



## Episode #31 - Ben North

Gary (00:02):

You're listening to Rebel Five and interactive interview podcast with alumni, past and current parents and friends of Roncalli high school. I'm your host, Gary Armbruster, director of alumni and corporate relations at Roncalli . And each week I will ask our guests five questions regarding how their lives have evolved and how key connections of experience, opportunity and alumni networking have propelled them to where they are today. We'll talk challenges, how to overcome challenges and what they've learned along the way. Stay tuned.

Gary (00:33):

Our guest today, has been at Roncalli for 17 years as a chemistry teacher and he is now our department chair. Uh, 17 years. Ben North. Welcome to the Rebel Five podcast.

Ben (00:44):

Thank you for having me.

Gary (00:46):

17 years ago. Did you think, uh, when you started here that Oh yeah, I'm going to be here in 17 years. Absolutely not. Okay. Not at all. We'll get into that. Okay. Okay. You're from Wheaton, Illinois, correct. And then from Wheaton, Illinois, you went to Valpo Valparaiso. You're a proud Crusader, you know? Yes. Graduated in 01 what's your degree in? Major is chemistry. And I have minors in math and secondary education. Okay. And then off to IU. Well, I came here and then I went to IU a few years after being here to get your master's? Correct. Okay. And you're married to Julie? Correct. How did Julie get into the picture?

Ben (01:22):

Uh, we were both in the honors college together, so a couple of nerds, I don't think that's going to surprise anybody. And, um, all of the honors freshmen had class together every Tuesday and Thursday and we met at eight in the morning, so it's an early class. Um, and so we all pretty much had breakfast together every day or every Tuesday, Thursday. Right. And

you know, it's one of those weird things. It sounds a little creepy, but, uh, Facebook wasn't on, it wasn't around, it was not around. So our breakfast times didn't match up. Um, but we both liked each other. And so one of the, I can't remember the order, but one of us went earlier each day and the other one went a little bit later each day until we met at the same time every Tuesday, Thursday. But that wasn't planned. It just comes not you were, well we were trying to independently plan that. Yeah. Um, Lily, your daughter, she's six years old. Eight years old.

Gary (02:21):

Okay, I missed that. Okay. I'm sorry. That's okay. So what grade? She's a second grader. And what's his little Lily liked to do? Her favorite favorite thing to do is read. Read. She loves to read and make that happen. Right? Of course. Of course. Which means no talking to boys of course. Yes. Um, I've got some history there. I know a little bit about raising daughters. Yeah. So no boys, boys are there? Yes. Alright. Wheaton, Illinois. How in the world did you get from, uh, Valpo you graduated '01. How, how'd you get the wrong color and what was the first, what was the first thing you ever remember hearing about Roncalli ?

Ben (02:58):

So my wife and I met at Valpo. We got married at Valpo and then we stayed there for a year. Each taught in LaPorte and home of the slicers? Yes. Okay. Yeah. And we wanted to move closer to one of our families. She had zero desire to go to Chicago suburbs. And so that meant I was pretty much stuck coming here. And, uh, I was very excited about that. I was not, that was, it was, uh, yeah. And so I applied to a number of places. Roncalli was not one of those places. Yeah. Tell that story cause that's a good one. Yeah. So I actually applied to Avon. Um, I really liked it there. I, I wanted to get a job there, had two rounds of interviews and the second round it was between me and another gentleman and principal had the final say. So he went with that guy because he had experienced and I really didn't have experience. Um, but the head of personnel for the township said, you know, I really actually wanted to offer you the job.

Ben (03:54):

It's just, it wasn't mine to give, but I wanted to give you the job. So there's this Catholic school in Indianapolis I love to pass your name on. And I said, you know, I'm not Catholic. I at the time did not have a high opinion of Catholic education. So I said, you know, I appreciate the offer, but no I'll find something else. She called me a second time, about a week later, said, you don't know what you're missing, please can I pass your name on? And I said, so number two, number two, yes. And so for the second time, no, no way. And then she called me a third time, a few days later, and she said, please just, just let me pass your name on. You can say no once you get to the interview, but please just let me pass your name on. And I said, really? Honestly, I appreciate it.

Ben (04:39):

You're trying to do me solid, but no, I have zero desire three times you are out. Correct. And then Chuck called me and at that point I said, you know, fine, I fine I will come down, I'll come down for the interview. I'll say no, but I'll come down. And I was, my attitude was I'll come down, but it's no, and then it was in the spring, the seniors were eating outside, uh, out front or the front porch. And so I walked up. They could tell, obviously I was new to know where it's going. One of them popped up and was just unbidden just popped up. Hey, can I help you or do you need to go? Are you registering for class? Yeah. So she directed me to the main office. Um, it was kinda funny actually. Somehow something got lost in translation. Uh, Angie Toner and sister Anne Frederick were actually part of my interview team.

Ben (05:29):

They thought they were interviewing me for math, so, so yeah. So I walked in this place just had, it's hard to put a finger on it, but it just had a feel to it. So that was like, okay, I can, I can do this. Um, so they offered me a job pretty much right there and he said, you can teach physics, chemistry, math, a combination of those just, Hey, the doors open, doors open. Yeah. And so I took the job, but it was going to be just for a year. Right. You know. All right, I'll give this place a chance. I'll be here for a year and now in my 18th year. So yeah.

Gary (06:03):

Give us a feel for why, why did you, why did you sense something maybe just a little different?

Ben (06:09):

So, well, I grew up in Wheaton, went to Wheaton North high school and that high school just had a, I don't know, it had a feel to it. It was home. Um, uh, my oldest sister, I actually was born in Baltimore, Maryland and my oldest sister started high school in Baltimore. And so she went to a magnet school, drew all the smart kids. So I had a chance, I was young, but I was in that high school with my sister. And then my middle sister went to a different high school in our area. They redistricted so I was in that high school for a little bit, just visiting. Um, and my high school compared to those two just felt better. And not because I attended there, but just, you know, it just truly had a different feel to it. And then with my student teaching experiences and observation experiences, um, I substitute taught for a little bit while I was going through college. And so I was in probably six to eight other high schools. And none of them lived up to my high school in what I went to. Never matched it. They weren't bad. They just, they didn't match it. And when I set foot in Roncalli, this is the first place I was in. It was like, okay, this feels like my home. It feels like my old high school.

Gary (07:17):

Were you surprised you got an offer right away?

Ben (07:19):

Yeah. Yeah. I was, I was one year out of college so I was the ripe old age of, actually I hadn't turned 23 yet, so I was 22 turning 23 and for our listeners who may not know, uh, Ben still looks like he's 23 or 24, so that's a good thing. Yeah. Good. I'm actually gonna turn 41 here now. That's insane. Yeah.

Gary (07:41):

Um, do you remember any of the questions in our podcast? Angie? We interviewed her weeks, months ago and uh, so got a lot of good response from, from that episode. Do you remember anything about that? Did she make you feel comfortable? Cause I've heard that before from other people.

Ben (08:00):

Yeah, I was, I was nervous. I was young and you know, it's Chuck and sister Ann and Angie toner who are all a lot more experienced than me. So I was nervous and the atmosphere was definitely calming and just, Hey, we're just having a conversation and just see where we fall.

Gary (08:16):

Uh, Wheaton, Illinois, um, big city, right? I mean suburb of the big city. How far from Chicago have you spent? Much time in the Chicago area. It's a Elmhurst. I know where Elmhurst is, you know, it's, you go from town to town to town, you don't know, right that you've left one and entered or another. So mileage-wise we were 26 miles from the city center. Time-wise, it was anywhere from a half an hour to two and a half hours to get there.

Gary (08:42):

So that is, you will, okay. But here's why I'm asking because I asked you what your hobbies were and you list making soap. Yeah. Cooking, baking. I mean, that seems like it's out of the little house on a Prairie, Ben, what's, what's up with baking, making soap? Are you churning in the basement with some, but what do I teach again? All right. Yeah, that's so, and that's, soap is a, it's [inaudible]. It's a chemical reaction between, so is it a surprise? I was a nerd in college and to honors college, but I didn't mention the fourth thing. And it's brewing beer again. It's all chemistry. Yeah, I understand that. So, uh, do you still do that? Uh, I have not brewed beer recently. OK. Uh, time has gotten a little scarce, but I still make my own soap. I haven't, I haven't purchased soap, goodness knows I'll, I couldn't tell you. How long ago do you have a favorite, um, recipe for cooking or baking? And why didn't you bring anything tonight? I made cake yesterday. What kind of cake? A lemon cake with a nice lemon buttercream frosting. But my wife turned 41 yesterday. Oh, her birthday. So I made the birthday cake or trying to get points then, right? No, you don't need them, right? No, of course not. Okay. I'm an angel.

Gary (10:04):

You're in Wheaton, Illinois. What's your first job?

Ben (10:07):

So my, uh, brother-in-law, my oldest sister's husband, they owned a print shop. His dad actually started it in the garage of their house and they sold the, hello, my name is labels. Oh. So they're the sole provider of those. Really? Yeah. Wow. Um, quite the niche. It is, and it started just in their garage and it grew and grew and that was my first job at 14 years old. After a think it was after my eighth grade year, um, started working there and I didn't run the print machines, but I did inspection of the post-work. I packaged it. Um, when I got old enough I delivered.

Gary (10:42):

Your first job was in an eighth grade science teacher at Boston middle school in LaPorte, as you mentioned. Correct. Um, talk a little bit about how that's different than teaching high school kids.

Ben (10:54):

Oh, wow. How long do you have? Well, not, not all day. Yeah. Goodness. Um, well, okay. But you started there, obviously you didn't stay as a middle school teacher. Correct. Was it always high school or, or did that experience say, Oh my gosh, I don't want to teach middle school. I got to get to high school, I always wanted to do high school. Um, my passion is chemistry and I love this age group. And I love that you can talk to them and reason with them and you know, have that relationship that you can see them grow, not that you can in the younger grades, certainly, but that maturities is, is huge. Um, and I took that job just because it was open and I needed a job out of college, honestly. So I took it. And, um, part of my student teaching was in the sixth grade classroom and I love that those, those kids were fun.

Ben (11:44):

They love school, but they're the little fish in the big pond. Yeah. And when they're eighth graders, they're the big fish now and they, they carried an on, you know, and it didn't quite fit their maturity level. So, um, had a bad couple of bad experiences. Um, one day we were supposed to stand out in the hallway during passing periods to break up fights if they happened because there were fights. Um, and I had inherited the classroom pets. It was a set of, uh, hamsters and they had babies. So they're probably lots of hamsters. Yeah. And did you way back then you think, do you really want to know a buck 25 maybe it was probably 140. Okay. Yeah. That's the same size as those eighth graders. Yeah. Yeah. Cause actually I had a lot of eighth graders bigger than me. Um, so anyways, bell rings and I come into classroom and I see two kids standing about 10, 15 feet apart, playing catch with one of my hamsters.

Ben (12:40):

And the kid whose back was to me threw the hamster. The kid who is facing me saw me walk in and so he stepped back because he did not want to get caught playing catch with the hamster in it. It did not make it, does it meet its demise? It did. That said it is. And I was just that, that was my, I'm done. That's it. Yup. I can't do this. Yeah. Which conveniently we decide we are using quotes here to quote, we decided we're heading South, we're going to the, so it worked out well to Plainfield.

Gary (13:11):

18 years. Uh, talk a little bit about how it's change. Um, we kind of touched on what we just covered, but kids coming into Roncalli, uh, hopefully they're motivated. Your class is a tough class. I, I think all three of our kids had you at some point in time and cried and moaned and complained about your class.

Ben (13:31):

That's not unusual.

Gary (13:32):

I am. So talk a little bit about maybe starting as a young teacher now you're the department chair. How has that all changed over the, it's a broad question. I realize.

New Speaker (13:45):

it is. I, I, you know, I think some of the kids' expectations have changed. Um, when I first started, you know, it was a lot more what can I as a student do? And sometimes I now get more of a, what can you as a teacher do for me? But as much as I have seen that, I still have very motivated kids that come in and ask for help. And it's a lot of what can I as a student do to be better? Um, so some, some entitlement, but I don't know that I see it as much as, you know, maybe the media

makes it out to be. Um, so, you know, my 18 years, the building's changed a lot, but I think the kids are still physically it's changed.

Ben (14:27):

Building physically has changed a lot, but the students are more or less, mostly the same.

Gary (14:34):

What's it mean to you when you have a kid that graduates and goes off to a IU or Purdue or Wabash or Rose Holman or Valparaiso and comes back over break and says, you know what, mr North, thank you so much for teaching us and teaching us well and, and challenging us. What does that mean to you?

Ben (14:56):

That's, it's huge. Sometimes I feel a little bit like Johnny Appleseed, you know, I'm walking along planted seeds and I keep walking. You don't get a chance to see those seeds grow up into Apple trees. Yeah. Um, you know, right. Wrong or different. You don't get to see that. And when occasionally one of those Apple trees walks back in your life. Uh, it's, it's pretty huge to, to see that you've had an impact and you know, it's part of what keeps me coming in and kind of gives me hope that I'm still making a difference.

Gary (15:27):

Do you have an example of, of that, maybe not necessarily a specific example, but maybe a student that struggled in your class went off to Purdue and came back and said, you know, thank you for, for doing it.

Ben (15:39):

'Yeah, idea. I that was a very specific student a few years ago. Well now probably more than a few years ago, but it's one that I always think about that he struggled in my class, probably got um, C'S on every AP chemistry exam we had took the AP exam in may, did not do well. We wanted to go to Purdue and be a pharmacist and I said, Hey listen, you know, just cause you didn't do well in this class is not going to prevent you from doing well in college. You know, once you get to college, your brain matures a little bit. You'll see this stuff again and it'll, it'll click. And he's like, are you sure? And I said, yeah, trust me. Just don't give up. Yeah. And sure enough, you know, he went to college his freshman year. He said everybody came to see him and has, you know, asked him for questions and for help and he eventually became a pharmacist and now he's out there in the world doing, doing good. Awesome. Awesome. We're going to take a break and we'll be back with Ben North and just a moment.

Break (16:36):

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Gary (17:07):

I'm Gary Armbruster and we are back on the Rebel Five podcast with Ben North. Ben, as we were taking a break there, we talked about being married. Yes. Um, my wife and I, I've been married for 30 years. How long have you and Julie been married? Uh, this July will be 19, 19. So when you started at Roncalli 18 years ago and you thought, you know, would you be here in 18 years? The Julie think that it would work. Do you think or, or you know, being married to you think, I know it's been a challenge probably right?

Ben (17:38):

Well you gotta understand, you know, I'm, I'm a bit honoree at times, so she had to put up with that. Yeah. But I do all the cooking and baking and she despises that. So that's you.

Gary (17:51):

Yeah, that is a gift. What does she do? She's also a teacher. She is a media specialist at the middle school in Plainfield. Okay. Very nice. Many of our listeners will know, you may not know your name, but they'll recognize you because you are at a lot of athletic events taking tickets out, football field or the stadium. You oftentimes take tickets at basketball games.

You are a, I don't know, game manager, I guess. Um, what else have you been involved in? Um, other than taking tickets here at Roncalli?

Ben (18:22):

Um, well as you mentioned earlier, I'm department chair. Um, I've done the junior class. Moderator no longer do that. That, uh, Jeff Traylor and I used to plan prom together. Um, used to do ultimate Frisbee club. I did that for a number of years until I kinda got a little older and students did not get any older, so it's hard to keep up with them.

Ben (18:45):

Um, uh, do the SpinProv now, so a little bit. Yeah. So it used to be called comedy sports. Right. Um, and then we've split with comedy sports. So they actually have a downtown office that, that used to work with us. Um, so there's the professionals and in the high schools used to be kind of affiliated with that. Right. Um, we kind of broke those ties and so now it's a Guerin, Chatard Ritter and a cathedral and us. So the five of us are now doing this thing called spin prov. Oh, nice. So it's the same, same games. Same idea, but just a little bit of a spin, if you will on it. Yes. Thank you. Thank you. Um, yeah, so that's new. It's a, it's a different format which has had some challenges kind of learning how to do this new system with me being new as the moderator.

Gary (19:31):

Right. A department chair you, you mentioned that. Yeah. What's it like to have to deal with an unruly teacher? Cause I'm sure you have that a lot, right?

Ben (19:39):

Oh all the time. Actually I've been really lucky in the science department. We've got a solid staff. If you walk into your classroom down in the freshman hallway, yes. You're the second room on the right. Correct. And when you walk into your room there's rubber ducks. Yes, a lot. A lot of rubber ducks. Last time I counted, which was last, fall of 18 I had 220 I want to say, I would say I was down there today and I would say that's probably pretty close. What's up with the rubber ducks? So after my wife and I got married, we moved down here after living here in Indy for a year we got a house and at that point my parents said Hey we're going to start boxing up all your old stuff and bring to you cause we don't want it anymore. I wanted to just throw all the boxes away, sight unseen. You know, if I didn't get them from my parents' house, I don't need them. Oh man, that's awesome. And my wife said, no, you've got to, you've got to go through those boxes. And so I did and I found some interesting items. Uh, among them I found my dad's high school diploma, his undergrad diploma, his grad school diploma. And then, uh, he had a second degree, his MBA. So all of those were just in the middle of my old artwork from when I was four years old. Cause that's where you keep that stuff right. Of course, of course. Um, and then in the midst of all these boxes, I also found this lone Le little yellow rubber duck. And it used to be my copilot when I was in high school is on my dashboard and my car kept me safe.

Ben (21:17):

Yeah. Cause I, I was a crazy driver so I needed help. And uh, I opened that up and I said, you know, I have zero use for that here at home. I don't have a child and I would feel silly having it on my dashboard, my car. Um, so I know I'll bring it to my classroom. And so I put it up on the top of my board just in the middle of just one little yellow rubber duck. But he was lonely. He was lonely. And so about two weeks later, I had a student that said, Hey, your duck looks lonely. I have a duck. And I bring it in naturally. I said, sure, you want to bring a duck, you can bring a duck. And that has grown now to where students get me ducks for Christmas presents. I had a girl this year who gave me a, gave me a Christmas ornament.

Ben (22:04):

That's a rubber duck. And it was a hand cologne, hand blown glass ornament, which was beautiful. Yeah. Um, nice gift. Yeah. I have students that have gotten them from Austria, from Germany, France, England, Las Vegas, New York, the Naval Academy. I mean, they travel and they see a duck and you're like, ah, mr North, do you have any plans for that? You're just going to watch it keep growing? I'm going to watch keep growing. Okay. Yeah. All right man. That's what's unique. It is. I even have it. I even have one that is, you know, the show breaking bad. I'm familiar. This is breaking bath and he's making soap. How perfect is that? That's awesome. Yeah.

Ben (22:44):

They're all about the same size except there's one rather large one, right? Yeah. The smallest is probably about a quarter inch and then they range up to about six inches tall and then there's one that's substantially larger.

Gary (22:57):

Yeah. Yeah. Cause I haven't any significance I found in my desk over the summer one year. All right. Moving on. What were some of the early lessons that you learned as a young teacher that you still use today or made an impact on you back then that you still find important?

Ben (23:17):

I think relationships are probably the biggest thing. I learned both that you have to have them, you know, you can't be a robot, which, I mean, we all know that, right. But you have to form those personal relationships with your students to get them to want to work for you. Um, if the kids know you're invested if kids, know you care, they care, but at the same time, where do you draw that line? At what point is, is it okay? Maybe we should back off a little bit. Yeah. Um, and it's mostly just, you know, like crowd control, you know, if they're too familiar with you, you're too familiar with them, then they can feel like, Hey, you can stamp the middle class and be a goofball and, right.

Ben (23:58):

So it's drawing that line between, it's hard. Yeah. I've asked this question of a couple of our teachers, how do you handle when you have a student and you want them to be more successful than they want to be? If only, you know, if I had the answer to that question, I, I would write a book and yeah. Ait's, I, it is, for me, again, it's, it's reaching out to them and making sure that they know that I care, you know, making sure they know that I notice, Hey, I know you can do better. I know you're not living up to your full, full potential. What's the deal? Yeah. And you know, sometimes that works, sometimes it doesn't. But I just want to make sure I keep it in front of them, that I know they can do better and I care about that.

Ben (24:44):

And it's not so much about the grade. You know, we're in school, we put a lot emphasis on grades. But for me it's not about the grades, it's just about your effort, you know, it, I feel like whatever you're doing, you should do it with all your best effort, office hours that ever been an issue or not really. I tried to get here by six 45 in the morning and I make that very clear that, you know, if you ever have questions you can find me in the mornings. And then afternoons, um, it's been more of a problem in terms of I have more meetings in the afternoons now, um, especially with being department chair. Um, but otherwise I'm still here in the afternoons and students can still kind of catch me at either end of the day. Yeah.

Gary (25:25):

What are you most proud of in your career?

Ben (25:28):

Um, I think the thing that I'm probably the most proud of is, uh, you know, hearing about the students that go on to follow in my footsteps, so to speak. So they study chemistry. They, they find that passion and love of chemistry here and they bring that with them to college. You know, and I initially was, was in college, my initial goal was to get a PhD and teach chemistry at college. Um, and so I did as an undergrad, I did some research. I figured I wanted to do research and teach, so, Hey, let's start doing some research now. And I, I did not enjoy it. And so I hit kind of a dark spot in my life where I felt this path I'm on is not the path I need to be on is my junior year of college. And I'm like, this is kind of late to realize I'm on the wrong path.

Ben (26:13):

Uh, and so my wife said, you will. Well then girlfriend, current wife was like, Hey, you, you still love the teaching aspect, right? I said, well, yeah. She said, why not do high school? And I'm like, well, no, but she stuck with it and she pushed me. And so that's what got me here. Um, and for me, I think that's been a blessing because right, wrong or indifferent, if you're teaching college, the best case scenario is you keep them on path. Right. But you can't really inspire them to do something at that point. They either love chemistry or they don't. And maybe you're the reason they don't anymore as a

college professor, which I don't mean offense to that, but you know, but here, here they don't know much about it. And so I can try to give them that love and put them on that path and inspire our youth.

Gary (27:01):

Yeah. Yeah. Kids, students that you went to Valpo with, are they any of them high school teachers that you remember?

Ben (27:08):

Um, yeah, so there were several that were in the program with me at the time. Um, honestly there are not a lot of science, um, high school teachers that, you know, kind of graduate in that path these days, especially in chemistry. I knew several teachers, um, but not many that were in the sciences. And so of the probably four people that I graduated with in sciences, I honestly couldn't tell you where they are now. Yeah.

Gary (27:35):

One question then we'll go to a break. You said no three times. Where do you think you'd be if you never said yes?

Ben (27:43):

That is a, that's a question that I think every once in a while. I actually talked to Chuck about that and he said, you know, he used to run into that woman for many years and every time he saw her, he never failed to say, you have no idea what you missed and thank you for passing his name on. Yeah, so sometimes I think about that and I, I'm, I'm happy that I eventually said yes. Yeah, we are too. We are too. We're going to take a break and we'll be back on the Rebel Five podcast with Ben North in just a moment.

Break (28:13):

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Gary (28:43):

Welcome back to the Rebel Five podcast today with Ben North. Ben, thank you for being here with us today. Thanks for having me. It's time for the Rebel Five questions. So here we go. Are you ready? I'm ready. Okay. In another life, what would you want to be or do?

Ben (28:58):

Honestly, if, if, if I were not a teacher here, I'd probably be an engineer. Um, it's something I didn't know a lot about when I was younger and since I've learned more about it, I think, you know, Hey, that's a, that's a thing that could fit my personality type. Yeah, I can see that.

Gary (29:13):

What do you wish you could tell your younger self?

Ben (29:16):

Uh, I would say just be more open. Um, you know, I put myself on a path of what I wanted to do as a sophomore in high school. I wanted to be a chemistry professor and I, I love it.

Ben (29:27):

I mean, I love that I'm teaching chemistry. Um, I doubt that I would pursue my, you know, my other choice of engineering, but, um, I just be more open to the idea of opportunities, you know, and my wife said, Hey, do you want to teach high school? I immediately said no. And when the person at Avon said, Hey, I want to pass your name on, I immediately said no three times. Yeah. So just be open to possibilities.

Gary (29:56):

I don't think it's any secret. You are well-respected in the building. I think the kids know when they have you for class, they're going to have to work and that's the reputation you have, which is a great thing. Um, we appreciate that as, as



parents. Cause I know when my kids had you, they were going to work and I wanted that. I wanted them to be prepared for the next step and they, they were.

Gary (30:17):

You're 41, which I don't, can't believe that, but thank you. Uh, life advice. Do you have any life advice?

Ben (30:28):

Yeah, honestly, my life advice goes back to that. Just always be open. You know, never, never pigeonhole yourself to just one thing. Um, you know, sometimes I see these kids now that they're sophomores in high school and they're just mini MES basically, and they already have their whole life figured out and actually had that conversation with the student today. I said, you, you don't have to have your life figured out. Right. And she's like, well, I kinda feel like I do. And I said, well, you know, I appreciate that but you don't, you'll, you'll probably change your mind and you need to be open to the idea of change. So the life advice is just be open to change.

Gary (31:04):

Yeah. Well that's great advice cause not everybody, um, finds that easy to do. It's true. And uh, you're a perfect example of that. So Ben, thank you very much for being part of the Rebel Five. It's been a blast. Um, I make no bones about it. I've always enjoyed our conversations and I think you represent Roncalli as well as anybody. Thank you. So thank you. And Go Rebels.

Gary (31:32):

I'm Gary Armbruster and thanks for joining us today for this episode of the Rebel Five podcast to find out more information about the podcast. And please visit [50.roncalli.org/podcast.php](http://50.roncalli.org/podcast.php). Again, thanks so much for joining us today, and until next time "We'll fight ahead!"