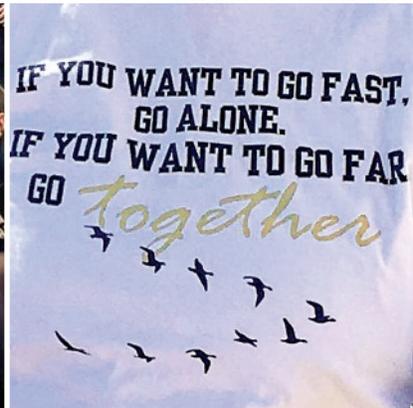
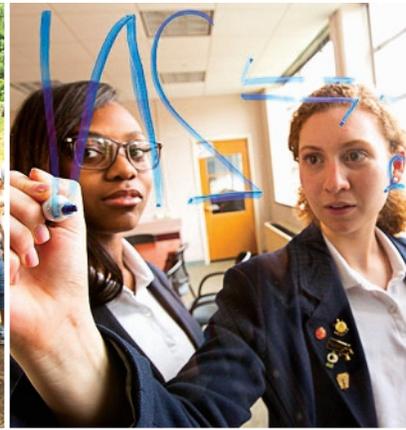


THE MAGAZINE OF MERION MERCY ACADEMY

Mater Matters

SPRING 2017



From the Head of School

When I became a part of the Merion Mercy administration in 2000, we had just begun to use email and launched our first website.

Social media didn't exist and communications to parents were through a monthly communiqué that we cranked out in MS Word and printed out, and, for faculty/staff, memos were placed in cubby-style mailboxes.

Without a doubt, there has been a cultural shift brought about by technology. And, we are left with balancing these rapidly-evolving practices while still creating a sense of connectedness and cohesiveness.

As a world community, we are often left wondering if technology has brought us closer together or driven us further apart. Perhaps, our field hockey team unknowingly answered this key question of their generation when they chose the motto, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." They had an exciting season having capped it by playing in the PIAA (Class AA) state championship game. They lost that final game, but having watched the caliber of their play together, I saw champions. Communicating very well on the field, they were a pleasure to watch as each player with elite skills knew how to back another up, where to pass into open spaces, and how to be there to receive it. It was like watching an orchestra play its parts — truly symphonic.

I like to think that the field hockey team represents a microcosm of the relationships our girls experience together. So often I hear from alumnae that their closest friends are those they met at MMA. In a recent *New York Times* piece, "Friends of a Certain Age," Alex Williams maintains that many people make lifelong friends in high school and college rather than later in life. Schools like Merion Mercy are havens where girls are challenged and nurtured spiritually, emotionally, and academically. And it is under these circumstances, which at times can be quite demanding, that



they develop lasting friendships because they have frequent close encounters that allow self-revelation.

These connections build a stronger community and organically bring our students closer together — what MMA often refers to as "the sisterhood." This is the foundation of many facets of student life. I see it in so many areas, ranging from the arts to athletics, collaboration in the classroom to the capital campaign, Sip 'n Bid to service projects.

It has been my experience at Merion Mercy that while we advance in a world that moves quickly, enjoying the benefits of new technologies and seemingly infinite possibilities, we can do so without forgetting or discounting the core value of collaboration: "If you want to go far, go together." 🙌

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sister Barbara Buckley".

Sister Barbara Buckley '72
Head of School

HEAD OF SCHOOL

Sister Barbara Buckley '72

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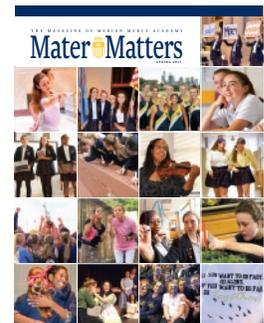
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ON THE COVER



While Merion Mercy moves forward, enjoying the benefits of new technologies and seemingly infinite possibilities, we do so with a commitment to the Mercy Core Value of "Collaboration with Others." As one of the mantras MMA embraced this year, the cover reminds us: "If you want to go far, go together."

DEPARTMENTS

OPENING COMMENTS

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Merion Mercy Moves Upward & Onward

Upward & Onward will dramatically improve our infrastructure, allowing the facilities to better serve the needs of the students and our programs.



The renovations include the Frances M. Maguire '53 Art & Design Center, Collaborative Learning Spaces, a Counseling Center, a Student Activities and Athletics Center, and an energy-efficient Kitchen and Dining Commons.



Brijette Brown '18, Annie Holmes '19, and Talia Rosati '19

Inspire:

Frances M. Maguire '53

Art & Design Center

An art center with flexible, instructional space including the latest technological advances and areas for student exhibitions to facilitate its highly successful and expanding arts program (this space has extraordinary versatility and would also be used for other programs—from the science department to Student Council to project-based learning assignments to service projects).

Enrich:

Collaborative Learning Spaces

Expanded collaborative learning spaces to maximize the impact of new technology, such as the 1:1 computing initiative, and school programs, such as a customized, hybrid schedule that allows for extended time for students to focus on projects and enrichment activities.

Advance:

College and Personal Counseling Center

Private offices for College and Personal Counseling to meet with students and parents as well as a larger conference room for collaborative workshops for counselors and faculty.

Strengthen:

Student Activities and Athletics Center

A renovated student activities and athletics center that will afford much-needed space not only for its thriving sports programs, but to accommodate service programs, extracurricular activities, exhibits, meetings, and community events (both internal programs and initiatives that include neighbors and families from underserved communities).

Nourish:

Kitchen and Dining Commons

A new, energy-efficient kitchen for in-house food preparation in order to yield healthier food choices in a more eco-friendly environment and a multipurpose dining hall that includes a communal gathering space.



Beam Signing

Merion Mercy held a beam-signing ceremony on November 3. All students, faculty, staff, and trustees were invited to put their signature on a designated steel beam, which was the last piece of steel put in place in the building project.

It was an exciting morning as the Merion Mercy community helped “write” part of school history by signing their names to the final beam—there were lots of cheers, smiling faces, and great energy.

“What a special way to mark this milestone. I loved seeing all of the current students’ names. It also is special to read the signatures that students and other members of the community added: their sisters, mothers, and/or daughters who are alumnae,” shared Assistant Director of Admissions, Mrs. Megan Norton.

TOP: Members of the Class of 2017 take a moment to connect as a class.

TOP RIGHT: Faculty members Kim Baxter, Jaclyn Ozzimo '07, and Alexis Browsh '99



Hard Hat Tours

Sister Barbara Buckley and other staff members have been leading hard hat tours of the site, pointing out some special features of the project and how the renovations are moving along.



MMA dads Dennis Riley, Robert Durant, Sister Barbara Buckley, Brian McTiernan, George McKenzie, Tony Drollas, and Mark Lo Sasso on the Fathers’ Club Hard Hat Tour in the fall.

#thespotwelovesowell



It’s time to share why you support MMA as we move Upward & Onward. We want to know why you gave or are going to give to the Campaign.

POST A PHOTO OR VIDEO after you make a gift to Upward & Onward and tag it with [#thespotwelovesowell](https://twitter.com/thespotwelovesowell) on Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram. Be creative—take a photo with your MMA spirit wear, write out why you gave, or get your MMA friends and/or your own family involved.

We want to share your enthusiasm with the entire MMA family—past, present, and future.

Around Campus



Sisterhood

Big sisters meet up with their little sisters at the event: Emma Carter '20, Megan Talke '18, Kristen Sobocinski '18, Reilly Magee '20, and Grace Gillespie '18.

MERION MERCY...

Where Friends Feel Like Family

Merion Mercy's Big Sister/Little Sister program enjoyed a back-to-school gathering and swapped stories and treat bags. At the start of each school year, freshman and sophomore little sisters are paired with their junior and senior big sisters. The "sisters" meet throughout the year and mark special occasions together.

"The Big Sister/Little Sister program is an important way that upperclassmen can both mentor and support underclassmen," shares Director of Admissions, Eileen Killeen. "Additionally, it reinforces the family atmosphere at Merion Mercy; the students really bond through the shared experiences they have."



MERION MERCY ACADEMY PROUDLY ANNOUNCES THREE NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation named one MMA senior as a National Merit Semifinalist and two as Commended Students.

MMA's National Merit Scholars Katherine Troy, commended, Thérèse Mills, semifinalist, and Kristen Beckett, commended

MERCY DAY AT MMA

Mercy Day is 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.

“Mercy Day isn’t just celebrated inside the walls of Merion Mercy; it is celebrated on a global scale and therefore, we are called to a global vision. A vision of peace and mercy that includes every man, woman, and child across the world,” said Merion Mercy’s Student Council President Maida Pannepacker ’17.

On Mercy Day this year, the MMA school community embraced the school’s year-long theme “Peace Begins with MErcy” with a liturgy and assembly based on social justice. Appropriately, the theme “Peace Begins with MErcy” also 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 MMA community has been involved in “The Mercy Girl Effect,” a project combining the efforts of Mercy schools across the nation, for several years. Together, a group of Mercy-

sponsored schools collaborate to improve the quality of life for females in developing nations 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 half a world away. In recent years, the MMA students helped to raise money to build a library in Kenya and schools in Cambodia and South Sudan.

This year, students will focus their fundraising efforts to fund housing for refugees in Nigeria. Sisters of Mercy are currently ensconced with more than 1,000 women and children who were forced out of their homes and had to relocate to the grounds of a local church. The goal is to raise money to build hut-houses for these families. Once they have housing, they get an address and are then eligible to enroll at the local school.



Student leaders with Mercy Day speaker Sister Angela Reed of Mercy Global Action at the United Nations, NYC. Maida Pannepacker '17, Cara Rossi '18, Mairead Collins '17, Sarah Capuzzi '17, Margaret Wilson '17, Margaret Roccato '18, presenter Sister Angela Reed, Savanna Urban '18, Kathryn Lynch '18, Julia Moore '17, and Alay'na DiSanto '17.

TWO TIME-HONORED MMA TRADITIONS:

Harvest Moon and Weenie Roast changed venues for this year due to the building project. While the locations changed, the events continued to provide fall fun for all!



HARVEST MOON DANCE

This year's Harvest Moon was held at Drexelbrook. Although the Harvest Moon has been held on campus for decades, this was not always so. Many "moons" ago, the "Harvest Moon Ball" — the event's name when it began in 1942 — was held off campus. Students and their dates enjoyed music by an orchestra and raised money for the Missions club through ticket sales and event patrons.



WEENIE ROAST

Waldron Mercy shared their gymnasium — and stage — for this year's Weenie Roast. The day included traditional staples: skits, hot dogs, costumes, and some friendly competition for the coveted awards. Seniors Kierra Maynard, Rylie Eisenhardt, Tarathorn Boonngamanong, MaryCate Markey, and Kristen Matz lead their homeroom's skit.



COMPASSION AND SERVICE

Thanksgiving Food Drive

Merion Mercy's Ministry Team spearheaded the school's Thanksgiving food collection, providing two dozen families with food for Thanksgiving.

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

Left: Megan Stevens '19 and Madeleine Nowak '18

CAROL NIGHT

Another magical musical Christmas season was enjoyed by all on Carol Night and at the Christmas Concert, which welcomed alumnae and MMA families.

Carol Night was magnificent with the juniors and seniors singing many well-known Christmas songs and hymns, along with our school families. This culminated in the beautiful Nativity Tableau, a time-honored Merion tradition. This year's nativity tableau featured "Blessed Mother" Emily Crawford '17 and "Angels" Nadia Carlino '17, Alison Zarella '17, MaryCate Markey '17, and Josie Messina '17, and "Baby Jesus" Martin Louis Donnelly. Martin is the son of Kevin and Angela DiCocco Donnelly '04, MMA Spanish teacher.

During the Christmas Concert, we enjoyed the beautiful sounds of the three Handbell Choirs, the Glee, A Cappella, and Chorale singing groups, Dance Troupe, and the Ensemble throughout the evening, as well as a stage full of alumnae and current students singing the treasured "O Holy Night." Both evenings were led by Music Director Patty Brown '83 with her Assistant Music Director Irene Moretto '08.



Carol Night 1998



AS A GREAT PIECE OF MMA TRIVIA, this year's featured "Blessed Mother" Emily Crawford '17 (pictured above) was the "Baby Jesus" in 1998 along with the Class of 1999's "Blessed Mother" Jaclyn Grenfell Ough and "Angels" Beatrice D'Angelo, Crystal Marincola, and Colleen McNesby (pictured top right).

Emmy-Award Winning Documentarian and Alumna Frances McElroy '64 Screens Her Most Recent Production *Black Ballerina* at MMA

As part of Merion Mercy's celebration of Black History Month, MMA held a schoolwide assembly to screen the recently-released documentary *Black Ballerina*, which was produced and directed by Emmy-award winning documentarian and Merion Mercy alumna Frances (Fran) McElroy '64.

A Q-and-A with Ms. McElroy and three African American MMA students who are ballerinas followed the screening. The event concluded with a performance by the school's Dance Troupe.

Ms. McElroy's documentary *Black Ballerina* tells the story of several black women from different generations who fell in love with ballet and faced racism in pursuit of careers in classical dance. Today, young dancers of color continue to face formidable challenges breaking into the overwhelmingly white world of ballet. Moving back and forth in time, this character-driven film shows how far we still have to go and stimulates a fresh discussion about race, inclusion and opportunity across all sectors of American society.

Merion Mercy's Dance Troupe performs after the film screening and Q-and-A.



Fran McElroy '64 and students Kymora Howell '20, Brijette Brown '18, and Brianna Lawimore '20 take questions from the audience.

Ms. McElroy's films often raise discussions that can (and often do) lead to action. Her personal and professional values are guided by a strong foundation in social justice that she credits to her years at Merion Mercy, living the Mercy Core Values. Though she has received many awards for her work, Ms. McElroy believes that the biggest achievement is when her "documentaries are shown on public television and people can see them and hopefully take something away from the experience, thus achieving more perspective in the world."

The students of MMA certainly benefited from viewing her work and the discussions that followed. As the world continues to diversify with groups of many different origins, cultures, and creeds, MMA is choosing to celebrate the histories that make up the collective account of our nation, citing that it is important that we reflect on and celebrate the monumental contributions and use them as a platform for future growth.

MERION MERCY MUSIC THEATER (MMMT)

Merion Mercy Music Theater (MMMT) produced an outstanding fall drama *A Christmas Carol*.



MMMT's winter musical, *Once Upon a Mattress*, a hilarious musical comedy that adds a few twists to the fairy tale, *The Princess and the Pea*, won the hearts of audiences.



Both productions showcased an entertaining cast, vibrant costumes, impressive sets and lighting, and tremendous talent. Bravo!

Director of Admissions, Eileen Daly Killeen '68, HONORED BY INN DWELLING

Inn Dwelling, a nonprofit organization in Germantown, honored Merion Mercy's Director of Admissions, Eileen Daly Killeen '68, at its 35th Anniversary Celebration.

With the support of Merion Mercy's administration, Mrs. Killeen has been instrumental in forging a strong partnership between Inn Dwelling and Merion Mercy. Among its many programs, Inn Dwelling provides a rigorous middle school program in an urban elementary school. This program aims to break the cycle of generational poverty by unlocking the potential of high-performing students from underserved communities, providing qualified students an opportunity to develop their skills, challenge their minds, and learn behaviors that will prepare them for selective high schools, such as Merion Mercy.

Mrs. Killeen has been working with Inn Dwelling since its early years, helping to ensure educational opportunities for participants who wish to pursue a Merion Mercy education. As Director of Admissions at Merion Mercy, Mrs. Killeen is uniquely qualified and positioned to help the most talented and deserving of students broaden their worldview and achieve academically, spiritually, and socially.

As an alumna of Merion Mercy and a legacy, Eileen brings with her a strong commitment to the core values of Mercy. Sisters of Mercy founder

Catherine McAuley crusaded for the rights of the poor, and she placed emphasis on education and care for women and children. These works have become the hallmark of the Mercy charism, which Mrs. Killeen embraces and champions each day.

She has served as the school's Director of Admissions for more than 35 years, and with each year she brings new enthusiasm to the mission of educating young women. She takes a particular interest in maintaining the school's racially and socioeconomically diverse student population. She is deeply committed to students who are most marginalized, and she believes that quality education changes lives.

Mrs. Killeen helped to develop several programs at Merion Mercy, including the Katharine Drexel Saturday Program and the Summer Academy, that provide opportunities for underserved students. These programs take a holistic approach to enriching academic experiences for young women and preparing them for their high school years and beyond.

"Our relationship with the Inn Dwelling program has been a gift to the Merion Mercy community. The students sponsored through this program come to us extremely well prepared for a rigorous college prep curriculum and recognize what a special opportunity they have earned through their hard work and commitment to excellence," said Mrs. Killeen. "Of course, none of this would be possible without the leadership and support of our Head of School Sister Barbara Buckley '72 and Inn Dwelling's team."

Pictured with Eileen is the event's keynote speaker, Diana Striplet '16, who received both a QuestBridge and Gates Millennium Scholarship upon graduation from MMA and is currently attending Haverford College, and Kerlyn Rodriguez '14 (current student at Villanova University) and Kimberly Rodriguez '14 (current student at Gwynedd Mercy University). Diana, Kerlyn, and Kimberly are among the scores of Merion Mercy graduates and current students who participated in the Inn Dwelling programs.



40TH ANNUAL SIP 'N BID *Ruby Gala*

More than 250 guests attended Merion Mercy's 40th annual Sip 'n Bid dinner and auction. This year's theme was "Ruby Gala," honoring the event's 40th anniversary.

Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and silent auction preceded a sit down dinner and the always-exciting loud auction. Guests bid on countless gift certificates and dining experiences, many one-of-a-kind gifts, such as an engraved captain's chair, a Caribbean vacation, cooking classes in your home, a dinner and wine pairing for ten, and golf packages. All proceeds from the event directly benefit students at the Academy.



1. Event chairs Kellie and Greg Steller and Patrick and Ann Murphy stand with Sister Barbara Buckley (center).
2. Event committee members gather. Front row: Norma Giannini, Ann Murphy, Kellie Steller, Suzanne Carlin, and Marta Kyle; Back row: Jodee Scannapieco, Patricia Procopio, Nancy Zarella, Katie Duffy Keating '77, and Mary Jane Reilly-Mesi.
3. Merion Mercy alumnae volunteers were out in full force. Front row: Karen O'Brien '90, Susan Cobaugh Steinmetz '93, Joan Koob '07, Maureen Costello '00, Christine Daly Echelmeier '70, and Kirsten Echelmeier Sams '99; Middle row: Maria Jose Morinigo '90, Kristina Stanton Cawley '90; Cathy Williamson Sabia '85, and Christina Feo Penezic '80; Back row: Barbara Colantuono Harrison '82 and Linda Miele Benton '75

40th ANNIVERSARY!

FOUR DECADES OF SIP 'N BID!

- Did you know that current grandparent, past parent, and alumna Pat Mansfield Oldfield '56 was part of the original team in the 1970s to coin the event Sip 'n Bid? Sip 'n Bid raised \$10,000 in its first year and 150 guests attended the event.
- Only two auctioneers have accepted bids at Sip 'n Bid—many thanks to MMA families, Glenn Sweeney and the Comly family.
- Only one caterer has ever been used. In the first few years, the event was not catered, but once catering commenced, Williamson's has been the only vendor. And, Williamson's has donated to the event every year!



The DiSipio family have been loyal Sip 'n Bid supporters since the 1990s, attending more than 20 and annually donating the coveted, one-of-a-kind MMA Captain's Chair. The DiSipios came in full force with family and friends to the 40th anniversary.

Brian Gallagher, Matt Philbin, Mark Avitabile, Bill DiSipio, MMA Trustee, Mary Teresa DiSipio '07, Monica DiSipio '04, Kate DiSipio Avitabile '99, Mary DiSipio, Kristin DiSipio '02, and Melissa DiSipio '91



Student volunteers Claudia Conway '18 and Miranda DellaVecchio '18 take a moment to catch up with Miranda's parents Nancy and Mark DellaVecchio.



MMA parents Kelly and Andrew McMenamin

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If You Want to Go Far, GO TOGETHER

Merion Mercy's field hockey program has been a staple on campus for generations (and, it is said the game originated over 4,000 years ago, is on the tombs of Egyptians, and was one of the team sports played in the ancient Olympics in Greece). But, my how things have changed! It's not your mother's game anymore (it might not even be your older sister's game anymore). With evolving rules and ever-changing and refined equipment, the field hockey played today is fast and powerful.



This year's squad brought a lot of attention to the sport this season. The MMA community had a front-row seat to watch a uniquely talented squad (with several seniors heading to D1/ Ivy League schools/athletic programs) finish its season having clinched the District One title (Merion Mercy's first in field hockey) and battled to the state finals where they faced an undefeated Donegal High School team. Before this season, Merion Mercy had only been to the PIAA State Finals once (in 2008). The two aggressive field hockey teams played with grit, and Donegal prevailed.



Co-captain Kolbe Keating '17 (the youngest of seven sisters who attended MMA and played field hockey. Her mom, Katie Duffy Keating '77, played field hockey as well) shared the team's philosophy in a recent interview, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." And, that's how the team played all season. In this generation's high speed play, on a team with highly skilled individuals, Merion Mercy never forgot their mantra.

Prior to the final game for the PIAA Class 2A Field Hockey Championship (played at the Zephyr Sports Complex in Whitehall, Pa.), MMA's team (20-4-2) had yet to give up a goal in the PIAA tournament after blanking Gettysburg (8-0), Bonner & Prendie (4-0) and Crestwood (1-0) to cap off an eight-game winning streak. The good news

seemed to come in all season! The team was regularly named as one of the top 20 programs in an elite group of Pennsylvania and New Jersey high schools. Philafielddhockey.com named the squad Team of the Week, noting that "It is not just the wins that make this team stellar; it's their expert teamwork and depth." Cameron Toddy '17 was the

Philafielddhockey.com Defender of the Week. Caroline Steller '17 and Margo Carlin '19 both earned the distinction of Main Line Girls' Athlete of the Week. And, the accolades and praise continue to pour in for the team and coaches.

"It was a great run, and we are all very proud of our entire team," said Merion



Mercy Athletic Director Barbara Clarke. She added, "The school was so invested in this team and their road to the finals. Every send off (and a very inspiring, student-led pep rally) created a lot of energy and enthusiasm on campus, lifting the entire student body to great heights and showcasing the tremendous pride we have in one another's accomplishments." 🏆

Many of the MMA players, managers, and staff members gathered after the State Finals

FRONT ROW: Karleigh Carlin, Moira Dougherty '18, Kaely Kyle '17, Meghan Devine '18, Jaime Natale '17 (Captain), Kolbe Keating '17 (Captain), Caroline Steller '17, and Nicole Gerdes; **BACK ROW:** Katie Murphy '18, Margaret Wilson '17, Shannon Bedrossian '17, Caitlin Farkas '18, Emily Tecco '17, Alison Zarella '17, Kelly Thomas '18, Gianna Giacomini '17, Brittney Bedrossian '17, Emily Hauck '20, Kelsey Farkas '17 (Captain), Margo Carlin '19, Allie Scannapieco '17, Alexandria Lavelle '20, Kelsey McMenamin '17, Meredith Shields '17, Sara Ewing '18, Devyn Russo '18, Cameron Toddy '17, and Maureen McClatchy '18.

Three additional players not in photo: Arianna Lavelle '18, Victoria Natale '20, and Grace Winterle '18.



FALL SPORTS POINTS OF PRIDE

CREW

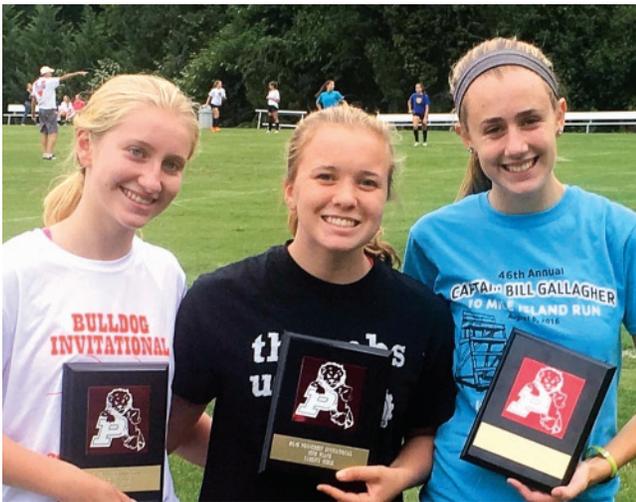


MMA entered five boats in the King's Head Regatta, hosted by the Upper Merion Boat Club. For several years, MMA's crews have dedicated their races at the King's Head Regatta to MMA alumna Jackie Fioravanti '12 RIP. Congratulations to all rowers on an impressive showing and especially to our V8A for kicking off our fall season in style, edging out two Mount St. Joseph boats to earn gold in their category by a margin of 8.85 seconds.

All MMA boats performed well in the Navy Day Regatta. Merion entered four boats: one JV8, two V4s (A & B), and one V8. The V4A and V8 both clinched 1st place while the JV8 placed 4th out of 18 and the V4B placed 12th out of 29.

CROSS COUNTRY

Cross Country had a great showing at the Penncrest Invitational Meet! The team placed 3rd in the Varsity race. Bethy Gallagher '17 placed 6th. Rebecca Naser '19 placed 7th. Annie Hughes '17 placed 15th. They all received plaques and earned their personal "best times" for this season.



Rebecca Naser '19, Annie Hughes '17, and Bethy Gallagher '17

TENNIS

Tennis team placed third in the Athletic Association of Catholic Academies (AACA) with an overall record of 10-5.

VOLLEYBALL

Allison Stranick '17 was named as an AVCA (American Volleyball Coaches Association) player of the week in Pennsylvania.

The volleyball team went as far as District semifinals.



MMA Athletes Named to All-Star Teams

Athletic Association of Catholic Academies (AACA) named the following Merion Mercy students to the AACA All-Star Teams for 2016:

FIELD HOCKEY:

Margo Carlin '19, Kelsey Farkas '17, Kolbe Keating '17, Jaime Natale '17

GOLF:

Theresa Stewart '17

SOCCER:

Michaela Coppinger '17, Caila Olivo '17

VOLLEYBALL:

Avery Kirk '17, Adrienne Rufus '17, Allison Stranick '17

PA High School Field Hockey Coaches Association named four Merion Mercy students to PA All-State Selections:

1ST TEAM: Kelsey Farkas '17, Jaime Natale '17

2ND TEAM: Margo Carlin '19

HONORABLE MENTION: Cameron Toddy '17



13 Merion Mercy Student Athletes Commit to Collegiate Sports

Congratulations to the following 13 MMA athletes who signed letters of intent and made commitments to play sports on the collegiate level:

(FRONT) Jada Smith, Basketball, Holy Family University; Cate Schriber, Rowing, Clemson University; Morgan Sherman, Rowing, University of Miami; Jeanne McGill, Rowing, Drexel University; Morgan Lamb, Rowing, Boston College; **(BACK)** Kelsey Farkas, Field Hockey, Columbia University; Jaime Natale, Field Hockey, Boston College; Cameron Toddy, Field Hockey, Longwood University; Kaely Kyle, Lacrosse, High Point University; Allie Scannapieco, Lacrosse, George Washington University; Caroline Steller, Lacrosse, Marquette University; Kolbe Keating, Field Hockey, Harvard University; MaryCate Markey, Lacrosse, Old Dominion University.

ALUMNAE ATHLETIC UPDATES



Michaela Scanlon '15 helped her University of Delaware field hockey team capture a national championship — their first-ever NCAA field hockey crown. Michaela's proud mom is Helen Power Scanlon '77. She is pictured with her mom and dad, Kevin.

Exciting to see the first-ever MMA alumnae boat row in the Head of the Schuylkill — the only rowing event that brings Olympians, colleges, high schools, and clubs together to compete.



Beth Ryan '10, Jackie Prazenica '10, Elizabeth Parker '11, Kate Votta '11, Elissa Jensen '12, Jill Kupcha '12, Sara Romano '11, Laura Buongiorno '10, and Mary Kate Gibbons '11

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

By: Cameron Centrella '17

Nationally, Tastykake may have given Philadelphia a reputation for mastering the sweet treat, but natives of the region know that there is oh-so-much more than one way to satisfy the most discriminating palates. And, a little Merion Mercy trivia: some of the most well-known bakeries in the area have ties to MMA!

Cristina Potito-Benigno '01 is at the helm of one of these iconic businesses, working hard and honoring a proud legacy. Sound like a Merion girl? Cristina describes her high school days as “an amazing experience;” however, she did not plan on attending Merion at first. Growing up in South Philadelphia, most of the girls she graduated grade school with went to local high schools, but her parents had a different plan for her. Cristina begged and pleaded with



Cristina Potito-Benigno '01 with her husband and children.

her parents to allow her to attend high school with her friends, but they had their hearts set on Merion. After some discussion, they came to a final agreement: give Merion one full year. If she was unhappy, she could transfer to the local high school of her choice at the end of freshman year. It did not take long until she realized that she belonged at Merion. Cristina shared some aspects that made high school special, noting “the classes were small and the teachers not only cared about the education of the students, but they also cared about the individual student as well.” She always felt like she had a place at MMA and that she could ask for help if she needed it.

“MERION OPENED MY EYES to a culture of learning that I didn’t even know existed. Fifteen years later, my education allows me to stand out in a crowd.”

Throughout high school and college, Cristina intended on eventually joining her father in their family business, Potito’s Bakery. Carmen and Maria Potito founded the successful Italian bakery in the heart of South Philadelphia in 1985 when Cristina was just a toddler. As she grew up, she and her two sisters, Nicole Potito ’05 and Briana Potito ’10, spent a lot of time behind the counter at their beloved bakery. Cristina expressed the most interest in business operations from an early age. Sadly, during her senior year at Saint Joseph’s University, her father lost his long, hard battle with leukemia. Immediately following, she and her mother kept the bakery up and running. Cristina and her husband, Matty, eventually bought the bakery from her mother in 2009. Cristina knew Potito’s could be much more than a corner store in South Philadelphia. Potito’s began to focus on more than cannoli and Italian cream cakes. Matty and Cristina added different pastries, cakes, and cookies to the store. They also launched a website with internet shipping across the United States as well as a specialty and wedding cake department. In July of 2011, Potito’s opened their first satellite location on Wildwood’s boardwalk; in February of 2013, they opened their first, full-service

satellite location in the heart of Center City Philadelphia. After two seasons on the boardwalk, Potito’s outgrew the space and moved into a larger location in North Wildwood. In September of the same year, Potito’s opened another location in the Fairmount section of Philadelphia. Recently, they established a wholesale and specialty cake division (Benigno and Sons Baking Company).

Now, Cristina lives four blocks from the house where she grew up in South Philadelphia. Both of her businesses are located in South Philadelphia, but she says that even if they weren’t, she would probably still live in the city. “I didn’t even move away for college. I attended Saint Joe’s for Food Marketing with one of my best friends, Alicia (Dorazio Warner ’01). I will never forget our first day of college. We were terrified,” she said. They actually went back to Merion that day too, asking if there was any way that they could start high school all over again! She eventually adjusted to life on a bigger campus. She talked to many students who struggled in college, which made her realize Merion fully prepared her for the academic curriculum. There were no surprises: she knew how to write a paper properly and had read books years before her peers. “Merion opened my eyes to a culture of learning that I didn’t even know existed. Fifteen years later, my education allows me to stand out in a crowd.”

She believes her biggest career accomplishment is continuing her father’s legacy through the family business. She is also very grateful for the help of her husband; without his support, she would not have been able to keep Potito’s thriving. Aside from working full-time at the bakery, she is also a full-time mom to two young boys. She added, “I wish there was a Merion for boys!”

Cristina met many lifelong friends while at Merion, and the names seem to roll off her tongue: “Jen (Palella ’01), Alicia (Dorazio Warner ’01), and Mia (Campo ’02).” And, the list goes on — she also counts Noelle Ferrante Leuzzi ’04 as a dear friend. In fact, she and Noelle met through their children, proving that the Mercy bond really lives on, transcending time and place.

Cristina’s advice for Merion girls today: treasure the time at Merion. “These are truly the best years of your life,” she said. “Make memories, laugh a lot, and value the unparalleled education you are blessed to receive. Work really hard because in the end it will all pay off, and remember that everything in life happens for a reason. Even the worst situation will make you a better person, if you choose to learn and grow.” Talk about good, old-fashioned authenticity of the sweetest variety. 🍪

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 following Class Notes are based on information received prior to December 30, 2016).

The Forties

Helen Hart Buchholz '41 was happy to get the last *Mater Matters* and wondered, "What happened to the '40s?" She shared, "Sister Mary Antonita Tobin, RSM '41 and I were at the last reunion, with bells on. My two daughters and my son, Father Jim Buchholz, also attended. Father Jim said the Alumnae Mass in the Convent Chapel. It was a very special time for me. I began at MMA at the age of five. I spent much time in that Chapel, besides receiving Confirmation and First Holy Communion there (that's right Confirmation before First Holy Communion), the day held outstanding memories for me, which have stayed with me until this day. We sat three in a pew, so the nuns could watch our every giddy move. I guess you could say my life was built at MMA and that Merion Mercy made me who I am today!"



● Helen Buchholz '41, Father Buchholz, and Sister Mary Antonita Tobin, RSM '41

Rosemont College gave **Margaretta Richardi '44** and **Delories Richardi '49** honorary doctoral degrees at the college's 2016 Commencement Ceremony. They were praised for using their education "to achieve professional success and to enrich the world."

Mary Lucita Baxter Donnelly '49 reported, "There are still some of us meeting for lunch regularly: Delories Richardi, Joan Daley Graves, Carolyn Coady Lea, and Eileen McCarthy Epp. We miss our friend and classmate, Gertrude Dorsey Kelly RIP, who was with us for years."

The Fifties

Helen Devine Coen '51 wrote in with her annual fund gift that she is a proud member of the class of 1951 — and 2016 marked their 65th reunion. She added that some of her nieces are also MMA graduates and asked for her classmate, former MMA principal, **Sister Miriam de Lourdes '51**.

SpeakUp! celebrated its founder, **Martie Wolfington Gillin '55**, and 16 years of speaking up on October 21, 2016, at the Sheraton Valley Forge Hotel in King of Prussia. After her son died, Martie began sharing his story and saw a need for cross-generational communication. SpeakUp! was founded to offer youth, educators, and parents the skills, opportunities, and support to communicate effectively so adults can guide children in making positive life choices. It is now in 37 schools, with 1,000 student leaders; some 5,000 students and parents open up each year. More than 630 attended the tribute event, which raised money to help continue SpeakUp!'s mission.

The Sixties

Helen (Lynn) Martin Carter '60 reported that she is "enjoying retirement in Florida."

class notes

Ann Jordan Rissel '62 wrote, "I am married for 42 years and have three daughters: Anna, Mary Jane, and Sarah Catherine (deceased). I have one grandson, and now I am a great grandmom to a lovely little three-year-old! They all live in Pennsylvania, and it is hard to see everyone, living out in Arizona. I also was a Vigelette, in Tombstone, AZ. I made many dresses, hats, purses, etc. My husband, now retired after 40 years with IBM, was a gunfighter in Tombstone attractions. Also, we were with the Single Action Shooters Association, which is an international organization created to preserve and promote the sport of Cowboy Action Shooting™. Now, we just travel about in our RV and enjoy life! After dealing with and winning over cancer, new hips, new back...new everything...I am having a ball! Getting older is a blast! God is good! Keep on laughing and enjoy every day! Blessings to all!"

Emmy-award winning **Frances (Fran) McElroy '64** produced and directed a new, feature-length documentary, entitled *Black Ballerina*, which premiered on PBS in the fall. *Black Ballerina* tells the story of several black women from different generations who fell in love with ballet. Moving back and forth in time, this lyrical, character-driven film shows how far we still have to go and stimulates a fresh discussion about race, inclusion, and opportunity across all sectors of American society. Fran is also a 2009 Pew Fellow in the Arts and 2010 Leeway Foundation Transformation Awardee.

Susan Veith Williams '64 said, "We have two granddaughters: Adeline Grace Williams (two) and Lucy Blake Williams (six months). They are a joy!"

Joan Baranzano Kavanagh '66 shared, "Our oldest daughter celebrated her 10th wedding anniversary with her husband and two wonderful sons (ages five and seven) in September; our second oldest daughter celebrated her first wedding anniversary in October. Our youngest daughter has moved to Marblehead, MA and has taken a new job. Len and I are traveling and enjoying retirement."

Constance Clay Sondhi '67 wrote, "I am the grandmother of four granddaughters: Emily Hope Sondhi, Catherine Jane Salvemini, Sophia Jean Lewis, and Naomi Jane Lewis. All are healthy and thriving!"

Jeanne Devine '68 reported, "In June 2016, I returned as an active United Methodist pastor and continue to live in Austin, TX. My daughters, son-in-law, and grandchildren all live nearby — very much looking forward to this new chapter!"

The Seventies

Patricia McGuire '70, President of Trinity Washington University, spoke at the Embassy of Ireland with several other MMA alumnae in attendance. She



● Patricia McGuire '70

addressed not only on the transformation of Trinity to an affordable and accessible, multifaceted university, but also on educational availability as an issue of mercy and justice!

Roseanita Coffey Iepson '74 said, "I love life in Ave Maria, FL with my husband, Kevin, and daughter, Judy. Our four other children have all flown the coop. We are eagerly awaiting the birth of our first grandchild and figuring out what we want to be called."

Lucille Morelli-Vine '79 is an artist and art and ceramics teacher. Lucille and the autistic students from Loveland Academy, with the help of their skills trainers and volunteers, created a mosaic art installation. The 39 12x12 mosaics are on permanent display at the entrance to the Honolulu Children's Zoo. Each mosaic depicts a zoo animal and a fun fact the students wrote themselves.

The Eighties

Donna Dagnelli '82 shared, "(My) father passed away in April of 2009 and recently lost my mother in April of 2016. I also moved to Barrington, NJ with my little brother, Mark, and my cousin moved in with us three years ago. I would love to hear from my former classmates."



● Nina Wertan '07, Ambassador Anne Anderson (the first female Ambassador of Ireland to the United States), Brooke Wertan '08, Kathleen Finnegan '07, Laura Stubbs '75, and Sister Mary Mulholland, RSM, gather at the event.

class notes

Kathleen (Kathy) Oldfield '83 married Steven Parks on May 7, 2016. The bridal party had a Merion Mercy theme with Kathy's two nieces, **Devyn Russo '18** and **Lindsey Russo '20**, serving as her bridesmaids.



● Kathleen Oldfield '83 and Steven Parks

Angela David Beatty '89 wrote in, "My oldest son, Ben, is attending Fordham University as a member of the Class of 2020."

The Nineties

Tracey Quinlan Dougherty '90 shared this message with her annual fund gift, "I was very sorry that I couldn't be at the Class of 1990's 25th Reunion last year. I miss all of you and can't wait to see you at the 30th! Love to everyone at MMA!"

Claire Johnson Galvin '90 wrote, "(My husband) Matthew and I wish to announce the birth of our seventh child. Philip Matthewson Galvin was born on November 4, 2016. He weighed 6lb, 15 oz. and was just over 21 inches long. He is an active, smiling newborn who is eagerly welcomed by his siblings Theresa (17), Anna (15), Julia (13), Rita (almost ten), James (seven), and Monica (four)."

Maribeth Wechsler Boyle '98 reported, "Our family welcomed Claire Margaret on May 2, 2016. She joins her sister Rose (who is two).



The CW network has put in development **Alycia Appicello Kelly's '98** novel *Criminal Magic*. *Criminal Magic* is described as *The*

Departed-meets-*The Vampire Diaries*. The drama is set in present-day Los Angeles; it revolves around two warring street gangs who fight the cops and each other to corner the market on the most lucrative contraband of all: magic. A young woman hiding spectacular magical powers and an undercover cop must try to survive this glamorous world of speakeasies, crime and danger.

(Alycia's pen name is Lee Kelly.)

Maisha Tyler '99 was inducted into the Saint Joseph's University Track & Cross Country Hall of Fame.

The 00s

Victoria Winterhalter Gadomski '00 wrote, "My husband, Andy, and I have had a busy 2016! We recently moved from the Main Line to the suburbs of Chicago, and our family has grown by one: Benjamin Scott Gadomski was born on May 21, 2016."

Merion Mercy was so happy to welcome **Maura Anne Murphy Powell '02** back to campus. Maura was the guest speaker for this year's National Honor Society induction. She is an Honors graduate from The Catholic University of America and earned her Master's in Public Health from Thomas Jefferson School of Population Health. She was the Project Director in the Department of Performance Improvement for

Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. Her expertise in administration and management resulted in her Project Manager appointment to the Global Health Center at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). Among her many duties, she supervised the clinic that CHOP has in the Dominican Republic. Currently she works in the Office of Quality Improvement at CHOP, where she helps physicians and clinical staff develop clinical pathways. Fluent in Spanish, her volunteer experiences include ESL teaching and International Medical Mission Team Leadership.

Karis Yusavitz Slattery '03 shared, "In the fall of 2016, I started my MDiv (master's of divinity) at Yale Divinity School and celebrated my first year of marriage to my wife, Caitlin Slattery."

Molly O'Neill Easton '05 shared, "I had a baby, William Richard Easton, Jr., on December 29, 2015. **Shannon Easton '11** is the baby's godmother."

Maureen Stewart '06 sent in this update, "I worked as a technical consultant for SAP out of college. I'm now the youngest Customer Executive for SAP Ariba. Ariba, the software my customers use, is a procurement platform that gives visibility and automates the procurement process from source-to-pay for companies. I was always passionate about Social Justice, and I'm given a platform in my career to do that. Ariba enables our customers to get



● Friends from Class of 2002 Allison Wendling, Jessie Hearn Barlow, Amanda Snarski, Lauren Goldschmidt Lyszkowski, Alicia Savarese Dos Santos, Monica Real Fraatz, and Erin Grady Burlew (not pictured Kelly Ann Davis Burke and Mariellen Benedetto)

class notes



● The wedding of Christine Keough Baron '04, Former MMA Faculty: Front row: Grace Mullen '15, Gabrielle Depommier '17, Kelsey Farkas '17, Maura Koob '17, Jamie Marandola '16, Sarah Laske '16, Lauren Reynolds '17, and Olivia D'Angelo '17; Back row: Emma Drennen '15, Jessica Lehman '18, Emily Crawford '17, Emma Lynch '17, Lauren Marshall '16, Helena Fox '16, Christine Keough Baron '04, Katherine Clementi '16, Victoria Donnelly '16, Elizabeth Lunardi '16, Megan Stevens '19, Lia Mazmanian '19, and Myra Brown '16

visibility into who they're sourcing/buying from, and automates the process, so more effort can be focused on the value of the supplier outside of just monetary cost. My customers can easily identify from the start if a potential vendor is in violation of child labor laws, if they're a minority or woman-owned business, and other. The automation also frees my customers of a lot of administrative burden and enables them to spend their 40+ hours working each week on more valuable tasks...To go from not having a clue what I wanted to be 'when I grew up' to traveling the world as a consultant, moving to Silicon Valley, and now knowing I'm contributing to society in a way that is personally, professionally, and globally valuable, is all due to my MMA experience."

Kaitlyn Kennard '08 sent in a great throwback photo with this message to science teacher Karen McClennen over the summer, "I am in my last year of medical school right now at Thomas Jefferson and actually meant to email you years ago because you were one of the people who inspired me with the confidence to follow my dreams in going to medical school. Your Physiology and AP Biology classes seriously helped me in my transition to college. For me, the

jump from high school to college was not that bad (and it helped we used the same Biology text book). You exposed us to so many opportunities, including the Drexel Mini Med School. And, I actually just interviewed for General Surgery at Lankenau Hospital. When I was sitting in the Annenberg Conference center that morning, I had flashbacks to science

competitions that you brought us there for many years ago. In my one-on-one interview...I dated my exposure to the hospital back to my time at Merion. I also was approached after the interview to write a paper about Merion Mercy and the incredible projects you have guided students through for decades. This picture was taken eight years ago this week. Truly a trip down memory lane this week, and I am so thankful for you and the other faculty members at Merion who challenged me and inspired me during high school. I don't know if I would have the confidence to follow my dreams without Merion. I know I am entering 'a man's world' of general surgery, but I am excited to hold my own thanks to incredible teachers who inspired me."



● Kaitlyn Kennard '08



● Meghan Githens Scannapieco '09 wedding: Angela Monaco '09, Theresa Testa Stewart '08, Carly Keating '10, Carolyn Sciblo '09, Eileen Browne '09, Megan Corcoran '09, Meghan Githens Scannapieco '09, Patrice Romano '20, Amanda Montie '09, Michelle Gerace '09, Jenell McFadden '09, Elizabeth McManus '09, Colleen Quinn '09, Mary Lynch Skurla '09, Caitlin Steele '09, Lili Dodderidge '09, Alexandra Scannapieco '17, and Therese Doyle '08 (not pictured Katie Messina '09 and Sister Barbara Buckley '72)

class notes

Kaitlin “Caite” Soper ’09 received her wings to fly helicopters for the U.S. Navy and is currently stationed in San Diego, CA. She recently got engaged to Samuel Hafensteiner, a helicopter pilot for the U.S. Coast Guard.

Gabrielle (Gabby) Bruno ’10 and **Shannon Sabia ’20** teamed up to return CandyCare to MMA this year. CandyCare’s 19th annual Halloween candy drive marked its biggest collection ever, bringing in 5,583 pounds of candy for those experiencing homelessness. What started as a small school service project (when Gabby was in first grade) with Halloween candy gathered from one school has grown each year and now includes 45 schools, churches, businesses, and organizations throughout the Delaware Valley. The Brunos thank the MMA students, spearheaded by the mother-daughter team of **Shannon Sabia ’20** and **Cathy Williamson Sabia ’85**, who participated this year bringing in 40 pounds of candy for the drive.



● **Gabrielle (Gabby) Bruno ’10** and **Cathy Williamson Sabia ’85**

Elizabeth MacNeal ’10 and **Kimberly Marandola ’10** have enjoyed traveling together in recent years. Over the summer, they visited Seljalandsfoss Waterfall in Iceland (pictured l. to r. Kimberly and Elizabeth) and they recently returned from a trip to Croatia.



Sara Rivers ’10 is currently working at the Animal Care and Control Team of Philadelphia (ACCT Philly) as a Lifesaving Counselor to help homeless cats and dogs find safe, loving homes. She has saved hundreds of lives in her new career and enjoys educating others about the benefits of fostering and adopting shelter animals.

Casey Rooney ’10 shared, “I am teaching pre-kindergarten at a private, Catholic school outside of Baltimore. One of my students’ mothers graduated from Merion! Her name is Erica Zager Parsons ’97. Erica’s mom is Angela Zager, former MMA faculty member. Such a small world! Send all of the Merion teachers my love!”



● **Casey Rooney ’10**, **Erica Zager Parsons ’97**, and **Lily Parsons**

Sarah Gloninger ’12 was commissioned into the Augustinian Volunteer Corps (AVC). She will live in community with three other volunteers and serve in San Diego, CA. Some MMA friends/AVC volunteers attended the commissioning at St. Augustine Church in Philadelphia.



● **Sarah Gloninger ’12**, **Angela Monaco ’09**, MMA faculty member **Sister Beth Flannery**, **Gemmika Champion ’12**, and **Martha Pannepacker ’11** (Angela, Gemmika, and Martha all served in AVC).

Caitlyn Ibrahim ’12 shared, “I graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and just moved to Chicago to work as an analyst at an executive search firm called Heidrick & Struggles.”

Kristen Lanzilotta ’13 is a psychology major at Saint Joseph’s University. Kristen is a regular presence on the College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s List and a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and Psi Chi Psychology Honor Society. Outside the classroom, she competes in intramural soccer. She was a Summer Scholar and researched how women’s reactions to certain situations affect how they are seen in others’ eyes. Kristen spent last summer doing research and conducting surveys. In an article published by Saint Joseph’s University, Kristen is quoted as saying, “My work on this project differs from my approach to regular schoolwork in that I have assumed more of a leadership role.”

Weddings

Kathleen Oldfield ’83, MMA Trustee, to **Steven Parks** on May 7, 2016

Lauren Goldschmidt ’02 to **Michael Lyszkowski** on October 16, 2016

Christine Keough ’04, Former MMA Faculty, to **David Baron** on July 16, 2016

Meghan Githens ’09 to **Mike Scannapieco** on October 1, 2016

Katrina Pisch ’10 to **Stephen Koffel** on August 6, 2016

Arrivals

Matthew and **Claire Johnson Galvin ’90**, a son, Philip Mathewson

Justin and **Kelly McDevitt Santangelo ’96**, a daughter, Clara Margaret, and a son, Timothy Francis

Joseph and **Maribeth Wechsler Boyle ’98**, a daughter, Claire Margaret

Michael and **Christa Gutzler Thomas ’98**, a daughter, Bailey Emerson

Matt and **Meaghan Killeen Fishbone ’99**, a son, Charlie Walker

class notes

Andrew and **Lauren Reilly Hopkins '99**, a daughter, Keira Anne

Anthony and **Zeina Ghayad Wehbe '99**, a daughter, Petra Antoinette

Andrew and **Victoria Winterhalter Gadomski '00**, a son, Benjamin Scott

Ryan and **Liz Huyette Babeuf '02**, a daughter, Pearl Maria

Doug and **Erin Grady Burew '02**, a daughter, Eleanor Violet

George and **Erin Winterhalter Caroulis '02**, a son, George Charles

Samuel and **Elizabeth Leis Moyerman '02**, a son, Arthur Joseph

Matthew and **Kellyann McClain Silk '02**, a son, Nathan McClain

Brian and **Kristen Keating Weeks '02**, a son, Owen Duffy

Christopher and **Megan McCarthy Clark '03**, a daughter, Elle McCarthy

Mike and **Lauren Moran Kleinz '03**, a daughter, Addison

Kevin and **Angela DiCocco Donnelly '04, MMA Faculty**, a son, Martin Louis

Bryan and **Kyle Keating Hurtado '04**, a daughter, Sienna Grace

Peter and **Kathleen Daly Jordan '04**, a daughter, Anne Evelyn

Daniel and **Bernadette Mason Livewell '04**, a son, Mason John

William and **Molly O'Neill Easton '05**, a son, William Richard

Michael and **Kelly Gaval Sciblo '05**, a daughter, Delia Bridget

Matt and **Molly McShane Stefanski '05**, a son, Bradley Thomas

Justin and **Marissa Patterson Fiordimondo '08**, a daughter, Camila Lisa

Brian and **Megan Bogle, MMA Faculty**, a daughter, Brinn Rose



● Clara Margaret and Timothy Francis



● George Charles



● Owen Duffy



● Mason John



● Bailey Emerson



● Addison and Archie



● Elle McCarthy



● Delia Bridget



● Charlie Walker



● Arthur Joseph



● Martin Louis



● Bradley Thomas



● Benjamin Scott



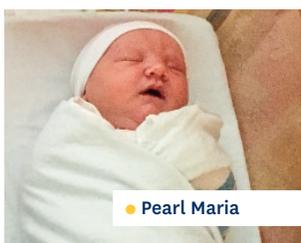
● Nathan McClain



● Sienna Grace



● Camila Lisa



● Pearl Maria



● Brinn Rose





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.

Carolyn Welch Adamson '63

Pasquale "Pat" Bova

father of Lucille Bova Donnelly, MMA Staff, grandfather of Therese Donnelly '10 and Victoria Donnelly '16

Anna Marie Bonfini Burgio '79

mother of Ashley '07, sister of Gina Bonfini Riccitelli '83, sister-in-law of Pamela Burgio Darley '83, aunt of Julia Riccitelli '17

Mary Byrnes

mother of Ellen Byrnes Wilcox '80, grandmother of Nellie Wilcox '12

John Campo

husband of Katherine Eichman Campo '60

Sister Patricia Joseph Corkery, RSM, Former MMA Faculty

Jane Callan Dougherty '55

sister of Sister Maureen Callan, RSM '47 RIP and Margaret Callan Hagan '50 RIP, mother of Mary Dougherty Ficco '87, mother -in-law of Missy Light Dougherty '94

Ashley Esposito, Former MMA Faculty

Martin 'Marty' Joseph Fahy

brother of Bernie Fahy, MMA Staff

Joan Geraghty '48

Victor Haentze

husband of Jane Taltavull Cameron Haentze '49

Nelson Ilagan

father of Capella Ilagan '07

Robert King

father of Sarah King '11 and Melissa King '17

James Reeve Klinges

son of Denise Quigley Klinges '78

John Matusewic

husband of Barbara Stanton Matusewic '58, father of Amy Matusewic Scoblick '94

Clare Kelley McKinney-Murphy '53

sister of Susanne Kelley Smith '51 RIP and Eileen Kelley Reynolds '55 RIP

Margaret (Peg) Gosline Odell '49

Thomas Owston

father of Maureen Owston Glick '02, brother of Margaret Owston '71, uncle of Jessica Hearn Barlow '02

Mae E. Endicott Pallastrone

mother of Robin Pallastrone '74 and Kimmie Pallastrone Hodgdon '75

Josephine Patton

mother of Maureen Patton Reis '73

Dorothy Rudicill

mother of Marion Schreiber Ries '75

Lisa Anne Geller Schaad

mother of Katie Schaad '05 and Christine Schaad '10

Rosemary Stahl

mother of Susan Stahl '84

Ralph G. Stubbs

father of Laura Stubbs '75

Loretta Tiers

mother of Loretta Tiers Ross '73 and Elizabeth Tiers Barnett '79, grandmother of Kathryn Barnett '05

Arline Tinari

mother of Dina Tinari Conners '83 and Lisa Tinari '87

Helen Tycenski

mother of Patricia Tycenski Mastro '87 and Aimee Tycenski Keough '89

Tiffany Walker '93

Samuel Joseph Weiss

brother of Amy Weiss '14 and Rachael Weiss '16

ALUMNAE SAVE THE DATE

Meri-union

Will be held October 21, 2017

CLASSES ENDING IN 2 AND 7:

2017 is your reunion year!

Come home and celebrate the first Meri-union in the new addition!

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

The Reunion Dinner is for classes ending in 2 and 7.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact Barbara Colantuono Harrison '82 at 610-664-6655, ext. 120 or bharrison@merion-mercy.com.



Classmates from 2002 take a group shot (with their little ones). Front row: Mia Campo (Grace), Mayla Henderson (Thomas), Kacy Moran Powers (Anderson and Ryan), Valenteen Guida Murtha (Audrey), and Katie Murtha Dickman (Samantha); Back row: Alexandra Trignani McGinn (Cecelia), Suzanne McDevitt Spiro (Henry and Ella), Elizabeth Leis Moyerman (Arthur), Maureen Owston Glick (Tommy), and Erin Winterhalter Caroulis (George).

maMMAs: Alumnae Mothers of Young Children

More than 25 alumnae moms and their babies/toddlers attended the kickoff event, which took place on Halloween. Children (and some moms!) came in costume, and the day included activities, crafts, and Trick or Treating around the school.

The maMMAs group was born at an Alumnae Association meeting. Attendee Kirsten Echelmeier Sams '99 wanted to connect MMA alum moms with small children a few times a year at MMA. She said, "As a new mom myself, I thought it would be a great opportunity to bring women of Mercy together to navigate the waters of motherhood, in a place where sisterhood 'roots us in faith and lifts us in hope.' I anticipate that this group will meet quarterly for informal gatherings with the hopes that moms can expand their support network and reconnect with old friends, while making new, through our shared vocation of motherhood and our alma mater!"

The maMMAs events will rotate days and times in order to accommodate distinct and busy schedules. There also has been discussion around different places or activities outside of school for subsequent events. If any alums would like to help plan the next event, please contact Mrs. Barbara Colantuono Harrison '82, Alumnae Relations Coordinator, at bharrison@merion-mercy.com or 610-664-6655, ext. 120.

REGIONAL EVENTS

In the fall, we have joined alums for regional events in New York City, Washington, DC, and Boston.

Attending a regional event is an excellent way to build and grow social and professional networks, remain informed about news from campus, and display pride in your alma mater. It is our greatest hope to engage alums, keep them connected to MMA, update them on school happenings, and encourage them to participate and support the spot we love so well.

2016 marked the fifth annual MMA in NYC and fourth annual MMA in DC. This year was the second time MMA gathered alums in Boston for a Head of the Charles gathering. In addition to lots of blue and gold pride over the weekend with tents and mini-MMA reunions, our rowers and alumnae rowers represented MMA well on the river.



NYC

Ellen Press '98, Katie McCall '97, and Tierney Echelmeier Norris '97



DC

Adrienne Graves Lyne '86, Christina DiGiacomo '90, Cecilia Capuzzi Simon '75, and Donna DiGiacomo Patchett '79

ANNUAL GIVING: YOUR GIFT TO MMA MAKES A DIFFERENCE

We would like to thank the generosity and dedication exhibited in the Merion Mercy community. Your continued support and commitment to MMA embraces the spirit of a Mercy education and helps to protect and grow the legacy of our school. Please visit www.merion-mercy.com/annualreport to review the 2015-16 Annual Report of donations made to Merion Mercy Academy. We thank all our loyal donors for continuing to provide both unrestricted and restricted donations to our beloved school.

EITC AND OSTC DONORS CHANGE LIVES

If you, or your employer, pay business taxes in Pennsylvania, you could make a profound difference in the lives of deserving Merion Mercy students. Two Pennsylvania tax credit programs (EITC and OSTC) permit businesses to donate funds to MMA that otherwise would go directly to the state while possibly providing businesses with tax credits. Sounds too good to be true, but it is not. We build compassion, character, and confidence in our young women. Your company's EITC or OSTC gift will allow us to widen the circle of students to whom we can offer scholarships, opening a path to personal and educational success.

Our Thanks to the 2015-16 EITC and OSTC Donors

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If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Alexandra Litvinas at 610-664 6655, ext. 126 or alitvinas@merion-mercy.com.
To make an online gift to the MMA Annual Fund, please visit www.merion-mercy.com/donateonline.