

Mercy

Learning ~ Leadership ~ Legacy

A Newsletter For Mercy High School Alumnae

Mercy Graduates Class of 2009



Sisterhood: Alumnae classes '69, '73, '77, '81, '85, '89, '93, '97, '01 and '05 "sponsored" '09 with their Annual Fund contributions. These alumnae can take special pride in the accomplishments of our latest grads! Beginning next year, gifts of time and treasure from these same classes, including 2009, will benefit the Class of 2013 for their four years at Mercy.

Mercy High School Alumnae welcomed more than 160 new members as the Class of 2009 graduated in May. 99% of the class is pursuing higher education in outstanding colleges and universities, with the help of more than \$5M in scholarships!

Sr. Mary considered it a distinct honor to address the class one last time as their principal at graduation. She thanked them for wonderful memories such as the senior trip to Williamsburg. The class was "never late, never grumpy and always impressive. After Mass, people stopped us to compliment us on your presence and behavior, even though one of you had one shoe on because the other was back at Busch Gardens!" Later that day, a security guard told Sr. Mary he used to work with youth groups in his church, but got disillusioned because they were so negative. Our Mercy girls restored



A quote from Valedictorian, Jessica Oidtman, who will attend Johns Hopkins University and major in Molecular Biology: "We are a group of friends, of sisters who have come to know, support, and love each other over the past four years. We are the Class of 2009. We have left our unique mark on Mercy, and now, we must go out and leave our mark on the rest of the world... Mercy will be with us forever."

Salutatorian, Laura Gioco, will attend Fairfield University in the Honors Program where she has been awarded a prestigious Magis Scholarship. At graduation she said, "Mercy is a place where you help others, but have so much fun in the process... Mercy has instilled in us the values of hospitality, generosity, care and compassion for those less fortunate... Although our time here has come to an end, Mercy will always be a part of us, wherever we may go."



his faith in youth; they were full of joy, polite and respectful.

Without doubt, this is a credit to the Class of 2009. But, as Sr. Mary remarked, what set this class apart is the extraordinary manner in which they brought good to our society. The service this class rendered brought international acclaim for work in providing school uniforms to poor children in Africa. They raised thousands of dollars for girls in the Sudan and spent countless hours closer to home visiting (and charming!) the elderly, baking pies for the poor at Thanksgiving, collecting toys and gifts at

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Christmas, making bunny bundles at Easter, conducting food drives almost monthly, raising \$25,000 for orphans in Haiti, preparing meals for the homeless, making and distributing prayer shawls throughout the year... the list is endless!

In closing, Sr. Mary spoke for all of us in the Mercy community as she congratulated and thanked the class. "With your charm and sense of hospitality, you can take the world by storm! We are so proud of you! You are real Women of Mercy! Go, with our love, respect and affection." **M**

Sisterhood in Action

Sisterhood is a tradition at Mercy. Students in their Junior year adopt a little sister. As alumnae, you are asked to “adopt” a specific class year of students and support them with your annual fund contributions. Donated funds are spent on class-specific needs such as curriculum/classroom support and preserving Mercy traditions and activities and will support the same cohort of students until they graduate.

“This support of a specific class sounds like a great idea — a special way to connect with a specific group of students — watch them grow and take pride in their development.” A. A. ‘87

The Class of 2012 is supported by ‘68, ‘72, ‘76, ‘80, ‘84, ‘88, ‘92, ‘96, ‘00, and ‘04. Here are some reflections on the class written by Diane Santostefano, Class Moderator.

Our Freshwomen have been busy their first year at Mercy. As a class they made a positive impression on faculty and staff and are regarded as friendly and open. They certainly found their own voices as the year progressed.

In September, the freshman class met their counterparts from Xavier at the Freshman Social. Later that month, they were formally welcomed into the Mercy community by their Big Sisters from the Junior Class.

During December, the class showcased their school spirit by decorating their hallway for Christmas with the theme “Sounds of the Season.” That spirit was renewed during Spirit Week as they experienced their first cake auction and came to school dressed as rock stars.

In April and May, 23 students ran in the primary for Student Executive Board positions. The field was narrowed down to eight students running for five positions. The newly elected student leaders attended the Freshman Leadership Workshop at Newington High with about 600 students from around the state.



Francesca and Nicole are all smiles following their Freshwoman Pin Ceremony.

The Class of 2011 is supported by ‘67, ‘71, ‘75, ‘79, ‘83, ‘87, ‘91, ‘95, ‘99, ‘03, and ‘07. This update is reported by Jennifer Larson and Daniela Esposito, Class Moderators

Members of the Class of 2011 are beginning to hit their stride. As sophomores, they demonstrated increased familiarity with Mercy and are now comfortable with rules, regulations and expectations. They are becoming more involved in extra-curricular activities and showing an interest in leadership positions as they grow. Class officers have learned to share ideas with the class for feedback and also to respond to class members’ needs.

Mercy sophomores grooved into springtime with a fantastically themed Spirit Week entitled “Mercy Behind the Music.” After dressing appropriately on Twin Day, St. Patrick’s Day, St. Joseph’s Day and participating in the cake auction, sophomores rose to the occasion of the genre of music they were assigned: pop. No uniform inspection that day. What fun!

Mercy hallways were definitely full of Christmas excitement and cheer in December. The annual hallway decorating contest spawned heated competition among classes. This year’s win went to our sophomores for their NYC theme.



The Class of 2010 is supported by '70, '74, '78, '82, '86, '90, '94, '98, '02, and '06. Here are some reflections on the class written by Lorra Carey, Class Moderator.

I have had the pleasure of working with an absolutely amazing group of girls who make up the Class of 2010. As a class they represent kindness and true caring and concern for each other and the caring for others beyond the walls of Mercy.

These girls have been instrumental at spearheading the Peace Jam Club and Going Green. As members of Peace Jam our girls planned and lead an enlightening workshop dealing with women and children and the struggles and poverty that exist in the world. The message of the workshop was that one girl can make a difference. Amy Vanacore was a leader at the October conference and led a workshop about going green. Rachel Farnham is a member of the Student Peace Alliance and the Northeast representative.

Our theme for this Class is "Unity" so everything we do surrounds this. At their Ring Ceremony, each member of the class poured colored sand into a glass vase making a beautiful sand art design to signify individuality as well as unity. We will put together a class quilt next year with each student designing her square, to continue the togetherness theme.

The Class formed a Leadership Committee to involve the opinions and ideas of more than just those of the executive board. This has worked well and has helped to keep the students informed; we will continue this next year. The events that they put together are classy and well thought out. The Junior Class is an energetic, motivated, creative and enthusiastic group; each of them is willing to step outside of themselves to help another. I am looking forward to guiding and mentoring them as seniors next year.

Student Leader Mission Statement 2009-2010

We, the Class of 2010, are called to lead the Mercy Community. With unity, respect and compassion, we follow our foundress, Catherine McAuley. Through our diverse community, we welcome and include everyone. Our leadership roles in school extend to our community through our dedication and service. As we move on, we will pass along our knowledge and values to the leaders of future classes of our school with the hope that they will become the Mercy women we have aspired to be.

The Class of 2009 was supported by '70, '74, '78, '82, '86, '90, '94, '98, '02, and '06. Next year this same group, along with '09, will "sponsor" the Class of 2013 throughout their tenure at Mercy.



Two alumnae joined with staff and the Class of 2009 as they celebrated their years at Mercy on Class night. Pictured here are Joan Doherty Darling, Sylvia Garstka, Suzanne Berry Aresco, Steve Brickey, Buff Bachenheimer and Carolyn Garofoli.

Speaking on behalf of alumnae, Kathy Nadeau, addressed the Class of '09 at their Senior Breakfast in May. In her words:

I recently spoke at the Senior Breakfast and was taken back to a time when it was my turn to leave the safe surroundings of Mercy's halls. I felt the warmth of Mercy students. They remain very respectful and kind.

With their attention turned toward me, I informed them that I have a daughter who graduated in 2004. So I can speak to them from the advice and counsel I have given and received from her. I think it is very important for each student to make her own business cards and include 'Alumnae of Mercy High School'. Mercy is the first of many contacts you can use to build careers and future plans - a sisterhood of help. Mercy will never close the door on you. A reach back is always available.

I asked associates what they would say to a graduating class. Take advantage of living—time flies by—don't be afraid—try new things—stretch your limits—follow dreams to find the career that makes you happy. I heard this saying "if you can work your whole life and never feel like it was work, then you have found your dream job." I truly hope and pray that each student finds that pleasure.

Now, my daughter's advice was very different than mine but still needed to be shared. She recommended they don't put off picking a major. Also, don't drink too much. Distrust fraternity men at all costs. Don't eat too much and make every effort to go to the gym regularly.

Mercy is truly a sisterhood of support and service. The "Mercyisms" you enjoyed as students are available to you as an alumna. Reach out. Stay connected. Get involved.

God bless, Kathy Borrelli Nadeau '73

MISSION STATEMENT

Mercy High School, a Catholic diocesan high school for young women, is committed to providing an educational experience that responds to individual needs. In the tradition of the Sisters of Mercy and their foundress Catherine McAuley, each student is challenged to grow, to realize her full potential, and to provide service to others within an atmosphere that fosters a spirit of community and compassion. Founded by the Diocese of Norwich, Mercy gives preference in admission to young Catholic women residing in the diocese; however, enrollment is open to all who qualify regardless of religion, race, or nationality.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mr. Carl Carta
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Ms. Teresa Opalacz '76
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Sr. Georgeann Vumbaco, RSM '67
(Chair)
Atty. William B. Wynne
Sr. Mary A. McCarthy, RSM
Principal

The Spirit Of Catherine Lives On In Scholarships

The Spirit of Catherine McAuley lives on in so many ways at Mercy. Notable examples are the scholarships that bear her name. The "Spirit of Catherine Scholarship Program" was initiated in response to a growing need for student financial assistance. Each scholarship involves a pledge of at least \$1,000 each year for four years that is awarded as tuition assistance to an incoming freshman. The number of scholarships has nearly doubled since the program was announced in October 2008. While the popularity of the program is quantifiable, the gratitude of the recipients is beyond measure:

Although you do not know me, I feel as though I know you. I know that both of you are wonderful, nurturing and understanding people. The two of you have made it possible for me to attend Mercy High School. Thank you so much for your selfless donation to my education. Thank you so very much for this opportunity.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity you have given me. You

have changed my life. For the first time, I feel safe in an environment and I look forward to coming to school every morning. I enjoy the challenge of my classes, and I am thankful for the friends I have met here. It's so wonderful that you do so much for young girls like me.

I am very grateful for the financial aid you provided to allow me to become a member of the Mercy community. I am enjoying Mercy very much. All of my classes are great and everyone at the school is very helpful and caring. I am involved in many clubs including MYARC, Cooking Club, Middlesex Health Center and the Ambassador/ Recruitment Team. With your help, I look forward to three more years at Mercy High School. Thank you.

For more information about the Spirit of Catherine Scholarship Program, please contact Barbara Miller at 860-347-8957 or via email to bmiller@mercyhigh.com. M



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**Exclusive 10% discount
for Mercy alumnae
(first-time clients only)**

Who Mattered to You?

In the October 2008 issue of the alumnae newsletter, we asked if there was someone you'd like to thank for influencing you as a Woman of Mercy. The offer is still open. Take a minute and reflect on who had the greatest impact on you while you were a student at Mercy High. We'd like to publish your note in an upcoming issue of the newsletter. Please keep your comments brief, but be as specific as possible. They can be emailed to bmiller@mercyhigh.com or mailed to Alumnae Office, Mercy High School, 1740 Randolph Road, Middletown, CT 06457.

Some of the responses we've received are below. In addition to being printed in this newsletter, they were forwarded, whenever possible, to the person being thanked. It is definitely a "feel good" exercise. How very Mercy!

Mrs. Herbert, typing class, I was a junior and got held after class for talking during her lesson. She was making me wait so long that I said I was going to miss my bus and had to go. We had words and I got so mad I called her a name and stormed out of the room after she told me not to leave. The minute those words came out of my mouth I regretted it. I apologized the next day but never forgave myself for being a brat. She was a great teacher and was always so good to me. I knew that I had hurt her with the name calling and to this day it still bothers me that I did it. What mattered most was that she forgave me and although things weren't quite right between us again, I loved that class and admired her. I wonder now if I'd be that forgiving of some bratty teenager who I was trying to teach mouthing off to me. She taught me more than typing....it was, and still is, a humbling experience.

— ANN GANNON SIVORI, 1986

I would like to say that **Michelle Ryan '84** had an impact on me and I would like her to know that. Michelle was two years ahead of me but was someone for whom I had great respect as an athlete, a friend, a person who

exuded sportsmanship, but most importantly a role model. Michelle always treated everyone kindly and never disregarded the younger teammates. I appreciated that and when I became a junior and senior, I made a point to remember how that felt and made sure to pass that same respect onto the younger teammates the best I could. I think her leadership helped teach me to become a good leader and that has carried on throughout my life. Thank you Michelle.

— ELLEN MICHALSKI ADAMS, '86

Mrs Mooz was definitely the most influential person in my time at Mercy. She recognized my talent and allowed me to work on independent projects. She encouraged me to take extra classes at Hartford Art School and to apply to college for art. I was granted early acceptance at MassArt for my strong portfolio, thanks to her guidance. The funny thing is—the project she gave me that I most greatly disliked in high school was fashion design illustration. I've worked as a lingerie designer for 6 years now and am currently designing for Nordstorm in Seattle. Every time I draw I still remember who was the one who helped foster my skills. Thanks again Mrs. Mooz!

— JESSICA SWEENEY '98

I would like to take a second to thank **Mr. Brickey**. I will never ever forget the year he honored me with "The Golden Shovel Award" for answers on an essay exam he administered regarding the Civil War era of American History. I will admit now that I hadn't prepared nearly enough for this test and I did bluff my way as much as possible through most of the examination. He told me after class that it was obvious I didn't know up from down, however, because I had waxed it so eloquently and double talked it so effectively, he had to give me at least a C+ for effort if nothing else! The take home message was not: "don't study and you can still pass if you can construct a decent sentence" but rather "heck, if I can pull a C+ without studying, imagine what I could do if I did study...". When I went to college I would BEG for essay tests or thesis and excelled when presented with these. I was even offered a scholarship to law school which I declined to pursue other interests. If Mr. Brickey had not nurtured the double talking, manure pitching spirit in me, I might not have grown to be a more straight forward and factual professionally published and technical editor that I am today! Thank you for the understanding and encouragement Mr. Brickey!

— KATIE BENWAY HARMON, '81



**Mr. Steve Brickey,
Now and Then.**

Mr. Steven Brickey
History

Mercy Bids Farewell To Two Highly Revered Faculty Members

In her remarks at graduation, Sr. Mary recognized and thanked two women who left Mercy with the close of the school year.

Sr. Patty Moriarity has certainly been a part of our Circle of Mercy. She taught Mathematics, served as the Assistant Principal for Student Life and Director of Admissions. Perhaps more important to many of our students and alumnae, she coached softball and danced the Irish Jig in performances of "An Afternoon with Catherine McAuley." In every way she has witnessed Catherine McAuley's vision for young women as it is lived out in our Mercy school. She is continuing that vision in another way, as she heads to Chicago next year for a year of study before assuming a new position as Director of Formation for the Sisters of Mercy of the Northeast. We hope her new position will enable her to come back often to Mercy, Middletown. We will miss her but are so grateful for the ways in which she witnessed the charism of Mercy to so many and for the way she served countless young students with her commitment, talents and her deep belief in Mercy education. **M**

Eleanor Ubaldini is a true Mercy educator who has served with unwavering dedication for 40 years. She is the quintessential educator who never stops learning and inquiring. Like all good Mercy educators, her influence went well beyond the classroom. Her musical gifts were shared at all school Masses, prayer services and other celebrations. She has volunteered for many years at the Middlesex Convalescent and every week faithfully brought her "convalescent home girls" to visit the elderly. No holiday passed that these friends up the road were not thought of and cared for by Eleanor and her group of student volunteers. Eleanor also made Mercy a family affair. Her daughter is an alumna and her husband has been and continues to be pressed into service. Her calm spirit, great charity, wisdom and complete dedication will be sorely missed. We are grateful for her many years of service and pray the years ahead hold many wonderful memories for her. **M**



Alumnae, faculty and students joined Sisters of Mercy at the Susan G. Komen Walk for the Cure. Team Mercy went well over goal, raising thousands of dollars to support breast cancer research and patients.

Area Businesses that Support Mercy High School

The businesses listed below were generous supporters of Mercy High School. Please patronize them in appreciation of their support of our school. Be sure to say thank you on behalf of Mercy!

Abcon Environmental, Inc.
Atrion Networking
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Bergan Architectural Woodworking, Inc.
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Reunion Corner

*Celebrate friendships ~ Celebrate laughter ~ Celebrate sisterhood ~ Celebrate who you are
Celebrate unity ~ Celebrate tears between friends ~ Celebrate hugs ~ Celebrate Girls' Night Out
Celebrate Smiles ~ Celebrate Love ~ Celebrate Independence ~ Celebrate Volunteerism
Celebrate Family ~ Celebrate Dreams ~ Celebrate Mercy.*

2010 is months away, but it's not too early to get a group together and begin planning. As a matter of fact, Reunions for '70, '80, '85, '95 and 2000 are already underway! If your class year ends in a "0" or "5" and you would like to be involved in planning your reunion, please contact Barbara Miller at 860-347-8957 or via email bmiller@mercyhigh.com.

CLASS OF 1969

Save the Date! The Class of 1969 will take a day trip on Sunday, October 25, 2009. Watch your mail and/or www.mercyhigh.com for more information.

CLASS OF 1974

The Class of 1974 will gather again on Saturday, October 17, at Esca (corner of Washington and Main) in Middletown. \$25 fee per person includes hearty appetizers. Cash bar. Please RSVP no later than October 7. Spouses/significant others welcome! You can register online at www.mercyhigh.com or mail your check (payable to Mercy High School) to Mercy High School, 1974 Reunion, 1740 Randolph Road, Middletown, CT 06457. For those who need to travel to attend, discounted accommodations (\$89/night) have been arranged at the Courtyard by Marriott in Cromwell. Reservations must be made by September 17 to qualify for the reduced rate. Call 1-888-236-2427 to book your room. A directory of names, email addresses and life updates will be distributed. Please update your own information online whether or not you can attend. A copy of the booklet will be mailed to all '74-ers who cannot attend.

CLASS OF 1979

The Class of 1979 will gather again on Saturday, October 10, at Tuscan Grill

in Middletown. \$25 fee per person includes hearty appetizers. Cash bar. Please RSVP no later than September 30. You may register online or mail your check (payable to Mercy High School) to Mercy High School, 1979 Reunion, 1740 Randolph Road, Middletown, CT 06457. For those who need to travel to attend, discounted accommodations (\$89/night) have been arranged at the Courtyard by Marriott in Cromwell. Reservations must be made by September 10 to qualify for the reduced rate. Call 1-888-236-2427 to book your room. A directory of names, email addresses and life updates will be distributed. Please update your own information online whether or not you can attend. A copy of the booklet will be mailed to all '79-ers who cannot attend.

CLASS OF 1984

The Class of 1984 will get together on Friday, November 27, at Esca (corner of Washington and Main) in Middletown. \$25 fee per person includes hearty appetizers. Cash bar. Please RSVP no later than November 15. You may register online or mail your check (payable to Mercy High School) to Mercy High School, 1984 Reunion, 1740 Randolph Road, Middletown, CT 06457. For those who need to travel to attend, discounted accommodations (\$89/night) have been arranged at the Courtyard by Marriott in Cromwell. Reservations must be made by October 8 to qualify for the reduced rate. Call 1-888-236-2427 to book your room. A directory of names, email addresses and life updates will be distributed. Please update your own information online whether or not you can attend. A copy of the booklet will be mailed to all '94-ers who cannot attend.

CLASS OF 1989

The Class of 1989 celebrated on Saturday, August 29 at Mohegan Sun. Xavier '89 and spouses joined the fun. Pictures will be posted as they become available. Watch www.mercyhigh.com.

CLASS OF 1994

The Class of 1994 will celebrate their 15th reunion on Saturday, November 7, at Esca in Middletown. \$25 fee per person includes hearty appetizers. Cash bar. Please RSVP no later than October 20. You may register online or mail your check (payable to Mercy High School) to Mercy High School, 1994 Reunion, 1740 Randolph Road, Middletown, CT 06457. For those who need to travel to attend, discounted accommodations (\$89/night) have been arranged at the Courtyard by Marriott in Cromwell. Reservations must be made by October 8 to qualify for the reduced rate. Call 1-888-236-2427 to book your room. A directory of names, email addresses and life updates will be distributed. Please update your own information online whether or not you can attend. A copy of the booklet will be mailed to all '94-ers who cannot attend.

CLASS OF 1999

Plans for the Class of 1999 10th reunion are still tentative. Watch www.mercyhigh.com for updates and information.

CLASS OF 2004 gathered at Nikitas Bar and Bistro on Saturday, August 15. A good time was had by all. Check www.mercyhigh.com for pictures that will be posted as they become available.

Mercy Classic Benefits Scholarship Fund



The 17th annual Mercy Classic Golf Tournament, to benefit the Mercy High School Scholarship Fund, was held at Portland Golf Club on June 11, 2009. A sold out field played a scramble format, and enjoyed a continental breakfast, lunch at the gazebo and a buffet dinner.

Premier sponsor for the event, for the second year in a row, was James J. McCabe and Associates, Portland, CT. W. J. Mountford Company, South Windsor, CT was Golf Cart Sponsor, also for the second year. David Generoso and Ed Toledo, parents of Mercy students, served as co-chairs of the Mercy Classic. They were assisted by a large committee of parents, past parents, alumnae, faculty, staff and friends of Mercy High School. The day was a success in raising much needed funds to support tuition assistance. It was a fun day and good to see so many participating students, alumnae, parents...even grandparents.

The longest drive competition was won by Karen Erlandsen (women) and Joe Navin (men). The men's division

champions of this year's Mercy Classic were Andy Beckwith, Keith Laursen, Scott Marks and Jim McPherson. Women's division champions were members of the Mercy High School Class of 2009 golf team: Kaitlyn Guptill, Katie Mischke, Kathryn Satagaj and Molly Scott. Mercy's Golf Coach, Peter Golanski, who recently won the 200th match of his coaching career, was among the players.

Mercy alumna Jada Waters, class of 2003, addressed the golfers and thanked the sponsors during the dinner. She recounted how she would not have been able to attend Mercy had it not been for the scholarship program. After her graduation, she received her undergraduate degree as well as her masters degree, and is now pursuing her doctorate. To a standing ovation, she credited Mercy with giving her the support and confidence she needed to become the first in her family to graduate from college and the inspiration to pursue a career in non-profit management so she can give back to others in the community. **M**

Sofia Rose Walk

Sofia, daughter of Silvana Salafia Pepitone '90 and Salvatore Pepitone, Xavier '84, was diagnosed with a juvenile pilocytic astrocytoma brain tumor during the winter of 2009. Dr. Michael Scott, chief neuro-surgeon at Children's Hospital Boston, was able to remove 90% of this tumor which was located on Sofia's brain stem. She has since made a fabulous recovery with only minimal left sided weakness. Sofia's story is documented on the Caringbridge website: www.caringbridge.org/visit/sofiarose.

Sofia's parents were overwhelmed by the amount of support they received and realize other families are not as fortunate. A walk, in Sofia's honor, will take place on September 13, 2009 at Xavier. Families are encouraged to bring children and set their own goals from .5 to 5 miles! All proceeds will be donated to the Children's Hospital to pay for lodging, food, parking, transportation, and other expenses families incur during a sick-child stay in Boston. For more information, please contact Silvana at sspepitone@comcast.net. **M**

Special Notice!!

The annual fund solicitation for FY10 (July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010) will be mailed much earlier this year than in recent years passed. This is primarily so administrators can better plan and utilize resources in the upcoming school year. We trust that you value your Mercy education and are willing to support the next generation of Mercy girls to the best of your ability. If the timing of the solicitation is not the best for you, please consider making a pledge this fall that may be payable as late as June 30. Thank you in advance for your generosity!! **M**

Endometriosis Support Group

In November 2005, Rosemary Mahon '91 was diagnosed with endometriosis. "It was a diagnosis that initially filled me with relief, because the cause of all my suffering finally had a name. But, then the reality that there was no cure hit me and my life and the lives of my family changed forever. After encountering other women who have been diagnosed with endometriosis, the one aspect of the disease that seemed universal is how isolating the disease can be. I had wished

there was a support group, yet none seemed to exist in Connecticut, which leads me to the point of this note."

Rosemary would like to start a monthly endometriosis support group beginning in September. She invites Mercy Alumnae, current students and their mothers who have been affected by endometriosis to join her. If you would be interested in attending, please contact Rosemary for more information @ rosemary.mahon@gmail.com. **M**

Class Briefs

CLASS OF 1967

Jacquelyn “Jackie” Coleman, SVP of S & S Management Services, Inc., has been selected by the American Medical Association to receive its prestigious 2009 Medical Executive Lifetime Achievement Award. The award is presented for contributing “substantially to the goals and ideals of the medical profession... sustained over a significant term of service.” In addition to this award, Jackie has received Connecticut Association Executive of the Year in 1996, American Psychiatric Association’s Warren Williams Award for Outstanding Contributions to Psychiatry and Mental Health, Amicus Award for Devoted Service and Numerous Contributions to the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law, American Academy of Psychoanalysis and Dynamic Psychiatry’s President’s Award. She was honored for twenty years of dedication and service as Executive Director of the American Clinical Neurophysiology Society.

CLASS OF 1968

Susan Holda Sharpley and her husband live in Mansfield Center. She has one adult son. She retired her position as Director of Communications for the CT DOT after 35 years. “I went to work two weeks after I graduated in 1968. There’s a lot to be said for on-the-job training. I was blessed to have wonderful mentors during my career.” Susan has fond memories of *Carousel* and remembers Sr. Madeline Marie saying, “You don’t have to have all the answers, but it is important to know where to go to get the answers.” Susan’s message to her classmates is “keep smiling!” • sharpley4652@charter.net

Ann Hughes Soper attended Wheelock College and UVM. “I designed and manufactured a line of women’s clothing, Molly B, for five years and recently sold the business.” For each of the past 15 years, Ann and her husband spent a half year in St. John. When not there, they live in Lyme. She has four grown children. She fondly remembers sports with Mrs. Maher. “I am always wondering where everyone is and what their lives turned out to be. I will see you at the reunion” Her message to classmates is “live well, laugh often.” • Woodrose99@yahoo.com

Barbara Mierz McAuliffe lives in Middletown with her husband. They have 3 children and a granddaughter. Barbara earned her BS

in Early Childhood Education from SCSU and attended the UCONN School of Social Work. She retired as a Library-Elder Services Specialist. She has been active as a volunteer in Middletown, serving on many boards before founding, along with others, The Jamyang Choling Institute US to support the education of young women in the Indian Himalayas. “I truly enjoyed participating in the Mercy and Xavier Musicals. Intramural sports were also lots of fun. During my years at Mercy I learned to believe in my own abilities and those of other women. This serves me well.” • barbmcaul@gmail.com

Linda Perruccio Passanisi earned her BA from Georgian Court and her MS from CCSU. She is the Police Benefits Coordinator for West Haven and lives in Middletown with her husband. They have two children. Linda remembers “the only time I skipped school was when we were seniors. A bunch of us did it but we were so scared, we stayed inside all day! For whatever reason, on the night we graduated I thought about what I’d be 40 years from then... 58 years old and 40 years seemed so far away... but even then, 58 didn’t seem that old!” • lpassanisi@whpd.com

Gilberta Roche Augeri and her fiancé live in both Las Cruces, NM and Hobe Sound, FL. She earned a BS in Elementary Ed from CCSU and her MBA from UCONN. She is retired from the banking and finance world. Gillie has 3 stepchildren. She fondly recalls sitting on the floor in the hallways with friends before school, and Sr. Mary Bernard who taught a great English class! “Enjoy the reunion... wish I could be there. I will definitely show up for the 50th!” • gillier2@bellsouth.net

CLASS OF 1969

Gail Conners Delaney lives in Norwalk and is a Project Manager for Deloitte. She earned her AS degree at Bryant University. • GDelaney@deloitte.com

Barbara Warzecha Puffer of Guilford and Fort Myers Beach, FL was awarded the prestigious Region Leader of the Year award from the International Association of Business Communicators.. Have you told your story lately? Contact Barbara and Puffer Public Relations for PR needs large and small. • www.pufferpr.com pufferpro@snet.net

CLASS OF 1971

Irene Sullivan Neill lives in Longmont, CO and is a Registered Nurse at Longmont United Hospital. She enjoys hiking in the mountains, skiing, road biking, live theater and traveling. • isneill@msn.com

CLASS OF 1973

Joanne Sampieri lives in Middletown and is a Client Relationship Manager. She has a daughter, Kristen Lia Esteves, 35, and has fond memories of Sr. Eleanor. • jesampieri@hotmail.com

CLASS OF 1975

Tammy German Proctor earned her degree at Lasell Jr. College and is a stay-at-home mom. “I moved to WDC after college, married, moved to Hong Kong for 4 years, adopted a Chinese baby who is now a high school junior, moved to Seattle and now live outside Chicago. I am a member of the Dupage Art League, and enjoy painting oil and watercolor, as well as needlepoint and gardening. I fondly remember my little sister Helen, and my art teacher who set me on the road to my love of art. I also recall fringing my brown plaid skirt! To me, Mercy was a beautiful school and I was proud to go to it. I had good friends there.” Her message to her classmates “Hey 1975...I am alive! Email or write me. Miss you all, miss Middletown. It’s been a long time since I’ve been there.” Tammy lives in Naperville, IL with her husband and daughter. • ptkproctor@msn.com

Martha Lukens Gilmore and her husband live in Gillette, NJ with their two children. She graduated from Marymount College and is the Director of Gentle Shepherd Christian Preschool. Martha writes “I just started participating in Sprint Triathlons last year!! I fondly remember Sister Eugenie, Ms. Mary McEnery, Sister Sharon, who all played a part in my education. Sister Genie helped with Student Council that I participated in; Ms. McEnery was such a down-to-earth, great person; and Sister Sharon had faith in me to perform on stage and helped me get over shyness. I have a million memories from Mercy. I would go back to high school in a heart beat! Great friends that I still keep in touch with. I enjoyed every day there! I would consider Mercy the four best years of my life with regard to my education. I met an incredible group of women that I formed a life long bond with. When I see them today—even though it may be once every year or so—we

are still “Mercy girls.” We are comfortable in our skin, and supportive of our lives—know matter how different or scattered we are 30 plus years later! Mercy made us grow as women. It challenged us to be who we are today. It gave us an incredible foundation to go into the world with. The teachers, staff, and friends at Mercy really helped me be who I am today. It taught us that hard work, support, good friendships, a Christian environment and lots of fun made high school a great place! I am so grateful my parents encouraged me to go to Mercy.” • Margil57@aol.com

CLASS OF 1976

Doreen Gorman Zywockinski graduated from Briarwood and lives in Portland with her husband. She is a Medical Transcriptionist/Coder. Doreen writes “my greatest accomplishments in life are raising two beautiful daughters. When I see the women they have become, my husband and I are so very proud. I enjoy knitting, spending time with my family, my angel Bichon Frises. I love watching basketball and track meets. Reading is an all time favorite when I have the time. I have fond memories of Mr. Ferrigno. He was such a talented man who saw beyond and appreciated who you really were. I also loved my Creative Writing Class. A not so happy memory was when I took sewing class and all my friends AND YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE, messed up all my sewing buttons. Needless to say, I flunked sewing TWICE. Of course who can forget Whoopie Day? I appreciate Mercy for the sense of togetherness. I cannot say enough about my four years there. It prepared me in many ways. I feel so fortunate that I had the opportunity to go there. I really miss the friends I have lost contact with. So many memories. Cheryl Ziobron, if you read this, PLEASE CONTACT ME. Debbie Reynolds, thanks for finding me. Julie Cleroux, where are you?” • zywockinski@sbcglobal.net

CLASS OF 1977

Melanie Breck Monroe lives in Georgetown, TX with her husband and two sons. She graduated from Briarwood College and is a teacher. She enjoys traveling, stained glass, exercising, reading and her pets. She fondly remembers Sr. Eleanor and Mrs. Wallack, and her Creative Writing and Comparative Government classes at Mercy. “Email me if you are in Austin, and lets get together!” • Eastcoaster06492@yahoo.com

Elaine Fomento Palmer is the Office Manager of Meadow Hill Veterinary Shoppe in Lebanon. She lives in Andover with her husband. They have 3 adult children and are proud of their 3 grandchildren! Elaine enjoys country music and concerts and fondly remembers Sr. Eleanor

for making her laugh in home room, and also *My Fair Lady*, *The Music Man*, *South Pacific* and *Mac Reed*. • Laneypl@aol.com

June Riggott Greaves earned her BS in Nutrition and Dietetics from St. Joseph and is an Infusion Nutrition Support Dietitian with Coram Specialty Infusion Services, working with individuals who rely on intravenous nutrition. She is an adjunct faculty at St. Joseph College, teaching a class on nutrition assessment and medical nutrition therapy. She is also a per diem dietitian for the Hospital for Special Care in New Britain. June and her husband live in Meriden. • jgreavesrd@aol.com

Cindy Sheehan lives in Middletown is a Quality Assurance Manager at Liberty Bank. She earned her degrees from Bryant College and CPI. • csheehan@liberty-bank.com

Renea Bousquet DiCicco lives in Middletown with her husband and two daughters. She is the Sales Manager for Neomatrix. “I am building a start up company out of Irvine, CA which manufactures and sells a new, innovative Breast Cancer Risk Assessment, which will change the dynamics of breast health, particularly for young women.” Renea has fond memories of the school trip to France. • rjccdicic@aol.com

Carol Ceulemans Giglio lives in Southwick, MA with her husband Peter and son, Ben. • carolgiglio@comcast.net

Patricia Dypa Jackowski earned her BSN and MA in Human Development/Gerontology from St. Joseph College and is certified in Gerontological Nursing by the American Nurses Association. She is a Case Manager/ Preceptor at Aetna. Patricia is the President of Altrusa International of Central CT and the New England District Treasurer of Civitan International. She and her husband live in Middletown. She fondly recalls Sr. Eleanor and the streakers. • pijcjj@sbcglobal.net

Barbara Korn King earned her BS from the University of Bridgeport and her graduate degree from John Moores University in Liverpool, England and works as a Specialist Research Nurse. She lives in Hampshire, England with her husband and three children. Barbara writes “I really enjoy traveling. I have lived in various countries throughout the world. I am a member of the parish council at our church. I have been on various parent committees at school and I am currently the vice chair of a specialist nurse’s group. All of the faculty members at Mercy were significant in their own way. Each contributed to making me the person I am today. My favorite memories of Mercy involve Sr. Eleanor Farren, not only as a teacher of Latin but also drivers education. Her first words of advice were never to let a boy put his arm around you when he was driving. My time at Mercy allowed me to develop in many ways. I was not the best

member of the track and field team but that experience taught me to persevere. If anyone is in England, please get in contact with me. I hope everyone that was at the reunion had a wonderful time, I was with you in spirit!” • Barbara1king@aol.com

Carol McCabe Bentivegna lives in Southboro, MA with her husband and three children. She earned her BA in Marketing from Bentley College.

Tayna Oliver-Perry earned her BS in Accounting from UCONN and is the Assistant Finance Director for Middletown. She lives in Middletown with her husband and two children. • Tperry7125@sbcglobal.net

Jo-Anne Passarelli Ureña lives in Milford with her husband and daughter. She earned her BS from Quinnipiac and is a business owner, Joe Passarelli & Co. She enjoys reading, cooking, hiking, scuba diving, and traveling and is a member of the CT Construction Industry Association. She fondly remembers Mr. Ksiazek. “We had the best time in his classes and he put up with a lot. He was truly an inspiration. He had a way to make math class fun. I also have great memories of our class trip to Washington DC, the Ring Ceremony and Spirit Week. I learned a lot about leadership and how to be self-sufficient. I learned how to strive to accomplish my goals. I have made a lot of good friends at Mercy and I just want to say thank you to all that made those 4 years special. A special thank you goes out to Debbie Sawicki for her friendship and laughter.” • jmpassarelli@sbcglobal.net

Deborah Sawicki Cossette lives in Plantsville with her husband and has two sons. She is a Daycare Teacher at The Stork Club in Cheshire. • deborahcossette@yahoo.com

Karen Spinnler Goersch her husband and two children live in Darien. She earned a BS in Accounting from Bentley and a MS in Finance from Boston College. She works in Investments as Director of Wealth Management at Price Financial Group. She enjoys skiing, tennis, kids soccer and lacrosse. She is a member of the Darien Soccer Association and has fond memories of Sr. Mary. • kgoersch@optonline.net

CLASS OF 1979

Susan Buckley lives in Beaver Dams, NY where she is a LPN. She has a 23 year old son, Christopher James. • Susie60@aol.com

Julia Hewitt graduated from Conn College. She teaches English and serves as Co-Director of the National Writing Project in VT. She is employed by Cabot School and UVM. Julia lives in Worcester, VT and has a daughter. She keeps in touch with Louise Wheatley who inspired her love of writing and literature while she was at Mercy. • Julia.hewitt@uvm.edu

Mary Elizabeth Kalleher Montague lives in Greenwich with her husband and their five children. She earned her BS from Marymount and enjoys walking and spending time with her family. • mb1215@optonline.net

Maureen O'Connor lives in East Hampton and is the Assistant Athletic Director/ Business at UCONN. She earned her BS from Providence and her MBA from the UHART. • Mocon0523@sbcglobal.net

Linda Sczurek Simons earned her BS from Springfield College and lives in St. Petersburg, FL with her husband and two children. She is the Director of Patient Accounts at Baycare Health System. She appreciates the excellent education and confidence she received at Mercy. • Linda.simons@baycare.org

CLASS OF 1980

Kimberley Cavallo Narlee earned her degree from Northeastern and works in Corporate Real Estate for CB Richard Ellis. She lives in Duxbury, MA with her husband and two children. "All my memories of Mercy are great!" • Kim.narlee@verizon.com

Nancy DeBiasio lives in Middletown and is a Nurse for the CT Department of Veteran's Affairs. She has 4 children. "I went back to school after my youngest children, who are twins, started school and received my nursing degree. Shortly thereafter, I divorced and was raising 4 children on my own. Without that education I would never have been able to support my family. I love the outdoors, taking long walks with my two dogs and feeling the sun on my face. I have fond memories of the friendships that I made and still have to this day. Sr. Mary was always a support with her open door policy. There were many times I needed some advice. Many years later my daughter attended Mercy and found the same comforting face at the doorway. THANK YOU! Mercy gave me self esteem as a young woman. I have come across many classmates with the help of Facebook. Recently, 3 classmates and I, met for dinner and a drink after more than 25 years of not seeing each other. It was like we graduated yesterday! Please continue saying prayers for our troops. My son just returned from Bagdad, Iraq after his first tour of duty, safe and sound. It was an extremely long year. It is not just the soldier that makes the sacrifice." • nancyandnurse@aol.com

Wendy Piontkowski Kazel, Esq. lives in North Las Vegas, NV. She earned her BS in Business and Marketing Management from the University of Phoenix, her MBA from Bienville University and her JD from Thomas M. Cooley Law School. "My accomplishments include; JD in Litigation Concentration and a Certificate in International Business and Com-

parative Law from Paris University One. I completed law school in an accelerated program, was on the Dean's List, Moot Court semi-finalist, Mock Trial Board, Women's Law Alliance and Phi Alpha Delta. I managed two international companies and now run my own general law firm. I have many hobbies that include tennis, skiing, photography, horseback riding, the arts, gourmet cooking, travel, my Italian Greyhound, and a passion for Porsches. Some of my favorite trips were an African safari and travels to Egypt, Australia, Scotland, and Hong Kong. I love Paris and lived there to do an international study in business law and attend Le Cordon Bleu. My favorite Mercy memory is of Drivers Education with Sr. Eleanor. She taught us how to change a tire. I still remember how, but would call roadside assistance today. I'm looking forward to the next reunion." • www.kazellaw.com attorneykazel@kazellaw.com

CLASS OF 1981

Beth Cole Gerundo lives in West Hartford with her husband and three children. She earned her BS from UCONN and works in Information Technology at The Hartford. • Beth_gerundo@yahoo.com

Tara Dowling earned her BA from Boston University and is a Foreign University Counselor for Uskudar American Academy. Tara lives in Istanbul. "I fondly remember Mrs. Marceau. She was a demanding and amazing teacher who inspired me to become fluent in French and study there. Also, Sr. Pat because she made me feel less hateful towards math :) Everyone seemed to be going to college after graduation. It was the thing to do. I was the first in my family. If anybody is traveling through southern Europe, come to Turkey!" • Taradowling63@yahoo.com

Dyana Scata McCracken lives in Columbia, SC with her two children. She is an Administrative Coordinator/Student at Palmetto Health Baptist Hospital. She enjoys tennis, hiking, kayaking, fishing and spending time outdoors, Dyana volunteers for the American Red Cross. • Dyana.mccracken@palmettohealth.org

CLASS OF 1983

Maria Breitenbach Stewart earned her BA from Seton Hill and is a Manager at UPMC Health Plan. She lives in New Brighton, PA with her husband and two daughters. "My husband and I enjoy family time and love to travel the US. I served on the Board of Supervisors for my township and held several positions on the PTA. I've talked about Mrs. Ubaldini to my girls because she taught me study skills. My girls are in the midst of learning that now. I had forgotten how difficult it can be to grasp. I will always remember the ceremonies at Mercy, those were very special to me. I'm a more con-

fident woman because of my education at Mercy and Seton Hill. I have little hesitation when asked to take on a new challenge." • jmstew@zoominternet.net

Marcy Carlone earned her BA in Psychology and MS in Counseling from St. Joseph. She is an Probation Officer for the State of CT. Marcy writes "In 2008 I received my License of Professional Counselor—something I have been hoping for since high school! I remember Mrs. Girolamo. I knew I wanted to be a counselor—without a doubt she was the person I wished to follow. Today, I can proudly say I have done so!" Marcy lives in New Britain with her spouse, Barbara. • Mcarl65@sbcglobal.net

Mary Beth Gelinis Towery is living in Lafayette, CA with her husband and two children. She graduated from Rosemont and is a mom and agency owner, employed by Bill Blass New York and a partner in BRUSH Art, Inc. "Who's out there? Anyone in CA???" • mbtowery@gmail.com

Lisa Inglis Daly lives in Wrentham, MA with her husband and two children. She is employed as an RN, having earned her degrees at St. Francis School of Nursing and CCSU. • Lisamdaly9699@gmail.com

Leslee Ives Hill and her husband live in Canton with their two children. She earned her BA from Providence and her JD from Western New England School of Law. She is an Attorney/Tax Consultant and a member of the Canton Board of Ed. • lesleehill@hotmail.com

Trudi Johnson Borkowski earned her Associates from Quinnipiac and is an ultrasound tech for Hammers Healthcare Imaging. She lives in Branford with her husband and two children. Trudi enjoys exercising, rollerblading and skiing and has fond memories of the senior class trip to Washington D.C. She would like to rekindle her Mercy friendships. • teborke@aol.com

Amy Lastrina Breau lives in Ledyard and is a dealer at Foxwoods Resort Casino. She has two daughters. • xx_breau@yahoo.com

Rebecca Margnelli Hammell lives in Higganum with her husband and seven children. She is a Private Nanny. • RHammell@sbcglobal.net

Kimberly Plumley Abramski, her husband and two children live in Brookfield. She earned her AS from Quinsigamond Community College and her BS in Health Science from Worcester State College. She is a Registered Dental Hygienist. • fourski@att.net

Terese Tanski Gregg earned her BA from URI and her MSW from Boston University. She is a Clinical Manager and Chair of the South Kingston Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force. She remembers Mrs. Ubaldini for always being kind and patient. Terese lives in Wakefield, RI with her husband and two children. • nuftsaid@verizon.net

CLASS OF 1984

Hilary Higgins Murray and her husband live in Bow, NH with their two daughters. She earned her BA from Assumption. • hilaryhmurray@comcast.net

Cathe Liedke Franco earned her BS from URI, her MS from SCSU and her post grad from RI College. She is a Special Educator in North Kingstown, RI. She lives in Hope Valley with her husband and two children. "Living out of state, I really look forward to the Mercy Alumnae newsletter. I was saddened to read of Sr. Eleanor's passing in August. During my years as a student, Sr. Eleanor made a huge impression on me. Although I have to admit I was always a bit intimidated by her larger-than-life presence. Sr. Eleanor always remained steadfast in her commitment to holding us all to a higher standard of conduct. She consistently reminded us that as young ladies we should always behave beyond reproach. I've always carried her life lessons, her commitment to our moral development, and of course, her driver's ed classes. Her example of a strong, out-spoken, fearless woman is something I will always remember. Because of her high expectations, I became a better person. No one who attended Mercy during her tenure will ever forget Sr. Eleanor. She was one of a kind!" • Cathe_franco@nksd.net

CLASS OF 1986

Suzanne LeBoeuf Shippee Lopez earned degrees from the University of Maryland and CCSU. She is the Internal Literacy Facilitator for the Middletown Board of Education. She lives there with her husband and three children. She loves spending time with her family! "My favorite Mercy memory is having mass in the auditorium. When I was at my cousin's graduation this past June, I remembered what a special place Mercy is! Mercy taught me to be respectful and work to my potential. Mercy also reinforced the true appreciation I have for my family." • shippeelopez@sbcglobal.net

Tammi Oliver Brown earned her RN from Wilcox College and her BSN from the University of Phoenix. She lives in Wilmington Island, GA with her husband and two children. She is a Staff RN II/Charge Nurse at Memorial Health University Medical Center. • Joeltam2@bellsouth.net

CLASS OF 1987

Anela Arcari was promoted from MAJ to LTC during a promotion ceremony in Wiesbaden, Germany. LTC Arcari is in the US Army Corps of Engineers. • Anela.arcari@us.army.mil

Nicole Dampf Niland earned a BA in Ed from La Salle and her BS in Ed from the UHART.

She is a teacher at Conard High in West Hartford, and a Professor at St. Joseph's College. She lives in Glastonbury with her husband and 2 children. • nniland@nniland.com

Heather Duggan Loughlin and her husband live in Laguna Beach, CA with their 4 children. Heather earned her BA in English from Villanova and is currently a stay-at-home mom. • tloughlin@yahoo.com

Cheryl Guerin Copeland did her undergrad and graduate work at Catholic University and is an Architect with Susan Woodward Notkins Architects. She lives in Silver Spring, MD with her husband, son and new joined our family on 7-2-08. We're blessed with a happy and healthy baby." • cgcopeland@yahoo.com

Debra Ann Pennuto-Muñiz fondly remembers Mrs. Ana DiGrazia Bello who pushed her and never allowed any slack. "I am in ministry today, something that God had in store for me even before I was born." Debra Ann lives in Groton and is the Ministry Director of Queen Esther Adoption & Foster Care Ministry II, "Advancing God's Kingdom...One Child at a Time." • dap_legal@sbcglobal.net

Michelle Tempe Ordway lives in Wallingford with her husband and is a stay-at-home mom, caring for two children. • dmordway@sbcglobal.net

CLASS OF 1988

Jennifer Biddle Gudrian and her husband live in Meriden where she is a stay-at-home mom to 3 children. • Mag1399@aol.com

Tammy Bona Spurgeon lives in East Haddam with her husband and two children. She earned her BS from URI, her MS from SCSU and is a Speech Language Pathologist at Gaylord Hospital. She enjoys walking, hiking with her family and photography. She has fond memories of Sr. Arlene. "I remember our multi-car pile up on our very last day of school as we paraded from McDonald's to Mercy! Luckily we were all traveling slow!! Mercy taught me to be respectful and caring to others, as well as to cherish life. I have many wonderful memories of my Mercy days, thanks to all of you!" • Tammy.spurgeon@sbcglobal.net

Kristen Bonalsky Massey earned her degree from SCSU and is employed by PMA Management Corp. of New England in Operations and Services. She lives in Madison with her husband and their twins. "My family and I enjoy water activities during the summer and snowmobiling in the winter. I have fond memories of our trip to Washington, DC...*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, anyone? I hope you are all well." • etlg@comcast.net

Mary Beth Broderick Hanson earned her BS in Forest Management from the U of ME, and is a Forester employed by the Campbell Group. She lives in Wilmington, NC with her husband and son. "Right now I am happily occupied with my expanding family. My second baby, a girl, is due in January. We enjoy living in NC and try not to forget how lucky we are to be here. I have fond memories of Mrs. Skowronski, English teacher...she helped me get my butt in gear. Also the anticipation and events before the junior ring ceremony and dance. You don't get that at any other school. I hope those of you that attended the reunion had fun....but not too much. It's just plain hard to believe that 20 years have passed." • Mb_hanson@bellsouth.net

Kim Cooke Lambertson lives in Harrison, NY with her husband and two children. She earned her BA from WCSU and is an Administrative Assistant at JP Morgan. She is a very busy, working mom! • rosesandchocolate@gmail.com

Ann Marie Costelli Polce "Sadly, I won't be able to make this month's reunion as we moved to Los Angeles last year for a great job for my husband. Since the move, I've had the opportunity to stay home with my son and daughter." Ann Marie and her husband live in Sherman Oaks, CA. • apolce@gmail.com

Susan Daley Kamerzel and her husband live in Southington with their two children. She earned a BS in Psychology from SCSU and is a Paraprofessional at DePaolo Middle School. She enjoys going to the beach and spending time with her family. She has fond memories of the talent shows at Mercy. • mkamerzel@cox.net

Robin DeAntonio DeFina earned her BA in Economics from UCONN and is currently a stay-at-home mom. She previously worked for Aetna and Tufts Health Plan in MA as an underwriter. She lives in Canton with her husband and 2 children. • rdefina@sbcglobal.net

Krista Dunn Saraceno and her husband live in Middletown with their three children. Krista earned her Associates in Social Science from MCC and is a Commercial Loan Administrator at Liberty Bank. • KristaSal01@sbcglobal.net

Lucyann Eldridge Carrara lives in Unionville with her husband. She is a homemaker who works part time at LensCrafters. "I have been married to a wonderful man for over 10 years. We suffered several miscarriages and were devastated, but life has a way of correcting things. Joe is involved in Cromwell Martial Arts and helps with the children's program. We love helping out in the Dojo and assistant teaching children Kenpo Karate. I am a student of Cromwell Martial Arts. I am currently a third degree brown belt and will be testing for my black belt soon.

Debbie Bissonnette Shekosky, '89, runs the school with her husband. I am grateful for the wonderful friendship that our families share. Because of my husband's work (Correctional Head Nurse, DOC) I do not share my address. If friends want to contact me I am in the Dojo Tuesdays, 5- 8pm. Cromwell Martial Arts.

Jennifer Ferrier Luzietti lives in Killingworth with her husband and their 3 children. She graduated from WCSU and is the owner of Grove Systems, Inc. She enjoys sailing, skiing, biking and being on the beach with her family. • grovesystems@comcast.net

Liz Fritz-Keyes earned her undergrad degree and MA in Counseling Psychology from Assumption. She lives in Sutton, MA with her husband and 2 children. She is currently a stay at home Mom. • LFKeyes@msn.com

Lauren Gestay Coleman lives in Portland with her husband and 3 children. She graduated from CCSU and is the Children's Librarian for the Portland. • lcoleman@portlandct.org

Judy Pagano Benbow lives in Durham with her husband and 3 children. She earned her undergrad degree from UCONN and graduated from Western New England Law School. She is an attorney with the firm Dowley & Associates. • jodybenbow@yahoo.com

Amy Skarb Herold earned a BA in Communication Disorders and a Masters in Speech and Language Pathology from SCSU. She works as a Speech Language Pathologist for the Shelton Board of Ed and lives in Oxford with her husband and 3 children. • Herold92@comcast.net

Stephanie Traskos Carlson earned her BS in Mathematics from Fairfield University and is an Actuary for The Hartford. She lives in Middletown with her husband and four children. • wscarlson3@aol.com

Jeanmarie Whitcomb Harvey is a Records Specialist employed by the Old Saybrook PD. She lives in Old Saybrook with her husband and two children. • 4theharveys@sbcglobal.net

Dawne Wilson Jones earned her BS in Equine Management from Teikyo Post and owns Colonial Hill Quarter Horses, giving riding lessons and training horses. She lives in West Hartford with her husband and 2 children. She has been a 4-H leader for 15 years, and enjoys hockey, baseball/softball or anything outdoors. She fondly remembers "all the fun we had cheering at the Xavier football games in the freezing cold, and the softball team. I still remember freshman year with Lori making forts out of blankets on her couch, and Denna putting her fingers to her mouth, being so silly, and sleepovers at Melissa's....thanks for all the memories! Here's to reconnecting and staying in touch!" • CHQH1@aol.com

Christina Yodh Carter earned her BS from Salve Regina and her M. Ed. from Lesley University. She lives in Warwick, RI with her husband and their three children. • Christina_carter@verizon.net

Patricia Young Carlson earned her BA, MSW and PhD from UCONN and is a Senior Research Associate at Casey Family Services. Tricia lives in Middletown with her husband and two sons. • Triciacarlson1@gmail.com

CLASS OF 1989

Emanuela Aresco graduated from Albertus Magnus and is a Sales Representative for Teva Specialty Pharmaceuticals. She lives in West Hartford. • ecaresco@comcast.net

Catharine Beaumont earned her BS in Criminal Justice from Roger Williams and is a Tax Paralegal at Parent & Parent, LLP. She is a member of the Wallingford Republican Town Committee and the New Haven Young Professionals. She has fond memories of Sr. Laura Marie Meskill. "She was helpful to me during my years at Mercy and we've kept in touch all these years." • catebeaumont@yahoo.com

Bonnie Burns Teixeira graduated from Bentley and is a bookkeeper for Woodlake, Inc. She lives in Naugatuck with her husband and 2 children. • bonnie@woodlakect.com

Michele D'Aresta Glen and her husband announce the birth of their second child, Ryan John, born 12-17-08, who joins brother Kevin, 4. The family lives in Middletown. • jmglen@sbcglobal.net

Sarah Kane Gage graduated from Providence College, lives in Southington and is a homemaker, caring for her husband and two children. • sarahkgage@hotmail.com

Lori Kuzina Sandage earned her BSN from Northeastern and is a Regional Sales Manager, BSN, RN, for Gaumard Scientific. She lives in Mukilteo, WA with her husband. • lori@gaumard.com

Alisa Marino lives in Middletown and works in Early Childhood Education. • Alyn88@gmail.com

Deborah McMaster Davis earned her BA in Spanish from the URI and her MA in Ed from U. of Bridgeport. She teaches 1st grade in Nantucket. Deb lives there with her husband and 2 children. She has fond memories of Sr. Mary, "pennies from heaven girls" that earned her no parking at Mercy for a month, and a food fight with Hilary in the Mercy café. She is a member of Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention. • davisd@nps.k12.ma.us

Danielle Miner Gibson and her husband live in Savannah, GA with their 4 children. She earned her BSN from Fairfield and is a Triage Nurse at Memorial Health/NurseOne. She

enjoys walking, biking, the beach, scrapbooking, stamping and cross-stitching. She has fond memories of Sr. Eleanor, Sr. Arlene, Sr. Mary, Ms. Lobue, walkathons, plays. "Mercy taught me I was an important part of my community. I learned there are many things I can accomplish, even when I think I cannot." • danigibson@comcast.net

Andrea Nichols Everett earned her BA from UVA and owns D3:Dre's Diesel Dome (dba D3 Boot Camp.) "I am the national fitness spokesperson for the American Heart Association. My company won 2008 Best Alternative Workout in Chicago-D3 Boot Camp. I was also Rep of the Year 2003 for Johnson and Johnson and 2-time President Council winner for Eli Lilly Pharmaceutical. Andrea lives in Chicago, IL with her husband. • dre@dresdieseldome.com

Mary Beth Suprono DeBord enjoys reading, antiques, classic cars/ motorcycles, gardening, painting, drawing, shopping, traveling, theatre, concerts and cycling. Mary Beth graduated from Quinnipiac and is Auditor/ Paralegal Manager at First American Title. She is working on starting a chapter of the Columbianettes with a local Knights of Columbus. "As a single woman, I am a successful landlord, business owner, full time employee/manager, and soon to be part-time student. I joined the company cycling team and completed a 75 mile tour for MS. I have fond memories of coordinating the lights and sound for the school plays, skits and assemblies. Mercy is top notch in education. Most faculty members I had contact with influenced me in different ways. If anyone would like to connect— please feel free and email me." • mbdebord@hotmail.com

Lisa Tarantino McCarthy lives in Tampa, FL with her husband and son. She earned her degree in History/Political Science from CCSU and is a Business Analyst for JP Morgan Chase. She enjoys spinning/cycling class and has so many great Mercy memories, "It was a great place with great girls and friends." • Lisa.a.mccarthy@chase.com

Laura Tietjen Citarella lives in Trumbull with her husband and 2 children. She earned her BS from Fairfield and is VP Telecommunications for RBS. • laura.citarella@rbs.com

Trace Unikewicz Allgaier earned her BS and BA from SCSU and her MS from CCSU. She is a teacher at Saint Mary School in Middletown. Tracy lives in Clinton with her husband and daughter. • Tracyu0312@aol.com

Stacey Van Schaick Follansbee earned her BA from Bentley and her MS from Boston U. She is a Marketing/Project Manager for Fidelity Investments. Stacey lives in Grafton, MA with her husband and 2 daughters. • thefollansbees@verizon.net

Ruthann Wright Dowling graduated from Quinnipiac with a BS in Psychology and earned her MS in HR Management from Houston Baptist University. She is currently a stay at home mom and lives in Norfolk, MA with husband and two sets of twins. She enjoys walking, being outside, playing at the beach, and volunteers for the local schools, MOM clubs and community organizations. Ruthann has many great memories of her days at Mercy, but says that the miracle of passing Chemistry an especially good one! •
ruthann Dowling@comcast.net

Jennifer Wyman Lindsay earned her BA in English from Elizabethtown College and will earn her MA from Lesley University in 2010. She is an 8th grade language arts teacher at Ashford School, where she was named Teacher of the Year in 2007. Jennifer lives in Ashford with her husband and two children. She enjoys reading, tap dancing and playing with her kids. She fondly remembers several teachers; "Mrs. Boucher taught me learning can be fun; Mrs. Lovell had such a great nature—remember how she'd simply rest a hand on your shoulder to remind you to be quiet in class? And Miss Thompson's typing class is the best elective (in high school and beyond!) that I ever took! There are so many great memories! The laughter, the friendships, the events! I go through life remembering that I was a part of something really special, and that no matter what happens I will always have that. Mercy gave me a great education; I use it every day! Can you believe it's been 20 years since we graduated!?" •
mlindsay02@snet.net

CLASS OF 1990

Alice Bergeron Gregg lives in Lakewood, OH with her husband and three children. She earned her BA in Sociology from Long Island University and is a self-employed bookkeeper. She is a member of the National Notary Association, and started a National Notary Signing Company with her husband. She enjoys photography, masters swimming and spending time with her children. "I am grateful to Sr. Laura Marie who helped guide me in a direction that was right for me. My Mercy education helped me deal with work environments dominated by women. I have made friends for life at Mercy." •
ajgregg@sbcglobal.net

Rachael Thompson Lior earned her BA from Wesleyan and her graduate degree from Columbia. She lives in Harrison, NY with her husband and 3 children. Athletics at Mercy are among her favorite memories. •
Rachael.lior@yahoo.com

CLASS OF 1991

Stacy Bonomo Duval lives in Barkhamsted with her husband and 5 children. She earned

her AOS in Culinary Arts from Johnson & Wales and is the Kitchen Manager/ Chef/ Catering Manager at Harvest Café & Bakery in Simsbury. •
bowknowmo@yahoo.com

Kristin Denehy lives in Sherman Oaks, CA with her husband. She earned her BA from Fordham and is a self employed Choreographer, repped by Abrams Artist Agency, LA. •
denehyk@aol.com

Eileen Meehan Bozzi earned her BA in Health Science and Policy from University of Maryland and her MBA in International Business from CCSU. She works in the insurance field for United Health Group. Eileen lives in Rocky Hill with her husband and two children. She enjoys reading and spending time with her family. •
Eileen_bozzi@yahoo.com

Kristen Milardo Barrett writes "We are living in North East, Maryland in a town of approx. 2500 people. My husband is working on the U.S. Army Base- Aberdeen and I left my law firm job to stay at home with our son. We've since had a beautiful baby girl. We are enjoying slower paced life after living in hectic Washington, D.C. for 12 1/2 years." •
Barrett.kris@gmail.com

Stacey Wanat Porawski earned her BA in Theatre Arts with Dance Specialization from Keene State and went on to Nova Southeastern University where she earned a Master and Doctor of Physical Therapy degrees. She is employed by PCEC as a Pediatric Physical Therapist. She lives in Glen Ridge, NJ with her husband and son. She enjoys travel and hiking and has fond memories of the musicals and walkathon. She believes Mercy helped her become independent self-confident. •
Staceyp73@gmail.com

CLASS OF 1992

Dr. Jill Lombardo is a Clinical Psychologist, employed by Advocates. She earned her BA from Fairfield University and her MA and PsyD from the UHART. She lives in East Harwich, MA with her husband and son. •
Cosmo1297@comcast.net

Julie Vicino Tracy earned her BA in Psychology from Framingham State College and her M. Ed. from Lesley University. She lives in Enfield with her husband. Julie has fond memories of the walkathon and Miss Freeman. •
Jules1409@yahoo.com

CLASS OF 1993

Bridgett Clark LaBrecque lives in Canterbury with her husband and two children. "My special interests are helping others, spending time with my family and making memories that last a lifetime. I like to enjoy everyday as if it were my last and enjoy making my two boys as happy as can be! My accomplishments are having children,

being a good mom, a loving wife, creating a stable home, and living life how I want to. I fondly remember Mr. Brickey! He was a role model and great support. I could always count on him to be there and will always remember him. I also recall our proms. Great friends made unforgettable fun! Mercy taught me to take control of my life, set goals, help those in need and be the best person you can be. Also, keep striving and never settle. "I hope everyone is well and are where they want to be." •
Blab74@hotmail.com

Alice Clayton Straight earned her BA from CCSU and her MS in Journalism from Boston U. She is Editor of the Middletown Press. Alice, her husband and two children live in Meriden. •
Aestraight72@aol.com

Ana D'Alessio Lischeid and her husband announce the birth of their second son on 9-9-08. He lives with his brother and parents in Meriden. •
Adalessio75@hotmail.com

Betsy Dobbs-McAuliffe, her husband and daughter welcomed Owen, on 4-7-09. Betsy earned her BS from Gettysburg and her Ph.D. from Duke. She is an Assistant Professor at CCSU. The family lives in Middletown. •
betsydmc@gmail.com

Heather Fogarty Webster earned her degree from CCC and lives in Kensington with her husband and two children. •
Webster.h.k@sbcglobal.net

Giulia Lau, D.O. and her husband recently gave birth to twin boys at The Reading Hospital and Medical Center in Reading, PA, where Giulia is employed as an Ob/Gyn. They are looking forward to their relocation to CT in the near future. •
Giulialau02@yahoo.com

Leonora Lowe Fafard lives in East Hampton with her husband and 2 children. She earned her degree at MCC and is a Sr. Business Analyst at The Hartford. •
TLFafard@sbcglobal.net

Colleen Lussier is a 1st Grade Teacher at Shenendehowa Central School District. She lives in Clifton Park, NY, and writes "I enjoy country line and swing dance lessons with my boyfriend. We hike and bike together whenever the weather is nice, and soon will be enjoying kayaking adventures. I have been an independent consultant for Pampered Chef for 8 years. Contact me if you're planning on visiting upstate NY! There is so much to do here!" •
Colleen_lussier@yahoo.com

Jill Mallory Tardiff earned her BA from UCONN and is currently at home with her two sons. She lives in Hurricane, WV with her husband. Jill writes "Before the kids were born we lived in California. I loved working for the local newspaper there as an Advertising Account Manager. I fondly remember the girls I met at Mercy 15 years ago who are my closest friends to this day.

At Mercy, we found the freedom to be ourselves. We grew confident. We were encouraged to become smart, strong women. One of my favorite memories is the Mercy Xavier musicals! Also, Mrs. Lovell was a great teacher for English and Latin. She was entertaining... I remember a lot of the phrases and expressions she used. I am currently President of the MOMS Club of Teays Valley, a non-profit organization. • jiltardiff@yahoo.com

Nicole Martin Morris works in Production Control at Sound Manufacturing, Inc. and lives in Niantic with her two sons. • nickimartinmorris@yahoo.com

Ashley Sheridan Trudeau completed her studies at the Roffler Hair of Design and is a hairstylist and salon manager at Chameleon and Company Hair Color Café and Spa. She lives in Watertown with her husband and son. "My interests are all about my son. He is a very active 2 yr old. We go to gymnastics, swimming, and he will start preschool in the fall. In the past 15 years it's amazing how things have changed, lost touch with friends, some got married, some had kids, some moved away but nothing like a reunion to finally get back in touch with everyone. I am really looking forward to seeing everyone!" • Amt7276@yahoo.com

CLASS OF 1994

Amy Costello Brassard graduated from Providence College with an Elementary Ed/Special Education degree. She lives in North Providence, RI with her husband and daughter. • Accostello76@yahoo.com

Stefanie Cyr DesRocher graduated from SCSU and lives in Windsor Locks with her husband and five children. Stefanie is a Domestic Goddess/Massage Therapist. • Stefanie_1128@yahoo.com

Annette Ellis Turnquist and her husband live in Southington with their two children. She earned her BS in Civil Engineering from Lafayette College and is Assistant Town Engineer for the Town of Southington. • asturnquist@hotmail.com

Elizabeth Gaynor Tuninsky earned her Elementary/Spec. Ed. degree from Providence College, and her Educational Technology degree from CCSU. She is a Special Education Teacher for the Hartford Public Schools. Beth lives in Bristol with her husband. • est76@yahoo.com

Suzanne Milardo lives in Cromwell with her daughter. She earned her BS from Johnson & Wales University and is the Restaurant Manager for the Sidewalk Café. Her message to classmates, "Good to see everyone, all these years later!" • scmilardo@comcast.net

Cara Stojak Ehlers lives in Middletown with her husband and daughter. She is Vice President of Liberty Bank. • caraandmike@sbcglobal.net

CLASS OF 1995

Kacey Carta is a homemaker and lives in Cromwell with her husband and three children. "I love to cook, and I enjoy helping the less fortunate, by helping them with house work, shopping and getting them to where they need to go. I am blessed by having beautiful children and staying healthy. I remember the drama at Mercy and I know that Mercy helped me grow into the strong independent women that I am. Kacey's message to her classmates is: "I miss you all very much. Heather Duszak and Lori Monarca the most." • Kay1216@yahoo.com

Meaghan McCarthy lives in Portland with her 1 year old baby. She is a NQ Rater at The Hartford. • megleah@comcast.net

Doctor Elizabeth Pelczar is a Senior Scientist at Innophos, Inc., and lives in Rocky Hill. She earned her BS from the University of Hartford, her MS from Dartmouth and her PhD from Rutgers. • epelczar@gmail.com

CLASS OF 1996

Kimberly Ryder is living in Farmington and is seeking a public relations position, "to continue my career in a marketing related field applying consultative, information sharing techniques and other skills derived from years of experience at top tier firms." • Kimshan259@aol.com

CLASS OF 1997

Julie Skoge married David Stockley in September 2008 at St. Clements Castle in Portland. Julie met David at Fairfield University as an undergraduate and then attended the University of Minnesota School of Law. Julie is a patent attorney working in Minneapolis, MN.

CLASS OF 1998

Holly Adams lives in Glastonbury. • H20loverri@aol.com

Debra Berry Conway lives in Georgetown, MA with her husband. • Conway516@hotmail.com

Hannah Ciardiello Albright earned a BS in Business Management from Norwich University and is employed by The Hartford. She lives in Windsor with her husband and enjoys hiking, reading and going to the beach. Hannah helped organize the CT grassroots effort for 2 presidential campaigns. She has fond memories of Sr. Elizabeth, the Walk-a-thon and the swim team. • Albright.hc@gmail.com

Damara Cockfield obtained a BA in Government from Dartmouth, Master in Public Administration with a concentration in Public Health from UCONN, and a Certificate in Clinical Trials Management from the University of

Chicago. "Since Mercy, I've lived in NH, Spain and NYC. Currently, I live in Washington DC. Without a doubt it's one of the most fabulous cities in the country!! I have the pleasure of working with our active duty and veteran military personnel doing Medical Research. It has been the most rewarding opportunity of my life! For work, I've traveled the country. For fun, I've traveled to Germany and Thailand/Cambodia, where I was soaked in the culture and blazing hot sunshine for 24 days! I enjoy photography, running, Afro-Brazilian/Latin Dance, music, and exploring DC. At Mercy, I appreciated Mrs. Wallack whose no nonsense, yet fun, attitude made me well prepared for college, and of course I loved her never ending collection of fabulous Doc Martens! I appreciated Ms. Freeman who made Spanish fun. Her excitement for all that was Spanish, including her love of Antonio Banderas, made me want to study abroad in Spain my junior year of college! Unfortunately, I will miss our 10 Year Reunion. I hope all are well!! If you're ever in the Washington DC area, email and/or call!! • Damara.Cockfield@gmail.com

Kathy Cyganska lives in Cromwell and is a Tax Consultant at Deloitte Tax. She recently passed the CT Bar Exam. Kathy earned her BS from Quinnipiac and her JD from Quinnipiac University School of Law. She enjoys hiking, bike riding, theater and the arts. • zaba0707@aol.com

Erin Densmore Giuliano is a newlywed! She married John Giuliano on 10/25/08. Erin lives in Middletown and is the Therapeutic Recreation Director at Manchester Manor. • eringiuliano@yahoo.com

Rachel Huff Papke earned her BA in Journalism Media Studies from Rutgers and works at Aetna. She lives in Baldwinsville, NY with her husband. Rachel recalls that "Mrs. Mooz was my guardian angel while I was at Mercy." • R_huff@hotmail.com

Meredith Kenny Walters lives in Bristol with her husband and is a Spanish teacher at Middletown High. She earned her Spanish/Education degree from Assumption and graduate degrees in Spanish from CCSU and Social Sciences from Wesleyan. • meredithwalters@hotmail.com

Christen Lucas Sousa earned her Elementary/Spec. Ed. and Masters in Literacy degrees from Providence College. She is a 2nd Grade Teacher at the Goodwin School in Old Saybrook. Christen lives in East Haddam with her husband. • christen.sousa@gmail.com

Christine Mason Gerardi earned her undergrad from Yale and is employed by Yale New Haven Hospital as a sonographer. She lives in Durham with her husband and daughter. Christine has fond memories of the walk-a-thon and Mr. Brickey. • Mgerardi21@comcast.net

Jessica Mathias Semprebbon earned a BA with a double major in Elementary Ed and Theater from St. Michael's College, graduating Cum Laude. She is a 4th Grade Teacher in the Diocese of Venice, FL. Jessica lives in Naples with her husband. "In my free time I enjoy running, biking, organizing and baking. I am also writing a book for parents who have school age children. I am the Student Council Advisor at St. Elizabeth Seton School. I was just named a finalist for the Golden Halo Award, a Christian Chamber recognition for private, christian school teachers. One of my favorite Mercy memories would have to be the Mercy/Xavier musicals. I also have fond memories of Ms. Grassi. She always made you smile and listened to her students. Now that I am a teacher there are many days when I reflect back to my own education at Mercy. I try to teach my students the Christian morals and values I was taught and remind them that each day is a gift from God. The four years I spent at Mercy High School were a blessing." • semprebbonjess@hotmail.com

Erica McGregor Levy graduated from Clark University with a BS in Communication and a MS in Professional Communication. She lives in Meriden with her husband and daughter. • Em10907@gmail.com

Meghan McMullen lives in Cromwell and earned her BS in Accounting from Saint Joseph and is a Senior Accountant at Nicola, Yester & Co. "I married Nicholas Geiger in July. Jody McMullen '91, and Erin Reynolds Palid '98, were in the wedding party." • Meghan512@yahoo.com

Pamela Morello Mentone attended Quinnipiac University and attended Quinnipiac where she received a Bachelor's in English and Communications, and a Master's in Journalism. She is currently an editor at a Connecticut newspaper. Pamela has been married for three years to Matthew, who she met on a blind date set up by her aunt. They live in Cromwell with their two dogs. • Pamela_morello@hotmail.com

Lauren Mozdziesz Marino lives in Plantsville with her husband and is a Marketing Coordinator for Principal Financial Group. • lauren@principal.com

Jennifer Mularski Sorrentino earned her BS in Childhood Ed from WCSU and her MS in Special Education from CCSU. She is a 3rd grade teacher at Our Lady of Providence Regional School. Jennifer lives in Central Islip, NY with her husband and their son. "I truly appreciated all of my teachers in different ways. They helped shape the person I am today. I am very grateful and have so many good memories of Mercy that I can't pick just one!" • vbcapt@aol.com

Shannon Muscatello Saraidarian lives in Woodstock with her husband and two children. She graduated from Lasell with a BS in Fashion Merchandising and is a Buyer/ Planner for Crabtree & Evelyn. "I graduated from college Summa Cum Laude. I am currently involved in fundraising for the Relay for Life which raises money for the American Cancer Society. What I enjoy most is spending time with my family. I also like to work out and of course, shop! I have nothing but great memories of Mercy from the Walkathons to the Junior Ring Dance. I remember winning the limo lunch twice for selling the most magazines and being able to bring one friend. I know that one year I brought Jessica Mathias who I haven't been in contact with since Mercy! I remember being able to talk to Mrs. Bike about anything. Mercy helped me build a strong foundation for myself educationally and emotionally. I had such a great time during my four years at Mercy. Thanks to all of you who played a part in such great memories. Although it was still school and we had classes and tests, I remember laughing so much! It was great! Please feel free to call or e-mail me!" • shanizacat@aol.com

Shelly Nolan lives in Middletown and earned her BS in English from UCONN and her MS in Professional Counseling from CCSU. She is a Therapist employed by The Bridge Family Center, working with children and adolescents. She remembers "Mrs. Mooz, who always created a safe space where being and expressing yourself was what mattered. Mercy helped me recognize what being a strong woman meant and how that translated into the woman that I wanted to be. It also gave me the strength to be mindful of my goals and realistic about achieving them." • shellynolan@hotmail.com

Maura Parente graduated from UVM and the Pratt Institute. She is a Consumer Experience Designer at the Institute for Human-Centered Design. She is a member of the Industrial Designers Society of America and lives in Cambridge, MA. • mauraparente@gmail.com

Ashley Sharkevich lives in Cromwell and earned her BA in Psychology from SCSU and her Master's in School Counseling from CCSU. She is a Fraud Investigator for Aetna and enjoys hiking with her dog, mountain biking and traveling. Ashley has fond memories of Ms. Freeman, "she was a wonderful teacher and mentor and really made learning fun and memorable. I also recall Sr. Eleanor singing on the intercom in the morning on St. Patrick's Day! Where have 10 years gone? I have stayed close with many of my Mercy friends, it was the school experience that really bonded us." • Strawbear24@aol.com

Juliet Sharr Rodriguez is a 4th Grade teacher in Framingham, MA and lives in Upton with her husband. She earned her Elementary Ed degree from Wheelock. • Julietrodriguez14@yahoo.com

Jessica Sweeney graduated from the MA College of Art in Fashion Design. She is a Technical Lingerie Designer for Nordstrom and is living in Seattle with her husband. "While I was still living in NYC and working for Victoria's Secret, I developed the 2007 Diamond Fantasy Bra set. I also had the opportunity to live and work in Jakarta, Indonesia. I fondly remember Mrs. Mooz, and thank her for pushing me to go to art school." Jessica enjoys silver-smithing, traveling and biking. • jesswe@gmail.com

Lisa Termine Hollman lives in Stafford Springs with her husband and is a Professor at Trinity College. She earned her BS in Mathematics and Computer Science from Trinity, and her MS and PhD in Mathematics from UCONN. • lintermine@hotmail.com

Melissa Turchetta Infantino lives in Wethersfield with her husband and their child. She earned her Legal Studies degree from Quinnipiac, Forensic Psychology from the UNH and her Social Work degree from SCSU. She is a MST Therapist, at North American Family Institute. • Caydenturch1416@hotmail.com

CLASS OF 1999

Sara Bialobrzkeski earned her BA in Geography with a minor in History from SCSU. She is a Retail Store Manager at L.L. Bean. "I got engaged on Valentine's Day to Keith Russell. The wedding will be at Walt Disney World on Aug 18, 2009." • Sara_bial@hotmail.com

Rebecca Hurlle earned a degree in Criminology from CCSU and is enrolled in the MS in Education program at the University of Bridgeport, anticipating a 2009 graduation. She lives in Plantsville. • Strype25@yahoo.com

Katherine Ivers Schunk lives in Wethersfield with her husband and is a Pharmaceutical Sales Representative for Daiichi-Sankyo Inc. She holds a BS in Biology and a MS in Molecular and Cellular Biology. "Mrs. Psoter is the reason I went for my masters in science, Mrs. Mooz kept my artistic side always growing, and Mrs. Lovell furthered my culture with Greek and Latin history and language. There are so many great memories from Mercy including the skits from walk-a-thon, cake auction, Mrs. Mooz's homeroom and art class, dissecting animals in Mrs. Psoter's physiology class....The education I received at Mercy was unparalleled and I was more prepared than most students in my university." • Iverske9@hotmail.com

Sarah Ledoux Desrosiers moved to Indian Head, MD with her husband and is teaching at Davis Middle School. • Ledoux342@yahoo.com

Kristina Murphy Kehlenbach married James on May 24, 2008 at St. Barnabas Church, followed by a waterfront reception at Saybrook Point Inn in Old Saybrook, CT. Kristina is a registered physical therapist and was recently appointed Supervisor of the inpatient occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech departments at Middlesex Hospital. James is a RN in the operating room at Middlesex Hospital. The newlyweds honeymooned in Venice and Greece and reside in their new home in East Hampton, CT. • krissybask@aol.com

Monica Skoge received her PhD in Physics from Princeton University and is currently doing post doctoral research at the University of California (San Diego).

Jaimie Taraskevich earned her degrees from UHART and is a Sr. Mechanical Engineer at UTC. She enjoys engineering, and loves creating things for the needy. She is a member of the National Women's Engineering Society. Jaimie lives in Ellington. • Jaytar23@yahoo.com

CLASS OF 2000

Jessica Bonvino Albetski Fitzgerald earned her BA and M.Ed. from Providence College. She is an English Teacher for the Hartford Public Schools. She enjoys teaching, scrapbooking, reading and cross stitch. Jessica writes "I will be starting a Doctorate program this summer at the University of Hartford. I am pursuing my Ed.D. in Educational Leadership. I also received a Presidential Scholarship from UHART based on the quality of my application. I was extremely fond of Mrs. Lovell. She was my advisor teacher for my entire high school career. She also inspired me to become an English teacher. I learned so many skills from Mercy. In addition to getting a great education, I learned interpersonal and community building skills. I have fond memories of the Junior Ring Dance and the senior car parade! I am looking forward to our 10th year reunion!" • Jbon04@sbcglobal.net

Catherine Psoter Gregory graduated from UNH and is living in Durham with her husband. She is an Internal Revenue Agent. She writes "Whoa... I'm married—I feel old!" • katepsoter@sbcglobal.net

Jaimie Winslow earned her BS and MA in Elementary and Special Education from UCONN and works as a Special Education Teacher in Stamford. • JaimWin@hotmail.com

CLASS OF 2001

Caitlin Ferwerda graduated from the University of New Haven with a Masters Degree in Education: Secondary Social Studies. • cferwerda@gmail.com

Sarah Nichols Grundy writes "I married this summer and moved back to the Boston area. I'm working as a nurse in the cancer center at Massachusetts General Hospital." • Sgrundy831@yahoo.com

Kelly Van Deusen Laubenheimer earned her BS from Bryant and is living in Abington, MA with her husband. • klaubenheimer@yahoo.com

Amy Zak Carpenter lives in Southington with her husband Jeffrey and daughter. • Amzak82@sbcglobal.net

CLASS OF 2002

Melissa Pegolo Warren lives in Middletown and completed her education at the University of Phoenix. • Xoxxmelis206@aol.com

Dina Sanghvi lives in Wallingford and earned her Bachelors of Health Science Nursing from Quinnipiac and is a RN II at the Hospital of St. Raphael. "I reinstated Primary Nursing to my floor, which was my project for my next level in nursing, Level 2. I am the charge nurse on night shift and will earn my Certification for Medical Surgical Nursing in the fall. I have great memories of all the special relationships that were made throughout the years, and will never forget the good old high school years. Mrs. Montemerlo, Mrs. Mak, Mrs. Psoter, Mrs. Moore, and Ms. Freeman... these are the teachers who stick out in my mind to this day for always giving me a chance and supporting me through everyday life, it is greatly appreciated! I would not be who I am today without Mercy High School; Mercy helped me mature and prepare for college. To my classmates: I miss you guys! We are all grown up now! Hope to be married by next year to my high school sweetheart!" • dinasanghvi@yahoo.com

CLASS OF 2003

Jessica Burdick earned her Associates in Medical Assisting from CCC and is the Clinical Office Manager for Collins Medical Associates. "I'm still with my high school sweetheart. We are engaged and plan a fall 2010 wedding. We spend most of our time working and enjoying the home that we purchased last December. My best memory of Mercy was sitting on the floor of the halls outside classrooms waiting for class with my best friends." • Jessica_burdick@att.net

Ashlee Dumond lives in East Hampton and is a Receptionist/Dental Coder at Belltown Dental. She enjoys scrapbooking, cooking and baking. "I still have my own nail business, currently renting out of a salon in called Hair Trends. I earned my Associates from MxCC and need one course to become a Certified Medical Coder. I have fond memories of the Walk-A-Thons, cake auctions, and how Mercy made our graduation very special. Also, Mrs. Psoter and Mrs. Mooz...they always made us feel important and that we could accomplish anything we put our mind to. Mercy gave me so much...a better understanding about myself and who I wanted to become as a woman. Ashlee's message to her classmates is "Never give up... no matter what obstacles you face in life, never give up. If you truly believe in something or someone, follow your heart, it won't steer you wrong." • Ash61185@yahoo.com

Malynda Johnson is a Psychiatric Counselor at The Mental Health Association of CT after earning a Bachelors in Criminal Justice and Psychology from Juniata College. She is now attending UNH. "I graduate with my Masters in Forensic Psychology in January 2009 and recently joined the United States Army with an MOS of Military Intelligence. I leave for Basic Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri in January 2009. I am very proud to be serving my country. I fondly remember Mr. Brickey - I learned a lot from him as a teacher and as an administrator. I also remember the end of each year when the classes move up to their new seats in the auditorium. It was a rite of passage with a little sense of chaos that meant a lot to the students. I believe that Mercy set a positive example of how to make the most of your education and your life. I want to wish my classmates the best of luck in everything - present and future." • MJohn6@newhaven.edu

Bridget Luddy earned a Politics and Communications degree from Saint Anselm and is a Catering and Marketing Specialist for the Westin Copley Place. She lives in Brighton, MA. • Bridget.luddy@westin.com

Alicia Novak earned her Communications degree, with a minor in Finance from Kaplan University. She is the Communications Manager for Lotus Partners. Alicia lives in Bridgeport and is planning a 2010 wedding. Alicia writes "we enjoy playing with our bulldogs and traveling whenever we can. I am managing a volunteer team for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's annual run. I appreciate Sr. Mary for always believing in us and what Mercy women are. Mercy allowed me to become the strong woman I am. I was taught never to hold your head down and stand up for what you believe in. I also have memories of being Captain of the Mercy High School Lacrosse team." • Annovak360@yahoo.com

Yvonne Raye earned her Pre-Law/American Studies degree from St. Joseph and is living in Cromwell. • shybluse@hotmail.com

Danielle Schmitt lives in Northford. "I am radio personality DJ Sassy on WFCS 107.7FM on Saturday mornings from 10am-12pm. I also enjoy tennis, photography, poi, tango, belly dancing, and world travel. I graduated from CCSU, and started my career as an art teacher with two long-term sub positions. I look forward to finding a full-time position in the fall. Even though it seemed overwhelming at the time, I can attest that all of those weekly/bi-weekly succinct papers in Comparative Government with Mrs. Wallack honed my writing skills. They also prepared me to work efficiently and effectively under pressure!" • helixis7185@comcast.net

Catherine Xeller earned her Psychology degree from SCSU and anticipates her Master's in School Counseling in 2010. "The Mercy faculty I particularly appreciated was Ms. La. She helped me in so many ways—personally and educationally—and is the reason I chose to pursue a Master's in School Counseling. Mercy helped prepare me by instilling the will to succeed. We were not handed things, we had to work for them. The structure and organization helped me to live my life to the fullest, knowing I have the tools necessary to be successful. I hope my classmates of the class of 2003 are all living their lives the way they wish. Congratulations to those who have married or had children." • xellerc1@southernct.edu

CLASS OF 2004

Brittany Formica lives in Old Lyme and graduated from SCSU with a BS in Business Management. She is a Pharmacy Technician at CVS. • Britzby527@aol.com

Monica Kleszczynski earned her Bachelors, majoring in Marketing and International Studies from Fairfield University. She is a Data Analyst for The Nielsen Company. "I started the new job in August and am living on my own in Stamford! Big step! Mercy High School holds many great memories for me and has prepared me well for the future!" • Sweetmonster17@aol.com

Jenn Lupo graduated from Hofstra with a BA in PR. She works for Hartford Hospital in Fund Development. "My fiancé Joel and I will be getting married in September 2010. We are avid hockey fans who love to travel and experience new things. I also hold the title of merch girl, photographer, and band-mom to my future husband's metal band, who tours across New England. I have fond memories of Mrs. Mooz, who was not only my homeroom teacher, but

also someone I considered a friend. She was so down to earth, and always there to listen, give advice, and support you in any way possible. • Jennifer.ae.lupo@gmail.com

Keilan Martin McHugh lives in Madison and earned her Business Administration degree from SCSU. • Mchughk2@southernct.edu

Kathleen McKeever graduated from the URI and is an RN employed by South County Hospital. Katie lives in Warwick, RI. • Kmckeever1133@hotmail.com

Carol Michalak writes "after graduating from UConn with a Psychology degree, I entered UMass 2nd Bachelor's Accelerated Nursing Program. During the program I commuted home on the weekends to work in the ED at Middlesex as a tech. Now, I am so excited to begin my nursing career in the ED at Hartford Hospital! Currently, I'm living in Cromwell with my high school sweetheart. I have fond memories of the senior white knee highs, the itchy wool skirts, and spirit journeys. Has it really been five years already!?" • carolannemichalak@gmail.com

Carey Anne Nadeau earned her BA in Political Science and Public Policy from George Washington and is a Research Assistant at The Urban Institute. Carey lives in Washington, DC. • canadeau@gmail.com

Carolina Santos Read earned a BFA in Dance and a BA in Political Science from Fordham and lives in NYC. "I am a dancer and model and audition regularly as well as take dance, yoga, and kickboxing classes. I performed in "Evita", some short films and in music videos. I model regularly for various photographers and am dancing with Ballet Hispanico's 2nd company and in a flamenco piece that will premiere in New Haven. I am also a temp worker and my most recent position was as an assistant to a Ralph Lauren executive. I have fond memories Sr. Mary, Mrs. Mooz, Mr. Link (Mawhinney), Mr. Harley, and my senior year math teacher, Mrs. Montemerlo, who helped me through my toughest subject! I loved homeroom with Sr. Mary and how she spoiled us with catered food. We were able to watch MTV in the mornings and have a comfortable group chat. As an honor and AP class student who always strove for straight A's while competitively dancing with the Eastern CT Ballet and taking part in the musical, dancing for liturgies, National Honor Society and Justice and Peace, I developed time management skills which served me well at Fordham where I became the first dance major to double major! Mercy definitely helped prepare me for today. • Carol575@aol.com

Elissa Slason Kerr was married on July 18, 2009. She is working at a non-profit, 'Kalamazoo Communities in Schools' which focuses on drop-out prevention. Elissa lives in Kalamazoo, MI. • elissa.slason@yahoo.com

Ashley Trama graduated from the College of the Holy Cross and is a graduate student at Duke. She lives in Durham, NC. • Ashley.trama@gmail.com

CLASS OF 2006

Renee Duquette Green "I married in October 2008 and moved to Burlington MA. I work at Lahey Clinic where I will also be getting my degree in Urology Nursing. My favorite Mercy moment? I can't pick just one but I think I would have to say Walkathon was my favorite, all the preparing for it was a blast. I will always be most grateful for Mrs. Pepitone, she helped me a lot Junior & Senior year when my nephew was sick. Mercy made me grow up, I have very good morals and standards in my life now because of Mercy. I value things more. It has made me a more mature woman." • Renee.green@comcast.net

Caitlin Perrelli was named to the President's List and the Dean's List at the UHART for the spring 2008 semester. Caitlin is a junior and is pursuing a degree in journalism and communication with a minor in psychology and politics. She will receive her bachelor's in 2010.

CLASS OF 2007

Barbara Natalino fondly remembers "Mrs. Garofoli...she believed in me when no one else would. She helped me see things so differently. I cannot think back on Mercy and not think of her impact! Because of her way of ALWAYS pushing me...I have strength once again. ☺ I miss Mercy more than anything! It was my home away from home...a second family that I needed and will always love and remember! I miss you all!" • Bnatalino89@yahoo.com

CLASS OF 2008

Sarah Culver writes "I have the Duscene Scholarship at Manhattanville College which means I volunteer thirty hours a semester, and also have a job in the Dance and Theater Department. I'm a Set Shop and Scene Set Assistant and help make the stage for shows. Yes, that means I work with power tools, ladders, and lighting equipment. I am slowly getting over my fear of heights, as you can't be scared when hanging lights on a ladder! The last show we did was Queens Boulevard. I hope to continue working in the Dance and Theater Department, and to continue as part of a theater's Production Crew after college. Of course, I am planning to be a cool art teacher during the school year, as it is the reason I am going to college. I would like to thank Sister Anne Walsh. She worked with me, along with other teachers, to help me reach my potential. I will never forget her class, nor will I ever forget getting the English Award

from her Senior year, as I was in such shock. I'd also like to thank Mrs. Dowd, who helped me with my artist portfolio. My favorite Mercy memories are when Mrs. Sullivan, Sister Ann, and Sister Mary would sit at my lunch table Senior year, and discuss random subjects. It was a laugh riot. Mercy prepared me for my future by teaching me to work hard, and be a kind person. I was also prepared by being true to myself, and having a spine when it came to peer pressure. I miss singing the Circle of Mercy! I also miss knowing everybody and how everybody knew me. The Class of 2008 was pretty close knit when there wasn't drama going on!" • Sarah.P.Culver@snet.net

Melanie Rasmus is attending Clark University, anticipating a 2012 graduation. • MRasmus@clarku.edu

IN MEMORIAM

Each May, Mercy hosts an Alumnae Memorial Mass, to celebrate the memory of these women. If you would like to receive an invitation to this mass, please call the Alumnae Office at (860) 347-8957 or email alumnae@mercyhigh.com.

Please remember the following Mercy women in your prayers:

C. Michele "Shelley" Barrett, Class of 1967.

Darlene Miller Caskey, Class of 1979.

Lauren Corvo Gibbons, Class of 1967, sister of Pamela Corvo Campanelli, Class of 1969.

Christine Konefal, Class of 1970.

Geralyn Markowski, Class of 1977.

Also, please remember in your prayers our lost family members:

Joseph Barone Sr., father of Shelly Barone Bjorklund, Class of 1990.

Mary Bernacki, mother of Maureen Bernacki, Class of 1973.

Sebastian Cannata, father of Rosemarie Cannata Mondani, Class of 1969.

William Champagne, Sr., father of Marilou Champagne Augeri, Class of 1974 and grandfather of Jessica Champagne, Class of 2005.

Daniel 'Donald' Ciaburri, father of Donna Ciaburri McNulty, Class of 1969.

Gary Cushing, father of Robyn Cushing, Class of 1997.

Joseph Damiata, father of Joann Damiata, Class of 1971 and father of the late Janet Damiata Naples, Class of 1978.

Sheila DeSena, mother of Laura DeSena Schneck, Class of 1976 and Paula DeSena, Class of 1977.

Marjorie Dolan, mother of Kathleen Dolan,

Class of 1968, Marjorie Dolan, Class of 1970, Eileen Dolan Annino, Class of 1970, and grandmother of Casey Annino Metz, Class of 1993, Jaime Annino Krasnitski, Class of 1995, Gerry Annino, Class of 1997 and Kelly Annino, Class of 1998.

Richard J. Dorflinger, Xavier Class of 1971, brother of Russell C. Dorflinger, Xavier Class of 1972, uncle of Laura Lee Dorflinger-Kelly, Class of 1987 and uncle of Ashley Flynn, Class of 2006.

Robert Downing, father of Nancy Downing Regish, Class of 1974, also deceased.

Tresa Durinick, mother of Anna Durinick Riebold, Class of 1968, Frances Durinick Thompson, Class of 1971 and Jacquelyn Durinick Tanguay, Class of 1973.

Patricia "Dolly" Dwyer, sister of Mercy faculty member Sister Jean Dwyer, CND.

John Folta, father of Marie Folta Golet, Class of 1972, Anne Folta Fish, Class of 1974, Patty Folta McNelly, Class of 1975 and Terry Folta Long, Class of 1977.

Salvatore Imme, father of Carmelina Imme Gallant, Class of 1991 and Marylou Imme Michel, Class of 1994.

Kyle Johnson, son of Melysa D'Amato Johnson, Class of 1990.

Christopher Kalisz, brother of Jennifer Kalisz Salisbury, Class of 1982.

George Keithan, Sr., father of Susan Keithan Peak, Class of 1967, Rosemary Keithan Launay, Class of 1973 and Nancy Keithan Casey, Class of 1978, and grandmother of Jen Casey, Class of 2008.

Thomas Kennedy, Jr., brother of Maura Kennedy-Staudinger, MD, Class of 1976, Teresa Kennedy Gagnon, Class of 1980, Peggy Kennedy Benjamin, Class of 1983 and Kathy Kennedy Curtin, Class of 1984.

Thaddeus "Ted" Kuzina, father of Karen Kuzina Tuccitto, Class of 1975.

Sarah LaBella, mother of Deborah LaBella Merzoian, Class of 1968.

Thomas Linehan, Sr., father of Karen Linehan Bragg, Class of 1977 and father-in-law of Kathleen Perruccio Linehan, Class of 1971.

Janet Lee Messick, sister of D. Jeanne Messick, Class of 1971

Angelo Milardo, father of Anna Milardo, Class of 1969.

John Mordarski, father of Gail Mordarski Kulinski, Class of 1985.

George "Irish" Murray, husband of Joanne Marino-Murray, Class of 1967 and father of Margaret Murray, Class of 1986 and Deirdre

Murray, Class of 1989.

Kenneth Okoye, father of Kenisha Okoye, Class of 2005 and Anita Okoye, Class of 2009.

Al Ford Olson, father of Christy Olson Loring, Class of 1993.

Joseph 'John' Ott, father of Maryann Ott, Class of 1976.

Emilda Ouellette, mother of Rhonda Ouellette Burdick, Class of 1967 and Patricia Ouellette Heizman, Class of 1974.

Yolanda Pitruzzello, mother of Louella Pitruzzello, Class of 1967.

Julia Dorothy Russell, mother of Caroline Russell Messina, Class of 1970.

Salvatore Russo, father of Lisa Russo Perruccio, Class of 1981.

Peter Roccapiore, Xavier 1980, brother of Debra Roccapiore Chapman, Class of 1974.

Sophie Saflicki, mother of Rhonda Saflicki Pease, Class of 1970.

Anthony Scirpo, father of Teresa Augeri, Class of 1972.

Charles Shefcyk, father of Traci-Lynn Shefcyk, Class of 1988.

Carol Stiegler, mother of Jan Grodzki, Class of 1970.

William "Sully" Sullivan, husband of Lauren Jetter Sullivan, Class of 1970.

Roger Trask, father of Judith Trask, Class of 1968.

Robert Treloar, Jr., father of Allison Treloar, Class of 1980.

Walter Truscinski, father of Sara Truscinski Marks, Class of 1992.

Genevieve Wisnieski, mother of Carol Wisnieski, Class of 1967.



Mercy High School

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2009-10 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 10	Class of 1979 30th Reunion
October 17	Class of 1974 35th Reunion
October 24	Yellow Rose Auction
October 25	Class of 1969 40th Reunion
November 7	Class of 1994 15th Reunion
November 27	Class of 1984 25th Reunion
November 28	Class of 1999 10th Reunion
December 17	Winter Concert
March 5-7	Mercy/Xavier Musical
March 20	Home School Association Wine Tasting
April 24	Catherine McAuley Awards Dinner
May 4	Alumnae Memorial Mass
May 18	Spring Concert & Education Raffle Drawing



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Our daughter Jillian Frey is a Mercy graduate and so are my three sisters: Sue, Michele and Monica. My two brothers Pete and Steve attended Xavier as well as myself.

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