Dear Mount Mercy Academy Friends and Alumnae,

I hope that the fall issue of Horizons finds you basking in the warm autumn sun. What a magnificent summer we enjoyed! Although our faculty and students experienced a respite from our building, our administration and staff were here all summer working hard. Academics, fundraising, as well as planning in all areas continue to be refined and updated. We have been balancing our summer camps and various activities while trying to restore, update and maintain our building. Thanks to our Booster Club the gym floor has undergone major understructure repairs and the original floor has been brought back to a magnificent new finish with new lines, logos and shading. In addition, the new Wellness Room will be ready for use this fall.

Our 2019 McAuley Gala was an amazing success with the excitement of a new venue leading the way for a fun-filled evening culminating in donations for educating our students.

We are pleased to report a successful seven-year reaccreditation by Middle States (www.msa-cess.org). This validates our Institution’s academic and administrative excellence from a respected outside accrediting body. We are thankful for our stellar Board, administration, faculty, staff, students and parents who made this possible. We are also pleased to have successfully completed an outside review by the Mercy Secondary Education System of the Americas (MESA). This review included an extensive review of the Mission component of our school. An accounting audit from the firm of Lumsden and McCormick LLP was also favorably completed. Our placement in Business First as the eighth highest ranking high school in Western New York was a nice cherry on top of a year filled with accomplishments.

Thanks to you and our many other donors, this past year we were able to successfully achieve our goal for our Annual Fund Drive. Our separate DASH initiative from last year has concluded; unfortunately did not reach our very ambitious DASH goal. However, we are grateful for those of you who supported this new effort.

It seems impossible, but it is already that time of year again where we begin our Annual Fund Drive. By the time you receive this Horizons Magazine you will have already received your Annual Fund letter. We ask that you help keep the momentum we have all been striving to achieve moving forward. Our students need your help. Now more than ever, for many of our students, financial aid is necessary to achieve the dream of a Mount Mercy Education. As you read the Horizons you will notice a theme of “Invest In Me”. This is what your donation is; an investment in the future of a student who will change the world. I think we can all agree the world can use more Mercy Girls and Women to propel us on a trajectory where God’s vision and the values of the Sisters of Mercy lead the way.

We pray with gratitude for every alumna, donor, volunteer, business sponsor and their families. Every donation, bequest, grant and corporate sponsorship is appreciated and valued.

Blessings,

Margaret M. Cronin ’78
President

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.

On the Cover: Alesia Hamm ’19 and The Class of 2019 proceed into the auditorium for the graduation ceremony.
Dear Mount Mercy Academy Alumnae and Friends,

Happy Autumn to you! For me, September, not January, is the first month of the year. Ahead waits a new beginning full of promise, expectations, and hope. It is the return to a normal routine, and usual schedules, and to a second home for our students, staff, and faculty. September offers a welcome back to our comfortable daily practice of work and school, as well as some surprising changes to our building and its occupants. We said farewell to some of our favorite Mercy people at the end of the last school year and, as always, will embrace new teachers and staff just starting on their Mercy journey.

Over the course of its existence Mount Mercy Academy has been so very fortunate to have had incredible, knowledgeable, caring, professional faculty members on our staff. All of our teachers give so much of themselves for the love of teaching, for the academic success of their students, and for the benefit of our school. Sadly for us, but happily for them, some reach the point in their lives when retirement beckons and a new phase of life begins.

Mount Mercy staff and students wished a happy, healthy, wonderful retirement to Mrs. Beth Davis, Mrs. Colleen Shanahan, and Mr. Fred Kirisits, as they bid us farewell at the end of the last school year.

Beth Davis began teaching 50 years ago, and spent the last 27 years in the Theology Department of Mount Mercy Academy. We will all miss her gentle, faith-filled presence, and wish her all the best with new found time to spend with her husband Tom, their children, and beautiful grandchildren.

Fred Kirisits taught Music at Mount Mercy for 40 years, and built an unrivaled Music Program at MMA. Hundreds of Mercy graduates will tell you of his positive influence on their lives. We wish him and his wonderful wife Lisa years of happiness and enjoyment.

Colleen Shanahan managed the Main Office at Mount Mercy for 19 years. Colleen’s remarkable gift was her innate ability to welcome everyone, from delivery persons to dignitaries, with the same gentle, thoughtful care and kindness. God’s blessings to Colleen and her husband Kevin, as they enjoy this new phase of their lives.

In the academic life of our school, I am thrilled and excited to report that once again, Mount Mercy Academy has earned a spot in the top ten high schools in Western New York. Ranked number 8 of 134 high schools and districts, Mount Mercy has consistently climbed the ranking over the past eight years. It is so rewarding and gratifying not only for our teachers, but for the students themselves, and our Mount Mercy families to know that their diligence and hard work has been acknowledged and appreciated. This ranking is very important to the faculty, staff and administration, the Mount Mercy Academy Board of Trustees and of course, to parents who want to be sure that their daughter is attending one of the finest schools in Western New York – which we proudly say—she is.

Looking ahead, this year we will focus not only on the Critical Concerns of the Sisters of Mercy, which have been firmly embedded into the daily life of the school, but on student leadership, kindness, and putting forth effort leading towards success. Of course, leadership, a hallmark of a Mercy education, has always been and continues to be a strong objective at MMA, as we encourage our students to use their voice and knowledge for positive change. Watching the disturbing events taking place in our country and our world we recognize the extraordinary need for kindness towards everyone, in every situation, every day. Lastly, hard work. Success does not come easily, and that there is work involved is a reality that our students should understand. Mount Mercy truly gives students the opportunity and the recognition that comes with success after diligence and conscientiousness have been proven.

What awesome opportunities lie ahead for our Mercy girls! The benefits of a Mercy education will prepare them not only for college and career, but for life beyond. With the encouragement and instruction from our excellent and knowledgeable faculty, and the ongoing financial support of our generous champions, donors, and friends, we will look ahead to another successful year at our beloved Mount Mercy Academy.

Yours in Mercy,

Margaret Staszak ’75
Principal
On May 22, 2019 family and friends gathered at the Mercy Center to celebrate the graduation of The Mount Mercy Academy Class of 2019. This marks the 113th commencement ceremony at Mount Mercy Academy (the first one being in 1906 with two graduates). The graduates were led by the traditional bagpipe procession from the Academy to the Mercy Center and were warmly greeted by the Class of 1969, who served as the ceremonial honor guard. Heartfelt speeches from the class valedictorian Madeline Szwed '19 and salutatorian Kaitlyn Morris '19 reflected on their days at Mount Mercy and the promise and goals for the future. Kathleen Daley Dust '73, Vice President of Education and Staff Development of EduKids Inc., was the commencement speaker and spoke directly to the Class of 2019, giving a beautiful and inspiring speech with words of praise and wisdom for the graduates. It was a wonderful and inspiring celebration to mark our graduates final day at Mount Mercy Academy.

The Class of 2019 worked diligently over their four years at Mount Mercy Academy and earned over $187,000 per student in college scholarships, over $10 million in total college scholarships. One hundred percent of the class was accepted into college and many honors and recognitions were received.

Awards were given at the Annual Baccalaureate Mass earlier in the week at the Mercy Center Chapel. Gifts, certificates and medals were distributed to the graduates at this time. We know this is only the beginning for this outstanding group of women and look forward to seeing all the amazing things they do in the upcoming years!

Congratulations to the Mount Mercy Academy Class of 2019!
Mariah Rullan ’19 Baccalaureate

“Mount Mercy has taught me some of the most important things in my life and I am so grateful for that. I know that incorporating the principles of a woman of Mercy has made me the best version of myself. I can only hope that in the future, I will continue to grow and teach others the valuable lessons that I was taught at Mount Mercy. While I have learned so many things here, the greatest thing by far that I have learned is that DNA does not always make a family, love makes a family and that is exactly what I have gained here, a second family.”

Kathleen Daley Dust ’73

“You struggled and you questioned yourself, yet everyday at Mercy you persevered. Everyday you went into those classes and you figured it out until you got it. Four years later, tonight we are astonished by the amazing amount of scholarships that you have been awarded. You are successful, you are confident, you are recognized.”

List of Colleges that the Class of 2019 will be attending

Allegheny College
The American Musical and Dramatic Academy NYC
Buffalo State College
Canisius College
D’Youville College
Daemen College
SUNY Erie Community College
Fashion Institute of Technology
Gannon University
Hilbert College
Medaille College
Mercyhurst University
Nazareth College
Niagara University
Roberts Wesleyan College
Rochester Institute of Technology
St. Bonaventure University
St. John Fisher College
State University of New York Fredonia
State University of New York Geneseo
The Salon Professional Academy of Buffalo
Trocaire College
The State University of New York at Buffalo
University of Rhode Island
Villa Maria College
The Circle of Mercy is Timeless.

Mercy’s 2019 Legacy Families

Karen Kollmar Wilson ’63, Eleanor Wilson ’19, Emma Wilson ’21, Casey Whalen Kelley ’92, and Annmarie Whalen Kelley ’80

Elisabeth Radwan ’22, Amanda Radwan ’19, and Catherine Radwan ’18

Madeline Lickfeld ’21, Alyssa Lickfeld ’19, and Kim Donovan Lickfeld ’92

Sarah Foy ’16, Allison Foy ’19 and Kelly Whelan Foy ’87

Maria Liberta Stoklosa ’88 and Taylor Stoklosa ’19

Anna Hagner ’19 and Melissa Goodspeed Hagner ’88

Abbigayle Reid ’19 and Caryn Schwarzmueller Reid ’88

Sarah Foy ’16, Allison Foy ’19 and Kelly Whelan Foy ’87

Lily Kane ’19 and Jean Faliero Kane ’87

Maria Minnur Lauriola ’90, Cecilia Lauriola ’19, Janelle Lauriola ’12 and Gianna Lauriola ’21
Makayla McLaughlin ’19 and Keanna McLaughlin ’15
Margaret Kennedy Collopy ’87 and Kathleen Collopy ’19
Jossylyn Strang ’19 and Cecilia Strang ’21
Mary George Walsh ’83, Emily Walsh ’12, Julia Walsh ’19 and Courteney Walsh ’07
Jessica Osuch ’19 and Jacqueline Beers Osuch ’83
Morgan Bentkowski ’20 and Madelyn Bentkowski ’19
Dana Mango ’96 and Angelina Pacholczak ’19
Maureen Lynch Kraus ’88, Mary Lynch ’81, Karen Lynch Pappas ’81, Katherine Pappas ’19, Erin Pappas ’14 and Irene Furlong Lynch ’56
Shannon O’Rourke Robertson ’89, Maureen Robertson McOwen ’90, Sheila Robertson McCrea ’96, Kathleen Robertson Mulcaire ’81, Bridget Mulcaire ’19, and Dawn Mansell Robertson ’85
Grace Willert ’19 and Hope Willert ’20
Isabella Longo ’19 and Ann Demming Longo ’99
Diana Mangi ’90 and Angelina Pacholczak ’19
Shannon O’Rourke Robertson ’89, Maureen Robertson McOwen ’90, Sheila Robertson McCrea ’96, Kathleen Robertson Mulcaire ’81, Bridget Mulcaire ’19, and Dawn Mansell Robertson ’85
Two members of the Mount Mercy Academy faculty received awards of distinction this past spring. The Education Committee of the Western New York Section of the American Chemical Society (WNY-ACS) named Kathleen Collins ’68 the 2019 Outstanding High School Science Teacher of the Year. The award, which has been given annually since 1959, recognizes strength and innovation in teaching, exceptional service to students, efforts to keep abreast of scientific developments, and extracurricular activities in science and education. Kathleen has taught for 48 years, and has taught at Mount Mercy for over 16 years. She teaches Regents Physics, Conceptual Physics and Human Anatomy and Physiology. Kathleen has also served as Principal of Mount Mercy from 1997-2000 and Assistant Principal from 1991-1997.

Catherine Luhr, assistant principal for academic and student life, received the Richard Gaudette Award from the National Catholic Forensic League. The principle which guides this award is service. The individual/group nominated must be or have been a member of the NCFL and has promoted service as well as “leadership through speech” at either a local, state or national level. Miss Luhr was honored for instituting a service project to benefit the cities where the NCFL Convention is being held. “I started the service project with the help of many other coaches from around the country. There are close to 5,000 people at the national championship who contributed money, food, baby items, gift cards and toiletries. The idea is to leave our national host city better than we found it. Last year in Louisville we helped by raising money for a teen shelter (Safe Haven) and this year we raised money for Martha’s Table in Washington, D.C.” said Catherine.

We are so proud of these two outstanding faculty members!
Mount Mercy’s Mya Wood Overcomes Obstacles

by Pat Burns

It is not extremely common for a high school athlete to play three sports, including two varsity sports. It is even less common for that athlete to compete at a high level with only one full arm. Mount Mercy’s Mya Wood ’22 of Blasdell has done just that. She is a starter on varsity soccer and lacrosse and was the top scorer on JV basketball. Mya has accomplished all of this despite not having a complete left arm.

Mya began her athletic career at the age of four when she began playing soccer. She credits a desire to be like her athletic siblings as the impetus to her athletic pursuits. “I’ve always looked up to my siblings, who were all very athletic so I wanted to follow in their footsteps,” Mya said. “It was my decision to play, my parents did not push me but they encouraged me.”

In addition to soccer, Mya also played basketball when she was younger. She began playing in fifth grade. “My family has always encouraged me to play sports. I was nervous to play basketball when I started but my mom talked to my sister’s old coach, Erin Ryan (Mount Mercy Academy’s financial aid and payroll coordinator), and she really encouraged me to play. She was my first coach and she was amazing and didn’t treat me differently than any other player. She always pushed me to try harder and believe in myself,” Mya remarked. Partially due to that encouragement and support from Coach Ryan, basketball has become Mya’s favorite sport.

Although she has achieved success in athletics and school, it has not always been easy for Mya. “My lack of two complete arms has impacted my life greatly. I have had to learn how to do things differently like tie my shoe, peel an orange, or even open a piece of candy. It was difficult for me when I was younger to dress myself and put on socks,” Mya recalled. “Over the years I have mastered the art of putting a ponytail in my hair with one hand, something many girls my age take for granted. It has impacted my athletic career but I always learn how to do things my own way.” She has developed the strength in her right hand to help compensate for the lack of a left hand.

One thing that does bother Mya is if people try to do things for her or feel sorry for her. “I don’t really understand why they feel sorry for me. I can do everything anyone else can, maybe just a little differently,” Mya commented. “I am very independent and really don’t like when people try to help me. I would rather try something on my own before I ask someone for help.”

So far one of the highlights of Mya’s athletic career at Mount Mercy is being called up to the varsity basketball team for the Monsignor Martin League playoffs. “I wanted it so bad, so I worked very hard throughout the season. I even told my family we could not go on vacation because I did not want to miss out on the opportunity,” Mya stated.

Mya intends to go to college and hopes to play one of her sports in college. After how far she has come, don’t bet against seeing her reach this goal.
At the end of June, a group of 28 students and five chaperones departed on a two-week trip to Europe for this year’s Foreign Language Department trip. The group had a packed itinerary with stops in Amsterdam, Heidelberg, Munich, Innsbruck, Venice, Verona, Lucerne, Dijon, Versailles, Paris and London. While each place visited was different in its own way and taught something unique, there were definitely a few highlights that these young women will never forget!

For many of the students, Amsterdam was one of their favorite cities. The canals and streets full of people riding bikes make it so different than Buffalo. In addition, a visit to the Anne Frank House will be an enduring memory for everyone. The tour through the secret annex allowed the women to see first-hand what they learned about during their history classes at Mount Mercy Academy.

Another highlight was being able to see the Alps from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. While in Switzerland, the group took a ski gondola up to the peak of Mt. Pilatus. The view from the top was stunning! On the way down, they rode on the world’s steepest cog railway before taking a ferry across the lake back to Lucerne.

By far, however, the favorite experience from this trip was swimming in the Swiss Alps. There was a small lake just up the hill from the hotel with a family-run café next to it. Although the water was freezing, the students had the best time swimming and hanging out, surrounded by incredible views of the sun setting in the Swiss Alps.

From learning how glass is made in Venice, to riding the tube in London, and eating macaroons and seeing the Mona Lisa in Paris, this trip provided unforgettable experiences. These young women were able to go to places they dreamed about visiting, stepped out of their comfort zone, and learned to put their phones down and enjoy life and places while they are there. Hopefully this experience will lead these 28 ladies to continue traveling in the future—maybe even next summer when we travel to Germany, Poland, Hungary, Austria and the Czech Republic!

Several of Mount Mercy Academy’s track athletes travelled to Icahn Stadium in New York City to compete in the Catholic State Championship Meet.

Grace Willert ’19 qualified for the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Track and Field Championships Middletown, NY. She placed second overall in the shot put with a heave of 32’ and fifth overall in the discus with a throw of 93’9”. Both of her throws were the tops in the small school division, qualifying her for the state meet. The 4 x 400 relay team comprised of Angelina Larivey ’21, Megan Reilly ’21 and Rhanna Welsh ’21 placed ninth in the state with a time of 4:29.33. Rheanna also placed tenth in the 400 meter run with a time of 1:03.24. Megan came in tenth in the triple jump with a leap of 31’7”. Grace Harrington ’20 finished twelfth in the 1500 meter run with a time of 5:38.15. The team finished 14th in the state but second amongst the Monsignor Martin League schools.

Alesia Hamm ’19 and Mariah Rullan ’19, were named Mount Mercy Academy’s Outstanding Athletes for 2019. Alesia was a four-year member of the soccer and basketball program and also participated in track and softball. She was a Second Team All-Catholic selection in soccer this year and First team in 2017-18. She was the team’s MVP in 2017. Mariah played soccer for four years, lacrosse for two years and basketball for one year. She is a two-time First Team All-Catholic selection in soccer and finished the 2018-19 season with ten goals and eleven assists totaling 31 points and a spot in the Top Ten in the league. Mariah started all four years and finished her career with 28 goals and 25 assists. She was the team’s MVP in 2018.

The Mount Mercy Academy’s Varsity Bowling team had one of its most successful seasons ever. The team finished with a league record of 50-10 and ended in second place in the league and first in the All-Catholic Championship, the first time in school history. The team placed three bowlers on the All-Catholic Team of five and had the All-Catholic MVP. The team defeated regular season champion Mount Saint Mary Academy in the All-Catholic Championships 1759 to 1752. Samantha Batchev ’19 had the team’s highest overall average and the third highest in the league with a 155 and was named the All-Catholic MVP. Coleman had the fourth highest average with a 153 and Allison Mazurkiewicz ’19 finished with a 152. Olivia Coleman ’21 was also honored for having the highest three game series in the league with a 579.
Mount Mercy Students on the Move

Over April break, nine students along with Sister Jenny Wilson, RSM Mount Mercy Academy’s Theology Teacher, went on a trip that extended the Circle of Mercy over international borders. Our students, along with students from Our Lady of Mercy School for Young Women in Rochester, travelled to Guyana, South America. Our students spent time working and playing with the boys at an orphanage sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy. Everyone had a great time playing games and doing crafts. Sister Julie Matthews, RSM and the boys were gracious hosts and introduced our students to their traditions. A few games of cricket were played, along with the tasting of Guyanese food. The Mercy students also spent an exciting day exploring the Amazon Rainforest.

The Class of 2020 is off to a great start! The guidance department announced several members of the current senior class of 2020 were already awarded scholarships to specific colleges and national organizations by the end of their Junior year.

The students will be awarded a scholarship to that college, contingent on the student’s attendance at that school. Nominations are based on numerous factors, such as academic achievements, leadership qualities, community involvement and standardized test scores, as well as faculty recommendations.

Mount Mercy Academy’s Music Department travelled to California to compete in the World Strides Heritage Music Festival in Hollywood, CA. Members of the Pure Magic Show Choir, the Magic Belles Hand Bells Choir and the Women’s Choir performed. The groups were judged and scored by three raters and all three groups were awarded Gold Medal designation. All three groups are directed by Fred Kirisits, Mount Mercy Academy’s long time director. Justine Kish-Podsiadlo ’05, is the choreographer for Pure Magic.

WNY Women’s Foundation held their annual “What She’s Made Of” event featuring Buffalo native Lindsay Shookus, a producer for Saturday Night Live. Three Mount Mercy Academy students attended the event. Angelina Larivey ’21 and Anani DeBose ’21 enjoyed a small group discussion with Shookus, where she shared how growing up in Buffalo taught her the value of hard work. Olivia Larson ’20 also attended as a guest of the Foundation. Olivia was recognized for her dedication to the Foundation following an internship last summer. Mount Mercy Academy is grateful for our partnership with WNY Women’s Foundation and look forward to working together more in the coming year.

Olivia Larson ’20, has started her own non-profit organization called For Every Little Handprint Inc. For Every Little Handprint strives to foster a love for curiosity, creativity, and discovery as they navigate life’s challenges and build exciting visions for their futures. To learn more visit: https://www.foreverylittlehandprint.org/

Congratulations to Roisin Lynch ’19, on receiving a perfect score (100% or 5 out of 5) on her Advanced Placement (AP) Studio in Art portfolio from the College Board. Roisin will attend the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City and major in Fine Art. She is the daughter of Mercy alumna Ellen Scanhill Lynch ’81.
When you give to the Annual Fund Appeal, you are making an investment in the young women who choose Mount Mercy Academy. As we prepare to welcome the class of 2023, the amount of support needed to ensure they are given every opportunity to succeed continues to grow. They rely on your gift to empower their future, encouraging them to reach their highest potential.

Recently, one of our students established her own nonprofit organization with a mission to provide comfort to children facing homelessness. She credits her Mercy education as giving her the confidence and knowledge needed to identify a need and determine a way to make a positive change. Her strength of character is what makes a Mercy girl. It is one that cannot be stifled by the critics or persuaded by others to change course or even quit.

Every young girl deserves the chance to make her dreams a reality. They wish that you could see their potential and to see your gift as a way to create a life-altering change.

To make a gift to the Annual Fund Appeal please use the enclosed envelope or visit our website to donate online www.mtmercy.org/annualfund. For additional information or if you would like to support Mount Mercy Academy in another way, please contact the Director of Institutional Advancement at development@mtmercy.org.

In 1962 Bishop Quigley High School graduated its last class. The high school was a Buffalo Diocesan school staffed by the Sisters of Mercy. The last Quigley class found a home in the Mount Mercy Academy building and the Circle of Mercy continued. Many future Mount Mercy students would trace their roots to the graduates of Bishop Quigley High School.

While over 55 years have passed since Bishop Quigley High School closed, the love their alumnae have for their alma mater has not. Nearly one hundred women gather each year to celebrate the memories they share from their days at Bishop Quigley. The camaraderie and life-long friendships built are similar to what we hear from our Mercy alumnae today.

As a means to continue the legacy of their school, the alumnae have established the Bishop Quigley High School Scholarship. Spearheaded by Sr. Joan Sherry, Quigley class of 1953 and Joan Graham Scahill ’51 the alumnae contacted Mount Mercy with the intent of helping a Mercy girl in need. With the support of Quigley alumnae contact managing volunteer Evelyn McLean ’61, these women reached out to their fellow “Quigleyites” to help make this scholarship possible.

Like so many of the Bishop Quigley alumnae the organizing women have strong Mercy connections.

Sr. Joan Sherry is a former Mount Mercy principal and Joan Scahill’s daughter Ellen Scahill Lynch ’81 and granddaughter Roisin Lynch ’19 are both Mercy graduates.

Mount Mercy Academy extends a heartfelt thank you to the generous alumnae of Bishop Quigley High School who have made this gift possible.

For more information on the Bishop Quigley High School Scholarship, please contact the Director of Institutional Advancement at development@mtmercy.org.
Every year Mount Mercy Academy’s athletic department offers a wide variety of teams, clubs and activities for our students. Participating on a team or joining a club provides the opportunity to enhance your physical health while gaining confidence and building leadership skills. However when the weather does not agree, practicing outside may not be an option. Our athletes needed a place to continue their training throughout the school year.

We are pleased to announce the opening of the Catalyst Fitness Wellness Room this fall! Amy Bueme, owner of Catalyst Fitness understands the value and the need for young women to have access to healthy avenues for them to maintain their physical well being. Her generous donations helped establish this exciting wellness room which will be available for students to use during the school year.

Thank you Catalyst Fitness and Amy Bueme for this incredible gift. A special thank you as well to Jane Michalek-Harrington ’92 for her assistance in making this possible.

A SPECIAL “DASH” THANK YOU TO THE CLASSES OF 1966 AND 1971

Class of 1971 Class Dinner
The Class of 1971 gathered to celebrate the anniversary of their graduation and to raise funds for the $100 Dash at Charlie’s Boat Yard, co-owned by classmate Mary Branicky Goodspeed. Our appreciation goes out to Maureen Myers for organizing the informal gathering. We thank the Class of 1971 for their generous donations to the $100 DASH.

Class of 1966 Dash Luncheon
When members of the Class of 1966 heard that Mount Mercy needed the support of the alumnae to raise funds for the Mercy $100 DASH, they wanted to find a way to help. Led by Teresa Bonanno Siuta, former principal of St. John Vianney, she and her classmates scheduled a meeting to get to work. Terry, as she is known by her friends, is well versed in the needs of the Catholic schools, specifically the challenge for families today to afford tuition. As a dedicated Mercy alumna, Terry wanted to help provide a future Mercy girl the opportunity she had and cherishes. Joining her efforts from the Class of 1966 were Brigid Moran, Rozanne Granville Flammer, Cathy Kelley Dengler, Dolores Roma Lewis, and Marlene Giermek Vastola. Thank you Class of 1966! We are grateful for your participation, continued support and donations raising dollars for much needed tuition assistance and scholarships for current and incoming Mount Mercy Academy students.

Thank you to all those that donated to the $100 Dash. Individual names will be listed in the Annual Fund report in the Spring 2020 Horizons.
2019 marks the 20th anniversary of the Mercy Honors Awards Dinner. This year’s event will be held on November 7, 2019 at The Columns Banquets, 2221 Transit Road, Elma NY starting at 6:00 PM.

Each year we recognize deserving honorees with awards for achievement in their careers, community involvement and dedication to Mount Mercy Academy. The evening is nothing short of inspiring as we recognize the amazing accomplishments of our respected honorees. Bonnie Kane Lockwood ’73 will return as our Mistress of Ceremonies. We hope that you join us to celebrate!

Alumnae, family and friends are invited to attend the Mercy Honors Dinner to learn more about and to honor our alumnae and community members. You can also choose to honor a recipient by placing an ad or an individual patron in our event program book. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. Please contact events@mtmercy.org or visit www.mtmercy.org under the Alumnae Events tab for more information. All proceeds benefit the Alumnae Scholarship Fund at Mount Mercy Academy.

This year, Mount Mercy Academy will be honoring our recipients with the following three awards.

The Catherine McAuley Distinguished Alumna Award is presented to an alumna of Mount Mercy Academy who has distinguished herself as a woman of faith, knowledge, integrity and compassion. A woman whose accomplishments in all areas of her life - family, community, career - reflect the legacy and mission of Catherine McAuley, the Foundress of the Sisters of Mercy.

The Spirit of Mercy Award is an annual presentation of Mount Mercy Academy to those who exhibit the Spirit of Mercy in their professional and personal lives. The recipients are honored for their outstanding commitment and dedication to their community. They are truly ministers of Mercy who “live justly, act in tenderness and with humility journey with their God” (Micah 6).

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.

A special thank you to our 2019 Mercy Honors Chairperson Mary Waters McDonald ’81 and the committee members Anita Durkin Cratty ’63, Anne Marie Kuwik ’84, Leanne Maloney ’05, Patti Keane Marren ’82, Kathleen Kaczmarek Mehltretter ’72, Laura Ortiz ’83, Mary Russo ’15 and Joanne Schwartzott ’54 for their time and effort making this wonderful event happen each year.

**Douglas F. Lum**

Douglas F. Lum has been a humble representative and friend to Mount Mercy Academy for over 25 years. Doug graduated from Hamburg High School and went on to receive a Bachelor of Science with a major in Accounting from Geneva College. He holds a Certificate in Human Resource Studies from Cornell University.

Doug worked for Ford Motor Company (Stamping Division) in the college graduate accounting training program. He went on to hold several managerial-level accounting positions, serving as the Vice President Finance of Moog Hydra Point Machines and Corporate Controller of Recticel Foam Corporation. Doug recently retired after 20 years as the Vice President of Finance for Rigidized Metals Corporation.

Doug has been married to Kathleen for over 44 years. They have two daughters: Margaret ’96 and Jessica ’98. He also has three granddaughters.

Doug’s commitment to Catholic Education began when his girls, Margaret and Jessica, attended SS. Peter and Paul in Hamburg, as President of both the Parish and Parents’ Councils.

Doug’s involvement in supporting Mount Mercy Academy began in 1992 when his daughters Margaret and Jessica were students at the Academy. Doug has served as a member of the Mount Mercy Athletic Boosters and was co-chair of the Mount Mercy-Bishop Timon St. Jude Run in 1996. Doug and Kathy have worked on several gala committees, including the original committee in 1994 and were gala co-chairs in 2012. They have also hosted several gift-gathering parties. They served as Co-Presidents of the Mount Mercy Academy Parents’ Guild in 1996-97.

Doug served six years on the Mount Mercy Academy Board of Trustees, acting as Chairperson in the 2014-2015 academic year. He was a member of the two Principal Search Committees and the Presidential Search Committee in 2015, as well as the CFO Search Committee. Doug has served as Board Treasurer, Chairman of the Finance Committee, and was a member of the Strategic Planning Committee, Nominations and Bylaws and Executive Committee, as well as the Mount Mercy and Timon Joint Board Committee.

While his daughters both graduated over 20 years ago, Doug is still very much involved with Mount Mercy Academy. He currently sits on the athletic committee, Mount Mercy’s investment committee, and the golf tournament committee.

Outside of Mount Mercy, Doug is a member of the Board of Directors of the Bread of Life Outreach Center, in Colden, that provides food, clothes and counseling to the elderly and those that are in need of assistance. Doug is passionately involved with the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur on Lafayette Ave in Buffalo, volunteering in the Somali-Bantu afterschool program tutoring math and English to the native Somalian students.

Doug’s accomplishments and tremendous contributions to Mount Mercy Academy and the surrounding community, both personal and professional, make him admired by those who know him. Mount Mercy Academy is proud to present Doug Lum with the 2019 Spirit of Mercy Award.

**Kate Coughlin Lynch ’76**

Kathleen “Kate” Coughlin Lynch ’76, is a dedicated and loved educator at Mount Mercy Academy, serving our school for the past 25 years. Her loyalty to the school is evident every day and has earned her respect from colleagues, parents and students.

Kate obtained an Associate’s Degree from Erie Community College in 1978 and a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education from Canisius College in 1980. She earned a Master of Science in Education from St. Bonaventure University in 1996. In 1982, Kate married Michael Lynch. They have three children, Patrick, Megan ’05 and Molly ’09.
Kate began her teaching career at Saint Ambrose and Saint Agatha schools in 1987. In 1994, she started teaching at Mount Mercy Academy. Kate served as the Athletic Director for Mount Mercy from 1996–2005. In this position, Kate was instrumental in the initiation of a girls’ golf league within Western New York. This league has permitted girls at both Catholic and public schools to compete in golf and obtain college golf scholarships. Kate has been and continues to be the golf coach at Mount Mercy and has served as the league chairperson for golf. She has also served as the Monsignor Martin League Chair for Track and Field. Kate continues to inspire student-athletes as a physical education teacher.

Students at Mount Mercy know they can always rely on Kate Lynch. She is always enthusiastic and instills team work, fair play and camaraderie in her students. Many students credit their decision to attend Mount Mercy on meeting Mrs. Lynch and learning about the athletic programs at the school.

Kate has served as a moderator of the Health Care Career Club since 2012. She makes sure that every student that walks through the door at Mount Mercy learns CPR. Kate serves on the school’s National Honor Society Committee. She is a member of the New York State American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. In 2015, she was awarded the Western Zone Teacher of the Year by the Alliance.

When she is not at Mount Mercy, Kate enjoys golfing in the Cazenovia Women’s Golf Club and has served in various officer positions for the club. She was club champion in 2015 and 2017. Kate has been active in Saint Ambrose Parish, participating in various activities including the school board, Catholic Charities, and Baptismal classes for new parents.

For her devotion to Mount Mercy Academy and its students, we are proud to present Kate Lynch ‘76 with the 2019 Mercy Devotion Award.

Mary Ann Murphy ‘80, RN, MS, IBCLC

Mary Ann Murphy ‘80 grew up in South Buffalo. She attended Saint Thomas Aquinas and Saint Martin’s Grammar Schools and graduated from Mount Mercy Academy in 1980. She attended The State University of New York at Buffalo and completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 1984. She continued her education receiving her Master’s Degree in Nursing. She married Steve Pardee in 2008.

Mary Ann began her career at Mercy Hospital as a candy stripper and then worked as a Dietary Aide in the Food Service Department throughout high school and her college years. After completing her Nursing degree, she began working in the Mercy Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, advancing to become the Director of the Maternal Child Unit at Mercy Hospital, where she has served for over 35 years.

Mary Ann is described as an excellent nurse and administrator who pays acute attention to detail. She has earned the respect of patients and colleagues as she provides exceptional care in the spirit of mercy. In 2012, Mary Ann received the Nurse of Distinction Award for Mercy Hospital.

In the Maternal Child Unit, tens of thousands of families have been touched by Mary Ann’s compassionate care during times of their greatest joy. She is also a compassionate care giver during times of profound grief. Mary Ann has been an instrumental part of the WNY Perinatal Bereavement Community since its inception in the late 90’s. She and her team received the Achievement Award in May 2019 at the Annual Perinatal Awards Dinner.

Mary Ann enjoys teaching and has overseen clinical nursing student rotations for many years for both Trocaire College, Niagara Community College and State University of New York at Buffalo. Mary Ann is a key connection between Mount Mercy Academy and Mercy Hospital in their internship program for Mount Mercy students through the Academy of Science and Healthcare.

Mary Ann is an avid supporter of her local South Buffalo community. She can be seen at many places and events including Dog Ears Books Store, The South Buffalo Community Table, The South Buffalo Farmers Market along with her frequent attendance at Mount Mercy Academy events. She attends regular meetings on behalf of Mercy Hospital, sharing information to the Chaote, Belvedere and Lorraine Streets Block Club regarding any hospital projects in the neighborhood.

Mary Ann Murphy is an inspiration, demonstrating exceptional professionalism in her leadership role at Mercy Hospital of Buffalo. She has expanded her efforts by providing guidance to students and coworkers along with offering support throughout her community. Mount Mercy Academy is proud to name Mary Ann Murphy a 2019 Catherine McAuley Distinguished Alumna.

Mary Travers Murphy

Mary Travers Murphy is Chief Executive Officer of the Family Justice Center of Erie County. She joined the Center in 2010. The center provides comprehensive services to help clients and their children break the cycle of abuse and live free from domestic violence.

She is no stranger to serving the public as evidenced by her career choices. A graduate of Canisius College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications, Mary worked at various radio stations as a news anchor and reporter before joining WKBW-TV. Seventeen of her nineteen years at the station were as “Action 7” consumer reporter; remembered by many WNYers as a crusading consumer advocate.

In 2005, her efforts on behalf of the public good took another direction when she was elected Supervisor of the Town of Orchard Park. It was during her tenure that her focus on domestic violence was born. Orchard Park resident Aasiya Hassan was brutally murdered by her husband. During the crime’s investigation it was learned that she had an order of protection due to her husband’s abuse but didn’t have the resources to leave home or access to legal counsel to enforce the order.

Within weeks of leaving the Supervisor position, Mary took over the reins of the Family Justice Center. She said, “I look forward to growing the organization so that we can help the thousands of abuse victims in Erie County who desperately need these services.” Under her leadership, the Center has expanded its reach from downtown Buffalo by establishing satellite offices in the northern and southern suburbs, Grand Island and a drop in office at Harvest House Ministries on the East Side of Buffalo.

Throughout her career, Mary has received numerous awards from entities at the local, state and national level. In 2015, she was honored by the U.S. Congressional Victims’ Rights Caucus during National Crime Victims’ Rights Week with the Ed Stour Monumental Award for Outstanding Victim Advocacy. Last year, Mary became Chair of the Many Faces of Mercy Giving Circle, a group of women whose joint contributions provide grant money to non-profit organizations in the Diocese with programs and projects that address the economic self-sufficiency and/or wellbeing of women and the children under their care. Mary resides in Orchard Park with her husband, John Murphy, the “Voice of the Buffalo Bills” and is the mother of two and grandmother of one.

Mary Travers Murphy is an “advocate” — someone who supports and/or represents the interests of others. This quality has been the hallmark of her efforts in the three career areas she has chosen — crusading for consumers, serving as a public official and championing the safety of victims of domestic violence. For her outstanding commitment and dedication to a diverse community, Mount Mercy Academy is proud to honor her with the Spirit of Mercy Award.

Erin Sobkowski ’95

Erin Sobkowski ‘95 was born in Dunkirk, NY and raised in West Seneca, where she attended St. John Vianney School. She went on to Mount Mercy Academy, graduating in 1995. Erin continued on to The State University of New York at Buffalo and graduated with a dual major in history and anthropology.

Erin enrolled in UB Law School where she graduated in 2004. She was admitted to the New York State bar in 2005.

Erin currently works for the NYS Division of Human Rights which is responsible for enforcing the NYS Human Rights Law. This law prohibits discrimination in employment, education, housing, public accommodations, among other areas. Erin currently works in the General Counsel’s office and drafts and tracks legislation, issues legal opinions, appellate work and oversees the freedom of information law unit.

Erin is married to Matthew Mancuso and is mom to beautiful twins Genevieve and Jack. Genevieve was born with Down syndrome. Following Genevieve’s birth, it was obvious to Erin and Matt that there was a need to help others and become advocates and leaders in the Down syndrome community.

Inspired by their journey, Erin and Matt, along with friends, started a not-for-profit organization called 21 Connect, an education and advocacy group for individuals with Down syndrome.

21 Connect provides welcome baskets to families of babies born with Down syndrome. To help educate these families, they host national experts to speak locally on the latest information available on medical and educational advances for people with Down syndrome. They also host family get-togethers for families with Down syndrome, creating a much-needed support group and social network. In addition to educating families, 21 Connect also educates the experts in the field. They give presentations to local hospitals on delivering a Down syndrome diagnosis and leave information packets to share with expecting parents. Erin is the current 21 Connect Board president and has also served as secretary.

Erin has also played a role in bringing another Down syndrome non-profit to Buffalo. She serves on the start-up committee for GiGi’s Playhouse Buffalo, a facility that will provide social, employment, and academic support to people with Down syndrome of all ages to help them integrate and succeed in the community. GiGi’s Playhouse is due to open in the fall of 2019.

Mount Mercy is proud of Erin for all her innovative and ground breaking accomplishments in the Down syndrome community. She is a leader, an educator, a human rights advocate and a mother.

Mount Mercy is proud to name Erin Sobkowski as a 2019 Catherine McAuley Distinguished Alumna.
A night to remember! On April 6th Mount Mercy Academy held our annual McAuley Gala at the recently resurrected Shea’s Seneca. It was a beautiful evening with a glamorous atmosphere and incredible energy celebrating the mission of Mount Mercy as well as the tremendous resurgence happening in South Buffalo. The Co-Chairs Suzanne Scarcello Shatzel ’97 and Julie Scarcello Beale ’96 and Parent Chairs Megan Hayes and Matthew Hayes shined as they led the event to an unprecedented success. A special thank you to Kristina Schmitt for her outstanding efforts, as well. Their time, passion and dedication were true reflections of the spirit of Mercy.

The members of the Gala committee were incredible in their efforts to bring in a record-setting corporate sponsorship as well as a sold-out event! The energy of this event was an experience no one will forget. Gifts donated were unique, experience based and created an excitement that had our guests excited to support our incredible school. A special thank you to our “Academy Presenting Sponsor” Meyers Buth Law Group, PLLC for the generous donation of $10,000 to support the gala.

All of those who helped this year’s Gala made it a night to reconnect, build new friendships and empower the future of our students. Mount Mercy Academy would like to express our sincerest gratitude to everyone who gave of their time, talents or treasure which made this feel like a true, “A Red Carpet Event.”
Babies & Weddings

Margaret Grace Stage was born on December 1st to Alice Zebrocki Stage ’97 and Robert Stage. Alice and her family live in Stow, Ohio. Margaret is featured here with her proud big sister Rose Sandra, who is seven years old.

Kara Rennie Caldiero ’07 and husband Drew welcomed a son, Brooks Matthew on April 22, 2019. It is the first child for the alumna and Timon graduate. Kara continues to contribute to the success of Mount Mercy Academy by serving on the Board of Trustees.

Brighid O’Brien Rospunti ’99 and her husband Tom gave birth to beautiful triplet girls Veira, Vivian, and Veida in February. Brighid and Tom are proud parents of six boys and four girls.

Lucy Riley was born to Alumna Tracey Penner Mancini ’03 and her husband Matthew on May 25th. She is welcomed by big brother Cameron.

Vivian Irene Glass was born on June 28, 2019 to Lindsay Lessard-Glass ’05 and Jaime Glass. The godmother is Madeline Fredo ’16.

Maxim Samuel Leonard was born on May 14, 2019 to Melissa Parker Leonard ’01 and Dan Leonard. He is welcomed by siblings Nolan, Sofie and Jack.

Keri Cardinale Schopp ’95 wed Phil Schopp this past May.

Julie Brown Krause ’99 wed Andrew Krause this past spring.

If you have good news to share, please email alumnaerelations@mtmercy.org.
Congratulations to Carolyn Shea Sinclair ‘63, of Pinellas County, who was recently named Florida’s Big Sister of the Year by Big Brother Big Sister organization. According to the BBBB press release, Carolyn, a former Principal, saw how beneficial mentors and role models are for at-risk children. Carolyn has been a Big Sister to Nikki for over six years, and has been a strong advocate and source of support to her during trying times in Foster Care, changes of addresses, schools and living situations. According to Nikki, “Because through all the fears, tears and emotions, Carolyn was there. She was my one constant in a sea of tumult, my one confidant in the line of strangers that I had to learn to trust. And it was Carolyn that helped me learn how to do that.” Congratulations Carolyn!

Nancy Wutz Ware ’74 and Sheila Walsh Meegan ’79 on being named to the Buffalo Business First Power 125 Women list. Nancy is the President and founder of EduKids Inc and Sheila is the Supervisor for the Town of West Seneca.

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Congratulations to Kelly Hess, DO ‘12 recently graduated from both undergraduate and medical school in seven years. Kelly graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Mercyhurst University and received her Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) from Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Erie, PA. She is currently doing her three year residency in pediatrics at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, MA. Kelly credits her participation in Mount Mercy’s Science and Health Care Academy as a deciding factor in becoming a physician and allowing her to excel in her studies. Congratulations Kelly!

Mount Mercy Academy President Peggy Cronin ‘78 was awarded the University of Notre Dame’s Buffalo and Western New York “Person of the Year Award.” Peggy has served as the University’s local Alumni Board President for two years. Congratulations Peggy!

Mary Wall ‘94, recently directed and co-produced a film called The Fan Connection that will make its New York premiere as part of the Buffalo International Film Festival on Saturday, October 12th. The Fan Connection is an intimate look at life in Buffalo told through the lens of three die-hard Sabres fans with cameos from Sabres’ alumni and many Buffalonians. After working as a high school mathematics teacher and environmental engineer, Mary moved to Los Angeles where she worked on The Office and Parks and Recreation. She wrote digital material for The Office on NBC.com, including several webisodes, which earned Mary a Writers Guild Nomination for Short Form New Media for her webisodes, “The Third Floor”. She graduated from Carnegie Mellon University with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and a Bachelor of Arts in Creative Writing. Congratulations Mary on your hard work!

Ellen Taylor ’86, a Buffalo police officer, was awarded the Meritorious Service Award for her excellence in the line of duty by The Benevolent Association. The award is given to employees who distinguish themselves by performing exceptional service in a duty of great responsibility or to critical importance to law enforcement. This is Ellen’s third time winning the award. She retired this past June after 28 years on the force. Thank you for your service Ellen and enjoy your retirement!

Congratulations to Nancy on your hard work!

Congratulations to Dr. Patricia Moore, PhD ’70, who is being honored with the Cooper Hewitt 2019 National Design Award for Design Mind. Patricia is an internationally renowned designer, gerontologist and leading authority on consumer lifespan behaviors. She has won many prestigious awards over her career, including being named one of The 100 Most Important Women in America by a consortium of news editors, voted into the RIT “Innovators Hall of Fame” and featured in ABC World News as one of “50 Americans Defining the New Millennium.” Patricia was also named the 2020 recipient of the CHANGEMAKER Award for the Center for Health Design for her work to make medical diagnostics and healthcare environments more humane. We are proud to call you an alumna Patricia!

Erin Gormley ’06 a lawyer with Kloss, Stenger & Lo Tempio, was featured as an “Emerging Attorney” in Buffalo Business First. In college Erin majored in music industry with a minor in law, policy and society. She worked with the Boston Symphony Orchestra in Development and then in the box office. Realizing that she did not have the technical talent to pursue a career in music, Erin stayed involved in the entertainment industry by helping artists and musicians with their legal matters. Erin also focuses on trademarks, patents, employment law and more, according to BBF. Erin is on the Board of Music is Art and helps coordinate their Annual Festival. She also volunteers with Lawyers for Learning and Make-A-Wish. Congratulations Erin!

Margaret “Peg” Flanagan Barrett ’73 was recently featured in the Buffalo News for her dedication and service to the youth of WNY as a school social worker. Peg is a retired school social worker but still works with the Lancaster school district. She is the current president of the New York State Social Workers’ Association. Peg received her Masters from the UB School of Social Work and has worked in schools ever since. She has run support groups for kids of divorced parents, served on countess Committees on Special Education advocating for kids impacted by such tragedies as illnesses, accidents and death. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of our youth Peg!!

Congratulations to Allysa L. Fuller Olsen ’08, who was named as the new administrator at The Jennie Richmond Nursing Home in Springville, NY. Allysa has earned a Long Term Care Administrator certificate from D’Youville College and a Masters of Social Work and Bachelor of Arts degree from the University at Buffalo. In addition to her new position, Allysa also wed last October. Congratulations Allysa!

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Congratulations Victoria!

Victoria Allen ‘14, a psychology major, has been inducted into SUNY Geneseo’s Phi Beta Kappa, the nation’s oldest and most widely known academic honor society. Victoria is a psychology major. Congratulations Victoria!

Sunny Allen ‘13

Sunny Allen ‘13 was recognized as the third top fundraising team for the Make Lemon Aide For Cerebral Palsy 5k. Sunny has become an ambassador for the Make Lemon Aide Foundation and as a senior, she organized several events to raise funds and awareness for the organization. This year, Sunny recruited a team of 25, which included many Mercy Alumnae including Stephanie Khoury ’11 and Claire Hildebrand ’18. Congratulations to our alumnae on continuing the spirit of Mercy!

Shannon Muldowney ’92, a sixth grade science teacher in the Lake Shore School District was recently honored with the 2019 Lake Shore Central Teachers’ Association NYSUT (New York State United Teachers) Leadership Award. This award is given to someone who is viewed as a leader in their Union and community. Shannon is currently the Vice President of her Union. Congratulations Shannon!

Megan Fabian ‘16 was named to The University of Scranton’s Dean’s list for the Spring 2019 semester. Megan, a senior, is an Exercise Science major. Megan was also inducted into the Alpha Sigma Nu, a national Jesuit Honor Society. Congratulations Megan!

Stephanie Evaniak ’16 was one of 83 SUNY Oneonta students recognized for attaining leadership milestones through the college’s LEAD (Leadership Education and Development program). LEAD helps prepare students for life after college by giving them opportunities and skills needed to become a good leader. Stephanie, a criminal justice major, is at the silver level. Keep up the great work Stephanie!

Sara Riso ’15 wraps up her distinguished academic and golf career at Siena College, graduating this May with a degree in Actuarial Science with a 3.97 GPA. Sara earned both MAAC Women’s Golfer of the Week and MAAC Golfer of the Month honors this season and currently holds the record for third most individual wins in women’s golf program history at Siena College. This spring, Sara was also recognized by the Women’s Golf Coaches Association as an All-American Scholar and is a four-time MAAC All-Academic Team and Academic Honor Roll member. She was named to the Siena College President’s List for Spring 2019 and was honored for holding the highest GPA of any senior athlete at Siena in the School of Science. Congratulations Sara!

Victoria Allen ’14 has been inducted into SUNY Geneseo’s Phi Beta Kappa, the nation’s oldest and most widely known academic honor society. Victoria is a psychology major. Congratulations Victoria!

If you have good news to share, please send an email to alumnaerelations@mtmercy.org.
Twenty-four juniors and one senior were inducted into the McAuley Chapter of the National Honor Society this past spring, held in the Mercy Center Chapel.

“Girls Can Do Anything!” was the theme for this year’s Career Day. We thank our distinguished alumnae Jessica Turner ’02, Peggy Shea Sperber ’04, Dr. Megan Wierchowski ’06, Susan Dzierzewski Steblein ’01, Claire Kelley ’07, Peggy Klavoon Cannan ’06, Susan Anderson Was ’99, and Mary Riedy ’07.

The 2019 graduates of the Mount Mercy Academy Leadership Institute, lead by Alumna and Board of Trustee Suzanne Fox Overdorff ’60, proudly display their diplomas following the graduation celebration this past May.

Students from Mount Mercy Academy participated in the annual Parade of Circles sponsored by South Buffalo Alive! Pictured are Grace Spero ’22, Kyra Soto ’22 and South Buffalo Alive’s Marge Ryan.

Mount Mercy girls basketball camp with the Mount Mercy Varsity team and Coach John Glose. Featured here are the 7-9 grade campers.

Mount Mercy Golf Outing at the Springville Country Club was a success! The Women’s Winning Team was presented the Hooper Trophy.

The Mount Mercy Academy faculty and staff took home this year’s first place title at Trivia Night hosted by the Booster Club.
Girls at Camp Mercy participated in various sports throughout the week.

Women of the Class of 1954 enjoy a delicious lunch at the recently renovated Shea's Seneca to celebrate their 65th Class Reunion.

Alumnae from the class of 1959 gather together at the Roycroft Inn for their 60th Class Reunion.

Camp Mercy created musical memories this July at the Kazoo Factory in Eden, NY.

Annual Alumnae Memorial Mass and reception was held this past May in the Mercy Center Chapel and dining room. Featured are Alumnae Board members Maureen Byrne McCarthy ‘67, Kathleen Kaczmarek Mehltretter ‘72, and Linda Siewmann Dugan ‘76.

The annual freshman Tea Party with the Sisters of Mercy.

Congratulations to Madeline Bigoutte ‘21 for winning 2nd runner up in the 2019 Congressional Art Competition. Madeline is pictured with Mount Mercy President Peggy Cronin and Congressman Brian Higgins.

Alumnae from the class of 1966 and Sr. Jane Muldoon ‘56, RSM enjoy tea and scones at the Annual Alumnae Memorial Mass.

Prom Queen and King Alesia Hamm ‘19 and Manny McClain.

The students and their dates enjoyed the Junior/Senior Prom 2019 in May at Shea's Seneca.

The Mount Mercy Academy Social Sciences Program celebrated World Autism Acceptance Day by touring the Museum of Disability in Amherst.

Congratulations to Madeline Bigoutte ‘21 for winning 2nd runner up in the 2019 Congressional Art Competition. Madeline is pictured with Mount Mercy President Peggy Cronin and Congressman Brian Higgins.

The Men's Winning Team at the Annual Golf Outing is awarded the Hooper Trophy by Principal Margaret Staszak and President Peggy Cronin.

The Pure Magic Choir did not disappoint at the Spring Concert!

Karen Kollmar Wilson ‘63 and Mary Catherine Wilson Kennedy ‘64 enjoy catching up over tea and scones at the Annual Alumnae Memorial Mass.


We are grateful to the Mount Mercy Academy volleyball team for volunteering at the Annual Golf Outing.

The annual freshman Tea Party with the Sisters of Mercy. Featured are Sr. Mary Gormley ’65, Theology teacher Beth Davis, and Sr. Maralynn Scarrino with Principal Margaret Staszak and Mount Mercy freshmen, standing.
IN MEMORIAM

Mary Teresa Mallon Carr '50 by James Carr, Jr.


Margaret M. Kelly Graber '51 by MMA Alumnae Assoc., Mark & Julie Schichtel, The Weisenhorn Family, Mr. Terry Flynn, Rosemary Sheehan, Millie Cavanaugh, Crowley Family, Dr. & Mrs. Ronald Boersma, Thomas M. Kelly M.D., Maureen Casey & Bob Bleech, Joan Coughlin, Michael A. Aurichio, Inc., Elizabeth A. Gannon, Donald & Tanis Berry, Anonymous Donor, Evan & Trish & Caroline Lewis, Josephine M. Boss, Thomas & Mary Jo Lahiff, Mary Lou Colpys-Wynne, Stella Formella, Joseph & Regina Kelly, Peg McMorrow, Mildred Michel Ruiz '54

Lynne Manwell Otley '81 by MMA Alumnae Assoc., Jean Canney, Tom & Marge Ryan, Jack & Margie Myres, Linda Sieckmann-Dugan & Michael Dugan, Mr. & Mrs. James Balcerek, Tim & Mary & Margaret McDonald, Denise & John Hillery, John Otwell, The Redy Family, Peter Mancuso, Cathy Bender, Dennis & Linda Manley, Bob & Lynn Wickett, Donna Donohue, Janet M. Goodsell, Marguerite Devany Phillips, Christopher & Michelle & Susan & Laura McNaughton, Patricia E. Thomas, Cherille A. Panza, Mary Teresa McCarthy, Lynn & Linda Camp, John & Jean Kline, Maureen Myres, Sidonie & Vic Williams, Maryellen Diggins, Thomas Fuchs, Anonymous Donors

IN MEMORIAM

Thomas Acara by Kathy Glayve
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by Kathy Glayve

Maria L. Petrucci Basel '58 by MMA Alumnae Assoc.

Charles Bauer by Joan Flynn
Mark H. Beers by Mr. & Mrs. Francis X.Feeley
Nicholas Bender by Denise Walters
Beverly Bociek by Kathy Glayve, June & Dennis McNaughton

Marie T. Bollbruch by Bernie & Pat Kennedy

Ronald Boudrot by Maureen Schanbacher

Andrew Bouquard by Paul & JoAnn Lyons

Maureen B. McMahon "Mickie" Branch '52 by MMA Alumnae Assoc., Norine Ransbury (nee Kriegbaum '52)

Jolene Brong by Tom & Judy Farry

Patrick Brun by Ellen Colpoys, Juli Colpoys

Norma Cannan by Dave & Sheila Stanchak, Jack & Kathy Hess, Rosemary Wright Sheehan, John & Marcy Recktenwald, Jean Canney & Family, Jim & Ann Sullivan

Terrance "Terry" Cannan by Mount Mercy

Memorials

February 3, 2019 to July 18, 2019

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

Mary Teresa Mallon Carr '50 by James Carr, Jr.


Margaret M. Kelly Graber '51 by MMA Alumnae Assoc., Mark & Julie Schichtel, The Weisenhorn Family, Mr. Terry Flynn, Rosemary Sheehan, Millie Cavanaugh, Crowley Family, Dr. & Mrs. Ronald Boersma, Thomas M. Kelly M.D., Maureen Casey & Bob Bleech, Joan Coughlin, Michael A. Aurichio, Inc., Elizabeth A. Gannon, Donald & Tanis Berry, Anonymous Donor, Evan & Trish & Caroline Lewis, Josephine M. Boss, Thomas & Mary Jo Lahiff, Mary Lou Colpys-Wynne, Stella Formella, Joseph & Regina Kelly, Peg McMorrow, Mildred Michel Ruiz '54

Lynne Manwell Otley '81 by MMA Alumnae Assoc., Jean Canney, Tom & Marge Ryan, Jack & Margie Myres, Linda Sieckmann-Dugan & Michael Dugan, Mr. & Mrs. James Balcerek, Tim & Mary & Margaret McDonald, Denise & John Hillery, John Otwell, The Redy Family, Peter Mancuso, Cathy Bender, Dennis & Linda Manley, Bob & Lynn Wickett, Donna Donohue, Janet M. Goodsell, Marguerite Devany Phillips, Christopher & Michelle & Susan & Laura McNaughton, Patricia E. Thomas, Cherille A. Panza, Mary Teresa McCarthy, Lynn & Linda Camp, John & Jean Kline, Maureen Myres, Sidonie & Vic Williams, Maryellen Diggins, Thomas Fuchs, Anonymous Donors

IN MEMORIAM

Thomas Acara by Kathy Glayve

Tammee Acquisto-Patronik by Dave & Colleen Sluszar

Frank Adamczyk by Linda Sieckmann-Dugan, Ann Falty & Family, Irene Lynch

Thomas Acara by Kathy Rafter

Lois Atchison by Dan & Judy Kilik

Mary Lou Athens by Tom & Judy Farry, Jim & Ann Sullivan

Evelyn Grace Atkinson by Bob & Susan Shanks

Robert "Bobby" Barrett by Pat & Patsy Lyons, Anita & Pat Crotty

Angela M. Petrucci Basel '58 by MMA Alumnae Assoc.

Charles Bauer by Joan Flynn

Mark H. Beers by Mr. & Mrs. Francis X. Feeley

Nicholas Bender by Denise Walters

Beverly Bociek by Kathy Glayve, June & Dennis McNaughton

Marie T. Bollbruch by Bernie & Pat Kennedy

Ronald Boudrot by Maureen Schanbacher

Andrew Bouquard by Paul & JoAnn Lyons

Maureen B. McMahon "Mickie" Branch '52 by MMA Alumnae Assoc., Norine Ransbury (nee Kriegbaum '52)

Jolene Brong by Tom & Judy Farry

Patrick Brun by Ellen Colpoys, Juli Colpoys

Norma Cannan by Dave & Sheila Stanchak, Jack & Kathy Hess, Rosemary Wright Sheehan, John & Marcy Recktenwald, Jean Canney & Family, Jim & Ann Sullivan

Terrance "Terry" Cannan by Mount Mercy

Memorials

February 3, 2019 to July 18, 2019

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

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Margaret M. Kelly Graber '51 by MMA Alumnae Assoc., Mark & Julie Schichtel, The Weisenhorn Family, Mr. Terry Flynn, Rosemary Sheehan, Millie Cavanaugh, Crowley Family, Dr. & Mrs. Ronald Boersma, Thomas M. Kelly M.D., Maureen Casey & Bob Bleech, Joan Coughlin, Michael A. Aurichio, Inc., Elizabeth A. Gannon, Donald & Tanis Berry, Anonymous Donor, Evan & Trish & Caroline Lewis, Josephine M. Boss, Thomas & Mary Jo Lahiff, Mary Lou Colpys-Wynne, Stella Formella, Joseph & Regina Kelly, Peg McMorrow, Mildred Michel Ruiz '54

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Terrance "Terry" Cannan by Mount Mercy
Richard Morabito by Pat & Patsy Lyons
Nicholas Nemeti by Anita & Pat Crotty
Kathleen O’Connell by Joy & John Pond
John (Jack) Oakie O’Connor by Jim & Phil Gallagher
Bill O’Donell by Martin & Mary Whyte
Brian J. O’Hara by Anita & Pat Crotty
Dorothy Gorman O’Hara ’53 by MMA Alumnae Assoc., Tom & Katie Brinkworth
Kathy O’Leary by Janice Herrmann McNaughton & Bill Fisher
Jed O’Malley by Martin & Mary Whyte
Mick O’Rourke by Seanus & Ann Kilnurray
Matt Pendergast by Kerry & Colleen Painter
Sister Marie Bernarde Procknal by Rosemary Sheehan
Jean Quinn by Michael & Mary O’Sullivan
Nancy Quinn ’54 by Kathy Glayve, Cathy Rafter
Mary C. Cottrell Rahill ’46 by MMA Alumnae Assoc.
Eleanor (Stack) Redman by Frances A. Kulik, Anne Fasco
William "Bill" Renowden by Bernie & Pat Kennedy, Seanus & Ann Kilnurray
James Robertson by Bonnie & Nelson Cosgrove
Lawrence R. Rose by Peter & Marguerite Phillips, Bonnie & Nelson Cosgrove
Janet Ruesch by Mary Zeis
Nancy "Dolly" Sardina by Sheila Finucane
David Schmidie by John & Celine Crabbe
Jennifer Schwender ’87 by MMA Alumnae Assoc.
Donald Starks by Jean Canney
Barbara Skipper by Kathy Glayve
Kerry Sledzieski by Mary Lickfeld
William Michael "Bill" Smerka by Anita & Pat Crotty
John Smith by Joan E. Coughlin
Claire J. Smith Spors ’45 by MMA Alumnae Assoc.
Patricia Sokja by Marguerite Phillips
Margaret A. Starzynski by Frances A. Kulik, Francis & Mary Jo Feeley
Elizabeth “Betty” Lomas Tubridy ’51 by MMA Alumnae Assoc.
Lucille Boivin Vidal by Denise Walters & her sisters: Ghislaine, Huguette & Suzanne
Lee J. Volo, Sr. by Maureen Canney, William Lambert, Bonnie & Nelson Cosgrove
Judith M. Beutler Volpe ’58 by MMA Alumnae Assoc.
Marian Anstett Whitte ’51 by MMA Alumnae Assoc.
Margaret Willard by Kathy Hess
Arthur Wisniewski by Joe & Sharon Hoffstetter & Family
Barbara Moore Yates ’46 by MMA Alumnae Assoc.
Gloria Keller Yates ’49 by MMA Alumnae Assoc.
Albert Zalocha by Mike & Dianne Frawley

Deceased Alumnae
February 3, 2019 to July 18, 2019
Catherine Lillian “Kay” Tourjie Murphy 1941
Claire J. Smith Spors 1945
Rose A. Copolla Huddack 1945
Sister Margaret Mary Hughes 1945
Barbara Moore Yates 1946
Mary C. Cottrell Rahill 1946
Patricia J. Gatta Ehms 1947
Jane A. Connors Kriegbaum 1948
Gloria Keller Yates 1949
Carol K. Knapp Miller 1950
Margaret M. Kelly Graber 1951
Marian Anstett Whitte 1951
Elizabeth “Betty” Lomas Tubridy 1951
Margaret P. Canney Scanlon 1951
Maureen B. "Mickie" McMahon Branch 1952
Maureen Callahan Carr 1952
Sharon Ellen Lawrence McGirr 1953
Dorothy Gorman O’Hara 1953
Grace P. McGowan Duggan 1954
Rosemary Cusack Junon 1954
Carmela DePlato Konter 1957
Judith M. Beutler Volpe 1958
Angela M. Petrucci Basel 1958
Jeanne English Raimondo 1958
Ellen M. Shepherd Gill 1960
Elaine Ridder Bonacci 1962
Kathleen M. O'Neill Lass 1963
Katherine F. “Kathy” Catanzaro Corto 1963
Denise M. Carey Erickson 1968
Alma A. Cosgrove 1970
Elizabeth Lomas Tubridy 1970
Margaret McGorty Miller 1972
Kerry Sledzieski 1973
Lynne Manley Otwell 1981
Jennifer Schwender 1987

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 month of October. 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 note the announcement of the October 2020 date will be published in the spring Horizons and/or on the Mount Mercy Academy website www.mtmercy.org under the Alumnae & 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.
Save the Date

MEAT RAFFLE
FEBRUARY 29TH
AT MOUNT MERCY ACADEMY

Save the Date
The McAuley Gala
Saturday, April 4, 2020
Shea’s Seneca

Relive the Magic
Mount Mercy Academy’s
Alumnae Basketball Game
Saturday, January 11th at 4PM
In the Mount Mercy Academy Gym

Breakfast with Santa
Join us for our Annual
Breakfast with Santa!
Saturday December 14th
10:00am in the Mount Mercy Dining Hall