**Borghoff Receives Cor Misericordiae Award**

Ingrid Kalinowski Borghoff ’65 received Mercy High School’s highest honor at this year’s FIESTA. The Cor Misericordiae (Heart of Mercy) Award was established to recognize and bless the school’s partners in ministry who espouse Mercy’s mission of the careful instruction of young women.

For more than a quarter of a century, 1986-2012, Ingrid led Alumnae and Advancement activities at Mercy High School before retiring in 2012. During that time she raised more than $25.5 million. Her achievements are numerous and include these highlights:

- Establishing the Annual Fund program to attract unrestricted and recurring gifts to Mercy High School.
- Developing, along with Ron Wilwerding, the annual Golf Fest, which will be in its 26th year in 2017.
- Helping coordinate and implement five major capital campaigns ranging from converting the convent wing into school space, creating an entrance plaza, developing the school’s first dedicated gym, and supporting the technological need of the school.
- Enhancing the membership and activities of the Alumnae Council.
- Engaging people in the mission of Mercy High School.

“Ingrid kept herself abreast of the best practices in development and she constantly challenged me and the board to reach further and to try new things,” said Sr. Johanna Burnell, RSM, former president of Mercy High School for 21 years.

Born in Hannover, Germany, Ingrid and her sister Ursula both attended Mercy High School. She graduated from Creighton University with a Bachelor's Degree in German and worked in management positions at Northwestern Bell Telephone Company. She served as a Development Officer at the Archdiocese of Omaha before joining Mercy in 1986.

Ingrid is active in the Ignatian Volunteer Corps and serves on the Advisory Council. She was a Sisters of Mercy Associate, a Board member of Knowles Mercy Spirituality Center, and has served on Creighton University's Nursing Alumni Board, the American Cancer Society, and the Josie Harper Hospice House.

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Franco Named First Recipient of Alumna Award

Theresa Franco ’74 is the first-ever recipient of the Distinguished Woman of Mercy Alumna Award given by the Mercy High School Alumnae Association. Franco, a 1974 graduate, is the Vice President of Cancer Services and Radiology at Nebraska Medicine. The announcement was made at the school’s annual FIESTA on February 25 and she will receive the award at the 2017 All-School Reunion on Sunday, June 4.

The new 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 peers, outstanding in her field, and promotes society in a way that benefits many people.

Franco is responsible for comprehensive cancer care program development. With over 30 years of experience in cancer care, Franco is the Clinical Leader overseeing the development of the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center on the Nebraska Medicine campus. She has published and presented nationally and internationally on a variety of cancer program topics, and has served on several advisory boards to improve cancer care delivery. A member of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Best Practices Committee since its inception, Franco also serves on the NCCN Board. Her resume also boasts other board memberships including Creighton University College of Nursing Alumni Board, the American Cancer Society, and the Josie Harper Hospice House.

She is known as someone whose commitment to the care and treatment of cancer patients and families is grounded in her faith and was reinforced during her days at Mercy. For instance, she starts each day reading a reflection from the book, “Jesus Calling.”
In nominating Franco for the award, the nominator said, “Theresa’s works of mercy include counseling the doubtful and comforting the sorrowful. A person’s faith can be shaken when given the diagnosis of cancer and with Theresa, the person comes first. Be it a colleague, friend, family or complete stranger, she has spent countless hours patiently answering questions, giving comfort and even helping set up medical consultations. Her compassionate, loving spirit responds instantaneously to the needs of others.”

The active alumna regularly attends Mercy events and supports the school. She previously served on the Alumnae Council and her Mercy connections are very deep. Her mother Louise Battaglia Franco, SM ’50 as well as four sisters and five nieces are Mercy graduates.

She has received numerous other awards including the Creighton University School of Nursing Alumni Merit Award, Leadership Development Award at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Carol M. Wilson Award for Quality in Nursing, and “Caring Kind Employee of the Year,” Nebraska Hospital Association.

“Theresa is a compassionate leader who exemplifies all that is good about Mercy High School. She is a worthy first recipient of the Distinguished Woman of Mercy Alumna Award and an excellent role model to all alumnae,” said Sr. Delores Hannon, RSM, President of Mercy.

Monthly Giving Made Easy

Donors have asked for an easy way to plan their donations to Mercy High School. Instead of waiting for annual Phonathon appeal letters, they would prefer to add a line in their monthly budget for a gift to Mercy.

In response to this request, we created a new monthly giving club: Mx12, or Mx12 for short. And it’s a simple two-step process—

• Simply decide how much you want to give each month;
• Let the automated system do the work for you.

Just think what the following amounts fund:
$10 per month = 2 days of tuition for a student
$25 per month = one full week of tuition.

The benefits of Mx12 are that donors have full control of their giving to Mercy, Mercy receives a steady, predictable stream of donations in support of the Negotiated Tuition Program, and our Mercy Girls get the opportunity of a Mercy Education. Sign up on Mercy’s website under Support Mercy, Ways to Give page.

Alumna Filmmaker Brings Production to Mercy

Mercy students join the cast and crew during production of a recent movie entitled “Esquimo Kisses,” at the school’s chapel.

Kathy Mulcahy Mirtan ’83 and her husband are award-winning, short film movie producers who used Mercy High School’s chapel recently for a new movie project. Students were invited to attend, watch the action, and work behind the scenes in the making of the film. Performance, especially on the stage, has always been Kathy’s passion and was nurtured during her years at Mercy.

Living down the street from Mercy allowed Kathy to attend all the Mercy plays during her childhood. She recalls helping to find props for many of the productions. Initially she thought she wanted to go to a coed high school but after a long talk with a Mercy graduate, she realized Mercy was the right fit for her.

“Our class was loaded with spirit and theatrical talent. We pulled out all the stops for our class plays, productions and Masses. When Field Day was rained out, we sang all our songs and formed our shapes in the choir room,” she said.

Drama had always been her strongest interest and one of her earliest recollections was being part of the stage crew under the leadership of a senior student director. She recalls before each performance gathering for a student-led prayer and the senior sending her a thank-you note for being on the stage crew.

“To this day I pray the Memorare before every performance and after every run I send out thank yous,” she added.

Read more of her story on Mercy’s website under Alumnae Features.

Mercy Receives Honor

Mercy High School was chosen as a Catholic Superstar High School as part of Spirit Catholic Radio’s contest during Catholic Schools Week, January 30-February 4. Many alumnae, family and friends voted for Mercy.

The school will receive:
• A LIVE interview on Spirit Catholic Radio’s Spirit Morning show.
• FREE prayer cards for every student.
• A trophy to be displayed at the school.
• A gift card to supply the teachers’ lounge with Mystic Monk Coffee.
• $1,000 worth of on-air spots that promote the school and what makes it unique.
• Promotion on spiritcatholicradio.com.

Hoge Is National Merit Finalist

Senior Lynden Hoge, has been named a Finalist by the National Merit Scholarship Cooperation and now joins an elite group competing for one of the 7,500 scholarships available valued at $35 million. Her advancement in the competition began with a pool of 1.5 million entrants. She continues the academic excellence of the school which has had three Finalists in the last four years.

Hoge is Student Council Secretary and served as Stage Manager for last fall’s musical, The Wizard of Oz. She has also played soccer, been involved in show choir and theatre, enjoys Math, Spanish and English, especially Language and Composition. Her GPA is 3.98 and she plans to go to college and is in the midst of figuring out her choices leaning toward language development or linguistics.

She has six siblings and two of her older sisters went to Mercy.
Clinical Pathology.

Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Society for has received the 2016 Member Gallagher Dunn.

Alice Buscher McKernan, Mary Kearney Jackson and Ann Front row left to right are Connie Orsi Crouch, Kathy Rehmeier Cottone Dietrich and Mary Ann Mayhan Kathol. Heck Barry, Colleen Heenan Eickelman, Lucille Palermo Mickells, Sara Ward, RSM, Colleen Fahey Anson, Viola Hennes Ramaekers, Monica Weiche, Pat Wimmer Blasing, Deanna Callahan Hobza, Sr. Jeanne

Back row left to right are Jean Gallagher Decker, Mary Jo Danahy Ellis, Nancy Stevens Folda, Jeannie Pape Pluhacek and Janet Marsicek Gural. Third row are Yvonne Buresh Kros, Kathy McGafferty Griffith, Maureen Houston Feeney, Mary Gleason Likes and Carolyn Janowiak Schiltz. Kontor Bertoni and Patti Humlicek Gehringer. Second row are Virginia Pictured left to right: Peg Gasoman O'Malley, Carol Konzor Bertonis and Patty Humlicek Gehringer. Second row are Virginia Houston Fenney, Mary Gleason Likers and Carolyn Janowiak Szych, Third row are Yvonne Buresh Kros, Kathy McGafferty Gillish, Maureen Stevens Fodora, Jeannie Pape Pluhacek and Janet Mamek Goral. Back row are Jean Gallagher Decker, Mary Jo Danahy Ellis, Nancy Macdonald Dolan, Shirley Pollstein Lee, Judy McKenna, Joyce Rosenberg, Scaglen and Kelly Geary. Linda Walsh Fell '65 has received the 2016 Member Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Society for Clinical Pathology.


Jill Sobczyk '13 is graduating from Creighton University with a Bachelor's in Chemistry this May and plans to attend Creighton Medical School.

Calla Kessler '14 was featured on UNLStudentSpotlight! for her work as a photojournalist.

Reynin Hernandez '15 was named NSAA Offensive Soccer Player of the Week on November 1. Her Bellevue University team also won their conference regular season and tournament on November 6. Read at http://bit.ly/2mOsG3p.

Shannon Jerram '15 earned All-Conference Honors for soccer at Nebraska Wesleyan. See the story at http://bit.ly/2mTITFZ.

In Celebration

Weddings/Anniversaries

Amy Slater Frierson '10 married Matt Frierson on October 1, 2016 at St. John's Church on the Creighton University campus.

Picture left to right are Natalie Slater, Libby Slater Perez '86, Jessica Slater '20, Amy Slater Frierson '10, Katy Butt '03, and Becky Slater '08.

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All-School Reunion Saturday, June 4, 2017

9:00 a.m.
Sunday Eucharist ~ Our Lady of Mercy Chapel

Honoring the Class of 1967 who will be inducted into the Golden Guild

10:00 a.m.
Complimentary Brunch & Program (reservations required)

11:30 a.m.
Self-guided tour of the school

Theresa Franco ’74, Distinguished Woman of Mercy Alumna Award Recipient

RSVP by Friday, May 26, 2017 to Katy Butts ’03 at buttsk@mercyhigh.org or 402.553.9424