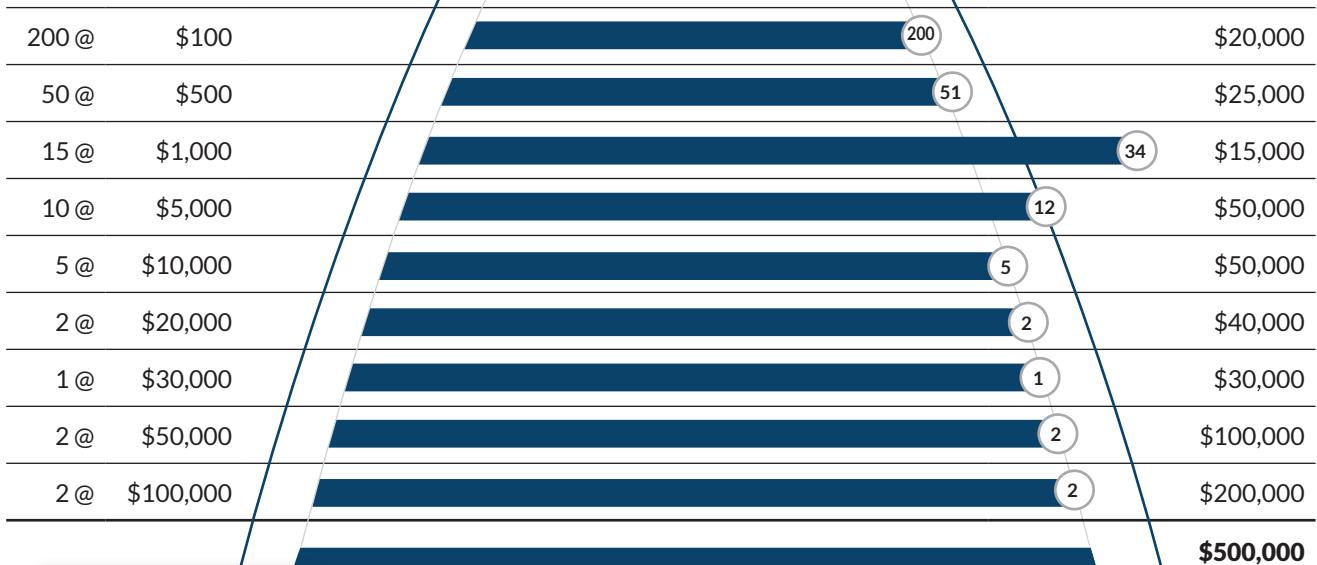
Amount Pledged: **\$561,600**

10  
YRS

5  
YRS

1  
YR

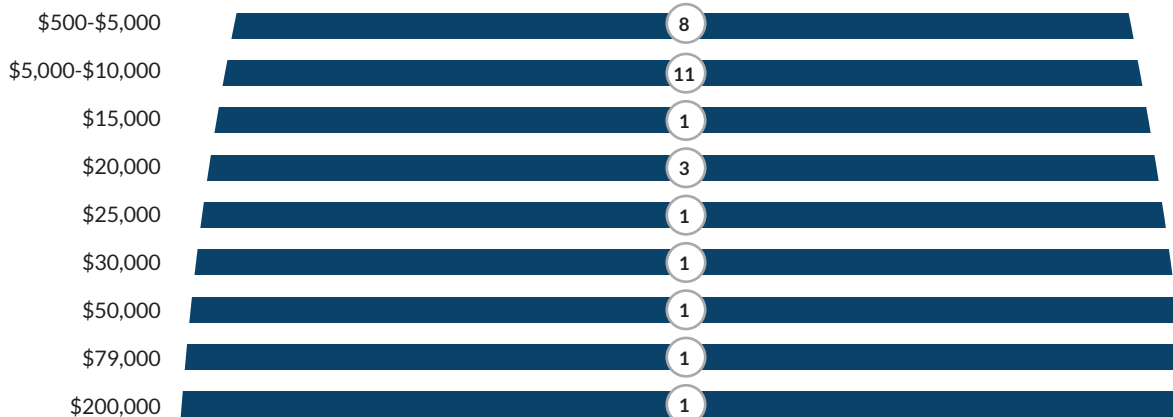
DEC  
2021



**Marie Macdonald  
Chapel Renovation**

Fully  
funded

Total given:  
**\$636,009**





# Choral Evensong

The background image shows the interior of a church, identified as Marie Macdonald Chapel. It features a wooden ceiling, large stained glass windows with colorful designs, and a central altar covered with a floral cloth. A wooden bench is in the foreground, and a lectern with a floral cloth stands to the right. The overall atmosphere is warm and inviting.

**THURSDAY**  
**MAY 12, 2022**  
**7:00 PM**

Featuring the treble choristers of New Covenant Schools  
Dinner service at 5:30pm / \$5 person / \$20 max per family  
Marie Macdonald Chapel on the campus of New Covenant Schools



# NEW COVENANT schools

122 FLEETWOOD DRIVE | LYNCHBURG, VA 24501 | 434.847.8313 | FAX 434.455.0214  
www.newcovenantschools.org

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT #405  
LYNCHBURG, VA

*continued from p. 5*

example, just completed their senior thesis presentations (see their titles on the Honoraria pages). None of them could have imagined this project as a Grammar School student, and many of them dreaded it as they concluded middle school and entered the School of Rhetoric. By the time Thesis Day arrived, however, they had been carefully “scaffolded” through a pedagogy that magnified their abilities, in some cases to their own surprise and delight. The project was concluded with palpable confidence, and their skill in presenting their topics was obvious.

Returning to Mozart, we know that at around age six or so, he was fascinated by the Neapolitan-sixth chord progression, moving, say, from C major to an A-flat major. After a few years of working with it, he became adept in inverting the shift to other positions. That is key. Mozart acquired skill with certain musical realities.

Then he innovatively and successfully applied the skill in different ways. Few of our students begin with Mozart’s innate genius. All of them, however, can benefit from his methods, which entailed repetition and sustained attention to the mastery of information and technique. Once mastered, this could be put to higher use.

The class of 2022, like all students who sojourn through New Covenant, experience a pedagogy designed to provide the mind with facility to find and solve problems. When we talk about preparing students for a skills-based economy, there is nothing that will prepare them better than a classical, Christian education. Now that they have finished their course, we eagerly await to see their efforts come to fruition as they step out into young adulthood. Congratulations to the class of 2022.

## QUID NOVI

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CLASS OF 2022 • Amy Bonebright  
• Dr. Tim Brophy • Leslie Moeller  
• Bob Price • Dan Vollmer • CLASS OF 2023 •  
Nancy Hall • Kristin Hampton • Sam Mizener  
• Tom Rogers • Anne Umbarger • Darryl  
Whitesell • CLASS OF 2024 • Mike Lovell

### EX OFFICIO

Rev’d John Heaton

### OUR MISSION

New Covenant Schools is an educational community serving families of Central Virginia, providing an exceptional education in a classical curriculum within the framework of historic Christianity, furnishing the student with the tools of education and the inspiration to be a lifelong learner.

NEW COVENANT schools