

THE MAGAZINE OF MERION MERCY ACADEMY

Mater Matters

SPRING 2019



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL:

Sister Christine McCann, RSM



At our Mercy Day Liturgy in September, I was struck by the reflection given by Madeleine Litka '20. She referred to the Epistle of Paul to Titus, asserting, “It is because of God’s mercy that we were saved. God richly poured out on us the Holy Spirit so that we would devote ourselves to good works that are beneficial to others. We have all come from the same roots, and while here for different purposes, we are one.”

This is the heart of this year’s school theme “AdventuroUS in Mercy—There’s No Us and Them, Just Us.”

This theme honors our legacy and identity as a vibrant, strong community composed of members who contribute a richness of varied histories, experiences, talents, and ideas.

This was most recently apparent during a particularly busy week in which the Black Student Association hosted a special movie viewing as part of our Black History Month observance, and the Chinese Club offered special treats to celebrate the New Year. That also happened to be

Latin Week, which compelled students hailing from countless zip codes and all grade levels to don togas and re-enact events and characters significant in the life of Julius Caesar during their lunch periods. Still more memorable moments occurred during the Shakespeare Competition, where participants—some expected, others unexpected—representing diverse academic interests and performance experiences brought their own interpretations of Shakespeare to our school stage, impressing and entertaining our community. We ended that week by focusing on the needs and experiences of our sisters and brothers in countries far from Merion Station, as MMA’s Student Council previewed the plans for Mission Week. Individual efforts contributed to each of these programs, but the benefits and shared experiences were communal: no “them,” only “us.”

A community as unique and dynamic as MMA does not happen by accident. It takes a true commitment to building programs and providing opportunities that strengthen and grow our school while adding richness to the lives of our students. This is part of the Mercy adventure.

I recently enjoyed a personal adventure. I was privileged to travel to the Holy Land on a pilgrimage with Fr. James Martin, SJ. A pilgrimage is a bit different from a vacation trip. As a pilgrim, I embraced a meaningful journey of mind and heart as I walked in the footsteps of Jesus, visited and prayed in those places that we hear named in the Gospel read each Sunday, and “listened with the ears of the heart” to the words of Scripture that accompanied each day. The entire Merion Mercy community was with me each step of this pilgrim way as I prayed that God accompany all of us on our life’s journey. And what souvenirs did I return with from my adventure? A deeper sense of God’s presence in the life and journey of the Merion Mercy community and a renewed awareness and joy in God’s mercy within and around us—priceless souvenirs for a lifetime!

Many are the paths that lead here, but MMA is not just a destination, it is also a point of embarkation, from which our graduates strike out on new adventures. Our community expands as individual women of mercy, tethered to this nurturing community, forge diverse paths in the world. Thus, the circle of mercy grows, welcoming all to join US. 🌍

HEAD OF SCHOOL

Sister Christine McCann, RSM

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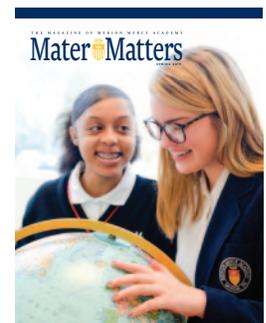
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ON THE COVER



Sophomores Gabriella Jackson and Jacqueline Cancelliere know that MMA provides them with a world of opportunities. Merion Mercy is a place where they learn, create, thrive, and grow into leaders—women of Mercy who are ready to embrace and contribute to the world.

Merion Mercy Academy Names New Head of School

The Board of Trustees of Merion Mercy Academy announced the appointment of Laura Farrell as our next Head of School, effective July 1, 2019.



With more than 25 years of experience in education, Laura is joining us from the highly regarded St. Catherine's School in Richmond, Virginia, one of the largest JK-12 all-girls schools in the country, where she has served as the Dean of Faculty. At St. Catherine's, her leadership has helped to shape and advance many areas of the school, including all academic departments and signature programming, such as Girls Innovate and global education. She has played an integral part in several key school initiatives, including professional development, marketing/branding, school accreditations, diversity and inclusion programming, and capital projects.

Mrs. Farrell's appointment is the culmination of an invigorating and inclusive search process, which involved participation from the entire school community—trustees, families, alumnae, students, and faculty and staff.

“A lifelong educator and champion of all-girls education, Laura brings outstanding experience in education and values-centered

leadership to Merion Mercy, as well as a strong personal and professional commitment to educational excellence, diversity and inclusion, all-girls education, and collaboration,” said Bill O’Shea, Chair of the Board of Trustees.

A seasoned independent school leader, Laura’s career began in the classroom. Soon after earning a Bachelor of Arts degree from the College of William & Mary, Laura began teaching high school Social Studies. She was a Fulbright-Hayes recipient, received a summer study grant from the National Endowment of the Humanities, and went on to earn a Master of Education degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the George Washington University. While teaching, Laura emerged as a leader and distinguished herself through her work on technology initiatives; curriculum design, review, and implementation; and staff development and mentoring.

After 17 years of teaching at the high school level, including four years on the faculty of St. Catherine’s School, Laura accepted her first administrative role in 2009. As Dean of Faculty, her duties include facilitating the professional growth of more than 135 faculty members; developing and running the Intensive Studies Program in STEM, Global Engagement, Entrepreneurship and the Arts; and serving as a member of the Core Executive Leadership Team and as a liaison to the Coordination Committee and Education Committee of the St. Catherine’s Board of Governors; and co-chairing the Global Engagement Taskforce.

“I am ready to dedicate myself to the important work of leading a vibrant Catholic girls’ school,” said Mrs. Farrell. “As an educator, I believe the best schools are those that develop the ‘whole person’ and seek to cultivate each student’s spiritual, intellectual, physical, emotional, and social gifts. Merion Mercy Academy was built on a foundation of excellence with care taken to cultivating the minds, bodies, and spirits of young women. Now more than ever, girls’ schools are needed so that young girls can find their voices and develop to their fullest potential. I am honored to serve as the next Head of School of Merion Mercy Academy and lead it to its next level so that it can continue to educate young women who live mercy and seek justice.” 

Around Campus

GLOBAL VISION AND RESPONSIBILITY

MERCY DAY

Each year, September 24th unites the Mercy community in the celebration of Mercy Day.



Seniors Robin Vernon, Annie Butler, and Mary Kate Sweeney

On that date in 1827, in Dublin, Ireland, Catherine McAuley opened the House of Mercy to provide a school for children in need, a shelter for girls coming from the farms to find work, and a place where girls could learn a trade and sell their goods. These works became the hallmark of the Mercy charism. Almost 200 years later, we honor that remarkable accomplishment, knowing that the spirit of Mercy is strong and the works of Mercy continue in 2018.

On Mercy Day this year, the MMA school community embraced the school's yearlong theme "AdventuroUS in Mercy—There's No Us and Them, Just Us." This theme 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.

The 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 have focused their fundraising efforts to support women in developing nations around the world. Each grade level plus faculty/staff focus on a different county: the freshmen support people of the Philippines; the sophomores support people of Kenya; the juniors support people of Panama; the seniors support people of Lebanon; and the faculty and staff support people of Haiti.

MERCY EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Merion Mercy served as a host school for the 2018 Mercy Education Conference. MMA administrators and faculty participated in the Mercy Education Conference, which was planned by Mercy Education System of the Americas (MESA).

MESA oversees all of the schools sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy. In addition, MESA develops services, programs, and other resources to maintain the schools' Catholic and Mercy identity.

Longtime MMA Social Studies Department Chairperson and teacher Ms. Kimberly Baxter now works as the Associate Director for Programs and Services for MESA. Former Principal Sister Regina Ward, RSM acts as the Associate Director for Mercy Mission Integration of MESA.

On this occasion, more than 360 administrators and faculty from 49 MESA education ministries in Argentina, Belize, Honduras, Jamaica, the Philippines, the United States, and Guam came together to collaborate, share, and learn while furthering the charism of Mercy.

MERION MERCY ACADEMY HOSTS COMMON HOUR WITH LOCAL AUTHOR

Merion Mercy's chapter of Rho Kappa, the national Social Studies Honor Society, held its inaugural Common Hour in the fall.

Inspired by the tradition of many smaller liberal arts colleges, the Rho Kappa Common Hour was an opportunity for all members of the Merion Mercy community to engage in a collective discussion of a contemporary social issue through the lens of academic scholarship.

For its first event, Professor Catherine Kerrison, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History and the Director of Gender and Women's Studies at Villanova University, spoke on her widely acclaimed book, *Jefferson's Daughters: Three Sisters, White and Black in a Young America*. Dr. Kerrison's talk explored the different life paths of Thomas Jefferson's three daughters: Martha and Maria, his children by his wife Martha Wayles Skelton Jefferson, as well as Harriet, his child by his slave Sally Hemings. The talk challenged the group to think about both the possibilities and the limitations for women and people of color as a result of the American Revolution.

There was a book signing immediately after the presentation. More than 100 students, parents, alumnae, and faculty members attended.



Grace Brazunas '20 and Kelty Eisenhardt '19 (standing) before the book signing

NATIONAL MERIT

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation named two MMA seniors as National Merit Commended Students: Madison Boylan and Isabella Santori.



'Tis the Season

Merion Mercy Academy rang in the holidays with Carol Night. This festive evening included the nativity tableau, songs, dance, and music. The program concluded with alums taking the stage and singing the perennial Carol Night favorite "O Holy Night."



This year's nativity tableau included "Blessed Mother" Victoria Steinmetz '19, "Angels" Kelty Eisenhardt '19, DeNisa Sondai '19, Mary Stanish '19, and Marleen Winterdal '19, and "Baby Jesus" Sophia Rey Thompson. Sophia is the daughter of Kyle Thompson, MMA faculty member.

And, here is a little fun fact: this year's featured "Blessed Mother" Victoria Steinmetz '19 (daughter of Susan Cobaugh Steinmetz '93) was the "Baby Jesus" in 2001.



Several of the Student Council members who helped facilitate the collection: Sophia Lamb '19, Maggie McKernan '19, Ava Marie Donatucci '19, Caroline Giangjordano '19, Samantha Pasciullo-Boychuck '19, Isabelle Millan '21, Sadie Goane '20, Cate Aaron '21, Ryleigh Lord '21, Tess Szathmary '21, and Kaitlyn Powel '21.

COMPASSION AND SERVICE

CELEBRATING 175 YEARS OF MERCY IN THE U.S.

Throughout 2018, the Sisters of Mercy have been commemorating and celebrating the 175th anniversary of the arrival of the Sisters of Mercy in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and the beginning of a vibrant legacy of service in the United States. That

legacy continues today in numerous and diverse ministries, in hospitals, in universities and high schools, in parishes, in shelters and in immigrant detention centers, adhering always to the Mercy vow to serve people who are poor, sick, and uneducated.

Merion Mercy celebrated this anniversary through a school-wide initiative of 175 ways of giving. Student Council organized this giving effort and collected 175 (each per grade) canned goods, boxes of crayons, socks, and vitamins for those in need.

COLLABORATION WITH OTHERS

Applause! Bravo! Cheers!

Merion Mercy Music Theater (MMMT) produced a fall drama, *Testing, Testing*. The annual musical this winter was *Sister Act*.

Senior cast member Lia Mazmanian '19 shared, "MMMT has enriched my high school experience by allowing me to step out of my comfort zone and introducing me to 'sisters' who always encourage growth through cheers and support. While I only joined my junior year, I have never encountered a stronger, more talented group of young women of mercy. From a minor role to a lead, my theater 'sisters' love me for who I am, and I return that love tenfold. I am forever grateful for MMTT."





MMAthletics

TEN MERION MERCY ATHLETES COMMIT TO COLLEGES

Merion Mercy held a celebration for the 10 student athletes who committed to play sports in college next year.

ROWING: ISABELLA BEGLEY Syracuse University TAYLOR GREGITIS University of North Carolina SOPHIA LAMB Drexel University REBECCA NASER Stetson University	ERIN WELCH Boston University CECE WENDEL University of Washington FIELD HOCKEY: MARGO CARLIN Boston College	LACROSSE: VICTORIA STEINMETZ Widener University SOCCER: TERESA HEGARTY University of Scranton GOLF: KATIE STONE Widener University
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FRONT: Isabella Begley, Taylor Gregitis, Margo Carlin, Cece Wendel, Sophia Lamb, and Rebecca Naser; **BACK:** Erin Welch, Victoria Steinmetz, Katie Stone, and Teresa Hegarty



PACKING THE CAVE—GOLDEN BEARS FOR LIFE

Led by our favorite Golden Bear, MMA fans came out to “Pack the Cave” for a varsity basketball game.



Carly '15, Brooke '18, and Rebecca '15 Loonstyn

MILLENNIAL ALUMNAE BASKETBALL GAME

Merion Mercy hosted the Millennial Alumnae Basketball Game following a Saturday varsity game. Close to 20 alumnae along with current and former coaches took part in the activities. Included in the group were several sister combinations (Megan '11 and Lauren '18 Andruszko; Carly '15, Rebecca '15, and Brooke '18 Loonstyn; and Martha '11 and Maida '17 Pannepacker) along with three father-daughter combinations (former Merion Mercy head coach Rob Baxter and his daughter Ashley '09; former assistant coach Bo and his daughter Linette Babiarz '02; and assistant coach Rick and his daughter Nora Pergolini '18). Mr. Pergolini was a key organizer of the event.

“I have always felt that an alumnae game would be a great ‘reaching back’ point, particularly with the construction of the new gymnasium,” said Mr. Pergolini. “The response afterwards was tremendous. Many players assured us they would return next year.”

With a Smile, Merion Mercy's Margo Carlin '19 Aced Her New Role from the Sideline

Abridged from an article by Kathleen Harte Simone • Philafieldhockey.com

With anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injuries on the rise, particularly among high school female athletes, many Phila-area teams — and teams throughout the county — have players sidelined or on leave pending full recovery. Not the case with Merion Mercy's Margo Carlin '19.

Carlin sustained an ACL injury in early May during a league lacrosse game. Surgery followed about a month later. And then, the long road to recovery. But despite not stepping on the playing field during games, Carlin, a field hockey 2017 All-Region and All-State honoree who will play field hockey for Boston College this fall, played an integral role for the Golden Bears this past season. Her knowledge, passion, and experience were utilized in another way: as a Merion coach.

"Margo was a great help when we were creating practice plans. As coaches after games when we would discuss what we need to work on to prepare for our next match, Margo would always be there to provide ideas for drills or work with smaller groups of girls on specific skills," said Merion Head Coach, Greta Ehret. "She has a great IQ for the game, so I could always count on her to help us figure out what our next steps should be to improve as a team."

Carlin, a co-captain, helped with traditional captains' roles like planning team parties and helping to motivate the young squad. But, as a coach, she would mentor her teammates during practices on skill building and give real feedback on strategy and corner execution during games.

Standing on the sideline wasn't easy. After dropping in the PIAA 2A State Championship in 2016, Carlin had been focused on taking the team to State again



her senior year. Despite falling short of that goal, Merion posted two major upset victories in Dist. 1 2A playoffs. Her coaching role, according to Coach Ehret, had a real impact on her team going that far. In the process, she also boosted her own game.

"You begin to see what the coaches are seeing which is really a totally different perspective. I actually learned a lot about my game and some things that I need to work on by watching others play. Sometimes when you are in the heat of the battle you really don't focus on some of the details that are important. A different perspective, as tough as it might be, can be a great learning tool. I also got to stand by my sister Karleigh all season. She is an assistant coach with the team. That was special and brought us even closer."

Another positive impact of the injury for Carlin has been learning to deal with adversity.

"Missing out on my entire senior season was not easy. There were definitely some days where I was pretty down. I love competing on the field and playing with my teammates, and it was all taken away from me. I was angry at first but then realized that how you act in times of adversity is important. I have seen worse. My brother is a cancer survivor. I have learned through some family experiences to be grateful in tough times and to fight. That is what I am doing. I have also learned a lot about myself that will only help me moving forward."

Moving forward means continuing rehab two or three times a week and hitting the gym before school every day to work out on her own. Margo plans to transition to "back to field" rehab, which means working on lateral movement and agility. "My surgeon feels that I should be back on the field by the end of April without any restrictions."

Once cleared to play full tilt, Carlin has her eyes focused on two things: playing at Boston College in the fall and with the U.S. Jr. National Team in the near future.

"My goal right now is to get healthy and compete. I am taking it one step at a time, but I plan on being ready to head up to BC in August. I am really excited about Boston College. I have been up there to watch games a lot and feel like I am already part of the team. I would also love to earn my spot back on the National Team. It was really an honor to represent my country, and I plan on competing hard for that special honor again."

Until then, Carlin still has her work cut out for her, but already she can look back and feel proud about overcoming the injury from a physical and mental perspective.

"I've learned that I'm stronger than I thought, especially mentally. I have learned to appreciate the game that I love even more and to never take it for granted because it can be taken away from you in an instant. Knowing that means, when healthy, I will enjoy every second on the field." 🏒



WINTER WONDERLAND

SIP 'N BID 2018

More than 250 guests attended Merion Mercy's 42nd annual Sip 'n Bid dinner and auction. The decorating committee graciously transformed the school into a rustic Winter Wonderland for the occasion.





Front: Head of School Sister Christine McCann and Assistant Head of School for Academics Mary Ann Danovich; Back: Event chairs Christopher and Michele McDonnell Reichow '83 and Assistant Head of School for Students Affairs Seth Pidot

Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and a silent auction preceded a sit-down dinner and the always-exciting loud auction. Guests bid on countless gift certificates and dining experiences, Caribbean vacations, golf packages, professional sports tickets, and many one-of-a-kind gifts, such as an engraved captain's chair. All proceeds from the event directly benefit students at the Academy.



MMA Parents Association volunteers who helped make it all possible: Nicole Elguicze, Megan Grady, and Marie Pat Romano.

We are grateful to the attendees, volunteers, donors, and all of those who supported the event. Events as large and inclusive as Sip 'n Bid require many hands to accomplish the goals of the evening. Your commitment and support do not go unnoticed and are greatly appreciated.

SPONSORS

- Vince & Norma Giannini (Bronze)
- The Holmes Family (Bronze)
- Licata & Tyrrell PC (Bronze)
- The MMA Board of Trustees (Silver)
- The Mullen Family (Silver)
- Chris & Michele McDonnell Reichow '83 (Bronze)
- Laura Vague (Silver)



MMA parents Phil and Kellie Russo, Robin and James Lavelle, and Katie and Joseph Lopresti enjoy some time connecting and bidding!



Students Asia Lawton-Mosby '22 and Caroline Riley '20 welcome guests to MMA's "Winter Wonderland."



“AdventuroUS in Mercy—There’s No Us and Them, Just Us”

It is June, and school has been finished for a few weeks. The backpacks are not yet cleaned out from the school year, uniforms are still cycling through the laundry, and no one has really caught up on their sleep from exams and end-of-the-year activities. In fact, the season of summer has not even officially begun when MMA students start to think about the theme for the next school year.

Several decades ago, themes such as “Living La Vida Merion” and the MMA “Road of Life” connected the students each year and provided some overarching lesson or point of view that everyone could embrace and celebrate. More recently, however, the theme has become integrally connected to the annual, school-wide service initiative, “The Mercy Girl Effect.”

“The Mercy Girl Effect” is a project that combines the efforts of Mercy schools across the nation. 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, MMA students helped to raise money to build a library in Kenya and schools in Cambodia and South Sudan.

This year, students have focused their fundraising efforts to support women in developing nations around the world. Each grade level plus faculty and staff focus on a different country: The freshmen support the people of the Philippines; sophomores, Kenya; juniors, Panama; seniors, Lebanon; and the faculty and staff support Haiti.

Both the theme and outreach initiative for the 2018-19 school year took shape at the annual Mercy High School Leadership Program held in June at Gwynedd Mercy University. Mindful of the deep desire the school community has to be welcoming and inclusive of each other and of all people, the MMA students participating in the conference worked collaboratively to provide the framework for the theme and service project for the year to come. The theme “AdventuroUS in Mercy—No Us and Them, There is Only Us” stemmed from this unique experience.

“The theme speaks to so many aspects of our MMA experience,” shared Student Council Vice President Ava Marie



Donatucci '19. "The adventure of a Merion Mercy education is really like no other I know. Merion students come from all over the region and as far away as Egypt and Chile. Girls come from 110 different schools. Our differences make Merion reflective of the world, and we value what each girl brings. And when we get here as freshmen, the adventure really begins. Between enlightening classes, countless activities, and so many opportunities, every day at MMA is truly an adventure."

Yet, when talking to several of the student leaders who attended the conference, there was a reason far beyond the fun of their Mercy adventure. "We capitalized the US in the theme title

because it is about all of us—the "US" represents our Mercy community, and, on a more global level, our world family.

Sister Norma Pimentel, RSM recently said, "Regardless of who we are and where we came from, we remain part of the human family and are called to live in solidarity with one another." Leadership program attendees agreed that this spirit is deeply embedded in the Mercy charism and in the school's mission.

Guided by the values of Mercy spirituality, global awareness, and social responsibility, outreach is in the MMA fiber. With countless opportunities to serve, all MMA students get involved whether it is in the Philadelphia region or halfway across the globe.

Along with the engaging theme that

had students dressed for adventure at the first mixer and inspired colorful banners with global messages, the important message of outreach is foremost in students' minds.

Students, faculty, and staff will engage in several activities to raise money for women across the globe. The majority of the fundraising will take place during MMA's community-wide Mission Week. Throughout the week, there will be activities and games, such as penny wars, cornhole games, bake sales, and raffles. On the final day, there will be a pep rally during the school day and a mixer at night, ending Mission Week and hopefully meeting the students' fundraising goals!



ON TO THE NEXT

Adventure

Once you live a life of Mercy adventure, your worldview grows. An MMA education lays a solid foundation of opportunities (and, yes, adventures!) on which to build not just a career or résumé, but a life filled with purpose.

Alumnae represent a myriad of career choices, educational backgrounds, philanthropic priorities, and more. But, when asked what drives them, their answers echo a deep appreciation for the values embedded in the Mercy tradition: world vision, compassion, spirituality, justice, hospitality, and collaboration.

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NAME: Bridget E. Kelly '73

How were you adventurous in Mercy as a student?

MMA taught me to be adventurous. We had so many great assemblies and field trips that fostered my curiosity about the world outside our school building. I learned to ask questions, seek new ideas, and try new things. I don't remember much of my geometry, French, or biology, but I remember the plays and the dance companies and the guest speakers who challenged our thinking. I remember being exposed to people, places, ideas, and views that were different from my background. Merion taught me to be confident to embrace the world.



What adventure is pictured in this image?

I was in the Wendel Sea in Antarctica. I was on a larger ship, waiting my turn to board one of these two zodiac boats there. It was a little warmer this day than previous days but still 10 degrees Fahrenheit. We decided to take a ride to explore Glacier Bay in the zodiac boats. We were awestruck by the splendor and magnitude of the ice. This beauty left us speechless. This trip humbled me as it was so obvious that I was just a small part of this beautiful place in this magnificent world.

What map did you follow to get to where you are personally and/or professionally?

I earned my bachelor’s degree, master’s degree, and doctorate in education. I spent most of my career as a school leader. During this time, I encouraged my students to explore their own ideas. I worked to provide them with opportunities to map out their future paths.

When I was working as a high school principal, I worked every day to ensure that students had multiple opportunities to reach their potential and to make our environment as safe as possible for them to take reasonable, educated risks.

Now that I am retired, I have changed my mission to a more global focus. I work every day to eradicate poverty by empowering women and children. I serve as a citizen lobbyist for CARE International. I have taught for the World Academy for the Future of Women which teaches global leadership skills to college women in China, Bangladesh, and Nepal. I am affiliated with the Haiti Family Initiative, which offers wellness programs in Jacmel, Haiti. I have served on numerous nonprofit boards that offer services to the underserved. All of these experiences have taught me the value and personal benefits of service to others.

Throughout the years, I traveled every chance I could when I was working and now more so that I am retired. And I preferred to travel to places that challenged me physically, emotionally, and spiritually. I have been to orphanages in Tibet, a maternity ward in Tanzania, a nomad’s home in Mongolia, the township dwellings in South Africa (right before the end of apartheid), a shaman’s hut in Peru, a hospital in rural China, and Buddhist temples in Bhutan.

I know for sure that small gestures of humanity go a long way to making this world a more civilized place. I’ve learned, “There’s no us and them, just us.”



NAME: Maura O’Donnell Laughlin ’90

How did your high school years inspire future adventures?

When I was a student at MMA, I had the amazing opportunity to travel to Spain in my junior year with Sister Rosalie Ferrari, RSM, Sister Miriam de Lourdes, RSM, and my Spanish class. This is when I developed a love of travel and a curiosity to explore new places, meet new people, and experience different cultures. Through my years at MMA, I learned that taking that leap of faith and stepping out of your comfort zone can lead to amazing opportunities, both personally and professionally. Merion Mercy inspired self-confidence, a strong work ethic, a collaborative spirit, empathy for others, and a continuous love of learning. The core values and principles that were instilled in me as an MMA student continue to guide me in my daily life.

What adventure is pictured in this image?

While on a break from a work trip, I am taking a selfie at the top of Burj Khalifa in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

What map did you follow to get where you are personally and/or professionally?

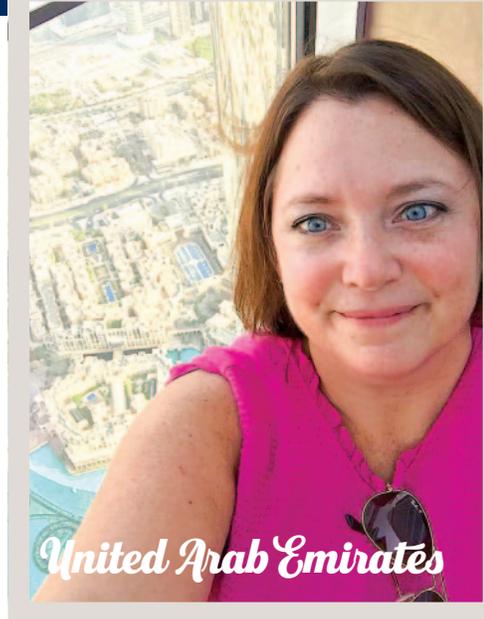
A career does not always follow a straight course and neither has mine. More often than not, the map that you follow is filled with hills, slopes, crooked paths, and bends in the road, which can be a bit intimidating. I graduated with a B.S. in accounting from Saint Joseph’s University. The education I received at Merion Mercy and Saint Joseph’s University really prepared me for the rewarding career that I have today. I am currently the Americas Travel Manager for Willis Towers Watson, a leading global advisory, broking, and solutions company with 40,000 employees worldwide. In my role, I am responsible for managing not only the travel management company that supports our travelers from Canada to Latin America, but I am also the lead on our Global Air program, Car Rental program, Strategic Meetings Management program, and overall budgeting for the Global Travel team. This is a relatively new role for me, which I moved into about two years ago. I took that adventurous leap into something new, and it has been very gratifying.



NAME: Leslie H. Blatteau ’93

How were you adventurous in Mercy as a student?

Merion Mercy fostered in me the belief that I could do anything. With tremendous opportunity and support, I kept plenty busy in high school. The adventure was jumping from one activity to the next without limits. I remember a field hockey game where I faced off with the goalie and then promptly zipped off to a rehearsal for *The Odd Couple*. I remember the adventure of hands-on learning with dissection in Anatomy and Physiology, practicing French in France, literary arguments in English, leading an original opening prayer in Religion class, and putting my ideas and spirit to work with an active and engaged Student Council. Purpose, creativity, and challenge filled my days of adventure at Merion Mercy and set the standard for how I continue to live my life in the present.





What adventure is pictured in this image?



I am standing out-of-breath, overwhelmed, and overjoyed with a village elder on a peak of the Wara Wara Mountains in Yagala in the Northern Province of Sierra Leone. I travelled there recently with a group of Social Studies teachers through a fellowship from the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance and Abolition at Yale University.

We spent the majority of our time in the capital of Freetown, collaborating with high school history teachers from Sierra Leone, studying the history and culture of the country, as well as the connections between our two countries as a result of the transatlantic slave trade. At the end of our trip, we adventured outside of the capital, meeting with the village chief and participating in song, dance, and ceremony with joyful and gracious community members. We ultimately joined hundreds of people of all ages in a hike up this mountain to see the ruins of an ancient Limba settlement and the burial ground for generations of village chiefs.

What map did you follow to get to where you are personally and/or professionally?

First of all, I used real maps! Atlases, travel guides, and city maps from phone books. As a young woman who drove solo cross country, backpacked in France and Italy, and served my city as a home-visiting outreach worker (all before the dawn of smartphones), I have memories of putting my problem-solving skills to the test on these personal and professional adventures.

But more importantly, the map I follow is based on the premise that a more just world is possible. I believe that the joyful learning I experienced at Merion Mercy is a human right. As a high school social studies teacher and community activist in New Haven, Connecticut, we welcome, celebrate, and support the whole child with an emphasis on student strengths, performance-based assessment, and a trauma-informed approach.

NAME: Rebecca Beeman Geffner '98

How did your high school years inspire future adventures?

I was studious and had a never-ending curiosity for all things international. Language study as well as study abroad became the foundation for my future adventures. My study abroad experience to Italy with Merion, Saint Joseph's University, and St. Joe's Prep, as

well as my language classes in Latin and French, cultivated a sense of wanderlust that inspired me to pursue a career in international business education and diplomacy.



What adventure is pictured in this image?

This photo is from a reception that the U.S. Embassy in Rabat, Morocco held in honor of my appointment as the new Executive Director of the Moroccan-American Commission for Educational and Cultural Exchange. Our Commission manages the 14 Fulbright programs between the United States and Morocco.

What map did you follow to get where you are personally and professionally?

I earned a B.A. in French and European Studies with a minor in Italian from Vanderbilt University. From there I worked in Washington, D.C. and New York City and completed a master's degree in international affairs at Columbia University. After working in international education for 10 years, I am now completing a doctorate in business administration at Ecole des Ponts Business School in Paris and working for the U.S. State Department in Morocco.

NAME: Kate Barker '06

How did your high school years inspire future adventures?

I spent my four years at MMA deepening friendships with a group of women who have gone on to become my bedrock and, in many instances, my fellow adventurers. I also learned the invaluable meaning of discipline, work ethic, and integrity.

What adventure is pictured in this image?



My work involves quite a bit of travel, which has enabled me to see more of the world. This picture, though, is from a recent vacation to Argentina. I am hiking in Salta, Argentina.

What map did you follow to get where you are personally and professionally?

Shortly after graduating from Loyola University Maryland in 2010, I moved to New York City where I started my first gig in advertising at InStyle Magazine. I joined the advertising sales team at Facebook in 2013 and spent my first three years at the company working in our New York office managing U.S. relationships with beauty advertisers like Estee Lauder, Coty, and P&G. I transferred to London in January 2017 to join our Global Accounts Team, and have worked across the world managing our relationships with large CPG advertisers (Mondelez, PepsiCo, and now Unilever) since that time. My adventures change every week and sometimes every day! I spend my weeks servicing our key relationships across the complex, diverse region that is Europe and navigating the ever-shifting landscape that is technology.

NAME: Bearshelle Edmé '09

How did your high school years inspire future adventures?

While at Merion, my adventure was all about exploring and giving back to my hometown through Community Service Corps. I also tried my hand at track, and, trust me, that was an adventure! I was part of the Communications Club, where I actually did my first “on-air” interview. The Forensics Team also helped polish my public speaking and gave me a broad worldview of public policy and politics. All those things combined fueled my news adventures in Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, Ohio, and now North Carolina.

What adventure is pictured in this image?



In this picture, I just wrapped up anchoring three straight hours of our live morning newscast! In other photos, you might catch me in hour 73 of reporting during non-stop hurricane coverage or explaining why 20,000 to 30,000 North Carolina educators are protesting at the General Assembly.

The picture always varies, but I hope that, no matter the story I’m telling, I’m informing my community.

What map did you follow to get where you are personally and professionally?

There’s not one specific path to becoming a broadcast journalist. My journey included getting a bachelor’s degree in

communications, where I specialized in broadcast journalism. I also double minored in political science and Spanish. I loved political reporting and wanted to have a strong base in that. I also wanted to further my Spanish skills, so studying abroad in Spain really helped with that. From there, I interned nonstop, and later sent my demo reel to just about every news director until I got one “Yes!” Three TV stations and an Emmy-nomination later, I’m still learning and growing!

NAME: Carolina Ramirez '11

How did your high school years inspire future adventures?

I learned that I could be a leader and that my best learning experiences involved pushing myself out of my comfort zone. Merion students work hard independently to be successful, yet we also have the support of the school community to remind us that we are never alone and that we can achieve almost anything. The entire faculty and staff at MMA show students that we don’t have to do everything on our own. Furthermore, the importance of service that I learned at Merion led me to volunteer in Taiwan after college for a year, and one particular assembly at Merion actually inspired my trip to Cambodia this year.

What adventure is pictured in this image?

I am posing just minutes after learning how to drive a motorcycle in Vietnam. This was part of a three-week solo backpacking trip around Vietnam, Cambodia, and Japan.

What map did you follow to get where you are personally and professionally?

I earned a Gates Millennium Scholarship and studied political science at the University of Notre Dame. Following graduation, I spent a year helping operate a Filipino migrant shelter in Taiwan. I am currently working at the International Baccalaureate and serve as a volunteer tour guide in Washington, D.C. at an international hostel, which allows me to meet amazing people from around the world! I aspire to work in the development and humanitarian sector in the future. 🌍



class notes



Share Your News!

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

The Forties

We were saddened to learn of the passing of our ever-loyal alumna **Anne Therese (Teesie) Larkin Smith '48**. In the last edition's In Memoriam section, we did not include all of her beloved granddaughters, who are also MMA graduates: **Caroline Gardner '05, Johanna Sturm '06, and Maire Sturm '16**.

The Fifties

Frances McLaughlin Maguire '53 visited MMA in the fall to meet with MMA students who are Maguire Scholars. The goal of the Maguire Scholars Program is to support and enrich the leaders of tomorrow by providing an opportunity for an excellent education. The Maguire Foundation forges partnerships and strategic alliances with high schools, colleges, and universities. This program has opened the door for scores of students to attend Merion Mercy and created countless opportunities. While visiting, Mrs. Maguire also spent time with art students in the Frances M. Maguire '53 Art & Design Gallery, which opened in 2018.



Mimi Dugan Leeper '58 submitted this terrific photo of several members of the Class of 1958 at a luncheon at Overbrook Golf Club.

Sadly, a few months after this photograph, one of their classmates **Ellen Ryan '58** passed away. Mimi shared, "She's been a key link in our staying together over the years."



● Front row: Ellen Ryan , Rosemary Armon Crawford, Lydia DiPietro, and Miriam Gleimi DiGiacoma; Back row: Mary Ann Dugan Leeper, Barbara Noonan Civitella, Ellen Gowen McNeill, Margie Lehman Garcia, Betsy Brown Ehrsam, and Eleanor Dougherty Currie

 = Deceased

Pioneering Alumna Ellen Ryan '58 LEAVES LASTING LEGACY



Merion Mercy mourns the passing of Ellen Ryan '58. Her classmate Mary Ann Dugan Leeper '58 shared, "We will miss her very much...she's been a key link in our staying together over the years."

"She was a loyal alumna and loved all things 'Mercy,'" said Alumnae Relations Coordinator Barbara Colantuono Harrison '82. "She and her sisters (and many nieces and cousins) rarely missed a reunion, and it was always a pleasure to see them together—generations of strong MMA alums."

Ellen's trailblazing nature emerged early on in her MMA days. She was a three-sport athlete who earned many distinctions, including recognition as a three-time World Basketball Athletic Association All-American. Yet, her character, goodness, and caring nature also left an indelible mark on all those she knew in her school days. She is described in the yearbook from her senior year as "a splash of laughter." The yearbook goes on to say that "Ellen's mobile mouth and eyes lend lightness to our lessons, send music to a memory..." She clearly brought brightness and energy to her school friends.

After MMA, Ellen continued to shine as an athlete, coach, and administrator. Miss Ryan was a well-known leader in women's sports for more than 50 years, spending most of her career at Saint Joseph's University. She started out at Saint Joseph's in 1973 as head coach of the school's first intercollegiate women's basketball team. She soon took on the job of Coordinator of Women's Athletics before being named Assistant Athletic Director in 1981. After 21 years in that job, she became the Associate Athletic Director for Women's Varsity Sports.

Ever the "Mercy girl," she always went above and beyond, exceeding expectations with a smile. With Miss Ryan's guidance, Saint Joseph's University's women's athletics program grew from three teams in the early 1970s to its current slate of 10 varsity sports teams. Under her tenure, the university's women's teams captured six Atlantic 10 Conference titles and earned a total of 2,091 victories.

"She knew how to get things done and get them done correctly and with class," said her brother, Thomas F. Ryan. "She was the perfect one to get women's sports off the ground."

In 1999, Saint Joseph's honored Miss Ryan as a member of the inaugural class of the school's Athletics Hall of Fame. She was inducted into the Big 5 Hall of Fame in 2003 and the Saint Joseph's Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in 1983. In 2011, the year Miss Ryan retired, Saint Joseph's christened the field hockey team's new turf-covered playing surface as the Ellen Ryan Field.

"Several Merion graduates went on to play on (and coach for) SJU field hockey," shared MMA Athletic Director Barbara Clarke. "Her hard work, talent, and tradition of excellence has inspired generations of Merion Mercy women—it is something special for them to play on a field named after a fellow MMA graduate."

While her many contributions and professional legacy live on, one of her MMA alum nieces provided some personal insight too. Kristin Ryan Logan '99, wrote, "Athletics were a huge part of Ellen's life, but nothing compared to her love and devotion to her family. She had an unbreakable bond with her siblings and loved watching her nieces and nephews, and then her great nieces and nephews, play and grow. There is emptiness in our family without her, and, while our hearts are hurting, they are full from the love she gave us throughout all of our lives. If I am able to leave an impact on this world that is a fraction of what she has had on us, it will be an accomplishment."

class notes

The Sixties

Angela DeRugeriis Beckman '64 was recognized by the Delta Kappa Gamma Teaching Society as a "Woman to Watch" at the organization's state convention. Angela said, "Through the years, any awards received are due to my twelve years at Merion Mercy Academy and my college years at Gwynedd Mercy University."

Irene Horstmann Hannan '64 shared, "I retired from Citizens Bank and my career in banking effective June 30, 2018. On August 1, 2018, I began my new work as the Chief Executive Officer of the Faith in the Future Foundation of Philadelphia. Faith in the Future manages the 17 High Schools and four Schools of Special Education for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia."

The Eighties

Merion Mercy alumna and former trustee **Evelyn Sample-Oates '83** was recognized by the Black Alumni Alliance of American University. This award honors American University alumni who have made contributions to the African American community locally and globally.



The Nineties

Close friends for more than 30 years, **Jennifer Blatteau '90** and **Michele Sullivan '90** have travelled to more than a dozen countries together—the first few trips were made as students at MMA. A graduate of Columbia University, Jennifer has worked for Merck for 21 year and is the Director of External Manufacturing Operations. She has now lived and worked in Italy for 15 years. Michele earned a B.A. from American University and J.D. from Temple University James E. Beasley School of Law. She is the Assistant General Counsel for Berwind Corporation. Both alums travel for work and pleasure (both have been to six continents), and they have been able to connect in some terrific international

locations. Recently, they visited Amsterdam and Paris together. Plans are in the works for this year's destination—perhaps the final continent of Antarctica?!



MMA Alumnae Association's 5th MLK Day of Service

Merion Mercy Alumnae Association's 5th Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service brought together dozens of extraordinary women of Mercy and their families. This year's work was a joint service project with some of the current Merion Mercy students. The group started the day with social justice activities for the kids along with assembling bags of toiletries they donated/collected for Visitation Community Center. After lunch, the group departed for Visitation Community Center to paint a mural for their food pantry!

Many thanks to alumnae who helped coordinate the program: Kathy Williamson Doyle '71, Amy Williamson DiTrollo '82, and Kirsten Echelmeier Sams '99.

class notes

Megan Weil Latshaw, Ph.D. '95, an assistant scientist in the Department of Environmental Health and Engineering at Johns Hopkins, works on designing healthy communities and improving environmental health surveillance. Her efforts focus on making science useful for lawmakers, the public, and those working in public health or environmental agencies. At this year's American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting, Megan received the Environmental Section's Distinguished Service Award for noteworthy and important contributions to environmental health. She was also elected to Chair of APHA's Intersectional Council Steering Committee, a group of Chairs, Chair-Elects and Past Chairs of all the sections at APHA, including the Environmental Section. Starting next year, Megan will also have an ex officio seat on the Executive Board.

The 00s

Proud twin sister **Elana Mele Kachhi '03** shared this wonderful news about her sister, "**Dr. Sabrina Mele '03** was invited to present her research on Parkinson's Disease at the XLIX Congresso Italiana di Neurologia in Rome, Italy in October 2018 as well as an International Conference in Miami, Florida, which will take place this summer. Sabrina is a vestibular and neurologic physical therapist at Good Shepherd Penn Partners in Philadelphia and has been a teaching assistant at the University of the Sciences and Neumann University for several years. She credits her passion for teaching and practice to the traditions of Mercy she learned so well at MMA."



● **Kasey Meehan '05**, **Krysta Genovese Jones '06**, and **Alison Mungan '04** recently completed their 500-hour yoga training for advanced yoga teachers at Three Queens, a studio in Philadelphia.

Kasey shared, "It was incredible having a lineage of Merion gals complete the training together. We learned about each other in new and deeper ways, supporting one another as we grew as yoga teachers and practitioners. As yoga teachers, we all teach at Three Queens Yoga (come visit us!), as well as other spots around the city—Grace and Glory, Sweat Fitness, and the Bellevue. In addition, Krysta is a buyer at URBAN, Alison is a full-time yoga teacher and supports the operations of Three Queens, and I am an educational policy researcher at Research for Action." Kasey pointed out some MMA values that run throughout yoga teachings. "As we were encouraged to do while students at Merion, our yoga practice encourages us to stand in our own power and conviction, teaches us how to support oneself and our communities, promotes spiritual growth, self-inquiry, and consciousness, and, perhaps most importantly, it reminds us how to live by the heart."

Mater Matters is pleased to have received this update from the Bullock family. **Mary Catherine Bullock '05** earned a bachelor's degree from Columbia University in 2009 and went on to study architecture at Tulane University where she received a Master of Architecture in 2014. **Mary Bridget Bullock '07** earned her degree from Parsons School of Design-The New School in 2012. **Mary Grace Bullock '14** completed her undergraduate degree from Bennington College in 2018.

Chelsea Bonenberger '05 became engaged to Brad Greenway on June 17, 2018. A wedding is planned for September 2019.

Lupita Castillo Murphy '05 messaged MMA, "I wanted to share this incredible story of **Emily Taylor '05** to demonstrate how the values that we learned at Merion truly set the foundation of the people we want to be in this world and how those values continue to be a part of who we are years after we graduate from Merion."

class notes

The link Lupita shared was a profile on Emily's work with *One Step Away*, a monthly street paper focusing on social justice in Philadelphia. *One Step Away* is Philadelphia's first newspaper produced by those without homes for those with homes. The monthly tabloid includes news about homelessness and affordable housing as well as creative writing, photographs, illustrations and other content produced by those experiencing homelessness or joblessness. Street vendors who have no job or shelter buy the newspaper for 25 cents and distribute it on the street for a \$1 donation, keeping the difference. Along with countless other aspects of her job, Emily produces the paper. *One Step Away* is a program of Resources for Human Development (RHD), a large Philadelphia-based organization that provides a wide range of human services to the most vulnerable members in society.

Monica Tassoni Cryan '06 joined the PHL17 team in October of 2018. She is very excited to forecast for her family and friends in Philadelphia and the Delaware Valley. Monica earned her Meteorology degree from Penn State University. After graduation, Monica moved around the country as a meteorologist for stations in Texas, Alabama, Connecticut, and Colorado. It was during that time she earned the prestigious Certified Broadcast Meteorologist Seal from the American Meteorological Society.

Kellianne Nicholas DeBlase '06 spoke at Merion Mercy's National Honor Society induction. Her talk focused on how to positively impact lives by incorporating the four pillars of the National Honor Society: Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character. Also present were guests from Mercy Neighborhood Ministries

(where many NHS service activities are held), including **Sister Ann Provost '64, RSM** (Executive Director).

Kellianne married Joseph DeBlase on September 21, 2018 and was thrilled to have so many of her MMA "sisters" present: **Katie Glynn Miccarelli '05, Jessica Rossello Robertson '06, Meagan Sloan '06, Kellianne Nicholas DeBlase '06, Stephanie Ferriola '06, and Maria Angelo DiGiovanni '06.**



● **Maggie Aurand Butler '06** married Dave Butler on December 31, 2017, at Annunciation BVM in Havertown with a reception at the Blue Bell Country Club. MMA alums take a moment for a photo at the reception: **Sister Mary O'Connell, RSM '55, Nina Fortuna-Kelly '06, Lauren Lamberto Iacovone '06, Allie Killeen '08, Emily Mungan '08, Sarah Lunny '06, Krysta Genovese Jones '06, Maggie Aurand Butler '06, Ann Fitzpatrick '06, Mattie Siegfried '06, Kate Narzikul Lehan '06, Lauren Halligan Funston '06, Lorrie Guerrieri '06, Caroline Gallagher Finnegan '06, and Alison Mungan '04.**

Megan Spych '06 was married on September 21, 2018, to Andrew Beston Stathes (St. Joe's Prep '04) at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in Philadelphia. The couple met at Penn State University where Megan acquired her B.A. in advertising, graduating *cum laude*. She then entered Villanova's Nursing School, graduating with a B.S.N. degree *summa cum laude*. After working for two years as a critical care nurse in the Neuro-Trauma Intensive Care Unit at the Hospital of The University of Pennsylvania, she returned to Villanova and earned a Master of Science in Nursing. She currently works as a nurse anesthetist at HUP. The wedding party and guests included a bevy of Merion women, including her 2006 classmates **Marguerite Moran, Monica Tassoni Cryan, Rachel Bowe Paley, Marianne Bradley, Mary Theresa Limbach, Johanna Sturm, and Megan Brown.**

The reception after the wedding ceremony was held at the Water Works where the partying continued well into the night befitting the Merion tradition. Megan and Andrew are currently living in Philadelphia.

class notes



● The wedding day of **Megan Spych '06** and **Andrew Beston Stathes**

Carolyn Sciblo '09 wrote, "I matched at my first choice residency program at Abington Hospital where I'm currently completing my family medicine training. In May, I graduated with my medical degree from Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine as a member of the Gold Humanism Honor Society. The following week, I married my husband, Patrick Fink, in a small ceremony with two MMA bridesmaids: **Angela Monaco '09** and **Colleen Quinn '09**. In June, we celebrated all of the above with a very strong Merion presence. Merion started me on the path to my current career and introduced me to my closest friends. I was so lucky to have such great supports throughout medical school and to be able to celebrate with them when I finally finished!"



● Front row: **Colleen Quinn '09**, **Lizzie McManus Streit '09**, **Carolyn Sciblo '09**, **Angela Monaco '09**; Back row: **Mary Lynch Skurla '09**, **Christine Schaad Krause '05**, **Lili Dodderidge '09**, **Amanda Montie '09**, **Mary Monaco '12**, **Megan Corcoran '09**, **Meghan Githens Scannapieco '09**, **Katie Steele '09**, **Kelly Gaval Sciblo '05**, **Michelle Gerace '09**, and **Jacqueline Gaval Fitzpatrick '08**

MMA alumnae and parents have come to us with great reviews on the performance of **Gianna Yanelli '10** in *Mean Girls on Broadway*. Gianna and the rest of the *Mean Girls on Broadway* cast performed in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Faculty member Sister Beth Flannery, RSM shared, "While attending my niece's graduation at Penn, I was delighted to see **Brigid Drumm '11**. She earned a *Master of Social Work* from the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice. She will be working for a social service agency in Glenside, PA."



● **Elena DiGiovanni Costello '10** was thrilled to share the news of her marriage to **Eddie Costello**.

class notes



- In observance of Veterans' Day, MMA honored all veterans, especially the MMA alumnae who have served in our country's armed forces. The Student Council initiated the decoration of a special bulletin board at MMA on which they posted photos and bios of several of these graduates. Alumna Shabella Rideout-Perkins '13 just completed five years in the Marines and came by to visit MMA and see the display.

JOIN US FOR **Meri-Union** May 4, 2019

CLASSES ENDING IN 4 AND 9:
2019 IS YOUR REUNION YEAR!

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

The Reunion Dinner is for classes ending in 4 and 9.

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

Caitlin Harrison '14 spent the fall semester of 2017 studying abroad in Amman, Jordan. She studied Arabic and conducted research on Jordan's acceptance of Syrian refugees by conducting interviews with local refugee experts. Caitlin graduated from Syracuse University with a B.A. in international relations and modern foreign languages in May 2018.



Weddings

Maggie Aurand '06 to
Dave Butler on December 31, 2017

Kellianne Nicholas '06 to
Joseph DeBlase on September 21, 2018

Megan Spych '06 to
Andrew Beston Stathes on
September 21, 2018

Carolyn Sciblo '09 to
Patrick Fink on May 18, 2018

Elena DiGiovanni '10 to
Eddie Costello on October 11, 2018

class notes

Arrivals

William and Courtney Powers Carroll '97,
a daughter, Anna Lou

Tyrone Capers and Adriana Arcamone '00,
a son, Giovanni

Jake and Meghan Gaffney Wells '02,
a son, Elliott Roe

Kevin and Angela DiCocco Donnelly '04,
Faculty, a son, Thomas Francis

Peter and Kathleen Daly Jordan '04,
a daughter, Rose Eileen

Jonny and Anastasia Bokas Kloos '04,
a son, Dimitri Christopher

Dan and Liz McCauley McCall '04,
Former Faculty, a daughter, Margaret
(Maggie) Mary

Michael and Aileen Callahan Curran '05,
a son, Joseph Callahan

Chris and Regina Toto D'Avella '05,
a daughter, Elise Adeline

Shawn and Amy Wisniewski Furlong '06,
a son, Andrew Thomas

Justin D'Alessandro and Alana Barretta '10,
a son, Domenico Anthony

Stephen and Katrina Pisch Koffel '10,
a son, Joel

Jeff and Marianne Rule, Faculty,
a son, Anthony



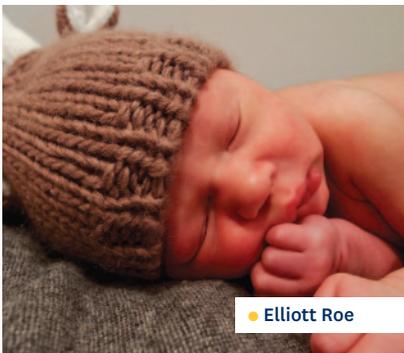
● Giovanni



● Rose Eileen



● Elise Adeline



● Elliott Roe



● Dimitri Christopher



● Andrew Thomas



● Thomas Francis



● Margaret (Maggie) Mary



● Joel



● Anthony

In Memoriam

Loved ones submitted the following names of Merion Mercy Academy alumnae and parents. The MMA community extends its sincere condolences to their families and friends.

- Anne Brogan Bannon '68
- Patrick Brown P'83
- Patricia Scattergood Burk '61
- Annelouise Peterson Crooks '65
- Victoria Donohoe '46
- Ronald Duska P'13
- Harriet Finegan P'82 GP'11
- Rachel Gerner P'66'71
- Samantha Golda '06
- Cheryl Hughes Goldschmidt '63
- Nancy Lawler '66
- Anne (Nancy) Teresa Campbell Loeber '59
- Norbert McGettigan P'72'74'75'78'80
- Patricia Hobson Moritz '61
- Mary Regina McCaffrey Reaph'48 P'75'82
- Mary Jacqueline McCullen Reed '69
- Debi Rossello P'06
- Ellen Ryan '58
- Rosemary Stio '82
- E. Marc Sullivan P'85
- Charlass Cericola Wyly '48
- Julia Zaccaria P'06

Prayer for The Eternal Rest

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Key: ' followed by year is alumna

P=Parent GP=Grandparent T=Trustee F=Faculty





MMAnnual Fund

“This year’s Mercy adventure reminds us that there’s ‘no us and them, just us.’ This is the heart of our school year theme this year, and it is what Mercy is all about. We must remember how our Core Values are vital to our Mercy adventure as we cultivate good in our school, neighborhoods, and world.”

–Madeleine Litka '20

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