



1501 South 48th Street
Omaha, NE 68106

Non Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Omaha, NE
Permit NO 879

A publication of the Mercy High School Alumnae and Advancement Office

Volume 45, Number 13, Spring 2018

The Mercian

Important Dates

- May 5** Plant Sale Pickup, 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Franey Hall
- May 7** May Crowning, 7:00 p.m. Franey Hall
- May 12** Alumnae Prayer Circle, 9:15 a.m., Chapel
- May 15** Baccalaureate Mass & Dinner, 6:00 p.m.
- May 16** Graduation, 7: 00 p.m., Joslyn Art Museum
- May 24** Last Day of School
- June 3** All-School Reunion
Contact Katy Butts '03, Alumnae Relations Director & Events Manager, buttsk@mercyhigh.org for more information.
RSVP on Mercy's website under Alumnae Events.
- September 10** Golf Fest, The Players Club at Deer Creek



In this issue:

Mercy News:

FIESTA 2018
Donations Spur Actions
Student Ambassadors

Alumnae Features:

Carol Smola Dargy '56
Mary Pat Smola McCormick '58
Pat O'Neill Sauerman '65



MERCY NEWS

FIESTA 2018-A Golden Event

FIESTA 2018 lived up to its name— Mercy-The Gold Standard.

The event, which took place on Saturday, February 17, raised funds for the school's Negotiated Tuition Program, hit several major milestones and brought 460 alumnae, parents, faculty, staff, donors and friends to the La Vista Conference Center to celebrate Mercy High School. The theme was a bold, sophisticated and elegant statement of Mercy's outcomes—empowering young women to achieve their full potential.

Some of the highlights included:

- Close to \$360,000 was raised—one of the highest totals in recent years
- Pat O'Neill Sauerma '65 was named the winner of

the Distinguished Woman of Mercy Alumna Award. (see page 8 for an article on her)

- A video of the student body singing the Suscipe overlaid with photos of Mercy Girls past and present. It is available at <https://vimeo.com/259116562>
- An overview of Mercy's new branding given by Leanne Prewitt '97, Board Member and Creative Director, Ervin & Smith.
- Participants showed their support during a special fundraising segment at the event to renovate Mercy's science labs incentivized by a \$75,000 matching grant from the Dr. C. C. and Mabel Criss

Memorial Foundation. More than \$153,000 was raised—the most ever in a 'raise the paddle' segment. (see on page 6 for the story about plans for the science labs).

- New this year, the ability to purchase a Golden Ticket for \$100. Fifty Golden Tickets were sold in less than 15



minutes, giving the lucky winner the opportunity to pick a live auction item of their choice. This year's lucky winner, Patricia Cavanaugh, selected a week-long trip to Marina Fiesta Resort Los Cabos.

Serving as FIESTA 2018 Chairs were Mercy parents, Lynn and Brad Muse. They were assisted by hundreds of volunteers who did everything from setting up the event to soliciting auction items, registering attendees, selling and organizing wine sales, Golden Tickets and raffle tickets, and more. They were joined by close to 100 students who greeted guests, helped attendees bid with personal devices, sold gift boxes, promoted live auction items, and facilitated pick-up.

In a ballroom of high energy, guests mingled with each other, decked out in glitter and gold, viewing hundreds of baskets, collectibles, art objects and more. When the program began, Mistress of Ceremony Molly Cavanaugh '90 kept the evening on schedule as attendees gathered at tables adorned with centerpieces of large blue and gold "M" monograms, gold beads and "feathers in our cap,"



along with golden lit-up branches adorned with our signature monarchs.

Attendees received instant updates on personal devices for bids they made on items in Bidpal throughout the night. During the live and super silent auction, bidders could purchase vacation trips, Nebraska Cornhusker, College World Series and Cubs tickets, a half side of beef, concert tickets, golf packages, a vase with cash, and more.

In addition to monies raised that evening, many businesses and individuals provided sponsorship and underwriting support, and purchased advertising in the event's catalog.

Student Council President, Hannah Fenton '18, spoke and reminded the audience that "Mercy challenges me to extend my knowledge further than the classroom and into the world where I know I am capable of being a positive, contributing member of society. I am proud to be part of a school that stands for something greater, where I have come to know myself, to know my morals, and be confident that I will achieve the life that God has planned for me."



The students, faculty and staff of Mercy High School are grateful for the generosity shown to the school by its alumnae, parents and friends. This event and the mission of Mercy cannot succeed without that support. Thank you for helping to make FIESTA 2018-The Gold Standard.

Photography:

Top left: Lynn and Brad Muse, current Mercy parents, served as this year's FIESTA Chairs.

Mercy students greeted attendees, helped guests bid on items, sold raffle tickets, gift boxes and more and supported other FIESTA activities.

Above left to right: Mercy Board member Robert Gonderinger, his wife Mary, and Sr. Delores Hannon, RSM, President, find a moment to talk at FIESTA 2018.

Below left: Mercy students help Mercy parent Ron Reinard bid on an auction item.

Below right: The tables were adorned with centerpieces of large blue and gold monograms (Mercy colors) on a bed of gold fabric and lights.





ALUMNAE FEATURE

Passion for Education Leads to Authorship

As sisters, they share many bonds—family, faith, and fondness for Mercy, and a thirst for education that led each of them to write and have books published.

In fact, according to Omahan Carol Smola Dargy '56 and Mary Pat Smola McCormick '58 of Denver and Carmel, California, education is the thread that is interwoven in both of their lives resulting in passions for lifelong learning, reading and writing.

As students, they moved to Omaha in 1955 during Carol's senior year and Mary Pat's sophomore year. Their father was transferred to Omaha from Sioux City. Their parents believed in Catholic education and enrolled them in the newly formed Mercy High School.

"Both our parents and Mercy had a profound effect on

our perspectives and how we would lead our lives. There was a generous spirit of kindness from our family and school," said Mary Pat.

Their mother instilled in them the belief they could do anything, and their father regaled them with information on current events every evening.

They both feel Mercy reaffirmed their parents' faith and education goals as well as encouraged them to practice kindness and hospitality.

"At Mercy, that welcoming instinct was ingrained

in the entire community. I remember students and teachers being cheerful, meeting everyone at the door with a smile," Carol said

While at Mercy, Mary Pat was editor of the yearbook and credits that experience to her love of writing and editing in later years. For both, especially Carol, the transition to a new school in her senior year, could have been difficult but it wasn't, thanks to Mercy.

"Sr. Mary Brendan O'Malley, RSM, our principal, was very kind to us and took us under



her wing. We were both made to feel very welcome," Carol said.

Mercy inspired them to act with kindness.

"Sr. Brendan would close assemblies saying "girls, always do the right thing, at the right time, and for the right reason," Mary Pat said.

When Carol graduated, she attended Duchesne College and received a two-year teaching certificate. She immediately took a position teaching 2nd grade at Holy Cross, teaching for one year and marrying Bob Dargy. As their five children grew older, she returned to the charm of Mercy at the College of St. Mary's. She earned her education degree in 1983 and began an 18-year teaching career at St. Thomas More School, followed by substitute teaching at several Catholic schools including Mercy.

Mary Pat went to Creighton University and got an education degree also. She married Dick McCormick, taught for several years in public and Catholic schools, raised four children and moved several times as a result of her husband's corporate transfers. She also earned a Master's degree from the University of Denver in Liberal Studies in 1989.

A quote from noted educator Anthony J. D'Angelo might describe their feelings about education.

"Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow."

Through the years they have both been community volunteers in education and

health fields with particular interests in Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases, mental health, history and art as well as their parishes and local communities.

"We have been blessed with supportive husbands who share our interests and activities," said Carol. Both have been married to their spouses for more than 50 years.

Their writing journeys, however, took different paths. For Carol, writing a book was part of a class assignment at the College of St. Mary's. The final assignment in one of her Children's Literature courses was to write a children's book. At the same time, she was intimately involved with her father's dementia. She felt that the most effective writing she could do was with a familiar topic. That is how *My Pal, My Grandpa: The Story of a Child's Journey with a Grandfather Suffering from Alzheimer's Disease* was born. The memoir is told through the eyes of her son, Tom, who had a strong and loving relationship with his grandpa. Carol later refined it and the book was published in 2016. The 42-page paperback is illustrated by Michael Pflaum, Dargy's nephew and former Mercy parent.

"There's a real need for children to be involved, never forgetting their loved ones. I hope children and their parents find value in this book," Carol said.

Mary Pat's book came about as a result of her work at the Carmel Mission, her California parish, which is the burial place of St. Junipero Serra. As a docent, Mary Pat welcomes guests and leads tours explaining the history and art of the Basilica and adjoining



museums. She has also been on the art research team, writing and editing papers for archival records. That led to her writing a book along with docent friend, Gail Sheridan, called *Art from the Carmel Mission*. It features 30 of the most important artifacts—paintings, sculptures, silver and vestments—accompanied by descriptions of their historical and religious significance and color photography by Dennis Wyszinski.

Both Mercy graduates have shared their passion for education with and for others exemplifying the best of Women of Mercy. Many family members have attended the school including a daughter, granddaughters and grandnieces.

Photography:

Top left: Mary Pat Smola McCormick '58 (left) and her sister Carol Smola Dargy '56.

Left bottom: Mercy graduates who attend Creighton University and benefit from the Smola-McCormick Scholarship. Pictured left to right are: Theresa Q. Nguyen '16, Nijole M. Kudirka '17, Mary Pat McCormick '58, donor, Alek Ajuet Rehan '14 and Rosalind ("Roz") O. Parr '09.

Top right: Carol Smola Dargy '56 visits Mercy and signs her book.

MERCY NEWS

Art Expands Thinking and Learning

In an ever-changing world of technological advancements, the visual arts have become more and more invaluable. Art is unique and essentially priceless—something Art Teacher Jane Langenfeld wants all her students to know.



classes, she teaches drawing, painting, graphic design, 3D design and photography. Honors Art consists of seniors who have taken at least two semesters of art, and have also applied with an art portfolio.

Her goal for Honors Art is to get students to “think like an artist.” She teaches the “eight studio habits of mind,” which are the studio habits real artists actually utilize in daily life.

“With art, there isn’t a right answer,” Langenfeld said. “I like to leave my answers vague so my students can problem solve and think critically.”

Mercy art students have won recognition at many local and state art competitions and have exhibited their art at the local, state, and national levels.

Art expands the thinking of students and broadens their scope of learning. Individuals are challenged to think outside of the box, a skill that will remain with them and lead them to excel in a more complex world.

Photography:

Top left: Art students learn to be creative and think critically.

“Very soon, people who think creatively are going to be essential in the job market. Employers will need not just individuals who can spit back information. That’s what the internet can do. They will want employees who can process that information in innovative and creative ways,” she said.

A Nebraska Art Teacher of the Year Award recipient, Langenfeld challenges all art students, but particularly beginner level. She strives to instill appreciation for art and make known the relevancy of art in each person’s life that

they may not consider on a daily basis.

“Even if they don’t want to be an artist some day, every person is a consumer of art. I want them to be able to intelligently choose and select the designs they will wear, drive, and have in their house,” said Langenfeld.

She teaches three levels of classes: introduction, intermediate and Honors. Her intro level class consists of the basics including mixing colors and all the different types of media an artist can utilize. In her intermediate level

Donors Fund Mercy’s STEAM Vision



Mercy High School continues to move full STEAM ahead thanks to the generosity of donors who have committed funds for the renovation of the school’s biology, chemistry and physics laboratories. The school has expanded its STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) curriculum, and the laboratories will be updated to reflect state-of-the-art industry standards for presenting current and integrated STEAM curriculum.

Preparing young women for the careers of the 21st Century is a key tenant of Mercy’s Strategic Plan. The national job market is exploding in STEAM-related opportunities. The school understands that colleges are demanding high school graduates—especially underrepresented groups like young women and minorities—who exhibit high-level skills in science and math. Mercy’s STEAM curriculum emphasizes innovative thinking, collaboration, and the

application of interdisciplinary knowledge to enhance problem-solving skills.

The renovated spaces will be packed with technology to best complement the information transfer that occurs in these disciplines. The flexible furnishing and fixtures will allow for interactive experimentation and the collaborative nature of today’s education; and the modern look and feel will attract young minds and serve students for years to come. Specific enhancements will include updated workspace islands, integrated projection systems for sharing of knowledge, upgraded gas, water and electrical infrastructure, digital analysis enhancements, and improved lighting and ventilation. Cost for the renovation is estimated at \$1 million.

“Mercy is following through on its academically centered commitment to a rigorous curriculum that provides everything young women need

to succeed,” said Principal, Sarah Regan.

That initiative began at FIESTA, with a special segment called Fill the Monarch that raised close to \$160,000, thanks to a matching grant of \$75,000 from the Dr. C. C. and Mabel Criss Memorial Foundation. Momentum is building with anonymous gifts and pledges from an alumna, a local corporation, and a foundation that has issued a challenge grant for \$400,000. These gifts and pledges total nearly \$700,000, and the Advancement office has numerous funding requests under review and in process. The school is confident it will reach its goal.

“Mercy is fortunate to have donors who understand our educational vision and know their investment will transform students’ lives,” said President, Sr. Delores Hannon, RSM.

Mercy has worked with HDR, Project Advocates and Morrissey Engineering to develop a vision, inventory of needs for these spaces and overall design. The renovation will take place in the summer of 2018.

Please consider supporting this important initiative by contacting Jim Pogge, Vice President for Advancement, at 402.553.9424 ext. 102 or at poggej@mercyhigh.org.

Photography:

Top left: An architectural rendering of a renovated science laboratory.



MERCY NEWS

The Faces of Mercy

It is among one of the most coveted positions at Mercy and those lucky enough to be chosen become the face of the school.

For more than 30 years, Mercy High School has had a Student Ambassador program which has become an essential recruitment tool. The students represent Mercy on visits to local schools, help with recruitment activities like Open House and Lock-In, and provide school tours during events and often serve as Shadow Hostesses.

“Each spring about 50 students apply for about 15 positions. Candidates must be academically sound, responsible, involved, confident, and most importantly know why girls should choose Mercy,” said Anne Zadina McGill ’00, Admissions Director.

Already this year, the group has visited 27 schools. They receive

training in the summer prior to each school year. Unlike other schools, when Mercy visits a middle school in addition to an overall presentation on the school, the ambassadors meet with prospective students in small groups.

“That one-on-one time is priceless. Girls considering Mercy look up to our students. We pick young women who they want to emulate and they look up to as role models,” McGill added.

And Mercy students also learn a great deal from the experience.

“I enjoy being a Student Ambassador because I am able to share my love of Mercy with

other students and give them an opportunity to find out what it’s really like to be a Mercy girl. I think it’s important for the school because hearing what high school is like from a student is extremely valuable and gives a new perspective to the younger students,” said Bridget Schroll, ’18.

According to McGill, even though the Student Ambassadors have a limited number of positions, all Mercy girls are great ambassadors for the school. Their love for our school is evident, and their friendliness and daily interactions with future Mercy girls are extremely beneficial to the school’s future success.

Photography:

Main: Student Ambassadors back row: Sarah Austin, Abby Guinan, Emma Nebel, Mayela Hernandez, and Gabbi Zuerlein and front row: Carina Muse, Susie Huggins, Isabella Larsen and Nyaduel Paljor visit St. Columbkille.

ALUMNAE FEATURE

Sauerman Selected Alumna Award Winner

Pat O’Neill Sauerman ’65 of Scottsdale, AZ has been named the 2018 Distinguished Woman of Mercy Alumna, an award given by the Mercy High School Alumnae Association.

Sauerman, a 1965 graduate, has spent her adult life dedicated to Catholic endeavors including parish work and a long-term commitment to the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS). CGS is a Montessori-based approach to children’s formation and the adults who work with them. The announcement was made at the school’s annual FIESTA on February 17, and she will receive the award at the school’s 2018 All-School Reunion on Sunday, June 3 at Mercy.

The award recognizes an alumna for her outstanding achievements, service, and contributions, which promote the growth of faith, knowledge, and service in her career, community and/or society. As the recipient of this award, the honoree is someone who is respected by her peers, outstanding in her field, and promotes society in a way that benefits many people.

Undergraduate studies in Elementary Education and Social Work from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and a Master’s in Science

Organization Development from the Graziadio School of Business at Pepperdine University have afforded Pat with great opportunities from corporate to classroom settings in education, consulting for change, and creative design.

She has served as a board member for CGSUSA (National Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for the United States of America) and for Mount Claret Retreat and Conference Center. Her almost 30 years of work with CGS involved building several atrium environments for children, ages 3-12 for religious formation, developing the CGSUSA Online Materials Manuals, and with her husband, creating the Shepherd’s Closet in their home, raising over \$100,000 in proceeds to support the vision and mission of CGSUSA. For CGS, the atrium is a joy-filled environment where Scripture and Liturgical materials, presentations, contemplation, and prayer encourage children (and adults) to grow in their faith and relationship with God.

In 2001, Pat began directing the building of the CGS Atrium for St. Timothy Catholic Academy and served its children for many years. She also assisted with the development of atria in the Diocese of Phoenix, throughout



the USA and beyond. Pat was elected to serve three CGSUSA National Board terms, was certified as a Formation Leader for all three CGS levels, coordinated several CGSUSA National Courses, and made several study trips to the original Rome Atrium (researching the work of Dr. Sofia Cavalletti and Gianna Gobbi, CGS co-founders), and worked as Materials and Resources Coordinator on the CGSUSA National Staff. Since retiring from CGSUSA, Pat has continued CGS volunteering in the USA and abroad.

A detail-oriented, hands-on consultant, Pat currently works with her husband, daughter and son-in-law in residential property renovation and management for VRBO (Vacation Rental By Owner) properties.

In nominating Sauerman for the award, the nominator said, “Pat is a shining example of spending her life sharing her faith and knowledge through her service to several Catholic causes. She is truly worthy of this recognition.”

Photography:

Top Right: Pat O’Neill Sauerman ’65 is alumna award winner.



MERCY NEWS

Learning Something More

Mercy teaches much more than academics. During this year's Spring Break, a number of Mercy students spent their free time in service to others.

Six students, along with chaperones, traveled to Misericordia in Chicago, Illinois. This community of care, operated by the Sisters of Mercy, maximizes potential for persons with mild to profound developmental disabilities. The operation serves more than 600 children and adults from diverse racial, religious and socio-economic backgrounds. Mercy girls provided a variety of support from working in the thrift store and bakery, the learning center and art center as well as sprucing up the campus. Several other students stayed in Omaha and worked at the Open Door Mission.

"Service opportunities like this are voluntary. These trips are a wonderful time to come together as a community, witnessing the diverse world we live in," said Ashley Shrader Miller '04, Campus Minister at Mercy and chaperone for the Chicago trip.

At Mercy students are challenged to expand their faith not only through studies but also in their relationships with others and a variety of service learning opportunities like these.

"Going to Misericordia over spring break was such an eye-opening experience. It was a chance to get a new perspective on life by

working alongside adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. They radiated happiness and positivity as their zest for life was reflected clearly in their daily work. The residents taught me that work does not have to be overly complex to be fulfilling, and that a successful day is one filled with love and joy," said Annika Muse '18.

Later this year in June, girls will also have an opportunity to do an immersion trip to the Dominican Republic.

"They get to experience first-hand a reality outside their comfort zone and share their gifts through compassionate service," Miller added.

Photography:

Main: Mercy students left to right Claire Fink, Natalie Harsh, Emma Weis, Annika Muse, Hannah Fenton, and Mayela Hernandez spent their Spring Break in service.

MERCY NEWS

Gifts Will Transform Student Experience



Mercy High School has taken a transformational step forward on its promise is to empower young women to achieve their full potential in a diverse, supportive and academically-centered community.

The school is hiring staff with specific skills—an English as a Second Language Specialist and an additional Guidance Counselor—to better serve the immediate and post-graduate academic goals of students.

Mercy's inclusive and growing student enrollment mirrors the ethnic, socio-economic and racial profile of the Omaha metro area. With that increased diversity, especially in the Latina community, and Mercy's commitment to provide a college preparatory education for every girl regardless of her family's financial means, an ESL specialist becomes imperative in supporting the needs of

many of the students and families the school attracts. Working with ESL learners and their families is challenging for many mainstream teachers and administrators, so having this support will be transformational for these students. The ESL Specialist will strategically work with the students, teachers, and parents to ensure success for their future.

"Students whose native language is not English, but who have exceptional academic ability, can often struggle with understanding subject area concepts due to language differences. Having a culturally sensitive and trained support

person who also understands education and learning styles will be invaluable," said Sarah Regan, Principal.

The growing enrollment also necessitates the addition of a second counselor. Mercy's counselors will both continue to assist adolescents as they navigate the unique educational, social and behavioral obstacles related to attending high school, but she also guides them through the college preparation process. College acceptance is competitive, with a complicated enrollment and financial aid process. At the same time, Mercy is now offering the OnToCollege ACT prep curriculum for all students. The additional guidance counselor will enhance Mercy's efforts to implement this program, with a goal of achieving higher ACT scores and more opportunities for scholarships for students.

"Educating women and providing all students the opportunity to be successful are major focuses of the Sisters of Mercy," said President Sr. Delores Hannon, RSM.

Mercy is actively recruiting qualified candidates to begin in the fall of 2018. Funding for these positions was made possible by the generosity of our donors.

Photography:

Main: Mercy students will benefit from new Guidance Counselor and ESL Specialist.

Announcements

Regan Going to Florida



Principal Sarah Regan is leaving at the end of this school year to begin a position with a national

education consulting firm in Florida. A search committee is being formed to find her successor.

In her five years at Mercy, Regan has made a significant impact on the school technologically, educationally, strategically, and professionally.

As the architect of the school's Strategic Plan, she facilitated discussions, coordinated input from all stakeholders and developed the plan complete with goals and objectives that guide the mission of the school today.

Under her leadership, Mercy has embraced technology at all levels. Examples include all students carrying iPads, Naviance being used for college admissions support, the implementation of a new Student Information System (SIS), and expanding the use of Renweb to enhance work efficiency and communication.

Regan also coordinated the development of a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) curriculum and adopted formalized lesson planning. During her time at the school, an Academic Success Center for students of

all ability levels was expanded and she helped to secure the John Baylor "OnToCollege" ACT Prep program for all students in all classes beginning next fall. Mercy is the only high school in Omaha to offer ACT prep for every student, each year at Mercy. This allows students opportunities to earn higher scholarships to college.

Mercy Presents Scholarships

Mercy High School distributed 21 scholarships worth \$68,800 for four years to 8th grade students this year. Students earned these scholarships based on results on the Scholarship & Placement Exam given in January.

Administrators from Mercy including the President, Principal, Assistant Principals and Admissions Director visited schools to present the scholarships. Schools visited and number of scholarships given included: Good Shepherd Lutheran (1), Holy Cross (1), Mary Our Queen (1), St. Cecilia (1), St. Columbkille (1), St. Gerald (2), St. James Seton (3), St. Margaret Mary (1), St. Mary Bellevue (1), St. Patrick Elkhorn (1), St. Pius X/St. Leo (3), St. Robert (1) and St. Wenceslaus (3).

First Annual Alumnae Day of Service

Saturday, April 14 marked the start of a new Mercy Tradition. About 25 alumnae gathered at Mercy for the First Annual Alumnae Day of Service at the school. The event, coordinated by the Alumnae Council, began with a rosary in the Our Lady of Mercy Chapel followed by

making sandwiches for The Sienna Francis House and Youth Emergency Services. Over 300 sandwiches were dropped off to these important local organizations.

"In the spirit of Catherine McAuley, and what we learned about giving back to our community at Mercy, this service day was a natural fit," said Roz Parr '09, President, Alumnae Council

The idea for the event came out of a conversation between two alumnae.

"I saw a fellow alumna at a craft fair that said she would love to see alumnae involved in service. I brought it to the Alumnae Council who embraced the concept and came up with the sandwich-making idea," said Kaylea Dunn '96, member of the Alumnae Council.



Alumnae gathered on April 14 to make sandwiches as part of the Alumnae Day of Service.

Athletic Accolades

During the fall and winter sports seasons, Mercy students received accolades for accomplishments in athletics.

- Megan Wheeler broke the record for 3-pointers in the basketball season, scoring 47 compared to 43.

- Laura Salerno broke the basketball season rebounding record getting 217 compared to 205.

- Katherine Wurtz signed a letter of intent to play softball at Morningside College.

- Maggie Moyer signed a letter of intent to run Cross Country at Rockhurst University.

Conference honors included:

Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) Academic All State:

- Annika Muse, Hannah Fenton, Tess Hart, Natalie Harsh, and Maggie Moyer

River Cities Conference (RCC) Academic All Conference:

- Hannah Fenton, Annabella Glatte, Natalie Harsh, Tess Hart, Maggie Moyer, Annika Muse, Lauren Ramaekers, Catie Tangeman and Katherine Wurtz.

RCC All Conference:

- Golf: Grace Gonka

RCC All Conference Honorable Mention:

- Softball: Michaela Cosgrove, Haley Gann, Amanda Placzek, Hailee Placzek, and Katherine Wurtz.

- Volleyball: Hannah Fenton and Mia Shepoka.

Class B Basketball All-State Honorable Mention by the *Lincoln Journal Star*:

- Laura Salerno, Megan Wheeler, and Summer Mann.

Reunions Announced

The following classes have announced plans for reunions this summer.

St. Mary High School Class of 1952

October 17: Lunch at Gorat's

Please save the date! For details contact Mary Lou Targy at 402-733-7149 or Mary Jo Havlicek at 402-553-0224.

Class of 1958

June 2 at 12:00 p.m.: Picnic

For details and to RSVP please contact Carol Neill Casey at 402-397-9279

Class of 1963:

June 2 at 5:00 p.m.: Dinner at Gorat's

RSVP to Kay Mahoney Zielinski at kaymahoney@cox.net or Connie Remkus at remkus@att.net

Cass of 1968:

June 2 at 5:00 p.m.: Girls Only Dinner at Villa Lo Sole

RSVP to Cilla Connelly Quinn at priscilla-1950@hotmail.com or 402-990-1060

Class of 1973:

October 27 at 6:00 p.m.: Cocktail Hour at Fox and Hound

7:00 p.m.: Dinner
RSVP to Mary Nee Overton at moverton1955@yahoo.com.

Class of 1998:

July 14 - Ladies' Night Out
July 15 - Family Afternoon

For details and to RSVP please contact Ellen Bockelman at 402-201-6442 or Ebockelman@me.com or Cate Herink Knockenhauer at 402-730-2283 or Cmknock@yahoo.com.

Class of 2003:

We are planning a gathering on the evening of June 2. Please contact Katy Butts at buttsk@mercyhigh.org or 402.553.9424 if you want to help plan!

Is your class planning a reunion? Share your information with Katy Butts '03, Alumnae Relations Director & Events Manager. We will post details on your event on our website.

ALUMNAE ITEMS

(PHOTOS PRECEDE ARTICLE)

1980s



Maureen Becka Falcon '85 is living proof of the impact Mercy has made, as her entire life keeps pointing back to Mercy. See her story under Alumnae features on Mercy's website.

Dana Schweiger '87 was named best supporting actress in this year's Omaha Entertainment and Arts Awards for her work in Blue Barn's "The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui."

2000s

Brittany Cash-Baker '02 was sworn in as a graduate of the 146th Foreign Service Specialist Class in October. Her title is Diplomatic Security Service Special Agent and she is currently working in Washington, D.C.



Alumnae **Ashley Shrader Miller '04** continues to make faith her cornerstone and allows the spirituality of the Sisters of Mercy to motivate her each day as she works as the school's

Campus Minister of Mercy. See her story under Alumnae features on Mercy's website.



Anna Berg '09 knows firsthand the importance of the confidence she developed at Mercy in her current position as the IT Helpdesk Manager at UNO. See her story under Alumnae features on Mercy's website.

2010s



Bridget '13 and Ava Blessie '17 pictured left to right were part of Missouri Western's Soccer Team's best season.

Bridget '13 and **Ava Blessie '17** were part of Missouri Western's Soccer Team's best season. The team was runner-up in conference and tournament play. They finished the season 17-5 and qualified for the national tournament. Bridget was named All-Conference first team, All-Region second team, and the team's Most Valuable Player.

Vivian Parr '16 performed as the lead actress in Creighton University's play "She Kills Monsters," in February 2018.

Weddings



The wedding party from left to right: Laura Rejda Beckman '87, Carm Cosentino '70, Connie Cosentino '65, Mary Spencer Pipkins '87, Thomas Pipkins, Cathy Monzu Marasco '90, and Shelly Smart Baratta '87.

Mary Spenceri '87 married Thomas Pipkins on October 28, 2017.

Carolyn Sobczyk '07 married Brandon Ricke on October 21, 2017 at St. Francis Xavier Church in Kansas City, Missouri. The wedding party included the bride's sister, Mercy alumna **Andrea Sobczyk '09**. The bride graduated from Rockhurst University in 2011 with a degree in Mass Communication and is employed by JPA Health Communications. The groom is completing a residency in Emergency Medicine at the University of Kansas Health Systems. The couple resides in Mission, Kansas.

Births



Dominic Santos Franco was born to **Tiffany Scheibelhofer Bock '01** and Rory Franco on November 29, 2017.

Kelly Conley Novotny '04 and her husband Paul welcomed a baby girl to their family on September 12, 2017 named Ruby Mae.



Kayleen Colson'10 welcomed Emerson Patton Brablec a baby boy on September 3, 2017.

In Memoriam

We extend sympathy to the families and friends of those alumnae whose deaths were communicated to the Advancement Office from November 1, 2017-February 28, 2018. We try to make this list as accurate as possible. **Please inform Naomi Chambers at chambersn@mercyhigh.org if we missed anyone.**

- Mary Jean Dugan Hartman, SM '38
- Geraldine Tomes Nelson, SJ '39
- Ann Marie Minar Adams, SJ '43
- Adeline Walega Snyder, SM '44
- Ruth Minar Toman, SJ '45
- Margaret Sheets Barnett, SM '45
- Colette M. Schlueter, SJ '46
- Patricia Clare Sullivan, SM '46
- Mary Ann Krajicek Hill, SJ '48
- Ellamae Grabowsky Habron, SM '49
- Annette Sawatzki Bilek, SJ '50
- Darlene Zitka Schorsch, SJ '50
- Mary Alba Clark, SM '50
- Mary Joan Pupkes Jansen, SJ '51
- Mary Blankenship Allberry-Horn, SM '52
- Joan Marie Krzemien Bockmann, SJ '53
- Julia Watsabaugh MacKay, SJ '54
- Rosemary Mazzara Kracht, SM '54

- Virginia Jansen Ogren, SM '54
- Margaret Wheeler Respeliars, SM '55
- Paula Strong Disterhaupt '57
- Jacqueline Emery Albritton '59
- Patricia Gleason Masek '59
- Judith Pankowski Ritchie '59
- Carolyn Regan Roepke-Fluger '59
- Maureen DeCabooter Halpin '60
- Mary Anne Cavanaugh Lucas '60
- Lucille Gulizia Incontro '61
- Patricia Tuttle LaHue '62
- Mary Margaret Dewhurst Gatzke '64
- Charlotte Plack Renze '64
- Regina Marchio Browning '68
- Margaret Koneck Shanahan '72
- Michaela Kasun Jordan '77
- Yar Mayen '13