# MERCY HIGH SCHOOL MAGAZINE PUBLISHED TWIGE YEARLY FOR ALUMNAE, PARENTS & FRIENDS

SPRING 2017

## INSIDE T H I S I S S U E

Staff Retirements **Diversity Workshop** Linda Holliday '75 Sheri Johnson Crawley '90 Alumnae Class Notes & In Memory





Created by Mercy's founding Mother of Art Mary Ignatius Denay, RSM

A MOSAIC IS AN ARRAY OF DIVERSE ELEMENTS JOINED TOGETHER TO CREATE A GREATER WHOLE.



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## MOSAIC MERCY HIGH SCHOOL MAGAZINE

PUBLISHED TWICE YEARLY FOR ALUMNAE, PARENTS & FRIENDS

#### Editors

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#### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Awards & Highlights
Staff Retirements 4-5
New Principal & Advancing Mercy 6-7
Diversity Workshop
Linda Holliday '75 10-11
Sheri Johnson Crawley '90
& Tea for Tuition12
Class Notes & In Memory 13-18
Golf Outing
& Reunion Weekend 19-20

Cover: Principal Carolyn Behringer Witte '67

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Stay connected with what's happening at Mercy. Read and sign-up to receive alumnae and parent monthly e-newsletters, browse the school year calendar, and check out Mercy event photos and news articles.

M**ercy** Fligh School

#### MISSION STATEMENT

Mercy High School,

a Catholic college preparatory

school immersed in the tradition

of the Sisters of Mercy.

educates and inspires

young women of diverse

backgrounds to lead and

serve with compassion.

#### Administrative Team

Cheryl Delaney Kreger, Ed.D. '66 - President Carolyn Behringer Witte '67 – Principal Laurence Baker – Associate Principal Operations Colleen McMaster Rozman '81 – Associate Principal Academic Affairs Eleasha Mercer Tarplin '94 – Dean of Student Affairs Mercy High School Board of Trustees

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## God Bless the Class of 2017

206 young Mercy women will soon enter college and go on to make a difference. Congratulations on earning over \$20 million in college scholarships and serving over 25,000 hours of community service.

Valedictorian - Sarah Kurpiers Salutatorians - Chiaka Ibe and Jordyn Kreucher Sr. Emily George Award - Nicole Belans Heart of Mercy Award - Claire Johnston Garn Griffin Athletics Award - Sophie VanAcker & Emily McCann Principal's Leadership Award - Ciara Lopus



Chiaka Ibe, Sarah Kurpiers, Jordyn Kreucher

## Heart of Mercy 2017

Mercy High School rejoices for 2017 Heart of Mercy Award recipients Orchestra Teacher Marianne Corrigan, Claire Johnston '17 and English Teacher Mike Gruber who live out the values of Human Dignity, Service, Justice, Mercy, and Option for the Poor. Thank you for being faithful and compassionate people of God who make a difference to everyone in our Mercy family!



## 2017 Teacher of the Year

Congratulations and thank you, Spanish & French Teacher Madame/Señora Carol Shea!



National Merit Scholarship Finalist - Saveri Nandiaama National Merit Scholarship Commended Students - Katelynn Smith, Olivia Warner, Giavanna Zaremski MHSAA Scholar Athlete Award Finalist & 2016 National Wendy's High School Heisman School Winner - Sarah Kurpiers

Valedictorian & Salutatorian Finalists

#### Thank You for Visiting, Archbishop Vigneron!

Mercy was honored and blessed to welcome Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron and Fr. Stephen Pullis, Priest Secretary to the Archbishop, who celebrated Mass with our school community on March 30th. Archbishop Vigneron spoke to the senior class, visited classrooms and enjoyed a reception with staff and Youth Mercy Associates.





Mercy Ice Hockey defeated Ladywood in overtime to capture the 2017 Division 1 Girls Hockey State Championship.



## GOD BLESS MERCY STAFF RETIREES

This year, we bid adieu to inspirational teachers and leaders retiring from Mercy High School after touching the lives of generations of young Mercy women. Thank you, Mrs. Carolyn Witte, Mr. Mike Gruber, Sr. Marianne Bennett, Mrs. Sherri Howard and Mrs. Georganne Salvia for your enthusiasm for education and dedication to the Mercy community.



#### Carolyn Behringer Witte '67, Principal & Former English Teacher 42 Years

"She was listened to seriously because she spoke when her voice needed to be heard. I considered her a master teacher: prepared; purposeful; organized; attentive and caring. One gets the sense that there is nowhere she would rather be in any given moment than in the halls of Mercy High School." - Larry Baker, Associate Principal

"Mrs. Witte taught me how to be a thoughtful writer, an honest writer, to dig around for the real point behind a thing until the dirt was caked underneath my fingernails and I was grasping that truth proudly in my filthy hands. She taught me to never be satisfied with surface level writing and to be humble when searching for the truth." - Stacey Christie '99

"Mrs. Witte embodied the spirit of the school to me: she was always strong, kind and graceful. Under her guidance, Mercy was a place where everyone could feel at home. She set a sterling example at the helm of the school, and was a very compassionate and insightful leader." - Lisa Carlson '10

#### Mike Gruber, English Teacher 40 Years



"Your enthusiasm for literature and desire to see the same in us was etched when you leapt onto your desktop in the midst of a lecture on Emily Bronte and her novel Wuthering Heights. In that moment, swept into the force of the subject, you made it guite clear, no typical English teacher and no boring curriculum lay ahead. Instruction takes many forms in my adult life and applying the spark you modeled, through movement or voice or richness of language, enlivens every audience." - Annette Plant Coleman '80

"He was just so passionate about his teaching and wanted you to love it as much as he does. He really

taught my daughter to be the best writer that she could be. Even in college, one of her professors complimented her on her writing, and she said, 'Mom, I have to thank Mr. Gruber because this is his style of writing and the way he taught me to write." - Beth Bosse Greenwood '80

"Through the classes you taught, the meaningful and genuine way you interacted with students, and the world you opened up to all of us, you taught me to be ever vigilant in finding ways to make the world a better place." - Patience Atkin Jones '93

### MRS. WITTE AT MERCY:

- 1963 Freshman Year at Our Lady of Mercy Outer Drive Campus
- 1965 Junior Year Moved to Farmington Hills Campus
- 1967 Graduated from Mercy
- 1975 Began Career at Mercy as English Teacher
- 2001 Became Mercy's first layperson Principal



"To Sr. Marianne. Mrs. Howard and Mrs. Salvia. I want to thank you for all your guidance, encouragement, and kindness you gave me during my time at Mercy. I look back on my time at Mercy fondly because of you women. I hope your endeavors upon leaving Mercy are enjoyable, relaxing and fulfilling." - Marisa Jonna '13





#### Sherri Howard, Math Teacher 16 Years

"Mrs. Howard impacted my education by always being there for me and being a teacher I can always go to for advice. She is a great math teacher and a great person." - Kayla Shields '20

"She is very generous with her time. I see her with kids after school all the time or during off periods and I know that sometimes she comes in early. She's very open to stepping outside of what she needs to help her students as much as possible." - Patricia Brady Perry '96, Math Teacher

#### HERE'S TO THESE SUPER STAFF WHO ACHIEVED A MILESTONE IN SERVING MERCY HIGH SCHOOL!

#### 5 years

Ms. Marianne Corrigan Mrs. Angela Harris-Schultheis Mr. Chris Janusch Mrs. Sara McGavin Mrs. Dianna Shamus Mr. Mike Card

#### 10 years

Mr. Cliff Finney Mrs. Stacy Guerrero-Hurst Dr. Alison Kline-Kator '97 Mrs. Eleasha Mercer Tarplin '94

#### Sr. Marianne Bennett, RSM. Attendance & Former Social Studies Teacher 36 Years



"She made learning about history really easy because she cared about her students and you could always tell she wanted all of us to succeed." - Elisabeth Levandowski '16

"Sr. Marianne has had a tremendous impact on our school. She is very involved,

and I appreciate that she is a Mercy sports fan. As a basketball coach, I know she comes to a lot of the games, and I appreciate that." - Gary Morris, Social Studies Teacher

Sr. Marianne says, "The students have kept me young at heart even as the years have crept up on me."

#### Georganne Salvia, Social Studies Teacher 23 Years



"Mrs. Salvia has been such a wonderful and flexible teacher. In American History, we did many projects and had a lot of discussions, which was nice because it was a break from the normal history class lectures. She knows we take so many stressful classes and always looks out for her students." - Sophie Sawicki '18

"I truly enjoyed my time at Mercy with Mrs. Salvia as my Adviser. She was always kind, thoughtful, knowledgeable and a pleasure to speak to. I learned quite a lot from her over the years and I remember her with great fondness." - Marian Digby '12

#### 15 years

Mrs. Kristen Kessler Casey '93 Mrs. Lisa Schrimscher Ms. Lisa Solack

#### 20 years

Ms. Lisa Robinet Mrs. Colleen McMaster Rozman '81

#### 25 years Mrs. Ann Lusch Mr. Jay Wesch

40 years Mr. Mike Gruber

## NEW PRINCIPAL



We are proud to announce that Mrs. Patricia Sattler, Dean of Students at Gabriel Richard Catholic High School in Riverview, MI, will be the next Principal of Mercy High School beginning July 1, 2017. Mrs. Sattler has served as a team chair for the AdvancED accreditation process, has elementary through high school experience, and has expertise in instructional improvement and technology. She is a dedicated Catholic, family member, lifetime learner, and Catholic educator who embraces the Mercy charism.

#### Dear Mercy Community,

I am honored to accept the position of Principal at Mercy High School. I chose to join the Mercy team because of the innovative experiences that empower all students to reach their full potential academically, spiritually and with compassion. Mercy is known throughout the Detroit Metropolitan Area for the challenging curriculum, unique experiences and programs, positive relationships and supportive learning environment that inspires each student.

I come to Mercy from Gabriel Richard Catholic High School in Riverview where I currently hold the position of Dean of Students. Aside from administrative experience, my specialty over the past 15 years has been in educational technology and instructional and process improvement. My leadership style is reflective of the various roles I have experienced as an administrator, teacher, team member and parent of three children who attended K-12 Catholic education.

The Mercy family allows each of our students to embrace a sisterhood that will support them through high school and beyond. As alumnae, parents and supporters, you understand the value of a faith based comprehensive college preparatory curriculum and a strong legacy foundation. I am committed to upholding the mission and vision of a Mercy education that ensures continued academic excellence and spiritual formation for our students.

I am grateful for the opportunity to work in partnership with you and the entire Mercy community to continue the tradition of inspiring character development and high academic achievement.

Grace and blessings on our path Mrs. Patricia Sattler

## Carolyn & Robert Witte Scholarship

#### Dear Friends,

This letter first comes as a message of gratitude to each one of you as I approach my final days as Principal here at Mercy. I want you to know that my husband Bob and I have established a scholarship and made an initial gift. We share a core belief regarding the education of young women. Not only is it necessary for their future, but also critical for the success of our world. To that end, we hope that with the help of others, the scholarship may soon reach the status of endowed so as to exist into perpetuity.

We want to leave a legacy at Mercy High School and support future students whose families may need a modicum of financial assistance to make a Mercy education feasible. I respectfully ask that you consider a gift to this new scholarship fund, a gift of any amount.

Thank you for all of the support shown me over these many decades at Mercy. I wish you and your families all good things and ask for your prayers as I move on to new adventures. Consider this letter my ultimate and final Witte's Wish for Mercy High School.

Sincerely, Carolyn Behringer Witte '67

To donate to the Carolyn and Robert Witte Scholarship, go online to mhsmi.org/donate or call 248-893-3538. Thank you for your support!

Carolyn & Bob are all smiles at her retirement dinner celebration held May 12, 2017.

## ADVANCING MERCY

## POOL RESTORATION FUNDRAISER Makes a Splash!

The Mercy pool is a celebrated and special part of the school, original to the current campus and maintained for 53 years. Every student plunges in the pool for swim class and the Swim and Dive Team continues our strong Mercy Marlins championship legacy. During Christmas break, it was discovered there were several operational issues and the pool had to be closed. A Crowdfunding Campaign was kicked-off to obtain contributions to repair the pool and by April, all necessary funds were secured. We are grateful to the many alumnae, parents and friends who rallied together to help us reach this goal! Stay tuned for information on the pool re-opening this summer.

"Between Swim team ('72 Champs) and Water Ballet, I spent many hours in the pool. So many great memories and lifelong friends were created there. Let's keep the tradition going!" - Christine Tierney '74

## Wishes Granted



Thank you for your generous gifts to our Annual Fund this school year! Each academic department was granted one wish purchased with annual fund donations. Check out some of their new items: Performing Arts - wireless microphone; Math - document camera; Art - digital camera; Science - 3D skulls; English - blu-ray players; Religious Studies - office whiteboard; Social Studies - new office chairs; Physical Education - bosu balls and swim fins; World Language monitor for the new language lab.

## $38^{\text{TH}}$ Annual Auction

The 38th Annual Auction held February 18, 2017 at Farmington Hills Manor was a wonderful night for Mercy filled with socializing, fabulous

food and tremendous generosity. Thank you to everyone who participated in this event as sponsors, donors, volunteers and attendees, with a special note of gratitude to our Auction Committee! Your support helped us raise \$178,000. We are Mercy!



## LANGUAGE LABS FULLY FUNDED



The Language Lab at Mercy High School got a technology makeover. The lab is the home to 24 workstations with a computer loaded with software and headsets that allow students to speak to a partner in the language of their study while teachers listen in to give immediate feedback. This interactive experience will increase the speaking time of students to encourage an exceptional world language experience. Witte's Wish gifts, major donors and two successful crowdfunding campaigns led to a completed project. Thank you to the many who contributed!

"We are so thankful and touched by the generosity of our former language students, Mothers Club, Dads Club and wonderful donors who shared our vision of a new Language Lab. Your donations are indeed a legacy to the school and this new lab will be enjoyed by all present and future Mercy language students!" - Madame Campbell, World Language Department Chairperson

Frau Raya Czerkasski understood the importance of education and the power of language. She often credited her ability to speak several languages with saving her life, both during the Holocaust and in Stalin's Soviet Union. For 33 years, Frau shared her passion for language education at Mercy High School, teaching Russian and German. Frau passed away November 30, 2016 at the age of 95. To acknowledge Frau's incredible contribution to Mercy High School and her dedication to her students, the Alumnae of the German Honor Society raised \$1,400 to support Mercy's Language Lab Renovation project.

"She was an amazing woman, a challenging teacher, and a kind friend. She leaves a legacy of tolerance and compassion, which she shared with all her students. Auf wiedersehen, liebte Frau!" - Liz Howie Jarvis '63

"I have not retained much of the German language, but I learned so much more from Frau than vocabulary and grammar. What an honor to have been in her classroom for four years. Ich liebe dich mien Freund, Frau." - Maureen Matthews Wentworth '00

## SWEEPSTAKES SUCCESS

The 2017 Mercy Sweepstakes Drive was a remarkable success bringing in over \$170,000. Thank you for supporting Mercy students! See who was a top school seller and check out the cash prize winners at mhsmi.org/advancement/sweepstakes-drive.

## **MERCY DOES DIVERSITY!**

Written by: Jyarland Daniels, CEO, Harriet Speaks: a racial equity consultancy Commissioned by: Eleasha Mercer Tarplin '94, Dean of Student Affairs

Respect for other human beings is given - it need not be earned. The idea that we should respect others regardless of their race, gender, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and/or other form of difference is one we all embrace. But, just as a person in a profession takes continuing education classes and someone in a trade maintains their tools or equipment, diversity and inclusion, too, is something that we must continue to learn about in order to develop, maintain, and improve our skills. This spring over 500 Mercy Girls had the opportunity to do just that.

Mercy Girls participated in diversity sessions where they engaged in activities that helped them recognize and manage individual biases. Activities and small groups allowed our girls to learn more about one another, the world around them, and bond as sisters. The workshops were a huge success: 82% of attendees said what they learned and did caused them to look deeper into their biases.

This experience enriched the lives of Mercy Girls today and it will do so in the years to come. We know this because of input we received from the three stages of a Mercy Girl's life - high school student, college student, and professional alumnae.



#### **On Diversity: Mercy Girls**

Students had great things to say about their experience. Here are a few things they said:

"The best thing about this course is that it encourages students to have an open mind. ...this is the first diversity retreat I have ever been on." - Bianca Seely '17

"This course allowed me to open up, but also let me listen to how my peers see the world, which I found valuable."

- Sophie Sawicki '18

"I appreciated that my opinions were valued and (in a) respectful environment."

- Jenna Bratke '18

"It was very informative and opened my eyes to things I have never looked at."

- Morgan Abb '18

"I love that I felt comfortable and I just felt great at the end. But in the beginning I was skeptical. It made me really think about what I need to work on."

- Morgan Brietzke '17

"I am very proud that MHS has opened this workshop. I believe [it] has presented ideas that need to be talked about."

- Kaylyn Smith '17

#### **On Diversity: College Recruiters**

As a college preparatory school, we strive to prepare our Girls academically and socially for college. We want to remain a place where colleges and universities know they can recruit women who are outstanding in all respects. Diversity and inclusion is important to colleges and universities and they appreciate our efforts. When we asked college recruiters about diversity here is what they had to say:

#### QUESTION: How can we, as high school educators, better prepare our students for the diversity they will experience in college?

**RESPONSE 1**: "This is a HUGE question – but I think asking it is exactly what high schools need to be doing in order to prepare their students...students need to be uncomfortable, because messy conversations are not comfortable! Diversity is inherently messy. If high schools can help students understand how to engage with civil discourse – with an emphasis on listening – students will be well prepared for their education."

**RESPONSE 2:** "It is important to expose students to people who may be different than them, talking about social justice issues and inequities that people face, having conversations about current events, and participating in meaningful service learning work. These activities may open students' minds to conversations or events that may be present on a college campus."





QUESTION: Do you look for cultural competency and an appreciation for diversity among prospective students in the admissions process? Have recent stories of intolerance on college campuses impacted how you evaluate prospective students?

**RESPONSE 1**: "It is wonderful for students to express their experiences with diversity in their application essay. If students... are found to be intolerant of other beliefs, especially in a way that is violent or hateful, they will face serious consequences, possibly including expulsion."

**RESPONSE 2:** *"We look for this [cultural competency] in the* admission process through our essay and through the resumes and activities students are involved in...we do have a zero tolerance policy for students who do not respect others from various backgrounds and orientations."

#### On Diversity: Mercy Alumnae

Long after their Mercy High School days are over and college has ended, our alumnae find that their lives continue to be enriched by their appreciation for diversity, much of which they gained while students at Mercy. Several alumnae had these things to say about diversity and how Mercy helped them have a greater appreciation for it:

"Diversity is very important to me professionally as well as personally. It has shaped how I interact with my friends, colleagues, and complete strangers. Since I have an appreciation of diversity, it has helped me climb the corporate ladder and travel the world for business meetings and training.

It's important that we encourage an appreciation for diversity among Mercy girls so they can live a balanced lifestyle. Being exposed to a diverse environment will help these young women with their life goals: professional, spiritual, physical, community, relationships, mental and financial."

- Marjon Parham '93

Senior Supplier Quality Engineer – General Motors & Radio Personality

"I hope to pursue a Masters of Occupational Therapy and work with Autistic kids. In working with kids with disabilities and having been in so many different places with such a variety of people, the ability to listen and learn about differences in people is one, if not the, greatest skill Mercy gave me. It [diversity] is truly one of the major pieces of the foundation of this school." - Taylor Babcock '16

Student – The University of Michigan

"As a public school teacher, appreciation of diversity is integral to my job. I believe that as a result of my experience at Mercy High School I am better able to celebrate people of all faiths, cultures and traditions. I have carried these values into my life both as a teacher and as a parent.

I believe that the appreciation Mercy girls learn for diversity through interacting with their fellow students is among the most important benefits to a Mercy education. I can't think of another school, public or private, where the student body is made up of such a mélange of cultures and traditions. This allows Mercy girls to not only be more accepting as individuals, but also to make a greater impact in their careers, homes and the world at large."

- Kelly Hemmerling Beasley '88 High School Teacher of Mathematics Parent of Mercy High School Student



"We live in a global village where there are a lot of people who neither look, think, nor live like us. The only way we can ever hope to have peace in our global village is to get to know one another.

I am a Registered Nurse. I have taken an oath to care for anyone who needs my skills regardless of race, ethnicity, and religion. My personal and professional life has been enriched by what I have learned to appreciate from my very diverse group of patients and their families. We are, hopefully, preparing our Mercy girls to make a difference. They are the difference."

- Arleen Brennan Bonello, R.N., M.S. '56

## Invent the World YOU Want to Live In

Meet Linda Holliday, class of '75. Linda is a Mercy woman making a difference in the digital media marketplace and pushing past workplace boundaries.

Linda is the founder and chief executive officer of Citia, a digital publishing platform and software start-up company based in New York City. Citia's revolutionary card-based technology enhances the user experience and provides agile solutions for marketers.

With a BFA from the University of Michigan in Design and an MBA from the University of Pennsylvania - The Wharton School, Linda holds a unique viewpoint of both art and business. As one of the first women in cable television, she has confronted challenges and lack of diversity.

"In a mostly male dominated industry, it is not easy being a woman in tech. There is bias towards younger male counter parts that force women to work harder towards success."

A self-described serial entrepreneur, Linda holds an impressive and varied resume. She is accomplished in information architecture, sports marketing, and television production, and was cofounder of Medical Broadcasting Company (MBC). As an Adjunct Professor at the School of Visual Arts in New York, she teaches a masters-level entrepreneurship class which allows students the opportunity to jumpstart their businesses in the real world.

"For an entrepreneur, the biggest challenge can be internal. Battling your own weaknesses and trying to make better decisions for the greater good of the company is the largest challenge. You have to make decisions every day; the busy work is not the real work."

Linda has a multi-task, you-can-do-it, positive outlook that is contagious, and credits Mercy for building a strong academic foundation.

"It was such an amazing place. Academically we had such incredible courses and incredible teachers. I took college level curriculum that included courses in Philosophy, Urban Planning, and History of Women. I got so much out of the niche courses. Those courses and the modular schedule prepared me when I went on to college and Ivy League graduate school. I had a lot of art courses with Sister Mary Ignatius, Ms. Scudlo, Ms. Stroko, and Ms. Linskey. They were all fabulous teachers who taught us how to think strategically."

Being a woman in a male dominated field presents many boundaries, but Linda has pushed past those boundaries because of her love for the work.

"Most people take a job that they are not passionate about and don't realize how the decision will affect the rest of their lives. Young professionals tend to choose early money over late money, but a lot of times those professions with more money right away end up causing burn out. Because there is no passion, there is no way to recharge your batteries. I am more excited to go to work now than I have ever been. When you find something that you love to do, it is a fire that burns in you."

"The best thing you can do now is develop your capacity for hard work very young. Industries can be very competitive and the job landscape changes every year. People who have it too easy in high school and college are unhappy and wondering when the hard work will end. If you want to have an interesting job, you have to work hard. Sr. Mary Ignatius expected 4 hours of homework each night. It taught you how to manage your time, how to make 1 hour look like 4 hours."

Over the years, Linda has built a strong network of women entrepreneurs in start-ups who support one another.

"Be brave. This may be the kind of advice that goes in one ear and out the other, but bravery is like a muscle, it has to be exercised. Take the risk of hearing the word no. That is how you learn. I was fortunate to have mentors early in my career who were aggressive, women, and I imitated them. Choose work that stimulates you, excites you and makes you want to come to the office every day. If you get bored, you can choose not only a new job, but also a new career. Learn something hard. Make life exciting. Be brave, Mercy girls, you have a lot of work to do, but you can invent the world that you would like to live in."

Thank you, Linda, for taking the time to share a piece of this network and your experience with your Mercy sisters.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

#### San Diego Alumnae Gathering

Meet alumnae in your area and hear updates from President Cheryl Delaney Kreger '66. Saturday, September 16, 2017 4:00-6:00 pm The home of Val Bozzer Crisson '66 Coronado, CA

> For more information or to RSVP, contact the Alumnae Office at alumnaeoffice@mhsmi.org or 248-476-3270.

#### Healthcare Affinity Event

A networking fundraiser hosted by Mercy alumnae healthcare leaders:

Margaret Dimond PhD '76 President & CEO, Crittenton Hospital

Luanne Thomas Ewald FACHE '87 President & CEO. Children's Hospital of Michigan

Carla LaFave O'Malley '70 Past Executive Director & President, Oakwood Foundation

Mercy alumnae and friends who work in the healthcare industry are invited to connect with others professionally while supporting Mercy High School students.

The evening will feature speaker Gwen MacKenzie, Senior Vice President and Michigan Ministry Market Executive, Ascension Healthcare, and will include a panel discussion.

> Thursday, October 5, 2017 5:30-7:30 pm with Speaker at 6:00 pm Plum Hollow Country Club 21631 Lahser Road Southfield, MI 48033

Your \$20 donation to benefit Mercy High School (100% tax deductible) reserves your seat.

For more information or to RSVP, contact the Advancement Office at advancement@mhsmi.org or 248-476-8922.

## Mercy Tea Party



The cherished tradition of Tea for Tuition continued on April 30, 2017 as 400 guests sipped aromatic teas and enjoyed culinary delights, while hearing powerful stories of Mercy Girl compassion and determination. Our generous guests and donors raised \$32,000 for the Alumnae Association Tuition Assistance Fund, which will make a Mercy education a reality for many students.

Special thanks to our table hostesses for the inspired décor and to Chocolates by Renee - Stephanie Acho Tartoni '90 for the delicious hostess gifts. The event was catered by Joanne Ilitch of Ellis Island Catering.



The Class of 1968 enjoyed the afternoon and began planning for their 50-year reunion.

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA SHERI JOHNSON CRAWLEY '90

Mercy congratulates Sheri Johnson Crawley '90, CEO and Founder of Pretty Brown Girl, LLC (PBG) and The Pretty Brown Girl Foundation, on receiving the 2017 Distinguished Alumna Award.

Sheri's organization inspires self-esteem, confidence, and character in girls of all ages. Its mission is "to address adverse social issues affecting girls of color through selfacceptance and leadership development programs, in an atmosphere of celebration, empowering them to fulfill their dreams and promote positive change in their communities."

An alumna remarked, "Sheri exemplifies the leadership, power, and commitment of Mercy girls everywhere. Her motto 'Empower a Girl. Empower the World' is perfectly aligned with the Mercy values of dignity, mercy, justice, service, and option for the poor."

Read more about Sheri at mhsmi.org/alumnae/distinguished.



Dr. Cheryl Delaney Kreger '66 presented Sheri Johnson Crawley '90 with the 2017 Mercy High School Distinguished Alumna Award.

## SENIOR CLASS-ALUMNAE LUNCHEON



On February 1, 2017, 34 alumnae joined the Class of 2017 at Glen Oaks Country Club for the inaugural Senior Class-Alumnae Luncheon. Seniors had the opportunity to begin building their professional networks and received tips on college and career planning. Alumnae said a special prayer for the seniors before presenting each student with a yellow rose, a nod to friendship and the tradition of red roses at graduation.



## ALUMNAE CLASS NOTES

1950s



McGarrigle, RSM '57 celebrated her 60th Jubilee with the Sisters of Mercy. She participates in the Farmington Community Chorus and recently sang in their spring concert.

#### 1960s

Members of the Class of 1960 met for lunch in March in Naples. FL. Front row: Karen Wilson McGuire, Cindy Asiulewicz Morawa, Donna Rotta Pesci, Back row: Carol Bingham McNish. Carol Zucal Crusoe, Maryann Lanzetta Brady. To participate in the 2018 gathering, contact Donna: atwood111@aol.com. (photo, next column)



Karen Brown Zajdek '63 is a Eucharistic Minister and a Parish Nurse Coordinator, organizing an annual health care fair and other activities. She assists with funeral receptions and delivers Meals on Wheels. Karen serves on the Board of Directors for OMNI, an organization which provides mental health care and preventative care. kznurse@verizon.net

#### **GRADUATION WISHES** FOR THE CLASS OF 2017:

Dream big! The world needs your hearts and minds! Know that your Mercy sisters are always here for you, because once a Mercy girl, always a Mercy girl.

Susan Winkler Rokosz '75 Senior Environmental Engineer, Ford Motor Company Senior Class-Alumnae Luncheon Guest Speaker

What a special day! From this moment on, you will always feel proud to say that you are a Mercy graduate. Thirty-seven years later, I feel a special bond whenever someone tells me they went to that special place called Mercy. Be that girl that makes the difference.

#### The Honorable Diane Dickow D'Agostini '80

District Judge, 48th District Court, Oakland County 2012 Distinguished Alumna

Patricia Anstett '65, author and retired Detroit Free Press medical writer, was inducted into the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame in April 2017. She also was named the 2017 recipient for the national Headliner award from the Association for Women in Communications.

As she continues her lifelong study of piano, Barbara Kraniak '65 will attend Chicago Institute of Music's classical piano camp in June, followed by a ragtime piano camp in September in Metamora, MI.

Judy Steele '68 is the author of Erupted and Evolved (Christian Faith Publishing), a book of poetry which explores how a devastating loss was necessary to find true self purpose. The book is a tribute to her father who passed away when Judy was a sophomore at Mercy High School.

## ALUMNAE CLASS NOTES

#### 1970s

Mary Ross Small '71 is the state coordinator for the Colorado Master Gardener volunteer program. Previously, she spent nearly 20 years as a horticulturist in a county extension program. She and husband Gary recently traveled with a church group to Guatemala to build a house for a village family. smallmk@msn.com

Paula Chermside '72 was promoted to CEO of Aspirus, a critical access hospital in Ironwood, MI.



Karen Garner Moore '72 is Executive Director of Sanctum House, a safe house for adult trafficked women in Southeasten Michigan. sanctumhouse.org

Lynn Babington, PhD, RN '73 was named President of Chaminade University of Honolulu. She will begin in August 2017.

Patricia Gordon Heller '73 and her husband of 37 years Thomas Heller (CC '73) moved from Edmonds, WA to Maribor, Slovenia. Patrica will continue part-time bookkeeping, in between lots of traveling around Europe. Thomas retired from practicing law. pgheller@msn.com

Cindy Clark '74 retired after 30 years as Communications Director at Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, CA. She loved traveling the world to support ocean and earth science. Now she and husband Michael travel the world for fun, food, and photos. cindyclarkbar@gmail.com

Rita Dilworth Lewry '77 shares that daughter Casey Lewry '15 is loving Boston University. She has been on the Dean's List every semester and was awarded a grant to give a presentation in Austin, TX. In addition, Casey was awarded a fellowship and is doing research in Boston this summer. Casey will spend the fall semester at the University of Singapore (study abroad program).

She is actively involved in her sorority and is excited to be Maid of Honor at her sister Shannon's wedding next summer. Shannon is entering her third year of Law School at the University of Notre Dame. Rita and husband Tom celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary in January with a family trip to Maui.



Teresa Bonadeo Charnell '79 retired from Duke Energy. She was a Senior Land Agent in the real estate department.

Terry Habib '79 was elected to serve on the Board of Directors for ACC-Arab American Chaldean Council, which specializes in services for Middle Eastern Americans as well as culturally diverse citizens. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the Michigan Association of Professional Psychologists. Terry is President/CEO of Transitional Counseling Services. terryh@tcsimi.com

#### 1980s

Lori Hawkins '81 accepted a position in the Organizational Excellence Division of Excellus, where she will use her Six Sigma Black Belt to work on process improvement initiatives. Lori is adopting three foster children, Coltyn (4), Avel (3) and Ali (1). She also has a 19-year-old daughter, JoJo. lorih0111@yahoo.com

Judy Tactac Gregory '82 attended Mercy College of Detroit, then worked for her father, Dr. Albert J. Tactac, Urology, until he passed away in 1996. She married Pete in 1996, and worked in real estate prior to the birth of her first child. jtactac@twmi.rr.com

> Annie Keeber Longoria '82 is a Certified Paralegal -Medicaid/ Estate Planning Specialist with Lavin Law Group, Lebanon, OH.



Kathy McMillan Saval, LMSW, CAADC '83 and husband Matt live in Novi, MI with their four sons. Kathy received her bachelor's degree from Xavier University and her MSW from

the University of Michigan. She worked at Brighton Hospital (Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment) and has been a private practice therapist for over 15 years. kmsaval@gmail.com

#### Friends from the Class of 1985

celebrated 50th birthdays with a trip to the Dominican Republic. Pictured are: Katy Kelly Rose, Lee Ffrench, Jill Anstett McBride, Bethany Brownell Radzville, Kathy Doran Little and Maureen Kelly.



Kelly Styrna Collins '85 is President of Worth New York, a luxury fashion company. She is married to Thomas and is mother to two daughters, ages 16 and 18.



Mack '88 graduated from Oakland University in December 2016 with her Bachelor of Science in Human Resource Development. kimii2@yahoo.com

Kristina Cheatom

Mary Strimel '88 joined the law firm of McDermott Will & Emery as a partner in the antitrust and competition law practice group. mstrimel@mwe.com

#### Carla DeVecchi Bartlett '89 teaches

Spanish AP/Honors at Brother Rice High School. She also received her certification as an Image Consultant, including color analysis and styling. carla.bartlett@sbcglobal.net

## ALUMNAE CLASS NOTES

Deborah Hahn '89 married Brad Allen Cutshaw in December 2016 and became an official stepmother to Keegan (15), Gavin (10) and Collin (8). The couple incorporated their favorite sports team into their outfits for the special occasion. The jersey numbers represent the date and time they got married. dixiedoll11@gmail.com



Sandra Brown McCotter '89 writes: "Pictured with our 3-year-old daughter, Bridgette, are her rainbow twin siblings who were born eight weeks premature on March 12, 2016. They are happy, healthy and active babies. I'd like to thank my classmates for the outpouring of love and support they bestowed on us over the last few years."



#### 1990s

Jennifer Goff Berry '90 was promoted to Managing Director at Citi after 23 years with the firm.

Jill Jenkins Kara '90 is wrapping up her second year as Reading Specialist, Drama Director and freshman Honors English Teacher at St. Catherine of Siena Academy. She looks forward to summer break with her children Parker (12),

Emaline (8), and Madeline (5). Jill is also revisiting her role as a judge for a writing contest sponsored by Preservation Dental in Northville.

Denise Cawley '91 entered Meadville Lombard Theological School to earn a Master of Divinity degree and become a Unitarian Universalist minister. She has a 10-year old son and is a social justice advocate. dcawley@wi.rr.com

The United States Department of Homeland Security has appointed Gladys L. Ayala, Esq. '92 as Assistant Chief Counsel for Employment Law. She oversees the Agency's employment law portfolio for Michigan and Ohio.

Nancy Attisha Kattoula '93 won an Excellence in Education Award from the Michigan Lottery. Nancy teaches Spanish at Walled Lake Central High School.



into action."

Church.



Betsy Berlinghof '98 is Head of the **Religion Department** at Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart in Miami, FL. "My time at Mercy inspired me

to teach religion to young girls in an effort to enrich their lives with an active faith in God and empower them to effect change when they put their faith

Anne Sill '98 was married to Timothy MacDougall on November 18, 2016 at The National Shrine of the Little Flower Catholic

Sarah Neville Cahill '99, an attorney for the Social Security Administration, married Marc David Wisniewski CPA. a manager at Fiat Chrysler, on December 17, 2016 at Holy Name in Birmingham, with a reception at Pine Knob Mansion in Clarkston. The bridal party included matrons of honor and sisters, Heather Cahill Lowry '90 and Patricia Cahill Terzian '94, and bridesmaids Nicole Gopoian Wirick '99, Katie Brennan Herzog '99, and Mary Wisniewski. sncahill@gmail.com





Carey Czech Jansen '99 welcomed daughter Rory MacKenzie on October 20.

2016. Rory joins big brothers Bryce (5) and Easton (3). careysjansen@gmail.com

#### 2000s

#### Concert pianist Julia Siciliano '01

celebrates the release of her debut album, Dream Catchers, featuring works by Beethoven, Schumann, Schubert, Ravel, and Debussy. Julia performs throughout Southeast Michigan as a soloist and in collaboration with world-renowned artists. When not performing, she enjoys traveling the world with her husband, orchestra conductor Robert Trevino, for his performances. juliasiciliano.com



#### 2000s continued

Teacher Natalie Lowman Boyd '02 is moving to Jeju Island, South Korea to help open St. Johnsbury Academy, an international school offering preschool through 12th grade. Natalie and husband Justin have two sons who will become students at the academy. Natalie shares, "I am excited to be another Mercy girl inspiring others to learn and help make the world a better place." natalieboyd.com



Melissa Hoger '02 married Erik Woodson on April 30, 2016 in Atlanta, GA. Melissa teaches first grade at a Catholic school.





Mercy wants to hear from you! Submit all updates and photos of family, career, awards, etc.

mhsmi.org/alumnae/update-info alumnaeoffice@mhsmi.org

Heather Novak '02 married Mike Pierfelice on October 7, 2017 at the Detroit Zoo. The Disney-themed wedding featured acapella singers from Mercy, Marian, and Brother Rice. Several Mercy alumnae were in attendance.



Lisa N. Rodriguez '03 is engaged to Steve Nazoyan. The couple is looking forward to their June 2017 wedding. Engagement photo courtesy of Lisa's sister and Maid of Honor, Rachel Rodriguez '04, owner of Rae Lynn Photography.



In March 2017, Christianna Navarro-Davis '05 and Andrea Davis '05 celebrated the opening of their yoga studio, Bikram Yoga Ferndale. bikramyogaferndale.com

Danielle Young '05 graduated from Harvard Law School, where she worked for the ACLU of Michigan and the Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division. This fall, she will join a law firm in Washington, DC and will represent pro bono clients in criminal justice and civil rights litigation. danielle.c.young@gmail.com

#### Sarah Barbuscak Elliott '06 and husband Anthony welcomed their first child, Amelia Mae, on September 18, 2016. Sarah began a new job in December 2016 as a Labor and Delivery nurse at Vanderbilt Hospital, Nashville.



Erica Graney '06 married Jonathan Ridley, completed her medical residency in Internal Medicine, and started an Allergy-Immunology fellowship at Henry Ford Hospital

Madeleine Pilchak '07, daughter of Therese Kowaleski Pilchak '75 and granddaughter of Joann Pulte Pilchak '51, married Alexander McMall on December 17, 2016 at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Detroit, MI. Clara Pilchak '15 and Julie Mulloy '07 were in the bridal party. On May 4, 2017, Madeleine graduated from Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, along with Jessica Jary '09 and Laura Bridges '09. Madeleine will begin residency at Providence Hospital, Jessica at Beaumont Hospital, and Laura at University of Michigan Hospital.



## ALUMNAE CLASS NOTES

Clare Martin '08 married Dan Waterstradt on December 3, 2016 at Holy Redeemer Church in Detroit. Jenna Eliassen '07 was Maid of Honor.



Jennifer Paxton '08 graduated with her MBA from the University of Michigan Ross School of Business and will be moving to Los Angeles to work as an Associate Brand Manager for Johnson & Johnson.





Lucia Wylie-Eggert '08 (Lucia Wylie-Kellermann) and husband Daniel welcomed baby boy Ira Cole on December 24, 2016.



#### 2010s

Samantha Wenson '11 graduated on May 20, 2017 from Marguette University and received her Doctorate in Physical Therapy. She completed the accelerated PT program at MU in six years and graduated with honors. She will return to the Detroit area to practice.

Kristyn Alexaundria Carter '13 is graduating from Mount Holyoke College with a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and Mathematics. She will be attending the University of Glasgow, Scotland, to complete the Master of Immunology and Inflammatory Diseases program.

Through the University of Michigan's Wallenberg Fellowship, Adelia Davis '13 will travel to South Africa to embark on a self-directed project focused on identity development in children and how books influence this process.

## REGARDING A LOVED ONE

## or call 248-476-3270.

Include: First, maiden, last name Graduation year Date of death (month, day, year) Mercy alumna-relatives of the deceased



TO SUBMIT A otice

Please email alumnaeoffice@mhsmi.org

Victoria Noble '13 graduated from the University of Michigan and will begin studying towards her JD at Stanford Law School in Fall 2017.

Allison Irma Wise '13, daughter of Jill Mitchell Johnson '78, graduated from Michigan State University in May with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Marketing. Allison has accepted a position with GE Aviation in Cincinnati. wisealli@msu.edu



Ogechi Nwaopara '15 is studying sports medicine at Howard University, Washington, DC. She has collaborated with students at nearby Columbia University to develop a college network for women (WErise) and a mentor program for under-resourced sixth and seventh grade girls (Dare to Dream). "It was the sisterhood at Mercy that taught and fueled me to bring sisterhood, diversity, and God into communities that need it the most." nwaoparao@gmail.com

Mezzo-soprano Theresa Walle '15 won a second place award from the Tuesday Musicale of Greater Pontiac, a Max Kade Foundation Grant, and a Sigma Alpha lota International Music Fraternity Undergraduate Scholarship. Theresa is earning her Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance and her Bachelor of Arts in Communications at the University of Michigan. This summer, she will attend the German for Singers intensive program through Middlebury Language Schools in pursuit of a career in opera. Theresa is also a wedding vocalist. twalle@umich.edu

In Memory Mercy Alumnae

Maureen Shea Fryling '47, June 2016

Marilyn Meier Refalo '50, June 2016

Nancy Lee Gencur Gamalski '53, March 2017

Arleen Stoick Thompson '55, November 2016

Cheryl L. Kelly Hoshaw '56, December 2016

Karen Paul Haight '59, October 2016

Ellen Kreitmeyer Thomas '59, September 2016 sister of Ann Kreitmeyer Sanderson '62

Kathleen Hamel Lavoy '66, March 2017 sister of Susan Hamel Truckly '65

Diana George Jacokes '67, January 2017 Chair, Board of Trustees; mother of Julie Jacokes Koehler '01; sister of Carol George Kirkland '68; sister-in-law of Nancy Kenney George '71; aunt of Kristen George Martin '00, Kelly George Herrmann '03 and Erin Kirkland '10

Carolyn Sullivan Wedeman '72, December 2016

Mary Clare Garner Howard '77, January 2017 sister of Karen Garner Moore '72

Janet Elaine Prince '79, May 2017

Susan Vargovick Olejniczak '81, April 2017 daughter of Maureen Kelly Vargovick '55; sister of Deb Vargovick '78

Dr. Claire Smith Hornung '86, November 2016

Jill Wright '89, January 2017

Lindsey Baiers '95, February 2017

Meghan Reid '11, October 2016 daughter of Mary (Molly) Wildern Reid '80; niece of Eileen Wildern '85 and Melanie Wildern Gerzema '89; cousin of Katie Wildern '19

Mercy Family

Ernest Bacsanyi, May 2017 father of Karla Bacsanyi '79 and Kerri Bacsanyi Comai '83

Herbert Raymond Brietzke, March 2017 father-in-law of Joy Morris Brietzke '75; grandfather of Morgan Brietzke '17

K. Thomas Bryant, February 2017 father of Maureen Bryant Dinverno '73 and Mary Bryant-Riendl '76; grandfather of Danielle Bryant Churella '04, Alexandra Bryant Shutich '05, and Amanda Bryant '08; uncle of Barbara Stang Fleszar '73

Marlene Ruth Buck, April 2017 mother-in-law of Tom James, Mercy Director of Information Technology

Suzanne Cachat, April 2017 mother of Lauren Cachat '11 and Madeleine Cachat '19

Ursula Genevieve Casey, November 2016 mother of Gretchen Casey '81

Raya Czerkasski, November 2016 former Mercy World Language teacher; mother of Barbara Czerkasski Kaner '78

George David, January 2017 father of Stephanie David Kinnie '93

Norman E. Dilworth, March 2017 father of Rita Dilworth Lewry '77 and Suzanne Dilworth Mattingly '80; grandfather of Stephanie Dilworth '11 and Casey Lewry '15

James Francis Doherty, March 2016 husband of Gaylene Johnson Doherty '55

William P. Driscoll, June 2016 father of Jamie Driscoll '01

Roxanne Eathorne. December 2016 former Mercy Social Studies teacher

William Evatz, November 2016 father of Carly Evatz '17 and Mallory Evatz '20

Meghan Steffl Fontaine, February 2017 sister of Taylor Steffl '11

Lisa Frankowski, April 2017 mother of Claire Frankowski '17

Leo Gadwa, February 2017 father of Mary Beth Gadwa Rowland '83

Mary Rose Gambino, March 2017 grandmother of Michelle Gambino, Mercy Athletic Trainer

Chiaka Justina Ibe, January 2017 grandmother of Cherima Chungag-Ibe '12 and Chiaka Ibe '17

Angela Kaminski, March 2017 mother of Anne Kaminski Erdman '82 and Marci Kaminski Lehman '83; grandmother of Katie Erdman '14 and Maddie Erdman '16

Najib Elias Karmo, November 2016 father of Marcine Karmo '85 and the late Annette Karmo Hayes '81

Gloria L. Kennedy, January 2017 mother of Mary Kennedy Martuscelli '75. Nancy Kennedy Dunn '76, Patricia Kennedy Morris '78 and Debby Kennedy Hannigan '81 Sister Mary V. Korb, RSM, January 2017 former Mercy Math teacher

Edward J. Kowaleski, January 2017 father of Maryanne Kowaleski '70, Paula Kowaleski Bowman '70, Therese Kowaleski Pilchak '75, Ruth Kowaleski '77, Cathy Kowaleski '79, Jean Kowaleski '80 and Marie Kowaleski Tolen '83; grandfather of Madeleine Pilchak McMall '07 and Clara Pilchak '15

Dorothy Lusch, April 2017 mother-in-law of Mercy Religious Studies teacher Ann Lusch; grandmother of Carolyn Lusch '07

Sister Jane Mackowiak, RSM, December 2016 former Mercy Religious Studies and Business teacher and Administrative Secretary

Philip J. Maloney MD, December 2016 father of Sharon Maloney Casey '79

John Matous. November 2016 father of Katie Matous Magnuson '00 and Jennifer Matous '02

Michael D. McMicken, January 2017 brother of Mary Ann McMicken Quinn '60

Richard John Morris. May 2017 father of Joy Morris Brietzke '75, Lisa Morris '80, and Mercy Social Studies teacher Gary Morris; grandfather of Morgan Brietzke '17

Christ Nichols. March 2017 father of Anne Nichols '79

Laura R. Novak, February 2017 mother of Heather Novak '02

Elizabeth "Jean" Pinkelman, May 2017 mother of Nancy Pinkelman Gohm '81

James Ponder. February 2017 father of Alexis Ponder '15 and Madison Ponder '17

Jon Posner, January 2017 husband of Roberta Henrion '72

Lucila M. Ruiz. November 2016 mother of Lucy Ruiz '69, Silvia Ruiz '72 and Marta Ruiz '80

Beverly Tannian, March 2017 mother of Kathleen Tannian '83 and Molly Tannian '85

Michael Tarplin, November 2016 father-in-law of Mercy Dean of Student Affairs Eleasha Mercer Tarplin '94; grandfather of Elon Payne '18

Contributions by Emily Fishwick Rahman '04

Stay in Touch

First Name	Maiden Name	Last Name	Class of
Address		City	State Zip
Phone		Email	
News			
	n to the Alumnae Office, Mercy High Sch also provide updates at mhsmi.org and le		



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	Make a Difference for Mercy off Outing
Fox H	Monday, September 25, 2017 ills – Fox Classic Course – Plymouth, MI
Kathy D	Owned by Mercy Alumnae Jul Aznavorian '64 and Sandy Dul Mily '74
8a)	n Registration   9am Shotgun Start
Sp	oonsor! Donate! Golf!
	18-hole shotgun scramble. Cart, driving range, contests, prizes. Continental breakfast and lunch.
	mi.org/advancement/golf-outing/2017 8.893.3535 • ohanna@mhsmi.org

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**Celebrating Milestone Classes** 1947, 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012

**Thursday, September 21** Dads Club Bonfire for students, alumnae and families **Saturday, September 23** Milestone Classes Reunion and Mass

Friday, September 22 President's Reception, by invitation Monday, September 25 Make a Difference for Mercy Golf Outing



*WE ARE SEEKING ADDITIONAL CLASS REPRESENTATIVES!* mhsmi.org/alumnae/reunion-weekend reunion@mhsmi.org 248-476-3270