

Mercy

Learning ~ Leadership ~ Legacy

A Newsletter For Mercy High School Alumnae

Mercy Graduates Class of 2010



Mr. Brickey poses with some of Mercy's newest alumnae.

Mercy High School Alumnae welcomed 169 new members when the Class of 2010 graduated in June. 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 privilege to stand and address the Class of 2010 as a group one last time. Speaking not as their Principal, but as their "Sister in Mercy," she expressed her pride and overwhelming gratitude to the group for understanding what it means to be a Women of Mercy. Quoting from papers written by the class, Sr. Mary described what the class had achieved as Women of Mercy in addition to their superb academic education. One senior wrote:

Mercy women know how to live in love. We welcome. We accept. We live in faith. We know how to give and work for justice. We know how to accept when others would be hesitant. We

know how to understand when others would doubt. We know how to be kind and have compassion when others would be hateful. We know by heart.

Sr. Mary also remarked on the exceptional service rendered by the Class of 2010—far and above what was required. Sr. Mary explained this happened because they learned, as had preceding classes, to put others above self and show compassion.

Putting seriousness aside, Sr. Mary also reminded them of other invaluable lessons learned. Quoting once again from Senior papers:

- *We know what Sr. Mary appropriate attire is!*
- *God is everywhere, but so is Mrs. Sullivan, so no illegal sweatshirts!*
- *Women of Mercy know how to staple a hem, do an entire project in one night and walk all of Walkathon.*

In closing Sr. Mary said, "May you always be there for others. The world desperately needs the lessons you learned in your years at Mercy. You are ready now to share those lessons because you know that "A Comfortable Cup of Tea" is not necessarily that. It is whatever we can do to help others."

During the ceremony, Sr. Mary also recognized the mothers and grandmothers of 28 graduating seniors who are alumnae of Mercy High School or other secondary schools sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy.

A quote from Valedictorian, Jane McGuinness who will attend the University of Notre Dame to pursue an Engineering degree: "Today is for making a memory that we can take with us into tomorrow. It is a last opportunity to celebrate as a class. Today is a day to be proud of our achievements, our perseverance, and our legacy."

Salutatorian Kelly Conklin will attend Middlebury College beginning in September. At graduation she challenged the audience to imagine what they could do in the future. "We have the opportunity to be extraordinary," she said. **M**



Valedictorian,
Jane McGuinness



Salutatorian,
Kelly Conklin

Sisterhood in Action

Sisterhood is a tradition at Mercy. Students in their Junior year adopt a Freshwoman little sister. As alumnae, you are asked to “adopt” a specific class year of students for their four years here 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.

“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 2013 are Little Sisters to alumnae who graduated in ‘69, ‘73, ‘77, ‘81, ‘85, ‘89, ‘93, ‘97, ‘01, ‘05, and ‘09. Here are some reflections on the class written by Class Moderator, Gianna Iannucci.



The Class of 2013 wins Walkathon.

Our Freshwomen have been a delightful group of positive and enthusiastic young women. They worked well with the faculty throughout the year. Their Junior sisters remarked that the Class of 2013 was friendly and respectful.

During December, the Class of 2013 decorated their hallway in an earth-friendly theme. The hallway went from the “Big Bang” creation of the universe to the birth of Christ. It was a unique theme that was dedicated to the late Thomas Berry, a Passionist monk who wrote “A Dream of the Earth.” Almost all students in the Class of 2013 took part in some aspect of the decorating with the help of their Junior and Senior big sisters. All the decorations were hand-made and recycled at the end of the season.

The Class of 2013 was enthusiastic during Spirit Week and cake auction. Their generosity throughout the year has been remarkable. We look forward to an exciting and productive next year working with our executive board members and the Class of 2013.

Alumnae who graduated in ‘68, ‘72, ‘76, ‘80, ‘84, ‘88, ‘92, ‘96, ‘00, ‘04 and ‘08 are Big Sisters to the Class of 2012. This update is reported by Diane Santostefano and Lori Flynn, Class Moderators.

No longer the “newbies”, members of the Class of 2012 helped welcome freshmen and transfer students in September. As sophomores, they joyfully reunited with friends and walked the halls of Mercy with confidence.

During sophomore orientation, class officers initiated a concept they learned about at the Freshman Leadership Workshop the previous May. Student leaders asked each classmate to create a “Dream Board.” Through this exercise, each student communicated her own unique dream for the future. All of the individual dream boards were displayed together on a Class of 2012 Dream Board. We have a lot to look forward to from this ambitious group of young women!

In October, the girls traveled to New York City to experience Radio City Music Hall’s world famous Christmas Spectacular featuring the Rockettes, followed by a stop at Westchester Mall for an afternoon of shopping. To continue the Christmas spirit, they chose “Charlie Brown Christmas” as their Christmas hallway theme. They were “seasoned pros” bidding during this year’s cake auction held during Spirit Week – no overpriced cake purchases for this crew!

This class continues to be a friendly, fun group of girls. In addition to participating in all of the structured activities Mercy has to offer, they spend their time contributing in class, sharing jokes in the hallways, helping one another through “growing pains”, and creating lasting memories. They are well on their way to becoming “Women of Mercy.”

The Class of 2011 are Little Sisters to alumnae who graduated in '67, '71, '75, '79, '83, '87, '91, '95, '99, '03 and '07. This class update was submitted by Daniela Esposito and Jen Larson, Class Moderators.



Juniors began the traditional turn of the rings at a reception following their Ring Ceremony and Mass.

As they entered school in the fall, they walked the halls beaming with confidence because they would be recognized as “upper class women.” Not only was it a boost of confidence, but it was an acceptance of responsibility as they became “big sisters.” They merrily greeted their little sisters and presented them with a pin and flower at the Freshwoman Pin Ceremony in mid-September.

The girls finally received the class rings they ordered in their sophomore year. What an exciting time in their lives! They celebrated at their Junior Ring Dance which was held in the fall. They all looked so beautiful as they pranced into the dance—just a warm up for what was to come in the later half of the school year.

At Christmas time the juniors helped to fill the hallways with cheer and excitement as they participated in the annual Christmas Hallway Decorating competition. Although they did not win, there was no doubt that they put their best effort forth. The halls were definitely a sight to see! The juniors undoubtedly showed the true spirit of Mercy, not only at Christmas, but throughout the year. During Spirit Week the Junior class was gleaming with excitement, and especially shined at the cake auction with cake designs that left viewers in utter amazement!

As the year drew to a close, the Junior Class still had one very important thing to look forward to: the long awaited Junior Prom. The theme was “A Night in Paris.” The girls were all so eager to help out with the decorations that over 50 of them showed up for a planning committee and to help decorate. As graduation neared, juniors were filled with mixed emotions as they said goodbye to the seniors, knowing that come fall, they would be the “leaders” of the school.

Alumnae who graduated in '70, '74, '78, '82, '86, '90, '94, '98, '02 and '06 are Big Sisters to the Class of 2012. Next year their gifts, along with those from the Class of 2010, will support Freshwomen in the Class of 2014.

Alumnae Big Sisters to the Class of 2010 were invited to participate in some year-end activities. Kathy Wiese '74 and Deb Tomasi '78 enjoyed Class Night with Seniors. Tanya Oliver-Perry '78 was present for the Senior Breakfast, an event sponsored by alumnae to welcome graduating seniors to their ranks. Graciously, she agreed to speak to seniors on behalf of supporting alumnae. Her words (paraphrased):

I graduated in 1978, but it seems just like yesterday. Back in the day, my class had just as much fun as you girls are having today. A couple of weeks ago, I was cleaning and stumbled upon an old yearbook from my days at Mercy High School. I opened the book to browse through it and before long, I became immersed in the memories. I set the book aside and marveled



at how much has changed since then. My size, habits and behaviors have changed. But through all of the changes, one thing has stayed constant and that is Mercy High School. I still converse with two of my best friends when I was here as a student. As you continue to grow you will find that Mercy will always be a part of you. Mercy is like a second home. It is more than a school. It gave me wonderful memories that I will cherish forever. Enjoy these last days as students. Stay safe and remember... you will always have a home at Mercy.

According to Lorra Carey, Class Moderator, the Class of 2010 represents kindness, caring and concern. They are energetic, motivated, creative and enthusiastic; each of them willing to step outside of themselves to help another. In the years ahead, others will also notice the strength, compassion, competency and respect that characterizes our Mercy Class of 2010. We know they'll do us proud!



Mercy's on Facebook! Keep up with the latest by joining us. It's easy to set up a personal account—then search for Mercy High School Official Alumnae Page—Middletown, CT

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
Ms. Alissa K. DeJonge '95
Mrs. Maureen Trigo DeRing '96
Mr. Jack Driscoll
Mr. Jack Gastler
Mr. Joseph Kask
Sr. Kathleen Kelly, RSM
Sr. Mary Alice Kline, RSM
Mrs. Marie Kalita-Leary '76
Mrs. Maureen Longo
Mr. Jack M. Lutz
Rev. Gerard Mulvey O.F.M.Cap.
Ms. Denise O'Brien '72
Tanya Oliver-Perry '78
Ms. Teresa Opalacz '76
Hugh Pearson
Atty. AnnMarie Cienava Rocco '79
Mr. Thomas J. Ryan
Dr. John Shine
Mrs. Joan Fung-Tomc
Sr. Georgeann Vumbaco, RSM (Chair)
Atty. William B. Wynne

Sr. Mary A. McCarthy, RSM
Principal

Thankful Expressions

Thanks from 2010!

The following letter was submitted by the Class of 2010 to thank their Big Sisters (alumnae who graduated in '70, '74, '78, '82, '86, '90, '94, '98, '02 and '06) for their gifts to the annual fund that supported their class:

Dear Big Sisters:

Imagine: September 2006. The awkward freshman class marched to the stage, unsure of our patriotic-colored, tabbed skorts and stiff blue socks. Names were vaguely mispronounced; uneasy mid-stage hugs were on display before the whole school. And soon, grasping the first of our many commemorative yellow roses, the freshman class was pinned and inducted into Mercy High School.

We soon made our mark as one of the most boisterous and lively groups to pass through Mercy. We may have paid \$91 for

a cupcake at Cake Auction, but as sophomores, we won Walkathon and as Juniors were instrumental in the "Mercy Goes Green" movement.

From the Freshman Frolic through mixers and Ring Dance to Senior Prom, we have danced our way through our Mercy years. With classes and clubs and sports we've filled our days, but the most memorable part of the Mercy experience are the astounding people in this community. The companionship of the teachers and the incredible friends we've made will always warm memories of our time here.

Imagine: June 2010. Embracing our classmates in our billowing white graduation gowns and clutching our final yellow roses, we will bid goodbye to our Mercy. Yet we will remain grateful always for the opportunities your support has provided us.

Thank you! M

Scholarship Matters

In May, donors to endowed and *Spirit of Catherine* scholarship funds were invited to lunch with the 40 students who are able to attend Mercy thanks to their generosity.

After a hospitable Mercy welcome from Sr. Mary, Anastasia Osadchuk '10 rose to tell her story and express her appreciation.

Anastasia was brought from the Ukraine to the US by her grandmother, who was anxious to improve the conditions of Anastasia's life and education. Speaking only Russian when she arrived, Anastasia was welcomed into the Mercy community and quickly learned English with the help of new friends and teachers. Although it

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Pictured seated: Giles D'Orvilliers, Maggie Coolican, Donald Coolican, Sr. Mary. **Standing (left to right):** Anne D'Orvilliers, David Crandall, Ellen Ryzcek '74, Barbara Miller, Marilyn Skoge, Robyn Fortier, Joe McCabe, Mark Fortier, Debbie Holzinger, Faith Gavin-Kuhn, Eileen Burke, Gerald Burke. **Absent:** Teresa Opalacz '76, Alissa DeJonge '95, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin DesRosiers, Jennifer Coleman Kensel '70, Dr. and Mrs. William Longo, Mr. and Mrs. Terry Therrien, Clare Scholand, Mr. and Mrs. John Taillie, Dr. and Mrs. David Wilcox, Dr. and Mrs. Bradford Wilkingson, Dr. Brenda Richard, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Rossi, and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ramsey.

It's a Small World!

Submitted by Louise Rusinak,
mother of Anne '06

My daughter, Anne graduated from the University of South Carolina on May 8th. It's hard to believe four years have flown by. I thought you'd all enjoy a Mercy connection story.... Mercy Women are Everywhere!

The University of South Carolina appointed a new President, Dr. Harris Pastides, last year and we were fortunate enough to meet him and his wife at a reception during graduation week. We knew they had Connecticut ties so when Anne introduced herself, she said she went to Mercy High School in Middletown. Mrs. Pastides lit up and said she was an alum too! She was so warm and gracious and despite a lengthy receiving line, she pulled us aside and chatted for a while. She said she came from a Mercy/Xavier family and



at the time was known as Patty Moore – Class of '73. After graduation, Anne was one of a handful of students invited to a private photo session with Dr. and Mrs. Pastides and again, despite a hectic day, she greeted Anne warmly and took the time to offer her a personal message.

Known as the First Lady of the University, Mrs. Pastides is very accomplished in her own right. We were absolutely thrilled to meet her—she made Anne's graduation very special. M

Mercy High School Junior Named Governor's Scholar

Julia Kelly, a junior at Mercy High School, received the prestigious honor of being named a Governor's Scholar. Ms. Kelly is one of only thirty students in the state of



Julia Kelly, a junior at Mercy High School is congratulated by Sr. Mary McCarthy, Principal, upon being named a Governor's Scholar.

Connecticut to receive this award.

Sponsored by The Connecticut Association of Schools, the purpose of the Governor's Scholars Program is to recognize academically talented high school students in schools throughout the state who are ranked in the top four per cent of their class. An essay on an assigned topic is completed. Members of the Governor's Scholars Committee, professional educators from throughout Connecticut, judge the completed applications.

The award was presented at the Governor's Scholars Luncheon held on May 21st. M

Scholarship Matters

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was never easy, she was able to keep up with her classmates.

Things got harder for Anastasia in her sophomore year. Her Grandmother was diagnosed with cancer and Anastasia became primary caregiver. This was an emotional and financial drain and a logistical nightmare. Since she is not a citizen, Anastasia was without the advantages of a drivers license or work permit. Friends, teachers and staff all supported Anastasia as best they could. Sometimes a hug. Sometimes a ride to school or the hospital. Sometimes a few extra dollars.

In the fall of her junior year, after spending days at Mercy and nights at Middlesex Hospice, Anastasia's Grandmother passed. Now, the question became, not how could she remain at Mercy, but how could she stay in the US? Not how would she get to school, but where would she live?

With the continued support of this Mercy community, those questions were answered. Anastasia did stay in the US and graduated with her Mercy class in June. With the strong encouragement and support of Mercy Guidance, she will attend a U.S. college in the fall.

Throughout her presentation, it was clear to everyone present at the Scholarship Luncheon that Anastasia spoke sincerely from her heart as she described what Mercy meant to her. "Mercy is more than a school to me. It is everything. I will graduate from Mercy in June, but I will never, ever, forget the compassion and generosity of this community."

Each of the 40 students present at the luncheon represent their own story of hardship and challenge. Yet, one thing is constant. They can count on this Mercy community. M

Note: If you are interested in establishing a Spirit of Catherine or endowed scholarship, please contact Barbara Miller, Director of Alumnae and Development.



CELEBRATE SR. MARY!

Our own beloved Sr. Mary will celebrate her 50th Jubilee this year which signifies her years of religious life and service as a Sister of Mercy. Save the date and plan to join us on Sunday,

October 3, in the afternoon for a mass and reception in appreciation and celebration of this milestone event.

Alumnae Events and Volunteer Opportunities

Mercy Classic Benefits Scholarship Fund

The 18th annual Mercy Classic Golf Tournament, to benefit the Mercy High School Scholarship Fund, was held at Lyman Orchards Golf Course on June 14. This is the one fundraiser that involves students, parents, alumnae, past parents... even grandparents! A good time was had by all and, more importantly, over \$25,000 was raised to help young women attend Mercy. Over the course of its 18 years, the Mercy Classic has helped 700 students receive the exceptional education that only Mercy can provide!



Alumnae from the Class of 2009 won the Women's Division at the 18th Annual Mercy Classic. Pictured left to right are: Kaitlyn Guptill, Kathryn Satagaj, Molly Scott and Katie Mischke.

Mother/Daughter Brunch

"Legacy" alumnae (mother and daughter(s) Mercy alumnae) were invited to the Mother/Daughter Brunch in May along with current students and their Moms. Following mass, a slide show featuring pictures of mothers and their daughters was shown. Interspersed throughout the pictures were quotes conveying the bond between mothers and daughters. Afterward, mothers and daughters proceeded to the cafeteria to enjoy each other's company and a brunch. Jen Faenza '12, wrote for the *Tiger Times*: "The morning was filled with moments of reverence, fun and a lot of long lasting memories between mothers and their daughters." Christy Michalak '99 agrees. "Eleven years ago when I was a senior, all the ladies in my family were able to attend the Mother/Daughter Brunch. It was a great memory to share with my grandmother, mother ('71), aunt ('73) and cousins ('00, '01) all graduates of Mercy. When I heard that legacy alumnae were invited to the Mother Daughter brunch this year, I thought it would be a great idea for all of us to attend again. We walked through the halls and reminisced about our time there. It was also nice to talk to Sr. Mary. I hope next year, more alums will attend the brunch and revisit Mercy!"

Senior Transition Day

In January, alumnae who are currently attending college were invited back to Mercy for a mini-reunion with their classmates and to share their knowledge of campus life with seniors. Young alumnae had time to catch up during a reception held in the foyer of the new gym. Afterwards, they joined seniors in the old gym and answered questions. "What's it like living with a roommate? Was it hard to make friends? Freshman 15—truth or myth? Thanks to all who attended! We look forward to seeing many of you again next year.

Needed: Words of Wisdom and Well Wishes!!

Are you a big sister to the Class of 2011? You are if you graduated in '67, '71, '75, '79, '83, '87, '91, '95, '99, '03 or '07. The Office of Alumnae would like to share your words of wisdom and well wishes with the Class of 2011 as their graduation approaches. Please submit your comments to bmiller@mercyhigh.com. Brief is better! Please limit your thoughts to three or four sentences. Your responses will be compiled into a program book distributed to seniors at the Senior Breakfast in June. Thanks in advance for sharing!

Fundraiser to benefit the Andrea Rizzo (Class of 1996) Foundation

The Andrea Rizzo Foundation was established in memory of Andrea Rizzo (Mercy '96), a beautiful young woman who survived childhood cancer and was tragically killed at the age of 24 by a drunk driver. Her dream was to become a dance therapist and give children with cancer and disabilities the gift of dance. With the support of many, her dream has become a reality. All proceeds from the fundraiser will be donated to children with cancer and special needs.

The fundraising event will be held at Nikita's Bar & Bistro (Owner Will Longo,

Xavier Class of '96) on September 23rd, 2010 from 5 pm to 9 pm.

TICKETS ARE \$20 PER PERSON.
THE PRICE INCLUDES:

- Free Appetizers
- Free Drink Ticket
- Raffle - including an iPod and gift certificates to restaurants, salons, etc.
- Special Musical Performance by FRANK AND THE BEANS!!!!

You can also donate online at www.firstgiving.com/inmemoryofandrea.

Please note that if you donate \$20 or more

on this page, your name will be added to the list of attendees for 9/23 and your ticket price will be covered. You can also donate on this page and purchase a ticket for an additional \$20 at the door of Nikita's on 09/23.

Please contact Amy Bysiewicz Tenbrunsel (Mercy, '96) at 860-575-5416 or Jennifer Miramant (Mercy, '96) at 860-301-1063 to RSVP or with questions you may have.

For more information about the Andrea Rizzo Foundation: www.dreamdream.org. To make a memorial contribution online: www.firstgiving.com/inmemoryofandrea. For more information about musicians appearing on September 23: www.frankandthebeans.com. For more information about Nikita's Bar and Bistro: www.nikitasbarandbistro.com

Reunion Corner

Class of 1975

Invitations are in the mail! Join us on Saturday, November 6 for food, fun and fond memories! The Class of 1975 will gather for hearty appetizers and cash bar at Esca (owned by Elisa Bramato '01) on Main Street in Middletown beginning at 6:00 p.m. The cost is only \$25 per person. Spouses and Xavier '75 welcome! Register online or mail a check, payable to Mercy High School, to 1740 Randolph Road, Middletown, CT 06457. Please register no later than Monday, November 1.

For those who need them, discounted accommodations have been negotiated at the Courtyard by Marriott in Cromwell. Call 1-800-627-7468 to make your reservations directly. Reservations must be made by October 7 to qualify for the discounted rate!

A directory of names, e-mail addresses and life updates will be distributed. Please update your own information online. Click on the alumnae tab, then alumnae update. Books will be mailed to all who cannot attend.

Class of 1970

Those were the days my friend.... Sound familiar? Relive the memories of your years at Mercy on Saturday, October 9, 2010. More information to follow!

Class of 1980

The Class of 1980 gathered at Esca (owned by Elisa Bramato '01) on Main Street in Middletown on Saturday, July 24, for food, fun and fond memories. Pictures will be posted on www.mercyhigh.com as they become available.

Class of 1985

The Class of 1985 will reunite on Saturday, September 4, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at Esca (owned by Elisa Bramato '01) on Main Street in Middletown. Join us for good food, fun and fond memories as we enjoy hearty appetizers and cash bar. The cost per person is \$25. Please register no later than Monday, August 30. Register online or mail your check, payable to Mercy High School, 1985 Reunion, 1740



The Class of 1995 will reunite on Saturday, October 9, at ESCA Restaurant in Middletown. Save the Date!! More information to follow.

Randolph Road, Middletown, CT 06457.

A reunion booklet of life updates and email addresses will be published. Please update your information online. Click on the alumnae tab, then alumnae update and fill in the blanks. A copy of the book will be mailed to those who cannot attend.

Class of 1990

The Class of 1990 will gather again on Saturday, September 25. Join us at Esca (owned by Elisa Bramato '01) on Main Street in Middletown for hearty appetizers and cash bar. The cost per person is only \$25, so come one, come all! Register online or mail your check (payable to Mercy High School) to Mercy High School, 1990 Reunion, 1740 Randolph Road, Middletown, CT 06457. A reunion booklet of life updates and email addresses will be published. Please submit your own information online. Click on the alumnae tab, then alumnae update and fill in the blanks. A copy of the book will be mailed to those who cannot attend.

Class of 1995

[WAITING FOR NEW COPY]

Class of 2000

The Class of 2000 will party on Saturday, August 21, 2010 at the Farmington Marriott! Your choice of Chicken Saltimboca or Steak Oscar will be served along with fond memories of Mercy and music by Mercy's own DJ, Brian Barbour. The cost is \$65 per person or \$120 per couple. Register online or mail your check to Mercy High School, Class of 2000 Reunion, 1740 Randolph Road, Middletown, CT 06457.

A directory of names, email addresses and life updates will be distributed at the reunion. Please update your own information online whether or not you can attend. A copy of the booklet will be mailed to all who cannot be there.

Class of 2005

The Class of 2005 celebrated their 5th reunion with the little black dress event of the year in July! Classmates gathered at the new (*Downtown*) (owned by Melysa D'Amato Johnson '90 and her husband, Frank) in Middletown. The girls had the place to themselves as they enjoyed music, friendship and good food. Pictures of the event will be posted on www.mercyhigh.com as they become available. **M**

Locker 681

Written by Terri Corigliano, Mercy faculty and mother of Mary '10

It's May 23, 2010. Locker 681 is empty. I guess this wouldn't ordinarily seem like such a strange occurrence to me. After all, I am a high school teacher and at the end of every year, lockers do empty out. So how can this inanimate object actually seem sad to me as I stand in front of it just prior to my long-awaited summer vacation?

Well, you see, it's not just any locker. It's her locker - my daughter who I have been lucky enough to share these halls with the last four years. A part of me knows that I will have to pass that locker on to a stranger next year. My heart knows that there will be another young girl who will walk into our school in the fall feeling a little overwhelmed, a bit nervous and very enthusiastic about the four high school years that lie ahead of her. When she opens Locker 681 for the first time, she will only see a metal box - but Locker 681 is so much more. It is notes of friendship, birthday balloons, an emergency study carol, a dressing room, a meeting place and a photo album. It is a private place to go that is not really private at all. It was hers.

As I stand here I remember how I looked forward to having a daughter at Mercy. I remember meeting Locker 681

and thinking of all the memories that it will hold for her. Can it be that four years have already passed us by, 681? Will her car be one of the ones singing its goodbye from the Mercy parking lot just days from now? I am asked more times than I can remember: "What's it like to teach where your daughter goes to school." I can only answer now. It was a privilege.

It's September 7, 2010. Freshwoman orientation. I turn the corner to walk by Locker 681 hoping to recapture a memory of a fourteen year old girl in a red, white and blue skirt. In my mind, I know better of course - because I left a young woman off on a college campus just a few, long days ago. I approach 681 feeling a bit like an intruder - I can see the unspoken conversation going on between it and the young, nervous teenager fidgeting with the combination. As she finally opens it, she breathes a sign of relief. My eyes meet with 681's and after a brief hesitation - we exchange smiles. An old friend urging me on into the new school year ahead without her. I knew then it would be alright. I also knew what I needed to do as a teacher, a mother and a friend. "Hi. I'm Mrs. Corigliano. Welcome to Mercy."

Congratulations to...

Jill Franco Bystrek '90 - Grand Prize Winner of the Education Raffle! Jill was surprised and excited that she won and plans to help her niece and nephew attend Mercy and Xavier



Schools. The Education Raffle is a Mercy fundraiser run by the Home/School Association. For the cost of a ticket (\$100), buyers have the chance to win \$25,000 for school-related costs at any accredited school—from Pre-K to Advanced degrees! Tickets go on sale mid-winter. Watch www.mercyhigh.com for your next chance to win big!

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.
Christopher Bentley, DO
Biega Funeral Home
Patricia Carta, DMD
Clean Finish, LLC
Citizens Bank
Connecticut Rental Center
Creative Dimensions
Cromwell Printing
Curtis Studio, LLC
Daniels Oil Co., Inc.
DelSole & DelSole, LLP
Doolittle Funeral Service
Hoffman Auto Group
iMPACT Security Group
James J. McCabe & Associates
John Holzinger, DMD
John's Refuse & Recycling, LLC
M.A. & M. Inc, Aresco Construction Co.
Mackey's Inc.
Mahoney Sabol & Company, Inc.
Mallove's Jewlers
Midstate Electronics
Moser Pilon Nelson Architects
Navin Bros. Food Service
John Schroeder, AIA
Suburban Stationers
W.J. Mountford Co.
WRW (Women Rule the World), LLC

Class Briefs

Class of 1967

Mary Opuszynski Rolland lives in Middlefield and is a Teacher for the Hartford Board of Education. • Franr49@gmail.com

Class of 1970

Judy Bish Raymond earned her BA degree from Fordham University and is a Transportation Planner for the CDOT. She lives in Middletown and has a son and a daughter. • Jbr252@gmail.com

Class of 1971

Abbie Anne Paonessa Jullien “After living and working in Europe for almost 8 years, I finally found a career in Florida (Boynton Beach) and I’m loving every minute of warm weather and sunshine! I enjoy golf whenever time permits, especially when my two sons (ages 28 and 22) are visiting! There were so many great moments at Mercy... but one memory that I will always hold dear was our Senior Bike Day when I was escorted on the roof of MHS and made an 8mm movie as everyone “peddled” below in the parking lot! I also fondly remember Senora Padilla who challenged my interests in foreign languages and cultures! Mercy provided me with a thirst for knowledge! I have been around the world more times than I want to remember, and I strive to learn something new every day! I would love to hear what plans are being made for our 40th reunion in 2011 and enjoy email contacts in the interim!” • aajullien@aol.com

Maddalena Tripoli Davis lives in Paducah, KY with her husband and has two grown children. She is a CNA at Lourdes Hospital. “Coming from Italy, I had no knowledge of many things in this new land. Mercy helped me understand the people and American customs. Everyone was very helpful. My English was not very good but I made great friends who helped a lot. My job is very rewarding because I help people when they need it the most; a comforting word may make them feel special. I enjoy reading and working with beads. The internet is a new way of communicating for me and I like it! I would love to get in touch with my classmates!” • LDTripoli@comcast.net

Class of 1972

Cindy Paguni Nugent lives in Cold Spring Harbor, NY with her husband. She has a grown son. She earned her BS degree from Bentley College and owns a retail store, *Cindi’s Boutique*. She enjoys spending time with her family and sport fishing with her son. She is a member of The Rotary, Rotacare International, Harvest House and the Chamber of Commerce. She is also a Paul Harris Fellow. Cindy fondly remembers making forever friends at Mercy! • cindisboutique@aol.com

Class of 1977

Lisa Bartolotta lives in Portland and is an Independent Avon Representative and Substitute Teacher. She enjoys cooking, baking, fashion, makeup, theatrical arts, music, dining out and traveling. Lisa has fond memories of Whoopi Day, “when we get back at all the teachers! Also, the ring ceremony, proms and musical plays like *The Sound of Music*. I also recall Mr. Ferrigno... he really brought out the creativity in me and inspired me to write and put on shows. I hated the homework back then, but the skills really helped me to be more organized in my life and profession today.” Lisa earned an AS degree in General Business from Middlesex Community College and a BA in Theater-Music Concentration degree from CCSU, and is currently enrolled in the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, working on a BS degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management. “I’d like to invite all my Mercy classmates to email me at: bartolotta1@att.net and to visit my Avon Website at: www.Youravon.com/lbartolotta”

Class of 1978

Camille DeMayo Ward lives in York, SC, with her husband Jeffrey and has 4 grown children. She works in Treasury Management Product Development for BB&T. “We are expecting our second grandson in July 2010, Liam James Ward. Dylan is already 4... crazy how time flies.” • caward@bbandt.com

Class of 1980

Karen Bauer Perkins-Pulaski lives in Grayland, WA and has 4 children. She graduated from Albertus Magnus College and is an educator, writer and artist, whose art has been exhibited throughout the U.S. She also enjoys photography. “My children and I enjoy being involved in church activities for the community. I have great memories of Mercy, including meeting my classmates at freshman orientation and enjoying the water balloon toss! Mr. Andrew Ferrigno was a great source of encouragement to me. Mercy instilled in me a great work ethic and discipline for goal setting. It would be great to get reacquainted with friends I have lost contact with!” • olbeachwalks@gmail.com

Mary Ann Connors Steuernagel earned both her BA and JD degree from UCONN and is an attorney with Adelman, Hirsch & Newman, LLP. She lives in Cromwell with her husband Craig and 18 year old son. She is a member of the CT Trial Lawyers Association Board of Governors. • mconnors@ahnlaw.com

Diane Martin Brooks lives in Ithaca, NY with her husband, William. She has 4 children. She is currently a homemaker who enjoys craftwork, reading and computer surfing. “I worked as a TA

in a special-education classroom until my youngest was born and I chose to stay home. Now that he’s starting school, I’ll be back out in the workforce soon (I hope). I have great memories of field days at Mercy, hanging out for after school projects, and just the general great people/wonderful atmosphere of the place! I also have fond memories of Sister Mary’s amazing memory for students’ names, Miss Humphrey/Sister Marion’s enthusiasm, Sister Eleanor’s hall patrol... Mercy gave me a solid basis to continue my education and a model for getting the work done well and in a timely manner. Email anytime to get/stay in touch!” • dmb@eightytwo.us

Judie Soboleski McCann graduated from St. Joseph College and is the Head of Children’s and YA Services at the Essex Library Association. She lives in Essex with her 4 children. • mccannjnm@gmail.com

Maggy Way Forde lives in Hamilton, North Is, New Zealand with her husband Edsel and 2 children. She is a business partner, writer, wool-classer and mom! She enjoys farming, tramping (elsewhere as hiking), horse riding, gardening, reading and writing. “I will never forget the hand of friendship shown to me by a few special young ladies who had the soul to reach out beyond their established group of friends—you know who you are! If I’ve lost touch with you, sorry, it’s been a busy life. I’d love to hear from you, and will always appreciate your humanity, it taught me much.” Maggy has fond memories of “writing class with Mr. Ferrigno. His passion for writing got me thinking outside the square and set me on a path for a career based around writing. At the time, New Zealand high schools didn’t offer such specialized classes. I hadn’t considered I could write, until I walked into Andrew Ferrigno’s class. I returned to university part-time last year, working towards my Bachelor of Social Sciences, majoring in Anthropology. Fitting it around my family, life and work commitments isn’t easy but LOVING the study and proud to say I’m averaging A’s. Have a great reunion, sorry I can’t be there.” • e.m.forde@xtra.co.nz

Class of 1985

Kathleen DiMauro Farrell and her husband Brian, Jr., live in Middletown with their 2 children. She earned her BS in Early Childhood Education from SCSU and her Masters of Social Work from UCONN and is a Teacher in Manchester. • Bfarrell68@hotmail.com

Lucinda Gianni Fazzina graduated from Quinnipiac and is an Office Assistant for Victor Advertising Service. She lives in Rocky Hill with her 2 children. • Lf1@cox.net

Tracey Hetrick Clark lives in Kenner, LA with her husband and daughter. • Eclark4@cox.net

Kelly Koval Fowler and her husband live in West Hartford with their son. She earned degrees from UCONN and her MS in Family Therapy from CCSU. "I enjoy spending time with family and friends, and feel very blessed! I wouldn't change a thing! I'm looking forward to reconnecting with many wonderful Mercy sisters at the reunion. I can't believe it's been 25 years!" • krkoval@yahoo.com

Class of 1986

Margaret "Peg" Murray lives in New Britain with her husband Rob Traunfeld and 2 daughters. She graduated from SUNY Maritime College and the UHA and is a teacher in New Britain. She enjoys volunteering for the PTA and NBYSL board. • Pegasus1218@snet.net

Class of 1988

Tracey Pascale Couto is a self-employed Attorney and lives in Madison with her husband and 3 children. She earned her undergrad degree from the URI and her Juris Doctorate degree from Quinnipiac. • coutolaw@sbcglobal.net

Class of 1990

Kristen DiNapoli St. Germain is a Teacher in Regional District #18. She earned a degree in English and Education at Assumption College; Experienced Teaching degree from Connecticut College and Education Foundations at SCSU. She lives in Old Lyme with her husband and three children. She is President BOD at Old Lyme Children's Learning Center and the Secretary of the Lyme/Old Lyme Basketball Club. • saintgol@comcast.net

Tracy Lyon Bottone lives in North Haven with her husband and is a Manager's Assistant for Merrill Lynch. She earned a BA in Psychology from ECSU and her MSM and MBA from Albertus Magnus. She enjoys scrapbooking, crafts, baking and teaching night classes at Albertus. Tracy has many Mercy memories, including her first dance as a freshman, when she danced with a Senior. Also, Sr. Laura in homeroom and computer lab. "She was always very sweet, kind and supportive. Mercy taught me to be independent." Her message to her classmates is "Strive for your dreams, no matter how big." • tbottone@cc.albertus.edu

Kristin Vitti Lyons and her husband live in Raleigh, NC where she is a self-employed professional dog handler, groomer and trainer. She enjoys showing and breeding English Cocker Spaniels and Golden Retrievers. • Kristinj72272@aol.com

Class of 1991

Ellen Reilly Vaughan earned her BA in Communications and French from Florida Atlantic University and is the Development and Alumni Relations Director at Saint Andrew's School. She lives in Delray Beach, FL with her daughter. Ellen was recently appointed to the Executive Board of the Junior League of the Palm Beaches. "Mercy is the reason I am working for an

independent school today. I also got involved with Junior League and have been active for the past 12 years in community service and philanthropic work. I think the foundation for this was first introduced to me at Mercy. I have wonderful memories of Ms. Marceau's French classes, she was so challenging as a teacher and so passionate about teaching the language. Also, the DC trip, playing tennis, and celebrating the 25th anniversary of the school." • ellenvaughan@hotmail.com

Kelly Thomas Bee, her husband Larry (Xavier '86) and son Lawson welcomed Elsa Martina in March. The family lives in North Branford. • KellyBeeHappy@hotmail.com

Stacey Wanat Porawski earned a degree in Theatre Arts with Dance Specialization from Keene State College and went on to Nova Southeastern University to earn her Master and Doctor of Physical Therapy degrees. She is employed as a Physical Therapist by PCECSC. Stacey lives in Glen Ridge, NJ with her husband and son and welcomed a daughter in October. • Staceyp73@gmail.com

Class of 1992

Sage Van Dyke Novak Sage has opened Anchor & Compass with men in mind. Featuring clothes that guys will find comfortable, affordable and durable—any guy will find something his wardrobe needs. And for the fisherman they offer Old Harbor Outfitters and Fish On! Visit Anchor & Compass on facebook or stop in say hi to Sage. Two classmates from Mercy have already visited and it was fun catching up! For more information, call 860-670-4663. Good luck, Sage!

Class of 1993

Karla Ganswindt Carnemark lives in Alexandria, VA with her husband and two young sons. She graduated from Lynchburg College and works in Congressional Relations. • Karla.carnemark@hotmail.com

Amy Hall earned a BS degree in Exercise Science & Sport from UCONN and a MA degree in Science from Wesleyan University. She lives in Windsor and is a teacher. • hallsience@comcast.net

Class of 1995

Robyn Butler earned her BA degree from CCSU and her MS from the University of New Haven. She is living in Clinton. • Ren0213@gmail.com

Kelly Clark Cienki lives in Cheshire and is a Cash Office Associate at Stop&Shop. She has fond memories of winning the Walk-a-thon! She also remembers that Sr. Jean Dwyer was very helpful and understanding, and Sr. Christel was great in art class! "I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying life!" • skfmncienki@msn.com

Karen Cote Bliven earned degrees in Special Education and Social Work. She has a son and is currently working as a nanny. Karen lives in Niantic. • kbktiv@yahoo.com

Jennifer Hally-Matthews is a Career Counselor at the Human Resources Agency of New Britain. She earned her BS degree in Rehabilitation Services from the University of Maine, and her MS degree in Counselor Education from CCSU. She lives in Wallingford. • Jennifer_hally@yahoo.com

Cassandra Lindquist Morrison is a Systems Engineer/Service Manager for Computer Systems Integration. She graduated from Emerson College and enjoys baking, knitting, hiking and bowling. She fondly remembers the yearly musicals, and Mrs. Mooz, "she was the best!" Cassandra and her husband live in Portland. • cassmorrison@gmail.com

Carla Pandolfo Uzzell lives in Waltham, MA where she is a stay-at-home mom and part time elementary tutor. She earned both her undergrad and graduate degrees from Providence College. She has fond memories of Ms. Maher, who gave great advice, lots of smiles and that bowl full of candy at sign in/sign out! She is sorry that she can't attend the class reunion, but hopes that her class has fun! • cpuzzell@yahoo.com

Class of 1997

Kathryn "Kate" Montanile Brosnihan earned her BA degree from Trinity and is the Director of Business Development for CityVoter, Inc. She lives in South Boston, MA with her husband. • ksmontanile@yahoo.com

Class of 2000

Sarah Ambrose earned her BS degree in Psychology from Suffolk University and her MS in Midwifery from Bastyr University. She lives in Seattle, WA. • marmaladeskiess@gmail.com

Caitlin Doyle graduated from Merrimack College and lives in Rocky Hill. • Doylec04@yahoo.com

Sarah Madej Miner graduated from Wagner College and is living in West Hartford with her husband. • Sarahe.miner@yahoo.com

Kristen Ottesen Spargo lives in Narragansett, RI with her husband. She graduated from URI and is an Area Merchandising Specialist for GE.

Miriah Russo earned degrees from CCSU and Oregon State. She lives in Corvallis, OR. • miriahrusso@yahoo.com

Rosanna Spada earned her Business Management and MBA degrees from SCSU. She works in sales for Tactile Systems and lives in Milford. • Ro925@pobox.com

Jaimie Winslow Fisco graduated from UCONN and is a Special Education Teacher in Stamford. She lives in Fairfield with her husband Rich. • jaimwin@hotmail.com

Class of 2002

Jillian Fortier Dumeer married her Xavier sweetheart, Brian Dumeer, '02, in September, 2009 at St. Dominic Chapel, Providence College, with a reception at Astors' Beechwood in Newport. She graduated from the UCONN School

of Medicine in May 2010 and has started her residency in General Surgery at the UCONN Health Center. Jill lives in Newington. • jillianfortier@gmail.com

Rebecca Smith graduated from Hampshire College with a BA degree and is an Associate Buyer for The Jewish Museum and serves on the Museum Greening Initiative Committee. She lives in Brooklyn and is planning a 9/3/11 wedding to Stephen Bashore. She has fond memories of Mrs. Wallack. • Rebeccasmith115@gmail.com

Victoria Valenti married Brian Triggs in November, 2009, at St. Peters Church in Higganum, CT. The ceremony was followed by a reception at St. Clements in Portland. Kristen Pasiuk '02 was the maid of honor and Victoria's cousin, Karen Barton Lockwood '88, was one of the bridesmaids. Brian graduated from Westfield State College and is presently serving in the U.S. Army. He was deployed to Afghanistan in February. Victoria is completing her last semester at Springfield College and will receive her masters in social work May 2010. Victoria and Brian live in Shelburne Falls, MA where they raise Hanoverian horses on their farm. • vianva9@gmail.com

Class of 2004

Elle (Elizabeth) Bunker Osgood lives in Sanibel Island, FL and is a nursing student at Edison State College. • Elle.osgood@yachtsjets.com

Anne Falbowski graduated in 2008 from UConn's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources with a B.S. in Animal Science. She has completed her first year at Iowa State University's College of Veterinary Medicine. Anne loves Ames, Iowa, and owns 3 dogs, 2 cats and a guinea pig.

Kristen Novak earned her BS in Exercise Science degree from UCONN and is working on her Doctorate of Physiotherapy degree at Bond University. Kristen lives in Mermaid Beach, Queensland, Australia. • Kristen.enovak@gmail.com

Class of 2005

Alexandra Weisser graduated from Northeastern University and is living in Portland. • Aweisser10@gmail.com

Class of 2007

Meg Carta was named Player of the Week in the Atlantic 10 conference. She led the offense for No. 20 Massachusetts, propelling the Minutewomen to a 5-0 week.

Class of 2009

Samantha DiMauro's work was the film portion of the evening at the Middle City Stage Company production this spring, 5Arts2010. The screenplay, *Only In Fiction*, was written by Samantha as her submission to Emerson College for application to the school. *Only In*

Fiction has also been selected to be filmed by Women In Motion, a film production organization funded by Emerson College.

IN MEMORIAM

We are always saddened to hear of the loss of one of our alums or a member of the Mercy community. Each spring, the Mercy Alumnae Association hosts a Memorial Mass, to celebrate the memory of these women and this year it will be held on May 3. 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 in your prayers the following Mercy women:

Pamela A. Guardino '70

Diane Barillaro O'Brien, '74.

Aurise Vynalek Smith, '76, sister of Vivienne Vynalek McGarry, '74, and sister-in-law of Donna Smith Dellacamera, '78.

Isabel Angi, mother of Darlene Angi DiProto, '70 and Gail Angi, '74, and grandmother of Amie Amato '95 and Melissa Amato, '97.

Jane Aresco, mother of Debbie Walsh Martinelli, '75 and Lisa Walsh Martin, '79.

Charles Ashley, father of Janet Ashley, '72.

Raymond Bankoski, Sr., father of Sandy Bankoski Franco, '84.

Carlene Belniak, mother of Anne Belniak Galanto, '76 and grandmother of Alicia Galanto, '05.

Ann Bradley, mother of Anne-Marie Bradley Coughlin, '72.

Debra Campagna, mother of Kesa Campagna Pitt, '99.

Barbara Carroll, mother of Christine Carroll Lawrence, '87.

Robert Curtin, father of Erin Curtin Johnson '80 and uncle of Patricia McKinley '79 and Kathleen McKinley Brown '71.

Norma DeGraff, mother of the late Ellen DeGraff Turley, '74.

Charles 'Chuck' DeMeo, father of Kathleen DeMeo, '73.

Rose Gilmartin, mother of Mercy High School Athletic Director, Betsy Gilmartin.

William Hurlburt, father of Sharon Hurlburt, '70.

Roger Kane, father of Kathleen Kane Vicino, '68, and grandfather of Rachael Thompson Lior, '90 and Meaghan McCarthy, '95.

Mitchell Kolenda, father of Teresa Kolenda Anderson, '79.

Diana Lettre, sister of Sr. Rita Garneau, Mercy staff member.

Elizabeth Lineberry, mother of Charlene Lineberry Osborn, '74.

Jean Lukens, mother of Katherine Lukens Maisano, '70, Ann Lukens, '72 and Martha Lukens Gilmore, '75.

Sebastian Magnano, father of Linda Magnano Mozzicato, '87.

Agnes McCormick, mother of Lisa McCormick O'Neill, '76.

Edward McMillan, father of Margaret McMillan, '77.

Iola Monahan, mother of Peggy Monahan Sargis, '73.

Richard Morse, husband of Rose Masselli Morse, '80.

Richard O'Neal, father of Kerry O'Neal, '85.

Keith Otis, son of Cindy Faraci Otis, '74.

Edward Plucas, father of Beth Plucas Reid, '81.

William Pomfret, father of Anne Pomfret Cahoon, '68, and Sharon Pomfret D'Amico, '74.

Nora Ruchman, daughter of Anita Pandolfe-Ruchman, '70, and niece of Linda Pandolfe Carden, '69.

Joseph Salonia, father of Michele Salonia, '71 and Joanne Salonia Hulse, '76 and grandfather of Megan Lacey, '99 and Caitlin Lacey, '02.

Felix Sheehan, father of Laureen Sheehan, '71, Nancy Sheehan, '72 and Deirdre Sheehan, '77.

Margaret Sibley, mother of Anne Sibley Groleau, '85.

Maureen Skinner, mother of Deborah Skinner Pitruzzello, '87, Tamara Skinner Reyes, '88 and Michele Skinner, '91.

John 'Jack' Smithwick Sr., father of Kathleen Smithwick Mazzotta, '70.

Eugene Stickney, father of Colleen Stickney Bloom, '00.

Walter Stojak, Jr., father of Cara Stojak-Ehlers, '94.

Rita Sullivan, mother of Marcia Sullivan Valente, '70.

Helene Terrio, mother of Kathleen Terrio Uscinski '75, Karen Terrio-Malave '76, Michelle Terrio Lineberry '77 and grandmother to Karly Terrio '09

Gary Thompson Sr., father of Brooke Thompson, '08 and Morgan Thompson, '10, and brother of Vicki Thompson Taft, '72.

Steven Timbro, brother of Lori Timbro '88

Theodore Tine, Sr., father of Kimberly Tine Snow, '75, Robin Tine, '77 and Michele Tine Castelli, '81.

Rose J. Tosto, mother of Rosette Tosto Sankner '68 and grandmother of Patricia Sankner Caron '95



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2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 21	Class of 2000 Reunion
September 4	Class of 1985 Reunion
September 24	Class of 1990 Reunion
October 3	Celebration of Sr. Mary's 50th Jubilee
October 9	Class of 1970 Reunion
October 23	Yellow Rose Auction
November 6	Class of 1975 Reunion
December 16	Winter Concer

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