

Debbie DiMarzio '77 looks forward to serving on the MMA Alumnae Executive Board and looks forward to helping to create a better community for all alumnae and students. For the last 20 years, Debbie worked in fundraising, primarily for private schools, and recently retired to take care of family. As a lay Mercy Associate '10, Debbie volunteers at Project Home's Women of Change, drives the Sisters at the Motherhouse to appointments (pre-Covid), and is currently an active member of Sew Face Masks Philly. Debbie is the proud Mom of alumnae Lucy Cumberland '07 and Claire Cumberland '09, and son, Colman Cumberland, SJP '14, MMT '14. Debbie has a B.S. from the University of Scranton and an M.A. from The George Washington University. When not making face masks, Debbie enjoys reading, gardening, and traveling with her husband, Dr. Fred Akl.

Mayla Henderson Jackson '02 attended Spelman College, receiving a bachelor of arts degree in Piano Performance in 2006 and a masters degree in Public Health from Drexel University in 2008. Professionally, Mayla has worked for the Philadelphia Department of Public Health for the past twelve years, currently serving as a Health Services Administrator managing the HIV Program in the eight City of Philadelphia Ambulatory Health Services health centers. Mayla is an active member of her beloved sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Jack and Jill of America, Inc., and the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, where she teaches Sunday School music. In her spare time, Mayla enjoys reading, baking, hiking, and gardening. Mayla lives in Andorra with her husband Tom and sons Thomas (5) and Lucas (2). Mayla is grateful for the opportunity to serve on the executive committee of the Alumnae Association Advisory Board and looks forward to reconnecting with Merion alums committed to service and the spirit of Mercy.

Kirsten Echelmeier Sams '99 attended The University of Scranton, receiving a bachelor of arts degree in Elementary Education. Following graduation, Kirsten spent a year of service with the Franciscan Volunteer Ministry in Delaware where she taught English as a Second Language to Spanish speaking immigrants and created, developed, and led an art class in the Women's Prison. She then went on to work at Neumann University as the first Residence Life Campus Minister. From there she accepted her first teaching position at Holy Innocents in North Philadelphia. After one year there, she decided to join the Gesu School in North Philadelphia where she taught first grade for ten years. She has been a stay-at-home mom for the past five years to Emory (6), Flora (5), and Pax (2). Kirsten and her husband, Troy, and their children live in Narberth. She has stayed connected to the Merion Mercy Academy community through the Alumnae Advisory Board, teaching in the Merion Mercy Summer Academy for 15 years, and teaching in MMA's Mother Katharine Drexel Program for 7th and 8th graders. Kirsten loves creating, writing, painting, baking, and spending time with family and friends. Kirsten relishes the opportunity to stay connected and help reconnect others to the Mercy Spirit, through participation in the Alumnae Executive Board, the MMAMas group, and the part-time teaching opportunities at Merion. The circle of mercy truly is a timeless gift that keeps on giving.