

MERCY CONNECTIONS

Winter 2019

New Wellness Program at Our Lady of Mercy Academy Building upon Years of Excellence

Principal Sandra Betters is excited to announce new and progressive enhancements to daily life at Our Lady of Mercy Academy. The all-girls high school is implementing a comprehensive Wellness Program that aims to benefit all current and prospective members of OLMA.

Building upon a decades-rich reputation of academic excellence, Our Lady of Mercy Academy is actively responding to the needs of its current student population and the growing needs of all young women. “No longer can academic institutions focus on content-building without addressing the pressing need for attention to overall wellness and the intentional delivery of Social and Emotional Learning (SEL),” Betters explains. Among the many benefits woven into the new Wellness Program is the opportunity for students to conference with guidance counselors, in small peer groups, during each academic cycle. The groups will discuss topics related to reducing anxiety and promoting prosocial behaviors such as empathy and kindness. Students will also attend classes that foster grade-level skills related to executive functioning and college preparation. Moreover, this initiative will implement a daily schoolwide break that will provide both students and staff/faculty an occasion to participate in mindfulness and meditation exercises, further prompting a holistic, healthful lifestyle for all members of the community. One of the aims is to teach important elements of self-care that will prove beneficial to students throughout their lives.

In an effort to provide exceptional academic support to all types of learners, new faculty will join OLMA with expertise in alternative learning strategies, thus addressing the need for differentiation. These added members will provide not only small-group instructional settings for students, but also co-teaching experiences for faculty.

This robust, new Wellness Program is the first of its kind among the Catholic high schools on Long Island. However, Betters points to the fact that, in the summer of 2018, the New York State Education Department passed

benchmarks that mandated SEL for kindergarten through twelfth grade in all New York schools, including both public and private venues. Betters hopes that additional schools will follow suit, providing their students with opportunities to thrive in ways that reach far beyond report card grades. As noted in various national studies, students who are exposed to intentional measures to achieve wellness, including SEL, are more

likely to succeed in academics, careers, and life. SEL is powerful, and it not only can transform school climates, but also, in keeping with Our Lady of Mercy’s mission of service and social justice, can impact the issues that society, as a whole, is battling.

“Student wellness must begin the moment we first meet our students, during the admissions process. It continues as we partner with students and their families to carefully select

courses that will promote academic growth for the individual student, recognizing her academic strengths and the areas in which she requires further support. Building a positive relationship with each student is the first step in a holistic approach to overall growth and wellness. At Our Lady of Mercy Academy, we aim to work closely within our Mission to provide a compassionate atmosphere that responds to individual needs. Through our new wellness approach, we endeavor not only to serve our current community, but also to make our ‘Mercy Experience’ accessible to all those who seek a faith-filled, all-girls education. We are carefully examining ways to meet the needs of the diverse learners who make up today’s generation of young women,” notes Betters.

Additionally, Betters comments, “Our school fulfills a moral imperative when it secures the well-being of our students. The Wellness Program at Our Lady of Mercy Academy affirms this commitment.” Funded through a lead campaign gift from Kathi and Paul Barnett, the program unites spiritual, mental, academic, and psychological wellness services under one umbrella, while offering students an opportunity to access a holistic education guided in the charism of the Sisters of Mercy.



Our Lady of Mercy Academy Welcomes New Principal, Sandra Betters

On July 16, 2018, Our Lady of Mercy Academy (OLMA) welcomed our new principal, Sandra Betters.



Ms. Betters, a talented and mission-driven educational leader and administrator, comes to us from Rockland County Day School in Congers, NY, where she served as Academic Dean. In that independent school model, she reported to the Head of School and served in the role of Principal. Her professional experience also includes leadership roles for curriculum development, professional development, teacher mentorship, Gifted and Talented Department Chair, and Professional Learning Community (PLC) leader. Prior to serving as an administrator, she taught senior high school English, middle school Math, and, briefly, in elementary education.

Ms. Betters is enthusiastic about her new role as Principal at OLMA. In her words, "I am thrilled to join the OLMA mission of zeal, educating these young women through faith, compassion, and promise, embracing the charism of Catherine McAuley, and providing students with a well-balanced, innovative, and rewarding educational experience. My ongoing priority will be to promote collaborative leadership as a community of educators and foster the tradition of excellence at Our Lady of Mercy Academy. I am honored and humbled to continue my career as Principal among a community of professional educators who clearly embrace their mission of educating young women to become strong leaders in our world."

Ms. Betters is eager to build upon OLMA's 90-year tradition of creating a culture of excellence in all-girls education.



OLMA Alumnae Association Announces New Award

OLMA Alumnae Association President Barbara Ramsey Kiley '64 was thrilled to announce that a new award will be available to an incoming student from the Class of 2024. It is named the **OLMA Alumnae Award**. The funds for this award will be generated from the *Mercy Through the Decades Luncheon* each fall.

This OLMA Alumnae Award is a partial tuition award available to an incoming 9th grade student. Priority will be given to a student with an Our Lady of Mercy alumnae connection. To be considered, an applicant must list Our Lady of Mercy Academy as her first choice on the Catholic High School Entrance Exam (CHSEE) and maintains an 85% or above grade-point average. The award dollar amount, averaging \$2,000, is determined by the Alumnae Association Award Committee. The scholarship is renewable for all four years provided the student meets the necessary criteria. Ten-thousand dollars was earmarked for this initiative from the proceeds of the October 2018 event.

Class Notes

1970's

Katherine Donohue '75 is a civil engineer in the heavy construction industry. Her firm, Granite Construction Northeast, Inc, recently completed work on the new Tappan Zee Bridge, officially called the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge.

Cathy Manion '76 retired from IBM and works pro bono with nonprofit organizations in Connecticut as a partner with Social Venture Partners. She also participated in OLMA Career Day 2018 and was a lead donor in our annual Be the Light Challenge.

1980's

JoAnne Irace Duffy '81, a Director with Alex. Brown Inc., was named Raymond James and Associate's ("RJA's") 2018 Branch Administrative Manager of the Year during the annual Manager's Conference in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Maureen Farrelly Marsala '82 is President of MPT Restoration and Mitigation Services and class representative.

Ingrid Birnbach Keag '84 is a Managing Director in the Operational Risk Department at Morgan Stanley and recently returned to OLMA for Career Day.

Suzanne Viscovich '87 is a principal and manages a primary/elementary building of 250 kindergarten and first-grade students.

Deirdre Ryan '88 works in the field of technology and is a director of international projects that digitize, preserve, and publish archival material from developing countries at a nonprofit based in NYC.

1990's

Melissa Kramps '93 has a Masters and Doctorate in Nursing and is a nurse practitioner. She shared her knowledge at OLMA Career Day 2018 as a panelist.

Anne V Nienstedt '94 shared her experiences as a family medicine physician in Wading River with the junior class at OLMA Career Day 2018.

Karen Signoracci-Suero '96 is a strategic nonprofit consultant.

Clare Smith-Kerrigan '98 is an architect and partner at David Smotrich & Partners LLP, a 100% woman-owned and NYS & NYC-certified Women's Business Enterprise. She participated in 2018 Career Day.

Danielle Brennan Polgar '98 is living in Santa Fe, NM. She is a psychotherapist, married to a chiropractor, and has a one-year old daughter.

Mary DeCillis Meyer '99 is an interior designer who works on all aspects of residential interior design, re-design, home staging and styling, and product sourcing/shopping. Mary participated in OLMA Career Day 2018.

Julie Lohrius Papas '99 is a small business owner at ClayNation in Glen Cove and participated in OLMA Career Day 2018.

2000's

Josefa Pace '01 possesses a PhD in Literacy Studies and teaches at the college level in New York and California. Her first book, *Finding Patterns: Traveling Four Women's Paths*, was published in 2016. She shared her experience at OLMA Career Day 2018.

Maria Panarelli Ganzi '01 is the Development and Talent Lead for the Consumer Bank at JPMorgan Chase and participated in OLMA Career Day 2018.

Monica Howard '01 is the Associate Executive Director of the ELIJA School in Levittown. She is a behavior analyst specializing in children diagnosed with severe autism and was a participant in OLMA Career Day 2018.

Danielle Quigg Nefouse '01 is a senior relationship manager within BlackRock's Financial Institutions Group. She is also actively involved in BlackRock's Women's Initiative Network.

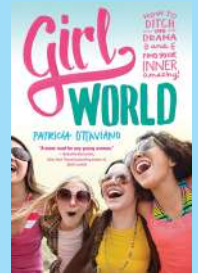
Amanda S. Reynolds, Esq. '01 works as an attorney in the General Liability/Insurance Defense Civil Litigation practice group of Rivkin Radler, LLP in Uniondale, NY. Amanda recently joined OLMA's Alumnae Association and participated in OLMA Career Day 2018.

Colleen Creegan Deere '02 was promoted to Executive Director of American Corporate Partners, a leading national nonprofit organization that works with transitioning military veterans to help them find rewarding civilian careers after their service.

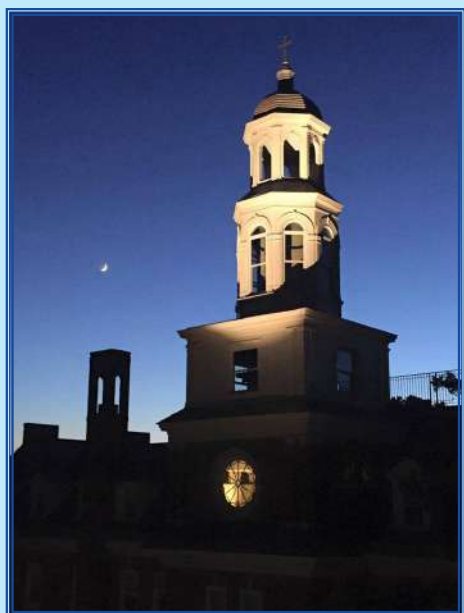
Karen Kennedy '02 is a detective in the NYPD Forensics Investigation Division and recently participated in OLMA Career Day 2018.

Calling all OLMA Authors!

Our OLMA Author Corner in our Library keeps on growing. If you are an author and would like your book to be featured in our Library, please email pdilollo@olma.org.



Alumnae Highlights



90th Anniversary Year Ends on a High Note!

OLMA's year-long celebration of our 90th Anniversary concluded with the Annual Family Mass on October 13, 2018. During the anniversary year, we were challenged to show our support of Mercy by raising funds for tuition assistance. Our alumnae came through with flying colors by supporting the Gala in April, exceeding the goal of \$100,000 for the annual Be the Light Challenge last June, and raising more than \$40,000 at the Mercy Through the Decades Luncheon last October. We cannot begin to tell you what a difference this makes in our efforts to provide families desiring a Mercy education the means by which to afford one. Thank you to all who participated in the 90th Anniversary celebration!

Kathy Stewart Memorial Award Announced

In 2015, Megan and Katie Stewart lost their mom, OLMA graduate Kathleen Harned Stewart '70, to cancer. To honor her memory, a fundraiser was held last summer at The Crescent Beach Club in Bayville. The proceeds from this event will be used to fund the Kathy Stewart Memorial Award. This \$10,000 award will be awarded to a Mercy graduate wishing to pursue a nursing degree upon graduation. Both sisters feel strongly that this award will change the life of a young woman who will walk in their mothers footsteps and become a nurse. The date is already set for the next fundraiser, Wednesday, July 31, 2019 at The Crescent Beach Club. All are welcome to attend. You can email Megan and Katie at KathyStewartScholarship@gmail.com.



OLMA Alumnae supported the Kathy Stewart Memorial Scholarship event in August of 2018.



New Feature on OLMA.org Alumnae Business Directory

Introducing our new alumnae online business directory. This new page on our website will allow alumnae to search other alumnae-owned businesses.

If you would like to be added to the directory, please visit www.olma.org/business and fill out the form.

Career Day - December 7, 2018



Career Day Keynote Speaker Susan Leonard Whitney '68 with Cathy Mannion '76, and Alison Morris '97.



Panelists Tara Turtell Caiazza '06, Karen Kennedy '02, and Melissa Kramps '93.



Media Workshop presenters Tara Turtell Caiazza '06, Alison Morris '97, and Michelle Clancy-Fernandez '91.



Danielle Kuigg Nefouse '01, OLMA principal Sandra Betters, Monica Howard '01, and Maria Panarelli Ganzi '01.

Thank you to the following 2018 Career Day Participants:

Tara Turtell Caiazza '06
Kathie Fitzgerald Donohue '75
Michelle Clancy-Fernandez '91
Maria Panarelli Ganzi '01
Monica Howard '01
Angela Jett P'19
Ingrid Birnbach Keag '84
Karen Kennedy '02
Clare Smith Kerrigan '98
Melissa Kramps '93
Kristen Collins Lee '06
Cathy Manion '76
Tricia Hettrich Martorella '91
Mary Decillis Meyer '99

Lisa Mladinich
Ellen Montana
Alison Morris '97
Jacqueline Mulligan
Danielle Kuigg Nefouse '01
Anne V. Nienstedt '94
Josefa Pace '01
Julie Lohrius Papas '99
Amanda S. Reynolds '01
Deidre Ryan '88
Lindsey Stearns '09
Alicia Sundberg P'15
Susan Leonard Whitney '68
Katie Wicks '10
Suzanne Visovich '87

If you would like to volunteer for next year's Career Day on December 6, 2019, please email Pat DiLollo at pdilollo@olma.org.

Mercy Through the L

More than 300 OLMA alumnae, former faculty, staff, and Sisters of Mercy returned to Syosset to honor five special women and to celebrate milestone reunions on Saturday, October 13, 2018. The Mansion at the Oyster Bay Golf Course was the venue for the *Mercy Through the Decades Luncheon*. The money raised at the event is the foundation for the OLMA Alumnae Association Award.

The luncheon was the culmination of the 90th anniversary celebration for alumnae. Many alumnae traveled far and wide to commemorate their milestone reunions and pay homage to faculty and staff that made a difference in their lives. This luncheon will become an annual event. All graduation years are always welcome to attend. Save the date for October 19, 2019.

2018 Honorees



Honoree
*Mrs. Shelley Stoltz and
Pat Genovese DiLollo '70*



Honoree
*Ms. Loretta Sweeney and
Pat Genovese DiLollo '70*



Honoree
*Sr. Elaine Hansen, RSM and
Pat Genovese DiLollo '70*



Honoree *Mrs. Claire Wooley
and Elsie Warren, former
OLMA dance teacher.*



Honoree *Peggy
Kaminski Williams '67*

Decades Luncheon

YOUR VOTE COUNTS! Two New Awards Announced

October's *Mercy through the Decades Luncheon* was the first time OLMA recognized former faculty members as honorees. They were selected based on input from the OLMA's Alumnae Association. Based on the feedback of alumnae, it was decided to open the nomination process up to all Mercy alumnae. The following is a description of the Award and how you can participate:



OLMA Class of 1968 celebrates 50 years

OLMA Faculty/Staff Impact Award

This award will be presented each fall at the *Mercy through the Decades Luncheon* to former faculty/staff members who have made an impact on the lives of their students. The recipients should have demonstrated extraordinary dedication and educational excellence during their time at Mercy.

OLMA Fides, Mores, Cultura Alumnae Award

This award will be presented each fall at the *Mercy through the Decades Reunion Luncheon* to a Mercy graduate whose accomplishments are deserving of recognition. The recipient's life should reflect the Mercy values of Fides, Mores, and Cultura. The accomplishments could be in the realm of achievement in her career, her service to others, or her personal achievement.

Alumnae are invited to submit their nominations for both awards by sending a short statement explaining why this person should be so recognized. Please include your name and contact information and email to pdilollo@olma.org or mail to:

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

All nominations must be received by May 1, 2019. A committee made up of members of the Alumnae Association will review all applications. The recipient will be announced in June and presented at the *Mercy through the Decades* event in October.



OLMA Class of 1964



More Mercy Through the Decades Memories



OLMA Class of 1978 celebrates 40 years!
Thank you Kathleen Hyatti Sapanski for chairing your reunion.



OLMA Class of 1988 celebrates 30 years!
Thank you Maureen O'Keefe McGovern for chairing your reunion.



Left to Right: Members of the Class of 1973
Jean Ruane Staudt, Kathryn Higgins, Nancy Fink,
Nancy Dauscher Laurino, and Kathleen Wright
Walden celebrating at the luncheon.



Left to Right: Cindy Ruppel Engle '68, Ginny
Ruppel Coffey '70, Chris Ruppel Northacker '78,
and Joanne Ruppel '79 enjoying a family reunion
at the luncheon.



Left to Right Standing: Eileen Snyder Magri '76,
Cathy Manion '76, Ginny Saladino Ewen '76, Mary
Ellen Treacy Warch '76, Kasey McCrossen '12, and
Nancy O'Doherty Hanft '76. Left to Right
Seated: Sister Joan Fry, RSM, and Sister Helen
Lyons, RSM.



Left to Right: Christine Siracusa Valenti '99,
Lauren Toscaco Tobin '00, Janine Tedesco -
Gravina '00, and Maura Duffy Alfano '99 catching
up at the luncheon.

Christmas Tea - December 1, 2018

Dagger DogVinci mesmerized guests at the recent Christmas Tea. Yvonne Dagger, a fine artist and mother of Mercy graduate Andrea '96, adopted Dagger after he was unable to fulfill his duties as a service dog. Within a short time, Yvonne taught Dagger to paint, and, to date Dagger has created over 450 works of art. All of his artwork is sold for charity, and he has raised \$40,000 over the past few years! Dagger DogVinci donated over \$1,000 to benefit the Sister Jackie Walsh Angel Fund at the Christmas Tea. A special thank you to Mary Ellen Treacy Warch '76 and the Christmas Tea Committee for another successful event.



Members of OLMA Class of 1960 enjoying one another's company at the Christmas Tea.



The star of the day, Dagger DogVinci.

Barnett Field Dedicated - April 18, 2018



Thanks to the generosity of Kathi and Paul Barnett, a completely renovated softball field was dedicated on April 18, 2018. Sister Helen Lyons, RSM, blessed and dedicated Barnett Field. The Lady Mustangs are thrilled with their new softball home!



Participants in the 2018-2019 Focus on the Future: Mercy Mentors Program. OLMA College juniors and seniors are paired up with OLMA graduates in the same field.



OLMA 2018 graduates and Ireland pilgrimage students stopped by during their college break to catch up and enjoy a comfortable cup of tea with traveling partner, President Margaret Myhan.

Class

2000's continued...

Fionna Sciamé Elliot '05 received her JD in 2013 and was admitted to practice law in the state of New York. She is VP of Communications for Sciamé Homes in NY.

MaryKate Kane '05 is Sr. Account Manager, Fashion and Retail Division, at 24Seven, Inc.

Tara Turtell Caiazza '06 returned to OLMA this year to participate in Career Day 2018. She is a Senior Manager, Client Solutions, at Fox Broadcasting, where she works on product placements around Fox entertainment programming.

Kristen Collins '06 is a professional dancer, choreographer, teaching artist, and owner of Downstage Dance, LLC. She returned to OLMA to participate in Career Day 2018.

Michaela Salvo '07 is living in Washington, DC, working as an emergency room resident at George Washington University Hospital. Michaela graduated as an MD from University of Rochester in 2017. She married **Cristen Monahan '07** who is pursuing her masters degree at George Washington University.

Deirdre Reedy '07, OLMA English teacher, married Paul Murphy on December 23, 2018, at Corpus Christi Church in Mineola.

Jessica Ewald '08 is starting a new position as Analyst at U.S. Department of Justice.

Shannon Todd '08, daughter of OLMA basketball coach Randy Todd and sister of **Kelsey '10**, was married in Tuscany, Italy, in May of 2018.



Lindsey Stearns '09 is an Assistant District Attorney with the Manhattan District Attorney's Office and participated in OLMA Career Day 2018.

Emily Tompsett '09 is lead technology teacher at the Montclair Kimberly Academy in New Jersey. She coaches the Mock Trial team as well.



Kimberly Maxson '10 was the guest speaker for the Tri-M Honor Society Induction in December. She is an aspiring actress living in Philadelphia.

Ashley Morris '10 is an Account Executive at Partnership Marketing at the National Hockey League.

Ariel Roberts '10 is in her second year of medical school.

Katie Wicks '10 is a fundraiser for International Rescue Committee, an international humanitarian and development aid agency and NGO, working with refugee populations in the US and around the world. She shared her experience at OLMA Career Day 2018.

Ashley Scaglione '11 is starting a new position as Senior Planner at Zenith.

Erin Storm '11 is a Physician's Assistant.

Mary Awad '12 is the Marketing Coordinator for Avison Young.

Marianne Castellana '12 is a mental health counselor intern at Zucker Hillside Hospital.

Emily McDonald '12 is a diligence consultant for mid-market private equities that are looking for mergers and acquisitions at TriVista Consulting. She would love to speak with anyone interested in an engineering career and can be reached at em.mcdonald16@gmail.com.

Kelsey Salvo '12 graduated from Marquette University in 2016 with a dual degree in mathematics and elementary education. She is now pursuing an MA in Education Policy at the University of Pennsylvania.

Caleigh McGoldrick '13 received a fellowship and is serving as a Global Advocate Fellow for MAMA HOPE, a US-based organization that pairs aspiring young change-makers with grassroots community-based organizations in South America and East Africa. Caleigh also spoke to OLMA's Women's Empowerment Club in the fall before leaving for Africa.



Notes

Jeanette Anobile '14 is the Activities and Volunteer Coordinator at Sunrise Senior Living in East Meadow and would welcome student volunteers.

Christina Doyle '14 works in the fashion industry as an allocation analyst at G.H. Bass. She recently returned to OLMA to participate in Career Day 2018.

Elisa Fenter '15 is starting a new position as freelance PR Assistant at Zac Posen Handbags.

Nicole Macedo '15 graduates from the Connell School of Nursing at Boston College in May. She spent her spring semester studying in Rome last year.

Kiera Salvo '15 is in her senior year at University of Southern California, pursuing her degree in mechanical engineering. Kiera has accepted a position at Vertech as Controls Integrator.

Emma Storm '15 graduated from FIT in December and has started her own freelance graphic design business.

Carolyn Merino '16 has been studying at Oxford University beginning October 1, 2018.

Alessandra Petrucci '16, Katie Tota '16, and Gabriella Marchesi '16 would like to create a Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic. All three classmates enjoyed a life-changing trip and have shared their memories throughout the alumnae community. If you would like more information regarding this service trip, e-mail Alessandra at apetrucci25@gmail.com.



REUNION INFORMATION

Special thanks to the following women for organizing their respective reunions:

Barbara Ramsey Kiley '64
Janey Austen Papke '66 and Dorice Strodthoff Campbell '66
Kathleen Hyatt Sapanski '78
Maura O'Keefe McGovern '88

Mercy Through the Decades 2019 Reunion Information
Saturday, October 19, 2019 at the Mansion at Oyster Bay Golf Course
Luncheon 11:00 AM
Tours at OLMA following Luncheon
Mass in Chapel at 5:00 PM

Classes of **1954, 1959, 1974, 1989, 2004, 2009, 2014**: volunteers needed to coordinate reunions.
If interested, contact Pat DiLollo at pdilollo@olma.org.

Class of 1964 -- 56 years

Barbara Ramsey Kiley
516-448-8334
levitkils@optonline.net

Class of 1969 -- 50 years

Marian Satriani
631-428-7887
lmsojourner@optonline.net

Class of 1979 -- 40 years

Erin Horan Blaustein
631-664-2575
erinblaustein22@gmail.com

Anne Genovese DeSimone

516-644-1983
desimone6@aol.com

Class of 1984 -- 35 years

Francine Mango Cosenza
516-578-2052
mangogirl66@outlook.com

Ingrid Birnbach

917-992-5959
ingrid_keag@yahoo.com

Dawn Flynn

646-737-3624
dawnflynn@aol.com

Class of 1994 -- 25 years

Nora Kearns Grady
516-294-9841
ngkearns@yahoo.com

Class of 1999 -- 20 years

Amanda Corbo-Mericle
516-921-1047 x 122
acorbo@olma.org

Maura Duffy Alfano

917-697-4178
duffy.maura@gmail.com



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

Mercy On The Move



OLMA Returns to Florida March 21st - March 28th.

Look forward to connecting with our Florida Mercy Family in March.

Join OLMA for Happy Hour in Washington, D.C.

OLMA looks forward to connecting with our D.C. area Mercy Family on May 16, 2019.



Join OLMA for Happy Hour in Boston

Look forward to connecting with our Boston area Mercy Family on June 20, 2019.



To learn more about these events and register, please visit www.olma.org/alumnae.