

MERCY CONNECTIONS

Fall 2020

The Doors of Our Lady Of Mercy Academy Open Once Again to Build Relationships, Routines, and Resilience

“Prepared, not panicked” were the words that Our Lady of Mercy Academy’s Principal Sandra Betters wrote to parents at the start of the transition to virtual learning. “On Friday, March 13, our school doors closed, and on Monday, March 16, students began their new normal without skipping a beat.” They knew it would be different and maybe, at times, challenging. Nevertheless, they were up to the challenge, along with the well-prepared faculty and instructional staff. An OLMA family reflected, “The saying ‘prepared, but not panicked’ has stood out to me. This is one of the lessons beyond the classroom that will serve our girls well in the future!”



Faculty members take advantage of the spectacular weather by holding classes on our beautiful campus as we continue to put our student’s safety first.

This September, OLMA welcomed back the majority of its students, faculty, and staff for the fall semester. Approximately 5% of our students opted to learn virtually. During the summer months, classrooms were redesigned for social distancing, polycarbonate dividers installed, an ENS standalone temperature scanning camera placed at OLMA’s entrance, and stringent sanitizing procedures developed. Campus life may look and feel different, but the Spirit of Mercy is alive and well as we grow stronger and continue to face these challenges together.

At our Faculty and Staff Development Day, the administration shared with us a large area of focus for the 2020-2021 Academic Year. We are strengthening the three R’s: relationships, routines, and resilience. Through our relationships, we are learning to trust one another by practicing healthy habits of social distancing, hand washing, and face coverings. Adhering to routines helps us alleviate the uncertainties of the times we are experiencing. And finally, and most importantly, we are bolstering skills and mindsets useful to build up resilience in our Mercy family.



Polycarbonate dividers keep students safe.

Karen Andreone to Receive OLMA's Lifetime Achievement Award on April 22, 2021



With mixed feelings of sadness and warm wishes, Our Lady of Mercy Academy congratulates Karen Andreone on her well-deserved retirement. After 33 years of dedication and selfless service to generations of Lady Mustangs, Ms. A. ended her tenure here this past June.

Ms. Andreone has dedicated much of her life to Catholic education. She began her coaching career at Nassau Community College and Hofstra University, where she coached basketball, softball, and badminton. Her badminton team qualified for the NCAA Nationals. While coaching softball, her teams won five New York State Championships and qualified for the College World Series twice.

Karen's teaching career began at St. Agnes Cathedral High School in Rockville Centre. In 1987, she became the Athletic Director, Physical Education Teacher, and Coach at Our Lady of Mercy Academy. During her many years at Mercy, she has served in the capacity of Director of Sports Night, Moderator of

Leaders' Club, and Founder and Executive Director of Summer Sports Camps and Courses.

As the varsity volleyball coach, Ms. A's teams earned 8 trips to the New York State title game, where they captured 4 state titles. Additionally, Karen's teams won 9 division titles and 5 NSCHSGAA League titles. The overall record during those years stands at 372-174.

In badminton, Karen coached 60 individual League champions as well as 24 League finalists. Her badminton teams' record of 227-41 also achieved success, winning 14 Team League titles. Similarly, as the softball head coach, Karen led her team through 14 years and a 275-125 record. The softball teams under Karen's direction won 2 NYSCHSAA State, 3 League, and 8 Divisional titles.

The entire Mercy family wishes to express our pride in and gratitude to this exceptional educator, coach, leader, and friend. Currently, Karen serves as the league president for the NSCHGAA, a position she has held since 1987. She will receive **OLMA's Lifetime Achievement Award** on **April 22, 2021**. If you would like to honor Ms. A, go to www.olma.org to be part of this exciting event.

Spirit of Mercy Benefit March 11, 2021



JoAnne Irace '81 and Matthew Duffy

They have served the OLMA community for the past twenty (20) plus years. JoAnne is a Managing Director at Alex.Brown, a division of Raymond James, New York Private Client Group. She serves as Treasurer and Chair of the Investment and Finance Committees of the Board of Directors at Our Lady of Mercy Academy. Matthew Duffy is a retired NYPD Sergeant. Their daughter Olivia is a graduate of the Class of 2016.



Lauren and Thomas Keenan

They have served in many capacities over the past fifteen (15) years at OLMA. Lauren specialized in orthopedic nursing and health care administration. At OLMA, she served on the Parent Guild, MAPA (Mercy Alumnae Parents Association), and most recently as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors. Thomas is Executive Vice President of Liberty Maritime Corporation. Their three daughters are Mercy alumnae: Diana '07, Laura '10, and Carolyn '12.

Class Notes

1960's

Paula Ballantyne DeSilva '64 reached out to her neighbors in Brunswick Forest. Within a few days, she collected 792 nutritious, nonperishable food items. A caravan of three wagons, filled to the brim, transported the donated food to St. Joseph Food Pantry in Burgaw, NC, a community still recovering from Hurricane Florence.

1970's

Members of the Class of 1970 were made aware of an OLMA classmate who was struggling with life in a nursing home as she recovers from a health setback. Several people were able to visit and became patient advocates for her--another example that Mercy girls stick together 50 years later! Friendships forged at OLMA are friendships forever!

Mary Opulente Krener '70 is a Certified Buyers Representative and Associate Real Estate Broker at Daniel Gale Southby's International Realty.

Dr. Wendy Martinez '75 was chosen Citizen of the Year in Healthcare by The March of Dimes.

Dorothy Stahlman Ahl '79 is a school psychiatrist with the Massapequa School District for more than 20 years.

1980's

Dawn Flynn '84 is a Corporate Procurement Manager at M&R Hotel Management.

Mary Brosky '86 is Development Manager at Cerebral Palsy Association of Nassau County.

Dr. Suzanne Viscovich '87 is Principal of Homestead Elementary School in the Garden City School District.

1990's

Christine Civello Dickey '91 is the VP of Communications for the Garden City Special Education Parent Teacher Association.

Tricia Hettrich Martorella '91 is the Administrative Nursing Supervisor at St. Francis Hospital, Manhasset, NY.

Jennifer Segura '92 is a Financial Advisor at Morgan Stanley.



Alexandra Carter's '93 book *Ask for More*, debuted on the Wall Street Journals Best Sellers List.

Melissa Kramps '93 is the Practice Supervisor and a Nurse Practitioner at Lenox Hill Hospital.

Kim Potvin '96 was recognized by Forbes as one of America's Top Women Wealth Advisors for 2020.

Jeanne Egan Canning '97 is the Director of Operations and EPIC Operational Lead at St. Francis Hospital.

Kelly Anne Florio Kasouf '99 is Chief Marketing Officer at Kassatex , New York.

2000's

Dr. Colleen P. Eren '00 is an associate professor of sociology and criminal justice at William Paterson University of New Jersey and director of their program of over 600 students in criminology. She is currently in contract for her second book with Stanford University Press, Reform-Nation, which looks at criminal justice reform movements and the influence of philanthropy, celebrity, and grassroots organizations. She had a widely-read op-ed published with the New York Times arguing for the compassionate release of all elderly and dying people in prison. She also is on the board of New Hour for Women and Children, Long Island, which assists justice-impacted women as they transition home from prison or jail. She credits her initial interest in activism and study of injustice in the criminal justice system to her morality classes at OLMA, which showed her that empathy and compassion--even when dealing with people who have done horrible things--are the highest ideals.

Karen Kennedy '02 is a Forensics Latent Print Examiner with the New York Police Department.

Ms. Nicole Abbondandolo '03 is in Brand Partnerships, Sales at Digital Trends. Digital Trends is an online technology publisher providing consumers the latest when it comes to tech news and innovation. It is a mission-driven company, humanizing technology in an increasingly complex digital world and filtering out the noise. Nicole has been with Digital Trends since January 2019; she spent the previous 5 years at Hearst Digital within the sales organization.

Erin Corbo Boyle '04 is a Physical Therapist at the Hospital for Special Surgery NYC. Erin earned a Clinical Doctorate in Physical Therapy and is a Board Certified Orthopedic Clinical Specialist.

Mercy Through the Decades

Mercy Through the Decades Luncheon

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, our annual Mercy Through the Decades Reunion Luncheon has been rescheduled for October 16, 2021. Details are posted on www.olma.org/alumnae.

The second annual Mercy Through the Decades Reunion Luncheon was held on Saturday, October 19, 2019, at the Mansion in Oyster Bay. This event honored past faculty and recognized special reunion years.

Please enjoy some highlights from the 2019 Reunion Luncheon



*Margaret Myhan '70 and
honoree,
Sr. Patricia Hartigan, RSM*



*Dr. Wendy Martinez '75 and
honoree,
Sr. Monica Henkemeier, RSM '58*



*Margaret Myhan '70 and
honoree,
Sr. Helen Lyons, RSM*



*Honoree,
Mrs. Joan Gordon*



*Honoree,
Barbara Ramsey Kiley '64
and family*

Decades Luncheon

Congratulations to all special reunion years!



***Congratulations to the
Class of 1964 celebrating 55 years***



***Congratulations to the
Class of 1969 celebrating 50 years***



***Moira Saitta Sowarby '81, Maribeth
Saitta Phillips '71, Paula Saitta Casey '72,
Mary Cashin Saitta '50, Michaela Saitta
Simone '79, Mary Regina (Geni) Cashin
Priolo '73, Kathi Cashin Hegner '69***



***All years got together to catch up and
celebrate***



Members of the Class of 1979



***Elizabeth Cassidy '69, Sr. Elaine
Hanson, RSM, and Esme Donohue
Bartolotta '69***

Class

Meaghan McKeown Caltabiano '04 was admitted to the Bar of the State of New York in March 2020. She is honored to be a 2019-2021 New York State Excelsior Service Fellow and greatly enjoys her placement in the legal department at Empire State Development.

McMahon Masiello '05 teaches English as a first language in the New Hyde Park School District.

Mrs. Katrina McCaffrey '05 is Manager of Commercial Training at Teva Pharmaceuticals. Her role is responsible for overseeing the operational function of Teva's psychiatry training programs. She is the lead for the ongoing development, implementation, and assessment of programs and initiatives that enhance psychiatry and movement disorder knowledge for the US Sales Force. The position aligns with sales and marketing leadership in planning to launch solutions at optimal times and overseeing the use of strategic communications to ensure maximum uptake of programs.

Marianne Monastero '07 began working at Pratt & Whitney two years ago as an aerospace engineer after earning her PhD in Aeronautical Engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Kylie Barbosa Barza '08 is an Associate, Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP.

Catherine Morris '08 is a Pharmacist at Stony Brook Southampton Hospital.

Allison Monastero '09 is currently working as a chef assistant at Tiffins and Nomad Lounge in Disney's Animal Kingdom. Allison creates desserts for the menu and leads a small pastry team. "I love having creative freedom and being able to share my knowledge and experience with my fellow cast members."

Michelle Monastero '09 is a social worker for Spence Chapin in New York City and Hauppauge. Michelle is working with birth mothers, providing them with counseling and helping them through the adoption process.

Lindsey Stearns '09 is an Assistant District Attorney at the Manhattan District Attorney's Office.

2010's

Elizabeth Abbondandolo '10 is Learning and Development Administrator at Mazars USA, LLP. Caroline Chandonnet '10 is Key Account Representative at Yeti Coolers.

Ashley Morris '10 works for the National Hockey League as a partnership Marketing Account Executive. She has traveled to the Leagues major events including the Winter Classic, NHL All-Star Weekend, and Stadium Series.

Aine O'Rourke '10 received her BA in Political Science from Boston College and her MA in Criminal Justice at CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice. She also holds an Advanced Certificate in Terrorism Studies. She is an Admissions Counselor at CUNY Queensborough Community College.

Alyssa Ammazalorso '11 graduated from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in May. In June, she began her residency in internal medicine at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

Danielle Cascione '11 is a Physician Assistant at NYU Langone Winthrop Hospital.

Maggie Jacobsen '11 is a Marine Broker at AON.

Brooke Mangan '11 is an Associate at York Bridge Wealth Partners.

Christina Serravalli '11 is Project Manager, Client Transition Service at Fidelity Investments.

Victoria Ngai '12 is Operations Supervisor at Aloft Hotels.

Krystin Vitale '12 is a Data Specialist with Con Edison.

Caitlin Demmett '13 received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Northeastern University.

Michaela Mahon '14 is an Architectural Designer at Torti Gallas & Partners.

Stephanie Reda '14 is a Brand Manager with a NY-based food and beverage company, Hal's Seltzer.

Notes

Nicole Acker '15 graduated in 2019 from the University at Albany, with a major in Psychology and Human Development and a minor in Sociology. She is currently pursuing a Masters at Adelphi University Graduate Cohort for School Psychology (2022).

Catherine M. Cavanagh '15 graduated from George Mason University in May 2019 magna cum laude with a degree in Athletic Training. She completed the necessary exams and is a Certified Athletic Trainer. She chose to continue her mission work that began with a Haiti trip with OLMA in February 2015 by becoming a FOCUS missionary. The Fellowship of Catholic University Students sends college graduates to campuses across the United States to be missionaries with Campus Ministry, working with college students to evangelize college students to become fully alive through meaningful interactions and enriching a relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church. She is assigned to be a missionary at Montclair State University and is excited to begin this two-year commitment.

Anne Collins, RN '15 graduated from Molloy College with a Bachelors of Science (Major in Nursing) this December 2019, and passed her state boards this February. She will be working at the Telemetry (Cardiac Care) unit at NYU Winthrop. She was also awarded the Molloy Alumni Award, which is presented to a graduate who best characterizes spirit and loyalty at Molloy College.

Joanna Ewen '15 specializes in Development & Communications for JASA, a NY non-profit that provides life-sustaining programs for seniors and peace of mind for their families and friends.



Audrey Morris '15 is currently a Page at NBC Universal. The Page Program is a year-long professional development program geared towards those looking to begin their careers in media. In her first three months as a Page, Audrey led over 130 tours of NBC Studios, contributed to marketing efforts as a Plaza Ambassador for The

Today Show, and assisted with audience services for The Tonight Show. She is now moving on to her first of three rotations within the company as the Ad Sales Strategic Planning Page.

Grace Ambrose '16 received her BS in Occupational Sciences at Ithaca College and will be pursuing her Masters at Ithaca College in Occupational Therapy.

Marissa Lembo '16 graduated Magna Cumlaude in June from Scranton University. She has returned to Scranton to pursue a Master's degree in hospital administration.

Katherine McCusker '16 is a Web Developer at Energetics Technology Center.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



**Sister Mary Laboure
Partridge, RSM**



**Sister Kathleen
Hennessy, RSM**



**Sister Janet
Baxendale, SC '55**

Author Jacqueline DeStefano '11 discusses her book at the Annual Christmas Tea



Featured Author, Jacqueline DeStefano '11 poses with OLMA President, Margaret Myhan

This past year, the Christmas Tea featured OLMA graduate and author Jacqueline DeStefano '11. Her book entitled *Water Lilies* contains beautifully penned poems and was very well received. Special thanks to Mary Ellen Treacy Warch '76 and MAPA for organizing this event, OLMA parent Mary Frinquelli for donating the raffle prizes, and all the vendors who participated, as well as the Student Ambassadors who were present to serve the guests.



Standing: Katherine Panzella Terry '95, Mary Panzella Berry '88, Maria Stabile Monaco '88, Karen Miller Hegeman '88, Patti Friedrich Carlson '88. Seated: Heather Hagen '88, Margaret Hagen, Dolores MacKenzie.



Standing: Sheila McGurk Ruhl '85, Nancy Azzalino, Sister Theresa Kelly, Amanda Rozea McCabe '08, Kate Warch Johnson '07, Seated: Mary Ellen Treacy Warch '76, Laura Dannenhoffer Sneider '76, Carol Schwegler Rozea '76, Joanne Herlihy, Brooke Rozea '11.



OLMA's Virtual Rosary

Every Friday at 12:00 PM

Email acorbo@olma.org to receive the weekly invite.



Our Lady of Mercy Academy
Educating young women with Faith, Compassion, and Promise.

815 Convent Road, Syosset, New York 11791
516-921-1047

www.olma.org

Alumnae Share Career Strategies with OLMA Junior Class

The Advancement Office, in conjunction with the Office of School Counseling, organized Focus on the Future--Career Day 2019 for the junior class. This event took place on Friday, December 6, 2019. Keynote Speaker Alison Morris '97 shared her broadcasting career journey from OLMA to Yale, to London, to New York City, first with Fox News and presently as a commentator on NBC News Now streaming service. The day also included a panel discussion, workshops in which students could learn more about different careers, and, finally, a workshop on how to transition from one career to another. Thank you to all alumnae, parents, and friends who volunteered their time to enrich the experience. If you would like to volunteer for the next Career Day, contact Pat DiLollo at pdilollo@olma.org.



Panel Discussion



Networking Breakfast



First Alumnae Award Presented to Incoming OLMA Student Class of 2024

Barbara Ramsey Kiley '64, President of the OLMA Alumnae Association, was pleased to announce that incoming 9th-grade student Jillian DeAveiro will be the recipient of the first annual OLMA Alumnae Award. This award is a partial tuition grant of \$2,500, renewable for all four years. The funds for this award were raised at the Mercy Through the Decades Reunion Luncheon through the Stand Up for Mercy event. If you have a daughter who is applying for the 2021-2022 year, the application can be found on our website www.olma.org under the Admissions tab.

OLMA ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION MEETINGS OPEN TO ALL

The aim of the OLMA Alumnae Association is to foster a mutual commitment between OLMA and our alumnae. Some of the activities include:

**Focus on the Future - Career Day
Focus on the Future - Mentoring Program
Christmas Tea - Book Signing
Class Representatives Information
Reunion Planning**

For the foreseeable future, our meetings will be virtual. If you would like to receive notifications of meetings, please email Pat DiLollo at pdilollo@olma.org.

OLMA Welcomes Ms. Dawn Cerrone as Athletic Director

As we heartily honor Ms. Karen Andreone (Ms. A) and congratulate her on her retirement, we also warmly welcome Ms. Dawn Cerrone to our Athletic Department. Dawn Cerrone, a dynamic leader in high school athletics on Long Island, will join the OLMA community for the 2020-2021 academic year. Dawn spent 20 years of her career in the Oyster Bay-East Norwich School District as a physical education and health teacher in grades K-12. In 2008, she became that district's Director of Physical Education, Health and Athletics. In 2010, Dawn was appointed as the Director of Physical Education, Health, and Athletics for Roslyn Public Schools before moving on to her 6-year tenure at Garden City Public Schools in the same capacity. During her time in Garden City, Ms. Cerrone has been very involved in Section VIII Athletics, where she serves as a member of the Executive Athletic Council, the Vice President of Girls' Athletics, Girls' Lacrosse Coordinator, Boys & Girls' Fencing Coordinator, and Unified Basketball Coordinator. Dawn brings her wealth of knowledge and commitment to developing student-athletes, turning them into leaders throughout the greater Long Island community. She is also already a vibrant member of the Circle of Mercy, as a long-time coach and as a parent of Kara '08 and Meghan '11.



Ms. Cerrone is enthusiastic about her new role as Director of Athletics at OLMA. In her words, "I am extremely excited to return to Our Lady of Mercy Academy as the Director of Athletics, having spent over a decade coaching varsity basketball and 6 years coaching lacrosse here. I look forward to meeting the outstanding student-athletes that take tremendous pride in all they do both in the classroom and on the playing fields. I hope to share my philosophy regarding the power and synergy of teamwork, as I have experienced results that have been truly amazing. I would also like to encourage and motivate our student-athletes to never settle for less, helping each to maximize their true potential while developing life skills they will rely on for future success."



Our Lady of Mercy Academy's Athletic Department is proud to announce the start of the "Dots & Stripes Alumnae Leadership Association" that will begin taking on membership immediately from our alumnae, staff, and families. Our primary focus will be to support student-life, athletics, and Sports Night. We sponsored our first event, "Crucial Conversations" hosted by Ansha Clement and Kara Cerrone both from the Class of 2008, on Thursday, August 27th.

We are looking to create incredible synergy to promote the Academy during the 2020-2021 school year. Please contact Dawn Cerrone at dcerrone@olma.org for more information.

Anti-Racism and Equity at OLMA

OLMA is honored
to announce its
partnership with
Ansha Clement '08!

ANSHA IS A HIGHLY
SKILLED AND EXPERIENCED
EDUCATION, DIVERSITY,
AND EQUITY CONSULTANT.
ANSHA IS EXCITED TO GIVE
BACK TO OLMA WHILE
WORKING WITH THE
GREATER SCHOOL
COMMUNITY TO BRING
ABOUT POSITIVE,
IMPACTFUL CHANGE.



Mercy on the Move

Before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, OLMA President Margaret Myhan '70 and Director of Development Pat Genovese DiLollo '70 visited with OLMA alumnae in Florida. Below are some highlights from their trip.

It is always a wonderful trip filled with laughter, friends, and OLMA memories!



Naples



Orlando



Sarasota



Vero Beach



Tampa Bay



Boca Raton

Friends Forever

Members of the Class of 1961!

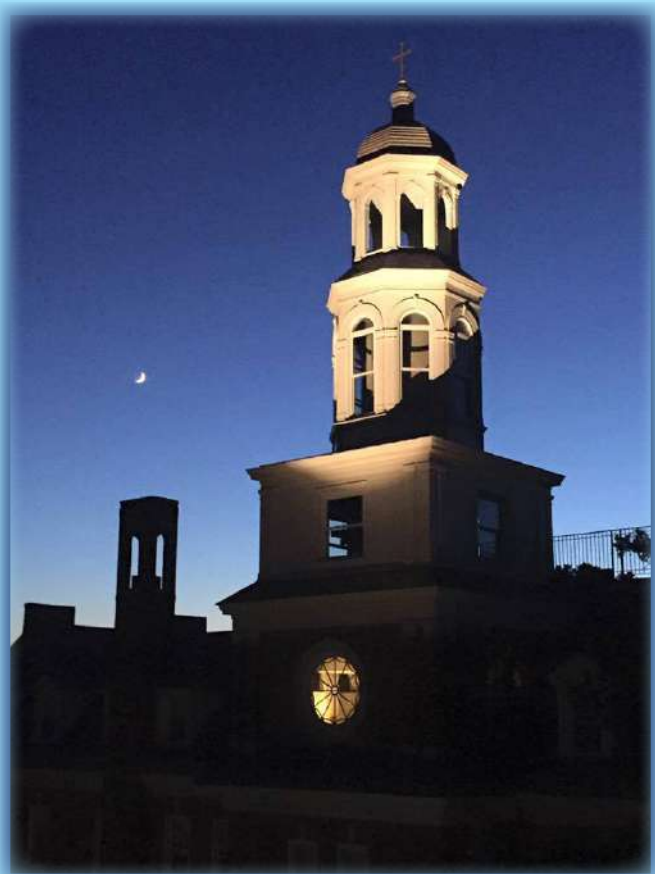
Left to Right: MaryLou Suewer Smith '61, Barbara Ryan Endrizzi '61, Margaret Casey Gould '61, Geraldine Bertolotti Hopper '61, Pat Reynolds '61, Andrea Cerar Battern '61



If you get together with your OLMA classmates, send us photos to share in the next edition of Mercy Connections. Email your photos to pdilollo@olma.org.



Our Lady of Mercy Academy
815 Convent Road
Syosset, NY 11791



“Be the Light” Special Challenge

As of September 2020, the “Be the Light” Special Challenge raised over \$100,000.

The response to this challenge shows how deeply our OLMA family cares about the welfare of our students. The funds will go a long way to assist current families impacted by COVID-19.

The families of Our Lady of Mercy Academy appreciate the outpouring of support from the OLMA Community.