

THE MAGAZINE OF MERION MERCY ACADEMY

Mater Matters

WINTER 2014



From the Principal



In mid-January the basketball team presented me with a tee shirt that had inscribed on it,

“Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is excellence, and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you” (Philippians 4:8-9).

In loving memory of Mrs. Mary Simonis Rush

Not surprisingly, the team told me that this was an often repeated Biblical verse of MMA English teacher Mrs. Rush, who fittingly passed on the Feast of the Epiphany, the day the Lord manifested Himself as Savior of all.

The gentle, kind Mrs. Rush married last February anticipating that she and her husband would welcome children into their lives. With the re-diagnosis of cancer in May, their hope of a long life together surrounded by children never happened. Yet Mrs. Rush’s legacy lives on in the students who remember, repeat, and live her values.

My high school English teacher, who passed in September, told me, “You can teach more religion in English than you can in theology.” I believe that can be true. To paraphrase William Faulkner, the problems of the human heart in conflict with itself...love and honor and pity and pride and compassion and sacrifice...these are the values worth writing about, worth teaching to students. For Mrs. Rush and for Peg McBrien O’Brien, their lasting legacy lives on in us who were their disciples.

Let us all take a moment to remember with gratitude the teachers who have made a difference in our lives. 🍷

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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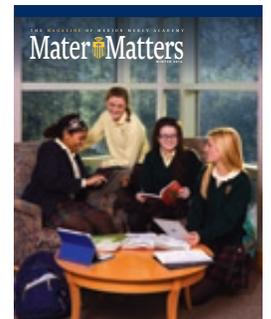
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SCHOOL Happenings

FALL TRADITIONS

The Merion Mercy community enjoyed several fall traditions in 2013, such as **Big Sister/Little Sister** gatherings, **Mercy Day**, the **Harvest Moon** dance, and the **Weenie Roast**.

Additionally, the Ministry Team spearheaded the Thanksgiving food collection, providing 23 families with food for Thanksgiving, along with an abundance of food to be shared with many others over and above the

23 families. The faculty and staff of MMA participated by donating monetary gifts that totaled over \$700 to purchase supermarket gift cards to supplement the food baskets for the purchase of perishable food items.

Big Sister/Little Sister

It is a Family Affair at Merion Mercy

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 and reinforce the family atmosphere at Merion Mercy.



Front l. to r. Caroline Belmont '17 and Katie Dombrowski '15. Back l. to r. Rylie Eisenhardt '17, Alison Snarponis '15, Kelly Rose Baffa '17, Lainey O'Hara '15, Kelly Goggin '15, and Olivia Anderson '17.

What a Treat...

MMA's Time-Honored Halloween Celebration

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 Theresa Dierkes, Jaclyn Benedict, Gwen Mattia, Elizabeth McMonagle, and Elizabeth Olson “travel in time” for their '50s inspired Halloween skit.

Harvest Moon



L. to r. Freshmen Jessica Boyle and Laura Henry pose with their dates at this special event that dates back to the 1940s.

Thanksgiving

To continue with the school year's theme "Mercy Girl Power", Merion Mercy Academy chose the slogan "Use Your Power to Squash Hunger" for their 2013 Thanksgiving food drive.

Front l. to r. Stephanie Horn '15, Julia Battin '15, and Catalina Walsh '14.

Back l. to r. Sarah Hughes '14, Maria Raptis '16, Alexandra Duckworth '16, and Jacqueline Malloy '16.



MMA CELEBRATES MERCY DAY

To the beat of a Zulu tribal song, dressed in vibrant African Kaftan garb, students from Merion Mercy Academy's multi-cultural club and the school's dance team led schoolmates in a traditional African dance.

This celebration of African culture marked the kick-off of Mercy Day—an annual, worldwide recognition of the foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, Catherine McAuley, and her mission to serve those in need and her commitment to education. On Mercy Day, the MMA school community launched the school's year-long theme, "Mercy Girl Power." This

theme connects to an annual project called "The Mercy Girl Effect," which is a student-run program that benefits women and girls in need throughout the world.

This is the 6th year the MMA community has been involved in "The Mercy Girl Effect," a project combining the efforts of Mercy schools across the nation. Together the 12-15 schools collaborate to

improve the quality of life for females in the third world with a special emphasis on girls and education. "The Mercy Girl Effect" gives young women worldwide opportunities they would not have otherwise had, and all from the dedication, service, and fundraising efforts of their peers here half a world away. In recent years, MMA students helped to raise more than \$130,000 dollars to build a library in Kenya and schools in Cambodia and South Sudan.



Dancers with their moderator l. to r. Karen McClennen, BriYana Crocker '14, Jamilah Jones '15, Sara Figueroa '15, Nichola Cappelli '16, Marissa Roney '14, Catherine Fuller '14, Gabrielle Sweeney '14, Kelley Martin '14, Michelle McCann '16, and Sierra Williams '17.



Students pose with Sister of Mercy, Sister Kathleen Kelly (center), Annie Young '15, Shannon Green '16, Alexandra Hecht '14, and Gianna Fresta '16 on this special occasion.

"Mercy Day opens our eyes, reinforcing our mission to be true women of Mercy. It makes us realize we can make a difference in girls' lives across the globe," said Student Council President Jenny Quach '14, who is helping lead MMA's efforts. "We will take the feelings of excitement and celebration of Mercy Day with us as we raise money and awareness this year."



KEEP SWEET MERCY NEAR

By: Patricia McAleer
Director of Development Services

A dozen years ago when the Development Office reorganized the Alumnae Association, it provided many opportunities for local alumnae to connect with each other and the

current school. As the Director of Alumnae Relations at the time, I would receive contacts from our non-local alumnae who had just read a piece in *Mater Matters* about a successful young alum event, bus trip, or

Although 55 years divide their graduation years, l. to r. Molly Mahoney '07, Nina Wertan '07, and Molly Mulrain '07 enjoyed lively conversation with Hortensia Alvarez Anillo '52 (second from right) about the many MMA experiences they all share.



L to r. Adrienne Graves Lyne '86, Erika Pontarelli Compart '92, and Alicia Tana Rowan '90 reminiscing and also talking about their families, current jobs, and life experiences.



L. to r. Tina Horvath '96, MMA Former Faculty, Sister Barbara Buckley '72, and Kristina Stanton Cawley '90, Director of Communications and Marketing, take a moment for a photo at the event.

Christmas concert and reminisce from a distance. Their comments always ended with “I would love to be there!”

We realized that we couldn’t get them all here, but why not bring some of MMA to those who resided in other cities, states, and even countries. Thus began the regional events and other outreach programs.

It has always been important to MMA to “keep sweet Mercy near” and we felt that there was no better way to do this than with “road trips.” Two years ago New York City set the bar high with more than 50 women attending the inaugural event in



A group of alums who will celebrate reunion years in 2014 pose with Sister Barbara Buckley '72. L. to r. Meghan Rice Van Haute '99, Elizabeth Wellock '89, Suzanne O'Brien Farrand '94, Caitlin McDevitt '04, and Bridget Forbes '04.

NYC. MMA in NYC now has a chapter committee who planned the successful 2013 fall event and will do the 3rd annual gathering in September 2014. This year we added an MMA in DC and more than 30 alumnae in the DC, Maryland, and Virginia area came together to connect with each other and to visit with Sister Barbara and other school staff. A chapter committee is now forming there to continue events and the next area to visit is under discussion.

After some off-campus visits we wanted to find more ways for non-local alums to participate with each other and the current school. We did

a great deal of this through LinkedIn connections and programs like the Alum Abroad group. The alumnae abroad offer to mentor college alums who may do a semester abroad, or other alumnae involved in a service project or moving to a different country for their career. When alumnae living outside the USA were approached we were hoping for some "takers." The response was overwhelming and always began with..."Thank you for including me in this, I have always wanted to stay close to MMA...what else can I do?" Such a typical MMA alum response!



Alums enjoy a lovely DC evening. L. to r. Karen Whitaker Sorensen '90, Tara Kelly '91, and Elizabeth Wellock '89.



Devin Finn '00, Eileen Daly Killeen '68, and Ellie O'Brien '99 catch up while at the Dubliner in Washington, DC. Perfect location for the three former school presidents.



MMA in DC planning committee members l. to r. Laura Stubbs '75, Tara Kelly '91, Molly Mulrain '07, and Patricia McAleer, Director of Development Services.

It is so important for us to keep everyone as connected and involved as possible. Please let us know your current contact information and your email of preference. It is especially important to know if you choose to have your MMA mail go to a former residence here; we would still like to know if you work, serve, and/or go to school in another location so that you don't miss out on a regional event.

Please feel free to contact me at pmcaleer@merion-mercy.com or 610-664-6655, ext. 103. Keep in touch! 🍷



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 close to 35 alumnae to campus, representing various classes from 1933 to 1958. The Alumnae Association worked with MMA's English department to collect notes from current students for the alums who attended the tea. The messages were printed out and alums enjoyed reading through them and bringing them home as keepsakes.

The following letter is one of the many that alums will put in their scrapbooks.

Dear MMA Alumna,
Welcome "HOME"!
We hope you have a great day at
"YOUR SCHOOL AND MY SCHOOL"!

My name is Lauren Bambach, and I am a sophomore at MMA. This year's school theme is Mercy Girl Power. To kick off the year, we had a back to school mixer in September. At this event, we dressed up as super heroes. Recently, as a school, we participated in a nationwide contest for Good Morning America. We sang a song called "Roar" sung by Katy Perry. The song embodies empowerment and accomplishment. In addition, it is fun to dance to! I was wondering if you had mixers when you were at MMA? I am guessing that you had Harvest Moon in October like we do.

In 2013, all of our classes are held in the new school. I heard that you attended classes in the Motherhouse. I think it would be good exercise every day to go back and forth between the buildings and it would be nice to see the Sisters who live there each day!



Joan Geraghty '48, Pegg Graves Ewing '48, Kathleen Joyce Breslin '48, and Veronica Haughey Heron '48 have the chance to reminisce.



Margaret McLean Daly '40 and Virginia Barnes Worthington '42 pose with a yearbook and the booklet that was made for this special occasion.

Every Wednesday, we go into school at 9 a.m. Did you ever have that opportunity? During this time, we try to get homework done, go get coffee, or just sit and talk. Also, another change from your time is that we have something called B bell. This allows us to participate in different clubs. I am involved in Kate's Girls, field hockey, track, Community Service Corps, Ministry team, and Spanish club. I like being involved in Kate's Girls because I enjoy going over to McAuley to visit with the Sisters. They make me laugh and smile! I hope to do something with older people when I am out of college. This year in field hockey, the JV team has been unstoppable! We only lost one game out of nine games. In fact, we beat Gwynedd Mercy and Villa Maria. As a member of the Ministry team, I was lucky enough to be part of the planning committee for the Mercy Day Mass at MMA. It was nice to hear all of the compliments on the hard work spent on creating this special mass. Do you do anything now to celebrate Mercy Day?

Technology has changed since you were last here. We now are required to purchase iPads for class. We use them to take notes, study for tests and, of course, chat with our friends (not in class). The teachers use Promethean Boards to interact with us on our iPads. I had to use my iPad for a presentation in class, which included a slide show, music, and pictures.

My favorite subject is Spanish. I received the highest grade during freshman year in Spanish I. Thank goodness for my 9th grade Spanish teacher who made me become passionate about the language. I hope to continue taking Spanish throughout my college years because I would like to visit all of the Spanish speaking countries in South America. I try to do service projects as often as possible while juggling sports, homework, and my social life. My latest project was co-planning the annual activities for Kate's Girls. I am curious to know what clubs you had when you were here.

I hope you enjoyed MMA as much as I do. I love the friendships that I have developed here, the teachers who help me succeed, and the spirit of Mercy that exists in everything we do. My favorite thing is when I am walking in the hallways and having a bad day and people who pass you ask if you are ok or need to talk. You always have a friend with whom you can talk. I hope that I too will someday come back to my own reunions and alumnae events and experience the same feelings of warmth when I walk through the halls of MMA.

I look forward to meeting you and hearing about your Merion Mercy memories!

*Love,
Lauren Bambach '16*



Ladies from the Class of 1942 muse over their happy days at Mater I. to r. Virginia Barnes Worthington, Betty MacFarland McKeown, Mary Smith Stewart, and Rita Haley McManus.



L. to r. Patricia Mansfield Oldfield '56, Jeannette Hudson '58, Mary Jane Young Shor '57, and Ellen Gowan McNeill '58.



Alums and current students connect l. to r. Carolyn Coady Lea '49, Erin Donnelly '15, Joyce Edmiston Shew '51, Catherine West '15, and Mary Lu Baxter Donnelly '49.



Student volunteer Renee McFillin'14 compares school rings with Trudy Dorsey Kelly '49. They discovered that they will reunion together in 2019 when Renee celebrates her 5th and Trudy her 70th!



FASHION SHOW THE GREAT GATSBY



Catherine Gormley '14 strikes a pose.



1

“It’s a triumph. What thoroughness!”

- F. SCOTT FITZGERALD, *THE GREAT GATSBY*



MERION MERCY ACADEMY'S MOTHER AND DAUGHTER FASHION SHOW

was held on Sunday, November 17, 2013
at the Hilton City Avenue.

This year's theme was “The Great Gatsby.” It was as if a “swanky” party from the 1920s came to life at this visually stunning event. Guests and models alike donned their “glad rags.” Event sponsors included Skirt and Tiffany & Co. Close to 600 MMA moms, daughters, alumnae, and alumnae moms and grandmothers attended. This year's event chairs were MMA moms Lorraine Backe and Heather Wright-Lee. MMA senior Christina Brennan serenaded the crowd before the DJ came on and the student models hit the runway.

- 1 Seniors Erin O’Brien and Sinead Merriman take advantage of a photo op while they serve as event volunteers.
- 2 Sophomores Jamilah Jones, Rebecca O’Neill, and Sara Figueroa pose with their customized Gatsby pinnies.
- 3 Seniors Emily Shields, Christine Callahan, and Elizabeth Doyle welcome guests as Gatsby Girls.
- 4 Event Co-Chairs Lorraine Backe and Heather Wright-Lee pose with their daughters Elizabeth Backe ’14 and Kennady Wright ’16.
- 5 Christina Brennan ’14 performs for the guests.



2



3



4



5



iCulture

The 21st century has given us new words such as tweeting, texting, and instagram and has redefined clouds, hashtags, and streaming. Today's learners (and teachers) face constant change.

THIS REQUIRES SCHOOL COMMUNITIES TO BE ADAPTIVE. And, perhaps now more than ever, students and teachers learn from one another. This is collaborative learning at its finest, and Merion Mercy Academy is experiencing it first-hand.

Merion Mercy teachers are quick to point out that new technology should strive to complement curriculum not necessarily replace traditional (and proven) forms of instruction and assessment. "Technology is meant to aid instruction not lead it," explains Mathematics teacher Ms. Marie Robson '05. "Students of today are accustomed to the latest technology, so when you introduce it into the classroom they are more apt to learn with it, they are more open to it, and they are excited by it."

With this in mind, Merion Mercy has adopted the 1:1 program where each student has a digital device. Merion Mercy chose the iPad for students to use. Principal Sister Barbara Buckley '72 points out, "We made the move to iPads for several reasons: as a school we needed to decide on a device that all students could use across the curriculum; the iPad integrates with the Promethean Boards that are in all our classrooms; the iPad is consistently developing new productive applications; the iPad has security features that make it a good device for schools; and lastly textbooks are rapidly going digital."

While schools like Merion Mercy are preparing their students for a new era that is high-tech and dynamic, UCLA Professor of Education & Information Studies Mike Rose lends interesting insight to the theory that core 21st century skills might not be that different from educational values dating back

centuries, "You'll find discussion of evaluating evidence or communicating effectively in Aristotle. The exception would be the emphasis on electronic media, but even here the underlying competencies — evaluating sources, synthesizing information — are good old-fashioned ones. The range of skills is admirable, as is the intention that they apply to all students—an equity imperative." Implementing new technology will be ongoing. Educators and students alike embrace the changing landscape of programs with careful attention to balancing proven methodology and best practices in this ever-changing world.

The school looks forward to the future, armed with 21st century technology coupled with time-tested educational standards. Faculty enrichment will continue. In fact, this semester a group of faculty members attended training on how to better utilize the Promethean Boards through the Active Inspire software, with a particular concentration on the Active Engage program, which allows teachers to poll and interact with the students through iPads communicating with the boards.

In the classroom, the iPad (or any other smart device) is another tool, one that students will need to master just as an earlier generation learned how to use a graphing calculator. Although students will always need to know basic computing, the calculator saves time and proves efficient. Technology now allows actors in learning environments to bypass some of the time that was taken for recall, which might be erroneous, and allow for some classroom work to go directly to more advanced, specialized, and richer levels. Used correctly, ethically, and with strong strategies, the new technology can be a powerful force in academic advancement.

Science teacher Mrs. Aimee Quinn, for example, integrates the iPad into her classes. Physics, for instance, relies on a heavy use of handouts. She is now able to use less paper by creating PDF files and distributing assignments via the smart devices. Mrs. Quinn also receives student papers electronically. She often has students send their work to her digitally, so she can both check homework and get a feel for students' progress. She also assigns tutorials and animations on the iPad to preview or review a topic. Mrs. Quinn prepares short videos for students presenting a topic or an example of how to solve a problem. In the classroom, students use the iPad to view video and newspaper articles, to work on abstracts, and to collaborate on projects by viewing the same screen on their tablets.

On many levels students are using their devices very proficiently already — and not just to snapchat. However, they still include an array of supplies in their toolkits. iPads, dictionaries, books, laptops, and notebooks are all essential resources for Mary Hope '14. She views reading on the iPad as fundamentally different from reading a book. "I see how the iPad can be very useful. But, when it comes to a book, I want that book to be the only thing I am focusing on. And, although

most of my peers prefer taking notes on iPads, I still rely on pen and paper. That seems to suit my learning style best."

"It's about balance and fit," says English Department Chair Ms. Patricia Sack. "For instance, after researching our options, the English Department elected to switch to a web-based, interactive vocabulary program that will more effectively allow us to individualize instruction and assessment and will also manage assessments. This move will provide meaningful enhancement."

Textbooks are more readily available online, and many publishers are moving to this model. Although students only have a few textbooks on their devices this year, the future of online textbooks is very real. "Aside from having some texts on my iPad, I do a lot of note taking on my device," shares Alison Toal '14. "We as a community seem to be adjusting well; some students and teachers use the iPads more than others. I think the utility of this technology will be maximized in the not so distant future."

Director of Instructional Technology Ms. Anne Foley reports that overall the response of students and faculty to iPads has been positive. She adds, "It's exciting to see those who were more resistant to the new technology using it with ease. In addition to serving as a complement to the established curriculum, it offers users multiple resources in one place. And, Merion Mercy boasts quick, easy access."

There is a seamless integration of WiFi at Merion Mercy. The school now has enterprise-grade wireless network, meaning the WiFi is consistent throughout the building. In addition to the iPads students have and the dozens of minis that can be borrowed for use, students have access to a state-of-the-art Mac lab. In the lab alone, there are 33 Macs that run windows virtually. Students can also go to the multimedia center to borrow one of the 30 iPad minis, 10 MacBooks, or 7 iPads.

Furthermore, there are several activities at MMA that have been uniquely impacted by the advancements in technology. The school's newspaper *Ricordia* has a digital platform now (www.mmaricordia.com). Staff members of the literary magazine *Image Explosion* make use of various, hi-tech



"After researching our options, the English department is switching to a web-based, interactive vocabulary program that will more effectively allow us to individualize instruction and assessment and will also manage assessments. This move will provide meaningful enhancement."

services as well. For instance, 16 of the 38 selected authors in Pennsylvania's first-ever statewide online high school literary magazine, *THE PALM*, were *Image Explosion* writers (www.palitmag.org/published-authors.html).

Students, faculty, and staff are blogging, using Skype, and networking through the latest technology as well. Social media is continuing to flourish as a means of connectivity, especially for school-based activities, with all constituents. Merion Mercy uses seven different platforms and maintains several accounts.

With the measurable strides made to infuse technology into much of the MMA experience and the value placed on its utility and productivity, the core of a Merion Mercy education remains a holistic one that encourages academic and personal excellence. ▀

STAY CONNECTED TO MMA



SOCIAL MEDIA IS ABOUT STAYING CONNECTED. Whether you're an alum, parent, past parent, or friend of the Merion Mercy community, we invite you to get involved and browse through our social media.

Visit www.merion-mercy.com to join Merion Mercy Socials!

M MMA *athletics*

Merion Mercy Academy Athletes SIGN LETTERS OF INTENT

Four MMA 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 I sports in the fall.



L. to r. MMA seniors Katie FitzPatrick will play lacrosse at Fairfield University, Olivia Nostrant will play lacrosse at High Point University, Rachel Craig committed to row at Temple University prior to the University's decision to discontinue its crew program (she still will attend Temple University), and Sarah Klippel will row at the University of Pennsylvania.

FIELD HOCKEY



Megan DuVernois '16

Field hockey enjoyed a very successful season. The team advanced to the District Final for the first time since 2008 and earned a spot in the PIAA Class AA State tournament for the third time in program history.



Fall MVPs Announced at Fall Sports Assembly

Front l. to r. Taylor McElwee '14, cross country, Kathryn Natale '14, golf, Meghan Donahue '14, golf, and Marissa Abbonizio '14, volleyball.
 Back l. to r. Kelly Goggin '15, field hockey, Christina Di Giacomo '14, soccer, Elisabeth Gavin '14, tennis, and Victoria Principato '14, tennis.



CROSS COUNTRY

Joseph and Nanette McElwee pose with Taylor '14.

Cross Country team took third place at the District I Championships. Taylor McElwee '14 placed sixth in Districts and she competed in the PIAA State Championships.



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



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SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2014

Summer brochures and online registration are now available.

Visit www.merion-mercy.com/summerprograms.



CHRISTMASTIME

AT MMA



A Time for Generosity and Cheer

As a result of the strong relationship with Mercy Neighborhood Ministries, students collected gifts for families who take part in their services. Sister Ann Provost '64, a member of MMA's Board of Trustees, is the Director for Mercy Neighborhood Ministries which offers childcare, professional education for adults, and community resources in

North Philadelphia. Led by Merion Mercy's Community Service Corps (CSC), graderooms provided gifts for scores of people served by Mercy Neighborhood Ministries. In addition, students decorated and trimmed trees at My Place Germantown, a community for men who were once without homes. They also gave gift cards to all of the residents who now

live there. Merion Mercy students collected books for the children who are patients of a health center in Camden that serves a predominantly Spanish-speaking population. Some of MMA's Spanish classes even made books for the collection.

Ensuring that MMA's Christmas giving touched lives outside of the surrounding area, Fair Trade items

Carol Night 2013: This year's nativity story included seniors Katherine Lee, Gabrielle Sweeney, Elizabeth Loftus, Alexandra Hecht, and Catherine Fuller and "Baby Jesus" Samuel Ryan Fitzpatrick. Samuel is the son of Ann Fitzpatrick, MMA English teacher.





Katherine DeVliieger '15, Mary Paschos '14, and Emily Siegfried '15 wrap gifts earmarked for children served by Mercy Neighborhood Ministries.



Only at MMA...decorate your gradroom moderator was a huge success! L. to r. Angela DiCocco '04, Paul Clementi, Allegra O'Neill '07, John Fitzpatrick, Deanna Crawford, and Fran LaNoce '69.



Seniors Alexis Redding, Kathryn Natale, Paige Pecora, and Alanna Bonavitacola pose with MMA Social Studies teacher Colleen Mooney Gallagher '83.



Roseanita Hurley '14 and her alum mom Ellen Coffey Hurley '75 fetch Roseanita's senior ornament at the conclusion of Carol Night. Mothers' Club volunteers annually create special ornaments for each senior as a keepsake from this occasion.



Melissa Lucchesi '99 and her son Greyson enjoyed some cocoa and cookies at the Alumnae Christmas concert.

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. The sale of Fair Trade items directly impacts the artisans and creators of the products by being guaranteed a living wage for their handiwork.

The surrounding sense of giving at MMA even 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 for Advent giving encouraged many in the community to make a donation in their Advent

Angel's name in lieu of or in addition to a larger final gift.

And, of course, no Merion Mercy holiday would be complete without music, dance, and revelry. The school community 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. ❀



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

By: Caitlin Harrison '14

Susan Lopusniak Jurevics '85, attended Merion from her early years through 12th grade. She shared her time at MMA with her two sisters Elizabeth Lopusniak Welshman '82 and Karin Lopusniak Wetterau '84 and her mother, Elsa Lopusniak, who worked in the library for decades. “I am so appreciative of the strong emphasis my parents placed on education from my earliest memory,” she says.



In typical Merion girl fashion, Susan was involved in a number of different activities, including field hockey, H.O.P.E. (Help Other People Eat), National Honor Society, and both tap and toe dance. While she considers it impossible to choose a single favorite memory of her time at MMA, she remembers fondly many classic Merion traditions,

specifically the Mother-Daughter Tea, the Father-Daughter Dinner Dance, Harvest Moon, and Weenie Roast. She also spent a month in France on a study abroad trip with her classmates, which she credits with opening her eyes to life outside Merion and the United States.

Upon graduating from Merion, Susan studied at The College of the Holy Cross and spent a semester abroad at The University of London. Though she entered college with the intent to study political science, she felt drawn to more creative work in her sophomore year. “I had begun drawing in my notebooks while listening to lectures in class,” she says. Soon after, she changed her course of study to pursue art history and art studio as a combined undergraduate major. Although her family was supportive of her switch, she says, “I am not sure that any of us had concrete ideas as to how you could make a living using this degree.”

After receiving her degree, Susan moved to New York, where she was able to make important connections with various firms and agencies. In regards to forming relationships with people in her field, she says, “I spent a lot of time studying their backgrounds and their businesses, so that when I asked for their time for a ‘networking meeting’ I was

informed and maximized our time together. I was also careful to offer information or help with something they needed so I was not simply taking from them, but having something of value to offer.” Her dedication paid off; Susan landed a job at Nickelodeon, where she spent more than seven years in licensing and merchandising, advertising sales promotions, and brand marketing. While working for Nickelodeon, Susan pursued her MBA in marketing and international business at NYU’s Stern School of Business. She then moved on to Mattel to work as one of the four global heads of marketing and product development for Barbie. After a few professional moves, she joined Sony, where she remained for more than 12 years. During her time there, Susan ran a team that “developed Sony into a technology and entertainment brand.” In her last three years with Sony, she was asked to lead the company’s partnership with Pottermore, an interactive website where “you can experience the Harry Potter stories through digital storytelling and enjoy never-before-released Harry Potter content.” She became Pottermore’s CEO earlier this year, where her job entails managing the commerce and community aspects for the world of Harry Potter.

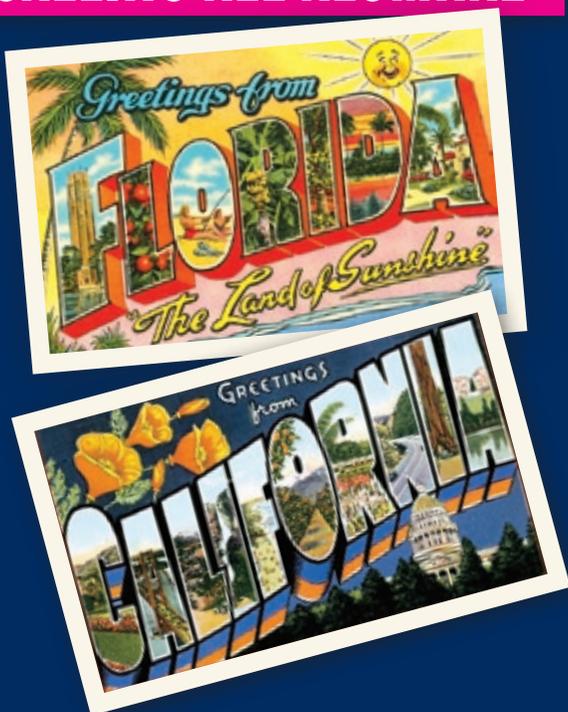
For curious Harry Potter fans, Susan has read all of the books several times, stating that *Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone* remains her favorite because “it introduces Harry and many of the key characters in the fiction.” She works with

“I’d advise all MMA students to appreciate their position and embrace the responsibility of meaningful contribution that comes with having so many gifts.”

J.K. Rowling, and says that collaborating with “her and the rest of their creative team is an incredible experience.” In her advice to current Merion students, Susan says, “Regardless of background or status, by virtue of attending Merion and exhibiting the values of the school, MMA students have privilege and opportunity. I’d advise all MMA students to appreciate their position and embrace the responsibility of meaningful contribution that comes with having so many gifts.”

Susan is based in New York City where she lives with her husband, Maris, and two children, Lucy and Maks. She divides her time equally between New York City and London; the family will move to London later in the year. ♡

CALLING ALL ALUMNAE



MMA IN THE SUNSHINE STATE

All alumnae currently living in Florida, please make sure MMA has all your contact information on file including your email of preference.

We would also like to hear from our “snow birds” who get to enjoy the sun and surf during the winter months – your contact information and dates that you may be in Florida would be appreciated.

CALIFORNIA HERE WE COME

So that the ladies on the West Coast don’t feel left out, please also give us your contact information. Regional meetings at this distance do take time to plan so please help us start the process by letting us know if you would be interested in MMA coming to California.

PLEASE CONTACT Patti McAleer at pmcaleer@merion-mercy.com or 610-664-6655, ext. 103 with details, comments, or questions as MMA looks to get on the road again.

RELOCATING TO THE NYC OR DC METRO AREA? Please make sure we have your current information so you too can be a part of MMA in NYC III or MMA in DC II, which will take place in the Fall of 2014. JOIN US!

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 kcauley@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.)

Sister Regina Ward, MMA Former Principal, shared "I just finished reading *Mater Matters*. I am so thrilled that MMA continues to be a vibrant school educating women of Mercy. It is so nice to see so many alums contributing to our world and exhibiting the Mercy Core Values embraced at Merion Mercy!"



● It was a family affair at the Alumnae Tea in October. Attendees included Patricia Joyce McFillin '45, Kathleen Joyce Breslin '48, Renee McFillin '14 (granddaughter of Patricia and great niece of Kathleen and Elizabeth), and Elizabeth Joyce Bracken '53.

The Forties

Vicky Donohue '46 retired from writing art reviews for the *Philadelphia Inquirer* last year after 50 years. She is keeping busy with volunteer activities and writing a book on the cultural history of the area.

The Fifties

Helen McEwen Gleason '53 wrote in, "When was the last time that you went to a luncheon that lasted for nearly five hours? Well...that was our luncheon for local members of the class of 1953 at my home. There were nine who attended; what we did most was reminisce and laugh. It was such a treat to be with **Betsy Joyce Bracken, Laura Drinkhouse Dell, Dolinda Martell Balch, Frannie McLaughlin Maguire, Jeannie Haenn Rainey, Mimi Reisman Fitzgerald, Mary Anne Quinn Schnerr** and **Rosemary Glielmi Camponova**. The nicest part...I don't think any of us has changed. That closeness has lasted for these 60 years! Everyone looks the same (or almost). We saluted each other's accomplishments and promised to get together again soon. May I suggest to all of our readers...try this with your classmates...you will truly enjoy it!"



● Meredith Smith Jones '54 had the opportunity to come to campus for the October Alumnae Tea and for a holiday visit. Pictured here with Executive Director of Advancement Kelley Kuyat, Meredith takes time to enjoy the ornaments that showcase photos from school history. One framed photo was from her fiftieth reunion for which she was a class representative.

The Sixties

Barbara Eni Ristaino '67 graduated from Chestnut Hill College with a degree in Chemistry. After teaching math for a time, she decided to venture out on her own into the creative arts. She has been self-employed for 25 years as a floral designer, artist, and calligrapher. Besides her floral design she has studied under nationally known lettering artists. A long-time member of the Philadelphia Calligraphers' Society (PCS), she is currently on the board, and also affiliated with various local groups, including Painting Friends, and the Pointed Pen Society of Philadelphia (PPSP). Barbara has exhibited with the PCS at the Wayne Art Center, the Free Library of Philadelphia, the Gallery at Deptford, Ludington Library, and Medford Leas. In September 2013, her work was on display at the Marple Public Library in Broomall.

The Seventies

The National Honor Society posthumously inducted former faculty member **Debra Furia Scalpato '74**. Debbie's daughters **Lauren Scalpato Ruggieri '00** and Alison Scalpato Rooke accepted this honor.



● Lauren Scalpato Ruggieri '00 and Alison Scalpato Rooke

Claire Brennan Sereni '74 shared, "I'm including a photo of Susie McCormick Kelleher '74 and me at Champs in Collegeville. We are excited to get together with **Jackie Silk Schulmeister '74**, who is

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willing to help out with our 40th reunion too. Susie and I had not spent time together in about 30 years, and it was so much fun catching up. We both attended the last Alumnae Association meeting and we will meet again to take the next steps and have another lunch and work on our reunion. This is a nice year for me on two counts... my 40th reunion AND my daughter gets her MMA ring! FUN."



● Susie McCormick Kelleher '74 and Claire Brennan Sereni '74.

The Eighties

Kathleen Cona Menard '82 works at Frye Regional Medical Center as a Quality Management RN. She earned a BS in Nursing from Vanderbilt University in 1986 and a MS in Nursing Administration from Emory University in 1990. She shared, "I am living in beautiful North Carolina with my husband of 21 years, Dale, and my two children. Just sent my oldest child, Liz, off to college this fall to Vanderbilt University. Now my second, Mitchell, will get all my attention for the next two years before I am an empty nester!"

Jennifer Baldino Bonett '87 wrote in, "I am delighted to have joined Christiana Care Health System in Delaware as Senior Manager of Communications and Marketing. My heartfelt thanks to two jewels of MMA's English Department — Mrs. Liane Chapman and Mrs. Phyllis Colameco — for their encouragement and inspiration."

The Nineties

Julie Owsik Ackerman '94 wrote in, "As a writing coach, I companion clients through brainstorming, outlining, drafting, and editing writing projects. I help with

college application essays, graduate school assignments, professional reports, and love letters, among other things. Contact me for more information about how we can work together: julieowsikackerman@gmail.com. My own writing projects include novels, essays, poems, and plays. Visit my blog for samples of my work: anythingformaterial.blogspot.com."

Katherine Bender '96 earned a PhD in Counseling, Counselor Education and Supervision from Old Dominion University (ODU) in August of 2013. Kate began her doctoral work at ODU in January of 2011. During her time at ODU, Kate worked as a graduate teaching assistant and taught classes in both the human services and special education departments. She also collaborated with other ODU doctoral students and

faculty to coordinate an intimate partner violence prevention program at ODU. In addition, Kate worked as an editorial assistant for two counseling journals. She joined the Dave Nee Foundation, a New York City based nonprofit organization with a mission to raise awareness about depression and suicide prevention in the legal community, as a programming consultant in September of 2012. Upon completion of her doctorate in Counseling, Kate was hired by the Foundation as a full-time programming director. In this role Kate coordinates the Uncommon Counsel program. Her work with the foundation is an excellent way to continue to provide outreach services and to raise awareness about depression, anxiety, and suicide prevention for students in colleges and universities.

MERION UNION

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2014

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

Reception in the Academy foyer immediately following Mass for all alumnae, current faculty, and former faculty.

Classes Ending in 4 and 9 This is Your Reunion Year!

SCHEDULE OF SPECIAL MERI-UNION EVENTS

CLASSES OF '34, '39, '44, '49, '54, AND '59

are invited to a reunion luncheon at 1:30 p.m. in the Convent West Dining Room; then the Mass and reception.

THE GOLDEN CIRCLE CLASS OF '64 AND CLASSES OF '69, '74, '79, '84, '89, '94, '99, '04, AND '09

are invited to a reunion dinner at 7:00 p.m. in the gym after the Mass and reception.

Please visit www.merion-mercy.com/alumnae for the latest updates and registration information. Look for your invitation in February.

Please contact Linda Miele Benton '75, Alumnae Relations, at lbenton@merion-mercy.com or 610-664-6655, ext. 104 with inquiries.

ALYCIA APPICELLO KELLY '98



After I graduated from Merion Mercy, I went to Georgetown for my undergraduate degree. While I had always wanted to write since my days in Mrs. Ueland's English class, I felt safer pursuing a 'more practical' route and went to law school at NYU. I graduated and promptly began studying for the bar exam, and that's when it hit me (conveniently) — life was continuing to plow forward, but I hadn't put pen to paper since college. I moved to Los Angeles to practice entertainment law, but all the while, in the mornings, I started writing. After I finished my first attempt at a novel, I promptly put it in a drawer - it was terrible! Lengthy, self-indulgent, confusing - but it taught me something. I could start and finish a story.

I joined a boutique entertainment firm in New York in 2010, and started writing another novel, this one about subjects close to my heart: New York City and sisters. I'm one of three sisters: Jill Appicello and Bridget Appicello '03. I felt like this novel might be special, so I started sending it around to agents and secured representation. We began the submission process with major publishing houses in late 2012.

Under the pen name "Lee Kelly", I signed a two-book deal in June 2013 with Simon & Schuster for my novel, *Manhattan Savages*, as well as an untitled novel that I'll be writing next year. *Manhattan Savages* will be hitting bookshelves in Spring of 2015, and the promotion plan is to market to young adults as well as adults. We've also secured a film agent and will be shopping it around to studios after the final draft is ready to go (here's hoping!).

Here's a short description of *Manhattan Savages*:

Manhattan Savages chronicles two sisters' escape through a war-torn Manhattan while discovering the meaning of sisterhood on an island with a dark history.

Linda Quinlan D'Orazio '96 celebrated the first anniversary of her new business this past October. LQDesign Studio is a design practice focusing on architecture and interior design for commercial and residential projects.

Catherine Rissover '96 is a second grade teacher and field hockey coach at Waldron Mercy Academy. She also serves as the Director of the Mercy After Care during the school year and is the Assistant Director of Triple A Camp in the summer. Catherine was the recipient of the Sister Suzanne Gallagher Award at Waldron Mercy Academy. The award is given to an educator whose commitment and performance clearly represent the educational philosophy of the Sisters of Mercy.

The Pennsylvania legal community named Anapol Schwartz attorney

Adrienne Walvoord Webb '99 one of the 2013 Lawyers on the Fast Track, an award by the Legal Intelligencer that recognizes the most impressive lawyers under the age of 40 working in Pennsylvania.

This honor is among numerous awards and recognition that have exemplified Adrienne's exceptional work in the legal profession. She has been named a Rising Star by Pennsylvania Super Lawyers® from 2011 to 2013, and she was elected as a Top 40 Under 40 National Trial Lawyer in 2012. She was also named a Top Attorney in Pennsylvania by the American Registry in 2013. Adrienne is an active member of the American Association for Justice and serves as a Governor on the Board of Governors. Adrienne is also actively involved in AAJ's New Lawyers Division and the Women's Trial Lawyer Caucus.

The 00s

Meredith Amole '00 shared, "I'm employed at Penn as a Project Coordinator for a grant funded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. I work for Dr. David Casarett who is an expert researcher on palliative home care and hospice services. Aside from my primary role of managing the grant, I also can take part in writing papers with Dr. Casarett and his colleagues. The first paper I co-authored is titled, 'Can Palliative Home Care Reduce 30-Day Readmissions? Results of a Propensity-Score Matched Cohort Study.' Hospitals across the nation are looking to reduce the number of patients who get readmitted to the hospital within 30 days of their last hospital admission because many insurance companies will not pay them for the care they provide to a patient admitted within this time frame. As a result, health systems are looking for ways to prevent admissions to the hospital that can be avoided. One such way, is to provide patients who are very sick, with expanded palliative home care services. The services include increased nursing visits, 24 hour triage line for assistance, home health aides, and psychosocial services. This study collected data from three hospitals and compared hospital readmission rates of patients who received basic home care versus patients who received palliative home care. We were able to calculate that patients who received palliative care had much less of a chance of being readmitted to the hospital compared to patients who received regular home care. The hope is that doctors and hospitals will begin to recognize the cost-effective benefit of palliative home care and most importantly, the improved care for patients."

Erin Winterhalter '02 has joined the MacDonald Center for Obesity Prevention and Education (COPE) at the Villanova University College of Nursing as its Director. In her role at COPE, she will be developing a weight management program for employees of Villanova, creating partnerships with area health agencies and school districts to provide wellness programs within the community, and will even assist in the classroom this Spring teaching nursing students. Last spring, Erin started Eat.with.Erin, a nutrition

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counseling business, which has been a fun side venture and is growing rapidly! Erin is lucky enough to grab lunch occasionally with her older sister **Vickie Winterhalter Gadomski '00** who is the Associate Director of Admissions at Notre Dame Academy and hopes to get up to New Haven, CT this spring to visit with her younger sister **Bridget Winterhalter '09** who is enrolled at Yale University in the PA/MPH program.

Ashley Burke O'Connor '02 wrote in "We would like to announce the arrival of our beautiful baby boy, Ryan Patrick. Born on September 25, 2013, he is a blessing to our family and he brings us such joy."

Alyse Wojciechowski '05 (stage name Alyse Alan Louis) enjoyed some time back in the area as the Philadelphia Theatre Company presented the premiere of a satire about two famous geeks and rivals, Bill Gates and Steve Jobs. "Nerds" was a big hit with the audience, and won Barrymore awards for outstanding new play and for

original music. Alyse takes on multiple characters in this production. Alyse made her debut on Broadway in 2009 playing Sophie in "Mamma Mia." The run continued through 2010. She also had varied roles off-Broadway and in regional theaters- including the Walnut Street Theatre. Besides her very early role in "The Goodbye Girl," she also was in the Walnut production of "Brighton Beach Memoirs" and "The Sound of Music."

Victoria Gordon '07 earned a BA in History of Science, History of Medicine from Yale University in 2011. She wrote in, "I will be starting my graduate studies at Columbia University and will graduate with a MS in Nutrition in the Summer of 2014."

Danielle Carrozza '09 reached a milestone in sweep for Cabrini College volleyball. She joined Cabrini's 1,000-kill club with a combined 31 in an October match up that Cabrini won by 3-0 margins over Rutgers-Camden and the University of Scranton at the Matches for Margo tri-match.

Lili Dodderidge '09 graduated from Georgetown University and is now working at Drexel University in its Center for Hunger-Free Communities, a research center focused on hunger and poverty. She shared, "It's wonderful to be working in a first real job in such a supportive environment that does such important and innovative work. I am very happy thus far in this post-grad life. And another added bonus is that being back in the Philadelphia area, I see my Merion friends all the time! So it really is a win-win. One of the biggest projects I've been working on since officially coming back in June is Witnesses to Hunger. Witnesses to Hunger started in 2008 as a qualitative, participatory action research study based out of the Center. It asked low-income moms of very young children to take photos of what it was really like living in poverty, what concerned them, what they wanted others to see. But it quickly became much more than just a research study that put a human touch to poverty and food insecurity statistics - it became a supportive, empowering group of incredible women who wanted to stand up and advocate for themselves, their children, and their communities. We have Witnesses sites in Boston, Baltimore, and now Camden."



● Upon graduation from Saint Michael's College with a Bachelor of Arts (Magna Cum Laude) in both Media Studies and Digital Arts and Performing Arts, Amanda Mulligan '08 went to New York City to intern as an Editorial Intern for Travelzoo®. After her internship, she was hired as an Assistant Producer and a year later she was promoted to Associate Producer. One of the benefits of working for Travelzoo® is the "Travelzoo® Experience," a program that offers staff the opportunity to travel and test deals they publish and report back on their adventure and experience. In November, she traveled to Uruguay and Buenos Aires and in March she will travel to South Africa. Amanda had another Travelzoo® experience on July 22, 2013 when Travelzoo® was invited to visit and ring the bell at the NASDAQ Opening Bell Ceremony. It's not every day you get to be on a billboard on Times Square.

Amanda is pictured here third from left.



● Sister Barbara Buckley '72 and Lili at the Witnesses to Hunger exhibit, which highlighted the photos and testimony of the Camden Witnesses, and included some additional photos from Philly and the other sites. Members of Merion Mercy faculty and staff joined Lili and Sister Barbara at the event.

Jessica Conroy '10 who plays field hockey for the University of Scranton was named to the first Landmark Conference All-Sportsmanship Team. This team recognizes student-athletes who promote the ideals of sportsmanship—honoring those who encourage fair play and display

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graciousness in victory and respectfulness in defeat. They are recognized for their respect of teammates, opponents, spectators, and officials, and for the way they handle themselves both on and off the field.

The BIG EAST Conference named Temple senior **Molly Doyle '10** the Field Hockey Offensive Player of the Week for the week of Sept. 2-8. In addition to her BIG EAST honor, Molly was named the Under Armour Owlsports.com Athlete of the Week.

Weddings

Deanna Slota '85 to Robert Bentley on September 7, 2013

Diane Johnson '97 to Christian DiCicco on November 2, 2013

Lynne O'Brien '97 to Jonathan Gerard Ingram on September 7, 2013

Maribeth Wechsler '98 to Joseph Boyle on July 20, 2013

Bridget Lynch '00 to John Gill on September 7, 2013



● **Bridget Lynch Gill '00** with her MMA bridesmaids **Erin Foley '00** and **Adriana Arcamone '00**.

Celeste Viggiano '01 to Peter Fiske on October 5, 2013

Maura Murphy '02 to Ross Powell in October, 2013

Kyle Keating '04 to Bryan Hurtado on August 17, 2013

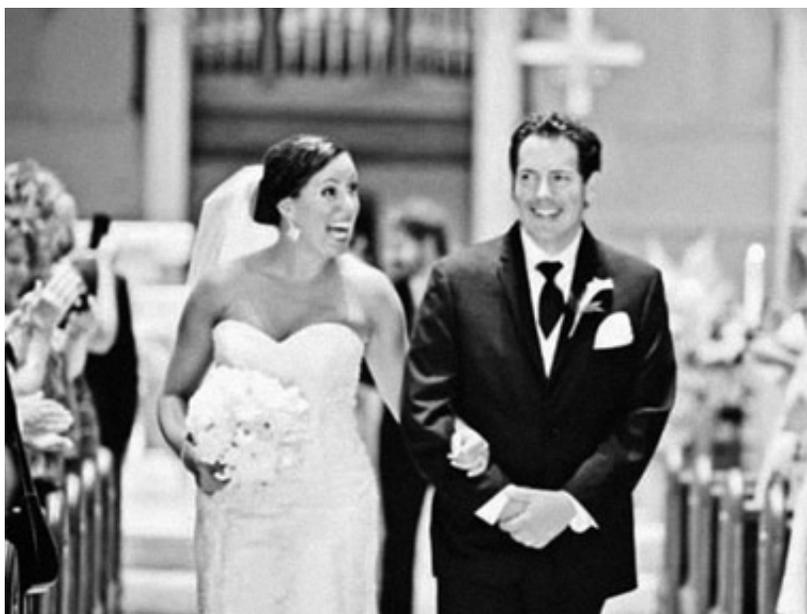
Kathleen Daly '04 to Peter Jordan on August 9, 2013

Sabina DeGisi '06 to Matthew Lennon on June 22, 2013

Amy McKeown '08 to Ensign Robert Stone on September 28, 2013



● **Maribeth Wechsler Boyle '98** married **Joe Boyle** (brother of **Mary Jo Boyle Miller '92** and **Caitlin Boyle McCabe '01**). Many MMA alumnae, including **Sister Barbara Buckley '72**, were in attendance, those in the wedding party were: **Maribeth's sisters Christine Wechsler Rayer '95, Dorothy Wechsler '08, and Anne Wechsler '10;** **Joe's sisters Mary Jo Boyle Miller '92 and Caitlin Boyle McCabe '01;** and **Maribeth's classmates Ellen Hand Favazza '98, Cara Calciano Gaslevich '98, Sarah Weston Johnston '98, and Elizabeth McMahon Parker '98.**



● **Jonathan and Lynne O'Brien Ingram '97**

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● Amy McKeown '08 married Ensign Robert T. Stone, U.S. Navy on September 28, 2013 at Villanova University Chapel. Reception followed at The Desmond Hotel in Malvern. Pictured are Amy and her sisters Kelly '10 and Meghan '06 and brothers Billy ("Chip" in MMT's 2006 production of *Beauty and the Beast*) and Chase (Baby Jesus in MMA Carol Night 2007).

Arrivals

Brian and **Marianne Connolly Lauber, MMA Former Faculty**, a daughter Madeline Margaret

Kevin and **Meghan Broly Long '90**, a daughter, Sarah Margaret



● Sarah Margaret



● Reese Gabriella

Chris and **Susan Momenee Cush '93**, a daughter, Reese Gabriella

Adam and **Kate LePore Hamill '96**, twins, a daughter, Maren Margaret, and a son, Dylan Robert



● Noah John



● Emory Ignatius

Mike and **Allison Lotkowski Schmidt '98**, a son, Noah John

Troy and **Kirsten Echelmeier Sams '99**, a son, Emory Ignatius

Tim and **Adrienne Walvoord Webb '99**, a daughter, Avery Virginia

Michael and **Jane Bennett Boyle '00**, a son, Jack Henry

David and **Shannon Blacker Bruno '00**, a son, Jack David

Jack and **Caiti Murphy Carickhoff '00**, a daughter, Hadley Anne



● Jack Henry



● Jack David



● Hadley Anne



● Anna Day

Joe and **Martha Limbach Francks '00**, a son, Luke Joseph

Anthony and **Kate Cafferky Giancatarino '00**, a daughter, Anna Day



● Emma Eileen



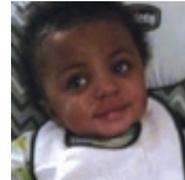
● Elizabeth Claire



● Lyla Grace



● Serafina Nicole



● Andrew



● Ryan Patrick

Michael and **Jennifer Ruzzi Hartle '00**, a son, Ethan Michael

Marc and **Kristen Spell Jones '00**, a daughter, Emma Eileen

Chris and **Kristen Esslinger Kirchner '00**, a daughter, Hayley Breen

Michael and **Kathleen Welsh Kwiatt '00**, a daughter, Elizabeth Claire

Chris and **Danielle Vassalotti Rebori '00**, a daughter, Lyla Grace

Nicholas and **Nancy Novelli Serpentine '00**, a daughter, Serafina Nicole

Edward Beitz and **Clare Tracy '00**, a son, Jack Gallagher

David and **Katie Palanjian Gaines '01**, a son, Andrew

Patrick and **Ashley Burke O'Connor '02**, a son, Ryan Patrick

Sean and **Kacy Moran Powers '02**, a daughter, Anderson Frances

Mike and **Lauren Moran Kleinz '03**, a son, Archibald John



● Anderson Frances and Archibald John

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.

Joseph Arbuckle, husband of Marguerite Walsh Arbuckle '61

Kathleen McCosker Brennan '50

Marguerite Heiken Breslin '50, sister of Gladys Heiken Goehinger '52

Frederick D. Caccese, father of Marie Caccese Gilligan '79

Liane D. Laplace Chapman, MMA Former Faculty

Frances Clark '45

Mary Louise Walsh Campanale '50

Patricia Nyman Colo '50

Brian Cooper, husband of Maureen Daly Cooper '67, father of Alexis Cooper Sawyer '95, brother-in-law of Eileen Daly Killeen '68, MMA Faculty, Christine Daly Echelmeier '70, Patricia Daly Blacker '76, uncle of Tara Echelmeier Dolan '94, MMA Former Faculty, Erin Killeen Coder '95, Tierney Echelmeier Norris '97, Meaghan Killeen Fishbone '99, Kirsten Echelmeier Sams '99, Shannon Blacker Bruno '00, Kathleen Daly Jordan '04, and Maura Daly '08

Albert F. Dagit, brother of Eileen Dagit Loughran '75

Susan DeVlieger, mother of Denise DeVlieger Koenig '90, mother-in-law of Mary Butler DeVlieger '82, grandmother of Maggie DeVlieger '13 and Katherine DeVlieger '15

Olga Dragonetti, mother of Maria Lynch, MMA Faculty, and grandmother of Mary Lynch '09

Patricia Farrell, grandmother of Meghan McKeown '06, Amy McKeown Stone '08, and Kelly McKeown '10

Henry B. FitzPatrick, Jr., father of Colleen FitzPatrick Markey '83, grandfather of Meghan FitzPatrick '08, Patricia Markey '15, and MaryCate Markey '17, great uncle of Kathryn FitzPatrick '14, and nephew of Sister Catherine FitzPatrick, RIP, MMA Former Principal

Miriam Rudolph Fisher '42

Joseph Gorman, father of Helene Gorman Bradley '75, grandfather of Eleanor Bradley '04, Marianne Bradley '06, and Eileen Bradley '09

Sister Theresa Gormley RSM, MMA Former Faculty

Edward Gilhool, brother of Marianne Gilhool Sheehy '57, RIP, and Felicia Gilhool Hayes '56

Margaret Glynn, grandmother of Kelsey Rigler '05, Katie Glynn '05, and Kelsey Glynn '08, and mother-in-law of Kelley Glynn, MMA Faculty

Mary Frances Healey Hartdorn, aunt of Erin MacCausland '09 and Allie MacCausland '15

Gary Hartdorn, uncle of Erin MacCausland '09 and Allie MacCausland '15

Margaret Callan Hagan '50

Philip E. Hawley III, father of Kristine Hawley Reens '92, Jennifer Hawley '95, and Kimberly Hawley '98

Ruth Jenkins, mother of Jackie Westerfer, MMA Faculty

Brian Lederman, step son of Virginia Flick Lederman '80

Richard Lunardi, uncle of Emily Lunardi '12 and Elizabeth Lunardi '16

Mary Katherine McDonald, sister of Teresa McDonald Cavacino '84

Margaret McBrien O'Brien, MMA Former Faculty

Ann Rittenhouse Packard '46

Marianne Gilhool Sheehy '57, sister of Felicia Gilhool Hayes '56

Pauline Lotkowski, grandmother of Jennifer Lotkowski Chin '96, Allison Lotkowski Schmidt '98, and Mary Ellen Lotkowski '05

Mary Simonis Rush, MMA Faculty

Michael Small, brother of Sister Rita Small, RSM, MMA Former Faculty

Grace Louis Stinson, grandmother of Jerome Stinson, MMA Faculty

Jeanne Stokes, mother-in-law of Patricia Drueding Stokes '75

Robert E. Slota, brother of Deanna Slota Bentley '85

Kenneth Warfield, husband of Suzanne Jordan Warfield '67

Bernice Manion Vogts '40, sister of Delores Manion Matthews '30, RIP, Sister Constance Manion '32, RIP, Gertrude Manion Carr '34, RIP, Marcella Manion Williams '38, RIP, Claire Manion Johnson '43, RIP, Rosemary Manion Acosta '46, RIP, and Janice Manion Wildermann '49 RIP

Nicole Yonko '95

Thank You to the Current Officers of the Alumnae Association

Barbara Colantuono Harrison '82 (President), **Claire Brennan Sereni '74** (Secretary),

Lauren Daley '06 (Treasurer), and **Clare Tracy '00** (Career & Mentoring)

For the Time, Talent, and Leadership They Have Brought to the Association During their Term.

MMA ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION is accepting nominations to fill the slate for the next two-year term of President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Career & Mentoring. **THE TERM FOR THESE OFFICERS WILL BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER 2014.**



Please forward the names of nominees (yourself or other alumnae) for any or all of the open positions to Linda Miele Benton '75, Alumnae Relations, at lbenton@merion-mercy.com or 610-664-6655, ext. 104. If you would like descriptions of duties for the offices, contact Linda.



“ALL OF US ARE BORN WITH POWER.
*This power was given to us by God because he loves us and it is completely indelible, nothing can take it away from us. And if we haven't already, **WE MUST DISCOVER THIS POWER INSIDE OF US** and ignite it and put it into action.”*

–Gabriella Schneider '14

SHARE IN THE POWER OF MERCY.

Your support makes our programs **STRONGER**, our successes **GREATER**, and our legacy **BRIGHTER**.

Every gift counts, proving that the
POWER OF ONE leads to **STRENGTH IN NUMBERS**.

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.

Merion Mercy now offers a recurring gift option online.

An easy, secure way to increase the impact of your donation by making a monthly gift.

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