MERCYHIGH SCHOOL MAGAZINE

S C H O O L M A G A Z I N E PUBLISHED TWICE YEARLY FOR ALUMNAE, PARENTS & FRIENDS JUNE 2019

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Awards & Highlights Advancing Mercy Accent on 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

Margaret Haapala Kurpiers '85 Director of Alumnae Relations

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Awards & Highlights 3-5
Advancing Mercy 6-7
Accent on Alumnae 8-9
Alumnae Events 10-11
Class Notes & In Memory 12-17
Newsprint Feature
Golf Outing & Reunion Weekend 19-20

Visit MHSMI.ORG

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



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 Patricia Sattler - Principal Laurence Baker - Associate Principal Operations Colleen McMaster '81 - Associate Principal Academic Affairs Eleasha Mercer Tarplin '94 - Dean of Student Affairs

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Congratulations and God Bless the Class of 2019!





Principal's Leadership Award - Madeleine Ballard, Valedictorian - Casey Stoneback, Garn Griffin Athletics Award - Libby Bartels, Sr. Emily George Award - Shayna Jankowski, **Salutatorian** - Sophie VanderWeele



The Class of 2019 Valedictorian and Salutatorian Finalist distinction considers academic record, leadership, service and extracurricular involvement.

Madeleine Ballard Avalon Barr Caroline Bimberg Hallie Buckner Jessica Dillon Nathalie Gijsbers Molly Makarewicz Hannah McDermott Isabelle Miner Allison Myers

Abigail Najar Hannah O'Sullivan Emma Pickett Francesca Schena Kylie Scott **Casey Stoneback** Emily Susitko Christing Thomas Sophie VanderWeele

Cover: Class of 2019 Valedictorian Casev Stoneback and Salutatorian Sophie VanderWeele

• 150 Young Women Making a Difference • \$13+ Million Earned in College Scholarships • 16,000 Hours of Community Service

Once a Mercy Girl, Always a Mercy Girl!

The Mercy Alumnae Network proved strong at the Senior Class-Alumnae Luncheon. Thirty-one alumnae joined the Class of 2019 for a Q & A session, blessing and rose presentation, and networking. We are grateful to all alumnae who supported this meaningful event, and we welcome these talented graduates to the Alumnae Association.



HEART OF MERCY



Mercy High School rejoices for 2019 Heart of Mercy Award recipients Maggie Dwyer '19 and English Teacher Mr. Steve Morgan who live out the values of Human Dignity, Service, Justice, Mercy, and Option for the Poor.

Here are some student reflections about Maggie: "Maggie is a quiet leader. Her actions are an example for all and she is never boastful or attention seeking about all she does. Maggie puts God and others before herself."

Here is what students had to say about Mr. Morgan: "Mr. Morgan exudes positivity. He respects all and makes people feel important. *He cares about every student individually and he is kind, genuine,* hilarious, dedicated, and supportive."

Thank you, Maggie and Mr. Morgan, for being faithful and compassionate people of God who make a difference to everyone in our Mercy family!

2019 Teacher of the Year Mrs. Lisa Wilson



The Mercy Teacher of the Year was selected by the student body, fellow faculty and staff, and the administrative team. Always known to share a smile and a dance to brighten up hallways during passing times, Mrs. Lisa Wilson is a determined Biology teacher known for lifting up spirits, believing in her students, and most importantly - teaching students to believe in themselves.

"Mrs Wilson is so full of love and hope for the future and for her students."

"Her knowledge is extensive and seems infinite at times, but the way she pulls her students in to also become passionate about biology, is auite incredible."

Let's Hear It For The Staff

We bid a fond farewell to retiring staff Lisa Schrimscher (Science and Math, 17 years); Carol Rife (Fine Arts, 19 years) and Cheryl Corte (Media Center, 20 years). Thank you for your enthusiasm for education and dedication to the Mercy community!



Congratulations Mrs. Holly Markiecki-Bennetts, MS, MSEd, recipient of The Joyce Ivy Foundation 2019 Counselor of the Year Award!



"My role as a counselor is to meet students where they are and help them to become the young women they are meant to be."

Based on the mission of the Joyce Ivy Foundation, the Counselor of the Year Award recognizes a counselor who, "demonstrates tremendous impact daily and who goes above and beyond for his or her students, is committed to introducing young women to new ideas, and supports young women in their pursuit of higher education and inspires them to dream big."

We are Mercy Marlins!

Ice Hockey - STATE CHAMPIONS, Catholic League Champions Tennis - Regional Champions Basketball - District Champions Bowling - Catholic League Champions



CONGRATS College Bound Athletes

Sarah Smolinski: Soccer, Grand Valley State University; Annette Dombrowski: Swimming, Michigan State University; Emily Susitko: Volleyball, Hillsdale College; Sarah Cassidy: Softball, Cleary University; Alexa Morello: Soccer, Fordham University; Courtney Connolly: Swimming, Howard University; Ella Loussia: Volleyball, Canisius College; Maddie Benoit: Volleyball, Wayne State University; Erica Padula: Soccer, Madonna University; Carolynn Schuring: Pompon, Grand Valley State University.



Jess Mruzik '20 named 2018-19 Gatorade Michigan Volleyball Player of the Year

Congrats, Jess, for winning the Gatorade Michigan Volleyball Player of the Year award



which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character.

Libby Bartels '19 named Miss Hockey Michigan & Hobey Baker Character Award Winner



Way to go, Libby, who was honored as the 2019 Miss Hockey Michigan and also received the prestigious Hobey Baker High School Character Award. This award honors high school hockey players who exemplify the ideal that "Character Builds Excellence" and recognizes outstanding individual performance on and off the ice.

CHSL Hall of Fame

We are proud of Ski Coach Tom Gable and 2015 Mercy graduates who were inducted into the Detroit Catholic League Hall of Fame for outstanding athletic achievement throughout their high school and college careers.

Shanleigh Conlan Volleyball/U. S. Air Force Academy Taylor Jones Basketball/Oakland University Jenna Lerg Volleyball/University of Michigan Monica Shuck Volleyball/Albion

Honoring Mercy Family & Educators

Mercy has a legacy of outstanding teachers. Educators who inspire students to become leaders, who encourage students to deepen their faith, and who provide an outstanding educational experience to prepare them for the world. Recently two alumnae wanted to recognize the educators who made a difference in their lives by contributing to support capital projects and commemorating the gift with a plaque in the educator's honor. These funds will support ongoing school renovations such as replacing windows and adding air conditioning to classrooms.





When asked who had an impact on her education at Mercy High School, Carla LaFave O'Malley '70 immediately named the late Dr. Wayne Dyer. During her years at Mercy he not only provided Carla with counseling advice, but opened her eyes to the possibilities of what she could do after graduation. As a member of the Board of Trustees, Carla wanted to honor the legacy of Dr. Dyer and did so by making a gift in his memory. She reflected, "May we all be inspired by Dr. Dyer's many books and lessons of taking charge of your life and removing barriers to success and true happiness." The plaque honoring Dr. Dyer hangs outside of the Counseling Offices.





Margaret Dimond '76, member of the Board of Trustees and Chair of the Advancement Committee, fondly remembers Patricia A. Small, her homeroom and French teacher. Mrs. Small impacted Margaret's life as a teacher, mentor, role model, kindred spirit, and lifelong friend. Margaret chose to commemorate her contribution to Mercy with a plaque outside of an alcove on the south side of the school. Margaret shared, "Mrs. Small saw potential in me that I did not think existed. She provided the vision I needed to imagine a world where I could be a self-confident and successful female. Her insight and suggestions have been key in my lifelong journey with my career and in life."

We welcome alumnae, parents, grandparents and friends to honor a staff or loved one in this way. More information can be found at mhsmi.org/advancement.



Please bave a seat!

Your own seat that is, in Mercy High School's Auditorium

Through Mercy's Adopt a Seat Program, your gift will support needed updates in our beloved 1,200-seat Auditorium. Presently the Auditorium needs new speakers to improve sound quality and clarity.

For a minimum contribution of \$200 per chair, you may use this opportunity to honor or remember someone special. In return for your donation, you will receive an engraved brass nameplate, prominently affixed to the chair arm on any available seat of your choice. The nameplate can be engraved using two lines with up to 24 characters per line. Take pride in knowing that your gift will benefit future generations of performers!

View available seats and purchase your seat online at mhsmi.org/adopt-seat. All gifts are tax deductible subject to the limits of the law. For further information, contact Erin Somerville in the Advancement Office at esomerville@mhsmi.org or call 248-893-3582.

MARLIN SHOP AND CATHERINE'S TEA PARLOR



Thanks to the generosity of many donors, including Principal Pick supporters at Mercy's 40th Auction, the lobby will be receiving a new look this summer. Funds have been raised to renovate the Marlin Shop into a retail space. Catherine's Tea Parlor, honoring the legacy of Sisters of Mercy Founder Catherine McAuley and her comfortable cup of tea, will be built next to the Marlin Shop thanks to the vision of Mary Ann and William Valade. Tea will be available to students during the day in this comfortable and relaxing space.

"Our charity is to be cordial. Now cordial signifies something that renews, invigorates and warms. Such should be the effect of our love for each other." - The Venerable Catherine McAuley

What a Memorable Night for Mercy!



The 40th Annual "Cheers to 40 Years" Auction held Saturday, February 23rd was a fabulous evening of fun, food, friends and fundraising for Mercy! Auction proceeds totaled over \$200,000 to benefit the enhancement of academic programs and campus resources for our young women.

Thank you to the Auction Committee Katie Seefelt Baetz '90, Christine Bouras, Anne Korte, Dianne May, Nicole O'Dea and our dedicated and delightful Emcee Steve Garagiola and Auctioneer Joseph Dumouchelle. A special note of gratitude to our Presenting Partner Sponsor Saint Joseph Mercy Health System and to Presenting Sponsors RHD Tire and The Lewry Family.

Save the date for the 41st Annual Mercy Auction Saturday, February 8, 2020 at St. Mary's Cultural Center.

Sweepstakes Drive

The 2019 Mercy Sweepstakes Drive was a remarkable success bringing in over \$160,000! CONGRATS to the Mercy Top School Sellers Maeve Lopus '20 (475 tickets) and Emily Casalou '20 (365 tickets).

We appreciate your support of Mercy High School and our largest student driven fundraiser of the year. Winning ticket numbers available at mhsmi.org/advancement/sweepstakes-drive.

All proceeds benefit the Mercy Annual Fund which enables us to cover expenses beyond what tuition allows, including crucial building improvements and educational program enhancements.



ACCENT ON ALUMNAE

Discover nearly 100 alumnae podcasts by subscribing to "Accent on Mercy Alumnae" on Apple Podcasts or SoundCloud, or downloading the "Mercy High School MI" mobile app. New interviews are added often!



Anne M. Nichols CFA '79

INVESTMENT ADVISOR/MANAGING DIRECTOR AT FERN CAPITAL, INC. MERCY FINANCE COMMITTEE & MERCY INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

O: What does an investment advisor do? A: I typically work with individual clients, and I invest their money for them. I am out in the market buying stocks and bonds on my clients' behalf. I am also a fiduciary. The standard is a little higher. We have to invest on our clients' behalf for what is in their best interest. It's a bit of a distinction, but it's very important.

Q: Could you give an explanation of Mercy's Finance and Investment committees?

A: The Finance Committee is a subcommittee of the Board of Trustees. We oversee the operating budget and capital budget. We work with the Finance staff and Administration to come up with a budget and recommendations for tuition, which go to the Board for approval. The Investment Committee is a subcommittee of the Finance Committee. We oversee the endowment fund, mostly used for tuition assistance for our girls. We hire an outside investment advisor, and we look at the investments made on behalf of Mercy High School to make sure they're appropriate. We also look at the returns to make sure we're keeping track with the market.

Q: What do you remember about the Mercy of the 1970s?

A: We were at the end of the baby boom generation, so our class sizes were much bigger. I recall some religion classes in little rooms off the chapel, sitting on pillows. The other thing that strikes me - and I don't think it's much different at Mercy now – is how empowered we all became. It was a time when women were going to work outside the home in large numbers. We left Mercy with a feeling like we could do whatever we wanted. When I got to Marguette University, I noticed when anyone was asked to join a leadership position, girls that had gone to all-girls schools were the ones that raised their hands. It was because we ran the school, and we didn't think twice about being leaders.



Barika Whitehead Pace '94

SENIOR DIRECTOR OF CYBERSECURITY RESEARCH AT GARTNER CHAIR, INTERNATIONAL NORTH AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL

Q: Describe your work and some major threats on the cyber landscape.

A: I write about trends in cybersecurity, the threat landscape, national security, and how all those things merge together what we're seeing in technology as a whole. What's fascinating is that we're connecting more things. Everything from Alexa in my home office, to smart refrigerators, to connected cars that we'll be driving before we know it...these connected devices have changed the way we think about cybersecurity. We used to think about protecting personal and company data. Now we have to think about safety. How does that car on the road interact with the people it encounters? The environment around it?

Q: Describe the initiatives you're involved with related to diversity and inclusion in tech?

A: I've turned my focus to diversity as it relates to women and minorities in the workplace. We don't just want the number of women coming through STEM programs to increase. We want them to come into the workforce and stay. It's about retention and inclusion. Mercy's doing a fabulous job in terms of technology and STEM, but we don't want those girls to matriculate through Mercy and college and not have a place to land solidly. So we're looking at the wording we use in job descriptions and the folks we send out to recruit women at colleges. They need to be diverse because, as we all think somewhat differently and communicate differently, representation increases our ability to innovate.

Q: Tell us about the International Film Festival. A: About four years ago, my brother and I worked with others in the film industry. There were films that were being underrepresented, particularly films that expressed views about women and minorities. So we created the International Film Festival with our colleagues. We put on a couple of film festivals, one at the Automotive Museum at the Henry Ford, which featured 12 films from around the world and gave opportunities for filmmakers – African American and females in particular – a chance to showcase their work.



Kalin Franks Sheick '06

Owner, Sweetwater Lavender Farm CREATIVE BUSINESS RETREAT LEADER

Q: How did you find your way to a lavender farm?

A: I was a television reporter for six years in northern Michigan. I started designing

flowers on the side as a creative outlet, and I became hooked. People started asking me if I could flower for their wedding or event. My husband and I found a run-down farm in the Petoskey area and turned it into a lavender farm. We host bridal showers, private dinner parties, birthday parties. Last year, we built a tiny house on wheels back in the lavender and opened it as an Airbnb as an additional income stream. We've had guests from all over the world. It's a crazy turn of events. I never expected this for myself.

Q: Talk about your small business retreats and workshops. A: I started offering the retreat because, when I went to start a small business, I was clueless. I had a journalism degree. I knew nothing about marketing, running the books, client experience, or sales, so I was looking for a retreat because, as a Mercy girl, I love a good retreat. After I got my feet underneath me, people were reaching out to me for business advice, and I saw an opportunity to host a retreat. We focus on the pillars of starting a small creative business: social media, branding, how to provide a client experience you feel good about, how to create some boundaries in your life. It helps women muck through the beginning stages of starting a business.

Q: Any fond memories of your old high school? A: Mercy girls just find each other out in the wild. We are drawn together. I can't tell you how many Mercy alums I run into. It's something you carry with you, this name of Mercy, and you're very proud of it. It's not just like a regular high school experience. Now that I'm my thirties, I see it was the smartest thing that there were no boys. It makes you more career-focused and able to foster realdeal female relationships. I'm still so close with some of my dear friends from Mercy, and it's the best!

The above comments are excerpts from "Accent on Mercy Alumnae" on Apple Podcasts and have been lightly edited for content and clarity.



If interested in being interviewed, contact 248-476-3270 or alumnaeoffice@mhsmi.org.

LISTEN TO INTERVIEWS WITH THESE ALUMNAE

Sister Brigid Johnson, RSM '53 Julie Walton Tenbusch '57 Linda Holliday '75 Susan Winkler Rokosz '75 Mary Wallace '75 Margaret Dimond '76 Karla Rose Middlebrooks '76 Mary Law Baumgarten '77 Kimberly Morrison Wilber-Mader '77 Jessica Thomas Hines '01 Peg Bernhard '78 Terry Habib '79 Anne M. Nichols '79 Denise Giroux Wood '79 Joanie Davidson Forfinksi '84 Lisa Hansknecht '84 Peg Kelley '84 Lynn Margherio '84 Janine Sayers '84 Luanne Thomas Ewald '87 Vanessa Denha Garmo '88 Amy Radabaugh Hollyfield '88 Crystal Caruana Sullivan '88 Jennifer Sears Keuten '89 Jennifer Goff Barry '90 Judi Rosowski Engel '91 Maura Pheney Lamoreaux '91 Maureen Paulin Stocklein '91 Amy Sill Iacobell '93 Patience Atkin Jones '93 Tracie Laird Krawczyk '93 Maggie Janes Lucas '93 Kelly Stirling McSweeney '93 Barika Whitehead Pace '94 Anne Rashid '94 Amy Watroba '94 Cari Curtiss Marino '95 Amy Dinges Reyes '95 Tara Hrynik Mills '96 Carrie Fling Nantais '96 Alison Kline-Kator '97 Michelle Dembek Martin '97 Erin Kendall Murphy '97 Brandi Barton '98 Julie Pfitzenmaier Cotant '98 Cheryl Emanuel '98 Brooke Potts Stambersky '98 Emily Thompson Summerhays '98

Danielle Wroblewski '98 Nadia Khoury '99 Madonna Emond Ladouceur '99 Heidi Wegmueller '99 Alena Acker '00 Carrie Brankiewicz Bennett '00 Katie Mason Summers '00 Andie Baker '01 Linda Karbo '01 Julie Jackoes Koehler '01 Julia Siciliano Trevino '01 Lisa Ludwinski '02 Sailaja Paidipaty '02 Nadia Bazzy '03 Abby Hunter '03 Monisha Berkowski '04 Megan Graham '04 Bridget O'Donnell '05 Danielle Young '05 Carly Atto '06 Joslyn Devinney '06 Lauren Bennett Marguard '06 Becky Movlan '06 Erica Graney Ridley '06 Kalin Franks Sheick '06 Helen Marie Berg '08 Gina Rotondo Bohannon '08 Jennifer Paxton '08 Emily Clark '09 Felicia Flowers Drouillard '09 Megan Gegesky '09 Tiffany Haddad '09 Marissa Martz '09 Hayley Drozdowski '10 Lauren Banish '10 Katie Conely Hoffman '10 Erin Kirkland '10 Gabriela Santiago-Romero '10 Mary Bridget Welch '10 Whitney Morey Davidson '11 Mackenzie Murphy '11 Caroline Powers '11 Lauren Wilson '11 Ellen Lezotte '12 Amy Nabozny '12 Christiana Castillo '13



Tea for Tuition Warms the Heart



When we gather together for tea, we honor the instructions of Catherine McAuley, "be sure you have a comfortable cup of tea." At the 15th Annual Tea for Tuition on April 14, 2019, we helped fulfill her vision of educating young women.

The event raised more than \$40,000 for the Alumnae Association Tuition Assistance Fund. We could not have achieved this success without the generous support of Saint Joseph Mercy Health System, The Wheeler Family Foundation, Wallace Scones, Good Juice, and many other organizations and donors. Heartfelt thanks to our table hostesses who made the afternoon special with their flair and finesse. Thank you to all who attended!

Save the date for next year's Tea - April 26, 2020.













CONGRATULATIONS, AISA!

Dr. Cheryl Delaney Kreger EdD '66 presented the 2019 Distinguished Alumna Award to Aisa Villarosa '04 at Tea for Tuition. Aisa is Associate Director of Policy and Advocacy at the Insight Center for Community Economic Development. She advocates for women, people of color, and immigrants, in their access to economic security, health, housing, and education. As the first generation Filipina daughter of immigrants, Aisa's social justice work has been greatly informed by heritage and racial diversity issues.

Previously, as an attorney with the Michigan Children's Law Center, Aisa represented children in abuse and neglect proceedings and juvenile justice hearings. She sought mental health, education, and family support resources for her clients. In recognition of her leadership and service, she received the prestigious Skadden Arps Public Interest Fellowship.

Aisa received her BA in Political Science with a minor in Asian/Pacific Islander American Studies from the University of Michigan. She earned her JD from Wayne State University Law School. As a student, Aisa organized grassroots campaigns, led student associations, and served as a teacher and mentor. She co-founded The 313 Project, a group that provided pro bono legal services, educational resources, and scholarships to Detroiters. The group hosted more than a dozen legal aid clinics and executed large-scale service projects, including a 400-volunteer renovation of a blighted 26-acre park. See more at mhsmi.org/alumnae/distinguished.



Aisa Villarosa '04 joins the ranks of past recipients: Mary Pat McDougall '56, Arleen Brennan Bonello '56, Luanne Thomas Ewald '87, Valerie Hebel McNeece '66, Mary Margaret Scanlan Bosco '57



UPCOMING EVENTS

Reunion 2019

For classes ending in a "4" or "9" Saturday, September 28, 2019 Luncheon: 1:00-2:30 pm Tours: 2:30-4:00 pm Mass: 4:00 pm

> Legacy Dinner October 2019

Memorial Mass November 10, 2019 12:00 pm

Bunco Ladies Night Out January 2020

Senior Class-Alumnae Luncheon January 28, 2020

> Tea for Tuition April 26, 2020

Alumnae Book Club Schedule at mhsmi.org/alumnae/book-club

> mhsmi.org/alumnae alumnaeoffice@mhsmi.org 248-476-3270

Join the Alumnae Board!

The Alumnae Board is an integral part of our greater Mercy community.

To join, you need a commitment to the mission and values of Mercy High School and a can-do attitude.

Learn about our dedicated, spirited board by attending a meeting or contacting board president Jen Sears Keuten '89 at jkeuten3@gmail.com. mhsmi.org/alumnae/board

ALUMNAE CLASS NOTES

Diane Dietz '78 will be inducted into The Michigan Sports Hall of Fame on Saturday October 5, 2019. Diane was an all-state multi-sport athlete at Mercy High School and set the scoring record for women's basketball at the University of Michigan, which stood for 36 years. Currently, she is Deputy Commissioner for the Big Ten Conference. Diane (far right) is pictured with her sisters Maria Dietz Scott '87 and Suzanne Dietz '81, along with Associate Principal Larry Baker.



1950s



Nancy Vardon O'Connor PhD '51 celebrated her 86th birthday and finished her seventh book: Quality of Life and Quality of Death. "The years I spent at

Our Lady of Mercy were the most stability I had in my life as a young person. In retrospect, I am grateful for those years. They helped shape me for the person I have become." docnano@aol.com

1960s



Marlys Janssen

Cordes '61 retired her Mary Kay directorship and took up quilting. She is active in the Gold Coast Quilters Guild

in Boca Raton, FL and has won ribbons for her work. In addition to making guilts for 11 grandchildren, family and friends, she has made more than 100 Quilts of Valor for Veterans touched by war.

Students attended a writers' workshop April 6 at the home of Patricia Anstett '65 (second from right), an award-winning medical writer and author who began her journalism career at Mercy as a Newsprint editor. She was joined by noted Detroit Free Press reporter Patricia Montemurri (far right), who is writing a book about



Mercy High School's history. Tim Kiska, head of the journalism program at University of Michigan-Dearborn, gave tips on creativity, interview techniques, writing and editing, getting published and the importance of finding mentors.

Ann Marie O'Neill Hilty '69 and her cousin have launched an importing

company, Mougey Lures of France. She volunteers with two Detroit Public Schools, Nolan Elementary and Pershing High School. amoneillhilty@gmail.com



Anne Kinsler McCusker '69 retired after 31 years in television/all media sales with Cox Media Group.

1970s

Cynthia Madry Len '72 is a Michigan Art Educator for Rockford, MI public schools. She is retiring after 42 years of teaching elementary and high school arts (all media including pottery, raku and jewelry), and major works by and with students (including ceramic murals and a large altar piece for Art Prize in Grand Rapids). madryart15@gmail.com

ALUMNAE CLASS NOTES

Kitty (Kathleen) Coe Mantz '74 is a

marketing consultant for companies such as GE Healthcare. Kohl's and Milwaukee Electric Tool. She and husband Jeff enjoy road trips, searching for the next great antique flea market find, and spending time with their two children and five grandchildren.

Mary Jo Turnbull Moore '74 received the Spirit and Truth Award from St. Columban, Loveland, OH for her extensive volunteering with school and parish ministries.

Mary Beth O'Connell '74 published a pharmacy eTextbook - Women's Health Across the Lifespan: A Pharmacotherapeutic Approach. McGraw Hill Inc. 2019.

Julie Steinbacher Campbell '79 is VP of

Sales at Beach House Logos of Lewes, DE. After graduating from Michigan State, she worked for Macy's and Liz Claiborne in New York, then took several years off to raise a family and do volunteer work. Julie has been married 30 years and has two daughters. LDCJAC@comcast.net

Sharon Jastrzembski Cook '79 has relocated to Bangkok, Thailand for two years where she is expanding her teaching career at the ELC Family of International Schools.



Terry Habib '79, member of the Brain Injury Association of MI, has developed a commission to assist with the dissemination of brain injury services and information to Arab Americans and other diverse cultures. She is a

candidate to serve on Governor Gretchen Whitmer's Committee for Arab-American Affairs. She was elected to serve on the Board of Directors for the ACC-Arab American Chaldean Council.

Karen Braniecki Naida '79 is a Senior Buyer for Strattec Power Access. Karen qualified to play in the LPGA Amateur Golf Association National Championship last summer, finishing 8th in the nation in her flight. She and her family have six more states to go in their quest to play golf in all 50 states. Karen mentors her son's school robotics team. kmbnaida@yahoo.com

www.ClubBEC.com

evident."

1980s



Barbara Grumbache Hauswirth '83 and husband Paul are enjoying life with their daughter Natalie, who attends Michigan State University, and their Border Collie puppy. Barbara is celebrating five years at Washtenaw Community College's Career Services office where she assists students in finding internships.

Leslianne Taylor Pratt '86 has moved from being a 911 dispatcher with the Bella Vista Police Department in Arkansas, to becoming the Animal Control Officer.

Laura Orzech Wyble '79 and a colleague opened Francis Street Primary School, a non-profit, public, tuition-free, K-2nd grade school in Jackson, MI. "As principal...I am allowed the privilege...to be of service [to] people who share in the values of compassion and courage, integrity and dignity, kindness and mercy...and I am often reminded of and very grateful for the opportunity I had to attend Mercy High School where those same values were

Nancy Bokshan Merlo '81 opened the Brighton Equestrian Club, a stateof-the-art facility located on 100 acres, offering lessons, corporate rentals and equine assisted psychotherapy.





After raising three boys and two dogs in Darien, CT for 14 years, Pamela Ha-Stevenson '87 and her family moved to Palm Beach Gardens, FL in January. Both she and husband Andy (Brother Rice '86), started new jobs. Pam is Development Associate at Palm Beach Day Academy. She looks forward to celebrating a collective milestone birthday this year with the "LRC gang!"

Anne Keller Klumpp '89 and husband Brian have "embarked on our biggest adventure to date, as we have moved to live full-time in a motorhome so we can travel the country." ontheroadofadventure.com

1990s

Andrea Styrna Hagelstein '91 lives in Traverse City with her husband and three children on a small farm. She is a fifth grade teacher for Traverse City Area Public Schools and enjoys visits with Mercy family and friends. 5hagelsteins@gmail.com



To update your personal information or submit a Class Notes entry, visit https://www.mhsmi.org/alumnae/ update-info.

Or contact the Alumnae Office at alumnaeoffice@mhsmi.org or 248-476-3270. Submit news and photos related to family, career, awards. etc.

ALUMNAE CLASS NOTES

1990s continued

Nicole Mountain Waggener '92 recently graduated from nursing school and is a licensed registered nurse. She and husband Rick have been married 20 years. Daughter Tabitha is graduating from high school this year. They live in Palm Beach Gardens, FL.

Patrizia Paciocco Jesue '93 (pictured on right) opened her second business,



CEDARS - The Center for Eating Disorder Assessment, Recovery & Support. As an outpatient provider of nutrition rehabilitation services through her practice, Nutrition Counseling Center, Patrizia saw a need for additional resources and programming for those who suffer from eating disorders and body image issues. CEDARS was the recipient of the National Eating Disorder Association's second place highest donor award for raising money towards the research and awareness of eating disorders. pjesuerd@gmail.com

Jennifer Buckley '94 was promoted with tenure to the rank of Associate Professor of English at the University of lowa. Her book, Beyond Text: Theater and Performance in Print after 1900, will be published by the University of Michigan Press in October 2019.

Alison Desmond Krumm '97 recently started a new HR Management role with The Auto Club Group (AAA). She and husband Alex live in Royal Oak with their two future Mercy girls.

Katie Callan Wehrle '98 and husband Michael reside in Houston, where Katie is a coach for the Magnolia ISD and Magnolia Aquatic Club. She has traveled all over the country with her team and has represented TEAM USA on the national level. The couple is expecting their first child in September 2019.

Marcella Tashjian-Gibbs '99 lives in Lafayette, IN with husband Andrew and children Irene (5), Charlie (4), and Tommy (2). She is a physician with Indiana University Health West Central Region, Internal Medicine/Geriatrics. marcytashjian@gmail.com

In December, Heidi Wegmueller '99 accepted a new position with the Alumni Association of the University of Michigan (her alma mater) as the Manager of Corporate Partnerships. She promotes companies to Michigan alumni across the world.

2000s

Jehan Crump-Gibson '01 is Co-Founder and Managing Partner of Great Lakes Legal Group PLLC with offices in Lathrup Corktown. Jehan was recognized by Michigan Chronicle as a 2019 Woman of Excellence.

a designation that celebrates local African American women who inspire others through vision and leadership, exceptional achievements, and participation in community service. She was also named to the Rising Star list by Super Lawyers for 2014-15, 2017-19.

Village and



Jessica Fishwick '02 married Jeff Wallen on November 10, 2018 in Novi, MI. Between Jessica's sister and friends, and several of Jeff's aunts, there were 13 Mercy grads in attendance. Jessica works as the Financial Administrator at Young & Associates. Back row: Maribeth Mancuso Feeny '75, Patti Hamel Nakoneczny '65 Janet Wallen Graham '88, Nancy Feeny Gorton '69, bridesmaid Moira Cronin '02, bridesmaid Kristin Channell Riedel '02, bridesmaid Kristen Palombo '02, Jessica Fishwick Wallen '02. Cortney Boes Freeland '02, maid of honor Emily Fishwick '04. Front row: Caroline Auffenberg '11, Catherine Morgan '13, Elizabeth Auffenberg '05.



Sister Pie Bakery Founder Lisa Ludwinski '02 was named a 2019 James Beard Award Finalist, Outstanding Baker category. Lisa plans to open a second location in Detroit, to include a café and small grocery area.

Jacqueline-Bethel Mougoue '02 has accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Gender and Sexuality in African Cultural Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her articles have appeared in a wide variety of academic journals, and her first book, Gender, Separatist Politics, and Embodied Nationalism in Cameroon, is forthcoming with the University of Michigan Press in 2019.

Melissa Hoger Woodson '02 and husband Erik of Brookhaven. GA celebrated their daughter Mary Margaret's first birthday on April 5, 2019. "I'm a stayat-home mom to Mary Margaret and our fur baby Goldie."



ALUMNAE CLASS NOTES



Whitney Jenerette '03 is founder and owner of The Mental Drive of Detroit, LLC. As a Licensed Professional Counselor and doctoral student in Counseling Education

and Supervision, she is skilled in several evidence-based practices. wjenerette@ thementaldrive.com

Members of the Class of 2006 recently gathered for brunch: Meredith Doyle, Ansa Ahmed, Laura Brudzynski (and her baby), Meredith Gatt Chapel, and Kristen Peczynski.





Nicole Rotondo Battista '06 teaches Spanish at Brother Rice High School. She attributes her love for language and

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education to all her Mercy teachers. She is grateful for the opportunity to do what she loves most and to be in a Catholic school. Nicole lives in West Bloomfield with her husband and two young children.



2019, a philanthropic leadership course that matches younger employees with nonprofits to address challenging social issues.

Megan Haapala '07 married David Reese (U of D '07) at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church on February 23, 2019.



Sarah Kurpiers '17.



14



In attendance were 19 alumnae: Melissa Kurpiers '19, Therese Haapala Marshall '68, Christine Haapala Oosdyke '71, Mary Haapala '12, Erin Haapala '18, Julie Kramer Koehler '82, Kaitlin Nelson '12, Kathleen Mulcahy '74, Meghan Sawicki Dinnan '95, Peggy Mulcahy Haapala '76, Megan Haapala '07, Corey DeFever '07, Meaghan Maraffino Marion '07, Annie Leither '07, Robyn Paul Tambe '07, Margaret Haapala Kurpiers '85, Bridget Boes Flanagan '78, Megan Pheney Riesenberg '85. Not pictured:



Madeleine Pilchak McMall '07 and husband Alex welcomed daughter Emily Elizabeth on March 16, 2019.



Jillian Becker '08 married Thomas Kraydich in June 2018 at St. Valentine Catholic Church. Fellow members of the



Mercy Varsity Swim Team were matron of honor Danielle Williams Perelli '07 and maid of honor Abby Wallace '08. Also in attendance: Caley Shimskey Rosales '08, Gabriela Crowley '08, Madeleine Patterson Weinstein '08 and former coach Shannon Dunworth



ALUMNAE CLASS NOTES

2000s continued

Lucia Wylie-Eggert '08 and husband Daniel welcomed daughter Mabel Beatrice on April 3. luciajwk@gmail.com





Toni Rose Arceño '09 graduated from Wayne State University in December 2018 with a Master of Science degree in Biomedical Engineering,

specializing

biomechanics.

in injury

Egan Franks Holzhausen '09 received her MFA in Painting from Kendall College of Art & Design in May 2019.

2010s

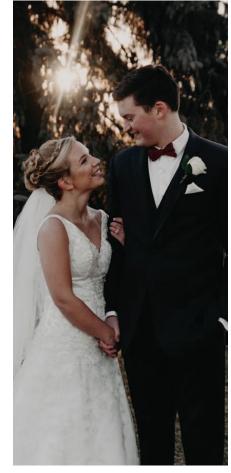
Katy Rapson White '10 and husband Chris welcomed a baby boy, Crosby William White, in October 2018.



Mikhaella Norwood '12 is a spoken word artist, actress, TV personality, motivational speaker, and author. Her speaking experiences include TEDx performances and campaigns with the NBA Pistons. Her interactive poetry book, Fruit: Haiku of Haikus for the Blossoming Soul will launch on November 12. www.mimifreelife.com



Wendy Lillystone '13 married Nicholas Frank in February 2019 at Glen Oaks in Farmington Hills. Heather Lillystone '16 was maid of honor. In December 2018. Wendy graduated from Xavier University with her BSN. She is a nurse at the Swedish Medical Center in Englewood, CO.



Lindsay Hiser '14 is working for NPR (National Public Radio) in Washington, DC as a Stewardship Assistant in the Development Department. She graduated from the University of Michigan with a Bachelor of Arts in 2018, with a dual majors in Organizational Studies and Communications Studies, and a minor in Writina.

Lauren Melanson '14 obtained an Associate's Degree in Business and an Event Planning Certification from Schoolcraft College. In addition to working toward a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing from Baker College, Lauren works full time at Paragon Underwriters and takes classes to earn her license to sell personal and commercial insurance. She is a member of Mercy's Alumnae Board and co-chaired a Tea for Tuition committee. "I look forward to seeing my old classmates at our fiveyear reunion this fall!'

Denali Drake '15, a Northern Michigan University senior, is spending the summer in Geneva. Switzerland for a Global Governance, Human Rights, and Economic Development study abroad program with Boston University.

Mackenzie Zierau '15 graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Michigan Ann Arbor with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and gave the commencement address. Mackenzie conducts clinical neuroscience research at Michigan Medicine's Department of

Anesthesiology and has published four research papers in journals including Anesthesiology, The Journal of Neurosurgical Anesthesiology and Frontiers Neurology. She will work as a Registered

Nurse at Michigan Medicine in the Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit and plans to attend graduate school.

Lydia Gier '17 will be studying in Belgium for three months and interning with the EU Parliament in Fall 2019. lydia.gier@gmail.com

In Memory Mercy Alumnae

Rosemarie Keating Roehl '47, November 2018 sister of Mary Anne Keating McDonnell '46: sister-in-law of Noreen McGowan Keating '58

Katherine Armitage Wheeker '49, November 2018

Nancy Doelker Pafenbach '54, December 2018 sister of Mercy Past President Sr. Regina Marie Doelker '56

Diane Allen Anderson '58. November 2018 sister of Susan Allen Clifford '61 and the late Nancy Allen Thomas '59

Rebecca Watson Jay '59, March 2019

Mary Montante Rachwal '59, April 2019 sister of Margaret Montante Hill '60, Marlene Montante Fons '65, and the late Marcella Rose Montante '71; aunt of Marcella Tashjian Gibbs '99 and Carrie Tashjian Suders '02

Mary Agnes Williamson Sidorowicz '59, December 2017 sister of Rosemarie Williamson Eaton '60

Sharon Beatty Immonen '60, December 2018 sister of the late Patricia Beatty Ferrera '58 and the late Marilyn Beatty Freda '56

Carol De Lorenzo Acker '62, October 2018 sister of Diane De Lorenzo McHugh '61 and Judith De Lorenzo Reno '66; cousin of Darlene Hiett De Lorenzo '59 and Denise De Lorenzo Brvant '86

Sandra Clawson Kelof '62, November 2018

Helen Heinrich Ambrow '63, April 2019 sister of Katherine Heinrich Dechance '59 and Elizabeth Heinrich Green '67

Cheryl Manz Vignali '67, March 2018

Elaine Carter '69, February 2019 sister of Judy Carter Kernozek '61 and Alice Carter Wolfe '65

Karen Breen '73, March 2018

Kathleen Balfe Parks '74, March 2019

Lynne M. Zessin Bever '76, January 2019 sister of Laurie Zessin Whalen '76

Lori Borden '76, April 2019 daughter of the late Eleanor Harder Mann '52; sister of Patt Mann Svoboda '76

Mary Beth Balog Andrews '82, February 2019 daughter of the late Clara Toth Balog '51; sister of Michele Balog Munkarah '79

Mary Catherine Jerneycic '90, June 2019

Jennifer Valvona Langan '91, March 2019 mother of Joanie Langan '20; sister of Christine "Tina" Valvona Stonisch '87; daughter-in-law of Marilyn Slatinsky Wick '62; step-daughter-in-law of Yvonne Regan Langan '82



Nancy Ann Aiello, November 2018 grandmother of Paige Spender '15

David Burnett, May 2019 father of Rebecca Burnett Journigan '92 and Meredith Burnett Anatolios '94

Kevin C. Cook, November 2018 husband of Joan McDermott Cook '77

Harry Craig, February 2019 father of Connie Craig '79; grandfather of Julia Metas '23

William Edson, Sr., April 2019 husband of Paula Arthur Edson '67

Clarence Everett Esters, May 2019 father of Stacy Sanders '89

Harry Ewald, April 2019 husband of retired Mercy Religious Studies teacher Judy Ewald; father of Ann-Margret Ewald Manley '83, Jennifer Ewald Wenson '85, and Stephanie Ewald Bellisario '89; former father-in-law of Luanne Thomas Ewald '87; grandfather of Samantha Wenson Zinnecker '11. Josephine Wenson '17, Frankie Bellisario '18, Maggie Ewald '18, Sophia Bellisario '19, Mollie Ewald '21, and Gianna Bellisario '21

Gerald J. Fallon, November 2018 husband of Sheila Milley Fallon '54; father of Kathleen Fallon Steuer '78, Colleen Fallon '81, and Lynn Fallon Woodward '86

Funk Molen '78

Patricia M. Gates, February 2019 mother of Hannah Gates '14

> Thomas Gauthier, June 2018 father of Jennifer Gauthier Marsh '97 and Theresa Gauthier Fogle '99

Patricia Ann Gronkowski, February 2019 mother of Adele Gronkowski Dupont '80 and Juliette Gronkowski Raymond '89

Cameron Michael Groth, December 2018 son of Megan O'Driscoll Groth '89



Eldon Raymond Funk, November 2018 father of Sharon Funk Hupp '74 and Denise

Barbara Hackett. December 2018

mother of Susan Hackett Delonis '70, Carol Hackett Garagiola '73, Lynn Hackett '74, Meg Hackett '75, M. Patricia Hackett '77, Beth Hackett '79, and Sarah Hackett '84; grandmother of Katie Garagiola '99 and Megan Garagiola '02; grandmother-in-law of Genevieve Kolasa Delonis '97; aunt of Karen Pastor '84; aunt-in-law of Sally Palmer Pastor '77

Richard Thomas Hockney, December 2018 father of Shawn Hockney '81, Kathleen Hockney '86, and Mary Therese Hockney '89

Catherine Virginia Hopkins, January 2019 mother of Theresa Hopkins Visintainer '76, Catherine Hopkins Bucher '72, and Barbara Hopkins '70

James Leonard, January 2019

father of Patricia Leonard Salter '65, Carol Leonard McManus '67. Catherine Leonard DeLeon '72, Elizabeth Leonard-Brown '74, and Loretta Leonard Chopra '76; stepfather of the late Elizabeth DiPonio '70, and Susan DiPonio Worosz '74; grandfather of Anne Salter Zambito '97

Marie McGowan, December 2018 mother of Coleen McGowan McDonald '78

Gerard McMaster, May 2019 father of Mercy Associate Principal Colleen McMaster '81 and Susanne McMaster '87

Ronald Thomas Smigelski, February 2019 father of Melinda Smigelski Ernat '88 and Wendy Smigelski DeLaRosa '89; grandfather of Marissa Ernat '20

Bernard James Trompeter, April 2019 father of Jeanne Trompeter Caldwell '81 and Mary Lou Trompeter Rohwer '75

Elisha Walton, November 2018 father of Mercy Trustee Diana Mercer-Pryor; grandfather of Mercy Dean of Students Eleasha Mercer Tarplin '94; great-grandfather of Elon Payne '18

Judith E. Whelan, January 2019 mother of Julie Whelan '80. Theresa Whelan O'Brien '84, and Anne Whelan Rennie '87; grandmother of Madison Rennie '18

TO SUBMIT A otice

Contact the Alumnae Office at alumnaeoffice@mhsmi.org or 248-476-3270.

Include first, maiden, last name; graduation year; date of death

ALUMNAE TAKE A SWING AT COACHING

April 2019 Newsprint Story and Graphics by Caitlin Flynn '20

"Softball teaches you how to fail, but more importantly it teaches you how to get back up," said Mercy graduate Kayce Nieto ('12).

Nieto picked up her first bat on a tee-ball team at age 5. She did not put that bat down until 2016, over 10 years later. Finishing tee ball, she went onto travel teams and eventually found herself playing at Mercy High School. Tryouts at Mercy went exceedingly well as she was the only freshman on varsity, eventually becoming captain her senior year. Playing on that varsity team for four years led Nieto to play for another four years at the University of Utah, where she stood out not only for her performance in athletics, but in academics too.

"Most of the girls I played with were from public schools in California," said Nieto. "I was the only one who knew how to write well and communicate through writing, and that is because of what I learned at Mercy."

Succeeding at UU, Nieto realized she wanted to pursue a career in law. After graduation and her final softball game, she moved to Indiana to intern for the public defender's office which is where her coaching began. Coaching a few Indiana high school girls teams, Nieto realized her potential in teaching now that her playing years had come to a close.

After only a year in Indiana, Nieto came back to Michigan and is now attending law school at Wayne State University. Thriving in law school, Nieto believes she owes it to the scholastic skills she developed at Mercy.

"My writing has always helped in law school," said Nieto. "I think I am a better writer than most people there and I can honestly attribute that back to Mr. Morgan's American Authors class."

However, Nieto carries a torch for both the academics at Mercy and the softball team itself. Living near Mercy for the first time in five years, Nieto is now assistant coaching the varsity softball team.

"What I have learned from coaching this team is that coaching is challenging," said Nieto. "It is really hard because the

whole time you're coaching you just wanna go out there and do it for them." While Nieto is succeeding in leading the team this year, she sometimes struggles in simplifying the material for the

players. However, Nieto finds the team extremely successful in that they surprise her with their progress every single day.

"I feel like Kayce positively impacts all of us every day in one way or another," said junior varsity player Caroline Carlson. "Having two alum coaches who know the ins and outs of our team is a big factor in all of our wins."

The other coach Carlson refers to is Kat Garry, Garry, a 2010 Mercy graduate, also played Mercy Varsity Softball since her freshman year. After graduating from Michigan State University, she came back to Mercy to coach varsity softball in 2015.

"The only reason I coach is because of how much I love this school," said Garry. "Every girl on this field is nice, smart, and fun, and reflects the values this school puts in their minds."

While this is Nieto's first year coaching, this is not the first year of friendship for Garry and Nieto. Playing together while still at Mercy, and keeping connected over the years, Garry and Nieto's friendship has never been stronger.

"I used to take Kayce's little sister Grace to softball," said Garry. "It is so cool to be back to watch her grow alongside Kayce."

Watching her younger sister grow into the strong player she is today is a main reason Nieto returned to coach. Sophomore and Northwestern University commit Grace Nieto has also been playing MVS since her freshman year. Excited to be coached by her sister, Grace has been working harder than ever before.

"I want Grace to be a better player than I ever was," said Kayce. "I have learned so



Softball assistant coaches Kayce Nieto '12 (left) and Kat Garry '10 (right)

much from coaching her, and I truly believe she has made me a better coach."

Both Nieto and Garry agree that the players have had a in a positive impact on them and made them better coaches. Nieto realizes that there is so much more she wants these girls to take away from softball, things that they have already began to understand.

Because softball is a mental game, Nieto emphasizes how important it is that they learn how to fail. She believes that this understanding of "how to fail well" has given her the edge she needs in law school, and will definitely help these girls down the line. Both she and Garry share this coaching philosophy.

"Kayce and I are trying to show these girls how you react in the field is how you will react in ten years when you don't get the job, when you get dumped, when you lose someone," said Garry. "The sport teaches you how to keep going when life gets you down, which is something a strong coach, like Kayce, will always believe."

ALUMNAE COACHES AT MERCY

Grace Canty '18 - Lacrosse Kat Garry '10 - Softball Rebecca Guerriero '09 - Ice Hockey Andrea Konja '05 - Lacrosse Tania Macioce '92 - Soccer Cathleen Kowalski Maes '05 - Golf & Bowling Kaitlyn Mardeusz '06 - Basketball Kayce Nieto '12 - Softball Stephanie Volk '17 - Equestrian Clare Martin Waterstradt '08 - Basketball Samantha Wenson Zinnecker '11 – Pompon

Stay in Touch

First Name	Maiden Name	Last Name	Class of
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News			





If you have any changes in name or address, please fill out the form below or visit us online at mhsmi.org/alumnae/update-info.

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Come Home to Mercy for Reunion 2019 SEPTEMBER 28, 2019

Honoring Milestone Classes

1949, 1954, 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2009, 2014

Schedule

1:00-2:30 pmLuncheon2:30-4:00 pmTours and class photos4:00 pmMass



Some classes - including the 50-year Reunion Class of 1969 - have finalized plans for the weekend. **Find more information at https://www.mhsmi.org/alumnae/reunion-weekend.**

WE ARE SEEKING CLASS REPRESENTATIVES! Contact reunion@mhsmi.org or 248-476-3270 to learn about this important role.



IN CONJUNCTION WITH MERCY'S UPCOMING 75TH ANNIVERSARY, THE ALUMNAE OFFICE HAS PARTNERED WITH PUBLISHING CONCEPTS TO UPDATE OUR ALUMNAE DIRECTORY.

Be on the lookout for an email, phone call, or postcard asking you to update your information. Your assistance is greatly appreciated! In the meantime, update your information on our website at **https://www.mhsmi.org/alumnae/update-info**.