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## Ryken Senior Awarded \$20,000 Horatio Alger National Scholarship

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Emily Simmons, a senior at St. Mary's Ryken High School (SMR), has been awarded a \$20,000 Horatio Alger Scholarship and an all-expenses-paid trip to participate in the National Scholars Conference in Washington, D.C., this coming April.

Ms. Simmons, from Hollywood, Md., is one of only 104 students to receive the national scholarship awarded through the Horatio Alger Association, which gives the awards based on academic achievement and involvement in extracurricular and community service activities.

While looking ahead to becoming a DNA researcher, Ms. Simmons plans to major in molecular biology and is deciding among four colleges: North Carolina State University; the University of Maryland; the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; and the University of Florida. Emily is a member of the Theodore Ryken chapter of the National Honor Society and a captain of the varsity field hockey team. She also was chosen to be one of the Xaverian Brothers Sponsored School (XBSS) Stewards at SMR: this group works through Campus Ministry to carry out Christian service opportunities in both the school and the local communities.

Ms. Simmons learned of the scholarship opportunity through Mr. David Hamilton, the school's college counselor, who is one of 16 Certified Educational Planners (CEP) in the state of Maryland and one of only two working at the high school level.

St. Mary's Ryken is a private, coeducational, Catholic secondary school sponsored by the Xaverian Brothers. Students come from many different counties across the region including Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, King George, Prince George's and St. Mary's counties. SMR offers a rigorous and challenging college preparatory curriculum. Although the majority of students are Catholic, a variety of religions are represented and all denominations are welcome.