

THE MAGAZINE OF MERION MERCY ACADEMY

Mater Matters

WINTER 2013



From the Principal



As an avid reader, I have sampled a diverse body of authors and genres

as of late. Although my preference does not lean to the genre commonly called “Chick Lit,” last year I heard from a few alums that Elin Hilderbrand’s novel, *Silver Girl*, made many references to Merion Mercy Academy throughout the book. Curious to know how the school’s name was being used, I bought a digital copy and settled down to a light read. I was not disappointed. Nor was I upset or concerned with how Hilderbrand referenced Merion Mercy. Her two main characters, Connie and Meredith, were high

school friends, having met fictionally of course at MMA. These two characters were lifelong friends, through thick and thin. Sound familiar?

The book’s title took me down memory lane. *Silver Girl* is taken from Simon and Garfunkel’s song, *Bridge over Troubled Water*: “Sail on, Silver Girl, sail on by. Your time has come to shine, all your dreams are on their way.” As a junior in high school, I loved that song. It reached deeply into my heart and resonated with what was important to me: friendship — being there for each other in good times and hard moments. And, of course, celebrating one another as we started to reach some milestones in our lives and looked forward to the future.

Hilderbrand hit on a universal theme in *Silver Girl*, and perhaps her choice of Merion Mercy was just tossing a dart at a map that landed at the intersection of Merion Road and Montgomery Avenue. Nonetheless, she got it right for us. We are sailing right behind; we are there for you, celebrating achievements and milestones, and empathizing with sufferings and loss. That is what it means to be part of the Christian community, to live the paschal mystery: “I will lay me down like a bridge over troubled water.”

As we can serve one another in both abstract and concrete ways, I can’t help but think of Jesus as another metaphorical bridge that takes us over the chasm to be with God. I often say that part of our work at Merion Mercy is to bring souls to Christ. Often using foundress Catherine McAuley’s principles to guide me as a Mercy educator, her words instruct, “Let us fit the young women for earth without unfitting them for heaven.” As a school, we continue to do this work and serve as a bridge for the young women of MMA. 🍌

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sister Barbara Buckley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sister Barbara Buckley '72
Principal

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Sister Barbara Buckley '72

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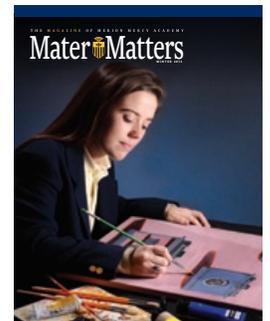
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ON THE COVER



Art major Eilis Kennedy '13 works on a piece inspired by American artist, Wayne Thiebaud. Eilis's class is studying composition and light in the paintings of Thiebaud. Eilis plans to attend Syracuse University or Marist College in the fall and major in fashion design.

SCHOOL Happenings

FALL Traditions AND Outreach

The Merion Mercy community enjoyed fall traditions in 2012. **Mercy Day**, the **Harvest Moon** dance, and the **Weenie Roast** brought great excitement to the MMA students, parents, alumnae, faculty, and friends.

In terms of outreach, MMA's Ministry Team held a Thanksgiving food drive to benefit St. Francis Inn, Ardmore Food Pantry, St. Katharine Drexel Food Cupboard, and Mercy Neighborhood Ministries. The school's faculty made monetary donations to purchase more than \$400 worth of turkeys earmarked for Mercy Neighborhood Ministries.

The school community also supported a student-run food drive for victims of Hurricane Sandy as many of those impacted faced a challenging holiday season. Student coordinators asked that everyone contribute one or two non-perishable items. In total, the school distributed close to 1,600 non-perishable items to those in need.

MMA Celebrates Mercy Day



The spirit of Catherine McAuley was remembered, honored, and celebrated in many special ways. Student take a minute to pose on Mercy Day 2012. L. to r. Freshmen Maria Leone, Grace Funchion, Kayla Gerace, and Amber Young "Ignite their Mercy."

Harvest Moon



MMA students dating back to the 1940s would know this favorite fall fete. L. to r. Juniors Jennifer Quach, Alessandra Zito, and Christina Brennan enjoy the 2012 Harvest Moon.

MMA's Time-Honored Halloween Celebration

For more than 50 years, MMA's Weenie Roast has provided 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 knock it out of the park with a clever baseball theme. Front l. to r. Erin Parker, Catherine Maurer, Sofia Sena, Annie Young, Megan Rolfes, Stephanie Horn, and Grace Harbison.

Back l. to r. Audra Adams, Audrey Rake, Kate DeVlieger, Gabriela Ferroni, Allegra Malgier, Elizabeth Messina, Marissa Spallucci, Deirdre Grady, Jessica Bruno, and Erin Donnelly.



Thanksgiving Food Drive

Students help load up food that will be taken to St. Katharine Drexel Food Cupboard. L. to r. Jasmine Raj '15, Ciara Bauwens '15, Jianna Pappalardo '15, Mr. Gus, Elizabeth Mattera '15, Shannon Rogers '15, Emily Acito '15, Olivia Diaz '15, and Marina Tsikouras '13.

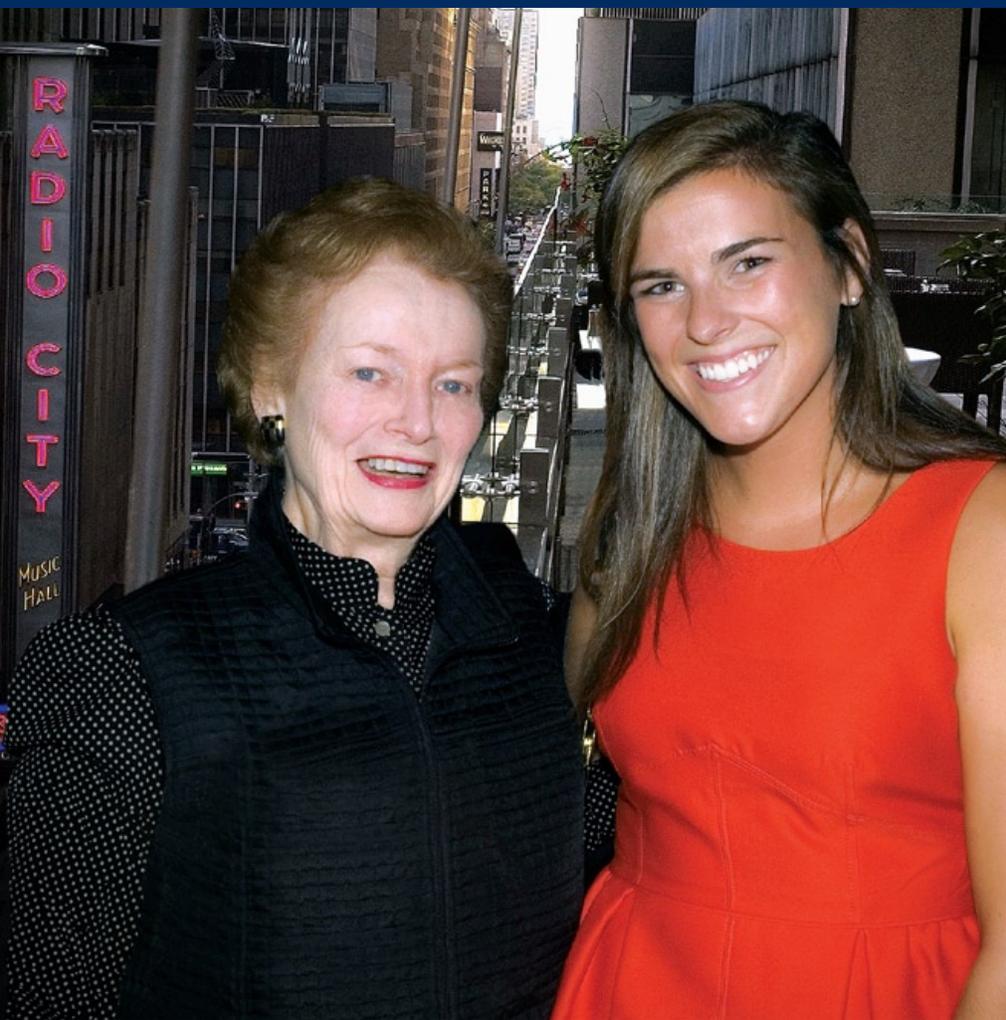
Wish Upon A Hero...

Hurricane Sandy impacted thousands of families in the region. Amid the challenges that so many faced in the wake of Sandy, countless Hurricane Heroes came to the rescue. These individuals lessened the burdens of others and showed the importance of outreach. Among these Hurricane Heroes were five MMA students. Grace Gutos, Julia Littleton, Amelia Piccone, Maria Zeris, and Courtney Pellegrino knew they had to do something to help. Partnering with Wish Upon a Hero, a non-profit organization founded after Hurricane Katrina that has granted more than 96,000 wishes to date, the students set out to make a difference. Grace Gutos serves as National Youth Ambassador for Wish Upon a Hero, so uniting a service-minded community such as Merion Mercy with Wish Upon a Hero proved a logical fit and a great way to get quick relief to the hurricane victims.

The five students initiated a call to action at school, asking the entire student body to participate. Their goal was specific: they hoped to donate 1,000 non-perishable items to Wish Upon a Hero. The organization would then take the donations to local churches and individuals to get them through the post-Sandy weeks. Merion Mercy swiftly rose to the occasion, collecting more than 1,000 items in three days. Wish Upon a Hero's "Wish Van" picked up the food and promptly delivered to those in need.



L. to r. Hurricane Heroes Grace Gutos '16, Amelia Piccone '16, Maria Zeris '16, Courtney Pellegrino '16, and Julia Littleton '15 prepare to load the "Wish Van" with food.



Alums from classes spanning 60 years attended. Pat Carbine '48 and Monica O'Donoghue '08 had the opportunity to connect.

MMA in NYC

MMA's first event in New York City met with an incredible response and proved to be a complete success. More than 50 alums living / working in or near NYC gathered at the Terrace Club in September. "We were away from MMA in location, but not in Mercy spirit," said Patricia McAleer, Director of Development Services.

MMA staffers who made the trip included Linda Miele Benton '75, Alumnae Association Coordinator, Sister Barbara Buckley '72, Principal, Maureen McKeegan Cullen '62, Vice President for Development, Agnes Shields Finigan '72, Director of Annual Fund, Eileen Daly Killeen '68, Director of Admissions, and Patricia McAleer.

"I think the event was successful on so many levels, not the least of which was the genuine reengagement with the school that it created among the guests. I was truly delighted to be a part of it," shared Megwin Finegan Hoopes '82.



L. to r. Kerry Doyle '99, Colleen Ruane '99, and Kate Cafferky Giancatarino '00

The event brought friends together and acquainted alumnae from many graduating classes, ranging from the class of 1948 to the class of 2009. Additionally, the gathering promoted one of the Alumnae Association's Career and Mentoring Committee's objectives of providing alumnae with networking and mentoring opportunities.

Mrs. McAleer noted that “The LinkedIn platform used by Career and Mentoring proved essential in identifying alums living / working in or near NYC.” Having accurate contact information and a cyber location for alums living in that region to connect with one another built a solid base and a lot of enthusiasm.



The ladies of the eighties l. to r. Megwin Finegan Hoopes '82, Joanne Nasuti '85, Kathy Oldfield '83, MMA Trustee, and Susan Lopusniak Jurevics '85.



Joan Mastrangelo Marter '64 and Christine Ryan Viola '64



Deanne DeCrescenzo '03, Patricia Noonan '03, Patricia McAleer, and Sister Barbara Buckley '72

And, in true MMA fashion, an unintentional outreach component came as a byproduct. The wrath of Hurricane Sandy hit just weeks after the event. Alums, some of whom met for the first time that evening, reached out to one another, offering various types of support, including shelter.

Showing once again how “In Mercy, we join with one another on our journey” (“Circle of Mercy”).



Members of the MMA in NYC event committee gather l. to r. Monica O'Donoghue '08, Meggie Taylor '08, Mariel Boyd '05, Kate Barker '06, Kate Tracy '05, Kelly McKelvey '04, Deanne DeCrescenzo '03, and Megwin Finegan Hoopes '82.

“I think the event was successful on so many levels, not the least of which was the genuine reengagement with the school that it created among the guests.”



The ART of Communication: Past, Present, and Future

One of the first ways we learn to communicate is through art. Children draw long before they write. Writing would never be able to develop without first understanding pictures as symbols, and the significance of art just starts there. Art develops expressive skills that enrich writing, and also promotes print awareness, spatial relation skills, and verbal creativity. Much has been written about how art enhances creativity, imagination, and self-esteem, but far less is said about how art encourages communication, cognition, critical thinking, and learning.

MMA recognizes that fine art offers a rich and varied array of learning opportunities for students. Merion boasts the proud distinction of being one of the few high schools to have an academic major in art. This long-running program had modest beginnings dating back

more than 70 years. When Sister Ethel Sweeney (Sister Lucille), former MMA art teacher, came onboard to teach art at Merion more than 60 years ago, the Art Department consisted of “a small room in the basement of the Convent next to the carpenter’s room. We had one table, a couple of stools, and a bucket of water that I brought in from the laundry room every day,” said Sister Ethel. “As far as display areas, we would tape artwork up on the plaster walls. The creations stayed up about 10 minutes if we were lucky. If a wind came in, that was it.”

When the school moved from the convent to the current building, space for fine art was a priority. “While the construction of the new site was underway in the 1950s, I would walk on the girders over where the Art Department would be. I would imagine what it would be like — where the tables

would go, where the sink would go.” When the building was complete, “there were kilns, a closet for all the art supplies, a huge paper cutter, areas for displays... all the things we needed.”

“Once we moved into the new building, it was just like going to paradise. It was a small program, but it grew quickly. In the 1960s, we started the Honors Program. The qualifications were very tough. Students worked hard. These girls were very academic — not all painting! I can’t say enough for art and its impact. It changes how they see the world. Artists learn to notice things in their world not just through the right brain, but with the whole brain.”

Art major Krista Rossi '13 couldn't agree more. She believes that the art program has without a doubt made her a stronger student. She shared, “the study of art has also improved my critical analysis skills and given me a better understanding of the process that goes into things... being an art major helped me improve in all of my other courses, especially in literature when critical reading is needed, and shows

Art 3A seniors pose with Art Department faculty members l. to r. Mrs. Maria Miele Boyd '72, Art Department Chair, Eilis Kennedy, Lucia McGettigan, Shelsy Tity, Lauren Soper, Gabriella DiFabio, Krista Rossi, Maria Teresa Giordano, Samantha DiFabio, and Sister Kathleen Fox.



me that it is vital to see each project and assignment through to completion.”

Whether it is an artist’s submission to MMA’s award-winning literary magazine *Image Explosion*, collaboration with Stage Crew, or a service project, art students need to see each project through from start to finish. “The discipline and commitment required to succeed in MMA’s art program is not for the faint of heart,” said Art Department chairperson Mrs. Maria Miele Boyd ’72 with a smile.

Clearly, MMA artists are lauded for their hard work and thought-provoking creations. Recently, New York City’s Metropolitan Museum of Art (MET) displayed MMA art majors’ work in conjunction with an educators’ conference at which Mrs. Boyd ’72 was invited to speak about MMA’s art program.

The many ways the Art Department participates in community engagement certainly proves impressive and far reaching. For instance, MMA art students have painted portraits (based on photographs) of youths from children’s homes in places such as El Salvador, Mexico, and Vietnam. These completed renderings were delivered to the children through the Memory Project. The Memory Project is a unique initiative in which art students create portraits for disadvantaged children around the world. The portraits connect American youth with children from other countries in a meaningful exchange of caring.

In addition to these interesting experiences during high school, MMA art majors sustain a lifelong passion for the discipline, whether it be through volunteerism or philanthropy, and many pursue careers directly related to their coursework in MMA’s Art Department, in areas such as graphic design, architecture, fashion design, teaching, and fine arts. Sister Ethel added, “Many alumnae are accomplished artists — many have

published works, have shown work in exhibits, are working in advertising, the fashion industry, or interior design.” She counts herself blessed to keep in touch with dozens of former students.

teacher Sister Kathleen Fox’s incredible talent. Sister Ethel went to her Mother Superior and urged her to allow Sister Kathleen to further her education in the field. As a result, Sister Kathleen’s talents

“The discipline and commitment required to succeed in MMA’s art program is not for the faint of heart...”

Joan Mastrangelo Marter ’64, who was recently promoted to Board of Governors Professor of Art History at Rutgers University, has stayed close to Sister Ethel over the years. “My career choice has been 45 years of studying ART! Merion had a great impact on me because I learned how to write, how to think, and how to create art and learn about authentic expression in art. After MMA, I attended the Tyler School of Art. I went on to a graduate program in art history and earned a Ph. D. from the University of Delaware. My specialty is contemporary art, which closely parallels my training as an art student (at MMA)” said Dr. Marter.

Another art major alumna, Jennifer Taylor ’09, attends University of the Arts in Philadelphia where she is studying illustration and animation. “The art major at MMA definitely influenced the course my life would take,” said Miss Taylor. “Mrs. Boyd definitely pushed me to work out of my comfort zone, and that led me to try new things and to experiment with different areas of art that I wouldn’t normally have sampled. Through this encouragement, I became a more versatile artist and more confident person. Having a mentor such as Mrs. Boyd made a world of difference too.”

Mentors are critical. In fact, Sister Ethel also mentioned with enthusiasm that it was she who first noticed MMA art

developed and she is an accomplished artist and much-loved MMA art teacher.

Mrs. Maria Miele Boyd ’72 maintains that the benefits of an art major are virtually limitless. “Art touches all academic areas in some way — think symmetry, problem-solving, and spatial relationships in math and understanding cultures and political conditions in history. These things are part of the MMA art curriculum as well.” Furthermore, the use of technology in the 21st century is constantly evolving as are the mediums of the artists. Today’s studio artists must be very versatile. In addition to practicing design and composition, they are developing technical and conceptual skills; students gain knowledge of a variety of digital applications and their practical and aesthetic capabilities through the hands-on use of computers, scanners, and digital cameras. Art students gain exposure to all types of traditional media too, including oil, pastels, acrylics, photography, printmaking techniques, and sculptural and collage materials.

Although the study of art has vast benefits and acts as a critical communication tool, the halls of MMA never fail to remind us that art offers an outlet for creativity, one that evokes emotional responses and seemingly endless aesthetic value. ■



FASHION SHOW

MERION MERCY ACADEMY'S MOTHER AND DAUGHTER FASHION SHOW
WAS HELD SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2012 AT THE DREXELBROOK.

Natalie Trerotola '13 shines on the runway in a Nicole Miller gown.



This year's theme "Breakfast at Tiffany's with Nicole Miller" created quite a buzz and boasted record-breaking attendance. More than 550 MMA moms, daughters, alumnae, and even alumnae moms and grandmothers attended. Event sponsors included Nicole Miller Philadelphia, Tiffany & Co., and Bernard's Salon. This year's Event Chair was Colette Gabriel and the Co-Chair was Lisa Nicolella Farrell '78.



1. Thirteen members of the freshman class pose after their runway debut. Front l. to r. Taylor Wilson, Taylor Gaines, Amelia Piccone, Sabrina Ciervo, and Lucy Fanto. Back l. to r. Caroline Heath, Victoria Donnelly, Kaitlyn Devine, Emma Barrera, Kennady Wright, Courtney Pellegrino, Daisha Crooks, and Juliana May.
2. Mary Talvacchia and her daughter Elizabeth Talvacchia '13 attend the Breakfast at Tiffany's themed fashion show at The Drexelbrook.
3. L. to r. Seniors Amanda Keppel, Alexis Needles, and Stephanie Della Porta take advantage of a photo op while surrounded by Tiffany Blue.
4. L. to r. Seniors channeling Audrey Hepburn pose at the entrance of the annual fashion show where they sold raffle tickets. Allison Boyle, Fiona Schroer, Melissa De Leon, and Madalaina D'Angelo.
5. MMA moms pose l. to r. Leslie Pellegrino, Colette Gabriel, Lisa Nicolella Farrell '78, and Lorraine Backe.

Sip 'n Bid

2013

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MVPs at Fall Sports Assembly

Front l. to r. Emma Aldaya '14, volleyball, Amanda Pellegrino '13, tennis, Nicol Natale '13, soccer, and Taylor McElwee '14, cross country. Back l. to r. Kathryn Natale '14, golf, Elizabeth Sack '13, field hockey, Meghan Stranick '13, volleyball, and Meghan Donahue '14, golf.

Merion Mercy Athletes Sign Letters of Intent



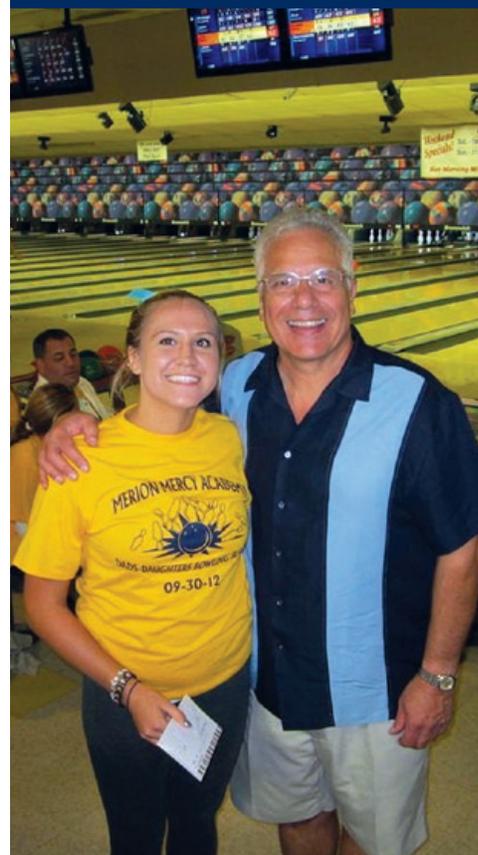
Five senior athletes signed letters of intent to play sports in college. There will be another signing ceremony in the spring for more senior athletes who plan to play Division One sports in the fall of 2013. L. to r. Julianne D'Orazio will play lacrosse at Lehigh University, Alison Kane will row at Duquesne University, Abigail Fondren will row at West Virginia University, Stephanie Thomas will row at Drexel University, and Nicol Natale will play soccer at Fordham University.



Dads and Daughters Have a Blast

More than 100 Merion Mercy

Academy students and their dads donned their bowling shoes for the Dad and Daughter Bowling Blast at Facenda-Whitaker Lanes. The pairs enjoyed an evening of friendly competition and camaraderie. Four girls won \$25 gift cards to MMA's school store. Two girls won after completing the seven down challenge, knocking down seven pins with only one try. Overall, the event was a great way for dads and daughters to bond and bowl!



Bowlers Gabrielle '14 and her dad Joseph Procacci

Freshman Field Hockey Goes Undefeated



Merion Mercy's Freshman Field Hockey finished their season undefeated. The freshman program has gone undefeated five out of the last six seasons. This year's freshman team members pose for a group photo. Front l. to r. Lauren Thomas, Jamie Marandola, Courtney Pellegrino, Lauren Bambach, Anne Gormley, Meghan McDermott, and Daniela Colavita. Back l. to r. Maire Sturm, Maria Raptis, Lawrencia O'Neill, Lucy Fanto, Domenica Tomasetti, Amelia Piccone, Grace Campbell, and Jacqueline Malloy.

Basketball Shoots to Spread Holiday Fun and Mercy Traditions



Front l. to r. Valez Jackson '15, Maria DiGiacomo '13, Caroline Corzel '15, Martha Zeller '13, Mary Grace Zeller '13, and Julianne D'Orazio '13.

Back l. to r. Christina O'Shea '13, Kristen Konieczny '15, Regan Marriner '13, Christina DiGiacomo '14, and Mariah Quinn '14.

MMA's basketball team participated in a Christmas tournament at Mercy High School in Baltimore, Maryland. This is the fourth time the tournament has been held. It began in 2005 with Mercy High School in San Francisco and Mercy High School in Burlingame, California hosting the tournament. Seven Mercy schools from across the country played. This year's tournament

included Mercy high schools from California, Nebraska, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island. The tournament was established to gather Mercy schools to reach out with fellowship and athletic competition to help promote friendships, carry on the Mercy traditions, and continue Catherine McAuley's mission of the "whole" education of young women.



There's Something for Everyone at Merion Mercy's Expanded Co-ed Summer Programs.



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High School Placement Test Preparation
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SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2013

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



CHRISTMAS TIME at MMA



A TIME for GENEROSITY and CHEER



L. to r. Juniors Katherine Lee, Mackenzie MacNeal, Christine Callahan, and Sarah Brown with the cards for Mercy Neighborhood Ministries.

Ensuring that MMA's giving touched lives outside of the surrounding area, Fair Trade items were sold for several days and made popular gifts. "The Annual Fair Trade Sale was a tremendous success — selling items from across the globe that represent the talent of artisans who are able to carry on a long tradition of craft making in

various forms," shared Frederick Pratt, MMA faculty. The sale of Fair Trade items directly impacts the artisans and creators of the products "by being guaranteed a living wage for their handiwork," he added. The surrounding sense of giving at MMA also embraced Advent Angels, a beloved MMA tradition in which students, faculty,

and staff secretly gift treats in the days leading up to Christmas break. Expanded options encouraged many in the community to make a donation in their Advent Angel's name to a charity of choice. Members of the National Honor Society also spread holiday joy by making Christmas cards for the children at Mercy Neighborhood Ministries. Sister Ann Provost '64, MMA Trustee, is the Director for Mercy Neighborhood Ministries which provides adult and childcare, professional education, and community resources in North Philadelphia. As a result of the strong relationship with Mercy Neighborhood Ministries, freshmen and sophomores collected gifts for families who take part in their services. Like most children, those who received these gifts from MMA students had made lists and checked them twice. MMA graderooms did their best to make sure each child received just what they wanted!

Carol Night 2012





Juniors also fulfilled wishes for local children by collecting school supplies and backpacks for the children of St. Francis Inn, a community in the Kensington section of Philadelphia that provides meals, necessities, hospitality, and above all, human kindness and compassion to many in the area. The senior class collected protein bars to send to our Armed Forces serving overseas. In addition, they purchased gifts for men living at My Place Germantown, a home community for men who were once without a home.

Some festive traditions included Language Department caroling. Merion Mercy Academy also rang in the holidays with two beautiful, song-filled evenings. One evening, Merion Mercy's eleventh and twelfth grade students, led by the school's glee club and chorale, enjoyed Carol Night. A proud MMA tradition, students sang holiday favorites and read scriptures about the nativity story. The second concert, again led by MMA's glee club and chorale, 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. ♥

✱



L. to r. Seniors Christine Rice, Molly Powers, and Christina O'Shea surround baby Caroline Mary O'Driscoll during Carol Night's annual nativity tableau.



L. to r. Seniors Krista Rossi and Emily Parker pose in front of the Christmas decorations in the main foyer.

✱



L to r. Members of the senior class Erica DiPascale, Caitlin Farrell, Shabella Rideout, and Allison Boyle show off the "Girls Will Be Girls" ornaments made by the Mothers' Club that were proudly displayed on trees (then distributed) Carol Night.

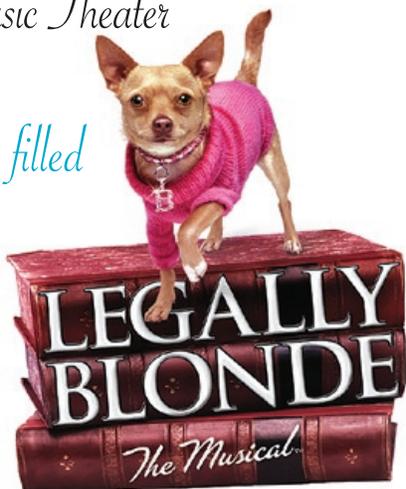


Carol Night is a family affair for the Powers family. L. to r. Molly Powers '13, Colleen Powers O'Driscoll '95, baby Caroline Mary O'Driscoll, Courtney Powers '97, and Kacy Moran Powers '02. Coming full circle, Molly portrayed baby Jesus when she was a baby and her sister Colleen was a senior; this year it was Colleen's daughter's turn.



Next Up for MMA Performing Arts...

Merion Mercy Music Theater
proudly presents
the fast-paced, fun filled
musical comedy...



Show dates and times:

Friday, February 22, 2013 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, February 23, 2013 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, February 24, 2013 2:00 p.m.
Friday, March 1, 2013 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 2, 2013 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 3, 2013 2:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased in advance at www.merion-mercy.com.

Ticket information line: 610-664-6655, ext. 304

WHY I GIVE

✦ **Sonia Giordano Colavita '86**



Sonia Giordano Colavita '86 with her daughter Daniela Colavita '16 grace the halls of MMA.

Thinking back to my days at Merion, I recall the strong academic foundation and the core values I learned over those four years. Mostly, I cherish the close friendships I developed there. These bonds are the memories for which I am most thankful. I continued to seek that connection with Mercy, the feeling of compassion and the desire to help others, particularly as the educational foundation for my

own children. Now that my daughter, Daniela, is a freshman at Merion, I feel like I have come full circle. Seeing her begin this journey is a very special moment for me. I am excited that she will have the same opportunity to develop her own academic success and forge similar life-long relationships.

I was happy to learn about the Alumnae Challenge, where any increase in my contribution will be matched. This is a great opportunity for all alumnae to renew or increase their support to Merion Mercy, and I hope that others will join in this important commitment. Through my daughter, I see first-hand what today's students can achieve with our continued support, and how every student will benefit from our generosity. Today's Merion ladies have more opportunities than ever. With the support of the alumnae, they will be well prepared to meet the responsibilities of their adult lives. Please join me in supporting the Alumnae Challenge so that we can keep this great experience alive for the next generation of MMA students.

✦ **Ellen Press '98**



Ellen Press '98 (right) poses with classmate Megan Maguire Steele '98 (left) at the MMA in NYC event.

After enjoying the MMA event in Manhattan with a remarkable group of women, I was thankfully reminded of the invaluable quality that my Mercy education has had on my life. In recognition of this tremendous impact, I donated to MMA so that the current and future students may have

the same opportunity that I had to build a foundation for personal growth and professional accomplishment.

Following my time at Merion, I continued my education at Fordham University in New York. While at Fordham, my MMA experiences prepared me to thrive in an Ignatian based curriculum, designed to cultivate the *Cura Personalis* or whole person. The rigor and breadth of academic study at MMA prepared me well for university coursework that was centered on actively learning through questioning. My spiritual growth in college also grew, based on the many and varied service programs I participated in at MMA.

In my professional life, my Mercy education has encouraged me to seek out continued learning, discovery, and curiosity, leading me to achieve new levels of professional growth. For the last ten years, I have worked in varied roles within the retail industry, most recently as Merchandise Manager for Ralph Lauren. The opportunity, provided by MMA, to discover my own sense of self, has made a world of difference and continues to serve me well.

Having benefitted from this growth, I contributed to Merion Mercy for the first time this year so that I may help build a similar foundation for the next generation. I give back in hope of providing an opportunity for another young woman to discover her purpose, her power of intention, and the value of her moral reflection and critical thinking. Please join me in supporting MMA, especially now. Through this year's Alumnae Challenge, each of us can make a real difference.



Ready to Meet the **CHALLENGE** of 2013?

For the first time ever, Merion Mercy has a \$25,000 Alumnae Challenge!

Anonymous donors **WILL MATCH** every new and increased gift from MMA Alumnae. If you are a new donor — or have not given in recent years — this year's gift will be doubled as new.

If you increase last year's gift, the amount of the increase will be matched.

MMA Annual Fund—our highest fundraising priority—**WILL CONTINUE TO RENEW AND GROW** the Merion Mercy legacy of excellence.

Every graduate makes a difference. Every student benefits. Every dollar counts.

STEP UP and meet the Alumnae Challenge.



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

For more information, contact Agnes Shields Finigan '72,
Director of the Annual Fund, 610-664-6655, ext. 126.

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

By: Emma Campbell '13

From MMA to Boston College to the Maple Street School, Dr. Fran Bateman Bisselle '87 has had her fair share of schooling, yet makes it clear that she believes instruction comes in many forms and the ideal approach to education should be joyful and nurturing.



Since graduation from Merion Mercy, Dr. Fran Bisselle has shared her zeal for teaching, coaching, and learning, passions that she believes, “were cultivated at Merion Mercy Academy.”

Fran’s journey though Merion Mercy began as a six-year-old when her mother decided to send her to MMA for kindergarten. As the

oldest of ten children, Fran developed leadership skills at a very young age.

Fran continued attending Merion through high school, with about 15 other “lifers” who also attended MMA from kindergarten through twelfth grade. President of Student Council, field hockey star, basketball team manager, tennis

team member, Fran was the typical overly-involved MMA student. “I am proud of my athletic career at Merion... I was the first president of the Student Council (that I know of) who was also an athlete, usually the presidents could not be athletes because practice and meetings conflicted, but I challenged that precedent. I learned a lot from that experience.”

As if keeping up with friends, Merion’s rigorous academic load, and her other extracurricular activities weren’t enough of a challenge, Fran’s father passed away during her sophomore year. Through this hard time, which included many new responsibilities at home, the support of her friends and teachers are some of Fran’s most cherished memories of her time at MMA. She readily recalls the incomparable sense of community.

After four years of hard work, Fran graduated from Merion Mercy in 1987 and started at Boston College. While at BC, Fran studied history, philosophy, and theology and

played Division One field hockey for two years, before suffering a serious career-ending knee injury. Passion for service accompanied this Merion lady to BC as she participated in several outreach projects, including a two-week volunteer excursion to Ecuador. “What Merion taught me was to meet a challenge/disappointment/change in life with creativity and an open heart.” It was this attitude that helped her earn a job coaching field hockey at a local high school, Newton Country Day School for the Sacred Heart, for two years, while still a student at Boston College herself. Fran graduated in 1991 with a bachelor’s degree in history, but her life attending school didn’t stop there.

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“Integrity, faith, and family are the most important to me. I learned this from my years at Merion.”

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Fran began coaching varsity field hockey and teaching World Geography and American History at Wyoming Seminary in Kingston, Pennsylvania. From there, she moved to Connecticut, where she began working at the Taft School. Fran expressed her “love of the eight years she spent at Taft,” teaching history, coaching field hockey, basketball and tennis, being a dorm parent, and her ultimate post as Dean of Students. During her summers, Fran earned her master’s degree by taking classes at Dartmouth University and Wesleyan University. In 2000, she decided to leave the Taft School to pursue her doctorate at the University of Vermont. In 2006, Fran achieved her goal: a Doctorate in Educational Leadership & Policy Studies, with a concentration in Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment.

Soon after earning her Ph.D., Fran accepted the job as Head of School at the Maple Street School in Manchester, Vermont. Maple Street School, an independent co-educational day school, offers a quality education to children in kindergarten through grade eight. Through a stimulating curriculum, value is placed on high academic achievement, meaningful



Fran Bateman Bisselle at the groundbreaking of the Maple Street School Amphitheatre, dedicated to founding Head of School, Nancy Calicchio. L. to r. Fran Batemen Bisselle '87, Janet Irving (Janet Irving and her husband, acclaimed author, John Irving, are the school's co-founders), and Nancy Calicchio.

engagement in the visual and performing arts, participation in athletics, and the development of individual and social responsibility. Maple Street School strives to provide a unique atmosphere of warmth, happiness, vibrancy, and a genuine love of learning. Through the joyful journey of learning, the goal is that students discover and develop what is finest in them. The core values of Maple Street School are truly guiding principles for Fran.

Surrounded by an educational environment her whole life, this accomplished alumna maintains that the bonds forged at MMA between teachers and students, and students and their peers, nurture the spirit, encourage empathy, and give meaning to intellectual pursuits. “Of course, one’s resume can be impressive. Twenty-five years after graduating from Merion, the one lesson that has lasted is one’s resume is not nearly as important as one’s character. Integrity, faith, and family are the most important to me. I learned this from my years at Merion.”

Just as Fran teaches her two daughters, Lucy (16) and Aggie (15), to find joy in reading, to appreciate nature, to develop a spiritual self, to cultivate a sense of humor, to care for others, and to do their best, she encourages Merion girls — past, present and future — to do the same. And, based on MMA’s track record, she’s pretty confident they do! 🍌

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 Fifties

Roseann Dougherty Miller '55 reached out to MMA to notify the school of the passing of her beloved mother **Helen Buechner Dougherty '33**. Mrs. Dougherty's family was part of quite a legacy at MMA including her sisters **Sister Mary Hildegard Buechner '31, RIP**, and **Jane Buechner Hess '38** and her daughters Roseann and **Jane Dougherty Greve '57**.

Merion Golf Club honored the late **Jane Loughran Young '55**, a longtime, beloved member. Jane was instrumental in creating a 9-holers program in the 1980s at the club known for its rigorous courses. The program benefited beginner women golfers as well as seasoned golfers looking for a less challenging course. Jane chaired the program from 1988 until 1990 and it has since grown to be a successful inaugural

program for many novice golfers. As chair from 2005-2006 and treasurer until 2011 for the Women's Golf Committee, Jane instituted the annual Girls' Night Out and Merion Spirit Award and ensured women secured leadership roles. Always thinking of others, Jane instituted the Sunshine Committee to reach out to members when they were ill. It was noted, "She was the sunshine" and will be greatly missed.

C. Tina Buttacavoli Petrone '58 sends her fondest regards to Sisters Del Carmen, Lucille, and Patricia Joseph.

The Sixties

Ann McGuinness Gaimster '61 welcomed her eleventh grandchild in October. She proclaimed, "God is good!"

Rhonda "Ronnie" Kuckuck Poli '65

reported that her daughter Elizabeth gave birth to a daughter, Sadie Grace, on September 28, 2012. She is beyond thrilled and sends her "love to all."

Mary Mellon Trotter '65 shared this message with her annual fund gift, "I am grateful for my wonderful years at Merion with the Sisters of Mercy and for all the lifelong friendships made there. Thank you!"

Eileen Daly Killeen '68 proudly announced the birth of her third grandchild, Abby Marie Killeen.

The Seventies

Martha Cushwa Short '70 visited members of MMA's Students for Life and Love club and spoke about the Pennsylvanians for Human Life organization and how they are working to educate women of all ages about human life, born and unborn.

Kathryn Williamson Doyle '71 is a proud mother and grandmother. Her daughter, **Janet Doyle Thompson '97**, an assistant principal for student services at a Mastery Charter School, has two boys. Her son, John, has two daughters. His oldest, Evelyn, just started playing field hockey. Kathy shared, "seeing her out on the field really brings back some memories - although I played 'fullback.' Today there is no such position!" Her youngest, Brian, and his wife just welcomed their first child, Patrick Murphy. Kathy now has five grandchildren and "loves every minute she spends with them." She shared this great news, "I spent an Avalon weekend with **Elaine Bachetti Strick '71, Patty McHugh Gerner '71, and Tina Bowden Hyde '70**. We had a wonderful time; we've been getting together at least once every other month and some weekends away each year. MMA friends forever!"

The Eighties

Dana Joseph Okeson '82 was named head of Germantown Friends School, the first female in the esteemed position since 1869.

An important message about

MERI  UNION

Alumnae Spoke and We Listened...

For the first time, alumnae in reunion years prior to the 1963 Golden Circle class (this year classes of '33, '38, '43, '48, '53, '58) will be invited to celebrate Meri-union as follows:

Reunion luncheon at 1:30 p.m. in the Convent West Dining Room

Mass at 4:00 p.m. in the Chapel with all alumnae, current and former faculty/staff

A Reception at the Academy immediately following Mass concludes this Golden Meri-union

class notes

Dana worked for the past 22 years at St. Ann's School, a private school in Brooklyn, where she taught Biology, chaired the Science Department, and most recently served as Head of School. Dana, who has a background in science and philosophy, will assume the role in July of 2013.

Catherine "Cathy" Williamson Sabia '85 and her team of 17 riders, including **Elizabeth Williamson '05**, rode the MS 170 mile Coast to Coast in May and raised over \$15,000 for MS research. All but three riders were new to cycling and the team rode in honor of Cathy's brother who was diagnosed with MS last year.



Paula Ryan '86 was nominated by Delaware Governor Jack Markell to fill the state's Superior Court vacancy on Family Court. Serving as Chief Prosecutor for Sussex County since her appointment in 2007, Paula prosecuted many difficult, groundbreaking trials. On her appointment, she said, "Being nominated to the Family Court is an honor. My career as a prosecutor has been devoted to protecting the vulnerable, and I really see service on the Family Court as an opportunity to continue and extend that."

The Nineties

Tyl DiJulia Sadoff '95 volunteers at Prosthetic Innovations. The aim of which is to "provide our clients with the greatest opportunity for a successful outcome. From simple prosthetics to more refined, computerized solutions, we fit each client with the prosthetic device which will empower them to journey into uncharted territory and live A LIFETIME OF OPPORTUNITY." Recently, Tyl trained with a veteran who lost both legs in Iraq. The pair completed the Bicycle Club of Philadelphia's 25-miler.

Tim and **Colleen Powers O'Driscoll '95**



Credit: Melissa Kelly Photography

• **Suzanne McDevitt '02** married **Greg Spiro** on September 21, 2012 in Avalon, NJ. L. to r. **Kellyann McClain '02**, **Annette Ponnock '02**, **Eileen McFadden '02**, **Elizabeth Leis '02**, **Suzanne McDevitt Spiro '02**, **Maureen Owston '02**, **Laura Hill '02**, **Katie McKenna MacLaughlin '02**, and **Caitlin McDevitt '04**.

had a baby girl, **Caroline Mary**, in April 2012 and wrote in, "All is well!" **Caroline** portrayed "Baby Jesus" at **Carol Night 2012**.

MMA's National Honor Society invited alumna **Dr. Jeannine DelPizzo '98** as the guest speaker for the group's annual induction of members.

Kate Brennan '99, MMA Music Faculty, debuted her original musical, *ELFuego*, at the Adrienne Theater in Philadelphia with her theater company, BCKSEET Productions. The show, a satirical, warm, holiday musical featured 12 original songs. **Patty Brown '83**, Music Director at MMA, wrote the orchestrations for the show and led the orchestra throughout its run. On Thursday, December 20, many MMA students and faculty went to the production on a trip sponsored by the Music Department, creating a "Merion Night" at the theater!

The 00s

Cheryl Stumm Stroup '01 wrote in that she was disappointed to miss the Alumnae Carol Night this year, and heard it was another amazing evening. Yet, she has been a little busy lately. She shared, "David Jerome Stroup IV was born on December 11, 2012 at 11:46 a.m., weighing 9.5 and 21 inches in length. My husband, Dave, and I could not be happier! Grandparents are over the moon. He is the first grandchild on both sides. Proud MMA aunts include **Keri Stumm '04**, **Jaclyn Stumm '12**, and **Katie Stroup '98**. David is already looking forward to his first Harvest Moon!"

Christa Smedile Mantey '02 sent a few wedding photos with the message, "We had the time of our lives! We were blessed to share

in our special day with many MMA alums and the music at Mass was provided by **Diane Duffy Hankee '88** and some MMA singers. Other alums present were: **Rita Smedile '05**, **Stephanie Smedile '10**, **Irene Murphy '04**, **Maria Pierangeli Murphy '72**, **Cate Timby Ventura '02**, **Genet DeFazio '02**, **Julie Mita Hartman '02**, **Erin Winterhalter '02**, **Kathleen McGoldrick '02**, and **Annie Doyle Maloney '00**.



• L. to r. **Rita Smedile '05**, **Christa Smedile Mantey '02**, **John Paul Mantey (SJP '00)**, and **Stephanie Smedile '10**.

Lynn A. Panepinto '04 is working as a Bilingual Advocate at the Philadelphia Children's Alliance in Philadelphia.

Carrie Henderson McDermott '05 co-founded the blog "He Texted" and recently sold a book based on the blog to Gallery Books, an imprint at Simon & Schuster.

Christine Schaad '05 graduated from Creighton Law in Omaha, Nebraska last May and is now clerking for a federal judge in South Dakota. She recently passed the Pennsylvania and New Jersey bar exams and plans to practice in the Philadelphia area following her clerkship.

Rita Smedile '05 was the speaker at Merion Mercy's Freshman Orientation 2012. Rita said, "I was honored to speak at the freshman orientation and address

class notes

this year's school-wide theme 'Ignite Your Mercy!' I shared how MMA helped me to ignite my Mercy and how that fire has led me to who and where I am today. I opened up about my time at Merion, about realizing my desire to continue to do service in college. I also spoke about my experience in Honduras on my mission trip after graduation, and now living my vocation as a registered nurse in Labor and Delivery at Pennsylvania Hospital. I then encouraged the girls to make the most of their time at Merion and to be merciful with one another as they find themselves and become a family. I truly enjoyed my time with the freshman class and look forward to more opportunities to return to my MMA home."

Since her first visit to the Romero Center as a rising senior at MMA in 2005, **Aimee Della Porta '06** has been committed to serving the underprivileged and immersing herself in the work of social justice. As an undergrad at Fordham University, Aimee returned to the Romero Center and established an annual trip for the university's Global Outreach service organization. Since then, she has volunteered throughout her college career, committed to a year of service, and

now leads a small group for the Romero Center's Young Adult Ministry. Currently, Aimee works as case manager at Women Against Abuse, a shelter for victims of domestic violence. Aimee explained, "These experiences became more and more integrated into the fabric of my life. And now I'm at a point where I'm doing direct service work as my full time job."

Kelly Dale '09 interned at One Atlantic at the end of Caesar's Pier last summer. She acted as intern/greeter for weddings, special events, and corporate events that were held at One Atlantic, and she handled guest lists, maintained the lobby, and contributed to setting up the venue decor. Kelly attends Loyola University Maryland and her major is Public Relations and Advertising with a minor in Marketing. She hopes to pursue a career in corporate event planning or promotional event planning after she graduates this spring.

Meredith McDevitt '10 co-founded Temple Project Haiti a little more than a year ago. It is a student organization at Temple University dedicated to fundraising for the Saint Francis Xavier Orphanage in Haiti. Meredith serves as the Vice President of the group, which began a chapter after students

from Penn State did a presentation on the organization at the Newman Center at Temple University. On her first trip to Haiti, Meredith and her group brought suitcases filled with clothing, toys, medicine and toiletries. Although all the donations went to the orphanage, they were shared with two other orphanages in town. Meredith is a junior painting major in Temple's Tyler School of Art. She will study in Rome this year, and she plans to return to Haiti after her study abroad.

Meghan Pierce '10 attends George Washington University. She shared this note about life studying abroad in Argentina, "Buenos Aires is a bustling place that appears to me a cross between New York City and Paris. It is at once European as South American, harried as patient. The architecture has definite European influence — lots of white columns and chic apartments. Argentines are serious and busy looking, but friendly when asked directions! The group I'm traveling with consists of 13 other students from all over the US. Despite coming from different states, we tend to have similar majors and interests, which make for great conversations."

Alana Youssefian '10 is currently in her third year at Oberlin Conservatory, where she is pursuing a bachelor's degree in violin performance (with a minor in Baroque performance) under the tutelage of Marilyn McDonald. At Oberlin, she performs in the conservatory's various ensembles, including the Chamber Orchestra, Opera Orchestra, and Symphony Orchestra, where she has served as principal. She has also performed with the Oberlin Baroque Ensemble as assistant concertmaster. A dedicated contemporary musician, Alana is an active participant in the Oberlin Contemporary Music Ensemble. She has been selected to participate in the Oberlin 2013 winter tour to Carnegie Hall where she will perform with the Oberlin Symphony Orchestra and Contemporary Music Ensemble. Alana visited MMA music majors in the fall and treated them to a short concert followed by time for a "Q&A" session.

Caili Guilday '12 is among the first members of the Stetson University women's lacrosse team, which opens Division One play in 2013. At MMA, Caili

A World of Opportunity Begins in a Place We Call Home



The opportunities MMA provides its students sometimes seem endless. **Jennifer Guzzardi '10** couldn't agree more. Jennifer currently is a junior at Marist College, majoring in Criminal Justice with a minor in Psychology. Just completing a semester abroad in Australia, Jennifer acknowledges the many ways that MMA primed her for life after graduation. "I entered college

prepared in every way," said Jennifer. "I felt confident in the classroom; I was able to balance the academic work load, my commitment to the crew team, volunteering for weekly service projects, and involvement with the National Society of Leadership and Success." Jennifer points to motivation and determination as key in her successes thus far. Both have given me the ability to pursue my goals with continual focus, effort, and passion. "MMA, my friends, and, of course, my family brought out these values in me...I couldn't have done it alone." One of Jennifer's favorite quotes that the MMA crew team uses for inspiration reads "I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it would move. Nothing will be impossible for you" (Matthew 17:20). From these words, she believes, "Faith, determination, and motivation have allowed me to persevere despite any obstacles. They have given me the ability to go after my dreams, to go to Australia, to work hard - no matter what the task is, and to begin to make an impact on the world."

class notes

helped her squad to four straight Catholic Academy League championships.

Erin Murphy '12 helped the Muhlenberg College volleyball team to a winning season in 2012. In her 18 games, Murphy was fourth on the team with 17 blocks. She also recorded 41 kills and 10 service aces. The team ended the year 17-11—that's after a combined total of 15 wins the previous two seasons. The 17 wins were the most for Muhlenberg since 2008. Erin played a large part in the success.

Arrivals

Joseph and **Monica Scaramuzza Rexroat '92, MMA Former Faculty**, a son, Aiden Robert



Brian and **Katherine Gallagher Zamrowski '93**, a son, Brian Christopher

• Brian Christopher

Tim and **Colleen Powers O'Driscoll '95**, a daughter, Caroline Mary

Tim and **Christine Wechsler Rayer '95**, a son, Timothy Leo

Peter and **Susan Kelly O'Neill '96**, a daughter, Elizabeth Justine



Jeff and **Alycia Appicello Kelly '98**, a son, Penn Joseph

• Penn Joseph

Sean and **Lizann Gallagher McLaughlin '98**, a son, William Francis



• William Francis



• Liam Thomas

Michael and **Laura Haris McGraw '99**, a daughter, Cassidy Willow

Kevin and **Annie Doyle Maloney '00**, a son, Liam Thomas



• Kara

Paul and **Melinda Richards McCann '00**, a daughter, Kara

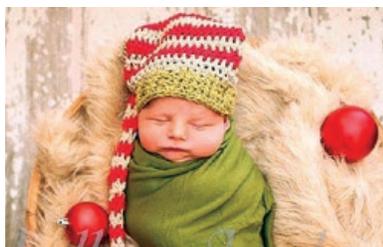
Derek and **Gina Peracchia Nash '01**, a son, Dominic Gregory



• Dominic Gregory

David and **Cheryl Stumm Stroup '01**, a son, David Jerome Stroup IV

Justin and **Erin Doyle Lavin '02**, a daughter, Vivian Casey



• David Jerome

Seth, MMA Faculty, and **Katie Schogol Pidot, MMA Former Faculty**, a son, Benjamin Marc



• Benjamin Marc

Weddings

Katie Herron '99 to Geoff Sheehan on November 3, 2012



Lisa Keels '99 to Jeff Lowenstein on October 6, 2012

Jillian Barber '00 to Daniel Holmes on October 20, 2012

Erin Delatte '01 to Todd Lindgren on October 20, 2012

• Lisa Keels '99 to Jeff Lowenstein

Suzanne McDevitt '02 to Greg Spiro on September 21, 2012

Megan Ruane '02 to Justin Rice on November 3, 2012

Christa Smedile '02 to John Paul Mantey on September 21, 2012



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.

Sister Peter Marie Buttacavoli, FMSC, sister of **C. Tina Buttacavoli Petrone '58**

Joseph G. Callaghan, husband of **Cassandra Giacomucci Callaghan '61**

Patrick C. Campbell, husband of **Barbara Wade Campbell '59**

Susan Caulfield, mother of **Katie Caulfield '07**

Lillian J. Colasante, mother of **Judy Colasante '71**, and **Joan Colasante Green '77**

Anthony P. Coppa, grandfather of **Teresa McCann '10** and uncle of **Felicia Falcone '87, RIP**

John Crowe, father of **Sheila Crowe '89**

John R. (Jack) Davis, father of **Katie Davis '05**

Helen Buechner Dougherty '33, mother of **Jane Dougherty Greve '57** and **Roseann Dougherty Miller '59**, sister of **Sister Mary Hildegard Buechner '31, RIP**, and **Jane Buechner Hess '38**

Joanna Galdo '98

Napoleon Gorski, father of **Keira Jean Gorski '84**

Rosalie Jackson, mother of **Crystal Eve Jackson '75**

Megan McGinley '99

Jeanne Murphey Nowlan '49

Paul J. O'Neill, Jr., husband of **Elizabeth Vilotti O'Neill '56**

Connie Phillips, mother of **Andrea Phillips Valentino '71**

Marguerite Louise Ryan, mother of **Christine Ryan Viola '64**, **Marguerite L. Ryan '69**, and **Kathleen Ryan Prebble '70**

Alexander V. Sarcione, Sr., grandfather of **Jennifer Ryan '00** and **Jacqueline Ryan '03**

George M. Savitsky, husband of **Doris Hurley Savitsky '49**

Quentin Sturm, grandfather of **Johanna '06** and **Maire Sturm '16**

William Van Norden IV, father of **Alexandra Van Norden '03** and **Danielle Van Norden Barnes '05**

Mary T. Ward, mother of **Sister Regina Ward, MMA Former Principal**

Barbara Hill White '49

Jane Loughran Young '55

Welcome Home Alumnae

SAVE THE DATE

for

M E R I U N I O N

MAY 4, 2013

Classes Ending in 3 and 8 This is Your Reunion Year!

Join your classmates for a day of special celebrations!

All alumnae and current and former faculty are invited to the Mass and Reception.

Please visit www.merion-mercy.com and go to the Alumnae tab for the latest updates and registration information. Invitations will go out by March 29, 2013. Please contact Patricia McAleer, Director of Development Services, at pmcaleer@merion-mercy.com or 610-664-6655, ext. 103 with any inquiries.