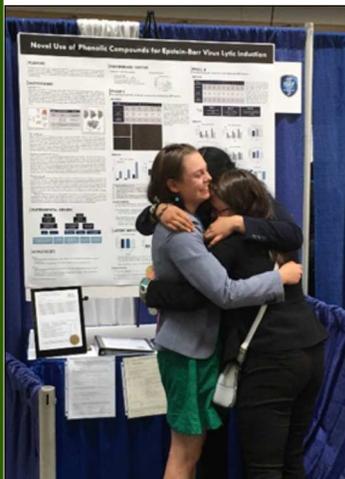


## RVGS's First Ever "Best of Category" at ISEF!



We are excited to announce that Logan Dunkenberger brought home 1st Place and Best in Category for Microbiology at the International Science and Engineering Fair last week! This is the first time that an RVGS student has earned that level of award at ISEF, and we are incredibly proud of Logan for her excellent work.

Carly Smith received a special award from the Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh, which means both our ISEF attendees received awards! Congratulations to both of these young ladies for their success. Carly wrote a summary of their ISEF experience, which is featured on page two.

### Counselor's Corner

Congratulations Students and Parents! This is our last newsletter for the 2017-2018 school year and we have survived! AP and SOL testing is behind us, courses for next year have been chosen, and students are now preparing for their final exams. As summer approaches most all of us are just thinking about enjoying some down time. Spending some relaxing time with family and friends is essential to your health and well-being. However, while enjoying this down time, there are some things your students can be doing in helping to prepare for the future.

Summer is a great time to explore college options. The internet is a great place to start, but physically visiting campus is essential in making your final selections. It is never too early to begin this exploration. Rising seniors should also begin putting together a resume' that includes any school or community organizations they have been involved in as well as community service or volunteer work. Athletics and employment should also be included. Any leadership roles or titles are important to note as well. This resume' is an extremely helpful tool for counselors and teachers when writing college and scholarship recommendations. It's also a great way to present your accomplishments to colleges and scholarship committees.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. I will be in my office through June 8th and I will return on July 23rd. Have a fun and safe summer!

### Virginia State Science and Engineering Fair

The Virginia State Science and Engineering Fair brings together regional fair winners from a dozen regions across the commonwealth, for a total of more than 200 projects that are judged by 70 experts in higher education and business communities from around the state. Thanks to the efforts of Mr. Levy and Dr. Dave Trinkle (RVGS parent and VTC's Associate Dean for Community and Culture), this year's state fair was held in Roanoke for the first time ever, at the Berglund Center on April 14, where it will be held each spring through the year 2020. A total of 18 RVGS students earned a spot at the competition.

Research projects at the state fair are literally the best of the best of the best – meaning the entries have already won at the school, city or county, and regional levels – and being recognized among this select group is a monumental achievement. Please congratulate the following students who received category awards at the state fair!

First place: **Tiana Horace** (William Fleming High School) in Animal Science; **Richard Qiu** (William Byrd High School) and **Matthew Svec** (Hidden Valley High School) in Cellular and Molecular Biology

Second place: **Ana Barrios** (Patrick Henry High School) and **Jai'Chaun Paige** (William Fleming High School) in Plant Science

Honorable Mention: **Emily Cathey** (Patrick Henry High School) in Chemistry; **Reid Tenzer** (Patrick Henry High School) in Engineering: Material and Bioengineering

-Regina Carson

### Message from the Director

It's hard to believe that we are at the end of the school year...and what a great year it was:

- The class of 2018 was offered \$4.8 million in scholarship money—a new high for RVGS.
- The state science fair was held in Roanoke and RVGS took home five awards, including two 1st places.
- We earned five gold medals at VaJSHS, including two projects progressing to Nationals.
- We continued the Shelly STEM Challenge with partnership from GE.
- Four new staff members joined the RVGS family and had successful first years.
- The RVGS Determined program launched to support student growth and success in and out of class.
- And of course ... Logan brought RVGS our first ISEF "Best of Category"!

I couldn't be more proud of what we have accomplished together this year, and I'm excited at what 2018-19 will hold. Have a safe and relaxing summer!

Our category award honorees from this year's state science fair.



## ISEF in First Person: Carly Smith

With the world, almost literally, only a 10-15-minute stroll from our hotel room, the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair of 2018 held many promises to allow Logan Dunkenberger; myself, Carly Smith; Ms. Bohland; and Bohland's daughter, Isabella, to *Think Beyond*. Monday gave Logan and myself the chance to engage in a pin exchange with around 1,800 fellow students from 81 different countries in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. As one of our favorite experiences, the pin exchange allowed for us to communicate and become close friends with the geniuses of the world quickly by simply introducing ourselves and exchanging one pin for another. By that night, we were able to fill our lanyards and Isabella's. Monday, then, gave us the opportunity to practice trimming our project spiels to two minutes, experience multiple worlds of Virtual Reality and the sheer power of technologies in our hands. Eventually, the time came to concentrate on a concert-like Opening Ceremony that sought to inspire everyone to ask the innovative questions that guided the steam engine onto a train.

Tuesday guided us outside of the city and to Frank Lloyd Wright's modern architectural

masterpiece Falling Waters. Within Wright's arrangement, we were further

inspired by how Wright could *think beyond* the alleged limits of architecture during his time and create one of the first paths to modern design. Once back into the city, however, Logan, our by-then close friends, and myself caught up to the social gathering Intel had set-up and we began to truly understand that nerds also know how to party. Transitioning into Wednesday was a humbling and nerve-racking experience as we adventured around Pittsburgh and prepared for the day-long judging event. With a total of 2 special award judges and 12 judges each, Logan and I were exhausted by the end of Wednesday, but also proud in how we were able to communicate and represent our hard work to the collection of earnest men and women passionate in our respective fields.

Dwindling down to the end of week, as the ice cream receipts continued to pile up, just as promising was the Open House event when our projects could be seen by innovative minds of all ages. The public's understanding of science flourished and so did ours as we were able to see and talk about all the promising studies and inventions the world had to offer. In reflection, the experience in Pittsburgh was absolutely gracious and after crossing the bright, yellow bridges twice, taking artsy pictures in every spot imaginable, and walking around 85,000 steps in comfortable and uncomfortable shoes, the time had finally come to celebrate our week-long ISEF experience by seeing ourselves and others succeed. Thursday night was reserved for Special Awards and seeing the pride that amounted each time a student was presented with the gratification

they desired was inspiring, I was able to experience this gratification

thanks to the Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh and relish in all the support and pride felt in a room filled with some of the brightest minds of the era. However, the support and pride continued into Friday when the Closing Ceremony was dedicated towards rewarding those that truly *thought beyond* and excelled in their overall categories. Of all the award winners, the brightest star that shined was RVGS's own Logan Dunkenberger as she took claim of 1<sup>st</sup> and Best in Category for Microbiology. Heartwarming and surreal was the experience in living in the moments of immense school pride and inspiration as Logan won, and we continued to celebrate the victories of the ISEF 2018 Grand Award winners as a community of science despite cultural, lingual, and educational differences.

Leaving Pittsburgh was bittersweet, but promising to our futures, careers, and outlooks on life. In the closing of this article, I would once again like to congratulate Logan on her victories, thank Ms. Bohland from the bottom of my heart for guiding us on this experience of a life-time and making it a week full of excitement and learning, and encourage everyone reading, whether it be students, teachers, or parents, to always *Think Beyond*.

Thank you sincerely,  
Carly Smith  
RVGS/FCHS Junior



## National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium: Christine Flora

This year's participants of the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium, held in Hunt Valley, Maryland, were welcomed into the open arms of the equestrian themed lobby of the hotel alongside the bustle of armed service members and STEM enthusiasts. Here, they embarked upon a four-day excursion into a collaborative environment where students from around the country and other Department of Defense Schools could share their research projects in both poster and oral presentations.

Here, students' innovation and enthusiasm towards their research radiated from the symposium, well reflecting the level of complexity and creativity of projects. Ranging from the implementation of chlorophyll in the treatment of ovarian cancer to the mathematical modeling of green space in cities, the applicability of the research projects furthermore served as an uplifting confirmation that the future generations are dedicated to forever improving society in all aspects. Key note speakers from the Department of Defense in conjunction with a tour of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research also supplemented the symposium by sharing their own research and career experiences in STEM, opening our eyes to the seemingly endless opportunities for research careers with the military.

Though surely the emphasis of the experience was based upon the STEM aspect, the program also strongly encouraged social interaction among students, an opportunity that prompted conversation not exclusively focused on the mere superficiality of brief introduction and the typical elevator speech about one's research. During both an ice cream social and a memorable twilight tour of DC (a mesmerizing view of the nation's capital that even for native Virginians was a unique experience), JSHS ensured that the student participants of JSHS would be integral in enjoying the whole experience of the program.

Overall, both Gavin and I felt that the JSHS experience as a whole was both inspiring and refreshingly eye-opening in its emphasis that the scientific field extends beyond just the data or molecular science, but also into the people and stories attached to the research that undoubtedly will serve as a "Catalyst for Global Impact" for years to come.



# Spring Ultimate Frisbee Tournament 2018

Well, it happened. Team Butter won their 6<sup>th</sup> straight RVGS Ultimate Frisbee tournament! Never heard of them? That's because the team changes its name each season, but it's still the same group of Franklin County and Roanoke County guys that have been playing together since freshman year. They called themselves "Butter" this tournament because – you guessed it! – "we're on a roll" – and the win meant so much to them that they refused to take a team photo until after they'd been declared the champions. They'll get a picture in the hallway for this epic achievement, and bragging rights in perpetuity. Well done, team!

Tournament weather conditions were cold and colder this season, and the first morning play literally began in sub-freezing temperatures amid snow flurries and wind gusts. It was played single-elimination style with 15-minute matches before school, starting at either 7:45 AM or 8:05 AM, except for the championship, which consisted of two 15-minute halves. The tournament took three mornings to complete, and Mrs. Sebolt did a terrific job of keeping both the time and the score, and assisting with questionable calls.

A total of 60 students participated, with team rosters ranging from 6 members to 10. Every grade was represented in the tournament, as were

six of our seven school districts. Team Butter had uniforms – oddly, pinnies that said "Ceiling Roof Goat" – but everyone else just did their own thing. Falls were plentiful, but the injury report was relatively minor – one bloody nose, one pair of ripped pants, multiple reports of possible frostbite. The championship game was a barn burner, tied at the half, with Butter topping Global Warming is Fake 13-8 for the win! It really was a thriller, and a great ending to Team Butter's reign.

Congratulations to all of our teams: **Butter, Global Warming is Fake, Massive Frisbeasts, No Subs Just Dubs, PHreshmen, and Saucy Sophomores**, and thank you to each of our student athletes for bringing in 5 cans of food as their entry fee. The tournament collected over 400 items – 495 pounds of food in all – to be donated to Feeding America Southwest Virginia.

Special thanks to Mrs. Sebolt for organizing the event and for making sure that RVGS nurtures every side of our Lab Rats. From Project Forum to Ultimate Frisbee tournaments to our Student Art Shows, Gov. School is as well-rounded as its students.

-Regina Carson



## 2018 Virginia Junior Academy of Science Symposium

RVGS sent 19 students to the VJAS Symposium on May 23. Congratulations to Matthew Svec and Richard Qiu for taking first place in their category at VJAS. Reid Tenzer received third place and the following students received honorable mention: Christine Flora & Kathryn Fink, Kevin Sheng, and Madison Stein & Elysia Lin.

Congratulations to all our participants.



Hooray for Mr. Steve Smith for being named one of three finalists for Roanoke City Public Schools' Teacher of the Year 2018! On April 26, Mr. Smith enjoyed pampering at Zee's Salon, then limo transport to the awards banquet, where he was honored with a video, a trophy, and an oversized check. Congratulations, Mr. Smith! Our favorite PUN-dit!



# 2018 Senior Dinner

On May 7<sup>th</sup>, the senior class, their families, the Governor’s School’s faculty, and RVGS Board and Foundation members all came together at Hotel Roanoke to celebrate our graduates, and it was a night to remember.

Board Chairperson Mark Cathey spoke about the characteristics that define this generation, and teacher Steve Smith spoke about the character that defines us all. Student Jack Harrison Buchanan ended his speech with a hearty “Keep Truckin’, Gov. School!”, and student Kathryn Fink ended hers sweetly, by thanking her peers for “letting me learn with and from you”. There were silly superlatives and serious awards, a slideshow comparing baby pictures with graduation pictures, and of course the annual faculty roast performed by the students, with each teacher in turn taking it on the chin in this year’s skit.

In her speech, Kathryn talked about how the Governor’s School embodies the phrase “friendly competition”. She spoke about times when fellow students helped each other out, even though they were competing for the same award, and she said that the faculty at RVGS not only fosters that environment, they encourage it. She talked about the keys to success she learned at Gov. School – including perseverance, collaboration, and not taking herself too seriously – and she shared a life lesson, too: “It is not easy to catch a falling M&M in a pair of scissors, but it is pretty easy to catch a finger.”

Jack’s reflections focused on what an extraordinary place the Governor’s School is and how fortunate he feels to have been part of it. He listed a personal highlight from each of his years at school, from freshman year, where he “learned how to study for the first time,” through senior year, where he helped his team win their sixth straight RVGS Ultimate Frisbee tournament, a Gov. School

first. Jack thanked the teachers and staff for their support, and he encouraged his peers to reach high and to live RVGS Determined. For motivation, he recommended looking to Zig Ziglar, “If you aim at nothing, you will hit it every time.”

Mr. Smith stressed the paramount importance of integrity in a life well lived. He shared an anecdote from Dr. Ben Carson’s book, “Gifted Hands,” that demonstrated the value of honesty and integrity, even when no one’s watching; especially when no one’s watching. He told students that life is not a cassette tape – that “you can’t just rewind it and start over” – and that actions have consequences, even if they don’t appear to. Mr. Smith reminded students to be grateful for what they have and for what they’ve been given, and to never let an opportunity pass to tell their parents that they love them.

The students “honored” each other with Senior Superlatives such as Biggest Flirt, Best Dancer at Govie Gala, and Most Likely to Fall Asleep at Graduation, and they roasted the faculty with a Slice of Life style skit that highlighted each teacher’s eccentricities, real or perceived. Students received their senior pins while their self-submitted proudest accomplishments were read– which ran the gamut from lasting beyond Round One in the limbo at the Govie Gala to being awarded a full scholarship to Duke University – and then Mr. Levy concluded his second Senior Dinner as the director of RVGS.

After hugs and pictures, an impromptu sing-along began around the grand piano in the hotel vestibule. It was wholesome, endearing, unexpected, inclusive, and supportive, and astonishingly well-executed. In other words, it was vintage Gov. School, and a lovely end to a lovely evening.

-Regina Carson



## Congratulations Class of 2018!

McKinley Anders	William Fleming HS	Virginia Tech
Ana Barrios	Patrick Henry HS	University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
Rachel Benton	Cave Spring HS	University of Virginia
Peyton Black	Franklin County HS	Ohio State
Mitchell Blum	Patrick Henry HS	Virginia Tech
Harrison Brock	Patrick Henry HS	Virginia Commonwealth University
Jack Buchanan	Lord Botetourt HS	Virginia Tech
Ryan Buxton	William Byrd HS	Virginia Tech
Sarah Carista	Patrick Henry HS	University of Virginia
Wells Carson	Patrick Henry HS	Princeton University
Emily Cathey	Patrick Henry HS	University of Virginia
Carol Chen	Cave Spring HS	Virginia Tech
Olivia DeMattia	Patrick Henry HS	University of Virginia
Richard Dorss	Franklin County HS	Virginia Western Community College
Amber Dow	Staunton River HS	James Madison University
Madison Duval	Patrick Henry HS	Georgetown University
Luke Erikson	Franklin County HS	William and Mary
Kathryn Fink	Patrick Henry HS	Vanderbilt
Grayson Fisher	Patrick Henry HS	University of Virginia
Sydney Fisher	Patrick Henry HS	University of Virginia



# We will miss you, seniors!

Brant Flici	Hidden Valley HS	University of Virginia
Christine Flora	Hidden Valley HS	University of Virginia
Avery Fulton	Patrick Henry HS	Virginia Tech
Jessica Goad	William Fleming HS	Virginia Tech
Daniel Hancock	Franklin County HS	Bridgewater
Henry Harmon	Patrick Henry HS	Washington & Lee University
Reilly Hatfield	William Byrd HS	Virginia Tech
Tiana Horace	William Fleming HS	Duke University
Kailyn Janiga	Hidden Valley HS	Notre Dame
Jake Johnson	Salem High School	Virginia Tech
Luke Johnston	William Byrd HS	Virginia Tech
Gretchen Kepley	Patrick Henry HS	University of Virginia
Kenneth King	Patrick Henry HS	Virginia Tech
Kara Kosinski	Patrick Henry HS	Virginia Commonwealth University
Robert Kreft	Patrick Henry HS	Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Kendall Livesay	William Fleming HS	University of Virginia
Nick Logan	Patrick Henry HS	Virginia Tech
Minh Ly	William Fleming HS	Virginia Tech
Tara Malloy	James River HS	William and Mary
Abby Markham	Salem High School	Virginia Tech
Emma Muzzy	Cave Spring HS	NC State
William Neal	Patrick Henry HS	University of Virginia
Madelyn Nichols	Hidden Valley HS	University of Virginia
Dino Oikonomou	Cave Spring HS	Washington & Lee University
Trey Orr	Cave Spring HS	University of Alabama
Gavin Oxley	Lord Botetourt HS	University of Virginia
Jai Chaun Paige	William Fleming HS	Duke University
Maria Parnell	Lord Botetourt HS	University of Virginia
Risa Philpott	Franklin County HS	Virginia Tech
Katherine Pufko	Patrick Henry HS	University of Virginia
Richard Qiu	William Byrd HS	Harvard University
Nicholas Rakes	Franklin County HS	University of Alabama
Nicholas Robinson	Franklin County HS	University of Virginia
Beatrice Schlepner	Patrick Henry HS	Duke University
Gabriel Scott	Patrick Henry HS	Virginia Tech
Jack Sherman	Patrick Henry HS	University of Virginia
Jamison Smiley	Hidden Valley HS	University of Virginia
Murphy Smith	Patrick Henry HS	Virginia Tech
Ainsley Swartwout	Lord Botetourt HS	Virginia Western Community College
William Sweet	Hidden Valley HS	University of Virginia
Gabrielle Taylor	Northside HS	University of Alabama
Andrew Thomas	Staunton River HS	Virginia Tech
Owen Trinkle	Patrick Henry HS	University of Virginia
Victoria Weitzman	Staunton River HS	Virginia Commonwealth University
Cabell Whitlow	Patrick Henry HS	Duke University
Ashlyn Wolfe	Lord Botetourt HS	University of Virginia
Luke Wyatt	Staunton River HS	George Washington University

