



The MERCIAN

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Mercy High Receives Largest Single Gift in School History

Mercy High School has received the single largest individual gift in the school's history. The donor, Eileen Krebs Ryan, is a 1945 graduate of St. Mary High School, one of Mercy's predecessor schools. St. Mary, formerly located at 27th and St. Mary's Avenue, and St. John High School, formerly located on the Creighton University campus, merged in 1955 to form Mercy High School at its present location.

The gift – more than \$550,000 – will be used to renovate the front entrance of the school building on 48th Street that will be named *Eileen Krebs Ryan Plaza*. "It is an honor to be the recipient of such a generous gift," Sr. Johanna Burnell, president of Mercy High School said. "We are privileged and delighted to be able to include Eileen's name on our new plaza."

"I am happy to support Mercy High School," said Eileen, whose father attended Mass at Holy Cross Church, located across the street from the school, when the family lived in the neighborhood years ago. "He would be proud to drive by and see his name on the front of the building."

The renovation will address the façade of the building and enhance the neighborhood in accordance to the Destination Midtown design concept. School leaders are working with architects on the conceptual drawings and construction plans. Design plans include a new paved drive, special lighting, landscaping and the school's entrance will be handicapped accessible. The interior of the school has already been renovated.

"Mercy's enrollment is increasing and doing very well," said Ryan. "To enhance the front entrance of the school would really benefit it."

Eileen Krebs Ryan was born in Humphrey, Nebraska and grew up in Albion, where her father, M. J. Krebs, was a defense contractor. The family moved to Omaha in the early '40s and lived near Park Avenue and Leavenworth Street. Although she began her high school education at another school, Eileen transferred to St. Mary a year later. "I loved the Mercy nuns and the girls," she said. "I made lifelong friends and have wonderful memories of St. Mary's."

Eileen and her husband, Wayne, have been married 59 years and are the parents of five children, including two

attorneys, a dentist, a small business owner and a corporate executive. Daughter Connie, also a Mercy graduate, succeeded her father as President of Streck. Wayne Ryan is currently chairman and CEO.



L to R: Sr. Johanna Burnell, RSM, Eileen Krebs Ryan, SM '45 and Connie Ryan '70.

"The main thing is the Mercy nuns just really formed my life as I grew up," Ryan said. "That's why I really wanted to do something for them."

"I am so grateful to Eileen because this is something that has been in our long-range plans for long time and we can do it now, rather than wait five or six years," said Sr. Johanna Burnell. Other large donations have come from the Sisters of Mercy.

"Mercy is truly blessed to have such a tremendous support network of the Sisters of Mercy, alumnae, family and friends," said Sr. Johanna Burnell.

LOOK INSIDE FOR
FOCUS ON WOMEN
GUIDE TO FINANCIAL
AND ESTATE PLANNING

Reflections from the President



Inspiration comes from a wide variety of sources, but I have found that one of the most reliable sources of inspiration (good example, role modeling, etc.) lies in the people who impact our daily lives—the people closest to us. Throughout my life, my inspirational people have often been members of my family, other Sisters, or close friends. Of course Mother Catherine McAuley is a constant inspiration for me, as is Mother Teresa, Pope John Paul II, Padre Pio, and some public figures like Lou Holz or Tony Dungy, and even some politicians such as John Edwards and Harry Truman. But leaving aside the influence of religious leaders and public figures, I would have to say that I find great inspiration in our Mercy girls, our young women of Mercy.

From the beginning of this year, through Advent and then Fiesta, and into Lent, they have offered a constant theme of “doing the ordinary things in an extraordinary manner”—which Catherine McAuley prescribed as a sure way to holiness.

Let me give you just a few examples: The Student Council theme for the year is “Mercy Meets World”. What’s behind this phrase is an emphasis on developing a global perspective that emphasizes our citizenship of the world—the planet, in addition to our rights and privileges as citizens of the USA. One way the students have chosen to express this global unity is to work with Mercy girls from fifteen other Mercy high schools around the country to raise enough money to build a school with running water for child citizens of Cambodia. These 60 girls, four from each of fifteen schools nationwide, have pledged to raise \$20,000 to accomplish this goal.

That theme, in the words of Julia Krolkowski '08, was chosen because it connects Mercy schools from Ireland to Sudan, from Australia to Chad, from Omaha to the world. I am sure the seniors did not consult our Graduation Standards while they were choosing the theme, but there is a marvelous authenticity to the standard that says the graduates of Mercy High School will demonstrate that they are *“Global citizens who promote the understanding, valuing and acceptance of cultural and ethnic diversity in the world.”*

Likewise, I am sure the seniors, as they worked on their Mercy Day play and make other plans for their senior year over the summer, did not give much thought to the standard that says they will be *“Women of Mercy who are compassionate, community-oriented and committed to helping others”* when they started the “Random Acts of Kindness—RAK” club to encourage school spirit and simply DO random acts of kindness. The entire school community has experienced the results of the seniors many acts of kindness, both public and private, throughout the first semester and into this one.

I feel certain that I can guarantee that *“Moral Women of Faith who exemplify the empowerment of God’s love and who understand the Catholic faith”* never entered the consciousness of the Core Group of Campus Ministry as they arrived at their Lenten theme of “Extreme Love” which seeks to explore Christ from the vantage points of his extreme LOVE for us, his extreme SUFFERING, his extreme NEED for us to respond to his love. The Core Group student leaders want to help all of the Mercy community grow in our understanding of God’s extreme love for each and every one of us—and what a dramatic way they have chosen to do this!

There are five other graduation standards, but I don’t want to bore you. Just let me say that today’s Mercy girls, under the guidance of an outstanding instructional leader, Carolyn Jaworski '64, and talented, dedicated faculty, are an excellent living demonstration of them all—all eight of our Graduation Standards.

In the Messianic prophecies, the prophet Isaiah (11:6) tells us that “..a little child shall lead them all.” For me, the ‘little child’ is embodied in almost any one of our 345 Mercy girls, who are demonstrating today exactly what it means to be a follower of Jesus in the modern world. As I said earlier, they—the Mercy girls of 2007-08—are my inspiration.

Sincerely in God’s tender Mercy,

Sister Johanna Burnell, RSM
President

Graduation Standards

Graduates of Mercy High School will demonstrate that they are... *Moral Women of Faith*—who exemplify the empowerment of God’s love and who understand the Catholic faith.

Respectful of All Life and the environment.

Global citizens—who promote the understanding, valuing and acceptance of cultural and ethnic diversity in the world.

Women of Mercy—who are compassionate, community-oriented and committed to helping others.

Self-Confident—possessing a strong sense of self-worth and the ability to maintain and enhance their self-esteem.

Knowledgeable and possess the skills needed to pursue life goals.

Self-directed Learners—who view learning as a life-long process—who are able to communicate effectively, problem-solve creatively, make decisions logically, and express themselves creatively.

Holistic Women—who value and practice healthy, well-balanced lifestyles.

Student Life

“Mercy Meets World”

By Julia Krolikowski '08

The school year has been in full swing, and second semester is upon us. Students have been busy reading text books, building models of the human body for presentations, and participating in after school activities.



L to R: Dorothy Weschler, Julia Krolikowski and Caitlin Botsios

In November, senior Dorothy Weschler from Merion Mercy in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania came to Omaha Mercy to experience the tradition of Spirit Week. The senior class took every opportunity they got to show Dorothy around Omaha. “It was great so see someone experience Mercy through the eyes of an outside Mercy girl,” said Nicole Mixan, senior class president.

Student Council planned Spirit Week activities with a new theme for each day. Class competitions were held so that each class could gain spirit points, such as: bathroom decorating, class skits, class dances, and overall participation with the day's dress theme. At the end of the week, the class with the most participation points won early dismissal the day before Thanksgiving Break. The senior class had the most points and won early dismissal.

“The bathroom decorating was the most fun,” said Kristi Gentleman '08. “It was great to dance in the bathroom during my senior lounge.” The seniors had refreshments to go with the disco ball and fuzzy rugs.

Becky Slater '08 enjoyed the class skits because her class “brought home” the “Circle of Life” from their freshmen year. “The song from *Lion King* has allowed our class to come full circle,” said Slater. “We have grown close as a class, but we still have our individualities.”

“I loved Spirit Week because the participation level of each class improved so much since last year,” said Abbey Deats '10. “Everyone enjoyed the decorating of the bathrooms and lockers. Decorating helps encourage school spirit because the friendly competition brings us closer as a school.” Spirit Week came to an end with the Nocturne dance with the theme “How Sweet It Is”.



Seniors Caity Wessling and Rosie Laughlin hang out in the decorated senior bathroom.



Nocturne Court L to R: Junior Anna LaHood, Senior Marlowe Mapes, Sophomore Tess Farris

December brought intense studying for finals, the exams and Christmas break. A week before finals, a competitive diaper derby between the student

body and teachers was held to see who could raise the largest ratio of diapers. In the end, the faculty brought in the largest ratio of diapers. The total count for diapers collected was over 8,000. The diapers will aid 86 Sudanese babies from Project Welcome. Even with this high count for diapers, the students lost, and nominated Pastoral and Student Council members had to wear diapers for an entire day. Symone Sanders '08 decided to take wearing a bedroom sheet as a diaper with complete school spirit.

Not only did she decide to wear a diaper, but she included the bib and pacifier to go along with it. “Wearing the diaper is one of the perky things that only happen at Mercy,” said Sanders. “It’s not everywhere that you see high school students wearing bed sheet diapers!”



L to R: Nicole Mixan, Julia Krolikowski

School started back in January, and with that came excitement for Pack the House. On January 10, the junior varsity and varsity basketball teams played Daniel J. Gross High School. The bleachers were packed with students dressed in their blue and yellow spirit wear. Students painted each others' faces, and signs were held up to encourage the basketball team to play their very best. Nicole Mixan '08 varsity

basketball player said, “The enthusiasm and cheering of the crowd inspired the team to play the best game we have had this season. There is nothing compared to playing in a gym full of cheering fans!”



L to R: Seniors Kelsey Wright, Mikala McGruder, Brittany Henry

“To Mercy, with Love” Fiesta

~ An Expression of Love

A red-white-pink-silver explosion of heart-shaped balloons, white tulle, red bows, and white lights became the perfect atmosphere for 2008's “To Mercy, with Love” Fiesta. The Fiesta Steering Committee decided early in the planning that this year, the recipients of the *Cor Misericordiae* Award would be the Sisters of Mercy. The Sisters will be experiencing an organizational change this summer when the Omaha community is merged with five other Sisters of Mercy communities throughout the Midwest and the West Coast. That was a natural lead-in to the theme for this year, a takeoff on Sidney Poitier's 1967 blockbuster movie, “To Sir, with Love.”



L to R: Sr. Patricia Forret, president of the Omaha region Sisters of Mercy, receiving the *Cor Misericordiae* award from Sr. Johanna Burnell, president of Mercy High School.



L to R: Sr. Judith Patricia Healy '60 and Sr. Jean Sitter

General Chairs Randy and Veronica Wright led scores of parent volunteers through hours of planning, soliciting, creating, and setting up and cleaning up to record-breaking results. The combined auctions, the raffle, and the overall general income for Fiesta 2008 will exceed \$270,000! In addition, it appears

that, while our income reached new heights, the committee was able to keep our expenses to an all-time low. This is all GREAT news for Mercy High School's negotiated tuition.

Everyone knows that “Fiesta” is an acronym for “Friends In Earnest Supporting Tuition Assistance”. Every penny of Fiesta profits supports one single element of our mission: negotiated tuition. The reason we work tirelessly to keep event expenses as low as possible is that everyone—parents, administration, development office, faculty and staff—wants Fiesta to make as much money as possible to assist our families with their Catholic high school education expenses.

We will have about \$770 per pupil toward bridging the gap between what our families can pay and what it actually costs to run our excellent school. What an amazing feat!

This year's decorations committee, chaired by Barb Gerren and Jan Kraft, made magic. In addition to the very elegant



L to R: Kim Lang Bunnell '88, Denise Matya Barrett '88 and Debi Ricceri Henderson '88

and festive heart theme, the committee created a memory board on the mezzanine that highlighted the history of Mercy education in Omaha. Other displays featured love letters to Mercy from alumnae and current students, and a photo board of all the Sisters of Mercy who are alumnae of Mercy High School, St. John, or St. Mary. It was such an impressive display that parents requested it remain in place for a couple of weeks to be enjoyed by the students and by visitors to the mezzanine.

Enjoy the Fiesta photos and review our lists of parent leaders and our major corporate and underwriting sponsors. Fiesta is a living testimony of Mercy spirit in action.



L to R: Sr. M. Virginia Daly, SJ '41; Sr. Rosalima Wilkinson; and Annie Straka '08.

Senior Gives Thanks for Mercy

This speech was written by student council president, Rosie Laughlin '08, and presented to Fiesta guests.



You'll have to forgive me because my speech writers are on strike, so this might be a little raw.

The decision to come to Mercy was not a very difficult one for me. Growing up, Mercy was a part of me. My grandmother attended St. Mary's and my mother and all of my aunts and cousins on her side went to Mercy. This made my decision to come here for high school a no-brainer. After all, it was tradition. Going to Mercy was the best easy decision I've ever made. Other than an amazing education, there are many invaluable qualities that Mercy girls are bestowed with. There are certain attributes, invaluable lessons, that I have learned from Mercy.

One of the greatest lessons is that serving God and others is more important than anything I could learn from books or years of schooling. I remember two years ago I attended the Christian Leadership Institute at Wayne State College. I was one of the students chosen to have lunch with the archbishop. We went around the table saying our ages and what school we went to. There was a student from almost every school in Omaha and some from various small towns of Nebraska. I followed routine by stating my name and that I was going to be a junior at Mercy the next semester. But instead of continuing around the table, the Archbishop stopped, looked me square in the eye and said, "You'd better stay with that school because they do great things over there." After saying this we continued the process of introductions. Now this wasn't some grandiose proclamation about how marvelous Mercy is, it was just a simple statement. He probably doesn't remember me or what he said, but I can't seem to get it out of my head. But it did not surprise me one bit. Mercy has an outstanding tradition of service. At Mercy, service is greatly emphasized, and the students accept it with open arms. Sr. Jeanne and Mrs. Friesen, our campus ministers, have done a phenomenal job these last four years of letting the students know who needs you. Sister comes around at lunch asking for volunteers. And, as I'm sure many of you already know, it is incredibly hard to say no when a nun asks you to do something. Everywhere you identify yourself as a Mercy girl while serving the community, somebody will remark on how notorious Mercy girls are for doing service. It's kind of an oxymoron, but it fits. There is such a strong tradition of service here. There is just a vibe of giving. It would only take a small glimpse of our past track record to prove that.

The tradition of giving is epitomized in the negotiated tuition program. The fact that Mercy is willing to work so that young women can come to this amazing school no matter their circumstances still amazes me. At Mercy, they don't say no. There is no prejudice against those who are struggling to

make ends meet. I have no doubt that there are some girls roaming our halls free of charge. We live in a world where income and wealth can sometimes put you up against a wall of "no's." Mercy says, "Yes, we're glad to have you." The negotiated tuition program is reciprocal. The donors give to Mercy, which enables Mercy to give to the students. Those students become women of Mercy, who give back to the world. It is a gift to be able to come here. It is a gift from the Mercy Sisters who are so generous of time and funding. It is a gift from our parents who sacrifice so much to send us here. It is a gift from all of our benefactors and all of you who give to Mercy with love.

If you walk through our halls you will see the spirit of Mercy. Here, there is such a sense of camaraderie and community. It might sound cliché, but we are family here. I'm on recruitment team and I often tell the girls, Mercy is kind of like the theme song to the hit television show Cheers. "You want to go where everybody knows your name." This is Mercy. It saddens me when I meet people from other schools and they tell me that they don't know some people in their class. It is understandable that one might not know everybody in the entire school, but to not know somebody from your own class just breaks my heart. This is why Mercy girls are so close. We all know and love each other. There are no strangers here, no faces without names. Everybody has a place here. Everybody fits.

As a senior here, I am slowly accepting that next year I will not be able to come here for school. As excited as I am about moving forward and continuing my education, I don't want to let go. In my college search I have discovered that there is no place quite like Mercy and it will be hard for my future school to even compare with Mercy. I find myself counting down the days in sadness. But I also know that Mercy will always be a part of me because Mercy made me who I am. And that is a pretty miraculous thing for a teenage girl to know who she is in high school. We are singers, intellectuals, actresses, tap-dancers, artists, cheerleaders, engineers, athletes, and scientists. We are creative, funny, loving, confident, intelligent, poised, giving, diverse, accepting, responsible, spirited, devout young women and it is all because of Mercy. Any school that can give a young girl the ability to give a speech in front of hundreds of people and pretend that she is not nervous is a miracle worker in my book. I went from being a shy, scared freshman to the student council president. I am just one of the transformations into a woman of Mercy.

If I were to explain in full how much I love Mercy and how much it has impacted me, we would be here for days. There are not enough words that could possibly convey my great thanks to Mercy and all of you for giving me and students just like me the opportunity to come here. No words can do this magical place justice, so I'll conclude. I encourage you tonight to strike up a conversation with the young women you see volunteering, and they can tell as well as I can how glad we are you came and how thankful we are for Mercy. So thanks to all of you and to Mercy, with love, from the students.

Reunion Notes

St. John Class of 1947

The class of St. John 1947 celebrated their 60th reunion on September 22, 2007 with luncheon at the Farm House Café. Following lunch, they went to Rose Baye Cutshall's house for dessert.



L to R sitting: Shirley Mae Poetzel, Mary Jo Barrett, Margaret McAndrew Kennedy, Geraldine Herek McGee, Mary Watsabaugh Bishop, Sally Sanders Hutfless, and Jeannine Cooney McNulty. Standing: Rose Baye Cutshall

St. Mary Class of 1952

The class of St. Mary 1952 celebrated their 55th reunion with a luncheon on October 17, 2007 at Gorat's restaurant. Mary Jo Havlicek provided memorabilia for the classmates to enjoy.



Class of St. Mary 1952 L to R: Pat Runa Potter, Dorie Lawrence, Jane Lodge Shanahan, Mimi Targy, Mary Jo Havlicek, Mary Hanlon Tigges, Pat Quinn Prochaska, Shirley Carter Andrews, Peg Connelly Hanson, Jenny Krebbs Friend, Marj Kastl Krawczyk (Not pictured: Dorothy Stolinski Moore)

St. Mary 1954 Monthly Luncheons

The St. Mary class of 1954 meets the second Tuesday of each month for lunch at various restaurants around the city. As many as 10-12 classmates attend the luncheons and reminisce about their high school days.

If you would like more information, please contact Rosary (Pisci) Sorensen at (402) 733-7721 or (402) 676-1557.

2008 Class Reunion Information

1948 St. John - 60th Reunion

Save the Date: April 25 at 12:00 noon for a luncheon at the Happy Hollow Club (1701 S. 105 St.). An invitation will be arriving in the mail soon.

1953 St. Mary - 55th Reunion

Save the Dates: September 19 at 11:30 a.m. for a luncheon at the Field Club (3615 Woolworth). Continue celebrating the reunion on Sunday, September 21, 2008, at the Mercy High School All School Reunion with a 9:00 a.m. Mass in Our Lady of Mercy Chapel, complimentary brunch and self-guided school tours. Please RSVP by September 10th to MiMi Tanner at (402) 334-6915 or mianmi@cox.net.

1958 - 50th Reunion

Save the Dates: August 1 will Girls Night Out and August 2 Mass at Mercy High School in Our Lady of Mercy Chapel and school tour. More details to come. Carol Neill Casey
ccasey9@cox.net

1963 - 45th Reunion

Interested in planning the 45th reunion? Please contact Betty Trout Eckley at (402) 345-8793 or labet3@cox.net.

1968 - 40th Reunion

Save the Dates: July 25 and 26
Priscilla Connelly Quinn
priscilla-1950@hotmail.com

1988 - 20th Reunion

Save the Dates: July 26 and 27
Kerri Shafer Davis
kerriandpaul@yahoo.com

1993 - 15th Reunion

Denise Reynolds Moore
dmoore@gpgirlscouts.org

1998 - 10th Reunion

Save the Dates: June 13 and 14. Please watch your mail in April for a mailing with the final details and RSVP information. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact Ellen Vulje Bockelmann at ebockelman80@hotmail.com. Also, please make sure that Mercy has your up-to-date contact information on file as that will be the address data used for the mailing.

Planning Your 2008 Class Reunion

A little planning makes your class reunion a great success! The summer of 2008 will be the time for classes who graduated in years ending in three or eight to come together and reminisce about the unforgettable years at Mercy High School.

It may be way too early to know exactly what you want to do and who will be there, but it is never too early to start thinking about when you may want to get together. Do you want to have Mass in Our Lady of Mercy Chapel? Would you like a tour of the school? Do you want to plan a whole weekend of activities or just a simple evening get-together? The questions maybe many, but the answers will be easy.

Access reunion details at www.mercyhigh.org, the alumnae section. You can request a class list and utilize the reunion planning/liturgy planning forms. Please contact Mary Emmer, alumnae relations at (402) 553-9424 or emmerm@mercyhigh.org with any questions.



Good Search is a search engine that is very similar to Google but helps raise money for Mercy High School each time you use it. We just received a check and we would like to see it grow. It's very easy:

1. Go to www.goodsearch.com
2. Click on add goodsearch to your toolbar
3. Click on download now
4. Go through the install process
5. Click on my charity on the toolbar which should be towards the top of your screen.
6. Type in Mercy High School and hit verify.
7. Select Mercy High School Omaha, NE
8. Use this toolbar instead of google, yahoo or other search engines

You can also help Mercy by going to www.goodsearch.com before you do any online shopping. Click on *Who do you Good Shop for* which is currently listed in the middle of the right side of the page. If you purchase anything from the merchants on this site, Mercy will receive a portion of the sale.

These are small things that you can do to help the Mercy mission. Please spread the word.

The Next Generation Campaign

September 10, 2007- January 11, 2008

Anonymous

Jeff & Jane Green Alseth '65
Katie Mollner Baumker '94
Kellie M. Brannen '96
Virginia Troia Brown '65
Mr. & Mrs. Michael R. Brown
Kimberly Lang Bunnell '88
Jeanne L. Devaney Carroll '74
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Joan Jaksich Cimpl Tuition Award

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Bill & Pat Stanek Dworak '65
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Gail A. Gartner '60
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Mary Ann Douda Hartley, SM '53
Mary Jo Havlicek, SM '52
Jeanne Heaston '69
Jim & Helen Hughes Herbert, SJ '43
Marlene Roeder Herby, SM '52

Patti Kasun Higgins '78
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Leo & Claire Riley Murnan, SM '45
Sally J. Nimmo '65
Mr. & Mrs. Robert G. O'Brien
Anthony & Jacqui Orahoske
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Jo Russo, SJ '48
Trudy Waldmann Salvo '66
Lorray D. Smith M '67
Sr. M. Lisa Staudacher, RSM
Susan Kenny Stevens '64
Mary Lou (MiMi) Targy, SM '52
Laura Vacanti Thoreen '94
Angela Burton Vogel '00
Denis & Marian Walsh
Rev. Tom Ward
James B. Whitmore
*In memory of Anne Kinney
Whitmore, SJ '36*

Class of '65 Monthly Dinners

The Class of '65 meets on the second Wednesday of each month at various Omaha restaurants to catch up on current events in classmates' lives, to reminisce, and to engage in lively conversation. Usually 10-20 classmates participate. If you would like to be included and notified of time and location, please contact Ingrid Kalinowski Borghoff, via e-mail at borghoffi@mercyhigh.org, or phone (402) 553-9424.

Annual Giving Fund

September 10, 2007 – January 11, 2008

Donor Clubs

Heart of Mercy Society ~ (\$5000+)
 McAuley Society + (\$1000-\$4999)
 Mercy Circle ^ (\$500-\$999)
 President's Club > (\$100-\$499)
 Charter Members *

Heart of Mercy Society

Sr. Cathrine Marie Franey, RSM
 William J. Gallagher
In memory of Marie Rakowski Gallagher, SJ '38

McAuley Society

Anonymous (3)
 Dr. George & Mrs. Rose Marie Bendon Basque '59
 Mark & Connie Davis
 Carol Roh Dorwart, SM '53
 Brett & Jackie Frevert
 Eleanor Lynch Heaston, SM '30*
 Jane M. Keller '66
 Richard D. & Mary Pat Smola McCormick '58*
 Mary Palmesano '59
 Lorry D. Smith '67*
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Mercy Circle

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 Chris & Judy Niemoller Sorenson '75*
 Anthony & Teresa Vancura Vacanti '73*
 Ms. Kilsun E. (Elizabeth) Yang

President's Club

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 Denise Matya Barrett '88
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 Sharon Palladino Burns, SM '53*
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 Mary E. Corboy, SM '53*
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 Maureen Becka Falcon '85
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Jeanette Boe Fleer, SJ '55
 Sue Turner Foreman '61
 Amanda M. Fulton '98
 Jeanne Fogarty Galvin '69
 Carrie Zuerlein George '91
 Sr. M. Jude Graham, RSM, SM '37*
 Judy Enis Hall '61*
 Mary Jean Connelly Harrington '57
 Dr. Virginia A. Higgins, SM '53
 Sue A. Hodges
 Raymond & Diane Janiak
 Katherine Laux Kaiser '71
 Cathy Katzenberger '68
 Rose Marie Battaglia King '60
 Joseph L., Jr. & Mary Leahy
 Jeanne Nauslar Luedtke '66
 Marlene Thell Machal, SM '55
 Holly McCoy*
 Mary Zenk McHugh '72
 Jeannine Cooney McNulty, SJ '47*
 Charlene Becher Mitchell '68
 JoAnn Daley Morey '59*
 Ms. Joy Neneman '57
 Kelly K. Nystrom '86
 Kathy Meidlinger Reckner '65
 Josephine S. Russo, SJ '48*
 Rosemary Harris Ryan, SM '51*
 Mary Scherr '62
 Sr. Mary Agnes Tamisiea, RSM
 Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Taylor
 William & Carolyn Andreason Taylor '71
 Janet Schmidt Tomarkin '68
 Ruth Daly Trede, SM '52
 Catherine Franco Van Haute '81
 Mary Siemek Veasman '56
 Fred & Nancy Bertagni Wackerhagen '71*
 Sr. Jeanne Ward, RSM '59*
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 J. R. English
 Paul & Bernadette Esposito
 Rev. Thomas M. Fangman
 Mr. Irvin Farnan
 Hon. & Mrs. J. Michael Fitzgerald>
 Rita Heavrin
 Interstate Printing Company
 Mr. & Mrs. Joseph H. Kenney
 Mr. & Mrs. Joseph L. Leahy, Jr.>
 Mrs. Elsie Leavitt
 Mr. James Francis Lynch
 Sr. M. Patricius Maloney, RSM
 Pat & Pat McGinnis
 Mr. S. D. Mercer
 Mr. & Mrs. Tom Messersmith
 Mr. & Mrs. Anthony E. Orahoske^
 Rev. Charles O'Rourke
 Rev. Roland Peschel
 Mr. Howard Rudloff
 Stephen & Janice Scherr
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas W. Schleisman
 David & Nancy Shirley
 Mr. Albert V. Sibillia
 Jim & Marsha Stewart
 Sr. Mary Agnes Tamisiea, RSM>
 Mr. & Mrs. Emmet Tinley, III
 Katherine Townsend
 Mr. & Mrs. George Wanek
 John & Erin Ward
 Douglas Wingate
 Wesley & Mary Wolfe
 Ms. Kilsun E. (Elizabeth) Yang^

Parents & Former Parents

Leon & Sue Arens
 Dr. George & Mrs. Rose Marie Bendon Basque '59+
 Mr. & Mrs. John R. Beck
 Mr. & Mrs. Steve Bode
 Joseph & Patricia Dethlefs Brennan '73
 Anna Jane Burton
 Mrs. Mary Camperud
 Chris & Diane Cernik
 Mr. & Mrs. Paul Childers
 Mr. & Mrs. Mark Davis+
 Mr. Joseph DeLuca
 Mr. & Mrs. John Devaney
 Jim & Sandy Erwin
 Ms. Cynthia Farmer
 Mr. & Mrs. Brett Frevert+
 William J. Gallagher-
In memory of Marie Rakowski Gallagher, SJ '38

Terry Haftings
 John & Betty Hagedorn
 Ms. Kimberly Hall
 Mrs. Marge Harman
 Mary Jean Connelly Harrington '57
 Mrs. Sue A. Hodges>
 Scott & Deb Holmes
 Mark & Nina Homan
 Mr. Wallace Hopkins
 Dr. James V. Huerter^^
 Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Janiak>
 Mrs. Patricia Kavaliauskas
 Robert & Kathleen Riedmann Kemler '78
 Michael & Molly Conboy Koley '81
 Bill & Jane Krajicek
 Virginia Krist
 Mrs. James A. Lavelle
 Mr. & Mrs. Tom Liechti
 The Meehan Company,
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Meehan
 Mr. & Mrs. Ted Menzel
 Kay Giordano Morocco, SJ '36
 Kevin & Jeanette Burk Morrison '86
 Leo & Claire Riley Murnan, SM '45
 Mr. & Mrs. James Novak
 Dao & Nuong Tx Nguyen
 Mr. Claire M. Oswald
 Pat & Mary Lou Parr

Pauline Pesek
 Mr. Eugene W. Peter
 Marcy Connelly Peterson '64
 Larry & Diane Proulx
 Joe & Carol Reifenrath
 Diane Reifenstahl
 Mr. & Mrs. Ed Rejda
 Kent & Karen Riesberg
 Mr. & Mrs. Larry D. Rischling
 Mr. & Mrs. Corwin D. Rogers
 Lynn & Cindy Schrum
 Mr. & Mrs. Dick Shepherd
 Gene & Marilyn Spence+*
 Mr. & Mrs. Chester M. Stefanski
 Mrs. Adelaide G. Szymskie
 Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Taylor>
 Mark & Robin Micek Taylor '71
 Mr. John Truscott
 Anthony & Teresa Vancura Vacanti '73**
 Fred & Nancy Bertagni Wackerhagen '71*
 Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Wheeler>
 Mr. & Mrs. Stuart R. Wood
 Mr. & Mrs. Joseph J. Zaborowski
 Mr. & Mrs. Maurice J. Zach
 Dan & Jo Ann Zuerlein

Faculty & Staff

Ingrid Kalinowski Borghoff '65>*
 Maureen Becka Falcon '85>
 Brian & Jane Lagenfeld
 Holly McCoy>*

Alumnae

1930
St. Mary
 Eleanor Lynch Heaston+*

1933
St. John
 Theresa Peter Bredar
 Fena Caniglia Venditte

1934
St. Mary
 Sr. Mary Jo DeMarco, RSM

1935
St. Mary
 Sr. Kathleen Ann Quinlan, RSM

1936
St. John
 Donna McCarthy
 Kay Giordano Morocco
 Sr. Margaret Sutton, RSM

St. Mary
 Elizabeth R. Bauer

1937
St. Mary
 Sr. M. Jude Graham, RSM>*

1938
St. Mary
 Ann Bauer

1939
St. John
 Marge Peter Egenberger^

1940
St. John
 Elizabeth Spellman Guese

1941
St. Mary
 Josephine F. Bauer

1942
St. Mary
 Sr. M. Cabrini Camel, RSM>*

1943
St. John
 Mary Gleeson Jonaitis
 Patricia Baye Vrchlavsky*

1944
St. John
 Katherine Cook Nelson

1945
St. Mary
 Claire Riley Murnan

1947
St. John
 Jeannine Cooney McNulty>*

St. Mary
 Donna Griffith Larkin

1948
St. John
 Clare Hogan Cholet
 Josephine S. Russo>*

St. Mary
 Phyllis Campbell Haller
 JoAnn Alter Maher
 Marie Moylan Wharton

1949
St. Mary
 Patricia Jackson Gambee
 Kathleen Masilko Gorham
 JoAnn Kirkpatrick Kunasek
 Margaret Conrey Pedersen

1950
St. John
 Barbare Reh Evans
 Eleanore Tangney Furey

St. Mary
 Marian Carter Monaghan

1951
St. Mary
 Patricia Bauer Chleborad
 Therese Douchey Giesemann
 Claire Allison Harry
 Sr. M. Lucina Kozeny, RSM
 Rosemary Harris Ryan>*

1952
St. Mary
 Mary Jo Havlicek
 Grayce Hoegerl Jones
 Ruth Daly Trede>

1953
St. Mary
 Sharon Palladino Burns>*
 Mary E. Corboys>*

Kathleen Madden Cranny
Catherine Floersch Criquei
Betty DeMarco
Carol Roh Dorwart+
Dr. Virginia A. Higgins>

1954

St. John

R. Anne Wegener Byrne
Mary Ann Rosenthal Dunning
Julia Watsabaugh MacKay^

St. Mary

Margaret Semin

1955

St. John

Edie Harvat Caniglia>
Jacqueline Kennedy Fennimore
Jeanette Boe Fleer>

1955

St. Mary

Joyce Lampe Connolly
Marlene Thell Machal>
Dr. Michon Rozmajzl, RSM
Patricia Esser Scherrman
Mary Clare Seward Wilson

1956

Norma Thell Begley
Fran Scalora Berger
Carol Sinnott Heafey
Mary Kay Sullivan Klein
Jo Marcuzzo Macaitis
Mary Siemek Veasman>

1957

Rosalie Von Tersch Allison>
Mary Jean Connelly
Harrington>
Maureen McGrath
Sr. Marie P. Micheletto, RSM
Joy Neneman Neneman>
Marilyn Borovac Schuette
Judith A. Poetzel Soliz

1958

Mary Pat Smola McCormick+*
Jeannie Rashid McElligott
Marialyce Killeen Walsh

1959

Rose Marie Bendon Basque+
JoAnn Daley Morey>*
Mary Palmesano+
Joan Willett Quinlin
Joyce Palladino Schueth
Joan Stoffel Sindelar
Sr. Jeanne Ward, RSM>*

1960

Donna Moravec Filice
Rose Marie Battaglia King>
Nancy Tanner Rosenthal

1961

Warrine P. Coffey
Sue Turner Foreman>
Kitty Kelly Grace
Janet Marsicek Gural
Judy Enis Hall>*

1962

Sandra Stahlecker Badura

Mary Scherr>
Maxine Thell Vinardi

1963

Betty Trout Eckley>
Judith Kraft Stoughton

1964

Marcy Connelly Peterson
Janet J. Schumacher

1965

Jeanne Sorich Anderson
Ingrid Kalinowski Borghoff>*
Barbara Boczar Heywood, M.D.
Kathy Meidlinger Reckner>
Rita Wagman Skinner
Sharon Sullivan
Peggy Yungbluth, M. D.

1966

Marianne Beck Hall**
Jane M. Keller+
Jeanne Nauslar Luedtke>

1967

Martha Grant Bruckner, Ph.D.>
Lorray D. Smith+*

1968

Colleen Rukas Bentley
Cathy Katzenberger>
Patti Beck Lamoureux
Karen Cronin LaRue
Mary Beth Lavelle
Charlene Becher Mitchell>
Janet Schmidt Tomarkin>

1969

Jeanne Fogarty Galvin>
Suzanne Romaine Purcell
Mary Jo Troia-Tejeda

1970

Carm Cosentino
Karen Krzycki Kisicki
Linda Kopfle Marek
Lynne Micek Pagano

1971

Mary Zuerlein Cunningham
Katherine Laux Kaiser>
Barbara Sanders Mattia
Carolyn Andreasen Taylor>
Robin Micek Taylor
Mary Kay Bilek Wolf

1972

Mary Zenk McHugh>

1973

Patricia Dethlefs Brennan
Mary Jarecki Camp
Teresa Vancura Vacanti**
Nancy Bertagni Wackerhagen*

1974

Janet Perdue Olechoski

1975

Judy Niemoller Sorenson**

1977

Margie Silvestrini

1978

Karin Fangman
Kathleen Riedmann Kemler
Mary Cecilia Kennedy Lippert

1981

Molly Conboy Koley
Catherine Franco Van Haute>

1983

Judith Belitz, D.D.S.
Victoria Michalski Carpenter>

1985

Maureen Becka Falcon>
Barbara Spence Mueller

1986

Jeanette Burks Morrison
Tammie Spence Nussrallah**
Kelly K. Nystrom>

1987

Michaela Harrington

1988

Denise Matya Barrett>
Laura A. Pierce

1989

Jennifer Snitily Munchrath

1990

Lindsay O'Shaughnessy Gomez
Teri Walters Moffitt

1991

Carrie Zuerlein George>

1994

Rachel Burbach Burns
Michele Leighton Krajicek,
M.D.^
Elisabeth Kohout Oubre

1996

Jennifer Hladik

1998

Amanda M. Fulton>

2002

Melissa A. Camperud

Alumnae Retreat

A half day retreat for all alumnae and friends will be held in late April. Watch the mail for more information

Please contact Mary Emmer at emmerm@mercyhigh.org or at 553-9424 with any questions.

Alumnae Applaud Broadway Performance

Over 225 alumnae attended the Alumnae Appreciation night in October. Alumnae enjoyed the performance of *Give My Regards to Broadway: A Musical Revue*. The musical revue was a tribute to the great musical comedies of Rogers and Hammerstein from past to present.



From L to R: Bette Ringel Otten, SM '48, Dee Brennan Haniszewski, SM '54, Marilyn Heater Nelson, SM '50, Helen Dillon Griffith, SM '43, and Mary Ellen Haley Byers, SM '53

Corrections

The following are corrections from the October 2007 Mercian.

Corrected spellings:

Lee & Kate Zadina Kerniskey '97
(Peyton Jacob, June 14, 2007)

Don & Alison Devaney Lux '97

Ryne Benjamin Lux (December 23, 2006) pictured with his older brother, Tyler

Annual Report

Christmas Appeal - Marguerite Crivera Smith SJ '46 (*In memory of Sr. M. Vincetta (Marie) Crivera, CPPS SJ '49*). Sr. M. Vincetta (Marie) Crivera was not a graduate of St. Mary, but St. John.

AlumLINES....another chapter in the story of our alums

A Family Affair The Giordano Sisters

During the Great Depression cities all around the world were hit hard from the crash of the stock market and recovering from its effects. Families struggled to find work, make decent wages, and keep their family together. Amidst these challenges, the parents of the Giordano sisters understood the sacrifices needed to ensure their daughters would receive a valuable Catholic education at St. John High School that would last a lifetime. Their father, Dominique, worked for the Union Pacific (UP) shops as a mechanic. Their mother, Mary, stayed at home and managed the household activities.

In their brown jumpers and tan blouse uniforms, the Giordano sisters, **Frances "Franie" Giordano Crafton, SJ '34**, **Katherine "Kay" Giordano Morocco, SJ '36**, **Nancy Giordano, SJ '39** and **Carmella "Carm" Giordano, SJ '43** walked to St. John High School. St. John High School for girls began in one room of St. John Grade School. Over the years, it expanded to four rooms and a lab in the grade school, then to an additional three rooms and auditorium in the church basement, growing to an enrollment of 250.

The Giordano sisters studied under **Sr. Mary Martin, RSM, MSM '13**, Sr. Mary Rose, RSM, Sr. Mary Edward, RSM, and Sr. Mary Brendan O'Malley, RSM in courses such as bookkeeping, typing, accounting, business and shorthand. "Sr. Mary Edward, RSM made an impression in my life," said Nancy. "She was a good teacher of the business courses." The all-girl environment provided them the opportunity to excel in their education and foster lifelong skills. "There were no distractions or boys to keep us from learning," said Carmella.

After high school, each Giordano sister was successful in the career fields of office administration, bookkeeping

Frances Giordano Crafton, SJ '34
Katherine Giordano Morocco, SJ '36
Nancy Giordano, SJ '39
Carmella Giordano, SJ '43

and accounting. Kay said, "During the recession, when I applied for a job and was accepted, I knew it was because of the excellent education I received at St. John." Carmella said, "With the comprehensive education I received, I was able to obtain and keep a job without additional education."



L to R: The Giordano sisters in the late 1930's: Nancy Giordano, SJ '39, Frances Giordano Crafton, SJ '34, their mother, Mary, Katherine Giordano Morocco, SJ '36 and Carmella Giordano, SJ '43

In addition to the lifelong education the Giordano sisters received, they also fostered lifelong friendships. "We developed a close sisterhood with our friends while at St John," said Carmella. Over sixty-five years later, there is still a closeness and togetherness among their friends. Carmella says "We meet for gatherings on Sundays and play pinochle once a month."

Although the location and uniforms are different today, the value of Mercy's Catholic education is ever present. "A Catholic education opens the hearts and develops the minds of our young children," said Kay. Kay Giordano Morocco daughters, **Kay Morocco '60** and **Margaret Morocco Somers '61**, attended Holy Cross, Mercy High School and Creighton University.

Through the years, the Giordano sisters have been, and continue to be, loyal to Mercy High School. During the Phonathon Annual Fund drive, they have volunteered their time to make calls to alumnae and assist with clerical duties. They are generous financial supporters of Mercy High School. "I support Mercy High School because of the wonderful Catholic education I received," said Carmella.

The Best of Both Worlds

It has been said, as a woman, you can't have it all – a family and a career. **Francie Reidmann Weis '81** would disagree and even make an argument in court to dispute that fact. She is living proof that you can have it all. Weis is a successful attorney, a wife and mother of three children. She credits her family and Mercy High School for the solid foundation of her success.

"My father is one of my role models," said Weis. "He always sees the good in people and gives them the benefit of the doubt." As the youngest of five girls, she saw no distinction between "boy jobs and "girl jobs". All of her sisters, **Margie Reidmann Sobczyk '67**, **Jayne Reidmann Mollner '70**, **Mary Pat Riedmann Green '73**, and **Kathy Riedmann Kemler '78** attended Mercy High School and created a supportive learning environment throughout the years.

"The all-girl education at Mercy High School impressed upon me two attributes:

1) a girl could hold any leadership position; and 2) how to stick up for yourself," said Weis. "I had great mentors: Mrs. Herman, **Sr. Pat Guziec '58** and **Terri Zadina Jewell '79**."

Francie Riedmann Weis '81



clockwise: Jim, Francie, Lauren, Zach and Emma Weis.

One subject Weis excelled in during high school was journalism. "Mercy has a great journalism department," said Weis. "I found myself spending a majority of my free time writing articles and working in the darkroom." She was the editor of the yearbook and wrote endless articles for the school paper. Weis was a member of the National Honor Society and senior class president. One

of her favorite memories was being the narrator in the Christmas Cantata for two years in a row.

Weis received her undergraduate degree in telecommunications with a minor in criminal justice from Kearney State College in 1985. She also completed a five-

month paralegal course at the Denver Paralegal Institute in 1986 and graduated summa cum laude from Creighton University Law School in 1993. Prior to starting law school, she married Jim Weis.

The most challenging aspect of law school for Weis was the constant reading while working part-time. "You could never walk into a class without being prepared because the teaching method was to call upon student after student," said Weis. "The most rewarding aspect was making the Dean's list and that great inner feeling of accomplishment when you finally grasp a concept."



Francie Riedmann Weis '81

In January 2008, Weis became the first woman shareholder at Gross and Welch Law Firm where she began as a paralegal in 1986. She is the resident appellate attorney for the firm. Weis handles the appeals after a case has been settled. In this legal area, Weis handles a wide range of substantive law including estate planning, personal injury, breach of contract, employment, workers compensation, product liability, due process and more. "It requires me to research, write and participate in oral arguments," said Weis. Cases most memorable to Weis are personal injury fatalities for they have such a devastating effect on the people involved.

She and her husband, Jim, have been married 19 years and both are very involved in their children's activities. Jim has flexibility with his position at Blue Cross Blue Shield. "I work a 30 hour week, which allows me one and a half days per week out of the office to volunteer at the kid's school, be available for field trips, mid-day programs and teach religious education once a week," said Weis. "I am technologically tied to the office, so I can work from home during any of that time when I need to." Their children all participate in the reading club at the library. Lauren, 9, is in third grade, plays soccer, takes art and piano lessons. Emma, 7, a first grader, is active in soccer, basketball, and gymnastics. Zach, 5, is in pre-kindergarten, plays soccer and recently began Tae Kwando. Weis and her husband plan to stay involved in their children's education and more so in their extracurricular activities as they grow older.

Weis' hobbies include running and reading non-law books. She is a member of the Nebraska State Bar Association and the Omaha Bar Association. She also participates in the Lawyers in the Classroom Program, which allows lawyers to share their experience of law to fifth graders.

AlumLINES....another chapter in the story of our alums

The Influence of Catherine McAuley

"The mission of Mother Catherine McAuley, educating and ministering to women and children, is one ideal I live by today," said **Annie Woodrich Distefano '98**. "From the Mercy High School experience my sister, **Christie Woodrich Fulton '96** had, I knew Mercy was a close-knit family community where I could grow in my faith and obtain an excellent education." Distefano's experience affirmed what she had learned from her sister.

"The small classroom size and individualized attention were strong attributes I felt were vital to gaining the most of my educational experience," Distefano said. "The all-girl education helped me to attain self-confidence and conquer the goals and aspirations that I set out to achieve."

Distefano took to heart Catherine McAuley's mission of education. At Mercy, Distefano was awarded the Goodrich Scholarship, which paid her full tuition to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In 2002, she graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in child development/early education. She was awarded the distinction of outstanding senior in child development/early childhood education, which is based on academic grade point average, involvement, and skill level in the field.



Annie, Abby, Joshua and Mark Distefano

During college, Distefano worked as a child life assistant (CLA) at Children's Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska. After three years experience as a CLA, Distefano applied for the Child Life Internship to become a child life specialist. The internship entailed over 550 hours of clinical experience at Jennie Edmondson Hospital in Iowa, Boys Town National Research Hospital, University of Nebraska Medical Center, and Children's Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska. Distefano completed the internship and became certified child life specialist (C.C.L.S.).

Catherine McAuley's ministry to children influenced Distefano to follow in her footsteps. Distefano is a member of a pediatric health care team in the Children's Ambulatory Recovery and Express Stay (CARES) unit, an outpatient surgery suite at Children's Hospital. The team works with ill

or injured children and adolescents on their emotional, social, and developmental needs while in being hospitalized. They ease the anxiety and stress that comes with hospitalization by providing education about their illness or injury on a developmentally appropriate level. On any given day, the team works with 30-35 patients. Distefano's role as a child life specialist is to prepare children for surgery by going through the typical routines of a particular surgery. "Seeing the smiles on the children's faces is what makes my job so rewarding," said Distefano. "At the end of the day, I leave, knowing my work made a difference in the lives of children, as Catherine McAuley made a difference in children's lives."

Annie Woodrich Distefano '98

"The faith that Mercy instilled in me helps me through difficult times," Distefano said. Her husband, Mark, a veteran with the Marine Corp, was sent to Fulljiah, Iraq for 10 months in 2004. "It was extremely hard to be without him," she said. Mark is home safe and is an electrician with Hillar Electric.

In September, 2005, they welcomed their first child, Abigail (Abby) Louise, who brought upon them unexpected challenges as new parents. Abby was very sick. By the age of six months and after nineteen in and outpatient hospital visits, Abby was diagnosed with severe MSPI (milk, soy, protein intolerance). She was in a lot of pain and finally required a continuous NG feeding tube. Today, Abby, age 2 ½, is a happy, healthy and extremely busy child. Their second child, Joshua Steven, was also diagnosed with MSPI, but because of the experience with Abby, they had learned how to conquer the diagnosis. At 8 months, Joshua is a laid back, happy-go-lucky child.

In the summer of 1999, Distefano was elected the 50th Santa Lucia queen. Santa Lucia is a non-profit organization that honors the Sicilian patron saint, St. Lucia, an Omaha tradition for over 78 years. Through this organization, Distefano has visited nursing homes and hospitals, participated in the Jerry Lewis MDA telethon, and many other service opportunities. She passed the crown and traditions to her younger sister, **Katie Woodrich '00**. It was the first time in the history of Santa Lucia that sisters were elected queen back to back.

"Catherine McAuley has influenced my life," Distefano said. "I would like to thank the faculty and staff at Mercy High School for helping me to be the woman that I am today."

Sister Trains Globally

Sr. Margretta Dwyer, RSM, SM '52 and sister, **Patricia Dwyer Harkreader, SM '54** attended St. Mary High School. "It was my father's dream for us to attend St. Mary," said Dwyer. "He worked as a fire department captain across the street from St. Mary and frequently visited the nuns during free time."

At St. Mary, Dwyer was involved in drama and glee clubs. "My favorite memories are of May Crowning practices, which lasted for hours, the McAuley plays, the silent days of each year's retreat, and glee club performances," she said. Dwyer competed in piano contests at the Joslyn Memorial Art Museum. "The contests were nerve-wracking, but they helped prepare me for life's challenges," said Dwyer.

"The excellent education I received at St. Mary made me realize the power of women and that stays with me now," Dwyer said. Every month, she finds a new woman role model – from the 1800's to present. A few of her role models include her grandmother, Grandma Lucy Dwyer,



Sr. Margretta Dwyer, RSM, SM '52

who was put out of her home at age 15, made her way to New York and Chicago, and got a job all in the late 1800's. "Sr. Brendan O'Malley, RSM, another example, was a truly Merciful person with loads of patience," said Dwyer. "Sr. Mary of the Angels, RSM (Sr. Catherine Marie Franey) is responsible for my music success."

Dwyer joined the Sisters of Mercy community in 1952 and received a bachelor of science degree in teaching from the College of St. Mary in Omaha, Nebraska. She completed a masters degree in psychology from the University of Northern Colorado. Dwyer completed a year of doctoral work with focus on sexuality and marriage counseling at the University of Pennsylvania.

She is a licensed psychologist, licensed marital and family therapist, certified sex therapist, and is forensic board certified.

Her knowledge and expertise in sexuality led her to the University of Minnesota, where she was asked to create

and direct a program for treatment of sexual offenders. For over 17 years, Dwyer was the director of the sexual offender treatment program, a program in human sexuality in the department of Family Practice and Community Health at the University of Minnesota Medical School.

On any given day, Dwyer interviews and evaluates sexual offenders for the courts and lawyers, writes reports, or completes therapy with individuals. "Sometimes I testify in court or by phone to the court rooms," Dwyer said.

Sr. Margretta Dwyer, RSM, SM '52

She led a sexual offender study focused on a group of 180 males who completed the sexual offender treatment program. All men in the study were followed after treatments from six months, five years, ten years, 17 years, 23 years. Dwyer is now is working on a 30-year study with these men.

Her reputation and extensive experience in counseling families and individuals with sexual problems have gained her international recognition.

She has traveled the world lecturing on sexuality, sex research and mostly about sexual offenders. "I have been privileged to speak in Germany, Austria, Greece, The Netherlands, Demark, Norway, France, Prague, and Venezuela," said Dwyer.

Her research and studies have been published in educational curricula, periodicals and newsletters. Dwyer co-authored the book, Sex Offender Treatment: Biological Dysfunction, Intrapsychic Conflict, Interpersonal Violence, in 1996 along with colleagues Eli Coleman and Nathaniel A. Pallone. In July 2007, Dwyer published her first book, Understand Offending: Unveiling Myths, Seeking Sexual Health, which focuses on issues facing children, teenagers, and adults in the often confusing world of sexual behavior, unveiling the misconceptions surrounding sexual offenses and offering a clear path to healing through therapy.

Dwyer now works alone, part-time, privately in her own practice. In the future, she hopes to continue writing, lecturing, and possibly write another book. Dwyer enjoys snowshoeing, swimming, lifting weights, and downhill skiing. She plays the piano and organ while singing for the Basilica Women's Choir, called Angelicum, at the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Caribbean Treasure Hunt

A Phantom Experience

Chair

Gloria Jezewski Flynn,
SJ '50

Committee

Jeff & Jane Green Alseth '65
Dr. George & Rose Marie
Bendon Basque '59
Judi Belitz, D.D.S. '83
Ingrid Kalinowski Borghoff
'65
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bujarski
Sr. Johanna Burnell, RSM
Patricia Callone-Flynn, SM
'55
Vicki Michalski Carpenter
'83
Pat & Carol Neill Casey '58
Joan Jaksich Cimpl, SM '51
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Collins
Dr. Timothy J. Cook
Maurice & June Cox
Mike & Marcia DeFreeze
Mike & Mary Beacom
Emmer '84
Gary & Kathy Pilon Gates
'65
JoMarie Guastello
Louis & Dorothy Kros
Halamek, SM '51
Bruce & Marlene Haney
Mary Jo Havlicek, SM '52
Rita Heavrin
Carolyn Jaworski '64
Kathy Baines Kizer '66
Annette Mayer Kutilek '57
Mr. & Mrs. Michael F. Lawler
Mr. & Mrs. Les Lawless
Sr. Joan Martin, RSM
Dick & Mary Pat Smola
McCormick '58
Holly McCoy
Kevin & Dee McCoy
Ann Louise Urzendowski
Micek, SM '49
J. F. O'Neill Packing Co.,
Inc.
Sarita Troia Penka '67
Fred & Mary Jo Romano
Petersen '58
Ed & Rose Regan
Terrie Houston Ringwalt '67

Drs. Bill & Jane Dethlefs
Roccaforte '74
Connie Ryan '70
Lurray Smith '67
Gene & Marilyn Spence
Joanne Stewart '72
Teresa Vancura Vacanti '72
Sr. Jeanne Ward, RSM '59
Rev. Tom Ward

Donors

Mary Adams
Anna J. Bauer, SM '38
Josephine F. Bauer, SM '41
Fred & Betsy Bender
Colleen Rukas Bentley '68
Ingrid Kalinowski Borghoff
'65
*In honor of Holly McCoy's
birthday*
Joseph & Patricia Dethlefs
Brennan '73
Sandra Lacoma Butts, SM
'55
Sr. Cabrini Camel, RSM,
SM '42
Sr. Marian Camel, RSM,
SM '47
Michael & Tina Cameron
Chris & Diane Cernik
Joan Jaksich Cimpl, SM '51
Warrine Coffey '61
Sam & Janet Cohen
Tim & Mary Coyle
Catherine Floersch Criquei,
SM '53
Rich & Diana Cupich
Archbishop Elden F. Curtiss
Mary Siderewicz Decker '63
Kathy Jensen D'Ercole '61
Rita Humpal Dolan, SM '54
Jean Dolphin
C. D. & Cathy Duran
Barbara Reh Evans, SJ '50
Rev. Tom Fangman
Megan McCann Fletcher '94
Sr. Patricia Forret, RSM
Bettina Frappier
Nadine C. Freshman
Theresa Doll Gotch '56
Sr. M. Jude Graham, RSM,
SM '37

Louis & Dorothy Kros
Halamek, SM '51
Sr. Judith Healy, RSM '60
Eleanor Lynch Heaston,
SM '30
William & Doris Heaston
Rita Heavrin
Ellen Longo Hurley '64
Hugh B. Huston
Fr. Gene Jakubek, SJ
Josephine James
Leonard M. Jaworski
Cathy Katzenberger '68
Cathy Kessler
Chuck & Deb Kinzer
Karen Kisicki '70
Helen Koznarek Kopfle,
SM '40
Marj Kastl Krawczyk, SM '52
Mrs. Virginia Krist
Andrew & Barbara
Krolikowski
Mrs. Winifred Kula
Mary Beth Lavelle '68
Mrs. Margaret E. Lavelle
Kelly Connelly Lawler '92
Gerald & Karen Lenczowski
Maureen E. McGrath '57
Ted & Cindy Menzel
Peach Kocarnik Mondragon
'59
Katherine Giordano
Morocco, SJ '36
James H. Moylan
Claire Riley Murnan, SM '45
Betty Gossin Nicolaisen '60
Rev. Ralph B. O'Donnell
Mary Hogan O'Hearn, SJ
'42
Sr. Jeanne O'Rourke, RSM
Pat & Mary Lou Parr
Rev. Frank A. Partusch
Sarita Troia Penka '67
Pauline A. Pesek
Patty & John Ptacek
Sr. Mary Ellen Quinn, RSM,
SM '47
Clementine Baye Redlinger,
SJ '36
Ed & Rose Regan
Sr. Monica Marie
Reichmuth, RSM
Joe & Carol Reifenrath

Jennifer Reifenstahl '00
Marge Reynolds
Patricia Linstrom Rudolph
'58
Jo Russo, SJ '48
Wayne & Eileen Krebs
Ryan, SM '45
Rev. Carl Salanitra
Patricia Esser Scherrman,
SM '55
Amy Michalski Schultz '86
Rosemary Shanahan, SJ
'39
Richard & Suzanne
Shepherd
Mary E. Slavik
Rick Sorensen

Patricia Mokry Starwyck,
SJ '40
Jim Stewart
Jerome & Shelly Stolinski
Judith Kraft Stoughton '63
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Sykora
Nancy Teply
Ann Thurmond '68
Jim & Margaret Timmins
Patricia Marron Tuttle, SJ
'50
Jim & Maureen Waldron
Sr. Jeanne Ward, RSM '59
Mary L. Shirley Weber '66
Marie Moylan Wharton,
SM '48
Rich & Kim Yost

Loved Ones Remembered



Over 80 alumnae, Sisters of Mercy, family and friends joined in collective prayer and remembrance of their loved ones during the Memorial Mass held in November. Fr. Larry Gillick, SJ presided over the liturgy in Our Lady of Mercy Chapel. Alumnae who

participated in the Mass were: Sr. Kay O'Brien, RSM '62 as cross bearer; Carol Neill Casey '58, Gail Babb Kotulak '82, and Marcy Harrington '85 as lectors and petitioner, Dan and Sharon Palladino Burns, SM '53 offered the gifts; and Jessica Sommer '08 as server. Patti Draney Hayden '78 directed and accompanied the Alumnae Choir in liturgical songs. A reception followed in the Daniel E. Sheehan Memorial Library.

The Mercy community viewed the Memorial Wall, which list those who have been memorialized from 1980 to the present. "The Memorial Wall is a visual tribute of those who we know, who were a part of our lives and who are no longer with us, but have left an everlasting impact on us," said Sister Johanna Burnell, president of Mercy.

Scholarship Memorials, Scholarship & Tuition Awards

September 10, 2007-January 11, 2008

Agnes David Mauro Scholarship

*In memory of Robert N.
Mauro*
John & Sandie Jaeger
Mauro

*In memory of Virginia Panek
Ficenec*

Jo Kastl Henely

General Scholarships

Anonymous

Carol Kastl Memorial Mathematics Scholarship

*In honor of Dan & Mary
Jean O'Brien Sims' Golden
Wedding Anniversary*
Jo Kastl Henely

Mary Jane Smith Gerst Memorial Scholarship

Melanie Smith Fechter
Mary F. Gayman

*The Next Generation
campaign*

Melanie Smith Fechter

*In memory of Charles G.
Soula*

Jerry & Sheila Hayes
Buscher & Family
Jerry & Mary Coufal
JoAnn Dusek

Renae C. Von Tersch Art Scholarship

Betty Darrell
El & Rita Wagner Pitt

Walter, Rosemary, & Rudy
Hason

Brandon & Lori Rowan Hull
Frank & Joanne Kolar
Paul & Therese Kripal
Kramer
David & Sharon Larson
Jimmy Mixan
Leo & Margaret Kastl Novak
Gust & Joan Rakes
James & Betty Sutej

*In memory of Mrs. Alyce
Hicks*

Reid & Claire Von Tersch

Richard F. Chadek III Senior Scholarship

*In memory of Ricky on his
birthday*

Machele Smart Baratta

Sr. Jeanne O'Rourke Cross Country Scholarship

Anonymous

*In memory of Col. Emmett
O'Brien*

Jo Kastl Henely

*In memory of Larry
Carmody*

Jo Kastl Henely

Wendy O'Rourke Leadership Award

*In memory of Wendy
O'Rourke*

Mr. & Mrs. Bryan Hercules

*In memory of Phyllis
Moreland*

Karol Krawczyk Carroll

William & Patricia Stanek Dworak Family Tuition Award

*In memory of Frances
Monson*

Bill & Pat Stanek Dworak

*In memory of Rita G.
Hermanek*

Joseph L. Hermanek
Ruth Povondra

The Mercy Legacy Society

The Mercy Legacy Society honors those who have remembered Mercy High School in their estate plans through wills, life insurance, charitable gift annuities, or other planned gifts. If you have made a will and have included Mercy High School, please notify the development office so that we may enter your name in our Mercy Legacy Society. If you would like to learn more about including Mercy in your estate plans, please contact Ingrid Borghoff, development director, at (402) 553-9424.

Anonymous (5)

Rose Marie Bendon Basque '59

Marie Bauer, SM '35 +

Victoria Michalski Carpenter '83

Mary M. Carroll, MSM '29 +

Margaret C. Cosgrave +

John F. Daly, SB '23

Sr. M. Justin Evans, RSM, MSM '22 +

Rev. William J. Fitzgerald

Msgr. John A. Flynn +

John J. Franey +

Bernice McGuigan Gitter, SB '23 +

Louise E. Gross +

Mary Jo Havlicek, SM '52

Jean Hays, SM '44 +

Mary Kay R. Hoarty +

Marie Mokry Jelinek, MSM '24 +

Harriett Foran Kane, SB '24 +

Father William P. Kearns +

Msgr. Francis Kenny +

Mrs. Charles (Anna Louise) Kranda +

Bonnie Lomax Lawler '66

Alice Quinlan Lungren, MSM '26 +

William C. Mahoney +

Sr. M. Bridget Marsicek, RSM '65 +

Paul L. Martin +

Sandie Jaeger Mauro '66

Dick & Mary Pat Smola McCormick '58 +Deceased

Edward J. McDonough +

Rosalie M. Merrick +

Bessie Nejd +

Adelaide M. O'Keefe, MSM '28 +

Mary Palmesano '59

Robert L. & Patricia Zauner Paulsen
'56

Elizabeth H. Peasinger +

Msgr. Paul F. Peter +

Mary D. Petrasic, SM '39 +

Doris Mehrens Pfeiffer, SJ '39 +

Shirley Mae Poetzel, SJ '47

Velma Perry Prentiss, SM '33

Grace Aldrich Ringer, MSM '20 +

George F. Rushart +

Archbishop Daniel E. Sheehan +

Barbara Jean Smith, SJ '53 +

Joseph M. Smith +

Joanne Stewart '72

Eugene Francis Sullivan +

Richard M. Svehla +

Frances Quinlan Turecek +

Jennie M. Vojir +

Reid & Claire Von Tersch

Richard & Susan Cook Waldren '66

David & Margaret Zielinski Weaver '61

Interested in Giving a Year of Service to the Church in the United States as a LAY VOLUNTEER?

MERCY VOLUNTEERS COPRS, a lay volunteer program for women and men sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, provides opportunities for people over the age of 21 to give a year of service, community and prayer. Volunteer opportunities include teaching or nursing on Indian reservations or inner cities, working in homeless shelters, social service agencies, clinics, etc. This is a unique opportunity for those who wish to have an experience ministering to the needy at any stage in their life. Room, board, medical insurance and a small stipend are provided. Loan deferments are available.

For more information contact Sheila Devereux, RSM at (415) 751-9574 or dev2er7eux@aol.com

Memorials

The following have been entered into our Memorial Association from September 10, 2007-January 11, 2008

Emil F. Adam
Sr. Jean Adam, RSM

Jeanette T. Adam
Sr. Jean Adam, RSM

Lillian Archer
Mrs. Patricia Kavaliauskas

Mr. Nariman Azizi
Charles & Suzanne E. Azizi

Debbie Battaglia
Douglas Wingate

Jerri Bersch
Rich & Margie Bersch
Pietryga

Louis L. Biga
Patricia Brandt Podjenksi

William (Bill) Blankman
Gary & Marlene Thell
Machal
Joe & Jean Ward Nekola
Peggy Wagman Stoyisch

John Bril
John & Susan Hohman

Joe Budenholzer
Violet Cunningham DuRee

Jerry Buechler
Susan Wieberg Buechler
Bob & Laura Caniglia
Callahan
Holly McCoy
Jeanette Burks Morrison
John & Ann Bendon
Wieberg

Henrietta Quinlan Buscher
Peggy Wagman Stoyisch

Marie Connelly
Michaela Harrington

Bill Criqui
Catherine Floersch Criqui

**Deceased Classmates
St. Mary 1940**
Helen Koznarek Kopfle

**Deceased Classmates
St. John 1944**
Katherine Cook Nelson

**Deceased Badura Family
Members**
Sandra Stahlecker Badura

**Deceased DeMarco &
DiBaise Family Members**
Sr. Mary Jo DeMarco, RSM

**Deceased Devaney Family
Members**

Mr. & Mrs. John Devaney

Edward DeJoy
Bill & Pat Stanek Dworak
Mrs. James A. Lavelle

**Mary Clare Neuberger
English, SM '52**
J. R. English

Joseph Francis Erdei
Mrs. Leona Atchity
Kathleen Erdei Bassett
George & Judy Erdei
Bill & Kathy Baines Kizer
Janet (Sue) Circo Leahy

Donald Esposito
Paul & Bernadette Esposito

**Virginia Panek Ficenc,
SM '47**
Alice McGowan

**Marie Rakowski Gallagher,
SJ '38**
William J. Gallagher

Theresa deAnda Gonzalez
Sr. Johanna Burnell, RSM
Katie Wang

Max Granados
Gary & Marlene Thell
Machal

Donald Griebel
Frank & Mary Ann Koraleski
Wessling

Mary Tidona Guastello
Jo Marie Guastello

Joseph Guziec
Sr. Catherine Marie Franey,
RSM

James Harris
Terri Ganapini

Albert James (Jim) Harris
Mrs. James A. Lavelle
Mary Beth Lavelle

Mike Healey
Andy & Brigid Fenoglio

Jim Herek
Dan & Sharon Palladino
Burns
Margaret Herek Gillen

Kevin Holtz
Gary & Marlene Thell
Machal

Helen Homan
Gary & Marlene Thell
Machal

Therese Quinlan Huerter
Ingrid Kalinowski Borghoff
Sr. M. Cabrini Camel, RSM
Mary Coyle
Elaine T. Heaston
Carolyn Jaworski
Walter & Jo Marcuzzo
Macaitis
The Milone Family
Kevin & Jeanette Burks
Morrison & Girls
Omaha Community
Foundation-Mike Leighton

Kathleen Rushlau Hunt '57
Mary Jean Connelly
Harrington

Patricia Higgins Kessler
Mary & Tim Coyle
Kathy Redding

Donald R. Kohout
Elisabeth Kohout Oubre

Robert E. Kracher, Sr.
Jim & Sandy Erwin
Terri Ganapini

Robert C. Krist
Virginia Krist

Virginia M. Quinn Larkin
M. Joan Roadruck Fenton
Mary Margaret Fenton
Ursula Kalinowski
Carol Keefover
Ed Quinn
J. H. Quinn
John & Myrt Quinn

Len Leavitt
Mrs. Elsie Leavitt

**Loretta, Wilbur & Sue
Liechti**
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Liechti

Mrs. Amy M. Longo
Elaine T. Heaston

Mark Lordemann
Mary Ann Wieberg Tietjen

Walt & Teresa Marchese
Lori & Mike Marchese

Kenneth C. Martin
William A. & Norma Thell
Begley
Gary & Marlene Thell
Machal

Rob McCoy
Lori & Mike Marchese

Harold J. Mueller
Sr. Catherine Marie Franey,
RSM
Carolyn Jaworski

Richard Munkvold
Mary Beth Lavelle

Jean Scott Nisi
Margie Silvestrini

Ross Nisi
Margie Silvestrini

Rita Novak
Mr. & Mrs. James Novak

Carmelita Prouse
Frank & Mary Ann Koraleski
Wessling

Dorothy & Levern Rexroat
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Liechti

Joseph Rogers
Margaret Dunn Rogers

**Bette J. Skorka Rudloff,
SM '51**
Mr. Howard Rudloff

Pierrette D. Ruetz
Dr. Robert G. Ruetz

Leona Sazama
Bob & Judy Bosiljevack
Harden

William Schram
Jim & Nancy Tanner
Rosenthal

JoEllyn Scott
Margie Silvestrini

Nunee & Joe Scott
Margie Silvestrini

Harold J. Schumacher
Janet J. Schumacher

**Arturo & Margherita
Silvestrini**
Margie Silvestrini

Capsar Silvestrini
Margie Silvestrini

Joseph Silvestrini
Margie Silvestrini

Julia Stewart
Rachel Burbach Burns

Hugo R. Sullivan
Sharon Sullivan

Frank D. Szynskie
Mrs. Adelaide G. Szynskie

Family of Charles Vankat
Dan & Jo Ann Zuerlein

Rose Marie Vankat
Kate Janca Adams
Mary & Tim Coyle
Carolyn Jaworski

**Kathleen Shaffer
Vincentini '57**
Maureen McGrath

Frances Wilcox
Bill & Pat Stanek Dworak

Roger Wilde
Mary Beth Lavelle

**Jeanne Burnett Wingender
'68**

Mary Adler
Hon. Peter & Kaye Bataillon
Ken Berger & Molly
McCarthy
John & Mary Berigan
Mary Fran Hoffman Brannen
Steve & Jill Brayfield
Louis & Kitty Cappellano
Margie Chartrand
Betty & Ron Cheffer
Creighton Federal Credit
Union
Deb Cunningham
Rich & Diana Cupich
Brian, Karen, & Spencer
Dixon
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Duffy
Dr. John & Pat Evans Edney

Grace Farley
 Gloria Jezewski Flynn
 Louise Battaglia Franco
 Jim & Susan Franco
 John K. Green
 Terry & Peggy Grennan
 Tom & Vicki Hageman
 Paul & Barb Hodgson
 Nova Hoffman
 Steve & Marla Houston
 Steve Howard
 Jake & Deb Jacobson
 Cathy Katzenberger
 Mary & Paul Kelly
 Drs. Mark A. Keroack & Ann
 Errichetti
 Paul & Michaela Kramper
 Michael P. & Jeanette L.
 Krebs
 Jack & Nancy Krogstad
 Beth Kudlacz
 Pat Laughlin
 Mike & Ann Franco Laughlin
 Amy L. Longo
 John & Mary Longo
 Maureen Duffy Losee
 James E. McCabe
 Jim & Maggie Lavelle
 McCrea
 Sherry Mead & Family
 Linda Minino
 Andy & Margaret Moh
 Doug & Ann Mossberg

Brad & Becky Mount
 Bernie & Susan Nave
 Tom & Jo Nitsch
 Clem & Maggie Milone
 O'Donnell
 Omaha Masters Swim Club
 Larry & Diane Proulx
 Tom & Suzanne Romaine
 Purcell
 Priscilla Connelly Quinn
 Linda Reinhardt
 John & Pat Remus
 Deb Romberger
 Jeff & Shannon Royal and
 Dundee Bank
 Ms. Madeline Rucker
 Tom & Kathy Seidel
 Reva Stack
 Paul & Mary Stultz
 Daniel & Janice Sueper
 Susan & Michael Toohey
 Bob & Catherine Franco
 Van Haute
 Dr. Stephanie Wernig
 Dennis & Patty Wiederholt
 Bill Wingender
 Ryan M. Zabrowski
 Joe & Chris Franco Zadina

Family of Del Zuerlein
 Dan & Jo Ann Zuerlein



Sr. Corrine Connelly, RSM '58 former principal and former Board of Directors chair, was presented a gift for her dedication and service to Mercy High School from Carolyn Jaworski, principal, and Sr. Johanna Burnell, president.

Eighth Grade Scholarship Winners

\$6000 / \$1500 per Year Scholarship

JOHN J. FRANEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
 Kimberly Dethlefs - St. Gerald

\$4000 / \$1000 per Year Scholarship

CLIFFORD J. MILLER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
 Leah Mueggenberg - Papillion/La Vista Junior High School

**ARCHBISHOP DANIEL E. SHEEHAN MEMORIAL
 SCHOLARSHIP**

Christine Gonderinger - Holy Cross

\$2000 / \$500 per Year Scholarship

CURNYN FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP
 Claire O'Connell - Our Lady of Lourdes

SR. MARY JUSTINE EVANS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
 Madeleine Jesse - Holy Cross

MSGR. JOHN A. FLYNN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
 Lauren Deats - St. Pius X/St. Leo

MARY JANE SMITH GERST MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
 Monica Keenan - Holy Cross

KUTILEK-MAYER FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP
 Becca Veys - Sts. Peter & Paul

OJESKI FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP
 Ashley Robins - Our Lady of Lourdes

ADELAIDE & RUTH O'KEEFE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
 Madilyn McKay - St. Bernard

**SR. MARY BRENDAN O'MALLEY MEMORIAL
 SCHOLARSHIP**
 Melissa Nigrin - St. Vincent dePaul

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP
 Claudia Brock - RM Marris Magnet School

SR. MARY CALLISTA TAKES SCHOLARSHIP
 Meagan Dabbs - St. Columbkille

Endowed Tuition Awards will be granted in Fall, 2008.

Alumnae News

Jean Delaney Grosse, SM '47 traveled to Ireland in 2007.

Rita Herek Shiffer '53 and her husband, Jim, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on February 22. Since 1971, they have lived in Anchorage, Alaska. They have four children and six grandchildren.

Joan Stoffel Sindelar '59 went skiing in Copper Mountain, Colorado with her husband, Stan, and six other friends in February. Sindelar celebrated her nephew's wedding in January at St. Cecilia Cathedral in Omaha, Nebraska. She still works at St. John Neumann grade school in Clarkson, Nebraska.

Kitty Kelly Grace '61 writes: "Our beautiful little granddaughter from China, Erin's sweetie, turned two on January 12. Jackson, our son Kelly's pride and joy, was one October 7. Michael is in family practice in Portland, OR, and will marry SoYun Park in July. Annie is in advertising in Chicago. Kevin works in Lincoln. Jim's a substitute security officer with Omaha Public Schools and I am still loving teaching third graders at St. Margaret Mary."

Mary Hills Vacanti '62 lives in Scottsdale, Arizona. She spends the unbearably hot summers in Santa Barbara, California. Vacanti has two sons who live in Denver, Colorado with their families and a daughter who lives in Edmond, Oklahoma. Her four grandchildren range from 2 months to 5 years old in age. Her husband, John, passed away 10 years ago.

Barb Stoffel Walsh '65 became a grandparent again in November. Her eleventh grandchild, Mary Frances Ennis was born to Barb's daughter, **Molly Walsh Ennis '90**.

Sandy Goetzinger-Comer '70 has assumed a new role at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) Department of Public Affairs as senior associate director in charge of emerging communications technology. With her new position, Goetzinger-Comer will be involved in the design and implementation of new Web-based communications initiatives such as podcasts, blogs and text messaging, to help build affinity groups to advocate for UNMC and position the medical center as a national leader in the field of emerging communications technologies. Goetzinger-Comer has served as director of public affairs at UNMC for the past 13 years. She is a 1974 graduate of Creighton University.



Jean Grosse on a sheep farm in Ireland

Laura Caniglia Callahan '71 teaches kindergarten for the Omaha Public Schools at the Henry Doorly Zoo. "I have the only kindergarten class located in a zoo in the United States," said Callahan. "It is the best job and so much fun." She and her husband, Bob, have three grown children. Rob is a banker in Chicago, **Kelly '99** is a speech pathologist with Omaha Public Schools, and Matt is a recent graduate from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and working for First Data Resources. "All three are great kids," Callahan said. "We've been so blessed." Laura and Bob live in the house Laura grew up in on Mason Street. "It's been lots of fun being in that house all these years," said Callahan. "Some of the neighbors also purchased their family homes so we feel like one big family on Mason." The Callahans are no longer in the restaurant business, as her parents, the Caniglias, moved to Arizona, but those business skills came in handy as she and Bob chaired FIESTA for three years. "I am so glad to continue being a part of Mercy," said Callahan. "Thanks, Sisters of Mercy, for all you have given and done for our community. Thank you for giving girls a voice and a chance to be leaders." Laura's favorite memories were of the late nights she and her classmates spent in the journalism room working on the yearbook. There were some 2, 3 and even 4 AM sessions, but their efforts resulted in the first edition being awarded several honors in yearbook competitions. Callahan still utilizes the photography skills learned in the darkroom. "Thanks, Sr. Kathleen Hodak, also known as (Sr.) Kodak," said Callahan. "You taught me to love creative writing and fostered journalism skills that I continue to use today."

Connie Chatwood Hull '71 owns a small antique business. Her husband, Mike, is still practicing law. They live in San Clemente, California. Their children are attending college at Harvard University in Massachusetts. Thomas, 19, is a sophomore. He earned his letter on the varsity Crimson

football team and made the Ivy League athletic honor roll for his performance against Cornell. He had the thrill of a lifetime in the 124th playing of the historic Harvard-Yale rivalry,



Connie, Thomas, Michelle and Mike Hull

winning the Ivy League championship in a game that was only the second time in Ivy League history (since 1968, when actor Tommy Lee Jones played for the Crimson) for Harvard and Yale to meet undefeated in League play. Over the summer, Thomas also coached football at his

alma mater, Santa Margarita Catholic High School. He's enjoying his studies at Harvard, which include a Bible class he is taking with his sister, Michelle. Michelle, 21, is a senior at Harvard and is considering law school for next year. She enjoyed her summer as an NFL intern in New York City and played her last varsity soccer game at Harvard this year, completing her senior season. Michelle volunteers as a teacher of Government to fifth graders in the Cambridge city schools and is busy working on her honors thesis. She also appreciates her seniority at Dunster House where she occupies a spacious suite (once inhabited by the aforementioned Tommy Lee Jones with his roommate Al Gore).

Patricia Tolliver's '73 son, Kenneth Tolliver-Humpal, married Eileen Turco on August 3, 2007 at St. Bridget's Catholic Church. He and Eileen honeymooned at the Sandals Resort in Ocho Rios, Jamaica. They reside in her parents' old house in Omaha, Nebraska.



From L to R: The family photo shows Josh, Pat, Eileen & Kenny, Pat's husband Dan, and Nick. Josh, Kenny and Nick are the sons of Pat and Dan Tolliver-Humpal.

Mary Kovar Prusa '74 teaches nursing at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Kentucky to prelicensure bachelor of science in nursing students and to nurses working towards their masters in nursing. Her husband, Steve, is the facility manager at Mammoth Cave National Park. He is an avid runner and is attempting to run a marathon in every state by running 2-3 marathons per year. It's Nancy's "tough job" to follow him around, preferably while drinking coffee and cheering. They have three children. Nick, 27, and his wife, Kristin live in Nashville, Tennessee. Nick works in banking. Matt, 25, lives in Charlotte, North Carolina. He is an actor/sound designer. Emily, 21, is a senior at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio majoring in health and human services (counseling). She will spend the spring semester of 2008 studying in Austria. "Steve and I will visit Emily for a week in Austria this coming March and also spend a few days in Rome, which is a dream come true!" said Prusa. "It is so hard to believe that more than 30 years have passed since graduation from Mercy. All of my kids know the "Mercy Honk" and when I hear it, I know that a loved one is coming home."

Judy Niemoller Sorenson '75 graduated summa cum laude in December from the University of Nebraska at Omaha with a bachelor's degree in business administration. In January, she began coursework for a masters in business administration.

Karen Allgire '76 and her husband, Cliff Berns, celebrated their 20th anniversary last winter with a trip to a beach resort in Mexico. They continue to run their business, Green Tara Yoga & Healing Arts, which offers Iyengar Yoga and Reiki. Allgire will return to India in August 2008 for a month of study of Iyengar Yoga. Berns is the supplements buyer in

the whole body department at the Whole Foods Market in Cleveland, Ohio. "We look for 2008 to be a year of growth for our business, and, we hope, deepening of our spiritual practices and service to others," said Allgire.



Karen Allgire with her husband Cliff Berns

Carol Bader Nicola '78 wrote: "It has been a very eventful time for me and my family the last few years. My oldest son and his wife had a baby boy this past November. I am now a proud grandma which has been wonderful. My daughter Ann (a 2001 Mercy alum) is getting married in April and my youngest daughter, Joan (a 2004 Mercy alum) will be graduating from Loyola of Chicago in May." After their youngest finished at Mercy, Nicola and her husband, Ed, moved to the country. They purchased an acreage outside of Omaha and built their dream home. Nicola is working for First Data but does most of her work either from home or on the road. She travels a fair amount in her work, and gets to see the world. "I enjoy my work and stay very busy with my family and friends," said Nicola. "Most of our family is still in Omaha, so we get together often." "I love to get together with my friends from Mercy and it is always nice to hear about the alums I don't see," she said.

Alumnae News

Teresa (Kula) Elder '79 lives in Colorado. Prior to that, she had lived in Ireland for two years where she worked as a CEO of Voadafone, a worldwide provider of mobile telecommunications. She and a few classmates had an informal gathering in Omaha, Nebraska over the holidays. "It was wonderful to laugh with good friends," said Elder.



Classmates from 1979: Top from left: Karol Krawczyk Carroll, Teresa Kula Elder, Becky George, Mary Wierzbicki, Mary Babb Horne, Maureen Murnan McGill and Debbie Orduna-Estrada. Bottom from left: Teresa Tusa Stillmock, Terri Zadina Jewell and Andrea Armstrong McIntosh.

Kelly McCann Laughlin '81 writes: "Our world experience became a smudge more global by having a foreign exchange student, Jaime, with us this past semester from Barranquilla, Columbia. He is in ninth grade and was with our son, David, at St. Louis University High School in St. Louis, Missouri. As our family sponsored Jaime, it reminded me of Maria, an exchange student from Chile when I was at Mercy. We had



Laughlin Family with Jaime and his dad, who visited in December.

a wonderful experience. Besides his time at school, Jaime loved meeting our immediate and extended family (lots of McCanns) and enjoyed the change of seasons and our monthly excursions to Buffalo Wild Wings! Instant messaging and web cam capabilities sure seem to make these exchanges much easier than in Maria's day!"

Dana Dyksterhuis '89 moved to Seattle, Washington with her dogs, Gator and Gabby. She is a media relations manager for Qwest Communications.

Mary Ann Wieberg Tietjen '90 writes: "My dad is doing physical therapy and occupational therapy at Elkhorn Life Care Center after a hospital stay. Within his first 48 hours,

he was seen by two therapists, **Shawn Donovan Frohloff '89** and **Cheryl Buse Lechnowsky '89** (both were a year ahead of me) He is receiving great care by these two Mercy Monarchs and hopes to be back at home soon. Who would have thought that nearly 20 years after being a great parent supporter and probably watching these girls at various MHS events - that down the road they would be supporting him in his recovery! All of us Wieberg Mercy girls are thrilled that he is in the hands of these 'women of Mercy' all these years later."

Gina Paladino Mendick '91 and her husband, Greg, just celebrated their seventh wedding anniversary. They have four children: Megan - 6, Katie - 4, Vince - , and Jake -2. Ten years ago, Mendick graduated from College of St. Mary with degrees in occupational therapy (OT) and social sciences. She works part-time as an OT/Certified Dementia Practitioner specializing in Alzheimer's and dementia for ComfortCare Homes which is an assisted living facility in Omaha, Nebraska. Mendick is a professor's assistant at College of St. Mary for one of their mental health OT courses. She is also a *lia sophia* jewelry advisor. "My favorite time is spending



Back row: Greg Mendick, Middle Row: Jake and Gina Mendick, Front: Katie, Vince and Megan Mendick

it with the kids doing our many adventures," Mendick said. "I see Mercy girls at church and at the kid's school--how cool is it that our kids are going to school together now too!"

Jennifer Barretta Pilege '93 and her husband, Tony, have been married for thirteen years. They have three children: Matthew Anthony -13, Amanda Jo - 7, and Jessica Elizabeth - 5. Pilege is a stay at home mom. "We love to just spend time as a family whenever we get the chance," said Pilege. They also have a cat, Al Bundy, and a dog, Baylee.

Rachel Burbach Burns '94 is pursuing a masters in social work with a certificate in gerontology at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She and her husband, James, are expecting their third child in August. Their daughter Samantha will be starting kindergarten in the fall of 2008 and their son Braeden is 2 1/2.

Jill Voelker Rotella '94 and her husband, Lou, have three children: Louie – 7, Mia – 5 and Niko – 8 months. Louie is in first grade. His favorite subjects are reading and music. Mia is in kindergarten. She looks forward to going to school and is excited about all her new friends. Mia is also taking a gymnastics class. Niko is a happy baby and is ready to crawl. Lou works for Rotella's Italian Bakery, his family business. He is also the founder and owner of Job Source USA, a temporary staffing agency. He is in the process of writing a series of children's books on how individuals with disabilities have more similarities to us than differences. Jill is busy being a mom, working part-time as a nurse and volunteering at the children's schools. She is also a board member at Ollie Webb Center Inc., a non-profit organization which provides support and education to individuals with disabilities.



L to R: Mia, Lou, Louie, Jill and Niko Rotella

Katharine Sires-Anderson '94 is an art teacher for 7th and 8th grade students at Nathan Hale Middle School in Omaha, Nebraska. She is also freelance painter outside of teaching. Sires-Anderson has seen about 11% of the world and she paints oil painting from the photos of her travels. Her husband, Mark, works for the federal government.

Kristi Zielinski Graybill '96 is employed with the cardiology department at Children's Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska. She and her husband, Chris, have two children: Adam - 5 and Sammy - 3. Adam will be starting kindergarten in the fall 2008.

Melissa Rudol '98 married Frankie Portillo on October 6, 2007. They are expecting their first child in August, 2008.

Kelly Billesbach Weimer '98 and her husband, Chris, had their first child, Evan Christopher on January 26, 2007. "We have been enjoying the joys and challenges of being first-time parents," said Weimer. She continues to teach second grade in the Lee's Summit R-7 School District in Missouri.

Tricia Rivera Gonzalo '99 works for Alegent Health Care at Bergan Mercy Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska. Her husband, Benito, works for a concrete company. They have two children: Benny – 4 and Adriana – 2.

Amanda Brand Miller '99 and her husband, Chris, welcomed their first child, MacKenzie Elizabeth on April 13, 2007. Miller will complete her bachelor's degree in the fall of 2008. She was promoted to general accountant at NP Dodge Company. Chris is a pharmacy technician.

Stephanie Gradowski Sheikh '99 and her husband, Khurram, welcomed their second child, Zachariah in September 2007. Their daughter, Sofia, turned two in January. They are currently living in Omaha after 2 ½ years in Boston. Sheikh is an on-call nurse at Bergan Mercy in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Her husband is a dentist at the University of Nebraska Medical Center's adult dentistry clinic.



Sofia Sheikh



Zachariah Sheikh

Kristen Owen Velazquez '99 and her husband, Hugo, are expecting their second child in June. They live in San Diego, California. Velazquez stays at home to care for their son, Ezekiel Tristan. "I miss my friends, Beth Derry, Kristin Mikkelsen, Laura Fitzsimmons, Sara Baines, Michelle Patton, Kim Cold, Sam Micek and of course, my best friend, Sarah Whitaker," said Velazquez.

Colleen Williams '00 is currently serving in the Peace Corps in Moldova and is a TELF (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) volunteer.

Rachel Murphy '02 is a junior in the nursing program at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. She works part time at Greek Island restaurant. This past summer she traveled to New York City, New York with her mother, aunt and cousin, then visited a friend in Sacramento, California.

Eileen Sullivan '02 graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a bachelor's degree in language arts education in June 2006, and in May 2007 with a masters degree in English education. During the fall 2006 semester,

Alumnae News

she studied English literature at St. Catherine's College in Oxford, England. Sullivan is currently teaching English at Mount Michael High School in Elkhorn, Nebraska.

Katie Bradley '03 is working on the Obama campaign. She was the assistant to the state director in Iowa, was the operations director in South Carolina and is now in Chicigao working in the campaign headquarters. "It's been a really great experience!" said Bradley.

Katelyn Cherney '04 was presented the Mary Lucretia and Sarah Emily Creighton Award from Creighton University on February 14, 2008. The award is presented annually to an administrator, student, faculty or staff member of



Katelyn Cherney '04

Creighton University who has created an environment supportive of achievement for women, who has encouraged women faculty, administrators, staff or students in the development and use of their talents, or who has served as a role model of accomplishment for women. Cherney received the award primarily for founding a student organization at Creighton called The Women's Empowerment Base (WEB). The purpose

of the organization is to support women through activism, consciousness-raising, and education within the Creighton community. In addition, the WEB provides an atmosphere for personal growth and social networking for women. WEB recognizes and works to eliminate the multiple levels of oppression that are acting in society. These include racism, sexism, heterosexism, ageism, and ableism. Other alumna who have received the Mary Lucretia Creighton award are: **Diane M. Dodendorf '65** Ph.D. in 1982; **Sr. Maryanne Steves, RSM '66** Ph.D. in 1992; and **Pat Callone, SM '55** in 1995.

Lisa Kmiecik '04 is a first year nursing student at Nebraska Methodist College, in Omaha, Nebraska. She has been awarded the Gold Level President's Volunteer Service Award. Kmiecik volunteered for the Bergan Mercy Teen Volunteer program in 2006 and 2007, volunteering more than 280 hours of her time.

Lindsay Rosonke '04 writes: "Time has flown by and I can't believe that it has been almost four years since I graduated. My little sister, Ashley, graduated from Mercy in 2007 and now it feels so weird not knowing the current Mercy girls. In August, I graduated cum laude from Northwest Missouri State University with a double major in marketing and management. I'm working at Heartland Family Service as



L to R: Lindsay's graduation photo: mom Kathy, brother Tyler, sister Ashley and dad Wayne

a database specialist. I moved into my own apartment and can't believe that my friends and I are this grown up. I still hang out with my Mercy friends and we still talk about high

school on a fairly regular basis. We still share funny stories and miss how fun it was. Hope everything is well with everyone and just a reminder to the Class of 2004, our five-year reunion is next year."

Sunny Schramm '04 is working in the radiology department at the Nebraska Medical Center and attending nursing school. She has a six-month-old son, Zane Parker Schramm, born August 16, 2007.

Molly Sorenson '05 is engaged to James Shank. James is in the Air Force and stationed in Hawaii.

Rosemary Bernth '06 is attending Briar Cliff University in Sioux City, Iowa, with a double major in English and writing and a minor in mass communication. During the fall quarter, she was voted most valuable player in women's cross country. This spring, she will be participating in indoor track.

Natasha Sieben '07 is pursuing an associates degree in graphic design at Metropolitan Community College in Omaha, Nebraska.

Share Your Story With Other Mercy Alumnae

Register on our new alumnae site
at www.mercyhigh.org
or contact Mary Emmer at
emmerm@mercyhigh.org

“Home for the Holidays” A Young Alumnae Gathering

Nearly 30 young alumnae from 2002-2007 gathered on January 4th for the “Home for the Holidays” Young Alumnae event. Alumnae came home to their Mercy family and reconnected with classmates, teachers, and their alma mater. The evening began with a prayer, led by Carolyn Jaworski, and pizza dinner, catered by Lansky’s Pizza. Throughout the dinner, prizes were drawn for Mercy memorabilia. Teachers and Mercy young alumnae walked the halls on the self-guided tours and reminisced about Mercy memories and school renovations.

“It was good to see the teachers that I haven’t seen since I graduated!” said Lindsay Rosonke ’04. “The new wing and chapel are awesome.”



(from left) Katie Wang '04, Laura Forbes '04, Rosemary Bernth '06, Katelyn Cherney '04 and Meg Latka '04



(back from left) Sarah Lang '06, Mrs. Jaime Piernicky (former math teacher), Cassie Dorland '06, Melissa Lord '05 (front) and Sarah Brandeau '05



Classmates from 1991 meet during the holidays. L to R: Cindy (Dobbs) Kastelic, Mary McGill, Carole (McKenna) Cooper, Carrie (Zuerlein) George, and Shannon (O'Donnell) Reinard. Center: Karl Kastelic, husband of Cindy (Dobbs) Kastelic

Alumnae & Sophomore Career Fair

In January, the sophomore class of 103 students participated in the alumnae/sophomore career fair, which focused on the sophomore’s top 14 career choices. Alumnae with the specific careers shared their expertise, provided an insider’s look at the career and what education/certifications are needed for that specific career. The career fair format was casual and conversational, building connections between the sophomores and alumnae. Breakout sessions were held so the sophomores could learn more about their top three choices. The top 14 careers with representations were these:

Career Field

Art
Athletic Training
Business
Employment Process
Culinary Art
Fashion Design
Interior Design
Nursing

Physician
PR/Advertising
Social Work
Teacher – (K-4)
Teacher – (5-8)
Teachers – (9-12)

Alumnae

Stacia Slezak '01
Laura Imig*
Leticia Barajas '78
Nicole Hahn Jesse '80
Teresa Bradley*
Adrienne Fay*
Lucia Milone Williams '68
Amanda Fulton '98
Angela Wieberg Maynard '83
Chris Chonis Jeffrey '75
Sandy Goetzinger-Comer '70
Paula Hite-Garcia*
Kimberly Bujarski '98
Mary Ann Wieberg Tietjen '90
Teri Rangel Huck '90



Chris Chonis Jeffrey '75

The alumnae empowered the sophomores by sharing the continued impact of their Mercy education in their career and life after Mercy. “It was really amazing and awe-inspiring to know these successful women were once wearing a plaid skirt and sitting in our classrooms,” said Emily Frevert. Tayler McDaniel said, “I learned the specific of careers, the day-to-day activities, education needed for the careers and the career pay range.”

(*non-alum career representatives)

Alums Share Experience with Seniors

In October, Josah Driml Powers '98 and Jill Welsh-Meyer '62 spoke to the senior class on the ways that their Mercy High School experience had influenced their adult lives and choices to be involved in community service and action at St. Leo’s Retreat Center. The seniors learned that they can actively choose to continue growing in the Mercy spirit as they make adult choices in their future. “I was delighted to share my life experiences and how I incorporate the Works of Mercy into my daily life,” said Powers.

In Celebration

Weddings

'90 Nicole Ann Tvrđik & Patrick Paulus
October 13, 2007

'98 Melissa Rudol & Frankie Portillo
October 6, 2007

'99 Laura Reestman & Jason Cronick
February 25, 2006

'02 Natalia Hernandez & Justin Andresen
May 26, 2007

Anniversaries

60th

Alvin & Pauline McColley
November 12
Parents of: Rita McColley '80
In-laws of: Donna Babb McColley '80, Lisa
McColley Braddock '81 (dec.)

Larry & Helen Smith

October 16
Parents of: Margaret Smith Bragg '66, Mary Jane
Smith Gerst '68 (dec.), Marilyn Smith Havel '70,
Maureen Smith Baines '73, Monica Smith Ahern
'77, Melinda Smith Brown '74, Melanie Smith
Fetcher '80

50th

Samuel & Marjorie Mangen Scarpello, SJ '51
November 9

Jim & Rita Herek Shiffer, SM '53
February 22

Dan & May Jean O'Brien Sims, SM '55
January 18

Eugene & Mary Ann Wessling
November 27

In law of: Kristi Walters Wessling '88
Grandparent of: Caitlyn Wessling '08

Births

Boys

Matt & Chris Daley Gollobit '87
(Jacob Owen Gollobit, October 17, 2007)

Timothy & Katherine Liebenritt Rozmajzl '89
(Michael Timothy Rozmajzl, September 21, 2007)

Lou & Jill Voelker-Rotella '94
(Nikolas "Niko" Paul Rotella, May 9, 2007)

Chris & Kelly Billesbach Weimer '98
(Evan Christopher Weimer, January 26, 2007)

Khurrum & Stephanie Gradowski Sheikh '98

(Zachariah Saeed Sheikh, September 20, 2007)
Sunny Schramm '04
(Zane Parker Schramm, August 16, 2007)

Girls

John & Denise Matya Barrett '88
(Claire Matya Barrett, August 14, 2007)

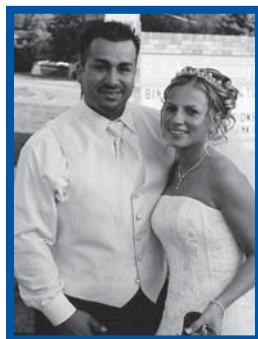
Chris & Molly Walsh Ennis '90
(Mary Frances Ennis, November 29, 2007)

Burt & Debbie Gunia Rife '95
(Allison Marie "Allie" Rife, January 10, 2008)

Chris & Amanda Brandl Miller '99
(MacKenzie Elizabeth Miller, April 13, 2007)



Jacob Owen Gollobit



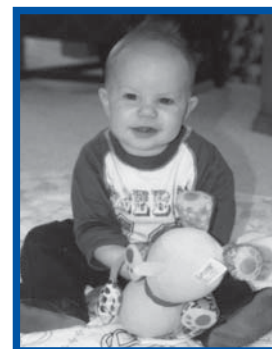
Patrick and Nicole
Ann Tvrđik Paulus



Maddie, Megan, Michael and Mark Rozmajzl



Justin and Natalia Hernandez Andresen



Nikolas "Niko"
Paul Rotella



Jim & Rita Herek Shiffer, SM '53



Zane Parker
Schramm

In Memoriam

The Mercy High School community extends sincere sympathy to the families and friends of those who have died.

Alumnae

Cecelia Gross Koziel, SJ '32
Rita Stock Hermanek, SM '34
Sr. M. Frances Hilbert, SJ '40
Patricia Laughlin Heitkemper, SJ '41
Mary Manhart Lomax, SM '43
Virginia Panek Ficencenc, SM '47
Sr. Dolores Marie Kriegler, OSM, SJ '47
Corinne King Millet, SM '49
Marilyn Schade Schmitz, SJ '50
Kathleen McMahon Alexander '57
Kathleen Rushlau Hunt '57
Carole Henry Paasch '58
Jeanne Burnett Wingender '68

Husbands

Gloria Scalzo DeJoy, SM '45
Patricia Farrelly Biga, SM '46
Kathleen Englund Milana, SJ '46
Dolores Bojanski O'Brien, SM '47
Betty Gruidel Vankat, SJ '47
Dolores Lubeley Downing, SJ '51
Meta Trapani Blankman, SM '55
Susan Wieberg Buechler '84

Former Spouse

Leah Linstrom Kasun, SM '53

Mothers

Rita Obal Bates, SM '51
Joan Kuhl Meehan, SJ '51
Frances Obal Rachwalik, SM '53
Charlotte Kuhl Rettenmaier, SJ '54
Delores Obal Derezinski, SM '59
Mary Alice Buscher McKernan '59
Maureen Greger Bourne '62
Loretta Kaipust Reed '62
Ruth Pongruber Pike '64
M. Jane Huerter Weekly '68
Leticia Barajas '78
Barbara Rivard '82
Bernadette Rivard '82

Mothers-in-law

JoAnn Herdzina Bozak '63
Leslie Marchello Peterson '69
Nancy Novak Evon '70
Catherine Wrobleski Lane '71
Barbara Sieben Houlden '72
Jeanne Forman Rich '86

Fathers

Madeline Petrocchi '59
Kathleen Mauro Thoms '61
Barbara Vogt Meyer '65
Mary Mauro Mitchell '69
Patricia Kremer Seppell '70
Patricia Harris Wilson '70
Ann Mueller Frohner '71

Maureen Kasun Estelle '75
Elizabeth Mueller Grace '75
Lori Gradoville '77
Michaela Kasun Kennedy '77
Geraldyn Budenholzer '78
Patricia Kasun Higgins '78
Suzanne McDonald Shehan '86

Fathers-in-law

Nancy Dowd Kelley '66
Maureen Rinn Birkel '75
Carrie Zuerlein George '91

Daughter

Kay Oertel Frede, SM '43

Future Daughter-in-law

Sandra Pycha O'Neil '65

Son

Marguerite Crivera Smith, SJ '46
Cecelia James Rudloff '80

Son-in-law

Ann Bendon Wieberg '57

Sister

Alice Panek Kafka, SM '39
Frances Manhart Gibbons, SM '41
Jean Waite Holland, SM '47
Maureen Waite Kalkowski, SM '50
M. Clare Manhart, RSM, SM '51
Elaine Finn Tate, SM '53
M. Catherine Manhart Hogan, SM '54
Mary Anderson Bratty '57
M. Judith Manhart '58
Janet Capazo '60
Wilma Rushlau Gibilisco Nunez '61
Pamela Higgins Hruska '63
Sylvia Capazo Robino '63
Phyllis Higgins Leahy '65

Sisters-in-law

Patricia Farrelly Biga, SM '46
Josephine Greco Vance, SJ '46
Christine Smola Sommer '68
Kate Dodson Sommer '74

Future Sister-in-law

Julie O'Neil Short '87

Brothers

Betty Haller Davidson, SJ '35
Agnes Haller Bertoldi, SJ '41
Mary Oberdin Lampe, SJ '43
Regina Micek Pawlusiak, SJ '44
Mary Watsabaugh Bishop, SJ '47
Catherine Oberdin Wolfe, SJ '49
Kathy Watsabaugh Kratochvil, SJ '52

Julia Watsabaugh MacKay, SJ '54
Patricia Couch Dolezal '56
Mary Schwarte Swoboda-Hunter '57
Jane Schwarte Dworak '59
Carol Martin Berger '62
Ingrid Cavaliere Netzel '64
Rosemary Dworak Waters '71
Jeannie Cunningham Ketelsen '86

Brothers-in-law

Almeda Austin Hurlocker, SM '30
Mary Farrelly DeVoe, SM '45
Margaret Flynn Haller, SM '49
Ann Louise Urzendowski Micek, SM '49
Rosalie Parks Graz, SJ '50
Carole Lankas Angele, SJ '53
Sr. Rita Parks, RSM, SM '53
Rosemary Dolan Martin '57
Kay Schuyler Oberdin '58
Mary Jo Romano Petersen '58
Kay Morocco Martin '60
Mary Warsocki Vandembroucke '77
Angela Wieberg Maynard '83
Mary Ann Wieberg Tietjen '90
Theresa Wieberg Cook '98

Grandmothers

Lynn Hogrefe Hall '87
Stephanie Finazzo '93
Amy Hogrefe Besch '94
Deborah Hogrefe '96
Erin Huerter '03
Anne Proulx '03
Molly Huerter '06
Clare Huerter '07
Brandi Finazzo '11

Grandmothers-in-law

Mary Tracy McKernan '82
Ellen Vulje Bockemman '85

Grandfathers

Stacey Erwin Ryan '89
Lori Bogatz '93
Nicole Wilson McGurn '94
Amy Mitchell '94
Erin Childers '99
Abby Edmonds '01
Katherine Lewis Oleson '01
Jillian Edmonds '06
Kristine Doran '07
Stephanie Gradoville '07
Melanie Donham '10

Grandfathers-in-Law

Becky Heim Waszgis '88
Janelle Lawton Jackson '96

Aunts

Marguerite Crivera Smith, SJ '46
Carolyn Janowiak Schiltz '61
Karen Kafka McGhghy '63
Susan Janowiak Pille '64
Patricia Stanek Dworak '65

Sandra Pycha O'Neil '65
Virginia Kafka Kirchner '66
M. Therese Houston Ringwalt '67
Linda Siedlik Simpson '67
Linda Fidone '68
Rita Siedlik Seminara '69
Corrine Kafka Conley '71
Mary Houston Crawford '71
Mary Houston Bailey '72
Jean Brooks-Janowiak '73
Jennifer Franco '91
Gina Pietramale '94

Aunt-in-Law

Angela Taylor Langenfeld '95

Step-Aunt

Jenna LoSole '95

Great Aunts

Julie O'Neil Short '87
Stephanie Houston '02

Uncles

Sr. Mary Ellen Quinn, RSM, SM '47
Catherine Vak '60
Sr. Theresa Svehla, RSM '70
Ann Watsabaugh Phelps '74
Mary Watsabaugh Czaplowski '75
Patricia Watsabaugh Greguska '79
Julie Watsabaugh Pitt '80
Diane Latka Schramm '80
Margaret Martin Prince '84
Mary Martin Baber '85
Jeanne Latka Rashid '85
Heather Sorensen Carson '96

Great Uncles

Ann Gunia Caskey '83
Diane Gunia Blessie '84
Susan Gunia Winkelmann '85
Jacqueline Czaplowski '98

Great Great Uncles

Maria Caskey '11
Ericka Winkelmann '11

Niece

Sr. Mary Eileen Greger, RSM, SM '44

Nephews

Agnes James Albanese '71
Elizabeth James Joyce '72
Carol James '73

Cousins

Sr. Theresa Svehla, RSM '70
Katie James '09

A Tennis Challenge

Over 40 years ago, Sr. Pat Guziec '58 and Sr. Marie Micheletto '57 challenged each other in a simple game of tennis on the old tennis courts at the College of St. Mary. Their enjoyment of the sport has continued through the years.

Off the court, in their "early years", they taught at Mercy High School. Sr. Pat Guziec has worked in the ministries of education and administration. She is currently working at Mercy Villa. Sr. Marie Micheletto co-authored a pre-marital inventory called FOCCUS and a marriage enrichment inventory called RE-FOCCUS, both used around the world. Currently, she has a private practice in counseling and is doing some work at Alegent Health.

They still love the sound (and the feeling of self-satisfaction that comes afterwards) of "40-love" on the tennis court, and "job well done" in their ministries!



In both pictures (L to R): Sr. Pat Guziec, RSM, '58 and Sr. Marie Micheletto, RSM '57.

Corporate, Matching Designated & Gifts In Kind

Corporate & Matching Gifts

American Express Foundation
International Paper
Foundation
Merck Partnership for Giving
The Hartford
The Strott Family Foundation
Union Pacific Corporation

Designated Gifts

Class of 1957 Reunion Gift

Sr. Carolyn Coffey, RSM
Carolyn Zeleny Kim
Rita Curran Mangen
Judy Dargy Vohs

Robotics Club

Barbara Kenney

Sr. M. Brendan O'Malley Endowment Fund

(in honor of Sr. Norita Cooney, RSM, and in memory of Sr. M. Brendan O'Malley, RSM and Sr. M. Catherine Owens, RSM)
Thomas B. Laughlin

The Next Generation Major Gifts Campaign

(in memory of Anne Kinney Whitmore, SJ '36)
James B. Whitmore

Gifts or Services in Kind

Three library books in honor of Mercy Day
Mrs. Kathy Wells

Library book, *Giving by Bill Clinton*
Peggy Wagman Stoysich '58

Library book, *Tears of A Dragon*
Stephen Adams, son of Kate Janca Adams '77

Magazine subscription "Reader's Digest" (one year)
Tim & Sue Wees

Magazine subscription "The Week" (one year)
Ms. Holly McCoy

Toshiba DVD player
Scott & Diane Cohoe

Tuition Assistance
Anonymous
Bank of the West
Security National Bank
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Taylor
Wells Fargo

Tuition Assistance for low income minority students
Alegent Health Systems
Lozier Foundation

Living Memorials

September 10, 2007-January 11, 2008

Sally Shirley Hausman, SM '55

(in honor of her birthday)
David & Nancy Shirley

Carolyn Jaworski, Sr. Johanna Burnell, RSM & Ingrid Borghoff
(a Christmas gift)
Holly McCoy

Bill & Nancy Olderog
(in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary)
Terri Ganapini

Rita & Paul Scalise
(in honor of their 60th wedding anniversary)
Jo Russo

Leo J. Taylor
Mark & Robin Micek Taylor

Sr. Jeanne Ward, RSM
John & Erin Ward

Living Classmates St. Mary 1940
Helen Koznarek Kopfle

50th Jubilarians

Sr. Carolyn Coffey, RSM
Sr. Jean Adam, RSM
Sr. Susan Severin, RSM

Sr. Norita Cooney, RSM
Sr. Jean Adam, RSM
Sr. Susan Severin, RSM

Sr. Patricia Forret, RSM
Sr. Jean Adam, RSM
Sr. Susan Severin, RSM

Sr. Karlanne Hanna, RSM
Sr. Susan Severin, RSM

Sr. Marie Micheletto, RSM
Sr. Jean Adam, RSM
Sr. Susan Severin, RSM

Sr. Adele Mondragon, RSM
Sr. Susan Severin, RSM

Sr. Rita Pickhinke, RSM Sr. Susan Severin, RSM

60th Jubilarians

Sr. Marian Camel, RSM
Sr. Corrine Connelly, RSM
Edie Hraban Winkelmann

Sr. M. Claudia Robinson, RSM
Sr. Corrine Connelly, RSM

70th Jubilarians

Sr. Catherine Marie Franey
Pauline Pesek

Sr. M. Jude Graham, RSM
Sr. Corrine Connelly, RSM
Mary Jo Thurmond
Ann Thurmond

A New Mercy Moment

This is a new moment with new opportunities for us and for all who work and pray with us!

The Sisters of Mercy from California to Michigan soon will form one West Midwest Community.



A New Moment

With this same revitalizing goal in mind, our 25 regional communities of the Institute are coming together to form six communities. The West Midwest Community will include over 900 Sisters of Mercy and more than 500 Mercy Associates and Companions in Mercy from the regional communities of:

Auburn, California
Detroit, Michigan

Chicago, Illinois
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Burlingame, California
Omaha, Nebraska

Moving Forward with the Sisters of Mercy

Why are we changing?

One of the clear purposes of Gospel-based religious life is to focus on those in need. We will meet their needs more effectively by combining our resources and creating a streamlined, efficient governing structure. Right now we have six structures; we only need one. Coming together as the West Midwest Community will allow us to be responsible stewards of our ministries, resources, talents and energy.

How will we change?

Currently, we are exploring all aspects of how we organize ourselves from our office locations to our finances to our system of governance.

Why now?

Change is not new for us. Since our founding, we have modified our structure many times, continually adapting to current needs and to changes in our numbers. Through it all, our mission has continued.

When will this happen?

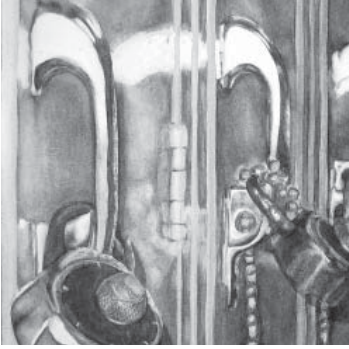
The West Midwest Community will officially begin on July 1, 2008. We are gradually adopting new procedures as decisions are finalized.

How will this impact you?

You and your support remain critical to our mission. Whether you are a partner in ministry, a Mercy associate, a donor, alumna, family member or friend, we hope you will continue your relationship with the Sisters of Mercy. The sisters you know and the ministries you care about will continue to evolve in response to need and opportunity, so we ask for your continued support in making the mission of Mercy a reality.

A Great Combination - Phonathon 2008

Volunteering is Key



The alumnae volunteers are key to the success of the Phonathon. The Phonathon will be held March 24 - April 3 in the evening and during the weekend. You have several choices and can decide what dates and times work best for your schedule to volunteer for the positions of captain, caller and clerical support. Contact your classmates and volunteer as a group. Please contact Mary Emmer at (402) 553-9424 or emmerm@mercyhigh.org and be a key part of the Phonathon success.

By volunteering your time, talent and resources you are unlocking the gift of a quality education by providing faculty salaries, upgrading ever-changing technology, and guaranteeing negotiated tuition. It's a great winning combination: You win by investing in our community and our future – the young women of Mercy – and they win through the exceptional educational experience you perpetuate with your support.

The MERCIAN

Published 3x yearly
by the Mercy High School
Alumnae/Development Office

Ingrid Kalinowski Borghoff '65
Director of Development

Mary Beacom Emmer '84
*Alumnae Relations/Special
Events Coordinator*

Joanne Stewart '72
Alumnae Association President

Sr. Johanna Burnell, RSM
President

Carolyn Jaworski '64
Principal

(402) 553-9424
FAX (402) 553-0394
www.mercyhigh.org

Mercy High School
1501 S. 48th Street
Omaha, NE 68106-2504

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