Dear Alumnae and Friends,

At the November meeting of the Mount Mercy Academy Board of Trustees, after much prayer and consideration, I informed the Board Members that the 2019-2020 school year will be my last year as Principal of Mount Mercy Academy, as I will move into retirement after June 30, 2020. The privilege of holding the position of Principal of Mount Mercy Academy for nine years has been the highlight of my professional career, along with teaching English and serving for eight years as Assistant Principal at this wonderful high school.

My goals have always been to provide the students of Mount Mercy Academy with the highest quality academic program possible, and to bring to Mount Mercy the attention it deserves as a premier high school for young women in Western New York. I believe that the Business First of Buffalo ranking of Mount Mercy Academy as #8 of 134 Western New York high schools and districts secures our rightful standing as a high school of excellence. That success lies squarely on the shoulders of the Mount Mercy faculty and staff, the very best educators on earth, who have worked so diligently for the benefit of our students.

I am forever grateful to you all for your support and assistance over the years, and for your on-going devotion to the mission of Mount Mercy to educate our young women for faith, knowledge, integrity, and compassion, as we guide them to become excellent leaders of tomorrow.

My prayer is that the Sisters of Mercy continue to sponsor this wonderful institute of learning for many years to come, and that the Board of Trustees will remain dedicated to ensuring the long-term financial viability of the school. In the immediate future, a search committee led by President Peggy Cronin will begin the process of identifying and appointing a new Principal. I am so grateful to have had this extraordinary opportunity in my lifetime.

God bless you, always.

Yours Forever in Mercy,

Margaret Staszak ’75
Principal

MISSION STATEMENT

Mount Mercy Academy, a distinctly Catholic college-preparatory high school, is dedicated to educating young women for academic excellence, compassionate service, Christian leadership, global awareness and life-long learning. Rooted in Catherine McAuley’s vision for women and those who are poor, Mount Mercy affirms the uniqueness and dignity of individuals and fosters faith with a commitment to the challenges of building a just society.

FALL 2019
HORIZON CORRECTION:
In the Fall 2019 Horizon issue it was stated that the beloved Colleen Shanahan was a member of the Mount Mercy staff for 19 years, when it should have read 29 years. Our sincerest apologies to Colleen Shanahan. We are sorry for the error!
Saying goodbye to a beloved colleague and friend is never easy! We, the faculty and staff at Mount Mercy, together with our students, alumnae and Mercy community, extend our sincerest gratitude to Principal Margaret Cuthbert Staszak ’75, and wish her, along with her husband Ken, much happiness in her upcoming retirement this June.

Raised in South Buffalo, Margaret and her three sisters, Nora Cuthbert English ’81, Janice Cuthbert Sheehan ’80, Kathy Cuthbert ’77 attended Mount Mercy Academy. All three sisters agree, Margaret is the epitome of a Mercy Girl! She lives the seven virtues throughout her life: faith, hope, charity, joy, patience, obedience and humility. While a student at Mercy, Margaret jumped right into student council activities, sporting events, helped with musicals and talent shows, excelled in academics and was a member of the National Honor Society. She made many lifelong friends at Mercy as well.

Margaret returned to her alma mater in 2001–2002 as a member of the English department. She quickly made a name for herself and was promoted to assistant principal in 2002, where she served for eight years. In 2010, Margaret began her tenure as principal of Mount Mercy, a position she has held for the past nine years. “No one was really surprised, because Margaret’s love for Mount Mercy was genuine and obvious. She believed she received a great education there and wanted to do the same for others,” noted her sister Nora.

Assistant Principal and long-time colleague Catherine Luhr states, “Mount Mercy Academy has grown because of Margaret’s commitment to academic excellence. Overseeing two successful Middle States accreditations, becoming a 5-star Buffalo Business First school and fostering strong bonds in the community through service, Margaret can retire knowing she has made Mount Mercy Academy a school of excellence.”

Under Margaret’s direction, Mount Mercy Academy has steadily moved up the high school academic rankings. Mount Mercy has also strengthened its academic rigor by adding the Academy of Science and Healthcare, Women in Social Sciences Program and most recently, The Visual Arts Academy.

“As a member of the Board of Trustees, I have seen how truly dedicated Margaret Staszak is to Mount Mercy Academy. She cares deeply about her students, her faculty and her staff. She tackles equally, with grace and aplomb, a student problem, a testing issue and a radiator malfunction. Her greatest contribution has been working with her team to improve the curriculum and strengthen the academic program at the school. Under Mrs. Staszak’s leadership Mount Mercy has climbed from 42nd place when she started as principal to an extraordinary 8th place in Business First’s ranking of the top high schools in Western New York. Her leaving will unquestionably leave a void, but it is my great hope that we can find the right person to carry her baton and continue her legacy. While she will be greatly missed, I wish her much happiness in her upcoming retirement this June. We are so proud of our mother for her many years of unwavering dedication to the students, staff and spirit of Mount Mercy Academy. Her love of education has been lifelong and her time at Mount Mercy has been one of great fulfillment. She has been a true Mercy Girl her whole life, with a deep devotion to the values and traditions of a Mercy education. She gave her all to the students and staff, leading them towards excellence. The legacy she leaves as principal includes many exciting new programs, educational advancements and successes which will benefit the students and the school for years to come. We hope that the Mercy community knows how much love and hard work she poured into her time there. She will miss the warm and friendly faces throughout the halls of 88 Red Jacket Parkway, but we are very excited for her to have more time with all of us, especially with her grandchildren. Knowing our mom as we do, she will continue to carry out the mission of Mount Mercy Academy in her next chapter,” stated her children.

We are sad to see her leave, but we know the Academy, our students and the entire Mount Mercy community, are well prepared and stronger because of her. Congratulations Margaret! You have done so much for so many. We wish you and your family much happiness in the years to come!
TICKETS

Individual tickets for the McAuley Gala “On Broadway” are available for $175. Your ticket includes passed hors d’oeuvres, a gourmet dinner, two hours of open bar, and an evening filled with all the fun and excitement of your favorite Broadway plays. Invite your friends, family and colleagues to share in the evening. Tickets to the 2020 McAuley Gala are now available. Please visit our website to register, or contact Special Events Coordinator Lauren Heaney at lheaney@mtmercy.org, to ensure you receive an invitation. We cannot wait to celebrate with you on April 4th!

THE AUCTION

Can’t make it to the McAuley Gala on April 4th? You can still participate by donating an item for your colleagues and friends to bid on! Popular items auctioned in the past have included Buffalo themed items, event tickets and travel experiences. We are also looking for larger Live Auction items if you would like to donate your frequent airline and hotel miles and points, your vacation home for a few days, a corporate box or suites at a stadium or theatre tickets. All proceeds from the Gala help to ensure the best possible education for the young women of Mount Mercy Academy. Your contribution directly helps to educate our strong, determined female leaders of tomorrow. All donations are tax deductible and you will be recognized in our catalog. We thank you in advance for your contribution.
LIVE AUCTION RAFFLE
Take home a live auction package for only $100! Purchase one or more of only 50 raffle tickets and you may be the winner who will choose any Live Auction package before it is up for bid that evening! Previous winners have walked away with a week stay in Orlando, Florida, a corporate suite at a Yankees Game, a trip to Ireland and many more! Winners of this raffle must be present at the McAuley Gala to choose their Live Auction Package.

GALA SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
One of the major ways we fundraise is through a Corporate Sponsorship. You can help us increase our fundraising efforts in an impactful way by requesting a sponsorship, program advertisement or gift donation from your employer or family-owned business. Please contact Lauren Heaney at lheaney@mtmercy.org or 716-825-8796 ext. 306 if you would like more information.

“Center Stage” Sponsor $10,000
“Encore” Sponsor $7,500
“Opening Night” Sponsor $4,500
“Curtain Call” Sponsor $3,000
“Dress Rehearsal” Sponsor $2,000

We are offering new sponsorship levels this year. To see your name or logo throughout the beautiful Shea’s Seneca and in our catalog, be one of the following sponsors.

Bar Sponsor $1,750
Paddle Sponsor $1,500
Table Wine Sponsor $1,000
Dessert Sponsor $750
Valet Parking Sponsor $500
Caffeine Station Sponsor $500
Coat Check Sponsor $300

ALUMNAE GIFT GATHERING BRUNCH
The annual alumnae-sponsored brunch in support of the McAuley Gala was held Saturday, February 8th at Curly’s Grille. We received many beautiful gifts for this year’s auction. Thank you to all who attended, especially our brunch sponsors who make this event possible.

YOUR PARTICIPATION
While we would miss seeing you if you’re unable to attend, you can still participate and support Mount Mercy Academy by donating an item for your colleagues and friends to bid on, or you can serve as a sponsor or advertise in our catalog! We also have many volunteer opportunities, especially the week of the Gala.

If you would like to make a donation to the Gala, purchase raffle or event tickets, become a sponsor, attend a gift gathering party, volunteer or have ANY questions, please call Lauren Heaney, Special Events Coordinator, at (716) 825-8796 ext. 306 or email lheaney@mtmercy.org or visit http://www.mtmercy.org/gala.

THE 2020 MCAULEY GALA CHAIRS
We are so grateful to our Gala chairs Brianna Wilson ’08, Merrissa Wilson ’04 and Lauren Wilson Smith ’02 and parent-chairs Don and Rebecca Long Larson ’87 for their dedication to making the Gala a success. Thank you for your hard work and commitment to the Mercy community.

THE GALA STEERING COMMITTEE
Together with our committee of parents and volunteers, we promise an enjoyable evening complete with beautiful ambiance, delicious food and unique items for auction.

A special thank you to our parent, alumnae and volunteer steering committee, who have worked diligently to make this event a success: Kim Angle, Jane Michalek-Harrington ’92, Rebecca Long Larson ’87, Don Larson, Wendy Lewandowski, Leanne Maloney ’05, Kelly McDonald Pineau ’06, Lauren Wilson Smith ’02, Margaret Slusarz Vattes ’97, Brianna Wilson ’08, and Merrissa Wilson’04.
The Mount Mercy community continues to follow Catherine McAuley’s vision of compassionate service and affirming the dignity and uniqueness of individuals through their service projects at Mount Mercy Academy and in the Western New York community. Projects are arranged through Campus Minister Mary Colby and Sister Jenny Wilson, RSM. Students at Mount Mercy are required to participate in 100 hours of service over their four years at the Academy. Under the guidance of Miss Colby, seniors plan and coordinate their own service projects based on their interests. This fall, faculty and staff members joined in on the service activities, participating at various non-profit partners throughout the City of Buffalo on their service retreat.

“Service at Mercy allows our students to practice leadership skills and continue the legacy of Catherine McAuley. Service experiences create opportunities to get to know classmates outside of the classroom and explore our community in new ways,” adds theology teacher and Campus Minister Mary Colby.

Check out some of the highlights of the fall service projects.

The National Honor Society spent their day off volunteering at St. Luke’s Mission of Mercy. The girls helped in the home school program, organized at the St. Luke’s Mall, and worked in the kitchen. The juniors had their Junior Class Retreat and spent the morning volunteering at Our Lady of Black Rock, St. Luke’s Mission of Mercy, and Journey’s End. At Journey’s End, several juniors spent the morning working on the Urban Farm. At St. Luke’s, juniors helped out in the home school program, sorted donations, and worked in the kitchen preparing lunch. At Our Lady of Black Rock, the juniors assisted the students with their educational activities.

A team of freshmen and sophomore volunteers provided a Halloween-themed dinner for guests staying at the Ronald McDonald House. Dinner was a success. The group created Halloween Mini Pizzas, Monster Meatball Sliders, a Skeleton Veggie Tray, and Silly Monster Apple Bites.

A group of freshmen and sophomores spent the afternoon at the Mercy Center decorating pumpkins with the Sisters. They helped the Sisters decorate their doors with the completed pumpkins.

2019 marks the fifth year the Mount Mercy Academy sophomores baked pies for the Journey’s End Thanksgiving Feast. The feast teaches refugees about American Thanksgiving traditions and provides an opportunity for new refugee families to celebrate together. The students, along with theology teachers Mary Colby and Sister Jenny, made 13 apple pies and 8 dozen chocolate chip cookies.

The Mount Mercy Academy Administration, Faculty and Staff participated in a Service Retreat on November 8th, spending the morning volunteering with six different community partners in the City of Buffalo, Ronald McDonald House of Buffalo, Salvation Army, City Mission, Journey’s End, Rooted in Love, and St. Luke’s Mission of Mercy.

Many of the service projects focus on the five critical concerns of the Sisters of Mercy, which address immigration, earth, non-violence, women and racism.
Mount Mercy Hosts Annual Mother-Daughter Breakfast
Mount Mercy Academy held its annual Mother-Daughter Mass and Breakfast in November. The morning began with a mass at Holy Family Church in South Buffalo followed by a buffet breakfast at The Columns. It was a beautiful morning spent with several generations of Mercy grandmothers, moms, and students!

Alumna Brings to Life the Novel “The Secret Life of Bees”
Erin Masterson Holko ’97, visited the freshmen class to teach them about beekeeping and the importance of honey bees. Erin is a beekeeping instructor at Masterson’s Garden Center, Inc. & Aquatic Nursery in East Aurora, where she works with her father and brother to educate the community (and new beekeepers!) about the business of keeping bees. The freshmen in English 9 read Sue Monk Kidd’s novel The Secret Life of Bees. During her visit, Erin taught the girls about the role that honey bees play in our ecosystem and spoke about the intricacies of beekeeping based on her own experiences.

Senior Class Visits the Big Apple
Mount Mercy seniors visited New York City for their class trip in October. The students and chaperones had an amazing time visiting the city and making memories that will last a lifetime. The trip included visits to Coney Island, The 9/11 Memorial, St. Patrick’s Cathedral, Lincoln Center and other famous landmarks.

Students Attend Buffalo Bills High School Business Day at New Era Field
Mount Mercy Academy students attended the Buffalo Bills’ first annual High School Business Day at New Era Field. It was a valuable experience for these girls to learn about many of the potential career paths within the sports marketing and management industry. Mount Mercy was the only all-girls school attending the conference.

Refugee and Immigration Assembly Hosted by English Department
Discussion and study of Mount Mercy Academy’s school-wide summer read, We Are Displaced by Malala Yousafzai, culminated with an assembly that included a presentation from Andy Cammarata of Journey’s End and a panel discussion with Cammarata and three local refugees, including sophomore Bitsat Yitayeh’22. The panel brought to life the stories included in Yousafzai’s book regarding the severity of the problems faced by those who are forced to flee their countries, including racism, brutality, and inhumane conditions. The assembly was organized by Pat Burns in the English Department.

2019-20 McAuley Scholars Named
In a tradition that dates back to 2002, Mount Mercy Academy inducted 45 students as 2019-20 Mount Mercy McAuley Scholars. McAuley Scholars are students who distinguish themselves through their academic rigor by maintaining an average of 95 percent or above throughout the school year. Students who are awarded this honor exemplify a commitment to the Hallmarks of a Mercy Education, including Dedication to Christian Values, Academic Excellence, Leadership, and Commitment to Compassionate Service.

All Students Trained in CPR
Every year the NYS Department of Education requires high school seniors to be trained in Hands-Only CPR. Mount Mercy Academy feels this is an essential skill for students at every level. This class is given once a year to the entire school. Our goal is to provide the practice and confidence that our students will be able to respond to a cardiac arrest situation should the need arise. Students are also briefed regarding the operation of the AED and its location here in the building.

Mount Mercy Hosts Diversity Panel
Mount Mercy partnered with Buffalo Prep to host a panel about issues of race and equality entitled: The Hate U Give. Director of College Prep Services Alexis Swygert was the discussion moderator, and three Buffalo Prep alumni staff members were panelists in this incredibly important conversation.

Foreign Language Club Makes Guatemalan Worry Dolls
The foreign language club made Guatemalan worry dolls. Muñecas quitapenas, or worry dolls, are small, hand-made dolls that originate from Guatemala. According to legend, Guatemalan children tell their worries to the Worry Dolls and place them under their pillow when they go to bed at night. By doing this, the doll worries about the children’s problems, not the children, and the children can get a good night of rest.

Winter Dance Hosted by Student Government Representatives
A Winter Dance was held in December in the Academy dining hall for all students. Student government representatives Amanda Songin ’20 and Krista Stephany ’20 spearheaded the fun event to kick off the holiday season!

Human/Nature Art Show Held in School Art Gallery
The Human/Nature Art Show is a collection of student work completed this year that encompasses a variety of media including graphite, charcoal, acrylics, collage, photography and mixed media. These art students are in grades 9 through 12 and are in studio classes in: Art One, Drawing & Painting, Digital Photography, Portfolio Preparation and AP Studio in Art. Some of the assignments that inspired these artworks include: Figure Collage after artist Wangechi Mutu, Flora or Fauna Field Study page, Negative Space drawing, Art Journaling, and Quotes in Calligraphy.
There are plenty of stories about athletes who are successful in their sports who instantly fell in love with their sport. They couldn't wait to practice and participate in the sport. Instant love was far from what Mount Mercy Academy senior Chloe McHugh-Freedenberg felt about rowing. However, as time passed, Chloe learned to love the sport and that love has been parlayed into a full scholarship for rowing. Chloe recently signed her letter of intent to accept a rowing scholarship to Temple University.

She has been rowing since middle school, starting in the summers before high school and then joined the junior women’s team for the Buffalo Scholastic Rowing Association (BSRA) as a freshman. Chloe has competed in numerous regattas and competitions in the past few years, but cites the races when she was the stroke seat of the Northeast under 18 quad and under 18 four boat that won gold at the Olympic Development Program Cup as her proudest moments. She was also a part of the under 18 8 boat which earned a silver medal. Chloe was invited to represent the Northeast region as part of a team of twenty-eight girls. They raced against girls from all over the country at Nathan Benderson Park in Sarasota, Florida.

Another proud moment related to rowing came when she signed her letter of intent to accept a scholarship to Temple University. Although she did receive other scholarship offers, Chloe believes that Temple is the best choice for her. “I feel that the endless academic and athletic opportunities that are provided at Temple are a major factor in my decision to attend Temple next year. The strong community at Temple was also an important consideration in my decision,” she stated.

Temple competes in the American Athletic Conference, against teams such as Southern Methodist University, University of Tulsa, The University of Central Florida, San Diego State University, University of Connecticut and Villanova University.

Chloe plans on majoring in both Early Childhood Education and Special Education. An honor student, McAuley Scholar and a member of National Honor Society at Mount Mercy, Chloe is quite capable of successfully obtaining the double major. She then hopes, after graduation, to travel to third world countries in order to teach those who do not have an opportunity to obtain a quality education.

“My favorite thing about rowing is that it allows me to form so many great bonds and friendships with my teammates,” Chloe commented. “I also love the feeling of being on the water and feeling the water move under the boat when I row.” With her skill, dedication and determination, the sky-is-the-limit for Chloe’s future in rowing.

Chloe is the recipient of the Kathleen McCarthy White ’97 Memorial Scholarship. We thank the McCarthy Family for supporting students like Chloe, while allowing Kathleen’s legacy and love of crew to continue through the Circle of Mercy.

Chloe is the daughter of alumna Megan McHugh-Freedenberg ’95 and grand-daughter of Rosemarie Sheehan McHugh ’74.

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Chloe with alumna and benefactor Maureen Byrne McCarthy ’67.
DiGiore Named All-WNY Scholar Athlete

Congratulations to Madelyn DiGiore ’20, on being named to the Section VI All-Western New York Scholar-Athlete fall sports team. Students who are selected most maintain a 90 plus average for the previous six semesters and have been a starter or significant player in their sports. Seniors from over 100 public and private high schools across Western New York are eligible and then the most qualified are selected. DiGiore, a member of the golf team, was the team’s Most Valuable Golfer and was also named First Team All-Catholic Golfer.

Varsity Soccer

The young Mount Mercy Academy Varsity Soccer team advanced to the championship game of the B Division playoffs vs Cardinal O’Hara. The team defeated Buffalo Seminary in the semi-finals, winning 3-2 in overtime. The team trailed 2-0 but never gave up and eventually tied the game in regulation before scoring in overtime to win the game. Sophomore Mya Wood tallied the Magic’s first goal of the game, and junior Gianna Lauciello tied the game. Junior Emily Kessler notched the winning goal five minutes into overtime. The Magic faced Cardinal O’Hara in the finals, losing a hard-fought game 3-1. Wood scored for the Magic. The team finished the season 4-5 in the league and 5-15 overall. Gianna Lauciello was named MVP.

MIP was awarded to Mya Woods and the Coach’s Award to Emma Connors. The future looks bright for this young squad, who will return the entire team except one player!

Varsity Cross Country

The Mount Mercy Academy Cross Country team completed its season, placing sixth at the All-Catholic Championships at Knox Farm State Park. Senior Grace Harrington paced the team with a time of 23:29. Freshman Ellie Godsoe was the Magic’s second finisher, crossing the line in a time of 23:57. Junior Rheanna Welsh was next, completing the race in 24:41. The team finished 2-5 on the season, defeating Mount Saint Mary’s and The Gow School. Grace Harrington was named team MVP. MIP was awarded to Jillian Schneck and Coach’s Award went to Alexa Krauss.

Varsity Golf

Although the team finished 0-6 on the season, Coach Kate Coughlin Lynch ’76 saw a huge improvement from the team over the course of the season. Senior Madelyn DiGiore ’20, lead the way and was named First team All-Catholic, team MVP and was named first alternate for the State Tournament. Most Improved Player was awarded to Kathryn Bednarz ’21.

Volleyball

The Varsity team finished 3-9 in the league and 6-10 overall with wins over Olmsted, Cardinal O’Hara, Cleveland Hill and Nichols. MVP was awarded to Kate Ryan ’21. Sara Geiser ’20 was named Most Improved Player and Olivia Jarosz ’21 received the Coach’s Award for the varsity squad.

The JV volleyball team finished 4-8 in the league and 7-8 overall, notching wins over Olmsted, Mount Saint Mary’s, Cardinal O’Hara and Cleveland Hill. Grace Spero ’22 won the Coach’s Award and Kyra Soto ’22 earned MIP honors.

Varsity Cheerleading

The Varsity Cheerleading team, lead by coach Tina Scarpello Webster ’91, had another successful season cheering at the home Timon football games and the Monsignor Martin championship game. Senior Taya Conway ’20 was selected as team MVP. Most Improved Player honors went to Freshman Mallory Chase ’23 and the Coach’s Award was awarded to Senior Nina O’Neill ’20.

Six Athletes Earn Fall All-Catholic Honors

Six athletes from Mount Mercy Academy’s fall squads have earned All-Catholic honors this season. Gianna Lauciello ’21, Anna Schieber ’21, Mya Wood ’22 and Mary Bea Lalley ’22, attained All-Catholic status in soccer. Kate Ryan ’21 was named 2nd Team All-Catholic in volleyball and Madelyn DiGiore ’20 was honored in golf.

Lauciello, Schieber and Wood were all selected First Team All-Catholics in the B Division of soccer. Lalley earned Second Team All-Catholic honors.

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On November 7th, 2019 at The Columns Banquets in Elma, Mount Mercy Academy honored five outstanding alumnae and community friends at the 20th Anniversary Celebration of Mercy Honors.

Douglas F. Lum and Mary Travers Murphy were presented the Spirit of Mercy Award for their outstanding work in the Mount Mercy and Western New York Community. Doug has been a humble friend to Mount Mercy Academy since his daughters Margaret ’96 and Jessica ’98 attended the Academy in 1992. He has served on the Board of Trustees, Boosters Club, and Gala chair and still serves on the finance and golf tournament committees. Mary is the CEO of the Family Justice Center where she fights for and is the voice to the many victims of domestic violence and abuse. She is also the Chair of the Many Faces of Mercy Giving Circle, a group of women philanthropists sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy.

Kate Coughlin Lynch ’76 was presented with the Mercy Devotion Award for her commitment and devotion to Mount Mercy Academy and the students and families at Mount Mercy. Kate has been a physical education teacher, athletic director and coach of multiple sports during her 25-year tenure at the Academy.

Mary Ann Murphy ’80 and Erin Sobkowski ’95 were named 2019 Catherine McAuley Distinguished Alumna for their outstanding work both professionally and in the community. Mary Ann is the Director of Maternal Child Unit for over 35 years at Mercy Hospital. She has provided excellent patient care while balancing her management duties as well as supporting the staff. She is very active in the Buffalo Community and has been an instrumental part of the WNY Perinatal Bereavement Community. She teaches and oversees clinical nursing students at local colleges and is the key connection between Mount Mercy Academy and Mercy Hospital in their internship program for Mercy students through the Academy of Science and Health. Erin is an attorney in the General Counsel’s Office in the NYS Division of Human Rights. She is also the Co-founder and Board President of 21 Connect, an education and advocacy group for individuals with Down syndrome. Erin serves on the start up committee for GiGi’s Playhouse Buffalo, a facility that will provide social, employment, and academic support to people of all ages with Down syndrome to help them integrate and succeed in the community.

We congratulate these outstanding recipients and thank those that attended the celebration. Proceeds from the event support the Alumnae Scholarship. Your support is greatly appreciated. A special thank you to Bonnie Kane Lockwood ’73 for hosting the event!

Mount Mercy Academy is grateful for these event sponsors for their partnership in making the 20th Anniversary of Mercy honors a success: Catholic Health, Rigidized Metals, Fox Run, West Herr Automotives, and Rapid Ray’s.

If you know of a fellow classmate or community member that does outstanding work, nominate him or her for the 2020 Mercy Honors Awards. Visit https://www.mtmercy.org/mercy-honors until June 30th, 2020, to make a nomination.

On December 14, 2019, the Mount Mercy Academy Alumnae Board hosted the Annual Breakfast with Santa event in the Academy’s dining hall. A visit from Santa Claus and a sing along with Mrs. Claus were some of the highlights of the morning. Elves from the National Honor Society assisted the children with arts and crafts and games. It is a wonderful family-friendly event that allows alumnae from several generations to celebrate the holidays together at their alma mater. Our appreciation goes out to the Alumnae Board members who put together this beloved event each year!
ALUMNAE REUNION WEEKEND RECAP

The 2019 Mount Mercy Academy Alumnae Reunion Weekend was a tremendous success! Two special events were held on September 27th and 28th, bringing together more than 150 alumnae throughout the weekend. On Friday, alumnae from all years met up for an informal happy hour at the new Thin Man Brewery on Chandler Street, co-owned by Alumna Suzanne Scarcello Shatzel ’97. The weather was perfect for a night on the patio with drinks and appetizers.

On Saturday, September 28, a special brunch was held honoring the classes ending in 4 and 9 at The Tewksbury Lodge. Alumnae enjoyed looking at old photos and catching up over a delicious meal. We are grateful to the alumnae from various years who attended the event, especially those from the class of 1949!

Class of 1979 40th Class Reunion

Over 60 members of the Class of 1979 reunited in October at Soho Buffalo to celebrate their 40th class reunion. A fun time was had by all! The Class of 1979 generously donated proceeds from their reunion to the Mount Mercy Academy Alumnae Scholarship. We thank you for investing in a Mercy education and continuing the Circle of Mercy.

Contact Lauren Heaney at lheaney@mtmercy.org or (716) 825-8796 x306

Save the Date - Class of 1970!

Mark your calendars now! Don’t miss out on celebrating your Golden Anniversary with your 1970 classmates.

Events will take place on Wednesday, May 20th in conjunction with the graduation of the Class of 2020 followed by a cocktail party. Your class dinner is on Friday, May 22nd. Formal invites will be mailed soon so keep an eye out for more information!

Contact Lauren Heaney at lheaney@mtmercy.org or (716) 825-8796 x306
class notes

The Indiana Humanities awarded fellowships to eight early-career humanities professionals across the state to help them use the humanities to improve their communities. Sara Mehltretter Drury ’01, associate professor and chair of the rhetoric department at Wabash College was one of the fellowship recipients. Sara plans to design and scale public deliberations programs on a range of issues such as race and justice, public well-being and health and community development, around Indiana. Congratulations, Sara!

Margot Penfold Schoenborn ’93 was named CEO of Omniseq, which develops and sells molecular diagnostic tests that show cancer patients what kind of targeted therapies might work for them. Margot attended Nazareth College and the University at Buffalo Law School following Mount Mercy. Prior to her promotion at Omniseq, Margot was an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Eastern District of New York, a NYS special assistant attorney general in the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit and a deputy general counsel at Roswell. She was the Chief Administrative Officer and General Counsel at Omniseq before her promotion to CEO. Congratulations, Margot!

Congratulations Sharon Porcellio ’75 (second from left), attorney at Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC on receiving the Shira A. Scheindlin Award. It was presented by The Commercial & Federal Litigation Section of the New York State Bar Association, for her exemplary skills in the courtroom and her commitment to mentoring women in the profession. Congratulations, Sharon!

Kelly O’Connell Kinderman ’95 was the keynote speaker at this year’s Hope for Two...Pregnant With Cancer Network Gala. Kelly was diagnosed with Hodgkin’s while pregnant with her daughter, now a Junior in high school. Kelly is the Vice President of Program Support and Development at Community Services for Every1. She is also a Board Member and Fundraising Chair for Miles for Smiles, an organization that is dedicated to improving the quality of life for patients with special needs and craniofacial differences through education and support. Thank you for all you do in the community Kelly!

Christa Wilson Penner ’00 was featured by BN 360, a young professional network, in their professional spotlight. Christa is the owner and managing member of ShopCraft, the artist behind O Designs, and the mom of an energetic four-year-old. ShopCraft is a group of 25 local artisans collaborating to foster business development while providing a purely local experience for shoppers. Christa’s work through C Designs, a full-service graphic design company, has been featured at festivals and art markets throughout the region, including the Allentown Art Festival, the Elmwood Festival of the Arts, the Queen City Market, and many more. In addition, Christa has served on the Mount Mercy Academy Alumni Board of Directors and is an active participant in the Elmwood Strip Merchants’ Group where she manages marketing. Christa holds a bachelor's degree in art from Mercyhurst University. Congratulations, Christa!

Congratulations Marytherese (Mairisie) Licker Hayes ’81 joined Five Star Bank as Vice President, Senior Commercial Banker, where she is responsible for managing and cultivating existing and new commercial banking relationships in Buffalo and the Southern Tier. Congratulations, Marytherese!

Well done, Patricia!

Abigail Swiger ’18 took part in the fall season’s performance of The Drowsy Chaperone. Vullo is majoring in theater at Buffalo State College.

We are sad to report that Frances Garneret Smith ’32, has passed away at the age of 103. Frances was the oldest alumna of Mount Mercy Academy. She always spoke fondly of her years at Mercy and will be dearly missed.

Sr. Margy Gorman ’60, RSM was featured in a recent issue of In Harmony, a Sisters of Mercy newsletter for her volunteer work at the new Buffalo Promise Neighborhood Children’s Academy. Following Catherine McAuley’s mission to connect the rich with the poor, the academy provides a preschool and kindergarten education as well as a daycare to local children. It also serves nutritious meals to students, parents and neighborhood families. Programs and job training to become nursing assistants, home health aides and culinary art specialties are available, as well as access to a computer lab and 12-step groups. Sr. Margy Gorman serves on the Board of Directors and helps non-English speaking adults improve their English skills. Thank you for continuing the works of Catherine McAuley, Sr. Margy!

Sr. Bravo! Congratulations to Caeley Robinson ’16 participated in a 10-day trip to Belize as part of Tropical Ecology and Conservation, a field course offered through the Animal Behavior, Ecology and Conservation (ABEC) program at Canisius. Caeley was one of ten students who traveled with Robin Foster, Ph.D., assistant professor. The group visited various sites in northern Belize to study indigenous wildlife and local conservation efforts as well as to learn more about Mayan culture and history.

This fall, Patricia Reilly Panara ’79 appeared on AM Buffalo to talk about her book titled Sistery Advice. The book tells the story of a religious sister who teaches at the Divine Mercy Academy and hosts a relationship advice show on the radio. Sistery Advice and her first novel Buffalo Winged are available via Amazon, and locally at Dog Ear’s Bookstore, 688 Abbott Rd, Buffalo. Well done, Patricia!

Elise Vullo ’16 took part in the fall season’s performance of The Drowsy Chaperone. Vullo is majoring in theater at Buffalo State College.

In honor of Mount Mercy Academy’s 115th year, Mary Jo Cofrancesco Engels ’56 and her husband Walter, shared the memory from the Academy’s 50-Year Celebration! Thank you for the memory, Mary Jo and Walter!

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Brigid Moran ’66 was honored by the St. Patrick’s Irish American Club with the 2019 Unsung Hero Award. She has been an integral part of the St. Patrick’s Irish American Club’s Annual St. Brigid’s Day party, as well as the annual St. Patrick’s Day mass and celebration held at the Buffalo Irish Center. Brigid is a retired Buffalo Public and Catholic School Teacher. She served as principal of immaculate Conception School and St. John Vianney School, and was a professor at Tocra College, Niagara University and a 25-year adjunct at Canisius College as well. Congratulations, Brigid!

The 1954 graduation class of Mount Mercy Academy made it to the marquee of the Shea’s Seneca Theatre just as some of Hollywood’s greatest, like “Gone With The Wind” and it only took 65 years! So many memories were shared by the classmates who were able to attend a delicious luncheon in the beautiful lobby on August 16, 2019. And it still is a thrill seeing your name in lights. “Looks like we made it!” This passage and photo was submitted by the late Marilyn J. Moran ’54.
TURNER MAEDER

Heather Turner '04 wed Wayne Maeder, Jr. on December 31st, 2019 while surrounded by many Mercy Girls. Congratulations, Heather and Wayne!

2019-2020 MOUNT MERCY
ALUMNAE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We thank the members of our Alumnae Board of Directors for their contributions to the Mount Mercy Academy Community. If you are interested in becoming an Alumnae Board Member, please contact alumnaerelations@mtmercy.org.

2019-2020 Board Members:

front row left to right:
President Brianna Wilson '08, Vice President Susan Manley Swarts ’65, Mary Russo ’15, Kathleen Kaczmarek Meltbretter ’72, Linda Siedmann-Dugan ’76

back row left to right:
Maureen Byrne McCarthy ’67, Claire Kelley ’07, Madonna Sullivan Mulvaney ’69, Kelly Eagan Govern ’97, Maggie Hennessy Mackert ’94, Sandra Schwender Vaccaro ’86, Eva Evaki Byrne ’86, Lynn Maj Bala ’88

Missing: Joanne Hilmey Cullen ’82, Rozanne Granville Flammer ’66, Mary Lou Letina-Land ’99

The new board officers
Vice President Susan Manley Swarts and President Brianna Wilson are featured with Principal Margaret Staszak and President Peggy Cronin.

Andrew James Krause, Jr was born on July 1, 2019 to Julie Brown Krause ’99 and Andrew Krause.

Delaney was born to Brittany Hillery Myers ’04 and Robert Myers. Brittany is currently the soccer coach at Mount Mercy Academy.

Elizabeth Mulvaney Selby ’07 and Ken Selby welcomed Mayson Mary on April 24th, 2019.

Zachary Vincent was born to Susan Dzierzewski Steblein ’01 and Joe Steblein on November 29, 2019. Big brothers Joey and Sam are thrilled with their new brother!

Evelyn James was born to Ashley Lougen Schmidt ’05 and Dan Schmidt on May 31, 2019.

Andrew Thomas, Jr. was born on January 24, 2019 to Merrissa Wilson ’04 and Andrew McAllister.

Josephine Katherine was born on August 23, 2019 to Caitlin Pautz Simson ’06 and Nick Simson.
Mount Mercy celebrated Catherine McAuley’s birthday by hosting “Cupcakes for Catherine.”

The Women in Social Sciences Program toured the Women’s Rights National Park, the National Women’s Hall of Fame, Elizabeth Cady Stanton’s home, and visited the church where Alice Paul first presented the initial draft of the proposed Equal Rights Amendment.

Mount Mercy has teamed up with administration and staff at Mercy Hospital to create a vivid learning experience for the girls. Students begin interacting with the professional community as freshmen through the Healthcare Career Club and continue through the Academy of Science & Healthcare.

Three generations of Hillerys enjoyed the Alumnae Basketball Game. Denise Pettys Hillery ’81 and future Mercy girl Delaney cheer on Abigail ’18 and Brittany ’04.

The Mount Mercy Academy’s Healthcare Career Club, which is part of the Academy of Science and Healthcare, took a field trip to Mercy Flight. The club attends various field trips, gaining first-hand knowledge of careers in healthcare.

Mount Mercy has teamed up with administration and staff at Mercy Hospital to create a vivid learning experience for the girls. Students begin interacting with the professional community as freshmen through the Healthcare Career Club and continue through the Academy of Science & Healthcare.

Members of the Women in Social Sciences Program traveled to Seneca Falls as part of the First Amendment First Vote Girls Leadership Program. Featured are Chloe McHugh-Freedenberg ’20, Elizabeth Higgins ’20, Anani DeBose ’21, Adrianna Awald ’22, Lily Jank ’22 and Dominique Khoury ’22.

Alumnae from 1947 to 2010 enjoyed the Alumnae Weekend Happy Hour. Alumnae enjoy breakfast with Santa with their family. Three generations of the Wilson family celebrate the holidays at Breakfast With Santa, including Rosanne ’75, Merrissa ’04, Brianna ’08 and Lauren ’02.


Members of the Class of 1969 enjoy the Alumnae Weekend Brunch.
The Women in Social Sciences Program welcomed guest speaker Lisa Marie Redmond, a retired Buffalo Police Department Detective and author.

Halloween at Mercy is always a fun day. This year the theme was "Nightmare on Red Jacket".

The Class of 1954 celebrates their reunion at the Alumnae Weekend Brunch.

Mercy Alumnae Leanne Maloney ’05, Kara Rennie Caldero ’07 and Brianna Wilson ’08 enjoy the Mercy Honors celebration.

Mount Mercy’s Advanced Digital Photography Class took a field trip to the Outer Harbor. The seniors took their photo with 2 and 0, for the year they graduate.

Mount Mercy basketball alumnae reunited for the annual game and pizza party following the January 11th, 2020 basketball game vs Buffalo Seminary.

Mount Mercy’s Advanced Digital Photography Class took a field trip to the Outer Harbor. The seniors took their photo with 2 and 0, for the year they graduate.

The Mount Mercy Guidance Department hosted its annual WNY College Consortium at the school. Juniors and seniors had the opportunity to meet with representatives from 20 colleges and universities.

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Memorials

July 19, 2019 to January 1, 2020

We pray each day for those whose names are inscribed in our Memorial Books. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

Assoc. Peggy Cronin
Assoc. M. Kathleen Carney Craig ’57
Willena Frances Henry “Bobbie” Cragg ’39
Family, Kathleen Sullivan, Grace Gannon Jackson, Mary Academy, Peggy Cronin, Joe & Sharon Hoffstetter & Family, Joe & Mary Kay Guerra, Class of ’73: Moey Oakley, Mary Jane Conlon Cotter ’39

Assoc. Maria Caruso
by MMA Alumnae

Maria Caruso by MMA Alumnae

Janet Hobin Sturm ’42

Assoc. John A. Alaimo

Assoc. John Michael Gallagher

Assoc. John Hunter “Jack” Lyle IV

Assoc. Jane M. Schmidle Fodero ’53

Assoc. Janet M. Thompson Insalaco ’51

Assoc. Kathleen O’Mara Connolly ’60

Assoc. Maryann Koller Readling ’45

Assoc. Eileen Anne Shea ’80

Assoc. Catherine A. Machina by Susan Herrmann Shanks

Eileen O’Donnell Maulucci ’49 by MMA Alumnae Assoc.

Rita Lillian Burke McArthur ’58 by MMA Alumnae Assoc.

Mary Elizabeth Weitz McCleary ’56 by MMA Alumnae Assoc.

Marie L. Maritato by Margaret & Guy Latona

John Matejick by Susan Tilet Kuhn

Annie McMahon by Patricia Plunkett

Florence McNamara by Maureen Schambacher

Billie McNaughton by June & Dennis McNaughton

Maxine Miller by The Jack Fitzgerald Family

Eleanor B. Buccella Modica ’53 by MMA Alumnae Assoc.

Nancy Montroy by Joe & Sharon Hoffstetter & Family, Marc & Amy Tuzzalo

Eileen N. Callahan Moore ’47 by MMA Alumnae Assoc.

Keith Morley by Mr. & Mrs. Seamus Kilmurry

Robert E. Nissley by Guy & Margaret Latona, Anita & Pat Crotty

Kathleen O’Mara O’Connell ’60 by MMA Alumnae Assoc., Mike & Dianne Frawley, Susan Kimmitt Larvey ’63

Lucille V. Okie by Dan & Helen Savore

John J. Parkes by Richard & Patricia Ertel

Conchita Pasier by Mario & Karen Rossi

Joan Van Remmen Stutt Pawlak ’47 by MMA Alumnae Assoc., Barbara Klavoon

Marie R. Pawlik by The Hillery Family

Sandra J. Haci Piconet ’65 by MMA Alumnae Assoc.

Anton Pedisch by Sandra A. Umlor

Susan J. Urbanczyk Piszek ’74 by MMA Alumnae Assoc.

Thomas Powers by Mary Zeis, Jack & Noreen McBride, Tom & Marge Ryan, Rosemary Sheehan, Joan Flynn

Edward R. Prabucki by Laura Finucane Kirchgraber

Esther M. Sugg Quick ’42 by MMA Alumnae Assoc.

Kevin J. Quinn by Peg McMorony, Kathy Glavey

Laurie Robinson Radwan by Mount Mercy Academy Family, Peggy Cronin

Jeanne (English) Raimondo ’58 by Rosemary Sheehan

Maryann Koller Reading ’45 by MMA Alumnae Assoc.

Theresa A. (Buttino) Recchio by Jim & Phil Gallagher

Robert Reilly by Mike & Dianne Frawley

Yolande Richards by Wes & Kate Dust

Matthew T. Roche by Kathy Glavey, June & Dennis McNaughton, Kathy Rafer

Eileen B. Glavey Roche ’59 by MMA Alumnae Assoc., Kathy Glavey, Kathy Rafer, Mary Lickfeld, Thomas J. Rojek by Ray & Chris Gallagher

Michael Ryan by Mount Mercy Academy

Rosalind Ryan by Kathleen Sullivan

Kelly Sanchez by Jean Canney & Family

Mary Schait by Pat & Patsy Lyons


Barbara A. Miller Schauger ’55 by MMA Alumnae Assoc.

Geraldine T. “Geri” Shea Schnitter ’47 by MMA Alumnae Assoc.

Leida DiScipio Schunk ’48 by MMA Alumnae Assoc.

Eileen Anne Shea ’80 by MMA Alumnae Assoc., Mike & Dianne Frawley

Catherine M. Sheehan by MMA Alumnae Assoc.

Doris Skowron by June & Dennis McNaughton

Frances Garner Smith ’32 by MMA Alumnae Assoc., Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Quinn, Laura Kane

Rita O’Leary Smith ’48 by MMA Alumnae Assoc., Mount Mercy Academy, Mary Lickfeld, Jim & Ann Sullivan, Rosemary Sheehan, Moey O’Connor Oakley, Geraldine Burke

Margaret Alice Watts Smith ’60 by MMA Alumnae Assoc.

Jerome H. Smolarek by Bernie & Pat Kennedy

Patrick J. Stanton by June & Dennis McNaughton, Jean Canney, Bonnie & Nelson Cosgrove

Sheila H. Harrity Starkey ’68 by MMA Alumnae Assoc., Jim & Rosemary Carey

Janet Hobin Sturm ’42 by MMA Alumnae Assoc.

Mary Anne Talluto ’78 by MMA Alumnae Assoc.
We remember alumnae of whose passing we’ve learned since July 19, 2019.

Frances Garneret Smith 1932
Mary Jane Conlon Cotter 1939
Willena Frances Henry “Bobbie” Cragg 1939
Annette M. Smith Kuebler 1942
Esther M. Sugg Quick 1942
Janet Hobin Sturm 1942
Mary Lou Farrell Curtin 1944
Dorothy J. Faltisco 1944
Eleanor M. Ryan Arent 1945
Maryann Koller Reading 1945
Patricia M. O’Neill Breen 1946
M. Joanne Connolly Conroy 1946
Margaret Ida Mullenkopf Wittek 1946
Carol F. Barton Greenwald Allen 1947
Mary Ann “Mea” Meehan Connors 1947
Helen C. Hanrahan Emmerling 1947
Eileen N. Callahan Moore 1947
Joan Van Remmen Stutz Pawlak 1947
Geraldine T. “Geri” Shea Schrütter 1947
Leida DiScipio Schunk 1948
Rita O’Leary Smith 1948
Tereshe Hoar Weber 1948
Helen J. Gallagher Brown 1949
Elaine R. Spencer George 1949
Eileen O’Donnell Maucci 1949
Jane Marie Vastola Walter 1949
Audrey Haker Daly 1950
Joanna D’Alessandro DiCesare 1950
Josephine D. Kalinowski-Woyta Blarr 1951
Janet M. Thompson Insalaco 1951
Maureen E. “Moe” Gatta Schanbacher 1952
Jane M. Schmidt Peder 1953
Kathleen G. “Kay” Kearns 1953
Eleanor B. Buccella Modica 1953
Marilyn J. “Mar” Moran 1954
Barbara A. Miller Schauer 1955
Judith Ryan Wynne 1955

Each year, we, the Mount Mercy Academy Alumnae Association, offer a Mass for our deceased members. We pray for all our deceased by decades and call, by name, those who have died in the past year.

We have traditionally offered the Mass in May of each year. In the year 2020 we are changing the date of the Mass to the fall. It is our hope that more members will be able to participate in the Mass. Spring events such as First Communion, Graduation, Mothers’ Day and other celebrations have hindered the number of alumnae who are able to join us.

Please follow the Mount Mercy Academy website www.mtmercy.org under the Alumnae and Events tab. Please join us in the fall of 2020.

If you learn of recent alumnae deaths, would you please send an email to memorials@mtmercy.org.

If you would like memorial cards to send to families of deceased friends please send an email to memorials@mtmercy.org and we will send you sets of memorial cards.

Mary Elizabeth Weitz McCleary 1956
M. Kathleen “Casey” Carney Craig 1957
Marianne Alice Hasler Cummings 1957
Diane M. Maucci Gabioud 1958
Rita Lillian Burke McArthur 1958
Kathleen McPartland Dougherty 1959
Eileen B. Glavey Roche 1959
Kathleen O’Mara O’Connell 1960
Margaret Alice Watts Smith 1960
Margaret Wallace Devine 1961
Marian E. O’Connor 1961
Kathleen M. Harrity Kait 1964
Yvonne Buchina Kaminiski 1964
Barbara Poynton Boccolucci 1965
Sandra J. Haj Pejnek 1965
Sheila H. Harrity Starkey 1968
Linda M. Byrne Weimer 1970
Deborah A. Enright Carrick 1971
Linda Grant Kaminiski 1972
Mary Ann Watts 1972
Cynthia Iwaniak Dobies 1973
Susan J. Urbanczyk Piszczyk 1974
Mary Anne Talluto 1978
Eileen Anne Shea 1980
Dawn Marie Hooley Lucas 1988
Academies at Mount Mercy Offer Real World Experiences to our Students

Mount Mercy Academy has formed academies within its curriculum to help our students get real-life, hands-on experience through internships, field trips, studies, and collaborations with specialists in their field, to name a few.

We currently offer three academies: The Women in Social Sciences Program, The Academy of Science and Healthcare and the recently added, The Visual Arts Academy. Students earn a special distinction at graduation for their participation in the academies.

MMA Visual Arts Academy

- The Visual Arts Academy was designed for students with a strong interest in the visual arts.
- The Visual Arts Academy provides students with an emphasis on skills and abilities that are desirable to employers and necessary to be successful in any career field.

The Mount Mercy Academy Women in Social Sciences Program

- Within the Social Sciences Program, students will be able to earn the following distinctions: Women in Law, Women in History, Women in Government, Women in Social Work and Women in Psychology.
- The program is comprised of four parts: Field experiences, challenging academic courses, independent experiential learning and higher education plans.
The Mount Mercy Academy Annual Fund supports scholarships and classroom improvements. Any gift makes a difference for the lives of our Mercy girls. Thank you to all of our donors who help us to educate young women in the highest quality Catholic education rooted in Catherine McAuley’s vision.

Please note: Donors listed in this report represents donations to the Mount Mercy Academy between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019. Gifts received after June 30, 2019 will be listed in the next report. We apologize for any errors or omissions and ask that you report them to Julie Parker at (716-825-8796) ext. 321.
A Note from Board of Trustees Chair
Kathleen A. Linhardt, Esq. ’88

I have always known that Mount Mercy Academy was critical to my development; crediting the skills, values and lessons I learned there with making me a successful adult. However, since I began serving as Board Chair, I can now see even more deeply what an amazing institution it is and realize the true impact that a Mercy education has on the lives of the girls who pass through our halls.

Mount Mercy continues to thrive because it has such well-rounded offerings: from high ranking academic standards, to the visual and performing arts with award winning musical troupes, to athletics that welcome all skill levels in both the team and club sports, as well as leadership opportunities. I literally burst with pride when I see the poise, self-confidence and compassion of our Mercy girls. What most impresses me is the focus on the Critical Concerns of the Sisters of Mercy, making each student socially aware and dedicated to service in the local community as well as on a global scale. I am truly touched by the creativity and magnitude of their service projects each year, which are primarily envisioned and implemented by the students themselves.

The Sisters of Mercy have been dedicated to the education and development of young women for almost 200 years. As they unfortunately diminish in number and as the importance that the modern world places on Catholic education diminishes as well, now more than ever Mount Mercy needs our support, in these trying times, to keep these vital programs going. The reality is that tuition costs necessarily have risen, while the need for the instillation of Mercy values is at an all-time high. It is vital that those of us who are the product of and believe in Mercy education, donate to the Annual Fund to ensure that any girl who wants to become a Mercy girl can achieve her goal.

Kathleen A. Linhardt, Esq. ’88
Board of Trustees Chair
A letter from President
Margaret M. Cronin ’78

Dear Mercy Family,

We are excited to hopefully be putting winter behind us and are looking forward to the beautiful season of spring. At this time, we have two main fundraising events which we are focusing on. First, we are in the final months of this year’s Annual Fund Appeal. We are so thankful to all of you who have already contributed to this vital fund, which allows us to continue with our Mission of educating young women in the vision of our Foundress Catherine McAuley. This issue of the Horizon features a listing of our charitable donors for whom we are eternally grateful. To those of you who may have gotten caught up in the busyness of the holidays and overlooked sending in your donation, we ask that you take a moment to consider sending it today. We are on track to meet our goal but need your help to make it happen.

Our second upcoming event is our exciting McAuley Gala. We will be returning to the Shea’s Seneca Theater venue. The Gala will take place on Saturday, April 4, 2020. Since last year the event sold out, we encourage you to get your tickets early. Ticket and other pertinent information is available on our website. Our theme this year is, “On Broadway”. This year we are hoping to have some new surprises to make the evening even more enjoyable for all. Both of these endeavors ensure that we can continue the academic excellence, social development, and spiritual growth of our young women.

We are anticipating a strong incoming freshman class, both in numbers and academic achievement. Unfortunately, as you have already read, we will end this year with the retirement of our outstanding Principal Margaret Staszak. Words cannot express the honor it has been to work alongside Margaret these last seven years. Her dedication to the Mission of Mercy and her caring for each and every student has been an inspiration. I have known Margaret for over fifty years. She has always been and will always continue to be a “Mercy Girl.” We are confident that God will assist us in finding the right person to carry on all that Margaret has put into place. We hope she will enjoy the retirement she so richly deserves.

Thank you for the many ways you participate in and contribute to the Mission of Mount Mercy Academy. We are filled with hope and enthusiasm about all that lies ahead.

We pray for all of you and your families, with gratitude.

Blessings,

Margaret M. Cronin
President
It might sound cliche, but it’s true: from the moment I walked into Mercy as an eighth-grader, I knew it was where I belonged. Even from the small glimpse of Mercy life that I got at Open House that year, I saw a community that I desperately wanted to be part of. Earning the Alumnae Scholarship, which covers my tuition for all four years, was one of the best things that’s ever happened to me; it allowed my wish to come true, and it turned out to be better than I had imagined.

At Mercy, I’ve found a community and network of amazing people like I’ve never seen anywhere else. Before starting high school, I had heard people say that it felt like a second family, but I had never believed them. While I can’t speak for anyone else, that has turned out to be exactly my experience. When I came to Open House, the impression that I got was of a warm, welcoming, and supportive atmosphere, and that drew me in immediately.

I have to admit that I was actually a little afraid that the impression might fade once I started school, but I shouldn’t have worried. Not only did Mercy meet my (fairly high) expectations, it exceeded them. The people at Mercy, both the students and the staff, are supportive and not only know who I am, but actually care. For the first time, I feel like my voice truly matters at school -- and not only that, but my achievements matter, too. As a student, I’m encouraged to be well-rounded, talented, and intelligent, and those things are actually valued by my teachers and my peers. One of the most striking differences I’ve noticed from my grammar school is that at Mercy, being academically strong doesn’t get a reaction of, “What, you think you’re better than us?” instead, I’m congratulated by my classmates when I do well, and they ask for my help so they can do well, too.

At Mercy, I’ve been fortunate enough to form incredible friendships that I know are going to last. I’ve met so many amazing people, and I can say hello to anyone in the hallway and almost always get a smile or a friendly hello in return. I’ve also been fortunate enough to find clubs and activities that have let me become part of smaller, even closer-knit communities. Pure Magic show choir, in particular, helped me not only grow closer and make amazing memories with my best friends but also gave me an incredible support network of friends who I’ve become really close to and know I can always rely on.

Throughout my time at Mercy, I have been encouraged to find my voice and use it, to figure out who I am and what I’m passionate about, and to pursue what I want. I truly believe that my Mercy education has made me prepared to face my future. I plan to attend the University of Rochester or SUNY Geneseo, and although I’m not yet sure what career I’ll pursue, I know that whatever it is, my experience at Mercy will be invaluable. I’ll always cherish the memories that I’ve made here and I truly appreciate all of the opportunity and joy that a Mercy education has added to my life. I have become a stronger, braver, and more confident young woman, and, to quote Wicked (my favorite musical), “I have been changed for the better -- and I have been changed for good”.

Madeline is the daughter of Christina Seggio Fecio ’93 and granddaughter of Maureen Leary Fecio ’66.

Donations to the Alumnae Scholarship help students like Madeline Fecio ’20 receive a Mercy Education. Your investment in Mercy makes a difference in the lives of our current and future students!
While many high school students go above and beyond when they perform school service, very few establish their own non-profit to aid those who are less fortunate. Mount Mercy Academy senior Olivia Larson of Orchard Park did just that. She saw a need and acted to try and help fill that need. Her non-profit, For Every Little Handprint, has already made a difference in the community. As a result of her philanthropic endeavors Olivia recently received the Outstanding Young Philanthropist Award at a National Philanthropy Day luncheon. The award is presented to an individual who is 18 years old or younger who demonstrates exceptional skill in coordinating a fundraising project and/or motivating groups of volunteers to assist. She must have a passion for the cause and a sincere effort to achieve fundraising success. National Philanthropy Day is a celebration of benevolent donations of time, talent and treasure.

Olivia received another honor this fall, as well. She placed first in the Pitch 10 competition. Pitch 10, in conjunction with the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County, gave eleven non-profit organizations a platform to share their innovative ideas for transforming the community.

Mount Mercy Academy Principal Margaret Staszak is well-aware of how unique a young woman Olivia Larson is. “It is rare to find a young person so insightful and so willing to make positive change in our world that she would create her own non-profit organization, and yet you would expect nothing less of Olivia Larson. She truly exemplifies the spirit of mercy and compassion we hope to instill in all of our students,” Staszak remarked.

As a sophomore, Olivia heard a presentation in her Spanish class that mentioned that Buffalo had a high poverty rate. She researched poverty in Buffalo and discovered that the poverty rate was 44 percent in 2016 and it currently sits at 47 percent. Due to the influence that Mount Mercy’s emphasis on service has on her, Olivia knew she had to do more. She spearheaded a drive for baby supplies sponsored by her church and was gratified by the positive response to this effort.

Olivia knew she wanted to do something that was more long-lasting. So with the help and support of her parents she began to form her non-profit. The organization obtained its Articles of Incorporation in October of 2018 and as of March of 2019 obtained 501(c) (3) tax status for non-profits.

The first project that she tackled was a school supply program. She supplied thirty students from pre-kindergarten to eleventh grade with backpacks. The backpacks were filled with all the necessary materials from their teacher’s supply list.

“Mount Mercy has shaped my community service by instilling in me the ability to make a change in the world and the community. If I see a problem or injustice in the world, it is my duty to stand up and speak. I know that the Mount Mercy community will support me in my efforts,” Olivia commented.

Olivia is unsure where she will attend college next year, but intends to double major in International Affairs and Business. Recently, Olivia was accepted into the University of Notre Dame. She plans to continue to expand For Every Little Handprint and eventually to work for an international organization like the United Nations.

Mount Mercy President Margaret M. Cronin commented, “Olivia embodies all that is possible through a Mercy Education. She continues to amaze us through all the wonderful projects she has been involved with and the spirit in which she lives. More importantly, her example challenges us all to think bigger and do more. There are few guarantees in life, but one that Margaret Staszak and I are sure of is Olivia Larson will be a name that will be changing this world for the better for many years to come.”.

Olivia is the president of student government and National Honor Society, co-editor of the Mercienne; the school’s yearbook, a member of the Mock Trial Team and a student ambassador.
TOP 10 CLASSES BY AMOUNT GIVEN

1954 $26,654
1974 $7,807
1977 $6,960
1959 $6,255
1967 $5,461
1975 $4,940
1963 $4,805
1960 $4,479
1970 $4,000
1978 $3,815
$1-99  
Mary Ellen Osika Bargmann  
JoAnne Bujnicki Cusack  
Mary Juliano Foglesonger  
Laura Jerard Low  
Patricia Doyle Preston  
Madonna Richards  
Ann Campanile Smith  
Eileen O’Brien Wright  
Total $3,040

CLASS OF 1972  
$1,000+  
Christine Scherer Dracup  
$100-249  
Bernadette Boinski  
Mary Carr Bonyzak  
Susan Strobele Giambrane  
Karen McCaffery  
Joanne Herman Wakefield  
$1-99  
Marian Crotty Betrus  
Carol Kuzniarek Latona  
Margaret O’Brien McLane  
Barbara Messenger  
Patricia Murray  
Dawn Corcoran Osburn  
Mary Coughlin Quinn  
Mary Cooley Wierchowski  
Deborah Duke Williamson  
Total $1,845

CLASS OF 1973  
$1,000+  
Janet Suchan Vasquez  
$500-999  
Coleen Hanna  
Linda Coccia Rocchi  
$250-499  
Mary Cullinan Simons  
$100-249  
Margaret Flanagan Barrett  
Theresa Donnelly Burbank  
Cheryl O’Connor  
Denise Musczenki Oliansky  
Anne Sullivan  
$1-99  
Denise Jackson Broffman  
Debra Cuddihy  
Lucy Emmi  
Mary Furlong Guarroiero  
Noreen Dobson Hughes  
Donna Hempling Lawrence  
Veronica Balicki McQuade  
Deborah Jordan Munson  
Theresa Beidreinster O’Connor  
Luann Gannon Teach  
Regina Bannick Vetter  
Total $3,240

CLASS OF 1974  
$1,000+  
Eileen Crotty Sendor  
$500-999  
Darlene Nowak  
Nancy Wutz Ware  
$250-499  
Maureen Cassidy  
Lynn Clarke  
Kathleen McDonald Reid  
$100-249  
Sheila Bauer Appleby  
Karen Ellen Donovan Ashe  
Mary Ann Kastashiak  
Nancy Bruch McKay  
Eileen Hanley Noworyta  
$1-99  
Anonymous  
Margaret Meaney Conlon  
Patricia Nowodly Janicki  
Susanne Sullivan Waters  
Total $7,807

CLASS OF 1975  
$1,000+  
Paula Harris Penepent  
Margaret Cuthbert Staszak  
$500-999  
Susan Doyle  
Sharon Porcello  
Patricia Lonergan Russell  
$250-499  
Nancy Krygier Leahy  
$100-249  
Robin Driskel  
Madonna Kline Guzzo  
Suzanne Cullen Hohl  
Mary Moebius  
Joanne Browne Quinn  
Margaret Shallove Recktenwald  
Patricia Perry Werneiwski  
$1-99  
Mary Finley Blosat  
Jeanne Cummings  
Susan Janus Defose  
Deborah Scheier Haxer  
Katherine Quinn Hourihan  
Debra Purcell Jackson  
Margaret Minich  
Patricia Makey Raab  
Mary Beth Dorney Roberts  
Andrea Luba Waga  
Total $4,940

CLASS OF 1976  
$1,000+  
Ann Galli  
$500-999  
Donna Zmitrewicz Gonser  
$100-249  
Lyne Adamczyk  
Patricia Gallagher Casillo  
Margaret Kubanet Corto  
Kathleen Coughlin Lynch  
$1-99  
Kathleen Bynes Aures  
Linda Sieckmann Dugan  
Debra Edbstel  
Shelia Jackson Foster  
Carol Murray Gill  
Joy Myers Kicinski  
Kathleen McGrath Lafko  
Irene Fredo Lessard  
Kathleen Denecke Wheldon  
Total $2,455

CLASS OF 1977  
$1,000+  
Anonymous  
Margaret Hempling McGlynn  
$500-999  
Denise Cullen  
Kathleen Perse Garbes  
Kathleen Pace Murphy  
Margaret Lillis Snajczuk  
$250-499  
Pamela Krawczik Greene  
Ann Marie Szama McGraw  
Carolyn Haley Wagner  
$100-249  
Joy Sheehan Bristol  
Margaret McGrath Curran  
Rosemarie Benz Ericson  
Sharon Kelly Hanley  
Ellen McGrath  
Lou Ann Mustillo  
Kathleen Ryan West  
$1-99  
Kathleen Bauer  
Lori Luba Jaeger  
Margaret McMahon  
Kathryn Cuthbert Milligan  
Eileen Herbst Needham  
Claire McGrath Savini  
Molly Heidinger Sayler  
Lorle Deacon Steinwald  
Total $6,960

CLASS OF 1978  
$1,000+  
Linda Kobs Grandis  
$500-999  
Kelly Thompson Denz  
Lisa Scuri DiGate  
$250-499  
Margaret M. Cronin  
Mary McCartney Gallagher  
Gail Czwojdak Zijvac  
$100-249  
Colleen Colpols Dowd  
Maureen Farrell  
Lynn Gavin Huntley  
Laura Bielmann Karida  
Paula Francolini Mclveen  
Michle Erevolino Pagliaroli  
Susan Pettis Pash  
$1-99  
Kathleen Amicone McCarthy  
Kathleen Brown Neifer  
Deborah Mozgawa Reynolds  
Katherine Riedy  
Carol Leary Roche  
Diana Saffoledo Schwab  
Margaret Nowadly Serafini  
Barbara Smith Walczak  
Total $3,815

CLASS OF 1979  
$1,000+  
Patricia Reilly Panara  
$500-999  
Anonymous  
$250-499  
Kelly Glavey Hallinan  
Rosanne Finucane Stobenzburg  
Mary Weir  
$100-249  
Janet CoShane  
Kathleen Crowley  
Jeannine Bowers Hong  
Mary Hogan Schaus  
$1-99  
Maura Kane Flynn  
Maureen Walsh Koricke  
Sheila O’Toole Stanchak  
Kathleen Kelly Sullivan  
Total $3,310

CLASS OF 1980  
$250-499  
Susan Walsh  
$100-249  
Lisa Scarcello Drake  
Margaret Astyk McCaffery  
Ann Marie Athans Quinn  
Kathleen Quinn  
Patricia Carney Sullivan  
$1-99  
Ann Schmidt Andriaccio  
Nancy Hould Forys  
Mary Pat Ziemer Lawson  
Total $988.32

CLASS OF 1981  
$1,000+  
Mary Katz Long  
$250-499  
Nancy Fitzpatrick  
$100-249  
Cheryl Ward Clifford  
Mary Lynch  
Kathleen Robertson Muir  
Diane Whelan Sullivan  
Lynn Cunningham Thornton  
$1-99  
Diane Pascuzzi Clancy  
Donna Donohue  
Elizabeth Blake Heidinger  
Maureen Browne Kirchmyer  
Jeanine O’Brien Kohl  
Nancy McGrath Ogorek  
Patricia Kline Shriver  
Total $2,186.50

CLASS OF 1982  
$1,000+  
Michelle Daly Monaco  
$250-499  
Anonymous  
$100-249  
Maureen Conmy Beauchamp  
Ann Paolucci Brown  
Aimee Conmy Breit  
Janet Makey Frego  
Grace Gannon Jackson  
Mary Lasota  
Patricia Keane Marren  
Maureen Carden Shriver  
$1-99  
Kristina Podrza Connell  
Maureen Shea Pinterpe  
Total $1,673.72

CLASS OF 1983  
$1,000+  
Patricia Leahy Emhoff  
$250-499  
Theresa Steiner Geiger  
$100-249  
Jan Goodfellow Ford  
Mary Callahan Malley  
Laura Ortiz  
Maggie Ryan  
Lisa Unger Schieber  
$1-99  
Jeanie Martello Archilla  
Linda Ruth Eckert  
Elizabeth Beirng Kim  
Lynda Santini Maywalt  
Total $2,003

CLASS OF 1984  
$500-999  
Cheryl Meyers Buth  
Mary Regan Pietrowski  
$250-499  
Margaret Kilcoyne Frank  
Barbara Ruff  
$100-249  
Joyce Africano Fruth  
Nancy Napora Hammond  
Josephine Arroyo Kogler  
$1-99  
Melissa Byrne Doctor  
Barbra Dodds  
Debra Pittner Gossel  
Amy Martin Gusek  
Robin Runz  
Janice Heppel Schmidt  
Kathryn Baurd Zawisa  
Total $2,150

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CLASS OF 1985
$500-999
Colleen Eagen
Maureen Evans
$100-249
Mary Hilnery
$1-99
Kathleen Glavey Dougherty
Patricia Ruff Lozano
Jaxen Sullivan O’Sullivan
Eileen Condron Schara
Nora Conners Welsh
Total $1,302

CLASS OF 1986
$250-499
Eva Evaldi Byrne
Julie Sheehan Jones
$100-249
Elizabeth Eckert Miller
$1-99
Tammy Frankhauser Deyoe
Nancy Roemig Lawler
Erie Devin Ryan
Sally Hayes Teghagen
Total $897

CLASS OF 1987
$500-999
Rebecca Long Larson
$250-499
Laura Meyer Prendergast
$100-249
Maureen Casey
$1-99
Jeanette Martin Igolitso
Marianie Lifis O’Brien
Carol Golinski Powlowski
Total $1,000

CLASS OF 1988
$500-999
Kathleen Linhardt
$250-499
Lisa Burczyński Kessler
$100-249
Mary Jo Carlo
Mary Kate Schuster Catlin
Renee Brayson Gaueme
Susan Lang
Teresa Barrows Lewandowski
Kerry Meegan
Caryn Schwarzuemiller Reid
$1-99
Laurene Tumiel Berhalter
Kim Fitzgerald Rotella
Julienne Ottwell Sands
Total $1,575

CLASS OF 1989
$100-249
Marcelene Mazaj Burkett
Kim Szablicki Hutter
Lisa Mendonza
Total $300

CLASS OF 1990
$1-99
Clare Shea
Total $25

CLASS OF 1991
$1,000+
Maryellen Diggins
$100-249
Tina Scarpello Webster
$1-99
Denise DiBello Schneek
Total $1,206

CLASS OF 1992
$100-249
Colleen Farry Chase
Kim Schweitzer Chicott
Natalie Lesswing Recktenwalt
Erlin Kelly Smith
$1-99
Mary Barrows
Jennifer Gnoiorek
Wendy Majtyka Hartman
Total $550

CLASS OF 1993
$500-999
Shelly Halloran
$100-249
Jennifer Kamath Oleski
$1-99
Melissa Fusco Carver
Jodi Giambrone
Alicia Ventresca Miller
Total $740

CLASS OF 1994
$100-249
Melinda Jones
Kerry Culum Merdek
Katherine Barrett Scherer
Jessica Kelly Swiech
$1-99
Mary Wall
Total $455

CLASS OF 1995
$100-249
Beth Gris Antonius
Renata Smith Doerr
Total $200

CLASS OF 1996
$100-249
Mary Pat Overdorf Maloney
Kathleen Cleary Wielinski
$1-99
Laura Prabucki Calandra
Mary Kay Finn Caufield
Total $413

CLASS OF 1997
$100-249
Kathrine Grucella Mineo
$1-99
Alice Zebiacki Stage
Total $197

CLASS OF 1998
$100-249
Sarah Kuklka Daughton
$1-99
Christine Smith Belin
Sarah Franklin Grable
Shannon Dean Stedman
Total $170

CLASS OF 1999
$100-249
Jill Soroka Gore
$1-99
Mary Farrell Cullinane
Total $215

CLASS OF 2000
$500-999
Jennifer Masterson Ketchum
$250-499
Lauren Fitzgerald
Total $777.80

CLASS OF 2001
$1-99
Kristin Hess
Melissa Parker Leonard
Total $50

CLASS OF 2002
$1-99
Jennifer Benz O’Malley
Ashley Moore Stoller
Total $75

CLASS OF 2003
$100-249
Emily Smaldino Wallace
$1-99
Bridget Jakubowski
Elizabeth Radder Reedy
Total $186

CLASS OF 2004
$100-249
Leanne Maloney
Mary Jane Long
Total $120

CLASS OF 2005
$100-249
Gabrielle Schwab Heidinger
Total $250

CLASS OF 2006
$100-249
Shealyn Sullivan
$1-99
Brianne Wilson
Lauren Caufield
Total $220

CLASS OF 2007
$100-249
Kara Rennie Caldiero
Mary Ryder
$1-99
Gabrielle Schwab Heidinger
Total $250

CLASS OF 2008
$100-249
Shealyn Sullivan
$1-99
Brianne Wilson
Total $220

CLASS OF 2009
$100-249
Christine Lauber
Total $100

CLASS OF 2010
$1-99
Margaret Higgins
Total $25

CLASS OF 2011
$1-99
Emilie Fose
Bridget Jackson
Catherine Kasianowicz
Katherine Marren
Kaylin Parker
Elizabeth Redanz Teal
Total $110

CLASS OF 2012
$1-99
Charlene Takacs
Cara Waldraff
Emily Walsh
Total $90

CLASS OF 2013
$1-99
Marissa Stack
Total $20

CLASS OF 2014
$1-99
Katherine Redanz
Total $20

CLASS OF 2015
$1-99
Anna Kraus
Catherine O’Brien
Olivia Takacs
Joelle Wagner
Total $75

CLASS OF 2016
$100-249
Margaret Dedillo
$1-99
Claire Jackson
Total $115

CLASS OF 2017
$1-99
Valerie Boeck
Averya Taylor
Total $30

Friends and Family
$1,000+
Joseph and Shirley Basil
Maureen Diggins
Ellen Koesler
$500-999
Bill Iannarelli
Fred and Lisa Kirisits
Thomas and Mary Jo Sellers
$250-499
William Bourke
William Keenan
$100-249
William Keenan
$1-99
William Bourke
William Keenan
Scott King
Total $250

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Eva Evaldi Byrne ‘86
Donna Donehue ‘81
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Kristin Hess ‘01
Jennifer Masterson Ketchum ‘00
Rebecca Long Larson ‘87
Jane Sullivan O’Sullivan ‘85
Diane Whelan Sullivan ‘81
Brianna Wilon ‘08

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National Fuel Donors
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Robert Michalski
Timothy and Lisa Russo

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2018-2019 Annual Report
Scholarships

Endowed Scholarships and Awards
Alexander and Arlene Rola and Janet Sieckmann Memorial Award
Alice and William Walz Memorial Award
Alumnae Legacy Scholarship Award
Ann and Paul Moran Memorial Scholarship Award
Anonymous
Barbara Massett Kelleher Scholarship
Beverly Palsiano Leek Award
David and Dorothy Borchard Memorial Scholarship
Carol and Jim Pace Educational Award
Catherine Gorman Award
Elaine Rider Bonacci and Deacon Anthony C. Bonacci Scholarship
Estate of Anna G. O’Brien Award
Heather Anne Schwalb Memorial Scholarship
Henri Hammond Award
Jack Donohue Memorial Award
Jeanne and Mary Belle Pettry Memorial Award
Julia M. Cullen Scholarship Fund
Karen Kwiatkowski Memorial Award
Karen Taity and Maureen Taity Franz Memorial Scholarship
Kathleen G. Kearns Award
Kathleen McCarthy White Memorial Scholarship
Kathleen Michaels Gronborg Award
Kathleen Ottos Barone Memorial Award
M. Smedding Bequest
Margaret Hunt Lyons Scholarship
Mary Ann Simnick Scholarship Matthew Colpoys Sr. Scholarship
Maureen Canney Award
Maureen Taity Franz Scholarship
McFaul Award
Monsignor Dino Lorenzetti Award
Murphy Family Award
Nora NeMoyer Award
President’s Scholarship Award
Rosemary Maloney Twist Memorial Scholarship
Schwartzott Family Scholarship
Sister Clare Powers Award
Sister Mary Assunta and Nancy Thorne Award
Sister Mary Alveretta Memorial Award
Sister Mary Eloise and Paracleta Award
Van Dyke Scholarship

Special Permanent Endowment Awards
Ellen Plunkett Memorial Award
Estate of Lydia Whipple Woods
Hauser Rauber Scholarship
Mary V. O’Connor Work Study Award

Capital Campaign Scholarships and Awards
Alice and William Walz Memorial Award
Alumnae Scholarship Award
Anonymous
Bigelow Family Scholarship
Eileen Crotty Connors Memorial Award
Evelyn Kruse Award
Irene Recktenwalt Award
Joseph and Gertrude Mahoney Scholarship
Kathleen G. Kearns Award
Kathleen Romance Memorial Award
Margaret Hunt Lyons Scholarship
Mary C. Paladino Scholarship
Matthew Colpoys Sr. Memorial Scholarship
McFaul Award
Paul and Ann Moran Scholarship
Sherry Family Scholarship

Term Scholarship Awards
Class of 1970 Award in Memory of Moe Brown and all Deceased Classmates
Ann Bugman Kittner & Lee Ann Leslie Rayburn Memorial Scholarship
Anonymous
Bishop Quigley Scholarship
Catherine A. Luhr Scholarship
Catherine Murphy Award
Colleen Conroy Carrigg Memorial Scholarship
Cosgrove Women of Mercy Scholarship
Eileen Crowley Memorial Scholarship
Frank J. McGuire Award
Gina Strianese Memorial Scholarship
Hempling Family Award for Values and Service
Karen Taity and Maureen Taity Franz Award
Madonna and Gerald Gowanrski Award
Mary Scott Meek Award
Marie Tunney Kmieck Award
Molly Fincuane DeZastro Award
Murphy Family Award
Sister Sally A. Walz, RSM Scholarship
Sisters of Mercy Tuition Award
Terence J. Smerka Memorial Award
The John R. Oishei Foundation Scholarships
Victor and Ann Kolb Memorial Award
Vincent and Harett Palsiano Award
Joan Sandecki Flynn ‘54
Kathleen Foose ‘75
Elizabeth Gainey
Donna Steen Gannon ‘70
Carol Garcia
Madonna Murray Gowanrski ‘53
Catherine Geary
Margaret Geary
Carrie Gennaro
Christine Hasselback Gibbons ‘70
Denise Gillig
Trish Higgins Glose ‘70
Judith Goralski
Marie Gould
Arlene Wantuch Greene ‘78
Patricia Borodzik Haller ‘70
Helen Hennigan
Deborah Hess
Jack Hest Award
Sister Nancy Hoff, RSM
Susan Smyntek Hogan ‘70
Virginia Wohlrab Hogan ‘78
Margaret Holmes
Patricia Hren
Lynn Prendergast Hukins ‘70
Joseph and Mary Hughes
Eileen McGarry Hummel ‘80
Sharon Johnson ‘78
Lauree Colarusso Josefik ‘70
Gary and Lori Kaczor
Kathleen Kaminski
Margaret Whalen Keane ‘67
Joanne Kearns ‘78
Mary Kelleher Crabtree ‘80
Annmarie Whalen Kelley ‘80
Lisa Fitzgerald Kennedy ‘81
Michale Kloppele
Michael and Nancy Kmicieck
Patricia Knob ‘70
Michaelien Konopczynski
Margaret Kostek
Mary Kowalczyk
Leanne Langner
Terese Cosgrove Laslo ‘63
Carol Lawton
Susan Leahy ‘82
Mary E. Leary ‘70
Nancy Legg
Shiella Ryan Lempko ‘55
Alfred Lurh
M. Kathleen Maroney
Patricia Keane Marren ‘82
Julie Schwab Marzolf ‘92
Judith Mathis
Jim Mc Mahon
Joanne Gannon McCabe ‘70
Kathleen Taity McCarthy ‘63
Kathleen Maraher McCarthy ‘70
Margaret Kelly McFarland ‘80
Margaret Hempling McGlynn ‘77
Kerry McGough ‘74
Mary Beth McGough
Frank McGuire
Maureen McGum ‘70
Richard and Evelyn McLean
Tina McMananaman
Megan Morrow ‘87
Mary McNamara ‘70
Elizabeth Miller
Barbara Mondello
John and Sharon Morris
Annette Lukaszek Mudd ‘70
Judith Czarnik Muller ‘70
Dennis Murphy
Thomas Murphy
William and Elizabeth Murphy
Sally Nadeau
Darlene Nowak ‘74
Kathryn Nowicki
Maryann Joyce Nowicki ‘73
Thomas Nunan
Katherine Nutille
Maureen O’Connor Oakley ‘73
Colleen O’Brien ‘82
Sheila Hall O’Brien ‘51
Thomas O’Brien
Teresa O’Donnell
Mary Oring
Colleen McGuire Painter ‘70
James Beardsley
Eleanor Papagallo
Donna Hoffman Peraino ‘70
Carole Perla
Howard Pettsy
Marge Phelan
Mary Martin Philbin ‘78
Anne Sullivan Polino ‘79
Joy Whalen Powers ‘54
Mary Powers
Cathy Pudlewski
Gail Puskas
David and Diane Rainsville
Daniel and Colleen Reedy
Diane Reddy ‘62
Elizabeth Radder Reddy ‘04
Mary Ann Donohue Riedy ‘70
Renee Romance
Eleanor Scaffidi
Molly McBride Scala ‘80
Ellen Cosgrove Scheiderer ‘65
Kathy Schendel
Joann Scime
Marie Cosgrove Shea ‘61
Sister Joan Sherry
Linda Sieckmann Dugan ‘76
Patricia Simonick
Robert Simonick
Carole Smerka
Alice Zebracki Stage ‘97
Thomas and Karen Stapleton
Shirley Steenbregen
Ann Stewart
Jean Kearns Stievater ‘62
Robert Straniess
Marybeth Rola Strickland ‘81
Helen Cullinan Szvoren ‘70
Dorothy Tamowski
Debrah Macnna Turkovich ‘70
Upstate Agency
Patricia Lyons Van Dyke ‘47
Nancy Vester
Susan Manley Wagner ‘70
William Walbridge
William and Anne Moran Walz ‘61
Mary Alice Walz ‘51
Moka Webster Larranaga
Nora Hanson Whalen ‘76
Tim Whalen
Mary Wode Williams ‘70
Sandra Wiseman
Mary Lou Oddy Colpoy-Wynne ‘57
Joanne Hess Wojtkiewicz ‘79
Mary Dowling Zeis ‘54
Lynne Zappinger

Grants
Buffalo Sabres Foundation

Class of 1970 Scholarship Donors
Jeanne Tyczka Alfiero
Mary Rothenberger Anderson
Mary Ellen Jackson Becker
Mary Buchbinder Brennan
Maureen Burke
Susan Leary Cain
Kate Callahan
Mount Mercy Academy Announces 2020 Scholarship and Academic Honors

Mount Mercy Academy proudly announced the recipients of the 2020 Academic Honors and Scholarships. Seven incoming members of Mount Mercy’s Class of 2024 were recognized for their outstanding academic performance. All of the scholarships are awarded to the top performers on the Catholic High School Entrance Exam.

Academy Scholarship Winner: full four year tuition that is awarded to the student who scores the highest on the Catholic High School Entrance Exam

Addison Barth, Nativiy of Our Lord School

President’s Academic Scholarship Winners: a four year full-tuition scholarship for earning the second highest score on the Catholic High School Entrance Exam

Caroline Tucker, Nativiy of Our Lord

Principal’s Academic Scholarship Winners: a four year two thousand dollar scholarship

Nadine Barron, Holland Middle School; Vayana Stayanova, Notre Dame Academy and Avery Walker, Nativiy of Our Lord School

Catherine McAuley Academic Scholarship Winners: four year one thousand dollar a year scholarship

Shannon Kersten, Hamburg Middle School and Brogan Maloney, Notre Dame Academy

Mary Griffin O’Connor
Sister Eileen O’Connor, RSM
Theresa Reidenstein O’Connor
Jacqueline Trautsch O’Donnell
Sister Margaret Ann O’Donnell, RSM
Vincenetta Ventreca O’Donnell
Nancy McGrath Ogorek
Eileen Olden
Alyssa O’Mara
Catherine O’Neill Coppola
Maureen McDonald O’Neill
Dawn Corcoran Osburn
Carol Romance Pace
Colleen Kennedy Palsino
Elizabeth Nagy Parisi
Sara Panylo
Elizabeth Penepet
Judith Gorman Petrucy
Sister Pauline Petruzella, RSM
Mary Martin Phibin
Sheila Coughlin Pinelgksi
Sandra DeHaas Pizzuto
Christine Plowucha
Kathleen Klizz Podrza
Karen Porclio
Sister Mary Ann Powell, RSM
Patricia Sobocinski Pumpett
Sister Meg Qunilan, RSM
Mary Healy Quin
Margaret Kinsley Raupp
Margaret Shalom Recktenwalnd
Irene Recktenwalt
Barbara Pieber Reed
Kathleen Kennedy Regan
Kathleen McDonald Reid
Mary Lou Gill Reid
Mary Eagen Renks
Sister Margaret Richards
Shannon O’Rourke Robertson
Margaret Rothenberger
Pamela Schwab Rozic
Mildred Michel Ruiz
Ethne Haren Runfola
Patricia Lonerger Russell
Barbara Ryan
Noreen Ryan
Elizabeth Salamone
Mary Robb Salamone
Kathleen Kemples Scanlon
Nancy Michel Schamberger
Sister Mary Ann Schimscheiner, RSM
Jeremiah and Margaret
Schneeburger
Allison Schroeder
Kathleen Schuta
Cynthia Gaudet Schub
Karen Schwartz
Sister Mary Ann Sciarino, RSM
Eileen Crotty Sendor
Margaret Nowlady Serafini
Colleen Shanahan
Jeanne Marie Siefker
Karen Horrigan Shea
Mary Brooks Sheehan
Michelle Monaco
Sister Joan Sherry, RSM
Linda Sieckmann Dugan
Mary Carpenter Sieg
Judith Sikora
Kathleen Fitzgerald Simmons
Caitlin Pautz Simmons
Carolyn Shea Sinclair
Teresa Bonanno Siuta
Ashleigh Mallabi Skipper
Colleen Kelly Slusarz
Emily Smaldino Wallace
Ashley Smolen
Sister Lucina Sokira, RSM
Judith Kwietniewski Spira
Eileen Leahy Stahl
Alice Zel Morl Stage
Elizabeth Starkey
Christina Stasiuk
Margaret Cuthbert Staszk
Sister Eileen Steen, RSM
Lauren Trip Sterlace
Renee Wester
Margaret Cogrove Stiligate
Kathleen Molloy Straub
Amy Schroeder Studi
Anne Sullivan
Kathleen Sullivan
Meghan Sullivan
Courtney Moffet Sunbrum
Jean Suto
Sister Diane Swanson, RSM
Susan Manley Swarts
Sister Kathleen Sweeney, RSM
James and Laurie Szumula
Ruth Nelson Szonwer
Thomas and Laura Szrewd
Maureen Coughlin Tabaczyński
Lynn Battaglia Torpe
Sister M. Josepha Timmins, RSM
Erin Murphy Treven
Jennifer Schaefer Trembly
Laurenne Trigg
Sister Mary Ellen Twist, RSM
Kathleen Sanders Ujvari
Jacquelyn Baran VanBrunnt
Sister Alberta van Remmen, RSM
Jessica Vastola
Marlene Giermek Vastola
Sister Mary Eugenia Vastola, RSM
Sally McNichols Vercellone
Heather Dake Vukelic
Christopher Vutura
Maureen Walsh
Sister Sheila Marie Walsh, RSM
Susan Walsh
Regina Denecke Walton
Mary Alice Walz
Margaret Monahan Webster
William and Carol Webster
Mary Weir
Jacqueline Welch
Scott and Marybeth Weltjen
Mary Ellen Burke Whelan
Kathleen Cleary Wielinski
Sheila Wiles
Mark and Kathryn Willert
Brianna Wilson
Rosanne Simoneilli Wilson
Caillt Wnek Wingard
Sheila Munley Wirth
Mary Seymour Wode
Patrica McCarthy Woolfeli
Maryellen Wohrabi
Beth O'Brien Wright
Linda Brill Wrobel
Phyllis Young
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Mary Zubek

In Honor of
Cheryl Meyers Bath ‘84
Bill Lamarelli
Margaret M. Cronin ’78
Kate Callahan ’70
Kathleen Houririan ’67+
Mary Lou Houririan ’70+
Suzanne Kulp Connors ‘58
Kathleen Sullivan ‘55
Shealyn Sullivan ‘08
Walsh and Hogan
Graduates
Susan Walsh ‘80
In Memory of
Laetitia Cullen Bouker ’62+
William Bourke
Marie Hoar Culligan ‘38+
Leanne Maloney ’05
Jean Coppola DeAnthony
‘62+
Richard DeAnthony
Patricia Denecke Dickman
‘77+
Kathryn Cuthbert Milligan ’77
Margaret O’Connor Donnelly ’45+
Deresa Donnelly Burbank ’73
Catherine Hasselback
Franz ‘58+
Christine Hasselback Gibbons ’70
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Mcauley Gala Gift Gathering Parties
Faculty & Staff Party- Hosted by Mount Mercy Academy, Friday March 1st, 2019 at Mount Mercy Academy.
Hosted by Catherine Luhr, Assistant Principal / Dean of Discipline

Board of Trustees Cocktail Party
Friday, February 15th, 2019 at the home of Suzanne and Ted Overdorf.
Hosted by Suzanne Fox ’60 and Ted Overdorf and the Board of Trustees.

Young Alumnae Gift Gathering Luncheon

Mercy Mimosas
Sunday, March 10th, 2019 at Brick Oven Bistro hosted by Kate Daley Dust ’73 and Peggy Flanagan Barrett ’73.

Alumnae Gift Gathering
February 9th at Curry’s Grille. Sponsored by:
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