MERCY CONNECTIONS

Summer 2021

Karen Andreone Court Dedication



Family, friends, colleagues, and former student athletes were thrilled to have the opportunity to pay tribute to Karen Andreone, better known as "Ms. A!" A celebration took place in Kieran Hall on Friday, July 2nd, where OLMA Athletic Director Dawn Cerrone kicked the dedication off with these words: "Karen Andreone has done it all! As a coach, mentor, teacher, administrator, play director, trip chaperone, Sports Night Director, Moderator of Leaders Club, Founder and Executive Director of Summer Sports Camps, and NSCHSGAA League President, Karen has influenced thousands of OLMA students over her legendary career that spanned thirty-three years."

The gym, built in 1979, is part of a master plan to enhance our physical plant. This summer, the gym was painted and a new floor installed - complete with Ms. A's signature. The Tunnel - soon to be renamed the Hall of Champions - will be updated with new lighting, floors, and bright renderings to celebrate our athletes accomplishments.

Tributes to Karen came from all walks of life. OLMA Assistant Principal Sr. Meghan McArdle, OSU, credits Ms. A for planting the seed for her vocation. In her tribute, Sr. Meghan noted that "Ms. A. always paid attention to others and never allowed her students to be less than what they should be... she always encouraged us to be the best we could be." Naomi Malamud, professor emeritus at Nassau Community College and mentor to Ms. A., marvelled at the fact that she lettered in seven (7) sports during her college career at Nassau Community College and Hofstra. Former NCC student athlete Sue Krawczyk remembered the advice Karen would give to her athletes: "Be on time, play with integrity and respect." Karen was inducted into the Nassau Community College Hall of Fame twice -- once as an athlete and the other as a coach.

Former OLMA Principal Joan Gordon spoke of the many years they worked together at the Academy and the many ways Karen inspired her. Karen's courage,

determination, dedication and faith have been an inspiration to Mrs. Gordon and thousands of her students. NSCHSGAA League President Lorraine Bouklas, and St. Anthony's High School Athletic Director Don Buckley both praised Ms. A for all she has done for high school athletics while serving as President of the League for over 20 years. Julie '96 and Suzanne '98 Westing summed it up with this quote: "Anyone can be a coach, but it takes someone special to become a legend!"



Visit OLMA's Youtube to watch the dedication.

Highlights from 2020-2021 School Year



Mass on the Meadow





Stang Games



Sports Night



NCAA Athletic Signings



May Crowning

Want a Mercy education, but moved off Long Island?

Here are a few Mercy Schools in New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania

Mercy High School Middletown, CT 860-346-6659 MercyHigh.com

Lauralton Hall Milford, CT 203-877-2786 LauraltonHall.org

Gwynedd Valley, PA 215-646-8815 **GMAHS.org**

Gwynedd Mercy Academy Merion-Mercy Academy Merion Station, PA 610-664-6655 **Merion-Mercy.com**

Bronx, NY (718) 882-2882 **SCAHS.org**

Rochester, NY (585) 288-7120 MercyHS.com

St. Catherine Academy Mercy High School Mt. Mercy Academy Buffalo, NY (716) 825-8796 MTMercy.org

Mt. St. Mary Academy Watchung, NJ (908) 757-0108 MountSaintMary.org

Contact their Admissions Office and don't forget to tell them you are Mercy Legacy!!!

Class Notes

Members of OLMA Class of 1969 have been connecting with one another via Zoom since their 50th reunion in 2019. To honor their classmate, Lora Sharpe, who recently passed away, members donated funds to purchase library books, tapes, etc. in her memory. OLMA's Library Media Specialist, Sheila Frye Wilson '68, is most grateful for their support.

Debbie (Smiloff) De Louise'78 is proud to announce that she has published a standalone mystery, Memory Makers, with Next Chapter Publishing. The book features Lauren Phelps, a woman who volunteers for a clinical trial of a new memory drug in the hope of recalling the face of the man who killed her sister twenty-five years ago when the two were kidnapped and Lauren escaped. Debbie will also be publishing the 5th of her Cobble Cove Cozy Mysteries this October, with Solstice Publishing. No Gravestone Unturned features a mystery involving a generation of secrets that leads to a murder on Halloween in the small town of Cobble Cove. Join Alicia and Sneaky the library cat who follow clues to learn who-dun-it. Both books, along with Debbie's other novels, are available on Amazon.com in print and eBook editions.

Dawn Flynn '84 is a Project Manager at COCOZZA Restaurant and Retail.

Diane Naughton '84 is an accountant with a reinsurance company.

Tracie Ahern '86 is Chief Financial Officer, Chief Risk Officer and member of the Executive Board at PineBridge Investments and was selected as a 2021 "Notable Women on Wall Street" by Crains. She is one of the few female financial officers at an institutional money management firm.

Heather Reichert '90 is a Partnership Analyst at Alto Pharmacy.

Elizabeth Richardson '02 is an Assistant

Vice President of Marketing at L'Oreal USA. She has been there for 12 years in various roles--marketing, sales, channel marketing, business development. Currently, Elizabeth oversees not only traditional brand marketing roles, but digital, PR, and social areas too. Prior to L'Oreal, she was at Bed Bath and Beyond in a buying function. Elizabeth has always been interested in mentoring and is currently in a mentorship program through L'Oreal USA. She is also involved in hiring programs through L'Oreal, helping interview potential candidates for the company's internship and business programs.

Claire McMahon Masiello '05 teaches English as a New Language (not English as a First Language) in the New Hyde Park-Garden City Park School District and has an advanced certificate in Educational Leadership from Long Island University.

Alexandra Sloane '05 received an MS in Finance from Hood College in January 2021.

Megan Shannon Jonas '06 is Senior Manager, Affiliate Site Operations at Thrasio.

Kirsten Lehmuller Reinhold '06 and her husband Kevin welcomed Madeline Elizabeth into the world in December 2020.

Giselle Melconian '10 is Business Development Head at Highlight Technologies.

Nicole Podpirka '10 is Sr. Talent Acquisition Manager at Accelo.

Gina Maffucci '11 completed her MBA at London Business School and is working in corporate affairs at ZX Ventures, the corporate venture capital arm of AB InBev in London.

Madeline Santulli '11 is a 2nd year medical school student.

Bailey Sutton '13 graduated with honors from both Northwestern University and the Georgetown Graduate School of Public Policy. She was awarded a Presidential Management Fellowship and won awards for her Masters Thesis on voter trends in Georgia. She works as a Management Consultant for the Department of Health and Human Services, is a Teaching Assistant at Georgetown's Masters Program for Public Policy, and is very active in her Delta Gamma Sorority, working with the University of Richmond Delta Gamma chapter.

Melissa Santulli '13 is a teacher at St. Agnes School in Rockville Centre.

Calling all Vendors!

If you or someone you know is interested in having a table at OLMA's Annual Christmas Tea on December 4th, please email pdilollo@olma.org.

Keeping Up

OLMA Alumnae Association

OLMA Alumnae Association meetings are open to all who wish to attend. Some of the topics that are discussed are upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, networking, and philanthropic goals. The meetings begin at 7:00 PM and last approximately one hour.

The following are the meeting dates for the 2021--2022 school year:

Tuesday, October 5 Tuesday, January 18 Tuesday, March 22 Tuesday, May 17

Please email Pat DiLollo at pdilollo@olma.org if you wish to join the Alumnae Association.

Pray the Rosary with the Sisters of Mercy



On the first Friday of each month, members of the Alumnae Association gather with the Sisters of Mercy to pray the Rosary at noon. Join us as we pray via Zoom. All are welcome. Email Amanda Corbo at acorbo@olma.org to sign-up for a reminder.

If you would like more information about the OLMA Alumnae Association or becoming a class representative, please email olmaalumnae@gmail.com.

Joan P. McGann, Class of 1955



I was delighted to be part of a gathering of "Massachusetts Mercy Girls" in June 2021; our Mercy Spirit bonded us immediately even though, at the age of 82, I was decades older than most. Eager to share my gratefulness for my years at OLMA as succinctly as possible, I shared with them within minutes the path of my life, with particular emphasis on how God has continually poured out His grace. They "caught" my message instantly with joy, and I was asked to share here how my years at Our Lady of Mercy helped me deal with the epilepsy that became a pivotal issue through the years.

I realized only in late adulthood that my challenge with epilepsy was a relatively unknown one in the early 1950's, and that I have been blessed all of my life with a shield of protective love and care around me. Mercy was a huge part of that shield during my vulnerable adolescent years. I was aware that there were many activities I could not do – such as play basketball, but this did not deter me from fully pursuing every study and

activity open to me – from Latin and Greek to being on the Newspaper Staff to cheering wildly from the sidelines at basketball games. I belonged. I was PART of a loving community and cried when graduation time came. At my Fiftieth Reunion, I was stunned by how friends I had not seen since graduation had thought of me because they remembered seizures and were so glad to see me. The deep faith in God that was a first gift from my parents was nurtured at Mercy and has carried me through to this day. I think a sense of determination and accomplishment was also nourished.

I had been denied entrance into convents and into health care professions because of epilepsy, but found my way to a community for handicapped women where I graduated from college with a degree in Medical Technology – which became my life long profession after that community was dissolved and merged with another, which I soon left. Once again, I found my way along new paths with the constant help of God's guidance and healing. Today I am retired but involved with the Epilepsy Foundation where younger souls on this path find encouragement from my experience. Today it is understood that education of young people in schools is critical to dispel fear of seizures and nurture the compassion that came naturally to the Sisters and students of OLMA 70 years ago. God bless you, One and All!

With OLMA

PAWPRINTS ON MY HEART

Elizabeth (Lizzy) Olsen '98

Elizabeth (Lizzy) Olsen ('98) has been working as a Certified Child Life Specialist (CCLS) for the past 15 years. She received her Master's degree in Child Life and Family Centered Care from Wheelock College. Lizzy previously worked at a children's hospital in New York and for a hospice program on Long Island, where she was the first CCLS. During the past four years, Lizzy has been supporting children and families at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). She started there in the Center for Fetal Diagnosis and Treatment and the Garbose Family Special Delivery Unit, preparing siblings for the birth and hospitalization of their newborn brother/sister who was diagnosed with a birth defect in utero.

For the last six months, Lizzy has been working with CHOP's first full-time Facility Dog Dilly, a 2-year-old male yellow Labrador retriever. Dilly is a specially trained Service Dog from Susquehanna Service Dogs in Pennsylvania. Facility dogs in a hospital setting work with a handler to help patients with goal-oriented tasks and procedural support such as blood draws and dressing changes. They also provide comfort and encourage expression of feelings to help normalize the hospital environment.



Dilly helps patients to overcome their fears, reach new goals, and remain motivated to complete their therapy sessions. Dilly loves to participate in medical play where the patient uses pretend and real medical materials and Dilly is the "dogtor". Medical play is a great tool for Child Life Specialists to normalize the hospital environment, and having Dilly's support only enhances this experience so that the patients can learn and understand more about medical procedures. Lizzy works with Dilly in physical, occupational, and speech therapies. Dilly can often be found helping a patient to get out of bed or allowing someone to sharpen her fine and gross motor skills by brushing Dilly's fur. One of Dilly's superpowers is participating in speech therapy sessions. Dilly is often one of the first names that is repeated when patients who have experienced a traumatic brain injury are working on developing their language skills again. The most rewarding part of the session is when a patient says, "Hi, Dilly!" It is such a short and powerful sentence that promotes joy. Dilly provides comfort and encouragement to patients, families, and staff with the support of Lizzy's Child Life assessment skills.

Throughout Lizzy's career she has valued the education and mission of Mercy, which has helped her to pursue working in leadership positions within her healthcare field and to start new roles. A Mercy education helped to give Lizzy confidence to build new programs, instilled beautiful values that are at the heart of the compassionate care that she provides, and built the foundation on which to continue to dream big and achieve a furry sidekick along the way.

Boston, MA



Standing: Irene R. Fazio '88, Maura Harding Clow '86 Seton Ann Wall Scott '67, Brittany Topper '04, and Pat Genovese DiLollo '70

Seated: Ms. Joan McGann '55, and Margaret Myhan '70

Thank you, Maura, for hosting a lovely get together!



Jaclyn Smith '11 was named inaugural head coach of Rowing Programs at LIU Post. Jaclyn is the first head coach of both the men's and women's rowing team. After ten years at Sacred Heart University, Jaclyn is looking forward to coming back to her roots on Long Island and building a new team right where her rowing career began fourteen years ago. Jaclyn competed in the 2016 Paralymics and took home a silver medal!

Class

Brianna Falgoust '14 is a licensed occupational therapist.

Danielle Izzo '14 finished her third year of Law School at Hofstra University.

Lauriann Kormylo '14 is Outreach Coordinator at Lime Connect. Lime Connect is a nonprofit organization that works with leading companies and universities to break stereotypes around disability and lead partners to understand and value the strengths of employees-rebranding disability through achievement! Lauriann is so happy to be working with this organization, in a space that incorporates her knowledge and passion for education, disability justice, and mental health.

Marilyn Lehmuller '14 is a Project Manager for Clune Construction, working out of DC.

Michaela Mahon '14 designs affordable housing and multifamily projects in a variety of US locations. She is involved in Thought Leadership in her firm of Torti Gallas & Partners, Architects, located in Washington, DC and was selected to attend the virtual edition of the Congress for New Urbanism.

Jacqueline Sacco '14 is Account Manager for Centerlight Health System.

Elizabeth C. Radziul '15 is a Marketing Analyst for American Express.

Rebecca Reardon '15 is a Research Regulatory Associate.

Michelle Izzo '16 graduated from Fairfield University in May 2020.

Marissa Lembo '16 graduated from University of Scranton in May 2020. She is attending graduate school at University of Scranton for Hospital Administration and is an Administrative Resident at NYU Langone Hospital.

Amanda Shea '16 is an investment banking analyst at Bank of America.

Julia Breitenbach '17 graduated from Sacred Heart University with a BS in Health Science with a concentration in Healthcare Administration. She plans to attend graduate school with combined Masters of Healthcare Administration/MBA programs.

Notes

Katie Collins '17 is active at Fordham University as a student ambassador as well as in the Bronx community. She volunteered at the Mercy Center in the Bronx, where she taught a class about the US citizenship exam. While studying abroad in London, Katie took time every week to volunteer at Women at the Well, an organization dedicated to assisting women, many of whom are victims of prostitution, trafficking, homelessness, and other issues, sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy! She co-founded the Fordham chapter of Leading Women of Tomorrow. Katie will be attending Notre Dame Law School in September.

Allegra Larrea '17 is a 2021 Hofstra graduate, pursuing a BS in Mathematics with an Actuarial Science Concentration.

Gabby Schmitz '17 recently graduated from the University of Tampa, where she worked at the writing center as a tutor for undergraduate and graduate students. She would like to offer her skills as a writing tutor to all of you and your children! Gabby is trained in aiding all stages of the writing process, from brainstorming to final editing, in various academic areas and levels. She has worked with a wide variety of students with different skill sets, so she is confident of her ability to help you. Contact her at gns99@me.com.

Daniella Cucci '18 is a summer analyst at Wells Fargo.

Sarah Kendrick '18 is a junior at Parsons School of Design and lives in NYC. She works freelance for two designers.

Greenwich, CT



Margaret Bowler Niche '78, Pat Genovese DiLollo '70, Lisa Bartilucci Rooney '76, Regina Masterson '69, and Kim Potvin '96 enjoyed dinner at the home of Lisa Bartilucci Rooney!

As Seen on Shark Tank

MERCY HELPED TO SHAPE THE WOMAN I AM TODAY

Kaley Young '11



My time at Mercy really helped to shape the woman I am today. Now 27 years old, I am a New York based interior designer with a degree from FIT, and I have a family cutting board invention, the Cup Board Pro, sold at Williams Sonoma.

When I was in my senior year at Mercy, I was managing my mom's Hot Pilates and dance studios and completing my yoga teaching certification. That same year, however, my mom was diagnosed with breast cancer. It completely crushed me, but as a family, we all had to stay strong for her.

My heart broke when I lost my beautiful 47-year-old mom in August 2012. I wanted to continue my education, but at that time it was more important for me to be home with my family, helping my dad raise my 9-year-old sister

and 15-year-old brother while continuing my mom's studios. I taught her Pilates classes, while helping grow her studio full time with teacher trainings, community fundraising events, and retreats in Anguilla and Tulum. I also created a Pro-Kindness workshop called "She Taught," teaching girls from ages 9 to 16 the life lessons that my mom taught me. At these workshops, I would have between 50 and 70 girls show up monthly.

In December of 2015, my dad was diagnosed with a rare cancer from being a NYC fireman in the 9/11 cleanup. My dad sold our family home in order to take the time to fight his cancer. (My family home was built in the 1800s and required a lot of upkeep.) At the time, he was doing really well, so I felt that it was time to go back to school to study interior design. I moved into my NYC apartment with my best friend, who is also a former Mercy girl, Michaela Lamberta. I was still home a lot to help my dad and my siblings and to run our hometown Pilates studio.

In the summer of 2017, my dad's cancer progressed. Sloan Hospital became a place that we would spend a lot of our time. On March 17, 2018, God called our dad home to heaven with our mom. He was a fighter and our hero. He never gave up hope, and that meant that neither could I.

At 24 years old, I became legal guardian to my sister, then a freshman at Wantagh High School. I had to grow up pretty quickly; there was a lot on my plate. I now had to manage my dad's home, my siblings, my dogs, my final year at school, and my mom's Pilates studio.

On April 16, 2018, the day before my dad's one month of passing away, I received an email from Shark Tank. My dad had an invention that they heard about, and they asked if my siblings and I wanted to apply to be on their show. Being on Shark Tank was my dad's biggest dream for his cutting board invention, the Cup Board Pro. How could we say no? Three months after my dad passed away, my siblings and I were flown out to California to pitch in front of the sharks during the week of Father's Day. The unbelievable happened. We got an investment from all 5 sharks!! They were all so amazing, and instead of taking any profit, they chose to donate their 20% in our business to the FDNY charity of our choice to help other first responders like our dad. I knew from this moment that my parents were doing magical things up in heaven to support me and my siblings. The sharks introduced us to Williams Sonoma, with whom we signed a licensing deal. This allows us to work on our dad's invention with the help of an incredible company while still being able to follow our own dreams.

In December of 2018, I graduated from FIT. I was thankful for the years of having my mom's Pilates studio but also getting ready to allow other doors to open. In January of 2020, I sold the studio to focus on interior design. Soon after, my boyfriend Brendan and I bought my beach dream home in Lido Beach. Now we have a place for ourselves and my siblings to call home together. My siblings have been my sunshine throughout this journey of life, and I wouldn't be who I am without them!

I have been inspired greatly by my mom and dad, my two angels in heaven, to always dream big and to do what I love. While continuing my parents' legacies, I have come to understand the importance of embracing what truly inspires me and being authentically me.



GRADUATION STATISTICS FOR CLASS OF 2021

- 96 2021 Graduates
- 440 Full & Partial Four-Year Scholarships Awarded
 - 6 Full Military Scholarships
 - 5 National Merit Commended Students
 - 33 U.S. Presidential Scholars

88% of the Class of 2021 earned college scholarships worth over \$25 Million 100% of the Class of 2021 is pursuing post-secondary education



Among other top-rated colleges and universities, recent college acceptances include: Cornell University, MIT, Pepperdine University, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Pace University, Fordham University, Boston College, United States Naval Academy, Bucknell University, Drexel University, School of Visual Arts, and Villanova University.

Keeping OLMA in the Family -- 2021 Graduates



Colleen Sofronas '81, Kathleen Kenville '75, Megan Blaustein '21, Erin Blaustein '79, and Maureen Smoluch '84



Katherine '21 and Vicky '19 Likourezos



Jeanette Miller Dowd '94, Laura Miller Rodriguez '92, Catherine Hagemann '21, Gabriella Rodriguez '20, Karen Miller Hagemann '88, and Maria Stabile Monaco '88

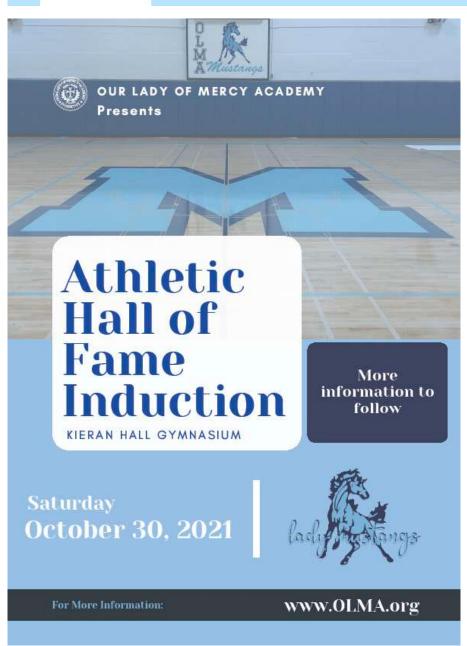




"Stay Strong, Breathe Deep"

October 30, 2021

Visit OLMA.org for more info!



The Academy is proud to announce the inaugural year of the Our Lady of Mercy Academy Athletic Hall of Fame. Upon activating this charter in 2021, the mission of the Hall of Fame will be to honor past athletes, coaches, administrators and community members for their outstanding athletic accomplishments, contributions to our athletic program, and positive leadership in our Catholic Faith that is a non-negotiable standard for all our student-athletes.

The following student-athletes/administrators have met the criteria for induction into the Our Lady of Mercy Academy
Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2021:

Student Athletes

Mary Irene Burns '61
Denise Hammersley '91
MariPat Campbell '92
Shannon Knapp '94
Colleen Jamison 95
Julie Westing '96
Susanne Westing '98
Suzanne Keilty '98
Katie Keilty '00
Tara Sweeney '15
Charlotte Molloy '14
Bridget Moody '15

Administrators

Claire Wooley Karen Andreone

MERCY THROUGH THE DECADES 2021 REUNION INFORMATION

Saturday, October 16, 2021 at The Mansion at Oyster Bay

Schedule of Events

Luncheon at Mansion at Oyster Bay 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Celebrating milestone reunion years



50 years - 1970,1971

40 years - 1980,1981

25 years - 1995,1996

10 years - 2010,2011

All alumnae are welcome to attend, regardless of when you graduated!

Tours of the Academy

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Reunion Mass 5:00 PM

Reception in Auditorium 6:00 PM



Honoring



Ms. Mary Conlin



Mrs. Patrice DeStefano



Sr. Kathleen Geaney, RSM



Sr. Regina Williams, RSM

Please mail your **RSVP form** to:

Our Lady of Mercy Academy 815 Convent Road, Syosset, NY 11791 Attn: Mercy Through The Decades

You may also pay online at www.olma.org/Alumnae

Please RSVP no later than October 1, 2021.

"Mercy through the Decades" Reunion Luncheon Saturday, October 16, 2021

Schedule of Events:

11:00 AM - Luncheon at The Mansion at Oyster Bay

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM - Tours of OLMA

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM - Family Mass

6:00 PM - Reception - OLMA Auditorium



	Sponsorships	
	☐ The Catherine McAuley Sponsor:	
Your sponsorship will provide one year of financial aid for one student One table of ten with Premier Seating		
One table of ten sponsored	l for the Sisters of Mercy & Honorees	
☐ The Dots & Stripes Sponsor: Your sponsorship will provide a half-year of financial aid for one student One table of ten with Premier Seating Five tickets for former Faculty		\$ 2,500
☐ The Tower Sponsor:		\$ 1,000
Your sponsorship will provide a registration fee for one student One table of ten with Preferred Seating		1 /
☐ The Mercy Circle Sponsor:		
Your sponsorship will provide two athletic fees for two students Five tickets with Preferred Seating		\$ 750
□ I would like Individual Tickets:		\$ 75
□ I would like to make a Class gift in the amount of \$		
☐ Yes, I would like a sch	ool tour.	
☐ Yes, I will be attending	g the Family Mass and Reception with	guests.
	City:	
	Zip: Telephone:	
Email:		_ Class of:
	nsorship/donation as noted; a check will foll r \$ made payable t	
Please	charge my □ Mastercard □ Visa □ Amex □] Discover
in the amount of \$		
Name on card:		1' D I
Card number: Billing Zip Code:	Expiration Date: Security Code:	
	adv of Mercy at 516.921.1047 (ext. 117) or er	



Save - the - Date

Sunday, October 3, 2021 Open House

Saturday, October 16, 2021
Mercy Through the Decades Reunion

Saturday, October 30, 2021
Tower Run & Athletic Hall of Fame Induction

Saturday, November 27, 2021

Dots & Stripes Alumnae Games and Tailgate

Friday, December 3, 2021 Career Day

Saturday, December 4, 2021
Breakfast with Santa
Christmas Tea

Alumnae Contact Information

Pat Genovese DiLollo '70 Director of Advancement

516.921.1047 (ext. 117) **pdilollo@olma.org**

Amanda Corbo-Mericle '99 Director of Communications

516.921.1047 (ext. 122) acorbo@olma.org

Barbara Ramsey Kiley '64, Alumnae Association President

Mary Ellen Treacy Warch '76 Alumnae Association Vice President

olmaalumnae@gmail.com