INTRODUCING THE RED JACKET SOCIETY...

Each donor that makes a gift of $88 or more will receive a special lapel pin signifying their financial commitment to MMA.
Continuing the Circle of Mercy & Making a Difference on Red Jacket

The Circle of Mercy contains many intricate parts that work together to celebrate our legacy. The Mount Mercy Alumnae are an important part of what keeps the Circle of Mercy moving. The deep connections our alumnae have with each other and with the current student body are very special. These ties that bind us continue the legacy of our Mercy tradition and make a difference on Red Jacket.

The support of our Alumnae to the Academy is extensive and is reflected in our successful reunion program, the celebration of our outstanding alumnae at the Mercy Honors Dinner and the yearly support in the Annual Fund drive. Alumnae volunteers support the Academy with the Memorial program, the McAuley Gala and the numerous Alumnae Board hosted events. The MMA Alumnae’s hands-on approach makes us unique among the Western New York high schools. Mercy girls continue the legacy like no other!

MOUNT MERCY ACADEMY REUNIONS

When we left the doors of Mercy some 10, 30, 45 or 50+ years ago, we never imagined that we would cherish a night out with our classmates so much. But, as the Alumnae Director has watched these classes, each in their own way, celebrate friendship and Mercy, it has been inspiring!

While the trend with other alumnae offices has been to consolidate their five-year reunion anniversaries into one event, the Mercy alumnae have remained steadfast in preferring to celebrate as individual classes. The Mercy women enjoy and prefer their one-class reunions (see the article on page 12 for the Class of 1961 recap of their 50 year reunion weekend).

Individual classes have chosen to tailor how their reunion would like to solicit gifts from their classmates for the Academy. Some classes support students in need with a student profile story, others have challenged their classmates with a lead matching gift donor and many have established memorial scholarship programs (see article on page 15 regarding the Class of 1991). These 1991 alumnae not only established a memorial scholarship fund with the profits and donations from their reunion this
July, but they are also organizing a June 2012 event to add to the Heather Schwabl Scholarship Fund. Last year, one very ambitious class pledged to send a Mercy girl to the Academy for four years. These reunion classes continue to make a difference in the lives of several girls who now walk the halls of Mount Mercy Academy.

Over the past three years, the reunion program has made a steady increase in funding scholarship programs to support our Mercy girls. Thank you Mercy Alumnae – your support continues to make a difference. The economy and the $8,000 tuition bill may be difficult for some of our current Mercy families, but our Alumnae have risen to the challenge to continue the Mercy legacy.

ALUMNAE BOARD HOSTED EVENTS
The Alumnae Board hosts numerous events which are highlighted in the Horizons. The profits from the special events fund the Alumnae Scholarship, a full four-year scholarship to the Academy. The Mercy Honors Dinner, detailed on pages 4-5, is our premier event. It pays homage to our Mercy Alumnae, community leaders, faculty and staff. The Mercy Honors Dinner is one of the primary funding sources for the Alumnae Scholarship Fund. The MMA 5K in June serves as the other main funding source and involves the entire South Buffalo community, past parents and our past and current cross country coaches (See article on page 6 regarding Mercy’s Cross Country/Track Coach, Jeff Conrad. Jeff is a 2011 Business First “40 Under 40” Honoree). The Alumnae Board of Directors meets monthly to organize varied and rewarding events which facilitate connections among alumnae and the current student body.

ANNUAL FUND AND THE RED JACKET SOCIETY
Last year we began to reconnect with many alumnae through our Annual Fund appeal. The 2010-2011 Annual Fund was on a shortened cycle, but we were able to provide a record amount of funds to the Academy. The 2011-2012 Annual Fund challenges our Alumnae to join the Red Jacket Society. Annual Fund donations can also be made with a few clicks on our website at www.mtmercy.org. The Annual Fund appeal is the easiest way for all alumnae across the world to make a difference on Red Jacket.

OUR GRATITUDE
Mount Mercy Academy is blessed to have so many individuals and organizations support our mission to provide a quality education to women. While a majority of our support is from our alumnae, there are also many friends of Mercy who have financially supported the Academy for decades. On September 29th, an Evening of Gratitude was held at Mercy Center to recognize and thank those benefactors, Capital Campaign contributors and the Sisters of Mercy who have helped us continue the legacy.

Our October Open House this year featured a special invite to our Western New York alumnae who had girls currently in 8th grade. The alumnae received a special gift – a limited edition MMA Alumna tee shirt! It was great to see so many MMA alumnae walk through the doors of 88 Red Jacket, proud to show their daughters their alma mater.

As the 107th year at Mount Mercy Academy begins, we enthusiastically continue the Circle of Mercy and celebrate our legacy. We thank you all for Making a Difference on Red Jacket.
Mary M. McCafferty ’80

Catherine McAuley Distinguished Alumna Award

Mary M. McCafferty is a 1980 graduate of Mount Mercy Academy. After earning her Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Canisius College, Mary achieved her certification as a Public Accountant in 1988 and became accredited as a Certified Financial Planner in 2005. Her financial experience was initially as an Auditor and Senior Auditor at Touche-Ross & Co in Buffalo and thereafter at Moore Corp., Ltd. in Grand Island. At Moore, Mary was also the Controller for Business Re-Engineering and EDS Alliance at its Niagara Falls, New York and Lake Forest, Illinois locations. Returning to the Buffalo area in 1997, Mary was promoted to the position of Controller for Moore Interactive at its headquarters in Grand Island, New York. Since 2002, Mary currently is a Wealth Manager/Financial Planner for Lincoln Financial Advisors/Sagemark Consulting in Williamsville, New York. While having a wealth of financial experience, Mary has balanced such achievements with generous giving within the community and was also awarded Outstanding Local Philanthropist in 2009. As a former member of Mercy’s Alumnae Board, she was a dedicated and enthusiastic volunteer for many events, notably as Chairperson of Mercy’s Annual Golf Outing. She continues to offer her time as a member of Mercy’s Board of Trustees. Mary’s family connections to Mount Mercy are strong. In all that Mary touches, she embodies a gentle spirit of giving to others. One can certainly look to Mary as a role model for young women who are preparing to be a part of the workforce of tomorrow. Mount Mercy is proud to honor Mary’s heartfelt dedication to Mount Mercy with its Catherine McAuley Distinguished Alumna Award.

Sr. Margaret Ann O’Donnell, R.S.M. ’47

Catherine McAuley Distinguished Alumna Award

It was 1947 when Sr. Margaret Ann O’Donnell recalls being deeply inspired by Catherine McAuley and other Sisters of Mercy who dedicated their lives for the love of God. Sr. Margaret graduated from Mount Mercy in 1948 and then professed her final vows of faith in 1953. Over the next 7 years, she taught at Catholic schools all over Western New York and the Southern Tier. By 1960, Sr. Margaret became an integral member of the Mercy mission in the Philippines serving in teaching, catechetics, community formation and school administration positions there for 31 years. Her final assignment, which lasted 13 years, was in the Pastoral Care Department at Makati Medical Center in Manila. Sr. Margaret was there along with the Filipino people who risked their lives and endured overwhelming odds with only prayers, each other, and the bright glow of freedom in their hearts that helped oust Filipino President Marcos who had held the country in a ruling military dictatorship. After returning to the United States in 1991, she has continued to serve in various capacities as a Pastoral Care Person with AIDS Family Services, at Mercy Hospital as a Chaplain, as Director of Pastoral Care for Mercy Home Care of Western New York, as Co-Director of the Mercy Mission Center, and as Co-Director of the Mercy Associate Program. Additionally, Sr. Margaret initiated the Mercy Doula Program and, as its Director, continues to recruit, train and assign volunteers who provide comfort to terminally ill persons. Mount Mercy is proud to recognize Sr. Margaret’s dedication to education and the poor and is honored to bestow the Catherine McAuley Distinguished Alumna Award upon her.

The Mount Mercy Alumnae Association proudly announces the 2011 Mercy Honors Honorees. The awards recognize distinguished Mount Mercy Academy graduates and affiliates: Awards in three categories will be presented at a gala dinner to be held at Romanell’s South Restaurant on Thursday, November 10, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. The Catherine McAuley Distinguished Alumna Award is presented in the name of the Sisters of Mercy Foundress. The award honors alumnae who have distinguished themselves in the areas of faith, family, community and career. The Spirit of Mercy Award honors persons who exhibit the Spirit of Mercy in their professional and personal lives, most notably for their commitment and dedication to their community. The Mercy Devotion Award is a new category to the Mercy Honors dinner. The Mercy Devotion Award is presented to a faculty or staff member at the Academy who has served as an inspiration for, and has earned the respect and admiration of students and colleagues over the years.
Cathleen Cronin Fitzgerald ’75

Spirit of Mercy Award

Cathleen Cronin Fitzgerald is a 1975 graduate of Mount Mercy who has kept her spirit of Mercy and gentle giving of herself consistent throughout her many years of work as a Registered Nurse and caring wife and mother of seven children. Cathy earned her Nursing Degree from Sisters of Charity School of Nursing and began her career in the trauma unit at Erie County Medical Center. Thereafter, she worked as a Registered Nurse in the Emergency Room, Intensive Care and Radiology Departments at Mercy Hospital. Her care and compassion was shown not only for those Cathy was directly responsible for as patients, but through generous time and heartfelt consideration she provided to their families. These families appreciated and were grateful for her genuine concern and would often write about it in letters. Cathy is a recipient of the Mercy Hospital CARE Award which recognized her compassion and dedication to patients. Currently, Cathy is the Office Manager for Southtowns Radiology in Orchard Park/West Seneca and was a key coordinator of Southtowns Radiology’s involvement in the Susan G. Komen Race for a Cure which finished first in the past two years for its fundraising efforts. Cathy exemplifies what Catherine McAuley and the Sisters of Mercy envisioned and Mount Mercy is proud to honor Cathy with its Spirit of Mercy Award.

Frank Lewandowski

Spirit of Mercy Award

Frank Lewandowski is a parishioner of St. George Church located in West Falls, New York which is where he first became involved in the Haiti Mission in 1993. In accepting this nomination, Frank wishes to be only known as representative of the many caring individuals at St. George Church and Nativity of Our Lord Parish, who, along with many medical and dental professionals in the Western New York area, have worked together to help the people of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Coq Chante, Haiti. Some of those efforts have involved sending eight medical teams and two dental teams to Coq Chante, supporting a year-round medical clinic staffed by Haitians since 2003. These parishes have sent over a thousand boxes of various supplies, helped to build water cisterns and sanitary facilities, parish schools and rectory, and several new homes to replace those destroyed by hurricanes and earthquakes. They have assisted the local economy by providing livestock to families and supporting road reconstruction. Frank has made nearly 20 trips to Haiti since 1995 and has been a member of the medical and dental teams sent to Haiti by St. George Church and Nativity of Our Lord Parish. He is a Professional Civil Engineer and a long-time employee of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Buffalo. All of Frank’s dedicated efforts are laudable and most deserving of Mount Mercy’s Spirit of Mercy Award.

Jean M. Campbell

Mercy Devotion Award

New to this year’s Mercy Honors is the Mercy Devotion Award that recognizes a faculty member who has shown a devotion to Mercy spirit within the school and community. After receiving her Bachelor’s Degree from Canisius College in Religious Studies and Master’s Degree in Education Administration, Jean taught religious studies at St. Ambrose (now Our Lady of Charity), Our Lady of Czestochowa in Cheektowaga and was Director of Religious Education at Immaculate Conception in East Aurora. Mount Mercy has been blessed to have Jean as a teacher in its Theology Department at Mount Mercy for the last 16 years and appointed her Director of Ethics and Excellence at the Academy. Jean has also taught courses in Women’s Spirituality, Hope and Grief and currently, World Religions. As a trained Labyrinth Facilitator, she has helped facilitate in retreats using the labyrinth on many levels. Jean is married to Brian D. O’Malley and the mother of four children and three grandchildren. After experiencing the death of her eldest daughter over eleven years ago, Jean has participated in and helped to facilitate groups through Bereavement Services at Children’s Hospital in Buffalo. This outreach has become one of Jean’s true passions seeking to help others who walk the path of suffering find hope. Mount Mercy is proud to honor Jean and her outstanding faculty commitment to Mount Mercy, as well as her dedication within the community.

Alumnae and friends are invited to join in the Mercy honors Dinner celebration and award ceremony at Romanello’s South on November 10, 2011 at 6:00pm. Please contact the alumnae office for reservation and or patron information at 716-825-8796 ext. 306 or gjackson@mtmercy.org.
Catherine Balkin ’72 Shares Her September 11th Story on National Television & Web
The reverberations of the tragedy of September 11th have touched our Mercy community in varied ways. The personal account of, Class of 1972 alumna, Catherine Balkin and her husband Charlie Caraher were shared in “Voices From Inside the Tower” on the History Channel on September 10th. (Charlie, was one of the last persons to escape with his life from Tower 2.) They also chronicled their story and published it on Catherine’s business website www.balkinbuddies.com as a free tool for educators and researchers. If you wish to view this alumna’s work simply click on the “arrange an appearance” bubble then scroll down and click on the “Primary Source Material on 9/11 for Teachers and Researchers”.

Meg Quinn ’69 Honored at 2011 Artie Awards
The 21st Annual Artie Awards honored Meg Quinn, Class of 1969, with the Career Achievement Award. Quinn, the Artistic Director of the Theatre of Youth, was ever eloquent in her acceptance, and moved the audience to tears as she explained the impact theater has on the lives of children. Quinn cited the story of a little boy who was lured from summer long silence by a children’s theater production.

Tracy O’Grady ’85 Recipient of 2011 Charging Buffalo Award
Tracy, owner and executive chef of Willow Restaurant in Arlington, Virginia, was awarded the Charging Buffalo Award at the 33rd Annual Buffalo Nite in Washington DC. Buffalo Nite is an annual celebration of Buffalo pride and traditions right in the heart of our Nation’s Capital. The Charging Buffalo Award is given to a Buffalonian for outstanding career achievement. O’Grady was selected to represent the United States in the Bourse d’Or cooking competition in Lyon, France and is a winner of the prestigious Women Chefs and Restaurateurs’ Golden Wisk Award. Tracy has been featured in Elle, the Washington Post and Smithsonian and made appearances on NBC Today Show.

Jeff Conrad, Mount Mercy’s Cross Country & Track Coach, Winner of Business First’s “40 Under 40”
Jeff Conrad has long been a dedicated coach and committee member of the Jack’s 5K for over a dozen years. Jeff was instrumental in launching the MMA 5k three years ago and his guidance has been invaluable to the committee and so many Mercy runners. Jeff is employed by the Erie County Center for Employment Opportunities and places recent parolees with suitable employment.

MMA 5K Race Committee Names Awardees for June 2012 Race
The MMA 5K Committee have named the “Race Ladies” as their 2012 Civic Pride Awardees. These ladies are legendary assistants with race registrations and we are so happy we can honor them this year! Our 2012 Civic Pride Awardees are: Paula Scarcello Fitzgerald ’71, Sandy Scarcello Breen ’77, Mary Sheehan Moore ’69, Peggy Flanagan Barrett ’73, Peggy Wade and Patty Jackson.

MMA Alumnae in Sunny Florida
The Alumnae Office will be sending out a special invite to the Southwest Florida alumnae to get together for a mini-reunion on Wednesday, February 8, 2012. Mary Ann Kozuch Moyer ’53 has graciously arranged The Clubhouse at Villages at County Creek as the location for the luncheon. If you reside or visit Florida in early February and would like to attend, please contact the alumnae office at (716)825-8796 to be placed on the invite list.

Pictured here: Carol McLaughlin Rearden, Mary O’Connell Power, Patty Forosciij Lore, Mary Ann Kozuch Moyer, Celine Cooley Connors
What’s New on the Horizon at MMA

The Office of the Principal and the President at Mount Mercy Academy are always developing new initiatives to keep our Mercy Community vibrant. Below are some of Mount Mercy’s projects and academic news on the “horizon.”

WIDENING THE CIRCLE OF MERCY STUDENTS

Mount Mercy Academy is widening the Circle of Mercy with several new students from around the world. We are working with two programs through which we welcome students. The “Youth for Understanding” cultural exchange program brings us three students from Germany. We appreciate the assistance of Mary Ann Voorhees in facilitating the process of finding host families. Many more host families are welcome to help us widen this circle!

Jeanne Burvid, Director of Admissions, has also facilitated the SEVIS Program, i.e. the Federal Government program allowing foreign students to obtain student visas, register for a full academic program and a Regents diploma from the school. We are presently working with families from Vietnam and hope to welcome them within the next few months.

MERCY ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND HEALTH (MASH)

The Partnership forged between MMA and the Catholic Health System is flourishing with 20 students coming for the opportunities it offers this year. We are poised to finalize in this academic year a full-fledged academy within the Academy for students with interest and aptitude for the professions of science and health care. The curriculum is designed to guide and nurture students through focused course work including advanced courses with ample hands-on exposure to the various careers open to them. Alumnae are invited to mentor our students and recent grads as they navigate the process of finding the best programs in higher education.

PREPARATION FOR MIDDLE STATES REACCREDITATION

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education is a voluntary, non-governmental, membership association dedicated to quality assurance and improvement through accreditation via peer evaluation. Middle States accreditation instills public confidence in institutional mission, goals, performance, and resources through its rigorous accreditation standards and their enforcement. Mount Mercy Academy is currently embarking on its self-evaluation and establishing new goals and action plans to present to the visiting Middle States Evaluation Team in March of 2012.

MMA TEAM OF DIRECTORS

A new Administrative Team model is in place for the coming school year. Previously, the Principal and Assistant Principal formed the leadership team in oversight of the faculty and staff. The development of a Team of Directors to work with the Principal brings a new sense of collaboration and innovation to the administration. The team consists of the Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, the Director of Mission and Outreach, the Director of Strategic Initiatives, the Director of Guidance, the Director of Excellence and Ethics, and the Director of Technology. In addition, new positions of Data Coach, and Technology Integration will offer support to faculty and staff.

Breakfast with Santa SAVE THE DATE
Santa will be making his annual stop on Red Jacket for all the good girls and boys and our alumnae friends on Saturday, December 3rd. Please contact the head elf in the Advancement Office to be added to the invitation list: (716)825-8796 ext 324 or jharvey@mtmercy.org

<< Santa and the Mercy elves waiting to get your response for the Breakfast!
Professional Circles of Mercy

Several Alumnae engaged in health and science professions have committed to membership on the Advisory Board for our “Mercy Academy of Science and Health Care.” This academy within the Academy, provides a focused curriculum and practicum for students with interest and aptitude for science and health care careers. It gives them every opportunity to excel in college and beyond. Our alumnae may serve as mentors for students and new graduates as they pursue their chosen careers.

We are planning an “Inaugural Event” for the new academy in January. Invitations will be extended to all Mercy alums in the health and science professions.

We are beginning now to track our alumnae who have pursued careers in Education and Educational Administration. Please notify Sr. Mary Ellen Twist if you would be interested in joining the Professional Circle of Mercy Educators at (716) 825-8796, ext. 322 or metwist@mtmercy.org.

The Heritage Society

The Mount Mercy Academy Heritage Society was created in June of 2001 as a way to recognize donors who have made a bequest to the Academy in their estate plans. Heritage Society members understand the need to fortify Mount Mercy by providing gifts that will provide sustainability and support the mission of the institution far into the future.

Becoming a member of the Heritage Society is quite easy. In fact, you may have already qualified for membership if you have named Mount Mercy Academy in your estate plans or will.

When you inform us of your bequest or intentions, we respect your wishes for recognition or anonymity as you prefer. As good stewards, any details of your gift that you disclose are held in the strictest confidence. In addition, if the gift is for a scholarship it can be an enduring and lasting honor made in your memory or that of a loved one.

A careful review of your assets will identify the best way to make a gift, whether the gift is of a specific asset, such as real estate, stock or a percentage of your total estate. Donors often find a gift to the Heritage Society enables them to use assets that may otherwise be lost to estate, income, or capital gains taxation. In this way, your legacy is a lasting memorial to your values and interests. As you may understand, it helps for us to know your plans ahead of time so that we can thank you now, rather than thank your heirs or executor, and express the importance of your gift to the future of MMA.

For more information about the Mount Mercy Academy Heritage Society, contact Jody Harvey, Director of Institutional Advancement at (716) 825-8796 ext. 324 or via email at jharvey@mtmercy.org.
1993
Deanna Kwiatkowski Russo, founder and Executive Director of Crusade Against Impaired Driving, threw out the first pitch at the Buffalo Bison’s baseball game on July 26th. Deanna started CAID in memory of her sister, Karen, a 1997 graduate of Mercy who was tragically killed by a drunk driver. CAID holds a softball tournament each August in West Seneca which helps fund the CAID program and education services.

1994
Mary Wall, producer/writer of highly popular television show The Office, held a casting call in Buffalo. Wall and her crew are creating a documentary about our passionate Buffalo Sabres’ fans. The documentary will follow the Buffalo Sabres’ fans as they go through the joys and heartbreaks of the hockey season.

2005
Lindsay Lessard was appointed the Assistant Director of the Amherst Skating Club’s “Skate With Us Program”. The Program has over 800 children enrolled each season. The non-profit is ranked by US Figure Skating in the top 20 Skate With Us Programs in the United States. Lindsay invites her Mercy alumnae to consider membership for their children to promote healthy living! Contact Lindsay at info@amherstskatingclub.org or by visiting www.amherstskatingclub.org.

2007
Sarah Hannon graduated SUNY Oswego in May. Sarah was awarded The Raymond J. Stasny Scholarship. This award is given to an outstanding student with a Public Justice Major who aspires to continue in the field of law enforcement. Sarah has started her graduate studies at Buffalo State College. Sarah, a hockey player all four years of college, was also named to the Eastern College Athletic Conference Women’s All Academic Team.

Mercy Milestones
JoAnn Sullivan ’57 & Paul Lyons recently celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Rings Around the World
Vi Nguyen of Vietnam attended Mount Mercy Academy in the school year 2003-2004. She was given a donated ring from the Legacy Ring Program. The beauty of the engraving on the rings is our ability to trace the ring to the original alumna owner. Vi Nguyen received the Mercy Ring of Sister Mary Ellen Twist ’60, the current President of Mount Mercy Academy. Vi Nguyen is pictured in front of the Notre Dame Basilica in Saigon. The cathedral is located in downtown Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

If you have a Mercy ring you wish to pass onto a student in need, please contact the Alumnae Office.
The Taste of Mercy is a new and exciting fundraiser that was held in the MMA Gymnasium on Friday, October 21, 2011, from 6-10pm. Tickets were $30 each and included food samples from 18 local restaurants, beer, wine, baskets and games. Guests were able to sample local restaurants' favorite dishes, while emcees Jack Hess and Dan Marren entertained the crowd. Proceeds from the event directly affect the students at MMA.

We would like to thank all our participating restaurants and volunteers for helping to make this event a success!
The McAuley Gala is the largest fundraising event for MMA. Alumnae, parents, faculty, staff, friends and all members of the Mercy community are invited to get involved in the McAuley Gala by:

- Volunteering for the auction committee
- Hosting or co-hosting a gift gathering
- Securing a corporate sponsorship
- Attending a gift gathering party
- Donating a high value live auction item

If you would like to get involved in the 2012 McAuley Gala, host a gift gathering party, donate an item, or have any questions or suggestions please call the Development Manager, Brittany Finnegan-Zandi at (716) 825-8796 ext. 306 or email her at bfinnegan@mtmercy.org.

ALUMNAE GIFT GATHERING PARTY
Saturday, January 28, 2012 at 12pm
Curly's Bar & Grill in Lackawanna

KICK-OFF PICNIC EVENT
The Kick-off was held Thursday, August 18th in the Mercy Grotto and was attended by more than 60 guests. Thank you to our party sponsors and past chairs Patricia and Patrick Cannan, Anita and Patrick Crotty, Ann and Richard Galli, Cynthia and Garry Johnson, Joan Lillis, Pattie and Dan Marren, Sharon and Douglas McCormick, Mary and Timothy McDonald, Raymond and Katie Seitz, Thomas and Mary Jo Sellers, Eileen and David Scott, Nancy and Donald Ware, and Rosanne and Richard Wilson.

GALA RAFFLE TICKETS
To purchase raffle tickets, simply cut-out the ticket below for each raffle you want to enter (you only need one form per raffle for the three ticket option). You can enter any number of raffles you like.

Return the form with payment to:
Mount Mercy Academy–Gala Raffles
88 Red Jacket Pkwy, Buffalo, NY 14220

All raffles are due to Mount Mercy Academy by March 16, 2012 and will be drawn at the McAuley Gala on March 24, 2012. Winner need not be present.
REUNION NEWS

The Class of 1961 Celebrates 50 Year Reunion

by Vincenetta Ventresca O'Donnell '61

The 50th reunion weekend for the Class of '61 began on Friday night, June 10th, with a small gathering at Alton's on Transit Road for drinks and snacks and the start of conversations that are still in progress. Most of those attendees had been getting together for lunch once a month for 2 1/2 years, in anticipation of this milestone event. Some had been in sororities together back in high school days and still keep in touch. Others have renewed their acquaintance with classmates through e-mails, occasional lunches, Silver Sneakers, grocery shopping, etc. All of those connections paid off in a wonderful, celebratory 3 days of gatherings.

On Saturday, the 11th, Father Joe Bayne of the Buffalo Fire Department and Franciscan Center, said Mass in beautiful Mercy Center chapel. Many of the women in attendance had volunteered to carry a white rose to the altar in memory of a deceased or gravely ill classmate during the Prayer of the Faithful. It was, at once, a most poignant and moving part of the service. While all were saddened by the loss of so many classmates, there was also much hope in that gesture, voiced by Father Joe's Pentecost message, “Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.” Truly, MMA alums renew relationships, friendships, good wishes, and good deeds. They are women of Mercy, still making a difference in the lives they touch.

Mass was followed by a 4-course dinner at Romanello's South, lots of table-hopping, picture-taking, and socializing. Some alums had flown in from California, Florida, Arizona, the Carolinas, New England, New Jersey. Laughter filled the room, along with tunes from the late 50's on a CD player.

Sunday was commencement at Kleinhans, with most of the reunion attendees riding the bus together. The ceremony was dignified and heart-warming...another milestone of life achieved. Mary Travers Murphy, Executive Director of the Family Justice Center, gave the address to the graduates in which she referenced Pentecost as “a time of strength, energy, wisdom, light.” As mature women of Mercy, the alums bring these gifts to the world through their many efforts to enrich the lives of their families and friends.

A reception catered by Bravo was held at the Mount after the graduation, where the camaraderie continued well into the evening. Final farewells were said with promises to keep in touch. As of this writing, between 20 and 30 alums from the Class of '61 continue to meet for lunch monthly.

Thanks to Grace Gannon Jackson for coordinating the reunion, with assistance from Peggy Crotty Kelly, Ginger Smith Walsh, Lil Albright Dunlavey, Kathy McNaughton Glavey, and Vincy Ventresca O'Donnell, as well as the “girls” in the Lunch Bunch.
## Alumnae Calendar

- **Mercy Honors Dinner at Romanelli’s South**
  November 10, 2011
- **Breakfast with Santa in the MMA Dining Hall**
  December 3, 2011
- **Alumnae Gift Gathering Luncheon at Curly’s**
  January 28, 2012
- **McAuley Gala at MMA**
  March 24, 2012
- **Class of 2012 Installation Ceremony & Dinner**
  April 17, 2012
- **May Mass Annual Meeting & Brunch**
  May 6, 2012
- **MMASK Race & Walk**
  June 2012

### Alumnae Board of Directors 2011-12

- **President** Ann Muldoon Galli ’76
- **Vice President** Anne Marie Kuwik ’84
- **Secretary** Laura Ortiz ’83
- **Treasurer** Mary Pat Sullivan Brennan ’79

- Mary Campanile ’76
- Joanne McNamara Farrell ’79
- Leah Staszak Gallagher ’99
- JoAnn Sullivan Lyons ’57
- Louise Rutecki Lukasiewicz ’60
- Leanne Maloney ’05
- Patricia Keane Marren ’82
- Mary Waters McDonald ’81
- Maureen O’Connor Oakley ’73
- Kathleen McDonald Reid ’74
- Katherine Riedy ’78
- Rosanne Simoncelli Wilson ’75

### Stay up to date with MMA

**Alumnae Office**
(716) 825-8796 ext. 306 or gjackson@mtmercy.org

**Visit the MMA website at**
[www.mtmercy.org](http://www.mtmercy.org) and on our Facebook page!

### Mercy Weddings

- **Janelle Staszak ’04 to Tim Kennedy**
  July 2011
- **Kelly Nowinski ’99 to Charles Gray**
  August 2011

### Mercy Babies

- **Cameron Thomas**
  Leah Staszak ’99 & Tom Gallagher

- **Colton Jason**
  To Kimberly Weber ’93 & Jason Stachowski

- **Adele Doris**
  Molly Mulvaney ’97 & Jonathan Hayes

- **Carolyn Grace**
  Beth Gorko ’94 & Adam Crowley
MEMORIALS
(Online June 1, 2011 to August 31, 2011)

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

A special “thank you” to those families who have designated MMA as the recipient of memorials for their loved ones.


Glara Barkhouse by Baggott Family
Eugene Barry by Connie & Dick Reich
Susan Barton by Joan Flynn
Anne Bauer by Dave & Sheila Stanchak & Boys
Mary Blufko by Frank & Mary Jo Feeley
Linda A. (Spahn) Blemel ’65 by MMA Alumnae Assoc.
Helen Boquared by Aldine McGuire, Mr. & Mrs. William Stanton, Kathy Glavey, Cathy Rafier, Mr. & Mrs. Eugene J. Burke
Brian Borzynski by Lee & Nancy Hartung
Gerald J. Brinkworth by Ann Marie Piccillo
Diana (Hawryluk) Burns ’75 by MMA Alumnae Assoc.
Thomas Cantrell by Joseph Michaels
Angelo S. Carmina by Guy & Margaret Latona
Paul Ceralo by Guy & Margaret Latona
Jean M. (Goodwin) Christ ’49 by MMA Alumnae Assoc.
Gloria R. Closs by MMA Alumnae Assoc.
Betty Comerford by Florence Michaels
Ferry M. “Fred” Conway by Anita & Patrick Crotty
Jack Culligan by Mary M. Kuebler
Patrick “Petie” Dansie by Ann, Seamus & Kevin Kilnurray, John & Florence Michaels
Helen DeBoy by Catherine Bastian
Bartholomew DeMarco by Ann Marie Piccillo
Virginia A. DeVore by Guy & Margaret Latona
John Doyle by John & Florence Michaels
Lois A. Duke by Bob and Susan Shankes, Pat & Don Ehns, Dan & Sheila Firnucane, Maureen Schonbach, Michael & Nancy DeLellis
Elenor Durano by Ann Marie Piccillo
Arline Djil by Sheila & Dave Stanchak
William Feeley by John & Helen Munch
Catherine Feely by Dave & Sheila Stanchak & Boys
Sister Mary Celine Fitzgerald RSM ’39 by MMA Alumnae Assoc., Maureen Canney, Aldine McGuire
Nancy J. (Miller) Forrest ’64 by MMA Alumnae Assoc.
Ann Gainey by David & Colleen Shusarz
Kathleen Gilmore by Tom McDonnell
Theim Graham by Lee & Nancy Hartung
Betty Griffin by Mary Anne Myers & Kevin Foley
Margaret E. “Marge” Griffin by June & Dennis McNaughton, Mary Lickfeld
Joseph M. Guerra Jr. by Baggott Family, Cheryl Meyers-Buth
Elizabeth M. (O’Connor) Haley by Lyle & Jean Schwab, Joan A Pax
Art Harrington by Ed & Ann McCarthy
Sister Mary Cecilia Henry ’55/’82 by MMA Alumnae Assoc.
David Hoover by Elizabeth A. Gallagher
Sister Marie Hughes RSM ’49 by MMA Alumnae Assoc., Sr. Mary Ellen & MMA Community, Maureen Canney, Bernie & Pat Kennedy
Virginia Hynes by Kathy Glavey
Leah Marie (Maselchino) Insalaco ’99 by MMA Alumnae Assoc.
Sandra Marie (Vastola) Irvine ’59 by MMA Alumnae Assoc., Frank & Mary Jo Feeley, Charles & Sandra Unlom, Jim & Phil (’59) (Ventresca) Gallagher
Philemona Jankas by Paul & Louise Lukasiewicz
Margaret Mary (Maggie Harris) Jeziorowski ’89 by MMA Alumnae Assoc.
Patricia Kelly by Janet Orrell
Adolph A. Kowalczyk by Joseph & Mary Yakovac, Anne & Jim Waligur & Fran Kulik
Mary Rose Koszlo by Marlene & Dave Vastola
Paul Kunkelmoeller by Maureen Canney
Howard Lana by Bob & Nancy Wood
Kathleen Dowling Levy by Joan Flynn
Rita Gorman Licker by Dave & Sheila Stanchak & Boys, Mr. & Mrs. Francis X. Feeley
William (Will) Liebler by Tom & Kathie Brinkworth
Mr. Claude Lorquet by Carmen Vidal
Marge Majoy by Elizabeth A. Gallagher
Thomas J. Maloney by Maureen & Bill Schanbacher
Mike Manning by Joyce Roberts
John Pierce McGrath by Debbie & Joe Reynolds, Maureen Canney
Alice Meegan by Pat & Patsy Lyons, Florence Michaels
Edmund Melligan by Cathy Rafier
Anthony Menno Jr. by Richard & Patricia Ertel
Marcia (Thomas) Merrill ’53 by MMA Alumnae Assoc.
Sarinna Millemaci by Guy & Margaret Latona
James T. Molloy by Zita Kavanaugh, Bob & Kathy Fischer, Pat & Henry Demick, Joan Drew Gross, Lyle & Jean Schwab, Jim & Anita Neenan, Mary Lou Graffeo, Gene & Jean Bochel
Margaret M. (Sands) Murphy ’44 by MMA Alumnae Assoc.
Cecelia A. (O’Boyle) Murray ’45 by MMA Alumnae Assoc.
Lucille Nigo by Susie & Paul Michaels, Bonnie & Nelson Cosgrove
Joe O’Connor by Mary Anne Myers & Kevin Foley
Joan (Sullivan) Penders ’46 by MMA Alumnae Assoc., Phyllis Doherty ’50
Gertrude Perrone by MMA Alumnae Assoc., Vincenetta O’Donnell, Marie Mustillo
Patricia Phillips by Anne O’Toole, Sheila Stanchak & family

Contact Anita Durkin Crotty ’63 regarding our Memorial Program at (716) 825-8796 ext. 313 or acrotty@mtmercy.org.
If you graduated in a year ending in 7 or 2, it’s time to call the alumnae office to start plans for your reunion. Confirm your correct address by contacting the Alumnae Office at (716) 825-8796 or the Contact page on the website at www.mtmercy.org.

All of the alums who planned their reunions the past four years comment on how easy it was! You plan the where and when and the Alumnae Office does the rest! We assist with class lists, invitations and reservations. Be a part of the class committee and have some fun nights out with friends while you enjoy planning your event. (The Alumnae Office has heard that the planning nights are legendary!) Contact Alumnae Office at 716-825-8796.

1962: Jane Bigelow and a group of your classmates are planning a wonderful 50th year reunion. The save the date with some details will be mailed shortly.

2002: Courtney Erickson, Sarah Puskar and Katie Loftus Sullivan are working on the details for the 10 year reunion to take place next summer. We will keep you posted on our facebook page and invites will go out in the Spring.

1963: Karen Connors Erickson and Jean Cuthbert Dundon are already gearing up for their 50th reunion for the year 2013! Please contact them with your ideas for your milestone reunion. Karen can be contacted at karence@roadrunner.com and Jean at Gorski1211@aol.com.

Mount Mercy Academy provides not only a superior education, but lasting friendships and priceless memories to women of remarkable character. One such woman was Heather Schwabl, Class of 1991. At the young age of 13, Heather began a long battle with cancer, which ended for her in 2009 at the age of 36. Her struggle was tremendous, yet she left an overwhelming impression of strength, spirit and grace on all those she encountered. In honor of her and this spirit of Mercy, the Heather Ann Schwabl Memorial Scholarship has been created. The fund will help provide an education at the Mount, and all it embodies, to another remarkable young woman.

Memorial Program
Maureen Canney ’52 developed and has managed our current Memorial Program for over 20 years. The Institutional Advancement Staff appreciates Maureen’s outstanding weekly volunteer dedication to the Academy. She continues to assist us with the Memorial Program from her satellite office at home.

Anita Durkin Crotty ’63 has taken over the in office administrative duties of the Memorial Program. Please feel free to contact Anita if you are in need of a set of Mount Mercy memorial cards. All the donations received from the Memorial Program benefit the students of Mount Mercy Academy.

We invite alumnae and friends to attend our May Memorial Mass and Brunch on May 6, 2012. All alumnae who have passed away since May 2011 will be remembered in a special way at the Memorial Mass in Mercy Center Chapel. Please contact Anita Durkin Crotty ’63 at (716) 825-8796 ext 313 or acrotty@mtmercy.org to be added to the invitation list for the 2012 May Memorial Mass.
The 2012 McAuley Gala presents the...

KENTUCKY DERBY

Hang onto your hats, ladies!

Saturday, March 24, 2012 at Mount Mercy Academy

CO-CHAIRS James and Catherine (Warda ’81) Bender and Douglas and Kathleen Lum

Visit our website at www.mtmercy.org for more information.