

Two graduates land generous Simperman Scholarships for college

By Renata Birkenbuel.

Megan Michelotti and Zeb Antonioli, both Carroll College-bound, won significant Simperman Scholarships after graduating BCHS last spring.

"It's an amazing thing for our students," said Butte Central Catholic Schools President Don Peoples, Jr. "We're thrilled, from our stand point, to give our students an incredible opportunity to go to Carroll College."



Roy F. Simperman

Roy F. Simperman, BCHS class of 1958, grew up on Butte's East side, attended Sacred Heart Grade School, then Boys Central High School, where he graduated in 1958 before it was renamed Butte Central High.

His father was the late Roy William Simperman, and his wife was the late Diane Corette, both of Butte.

Simperman is the CEO and chairman of Semaphore Corporation in Seattle and an ongoing major donor to the catholic education, sees BC and Carroll among his short list of pet projects.

Simperman, 77, has a math degree from Carroll (1962), a master's in physics from the University of Nebraska and an MBA in economics and finance from the University of Washington. He also worked for Boeing.

His technology grants in recent years have allowed BC schools to buy new computers, laptops and cutting-edge programs to keep students abreast of the latest digital demands.

"My contributions in 2016, 2017 and year to date in 2018 are \$420,150," said Simperman. Included in that tally is a \$205,000 donation in 2015 to BC to seriously upgrade its technology and computer labs and classrooms. The district installed a high-speed fiber optic network in 2015.

Simperman summarized the annual search for college-bound freshmen

award-winners:

"We're always looking for the brightest and the best who cannot afford that kind of education," said Simperman.

"The keys to success are not always taught in schools," he said, adding that "integrity, common sense and good judgment" are other requirements to win

what amounts to a renewable, 4-year, \$60,000 college scholarship at Carroll College, Simperman's alma mater.

Simperman's grants include math, science, nursing and pre-med scholarship programs at Carroll "run around \$200,000 per year right now," Simperman said.

"I was elated (to win) because it felt like fate," said Michelotti. "Here I was wanting to go to Carroll, and here was Mr. Simperman giving a grant for kids wanting to attend Carroll. I was very grateful."

"I personally had a strong desire to attend Carroll because my family and I felt it would be a great fit, but because of the cost, I was almost scared off," said Michelotti.

"I do plan to go into something along the lines of public relations and for sure English, and maybe minor in French and theology as well. I think they all sound fantastic," she added.

As she awaits fall semester, Michelotti is an aide for a community member, a driver, a house painter and a babysitter.

Her parents are Michelle Spalding and Tom Michelotti.

Zeb Antonioli who received a Presidential Scholarship is thrilled to win a



Megan Michelotti and Zeb Antonioli receive the Simperman Scholarship.

Simperman Scholarship. "I had already visited the campus and was very impressed with the college," said Antonioli. "This was the college I wanted to attend. My grandfather graduated from Carroll College in 1943. I will be the first of any of his children or grandchildren to attend Carroll College. He is very excited for me. I am planning on a pre-med degree right now, which would be following in his footsteps in becoming a Doctor of Medicine."

Antonioli, a four-year BC right guard and defensive tackle, travels to New Zealand with his Rocky Mountain Rascals 4-H Club this summer before starting college. He participates in the Young Farmers of New Zealand competition and exchange since he has raised livestock for 10 years in 4-H.

"For three weeks, I integrate myself in the cultures and find out what it's like living in another country," said Antonioli. His host family owns 1,000 dairy cows.

Antonioli's parents are Steve and Nancy.