

THE MAGAZINE OF MERION MERCY ACADEMY

Mater Matters

WINTER 2015



From the Principal



Just shy of 50 years ago, I made my debut on MMA's stage as a lady-in-waiting for the Lower School's production of *Cinderella*. Much to my pleasure at the time but to my regret today, it was neither a big role nor a desired participation by me. However, I was impressed by the roles of many of my classmates who cherished their parts. I remember all this as we celebrate 30 years of Merion Mercy Music

Theater (MMMT), an activity that resonates with so many of our current students and families, alumnae, and past parents.

Through the years, MMT has put on terrific performances—blockbusters like *The Sound of Music* and highly-acclaimed musicals like *Into the Woods*. Each year, MMT shows are a pleasure to watch with outstanding acting, staging, singing, and music made possible by superior direction and production. What ultimately appears on stage are the values and character building that goes on in preparation for such productions and behind the scenes—qualities like cooperation, resiliency, team building, and sensitivity.

More than once I have heard about the disappointment students experience at the part received in casting. Despite the difficult emotions, this is a time when students may learn resiliency and that the show must go on, perhaps discovering in the process a new talent as make-up artist or how important it is to be part of the ensemble. All participants are critical to a show's success, and each student learns her place, sometimes in her "dream role" and other times as the "lady-in-waiting."

I congratulate Sister Jeannette Goglia for starting an outstanding MMT program that has brought us many years of delight. And bravo to all the directors, producers, performers, and crew members that have built our program into one that is recognized for its commitment to excellent musical performances. In sum, MMT is an example of the vibrant programs we seek to build here, helping the heart of Merion Mercy beat ever stronger. 🙌

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sister Barbara Buckley". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Sister Barbara Buckley '72
Principal

PRINCIPAL

Sister Barbara Buckley '72

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ON THE COVER



MMA musicians Anna Moretto '15
(cello), Theresa Dierkes '16 (flute),
Emmalee Graham '16 (piano), and
Daisha Crooks '16 (vocals)

Around Campus

FALL 2014

The Merion Mercy community enjoyed several fall traditions, such as Mercy Day, celebrated various achievements, and made countless memories.

Sisterhood

MERION MERCY... WHERE FRIENDS FEEL LIKE FAMILY

Merion Mercy's Big Sister/Little Sister program enjoyed a back-to-school gathering and swapped treat bags. At the start of each school year, freshman and sophomore little sisters are paired with their junior and senior big sisters. The "sisters" meet throughout the year and mark special occasions together. "The Big Sister/Little Sister program is an important way that upperclassmen can both mentor and support underclassmen," shared Director of Admissions Mrs. Eileen Daly Killeen '68. "Additionally, it reinforces the family atmosphere at Merion Mercy; the students really bond through the shared experiences they have."



Kathleen Murphy '18 and her "big sister" Maria Raptis '16 play a few rounds of headbands while getting to know each other better.



"Big sisters" and "little sisters" Courtney Pellegrino '16, Christina Mattioli '18, Dana Longo '18, Mia Mattioli '16, Katherine Flanagan '16, and Grace Young '18 are all smiles with Director of Activities Mr. Seth Pidot.

Weenie Roast

For more than 50 years, MMA's Weenie Roast provides a fun-filled afternoon for the students to show off their Halloween best and to enjoy lunch with their friends and the entire school community.



Sophomores take the stage with their version of *Madeline*.

Sophomores having fun and sporting some over-the-top spirit wear! Front row: Alay'na DiSanto, Gabrielle Caminiti, and Caila Olivo; Back row: Yasmine Chambers, Alessandra DiBenedetto, Alison Zarella, Jennifer Ramirez, Hannah Crilley, and Alana Loftus



72 Clubs,
Organizations,
and Teams

485 Mercy girls/
friends/sisters



MERCY CORE VALUES

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Merion Mercy's Ministry Team coordinated the school's annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. Students brought in food items to create Thanksgiving meals for approximately 40 families who are clients of Mercy Neighborhood Ministries.

Faculty and staff helped to complement the meals by making monetary donations. Close to \$1,000 was collected and used to buy store gift cards (in the amount of \$20 each) for the purchase of perishable food items. The provision of the gift cards allows the grateful recipients the opportunity to purchase food to their liking, respecting the dignity of each person.

In addition to Mercy Neighborhood Ministries, the students donated Thanksgiving meal "trimmings" to St. Francis Inn.

(Top) Some members of the Ministry Team gather to organize the food items. Front row: Megan Bevilacqua '15, Stephanie Horn '15, Madeline King '15, Megan Rolfes '15, Christina Nunno '15, and Alessandra Restifo '16; Back row: faculty member Mr. John Fitzpatrick, Molly Sutter '16, Alexandra Harvey '17, Julia Battin '15, Julia Moore '17, Jamie Marandola '16, Kristina Sweeney '17, and Leah Palombi '16

COUNTLESS OPPORTUNITIES

MMA TEACHER MARIANNE RULE HONORED WITH UNSUNG HEROES GRANT

MMA English teacher Mrs. Marianne Rule was honored with the Voya Unsung Heroes Grant for Innovative Teaching Program. Mrs. Rule's innovative teaching idea, Forging the e-Book Frontier, will provide students in her Fiction and Poetry class hands-on experience in the independent publishing industry. The project will allow students to discover writing as a process, draft poems and short stories, self-publish a book of their work, implement a publicity campaign, and network with writers in the local community. In addition to many anticipated highlights, influential blogger/author/literary agent Nathan Bransford will visit school and ultimately their work will be sold online as an e-Book.



At the grant presentation, seniors Katherine Dombrowski, Deirdre Grady, Megan Gregitis, Mrs. Marianne Rule, Meghan Sack, Jamilah Jones, and Sister Barbara Buckley '72

17 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation named five MMA seniors as National Merit Semifinalists, ten as Commended Students, one as a National Achievement Program Outstanding Participant, and one scholar status in the National Hispanic Recognition Program.



MMA'S NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS

Front row: Corinne Pisauero, commended, Erica Murphy, semifinalist, Annette Young, commended, Casey Robinson, commended, and Ciara Bauwens, commended; Middle row: Grace Mullen, commended, Emma Ibrahim, commended, Sarah Jensen, semifinalist, Madeline King, commended, and Ashley Graves, National Achievement Program

Outstanding Participant; Back row: Julie Bevilacqua, semifinalist, Maura Avington, semifinalist, Genevieve Manning, semifinalist, Bridget Kayes, commended, Kelly Barton, commended, Meghan Henry, commended, and Leyla Lewenec, scholar status in the National Hispanic Recognition Program

Around Campus



Fall Signings

Congratulations to the following athletes who signed letters of intent and made commitments to play sports on the collegiate level:



Front row: Kelly Goggin (Fairfield University Field Hockey), Nellie Doyle (Temple University Field Hockey), Lauren Dice (Lehigh University Field Hockey), Caroline Corzel (University of California, Berkeley Lacrosse), Elizabeth Schrieber (University of Notre Dame Crew), Katherine DeVlieger (Boston College Crew), Stephanie Horn (Drexel University Crew), and Margaret Collington (Drexel University Crew); Back row: Michaela Scanlon (University of Delaware Field Hockey), Elena Romano (George Washington University Crew), and Audra Adams (Bucknell University Crew).

MVPs Announced



Dominique Marchese '15
Golf



Dierdre McCloskey '15
Cross Country



Rebecca Purcell '15
Volleyball



Casey Robinson '15
Tennis



MMA Student Council Induction

Student Council members assume leadership roles within the school community. They are the link between the administration/faculty and their fellow students. They strive to accomplish their best, academically and socially, for themselves and others.

(Top) Front row: sophomores Beth Gallagher, Maida Pannepacker, Olivia Anderson, Morgan Lamb, Emma Paolini, and Alay'na DiSanto; Middle row: Mrs. Angela DiCocco Donnelly '04 (Faculty Moderator), Jacqueline Koob '15, Lucy Fanto '16, Grace Campbell '16, Maeve Moran '16, Sarah Young '16, Brittany Hartzell '16, Theresa Dierkes '16, Maria Raptis '16, and Ms. Marie Robson '05 (Faculty Moderator); Back row: seniors Madeleine Procopio, Casey Robinson, Corinne Pisauo, Katherine DeVlieger, Jasmine Raj, Jessica Bruno, Catherine West, and Erin Donnelly

MERCY DAY

The spirit of Catherine McAuley, the foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, remembered and celebrated in special ways.

(Top) Students representing each grade level highlight important pillars of a Mercy education. Ava Lo Sasso '18, Olivia Anderson '17, Maria Zeris '16, and Paige Smith '15

(Bottom) MMA is loyal to the blue and gold, yet on Mercy day red bows were distributed to students as a nod to the red and gold of the original Mercy shield.



THE MERCY GIRL EFFECT

MALALA

Perhaps no school in the area looked forward to this year's Liberty Medal Ceremony more than Merion Mercy Academy.



The recipient of this prestigious award, Malala Yousafzai, the 17-year-old Pakistani activist for female education and recent Nobel Peace Prize winner, has become a role model like no other for many Merion Mercy students. "Malala lives each day with purpose. And, although her life's journey has been extraordinary, since she is so close to our age, she is very relatable; her work mirrors the values of a Mercy education," said Erin Donnelly '15.

Merion Mercy students have a keen awareness of the importance of educating young women. MMA is a leader in The Mercy Girl Effect, a project that combines the efforts of Mercy schools across the nation. With a focus on girls' education in third world countries, The Mercy Effect allows young women opportunities they would not otherwise have, all from the dedication and service of their peers here at MMA. Most notably, along with other Mercy schools, Merion Mercy built a school in Sudan, which they continue to support. For many years, Merion Mercy has addressed great need throughout the world.

"It is clear that Malala's work advances our own Mercy values of Global Vision and Responsibility and Concern for Women and Women's Issues. Merion Mercy students

engaged in special activities the week of the Liberty Medal Ceremony to honor this connection and to continue to raise awareness for female education," said Director of Campus Ministry Sister Anna Saltzman.

The day of the Liberty Medal Ceremony, MMA students learned more about Malala (and young women like her) through literature and video. Merion Mercy's Girl Up Club had tables setup up all day for students to make posters in support of and to congratulate Malala. They put their stamp on social media by posting their original posters (in original spots) with #mmalala, showing that MMA and Malala are in full solidarity. At the end of the day, Sister Deirdre Mullan,



A group of students organized their posters for an original composition for Instagram.

an Irish Sister of Mercy and Executive Director of Mercy Reaches Mercy at the United Nations in New York, joined the students. (Sister Deirdre has partnered with MMA on several projects and has been a key liaison for our students and their efforts with The Mercy Girl Effect.) At that time, she recognized six Merion Mercy students for a documentary they produced for the global Mercy Reaches Mercy organization. Sister Deirdre, seven students, and six faculty members attended the Liberty Medal Ceremony.



Seniors at the event Catherine West, Megan Rogers, Annette Young, Madeline King, Cameron George, Erin Donnelly, and Jacqueline Koob

MMA in NYC and DC

It is important to “keep sweet Mercy near”! MMA helps to do this for alums in NYC and DC with events planned in both areas around Mercy Day.

Merion Mercy has alumnae chapters in NYC and DC. The New York City group held their third, annual gathering, which met with an incredible response and proved to be a very successful event. More than 50 alums living/working in or near NYC gathered at Terroir Tribeca in late September. The DC group held its second event at The Dubliner and had a terrific turnout too with nearly 40 alums in attendance.

The Merion Mercy team of Sister Barbara Buckley '72, Principal, Kelley Kuyat, Executive Director of Advancement, and Patti McAleer, Director of Advancement Services joined the alums at both events.



NYC GATHERING

1. MMA in NYC chapter committee members gather. Front row: Maria Brinkmann '00 and Mariel Boyd '05; Back row: Kelly McKelvey '04, Kate Barker '06, Deanne DeCrescenzo '03, Meggie Taylor '08, and Monica O'Donoghue '08
2. Chris Ryan Viola '64 and Nicole D'Angelo '97
3. May Limbach '06, Sister Barbara Buckley '72, and Eva Zaccaria '06 catch up at the NYC event.





DC GATHERING

1. Sisters Christina DiGiacomo '90 and Donna DiGiacomo Patchett '79 pose for photo with Patti McAleer (center).
2. DC chapter committee members include Nina Wertan '07, Shannon Martin '09, Adrienne Graves Lyne '86, Tara Kelly '91, Molly Mulrain '07, Molly Mahoney '07, and Kelly D'Addona '09.
3. Alums from the 90s enjoyed a lovely DC evening. Megan Weil Latshaw '95, Katherine Turner '97, and Cheryl Cox '97



THE ALUMNAE TEA

"Be sure you have a comfortable cup of tea."

— CATHERINE MCAULEY

The Alumnae Tea has quickly become a favorite tradition. The tea is held annually for alumnae who attended school in the convent. This year's event was held in October and brought 27 alumnae to campus, representing various classes from 1940-1958.



Although 70 years divide their graduation years Catherine West '15 and Dolores Toebe Horsell '45 enjoyed lively conversation about the many MMA experiences they share.



Margaret McLean Daly '40, Virginia Barnes Worthington '42, and Sister Mary Antonita Tobin '41

MUSIC IN THE AIR

at
MERION MERCY ACADEMY

When sharing the news of her theater company's latest production, alumna Kate Brennan '99 wrote to the Merion Mercy faculty and staff, "Study of the arts benefits math skills, memorization capabilities, quick-thinking, problem-solving, public speaking, physical awareness, cognitive reasoning, articulation of idea, self-confidence, critical thinking, collaboration, community engagement, and social consciousness."

She added that she hopes to encourage "students to be both producers of art and art supporters" believing that "the arts serve not only to entertain, but to educate and enlighten."

Since the founding of Merion Mercy in 1884, the arts have played a significant role in the life of "Mater girls." Even in the late 19th century, the Academy was filled with musical activity.

MMA has boasted a rich commitment to music for decades with a range of music-related activities, such as voice recitals, chamber music concerts, choral performances, and collaboration with poetry, dance, and theater classes and performances. Throughout the past 130 years, students, faculty, and alumnae have been adding to the score, building the school's reputation as one of the area's finest places to both study and perform.

This devotion to layered, artistic culture continues today. The sounds of music are alive and resounding in the voices ringing at each Mass sung by the Liturgical Ensemble, in the Christmas spirit felt by everyone at Carol Night, and in the harmonious sounds coming from the music room during an

Ensemble practice. More than a third of students participate in at least one music program, such as Merion Mercy Music Theater (MMMT), Glee Club, Ensemble, Handbells, A Cappella Group, and Chorale.

Perhaps one of the most recognizable music offerings at MMA is MMT. For the past 30 years, MMT has wowed audiences and impacted hundreds of alums and scores of current students. Sister Jeannette Goglia, RSM was there from the start. She said, "In the earlier years, one popular way for students to showcase their talents was through operettas, such as *The Merry Widow* (with male roles enacted by the girls)." Sister Jeannette continued, "In the 1980s, musicals were becoming more popular and performed with more regularity throughout the country." She noted that MMA students put on *Godspell* (almost entirely on their own) before she came on to the faculty. Although she was not teaching at MMA at the time, it was this production that made it clear to her that MMA students wanted to incorporate more theater and performance. By the 1983-84 school year Sister Jeannette was at the helm of MMA's Music Department and the formal MMA music major began. The next year, the school formally added MMT as a natural adjunct to the Music Department. This not only provided an outlet for singing, acting, and dancing, but also included budding artists, architects, and engineers in a variety of capacities and gave the entire school the opportunity to attend the performances, celebrating each other's talents in new ways.

MMMT "NOTES"

- *More than 700 MMA alumnae/current students have participated in MMT.*
- *In its 30 years, MMT has had five directors: Sister Jeannette Goglia, Diane Duffy Hankee '88, Kim Baxter, Elizabeth McDonald '01, and Beth Criscuolo.*
- *All MMT performances have taken place at the Motherhouse auditorium.*
- *Although the program is called Merion Mercy Music Theater, the program also includes dramas. The first dramatic play was "Steel Magnolias," produced by MMT in 1991.*



Music in the Air at Merion Mercy Academy

MMMT continues to offer students a range of opportunities: singing, dancing, playing in the orchestra, working on stage crew, handling sound and lighting, and even co-producing shows. This one extracurricular provides a wonderfully creative and diverse world for students to explore.

Sister Jeannette is also very proud that Merion Mercy continues to offer a music major. She said, "Identifying music as a study was crucial, and I maintain that studying musical heritage and history goes jointly with hands-on experience and performance." Now led by Ms. Patricia Brown '83 (one of Sister Jeannette's students), Ms. Brown's approach is reminiscent of Sister Jeannette's original mission and in alignment with the

National Standards Policy for Music education. Her philosophy is consistent, "Through singing, playing instruments, and composing, students are able to express themselves creatively, while knowledge of notation and performance traditions enables them to learn new music independently throughout their lives."

Merion Mercy stands as one of a very small number of schools (private and public) in the region that actually offers music as an area of concentration. The Music Department curriculum challenges the student to discover her own creative and intellectual resources and to develop them to her fullest potential. This curriculum includes five major components of study: theory, ear training, music history, composition and technology. It consists of a three-year process of growth in written and auditory skills, and an understanding of music through personal expression. The courses offered encourage an understanding of music in relation to the other arts, as well as the development of the cultural and aesthetic values which music communicates.

Music scholarships are given annually to very promising musicians. Ms. Brown said, "Potential music scholarship recipients often apply auditioning on two or more instruments. If they enter playing only one instrument, they are afforded the opportunity to study a second instrument through the department."

And, yet another reason to sing the praises of this discipline, Ms. Brown points out that studies repeatedly show that sustained educational experiences in music deliver multiple, reinforcing, and cumulative impacts that help prepare young people to learn, achieve, and succeed.

The MMA curriculum and extracurriculars provide expansive opportunities that enable students to have a truly holistic education that more often than not include exposure to music. In all of the school's music programs, at every level of participation, MMA celebrates the vitality of music and makes it an integral part of life at the school. And, with a growing number of students participating in at least one music program, it is clear that MMA students experience music in a variety of ways and that music impacts both the community and the performers.

Music Department faculty member Mrs. Jen Creed Rego provided this point of view, "Music is a live art. It's important to learn the theory and history which are the foundation of all we do. We also must take the notes off the page, for music has the power to heal us as individuals and as a world. Musicians have an awesome and growing responsibility to the future." 🎵

MERION MERCY MUSIC THEATER

CELEBRATING THIRTY YEARS OF QUALITY THEATER PRODUCTIONS

The Music Man: 1985	The Sound of Music: 2003
South Pacific: 1986	Daisy Pulls It Off: 2003
West Side Story: 1987	West Side Story: 2004
Guys and Dolls: 1988	The Importance of Being Earnest: 2004
Fiddler on the Roof: 1989	The Wiz: 2005
The Sound of Music: 1990	Disney's Beauty and the Beast: 2006
The King and I: 1991	Steel Magnolias: 2006
Steel Magnolias: 1991	Thoroughly Modern Millie: 2007
Oklahoma: 1992	Little Women: 2007
The Odd Couple: 1992	Into the Woods: 2008
West Side Story: 1993	The Diary of Anne Frank: 2008
Twelve Angry Women: 1993	Crazy for You: 2009
South Pacific: 1994	The Odd Couple: 2009
Ten Little Indians: 1994	Les Miserables School Edition: 2010
The Music Man: 1995	The Phantom of the Opera: 2011
Anything Goes: 1996	Twelve Angry Women: 2011
Hello Dolly: 1997	42nd Street: 2012
Bye, Bye, Birdie: 1998	Legally Blonde: 2013
Into the Woods: 1999	Almost, Maine: 2013
Fiddler on the Roof: 2000	Grease: 2014
Brigadoon: 2001	Mary Poppins: 2015
Meet Me in St. Louis: 2001	
The Secret Garden: 2002	
The Trouble with Summer People: 2002	

NOW SHOWING

**MMA Could Point to Dozens of Alums
Making Careers in the Performing Arts—
Catch Up With a Few!**

VERONICA CHAPMAN-SMITH '94



HIGHLIGHTS:

Veronica recently returned to sing Lily in *Porgy and Bess* at Lyric Opera of Chicago. She was the soprano soloist

in Opera Philadelphia's production of *A Coffin in Egypt* with Frederica von Stade. She was also the soprano soloist for the Verdi Requiem at The Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival, and will be returning this summer to sing the *Porgy and Bess Suite*. Veronica has been a soloist with Opera Philadelphia, Opera Colorado, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Opera Birmingham, Opera Delaware, Memphis Symphony, Charlotte Symphony, Colorado Symphony, and others.

JILLIAN WOJCIECHOWSKI '96 (stage name: Jillian Louis)



HIGHLIGHTS:

Jillian will make her Broadway debut this spring in a new musical comedy *It Shoulda Been You* with Tyne Daly. This

year, she taped small roles in *Louie* and *Show Me a Hero* and the webseries *Wallflowers*, and made her solo nightclub debut at 54 Below in NYC.

KATE BRENNAN '99



HIGHLIGHTS:

Kate holds an MFA in Acting from the University of Virginia. She is now teaching at Linklater Voicework with HB Studio, an

Off-Broadway Professional Actor Training Program and on faculty with The McCarter Theatre Center in Princeton, Broadway Classroom in NYC, and continues to teach private voice and acting lessons. As an Equity actor, she is a company member with the Shakespearean theater company New Place Players. Her own theater company, BCKSEET Productions, has several projects in the works including *Backlash & Broken Windows*, an examination of how women are portrayed in the media.

DONATA CUCINOTTA '00



HIGHLIGHTS:

Praised for her "Golden Voice" by *Main Line Times*, Donata has been a working performer since 2006, when she joined the New York

Gilbert & Sullivan Players and Actors' Equity. Just last month, she was a featured singer in Bristol Riverside Theater's *Winter Musicale*. Recently, she appeared with Knoxville Opera as Josephine in *HMS Pinafore* where she was noted for her "sparkling high notes," premiered a new musical by Grammy award winning composer Paul Sullivan entitled *The Last Ferryman* at the Stonington Opera House, and went on to make her Opera Tampa debut in *Die Zauberflöte*.

PATRICIA NOONAN '03



HIGHLIGHTS: Patricia has been performing in NYC and around the country for the past seven years (after graduating from Boston College

in 2007). Most recently, she appeared as Elizabeth Bennet in a workshop of the Broadway-aimed musical *Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice* and as Macie-Lynn Pearce on *Law & Order: SVU*. Currently, Patricia is at Goodspeed Opera House in Connecticut where she is working on a new musical she wrote, *Learning How to Drown*.

JACKIE OSTICK '04



HIGHLIGHTS: Jackie earned a BA in Theatre from DeSales University in 2008 and has lived in New York for six years. She is currently rehearsing

for her seventh national tour with the ArtsPower National Touring Theatre. She has been to 49 states with this company (only missing Hawaii)! This time, she is playing Ma in *Laura Ingalls Wilder*, which is a children's musical based on the *Little House on the Prairie* books.

ALYSE WOJCIECHOWSKI '05 (stage name: Alyse Alan Louis)



HIGHLIGHTS: After graduating from New York University, Tisch School of the Arts, Alyse made her Broadway debut as Sophie in *Mamma Mia*.

She currently can be seen Off-Broadway in *Pretty Filthy*, a new musical, that opened in February at Abrons Arts Center in NYC. She and *Pretty Filthy* were just featured in *The New Yorker*.

Sip 'n Bid

It's A Wonderful Life

~ at ~

Merion Mercy Academy

More than 350 guests attended Merion Mercy's 38th annual Sip 'n Bid dinner and auction. The decorating committee graciously transformed the school into the town of Bedford Falls as a nod to the movie-inspired theme of "It's a Wonderful Life" at Merion Mercy Academy. Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and silent auction preceded a sit down dinner and the always-exciting loud auction. Guests bid on countless gift certificates and dining experiences, many one-of-a-kind gifts, such as an engraved captain's chair, private dining experience at the Union League, and a day-long Viking Yacht cruise. All proceeds from the event directly benefit students at the Academy.



Event chairs Mark and Leslie Pellegrino and Lisa and Lou Marchese stand with Principal Sister Barbara Buckley '72.



MMA alums (center l. to r.) Mimi Wolfington Heany '77 (Silent Auction Chair) and Cathy Williamson Sabia '85 (MMA Auction Coordinator) pose with their husbands Richard and Jake.



Past parents Joseph and Patricia Bruno enjoy the event with their alumna daughter Gabrielle Bruno '10.



Michael and Nancy Sutter (Reservations and Seating Chair)



Karin (Decorations Chair) and Bruce LaMonaca



James and Denise McMonagle and Lauren and Joe Campbell



Young alums from the class of '10 returned to volunteer and assist guest with mobile bidding Megan Lindsay, Caitlyn Sabia, Debbie Sokolowski, and Jennifer Guzzardi.

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COMMUNITY SERVICE

Led by the Community Service Corps (CSC), the MMA community collected toys, clothing, and household items for 40 children and several adults served by Mercy Neighborhood Ministries.



Deirdre Grady '15, Sofia Brignola '16, Sabina Maurer '16, Kristen Konieczny '15, and Courtney Pellegrino '16 load the van with toys collected for the clients of Mercy Neighborhood Ministries.

Faculty members also contributed to buy bedding sets for the adults at Mercy Neighborhood Ministries. Sister Ann Provost '64, a member of the Board of Trustees, is the Director for Mercy Neighborhood Ministries which provides adult services, childcare, professional education, and community resources in North Philadelphia.

MMA also collected requested gifts that the men who live at My Place Germantown (a home community for men who were once without a home) put on their wish lists. In early December, students and faculty member Ms. Pat Sack had visited My Place Germantown to decorate the community tree and the halls and apartment doors. This has become a CSC tradition. Faculty contributions made it possible to buy an induction burner and other communal supplies for the My Place Germantown kitchen and gift cards for the residents.

Ensuring that MMA's Christmas giving touched lives outside of the surrounding area, Fair Trade items were sold for several days at school and made popular gifts. The products sold came from countries across the globe and represent the talent of artisans who are able to carry on a long tradition of craft making in various forms. The sale of Fair Trade items directly impacts the artisans and creators of the products by being guaranteed a living wage for their handiwork.

MMA also embraced the tradition of Advent Angels, a beloved custom in which students, faculty, and staff secretly gift treats in the days leading up to Christmas break. Expanded options for alternative Advent giving encouraged many in the community to make a donation in their Advent Angel's name in lieu of a larger final gift.

CAROL NIGHTS

Merion Mercy Academy rang in the holidays with two beautiful, song-filled evenings.

One evening, Merion Mercy's eleventh and twelfth grade students enjoyed Carol Night. A proud MMA tradition, students sang holiday favorites and read scriptures about the nativity story. The second concert welcomed alumnae to share in an evening of Christmas song and merriment. The former students joined current students on stage to sing in the finale. 🎵



(Top) Handbell choir included seniors Megan Halt, Megan Gregitis, Shannon Rogers, Ciara Bauwens, Meghan Henry, Lauren Uveges, Cara Heany, and Megan Rolfes. (Bottom Left) Marissa Roney '14 and her mom Mary Robak Roney '85 enjoy Marissa's first Carol Night as an alumna. (Bottom Right) This year's nativity tableau included seniors Julia Brenner, Megan Gregitis, Jacqueline Koob, Allie MacCausland, Anna Moretto, and "Baby Jesus" Daniel Patrick Hannigan. Daniel is the son of Danielle Hannigan, MMA faculty member.

Soci@ Greetings

Some of the many thoughts and photos from the MMA community...



YVETTE S. MABRY

Carol Night at MMA 83/84! Way back #tbt



MERIONMERCY

We wish you a Merion Christmas and Happy New Year!



SHOPSATLIBERTY

@MerionMercy looks festive spreading holiday cheer through song in the Rotunda. We loved having them perform!



SETH THAYER PIDOT

#tbt MMA's Carol Night 2010: Claire Pidot as Baby Jesus.



DAVESTANGIS

The ladies of @MerionMercy sound great tonight. #carolnight

“Girls *Will Be* Girls, *but* Merion Girls *Will Be...*”

By: Dierdre McCloskey '15

Frances (Fran) McElroy '64 is a talented, Emmy award-winning documentarian and producer. She finds herself “especially drawn to subjects that relate to the arts, community development, and social change, often with an international perspective.” Both Fran’s personal and professional values are guided by a strong foundation in social justice. Her Mercy values come across from the minute you meet her—she is instantly warm, intelligent, and thoughtful. These attributes make her incredibly likeable, yet learning about her life and her career make her inspirational.

Fran’s lifelong love for the arts showed through from her time at Merion Mercy when she was awarded a piano scholarship. Fran additionally performed as a member of the school’s orchestra, playing the cello, and expressed her keen interest in various art forms in another facet: as a reporter for *Ricordia*. Fran says that the writing skills she gained from MMA have been very important in her career because she always has to write proposals and persuasions. Fran’s favorite subjects while at MMA were government



and art—different disciplines, yet both allowed her to express her point of view and helped her as she began to consider her professional goals. Along with the academic side of Merion, Fran believes that the traditions here, such as the Harvest Moon Dance, the Father/Daughter breakfasts, and wearing white gloves to Mass, were the elements that make this school such a special place.

After MMA, Fran attended Rosemont College and studied history and political science during the aftermath of the Kennedy assassination. After

college, Fran worked for ten years in Washington, D.C. as a member of Ted Kennedy's staff. Fran says that the "Kennedys were inspirational people that made government work seem like a rightful duty." Fran was living her Mercy education and explains, "Service comes in a lot of different forms and ways. This was an opportunity to do things right and make a difference in the world."

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***Fran hopes that the girls who attend MMA now can learn from her career and—no matter what career path they choose—to give back and to be grateful.***

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Fran then moved on to work at WHYY Channel 12 in Philadelphia, where she had her first job in communications. There, Fran mostly learned on the job, conducting interviews and creating longer segments that would lead into her career as a documentarian, all the while keeping a focus that her work should be meaningful and make an impact on the world. She ultimately became the Director of Program Development and an Emmy award-winning producer/director at WHYY. Her credits include *Philadelphia's Ed Bacon*, a documentary about renowned city planner Edmund Bacon, and *Who is Red Grooms?*, a documentary about the beloved American artist.

Eager to follow her professional desire to become an independent film maker, in 1991 Fran moved into nonprofit film and she is the founder and Executive Director of Shirley Road Productions. Shirley Road Productions' mission is to create educational and cultural programs that are innovative in content, point of view, and production, such as *Ballycastle*, a documentary she produced and directed. *Ballycastle* tells the story of Stuart Shils, a Philadelphia painter of Jewish heritage whose infatuation with a remote Irish village changed his life. The film won a 2004 CINE Golden Eagle Award.

Among her (practically) countless distinctions, Fran also received a 2009 Pew Fellowship in the Arts and a 2010 Leeway Foundation Transformation Award. The latter helped finance her 2011 film *Making Waves*, which offers a look into the world of Philadelphia's historic Boathouse Row. She says, "*Making Waves* would not have been possible without my two, terrific production assistants (Allison Wendling '02 and Anna Temple-West '11) from MMA."

Fran's work has been rewarding on many levels. She has been able to travel to many places, such as Ireland and Cuba, to film her documentaries and she says that the best part of her job is meeting the people in her documentaries. Fran has made documentaries for other nonprofits, such as Project HOME. The other subjects that Fran focusses on often relate to the arts, and her documentaries shed light on topics that are not discussed, such as her current project featuring the culture of African American ballerinas. This is how Fran seeks justice; she knows that the documentaries she makes raise discussions that can (and often do) then lead to action. Though she has received many awards for her work, Fran believes that the biggest achievement that she can receive for her effort is when her "documentaries are shown on public television and people can see them and hopefully take something away from the experience, thus achieving more perspective in the world."

Another important aspect that Fran says she gained from her career is "all that she has learned from all of the people in her documentaries." She maintains that one of the best ways to "Live Mercy and Seek Justice" is to respect all people. Fran hopes that the girls who attend MMA now can learn from her career and—no matter what career path they choose—to give back and to be grateful.

Aside from her work, Fran has many other interests. She has taught at the Scribe Video Center and was a founding Board Member of the Philadelphia Independent Film & Video Association (PIFVA). She is Vice President of the Pennsylvania Academy of Ballet Society. Fran also served on Merion Mercy's Alumnae Association Executive Board, and she remains an active member of the group. Whether faced with a professional or personal decision, Fran offers advice to past, current, and future Merion students: "Keep on keeping on! Don't get discouraged when you meet a barrier. Just believe in yourself and keep on." 🍌

class notes



Share Your News!

Merion Mercy Academy encourages all alumnae to share news in the Class Notes section of *Mater Matters*. To contribute, send your news to kcawley@merion-mercy.com or write to: Kristina Stanton Cawley '90, Alumnae News, 511 Montgomery Ave., Merion Station, PA 19066.

(Class Notes may be edited for length, grammar, and content.)

The Forties

Pegg Graves Ewing '48 wrote in, "As one of 'Kate's Girls' from 1948, I wish to send my thanks for 12 years of wonderful memories. The teachers were great guides to learn, not only facts, but how to live through Him. I am so thankful to live to see the MMA of today. God Bless the faculty, the administration, and 'The Girls.'"

The Fifties

Margaret Lehman Garcia '58 proudly shared news with her annual fund donation, "My son Patrick McCormick was promoted to captain in the United States Navy."

The Sixties

Constance Clay Sondhi '67 announced, "I am a grandmother of a sweet little baby girl named Emily Hope. She was born September 10, 2014. The proud parents are my son Jared and his wife Lauren."

The Seventies

Phyllis Coletta '74 reported, "Sister Alice Mary used to laugh at my energy. Well, Sister, I was a litigation attorney for 15 years, a high school English teacher for a few, then ditched it all to become a cowgirl and wilderness guide. Quit my job, sold everything and moved to Colorado for 10 years where I lived life to the fullest. Back in Jersey now, where I have reconnected

with 'The Amazing Women of '74.' We network, share experiences and skills, and still love life like teenagers."



• The lovely Shields ladies (three sisters and one sister-in-law) connect for a pre-Christmas lunch, and spent some time sharing MMA memories and the many connections to the school community. Between the Shields and Robinson families there are eight alums, including the most recent graduate Anna DeFeo '12 who is currently studying at King's College, London. Pictured here are Mary Jo Robinson Shields '78, Maureen Shields Manion '66, Agnes Shields Finigan '72, MMA staff member, and Meg Shields Roe '75.

The Eighties

Nancy Calabrese-Gansky '84 wrote in with her annual fund gift, "I have been married for 22 years and have three children: two daughters (ages 19 and 18) and a son (age 12)."

Angela David Beatty '89 shared, "My oldest son Ben is a junior at Haddonfield Memorial High School. This past summer, he participated in The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's (CHOP) High School Volunteer Program. He worked in PICU and really enjoyed his time there. I was thrilled to find out that three Merion Mercy students also participated in this program: **Jianna Pappalardo '15**, **Daniela Colavita '16**, and **Emily Hall '15**. In other news, I'm still working at KYW Newsradio 1060 as Continuity Director. My younger son Sam is a seventh grader and my daughter Kate is in third grade. My husband Tom and I are very proud of our kids, but they are growing up so fast. At



• Alice McGettigan Barr '75, Suzanne McGettigan Kelly '78, and Mimi McGettigan Kehan '72 gather in New York City for lunch in early December. Not present, but there in sisterly spirit: Maureen McGettigan Wade '74 and Margaret McGettigan Murphy '80.

class notes

our 25th reunion last April, I found myself in the College Counseling hallway looking at college information for Ben! How is that possible?! Didn't we just graduate yesterday? Time flies, or as Sister Rita Small would say, Tempus Fugit!"

The Nineties

Julie Owsik Ackerman '94 spent a morning with the class of 2015 in September, teaching two writing workshops focused on the college application essay. Julie and the girls completed brainstorming exercises, shared ideas for topics, and discussed what makes an essay compelling. The students started first drafts and learned a few editing techniques. Julie will be back at MMA this summer, teaching a similar workshop for rising seniors. For information on her workshops, or help with any writing project, contact her at julieack@gmail.com.

Lauren FitzPatrick '94 shared, "Oscar FitzPatrick Byrne turned a year old on October 28! He met lots of '94 alums

the morning of our reunion. I'm back to work at the *Chicago Sun-Times*, covering K-12 education and sort of competing against my husband who writes about politics for the *Chicago Tribune*."



● Oscar FitzPatrick Byrne

Christa Gutzler Thomas '98 married Michael Thomas on September 13, 2014. Many family members and friends from MMA enjoyed the day with the couple, including classmates and bridal party



members from the class of '98 (pictured here) **Laura McHugh**, **Adrienne Barker**, and **Sarah Sandoski** and the wonderful mother-of-the-bride **Lori Zeller Lesutis '75**, MMA faculty member.

The 00s

Jennifer Ayoub '00 said, "I am currently working part-time as program coordinator assisting the CEO of HealthWorks Academies, Dale Keshishian, with her entrepreneurial educational start-up as part of the Uncommon Individual Foundation. We are preparing high school students for STEM education fields in the healthcare industry through career readiness and 21st century job savvy skills. I am passionate about reaching and supporting these high school students through this educational start-up which has great potential."

Meghan Gaffney '02 sent this message with her annual fund gift, "Being back home in the Philadelphia area really helps me feel reconnected to the Circle of Mercy! I started a new role at UPenn a few months ago, but I was thrilled to find that one of my former students I advised at WCU is MMA alumna **Aaliyah Chisholm '12**. The Merion bond is undeniable! We reunited at Merion for Carol Night."

Maureen Owston Glick '02 wrote in, "I got married on July 19, 2014 to Jordan Glick at St. John the Evangelist Church in Philadelphia. The music was wonderful and reminded me of mass in the Motherhouse chapel as **Eileen McFadden '02** and **Elizabeth Leis '02** sang the 'Magnificat' while we prayed to the Blessed Mother. I was blessed to have the support of my matron of honor **Jessie Hearn Barlow '02**

Dr. Alisa Alfonsi Lo Sasso '90



- NHS Officers (all seniors) pose with this year's speaker: Sarah Jensen, Lainey O'Hara, Dr. Alisa Alfonsi Lo Sasso '90, Kelly Barton, and Elizabeth Schrieber. Alisa is also a current parent as her daughter Ava Lo Sasso '18 started at MMA this year.

fostered and modeled by Merion Mercy's academic community.

Since the first induction ceremony of its Catherine McAuley Chapter, Merion Mercy Academy has remained steadfast to the values of the National Honor Society. The administration and faculty are dedicated to inspiring young women to seek excellence in all life choices.

Students attest to the fact that much is demanded from them, but at the same time demonstrate that expecting excellence is a noble, achievable, and honorable goal.

Dr. Alisa Alfonsi Lo Sasso '90 served as the keynote speaker for this year's National Honor Society (NHS) Induction. Each year, the NHS members select someone from the school community as an honorary member of the chapter. This year that selection was MMA science teacher Mrs. Sue McGowan (mother of **Sheila McGowan '00**).

The ideals of the National Honor Society, whose life-goals include scholarship, leadership, service and character, are



● Maureen Owston Glick '02 with her friends from the class of '02

and bridesmaids **Kathryn Willcox '02**, **Eileen McFadden '02**, and **Julia Nolan '02**, and cantor **Elizabeth Leis '02**. In attendance were **Suzanne McDevitt Spiro '02**, **Laura Hill Geise '02**, **Katie Brogan '02**, and **Annette Ponnock '02**.”

Suzanne McDevitt Spiro '02 wrote in, “Announcing a new arrival to the MMA family! (My husband) Greg and I welcomed Henry Daniel. The proud godmother is **Caitlin McDevitt Lupton '04**.”

Jackie Ryan '03 finished her CRNA from Villanova University and just began working at Main Line Health with United Anesthesia, primarily in Lankenau Hospital. She is currently engaged and set to be married July 25, 2015 at the Union League to Matt Ratigan.

Regina Toto D'Avella '05 announced that she married Chris D'Avella on September 6, 2014. MMA friends from the class of '05 **Katie Davis**, **Christina Williams Van de Castle**, and **Tara Lane** were bridesmaids. Regina and Chris met in medical school and are in their second year of residency in Pittsburgh.

Mary Ellen Lotkowski '05 shared, “I graduated from Chestnut Hill College

in 2013 with a Master in Education and a Montessori education certificate. I'm currently teaching in Delaware's first public Montessori program in the Christina School District. I married Daniel Biehl on December 13, 2014 in

front of close friends and family, including MMA alums (and cousins) **Allison Lotkowski Schmidt '98** and **Jennifer Lotkowski Chin '96**.”

Maria Angelo-DiGiovanni '06 shared, “I married Steve DiGiovanni on November 8, 2014 at the National Shrine of Saint Rita of Cascia in Philadelphia. My sister **Gina Angelo '10** was maid of honor, and **Gina Piccioni '06** and **Kellianne Nicholas '06** were bridesmaids. Among my guests were **Meagan Sloan '06**, **Stephanie Ferriola '06**, and **Jessica Rossello '06**.”

It is certainly apparent that **Sara Foelster '06** has taken and applied Merion Mercy's precepts of “compassion and service” in her professional life. A nurse at Children's Hospital of



● Sara Foelster '06 with Filipino children, Philippines



● Katie Glynn Miccarelli '05 married Matthew Miccarelli on August 1, 2014 in Philadelphia. MMA graduates who helped to celebrate the occasion included: **Katy Barnett '05**, **Meghan Power '05**, **Shannon Mone '05**, **Kelsey Glynn '08**, **Emily Taylor '05**, **Gerri Nguyen '05**, **Katie Glynn Miccarelli '05**, **Kelly Rigler '05**, **Jennifer Powell '05**, **Kellianne Nicholas '06**, and **Aileen Callahan '05**.



● Sara Foelster '06 providing wound care, Senegal

Philadelphia (CHOP) since graduating from the University of Pennsylvania's School of Nursing, Sara has already completed 5 international medical relief missions, spanning the globe from Africa to Southeast Asia. She has treated the Talibe children in Senegal, has twice visited Haiti to work in clinics providing urgently needed medical care to a population still devastated from the 2010 earthquake, and worked with victims of 2013 Super Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. Just this past summer

(August 2014) she participated in CHOP's Guatemala Surgery Mission. For recreation, Sara also travels, having visited Peru and Tanzania, where she climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, reaching the summit (over 19,000 feet) in a pre-dawn snow storm on January 17, 2014! Sara concluded the 2014 calendar year in England, where she will be studying at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, in preparation for more medical missions.



● Kimberly McKelvey, Becky Hays '06, Katie McKelvey Swartz '06, Stacy Fromhold '06, Mia DeCrescenzo '06, and Kelly McKelvey '04 at Katie and Daniel's wedding



● Friends from class of '06 Gina Piccioni, Jessica Rossello, Kellianne Nicholas, Maria Angelo-DiGiovanni, Stephanie Ferriola, and Meagan Sloan at Maria and Steve's wedding

A JOURNEY TO MIDWIFERY

Jatolloa Davis '06



One class, one lesson, one spark. That's all it took for me to find my calling. I call myself Midwife.

On December 13, 2014 I graduated from the University of Pennsylvania's Nurse Midwifery/NP of Women's Health program. It was a beautiful celebration filled with love, support and tradition.

Throughout the day I was reminded just how blessed I was to have made it to this point, finally fulfilling a dream. But it was not without some amazing human beings and continual sparks of inspiration.

It was junior year, in Mrs. McClellan's AP Biology class that I became enamored with the reproductive system and the idea that a woman was capable of growing another human. So I thought, "I'll become an OB/GYN and deliver babies." Luckily, the

daughter of one of my best friends at MMA Maura Bernt '07 adopted me for "Take your Daughter to Work Day" and introduced me to a midwife. That day, I witnessed the transformative relationship between a midwife and first-time mom. The level of respect, care, and empowerment shown by that midwife was inspiring. I was going to be a midwife.

To become a midwife, I had to complete nursing school. And then I worked for several years as a registered nurse. It was a wonderfully challenging journey, but I never forgot my midwifery dream.

As a midwife, I get to provide evidence-based, women-centered care to healthy women throughout their lifespan, from adolescence to menopause. Each day I get to remind women just how powerful they are. And for that, I am forever grateful for that class, that lesson, that spark.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Jatolloa is now working in Pittsburgh at The Midwife Center for Birth and Women's Health. She earned a fellowship for this program. She promises, "I will be back (in the Philadelphia area) when the time is right! For sure!"



● Ryan and Nicole Addis Tanker '07 enjoying their wedding day.

Nicole Addis Tanker '07 married Ryan Tanker on May 24, 2014 at Saint Margaret's Church. "I was also lucky enough to have **Katie Buhl '07** and **Claire Phelan '07** in my wedding party!"

MMA past parent Patricia Meehan sent some good news our way, "Hope all is well at MMA! I keep up on MMA news with my colleague's daughter, **Maria Leone '16**. She spent the summer volunteering at Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (HUP) and often she commutes with her mom. My MMA daughters always connect with their Merion friends. **Colleen Meehan '07** is back from Chicago and enjoying her MMA friends in the area (most recently, **Meg Brooks Meredith's '07** wedding and trips to Sea Isle). **Lauren Meehan '11** celebrated her 21st birthday with many MMA friends right before departing for University of Pittsburgh and **Kasey Meehan '05** has enjoyed MMA group outings for city dinners and beach nights." Mrs. Meehan also passed along this update from her workplace, the University of Pennsylvania: **Emily Corcoran '11** "second-team All-Ivy attack proved she could be an offensive force in 2013 with a breakout campaign that featured 13 goals and nine assists, good for second and first on the Red and Blue, respectively. Not only did Emily score often last season—she scored when it mattered most. Her five game-winning goals led the Ivy League. The senior boasts a combination of size, strength and finesse that makes her one

of the hardest offensive threats to defend in the Ancient Eight. (She) is capable of taking on many important roles, ranging from goal scorer, setup man and midfield presence to serving as a strong-willed leader. Although her physique and skill set are difficult to replicate, her hustle and grit can be contagious. Now a captain, Emily has the opportunity to take her lead-by-example style to the next level and help a team full of newcomers reach its full potential. Her coach (and fellow MMA alumna) **Colleen Quinn Fink '96** is more than happy to have the veteran anchor her 2014 squad."

Katrina Pisch '10 just completed her volleyball career as a senior at Eastern University and was selected to First Team All-American NCAA DIII Volleyball Team. This is the third year Katrina was named an All-American. In her four-year career at Eastern, Katrina was named First Team All Freedom Conference all four years. She helped lead her team to four Conference Championships and four trips to the NCAA Championship Tournament finishing (chronologically) 4th, 16th, 8th, and 16th in the nation. She also reached her 100th win at EU as well as recording her 1000th kill in her senior year. This year she had the highest hitting percentage in the NCAA DIII (.444%) Katrina was also named on the All-American Academic Honor Roll carrying a 3.5 majoring in History/Secondary Education.

Alexandra LaMonaca '11 helped MMA launch Career Daze, a student organization, in December. Career Daze connects current MMA students with alumnae. Graduates come back to the halls they once walked to talk about their occupation and the exciting components of their field. Alexandra shared her experience of college life, her pre-med track at the University of Pittsburgh, and her involvement in the Global Public Health Brigades.

Katrina Keating '12 visited MMA theology classes to talk about her college experiences and service trips to Panama, Costa Rica, and Peru. She focused on the importance of identity and encouraged students to evaluate their priorities, inspiring them to make Mercy a central part of their lives.

Megan Kurtz '12 had a sculpture selected for display in the Student Art Show at Boston University's Gallery of Fine Arts in September. This past summer, she took two studio art courses during a six week study abroad at the BU Art Studios in Venice, Italy. During her stay in Venice she also traveled to Milan, Florence, and Padua, and visited art museums in Paris during a stay there. Megan serves as Art Director for the BU Advertising Club. She also volunteers with Student Studio, an outreach program sponsored by the Boston University Community Service Center. Through this program she teaches weekly art lessons to children in an urban, after-school setting. Megan is an Advertising major with a concentration in Sociology. She has a minor in Visual Arts, which she attributes to her experience as an Art Major at MMA as well as the wonderful influence and guidance of Sister Kathleen Fox and **Mrs. Maria Miele Boyd '72**.

Moir Pannepacker '12 sent this message to Director of Advancement Services Mrs. Patti McAleer, "Bonjour from Paris! I just wanted to thank you for getting **Holly Dennis '12** and me in touch with **Barbara Bryne '74** in Paris this semester. The three of us finally met in her beautiful apartment and joined in an amazing dinner with her daughter Nathalie. It was a night that felt like home with great

food, great company, and even better Merion memories. We had a blast and Holly and I are so grateful.”



● **Moira Pannepacker '12**, **Barbara Byrne '74** (MMA Alumnae Abroad committee member), and **Holly Dennis '12**.

Mary Paschos '14 is currently a freshman at Temple University studying Art. She visited MMA art classes to talk about her experiences as a college freshman studying architecture. She also shared some of her most-recent work and explained “studio life” and all it entails.

Weddings

Michael Thomas to **Christa Gutzler '98**
on September 13, 2014

Andrew Lee to **Jill DiPrinzio '00**
on December 7, 2013

Jeff Wynegar to **Kristin Doyle '00**
on September 26, 2014

Edward Beitz to **Clare Tracy '00**
on November 15, 2014

Peter Fiske to **Celeste Viggiano '01**
in October, 2013

J.P. Geise to **Laura Hill '02**
on September 20, 2014

Andrew Medwid to **Bridgett McGinley '04**
on May 17, 2014

Matthew Hamill to **Megan McInnes '04**
on November 8, 2014

Kevin Hilferty to **Katie Moscony '04**
on September 13, 2014

Matthew Miccarelli to **Katie Glynn '05**
on August 1, 2014



● **Christan Morley '03**, **Maureen Owston Glick '02**, **Julie Lentz Powell '03**, **Alyssa Hill '08**, **Christy Hill '13**, **Laura Hill Geise '02**, **Elizabeth Leis '02**, **Suzanne McDevitt Spiro '02**, **Cathy Hill Pierce '77**, and **Maureen Hill Davis '81**

Ben Schneider to **Sacha Jowise '05**
on September 6, 2014

Daniel Biehl to **Mary Ellen Lotkowski '05**
on December 13, 2014

William Easton to **Molly O'Neill '05** on
August 2, 2014

Chris D'Avella to **Regina Toto '05** on
September 6, 2014

Steve DiGiovanni to **Maria Angelo '06**
on November 8, 2014

Kevin Finnegan to **Caroline Gallagher '06**
on October 4, 2014

Daniel Swartz to **Katie McKelvey '06**
on September 6, 2014

Tom Canuso to **Elizabeth Moran '06**
on September 13, 2014

Ryan Tanker to **Nicole Addis '07**
on May 24, 2014

Andrew Sellers to **Gabrielle Albanesius '08**
on November 28, 2014

Benjamin Kendall to **Laura Matz '08**
on July 12, 2014

Jerome Stinson, MMA Staff,
to **Camille Bryant** on September 11, 2014

Save the Date

MERI-UNION

May 2, 2015

Classes Ending in 0 and 5

This is Your Reunion Year!

Mass at 4:00 p.m. in the Chapel for all alumnae and current and former faculty with a reception for all at the school immediately following Mass.

Dinner for the reunion classes (those ending in 0 and 5) begins at 7:00 p.m.

Please visit www.merion-mercy.com/alumnae for the latest updates and registration information.

Look for your invitation in March. Please contact Barbara Colantuono Harrison '82, Alumnae Relations Coordinator, at bharrison@merion-mercy.com or 610-664-6655, ext. 120 with any inquiries.

Arrivals

Jim and Maggie Master Parish '97, a daughter, Fiona McKernan

Matthew and Meaghan Killeen Fishbone '99, a daughter, Molly Margaret

Dan and Meredith Amole Dougherty '00, a daughter, Claire Elise and, a son, John Charles

Ryan and Elizabeth Huyette Babeuf '02, a son, John Joseph



● Henry Daniel



● Robb Christopher



● Caroline Elizabeth



● Molly Margaret

Greg and Suzanne McDevitt Spiro '02, a son, Henry Daniel

Christopher and Megan McCarthy Clark '03, a son, Robb Christopher

Andrew and Moira Doyle Mink '04, a son, Sean Chandler

Agnes Shields Finigan '72, MMA Staff, a grandson, John Francis (Jack)

John and Danielle Hannigan, MMA Faculty, a son, Daniel Patrick

Eileen Daly Killeen '68, MMA Staff, a granddaughter, Caroline Elizabeth Killeen, and a granddaughter, Molly Margaret Fishbone

Sue McGowan, MMA Faculty, a grandson, Finn McGowan, and a granddaughter, Grace McGowan

Mike Wallace, MMA Staff, a granddaughter, Lillian Ann



IN MEMORIAM

Merion Mercy Academy expresses its condolences to the family and friends of the following members of our community. Please keep their families in your prayers.

John M. Atkins, husband of **Barbara McCormick Atkins '63**

Dr. Robert Ayerle, father of **Sally Ann Ayerle Corbley '69** and **Chris Ayerle '71**

Aurelia Bender, mother of **Dr. Henry Bender**, Former MMA Trustee, grandmother of **Katie Bender '96**, Former MMA Faculty

Jane Bender, mother of **Katie Bender '96**, Former MMA Faculty, and wife of **Dr. Henry Bender**, Former MMA Trustee

Betty Jean Craft, grandmother of **Ashley Stang Esposito**, Former MMA Faculty

Ethel Dagit Cunningham '51

Edward Cyzewski, grandfather of **Susie Momenec-Cush '93**, father-in-law of **Kevin Momenec**, Former MMA Trustee

Rita Bateman Dailey '55

Charles "Charlie" Dietzler, grandfather of **Meredith Amole Dougherty '00**, **Allison Amole '04**, **Erika Javage '07**, **Jessica Javage '10**, and **Deanna Javage '13**

Margaret Mary "Meg" Flores '89

Lucy Flowers, mother of **Christine Flowers '79**

Stephen Foga, father of **Ellenmarie Foga '04**

Margaret Mary Fox, grandmother of **Mary Catherine Fox '07** and **Meredith Fox '07**

Loretta Galdo, grandmother of **Joanna (Baldassarre) Galdo '98 RIP**

Sister Loretta Marie Graham, RSM, Former MMA Faculty

Beatrice "Bunny" Guerrieri, mother of **Lorrie Guerrieri '06**

Anne Hackett, grandmother of **Alexandra Fanto '13** and **Lucy Fanto '16**

Angelina Hannon, grandmother of **Maureen O'Toole '02**

John Heillman, Jr., grandfather of **Moir Lake '05**, **Marissa Lake '08**, and **Colleen Lake '12**

Janet Toebe Hinckle '37, mother of **Janet Hinckle Reitano '66**, mother-in-law of **Kathleen O'Sullivan Hinckle '62**, grandmother of **Christin Hinckle '87** and **Tara Hinckle Bedenkop '88**, sister

of **Marguerite Toebe Doxylion '31 RIP**, **Elizabeth (Dime) Toebe Castner '38**, and **Dolores (Dolly) Toebe Horsell '45**, aunt of **Virginia Horsell-Conte '76**, **Margaret (Maggie) Horsell Lovell '77**, and **Janet Horsell Herlihy '79**

Viola Hogan, mother of **Kathleen Hogan Leiberman '64**

Eva Meehan Keating, mother of **Pierce Keating**, MMA Trustee, mother-in-law of **Katie Duffy Keating '77**, grandmother of **Kristen Keating Weeks '02**, **Kyle Keating Hurtado '04**, **Chloe Keating '07**, **Kimberly Keating '09**, **Charlotte Keating '10**, **Katrina Keating '12**, and **Kolbe Keating '17**

Maryellen Klatt, mother of **Mary Klatt '13**, aunt of **Erin Connolly Scott '01** and **Aileen Connolly '07**

Marie Lutz, mother of **Donna Lutz Boettger '78**, **Cynthia Lutz Young '81**, **Janice Lutz '83**, **Sandra Lutz Smith '84**, and **Elizabeth Lutz Crompton '89**, grandmother of **Sarah Young '16**

Richard Marra, grandfather of **Elizabeth Martelli Jeffries '05**

Daniel J. McGuire, brother of **Mary Carol McGuire '61** and **Patricia McGuire '70**

Edward J. McGuire, Jr., brother of **Mary Carol McGuire '61** and **Patricia McGuire '70**

Mary R. McGuire, mother of **Mary Carol McGuire '61** and **Patricia McGuire '70**

Mary Meehan, grandmother of **Stephanie Meehan '09** and **Elizabeth Meehan '10**

Edward Moran, Jr., husband of **Marguerite Hauserman Moran '69**

Frank Piccolo, grandfather of **Lydia Esposito '13**, **Lana Esposito '14**, and **Liza Esposito '18**

Arlene Violetti Romano '72

Robert F. Rossiter, grandfather of **Mary Lastowka '12**

Doris Hurley Savitsky '49, sister of **Gertrude Hurley Rossman '48**

Joann Schaeffer, sister-in-law of **Sister Elaine Schaeffer, RSM, MMA Staff**

Richard Wolfington, husband of **Mary Louise Kelly Wolfington '62**



THE MERION MERCY JOURNEY CONTINUES.

Please help us strengthen the **QUALITY OF MERCY** we bring to the world.

Please give online at www.merion-mercy.com,
click *Supporting MMA*, or use the enclosed gift envelope.

For more information, contact Agnes Shields Finigan '72, Director of Annual Fund,
at 610-664-6655, ext. 126, or afinigan@merion-mercy.com.



MMAnnual Fund

Mater Matters

MERION MERCY ACADEMY

511 Montgomery Avenue
Merion Station, PA 19066



THERE'S
**SOMETHING
FOR EVERYONE**
AT

Merion Mercy's Expanded
Co-ed Summer Programs.



Pre-6th and Pre-7th Grades:
Middle School Jump Start
JULY 6 - JULY 17

Pre-8th Grade: Summer Academy
JUNE 22 - JULY 17

High School Placement
Test Preparation
JUNE 15 - 26

Pre-9th Grade Classes
**STARTING
JUNE 15**

High School Level:
Classes for Credit
**STARTING
JUNE 8**

Summer brochures and online registration are now available.
Visit www.merion-mercy.com/summerprograms.