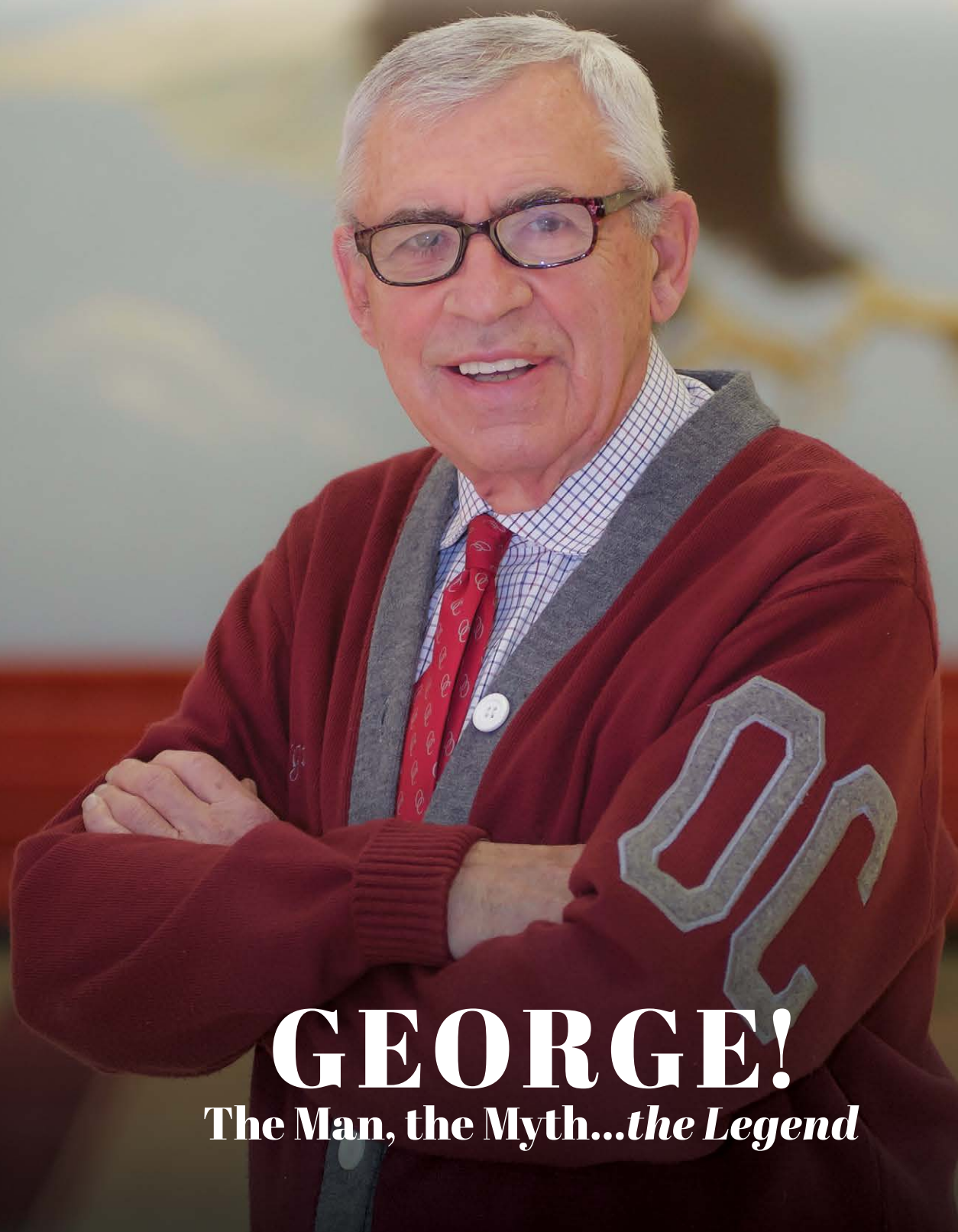


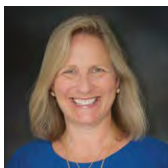
# CCREVIEW

OAKLAND CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL | WINTER 2022



## GEORGE!

*The Man, the Myth...the Legend*



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Tradition. Institutional memory. History. Legacy.  
Mission that is shared and far-reaching.

These words and phrases encompass notions and concepts integral to the Oakland Catholic community of students, alumnae, parents, grandparents, friends, and supporters. They are part of our vernacular because they are rooted in the universal experience of this all-girls, faith-filled, high school experience. They resonate with us because they are carried forward, across generations, by thousands of individuals committed to the OC educational journey. They sustain us as we consult them, adapt them, learn from them, and ensure that they reflect our purpose as a Catholic school, and specifically, as Oakland Catholic High School: to educate young women of diverse backgrounds to become competent, confident, faith-filled, and responsible global leaders.

Oakland Catholic enjoys a strong reputation across the core elements of its mission—Spirituality, Scholarship, and Service. This is not by chance, but rather the result of intentional purpose and design. Icons like George Rudolph and Debbie Ceponis serve as role models of commitment for current and future generations of community members. The achievements of current students and accomplishments of our alumnae represent the talent and strength of our community of learners. New and newer programs like E<sup>3</sup>—the OC Leadership Initiative, GCI—the Global Competence Initiative certificate program, and the OC/Leone XIII Exchange Program reflect the strategic vision of the school as insight from history and mission propel the creation of new traditions and build an even stronger legacy of excellence.

As we slog through the cold of winter and yearn for the warmth of spring, let us draw on the fonts of commitment, legacy, and insight that fuel the work we are called to do here at Oakland Catholic so that we are sustained as committed individuals, as a community, and as expressions of God's love.

**MARY CLAIRE KASUNIC**  
PRESIDENT



### OC REVIEW EDITOR IN CHIEF

KAREN MARNER  
VICE PRESIDENT OF ADVANCEMENT

### OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MARY CLAIRE KASUNIC  
PRESIDENT

LYNN BROWN  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

### ADVANCEMENT OFFICE

KAREN MARNER  
VICE PRESIDENT OF ADVANCEMENT

KAREN FERRARI  
ADVANCEMENT & VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

THERESA HILL  
DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS & FINANCIAL AID

JENNY LIU  
ADVANCEMENT DATABASE MANAGER

PATRICIA MONROE  
WELCOME CENTER COORDINATOR

COURTNEY MURCKO  
ADMISSIONS OFFICER

LAUREN ROBINSON  
SOCIAL MEDIA & MARKETING STRATEGIST

DIANE TOTTEN  
DIRECTOR OF CONSTITUENT RELATIONS

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

KELLY MCDONNELL, CHAIR  
SABRINA SAUNDERS MOSBY, VICE CHAIR  
JOHN LEWIS, SECRETARY  
JOSEPH MASSARO, TREASURER  
THOMAS H. AYOOB III  
KRISTIN BOOSE-REPIN, ESQ.  
SABINA CHIARA CORALUPPI  
TRACEY DEANGELO  
JOSEPH T. DOYLE  
WILLIAM GARRISON  
MARY CLAIRE KASUNIC  
PETER P. LEONE, JR.  
KELLEY COOPER MILLER  
RHODORA FREYVOGEL NOETHLING  
JENNIFER SMITH PANNILL  
NICOLE POWELL  
ROBYN SHEPHERD  
CONCETTA A. SILVAGGIO, ESQ.



# CC REVIEW

OAKLAND CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL | WINTER 2022

## IN THIS ISSUE

### PAGE 2 GEORGE!

Faith, team, prayer, family, friends, the all-girls Catholic school community... these are elements that have dominated George Rudolph's life for the last 50 years. They are all present in the prayer ritual that he started years ago with his runners before a meet and in all the ways George has been present for many in the classroom and on the track. An icon like George Rudolph has served as a role model of commitment for current and future generations of OC community members.

### PAGE 32 STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Oakland Catholic students are extending themselves to achieve significant accomplishments!

**PAGE 12**  
Around OC

**PAGE 28**  
Student Events

**PAGE 36**  
Admissions

**PAGE 42**  
Faculty News

**PAGE 50**  
OC Athletics

**PAGE 53**  
Advancement

**PAGE 65**  
Alumnae News

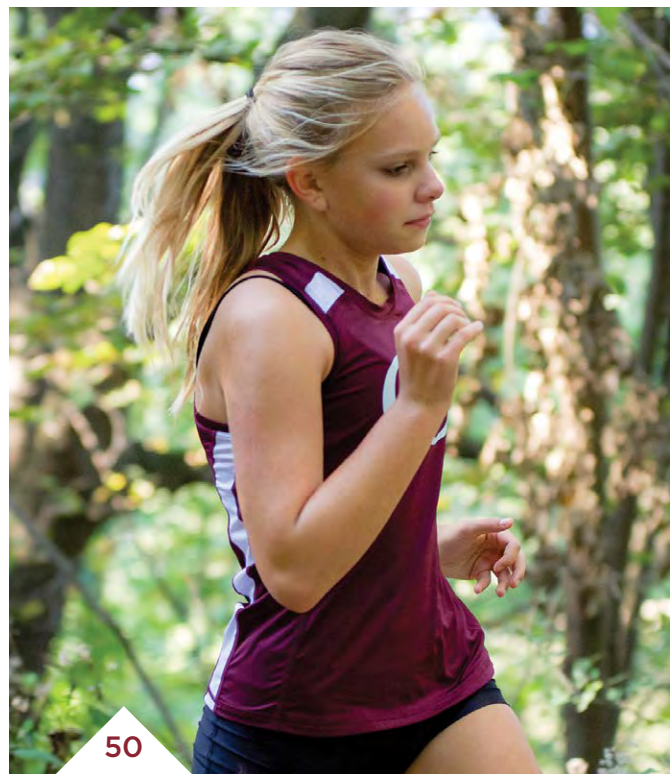
**PAGE 74**  
Alumnae Spotlights



2



28



50



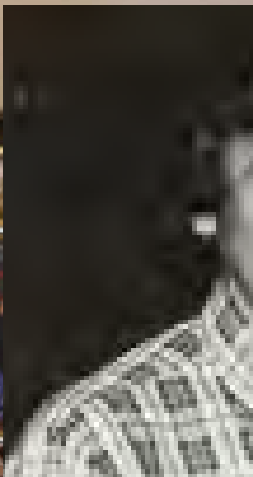
## OUR MISSION

Oakland Catholic High School is a Christ-centered, college preparatory school for young women of diverse backgrounds. The Oakland Catholic community is committed to an environment that promotes spiritual formation, excellence in education, a wide range of activities and athletics, and service to others. Formed under the patronage of St. Joan of Arc, Oakland Catholic is dedicated to teaching young women to lead lives of faith, courage and commitment as they lay the foundation for their future as responsible and respected global leaders.

PHOTOS IN THIS PUBLICATION ARE COURTESY OF SIMPLY SISTERS PHOTOGRAPHY, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. GRAPHIC DESIGN BY JEN DELMONACO, CPI CREATIVE. PRINTING COORDINATED BY JOE LAPAGLIA, RAFF PRINTING.



# GE





# ORGE!

## The Man, the Myth...*the Legend*

---

***Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit  
of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us  
sinners, now, and at the hour of our death. Amen.***

***Our Lady of Victory! George Schmotzer!  
Larry Mattiko...tooooo sloooow!***

---

Faith, team, prayer, family, friends, the all-girls Catholic school community...these are elements that have dominated George Rudolph's life for the last 50 years. They are all present in the prayer ritual above that he started years ago with his runners before a meet.

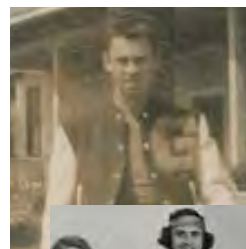
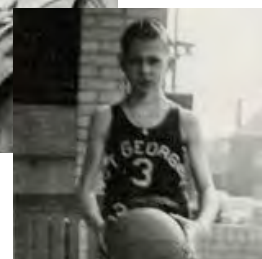


**Born August 8, 1938**, George has seen a lot of change over the course of his 83 years. He remembers listening to Franklin D. Roosevelt's fireside chats with his Mother while riding his hobby horse. This memory of her, and their shared time together until her passing when he was seven, remain crystal clear. With his father off at war, he and his sister stayed with their grandparents and ended up being raised by them. George carried his grandfather's name, as well as his sense of commitment to family, work, and principle.

The shout-out of "George Schmotzer" at the end of the prayer is a tribute to the hardworking grandfather who served as a lieutenant for the Pittsburgh Police force until his grandson graduated from high school. The second name is that of his fellow coach, colleague, and friend from Sacred Heart and Oakland Catholic who passed away in 2007 but spent years at George's side, balancing George's positivity and good nature with wry humor and pointed reality checks. (Ironically, **George** Schmotzer sent his grandson **George** Rudolph to St. **George** High School....quite a foreshadowing of the name that was destined to become iconic for an entire school community years later!)

For those of us who know George as teacher, coach, colleague, and friend, it's difficult to imagine him anywhere other than in a Social Studies classroom, recounting a story of a trip to the USSR; or on the track encouraging a score of world-class runners (by the way, he sees every one of his runners over the years as world-class in one way or another); or walking through the halls of a high school; or leading the festivities of the Back-to-School picnic or a Spirit Week tug-of-war; or being guided by the love of his life, Anne.

In reality, however, George NEVER planned to attend college, or teach, or coach! And, spending 50 years in the midst of all-girls Catholic education was definitely not on his radar!



***"I have a great partner who's allowed me to do all this. She's the one who keeps me going."***

## George – the Man

**1938**

George was Born

**1956**

Graduated from St. George High School

**1957**

Enlisted in the Army

**1959**

Completed Stint in Army Married Ann

**1964**

Headed to California for Education



**According to George**, he was a poor student. It wasn't a matter of incompetence, but rather a question of motivation; he simply had no interest in school beyond sports, and had no concrete plans for future educational pursuits. His father was remarried and living in California by the time he graduated from high school. During a trip out west—a graduation gift from his Dad and Grandparents—George's father tried to convince him to move and attend college in California, but George chose to enlist in the army. His two years in the army "woke him up", provided him some time to mature, and exposed him to bigger possibilities. Working with a group of engineers from the 101st airborne, all college graduates, opened his eyes to the advantages of education and the impact you could have with motivation, studies, and planning for the future.

When he returned to Pittsburgh from the army, he felt limited by his lack of a college degree. After meeting the love of his life at a dance in Castle Shannon, marrying her, moving through a variety of odd jobs, and feeling frustrated with his lack of progress, George followed his father's urging; he and Anne headed west to San Mateo, CA. California was his chance at a college education. Three months after their arrival, George's father passed away, but he knew his son was on a bigger path.

Life in California was filled with change, inspiration, ideas, and education. Both George and Anne earned Bachelor and Master degrees from San Mateo, Cal Davis, American River College, and Humboldt State University. However, Political Science was George's passion. Not education. Active in movements of the time—the women's movement, veterans against war, the rights of cafeteria workers at the university, George and Anne shared a sense of social justice.

A natural inclination to advocating for those in need of allies, and their Catholic sense of making a difference for the greater good, drove them and fueled their efforts. After almost a decade, they felt the pull of Pittsburgh and returned to family, friends, and their roots. Still not planning on a career in teaching, George had earned his certification to teach in California. Perhaps Providence was at work, unbeknownst to him.

1972. Back in Pittsburgh, George waited to hear about several government job opportunities. There were no openings. Anne had transferred her social work skills to educational expertise. George, a political scientist by design, with two degrees, needed a job. In East Liberty, Sacred Heart High School advertised for a Social Studies teacher. George applied and was hired within days by Principal Sr. Patrice Hughes. The legacy began.

"I was terrible. I didn't know how to teach. My goal was to get as much information as I could into the students." Despite George's harsh self-criticism, he held the rapt attention of his students. His easygoing demeanor, his calm affirmation of his students, and his sincere interest in connecting with them through learning, offset any missteps he may have made in his first year of teaching. Students noted his youthful looks, the old Volkswagen parked in the lot, and the stories that filled his classes on the USSR, China, and Modern America.

---

***"I do know this—I'm a storyteller. I would blend lots of stories into my teaching content. The more I taught, the more I traveled, the more experiences I had – the more stories I could share with my students."***

---



**1972**

Return to Pittsburgh and Entered Teaching Profession

**1973**

First Year Coaching at Sacred Heart High School

**1976**

Federation of Pittsburgh Diocesan Teachers Established

**1970-90s**

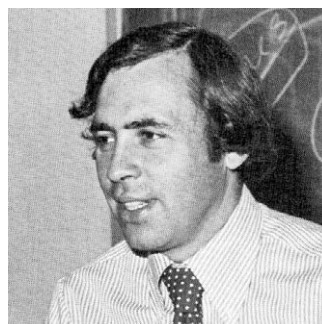
Umpire, Basketball Coach, Track, Cross Country, Athletic Director

**George Rudolph isn't just a legend**, however, because scores and scores of alumnae can recount his stories about his encounter with Mikhail Gorbachev, or a conversation he had with Cesar Chavez, or moments shared with a multitude of political figures from Harry Truman, to Dwight D. Eisenhower, to Hubert Humphrey, to John F. Kennedy, to Ronald Reagan, to Bobby Kennedy. Legends transcend single locales, and George meets this criterion through his work in the classroom, through his travel around the world, and through the hours passed alone, with friends, and with students in track and cross country.

At the end of his first year of teaching, Sr. Patrice asked George to consider starting a Track & Cross Country team. Three of his students pestered him nonstop with pleas to be their track coach at Sacred Heart. The school had basketball and tennis, but WPIAL had yet to recognize Track and Cross Country for girls. Sports played a big role in George's own youth. He knew football and basketball. Starting in the 70s, he umpired softball for 27 years. But, contrary to how we, his current fans, view him, George knew nothing about running.

Despite this, George relented in the Fall of 1973. He went to clinics, read books, and started a team with 15 girls. The three that had petitioned him so vehemently quit after a week, but the team survived and became the first of a long stretch of teams that George coached, guided, and loved. In the early 70s, without an established WPIAL league, the athletes competed against independent teams and other high schools whose female students were looking for more athletic options, arranged via phone and word-of-mouth by George.

Races took place in a horse barn in South Park, the old Schoonmaker Hall. Fourteen times around the barn marked one mile. After multiple races, the dust from the dirt floor made it practically impossible to see across the "track"! The old Churchill High School also served as a meet location. By the late 70s and early 80s, running became big. WPIAL and the PIAA recognized track and cross country for girls, and as two separate sports. Coach George went from a dozen runners in 1973 to over 50-60 athletes annually by 1989.



**1987**

*First trip to  
USSR*

**1988**

*Approached by  
People-to-People*

**1989**

*Named Area Director by People-to-People  
Established at Oakland Catholic High School*

**2015**

*OC Goodwill  
Ambassador*



**George's early career** at Sacred Heart was marked by more than enthusiastic teaching and engagement with students through athletics. His and Anne's California efforts to unionize the university cafeteria workers, along with his Pittsburgh upbringing by a fair-minded and hardworking police officer, had formed him as someone willing to take a stand for the sake of others and fight for the underdog and his principles.

Teachers around the Diocese and representatives from the established Federation of Catholic School Teachers in Philadelphia reached out to him with requests to help them start a union. In 1976, with George's assistance, sacrifice, and daily commitment to the cause, the first and only strike of Pittsburgh diocesan teachers took place. After a long month, an agreement was reached and the Pittsburgh chapter of the Federation of Catholic School Teachers was formed under Bishop Leonard of Pittsburgh.

It was a difficult time for schools, teachers, administrators, and the diocese, but George isn't just a storyteller. He's a listener. He listened to colleagues. He heard the issues that dedicated administrators like Sr. Patrice managed. He listened to teachers who felt betrayed after the strike had been resolved. He paid close and respectful attention to all sides, for decades to come, as Vice President of the Federation, Building Rep, and elected VP to the national organization. His understanding of political science, of the value of compromise, and above all, of the importance of genuine and authentic commitment—to the organization, to individuals, to Catholic education in the Diocese of Pittsburgh—were all employed and continue to drive his work in this vein.

The 80s further increased his experience. Now a veteran teacher, adored coach, Athletic Director at Sacred Heart, and ally for his colleagues, George had plenty of stories to tell, but an inner voice called him to expand his horizons. In 1987, a parent of a student asked him if he'd ever like to visit the Russia he taught about. George always wanted to be an active part of history. Even in his youth, he used to think how he "would have loved to have been in the places and times where something happened." He had a taste of this as a teacher when he opened up a textbook for one of his classes and saw a photo of an elderly woman taken in People's Park in the 1960s. Her photo accompanied an account of a grass roots movement to save a local park. A grass roots movement that George and Anne helped to coordinate, where they met this woman, talked to her, and were present when this same photo was snapped by a local newspaper, *the Berkley Barb*, all those years ago. But Russia in 1987? This was a much bigger moment in history.

George was on board and organized a group of 64 students, 8 teachers, and 20 parents. It was historical, mind-broadening, and, in many ways, a life-changer. Across educational circles, industry leaders were reaching out to George to find out about the trip, how it came about, and would he help them establish similar travel experiences for students and teachers. A year later, the Board of Education asked George to speak with them and representatives from Lufthansa and People to People about his experience.

63

*Years of Marriage*

50

*Years of Coaching*

47

*Years of Teaching*

125

*Foreign Cities Visited*

50+

*Different Encounters with  
Famous Personalities*

12

*Marathons*

2

*WPIAL Cross Country  
Championships in 2015 & 2016*

2

*Runner-up Finishes in  
2015 & 2016*

1

*Lifetime Achievement Award  
in Track & Field from Tri-State  
Coaches Association*

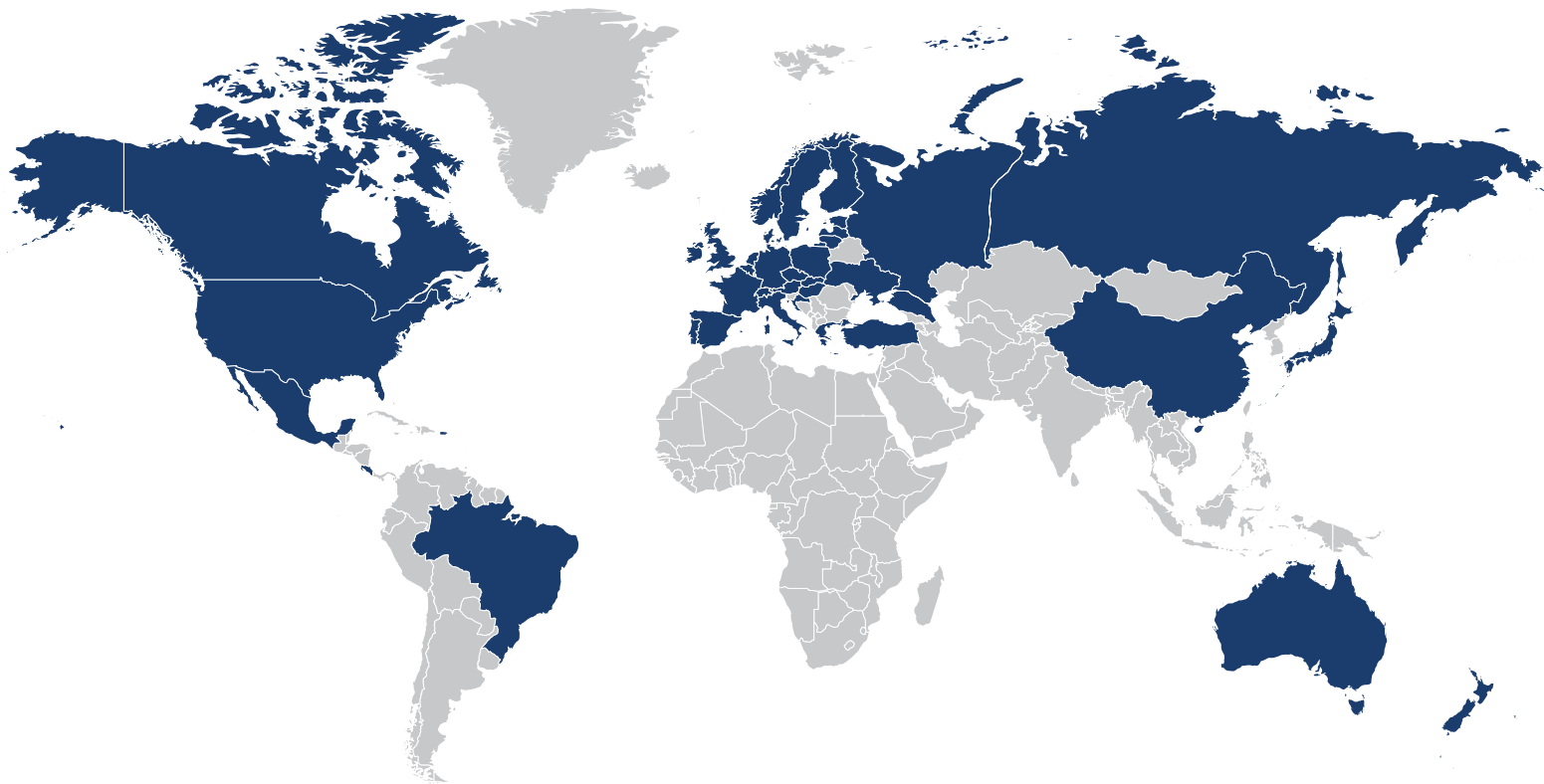
1,000s

*of Athletes who Looked  
to him for Coaching*

1,000s

*of Students who were  
Impacted by his Teaching*

## George – the Myth\*



***“George!”— No matter where I go, I am bound to hear someone shouting out my name. Once, Anne and I were walking out of a castle in Scotland, and I heard my name being called! It was an alumna. They’re everywhere!***





## Important People George has Met...

*Dwight Eisenhower*

*Mary Eisenhower*

*Rafer Johnson*

*Harry Truman*

*Al Gore*

*Joe Biden*

*Pete Seger*

*John F. Kennedy*

*Nikita Krushchev*

*Joan Baez*

*Johnny Mathis*

*Judy Collins*

*Mario Salivo*

*Peter, Paul, and Mary*

*Richy Havens*

*Bruce Springsteen*

*Cesar Chavez*

*Bobby Seal*

*Elridge Clever*

*Dan Rather*

*William Westmoreland*

*Angela Davis*

*Hubert Humphrey*

*Tom Hayden*

*Barry Goldwater*

*Ronald Reagan*

*Rudy Juliano*

*Mikhail Gorbachev*

*Simon & Garfunkel*

*George Harrison*

*Gordon Lightfoot*

*Bob Dylan*

*Four Freshmen*

*Franco Harris*

*Lynn Swan*

*Rocky Bleier*

*Dan Marino*

*Mark Bulger*

*Duke Ellington*

*George McGovern*

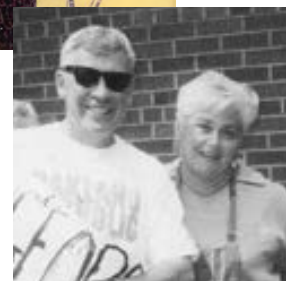
*Timothy Leary*

*Sergi Stankovich*

**In 1989**, as Sacred Heart completed its final year and Oakland Catholic was born, George and colleague **Cindy McNulty** both traveled with People to People to learn about the organization's mission to create greater understanding among nations through educational youth travel.

By the early 90s, George had been named the Area Director for People to People, a role he retained for almost 26 years. His annual trips allowed him to see the world, open the eyes of youth from all over Western PA to the benefits of global travel, and set the stage for Oakland Catholic High School as a globally-minded school, affording OC students multiple opportunities to travel with George, the Social Studies department, or the World Languages Department.

People to People was started by Dwight D. Eisenhower; George was honored to work with his granddaughter, Mary Eisenhower, who directed the organization during his time with them. People to People shut down in 2015, but it opened the door to incredible travel opportunities for high school students and inspired schools like Oakland Catholic to carry its philosophy of global-mindedness forward through intentional and purposeful travel that fosters understanding and a broader world view.



*\*All is true but it seems so unfathomable that one man could experience so much, hence the use of the word "myth"!*

## George retired from the classroom in 2015

and assumed his current position in the Advancement Office of the school. He and Director of Constituent Relations **Diane Totten** collaborate on outreach to the thousands of alumnae he has touched over his 50 years. He and President **Mary Claire Kasunic** work to document the institutional memory he holds, reminiscing about past administrators, former colleagues, the many graduates whose photos and notes adorn the walls of his office, and the evolution of all-girls Catholic education and, particularly, the incredible growth and strength of Oakland Catholic on so many levels. Life takes a lot of peculiar turns.

George served as an ambassador while teaching Social Studies for 47 years, while coaching for almost 50 years, while traveling to over 125 foreign cities, while meeting more than 50 different famous personalities. He has fully earned the rights to his current esteemed title of OC Goodwill Ambassador. His dedication to faith, team, prayer, family, friends, and the all-girls Catholic school community of Oakland Catholic has not waned. Watch your inbox, mailbox, the website, the OC Give Day website in March, or the halls of OC. You're sure to hear from him.

*Note: During the photo shoot for the cover of this issue, instead of saying "cheese", George said "Anne".*

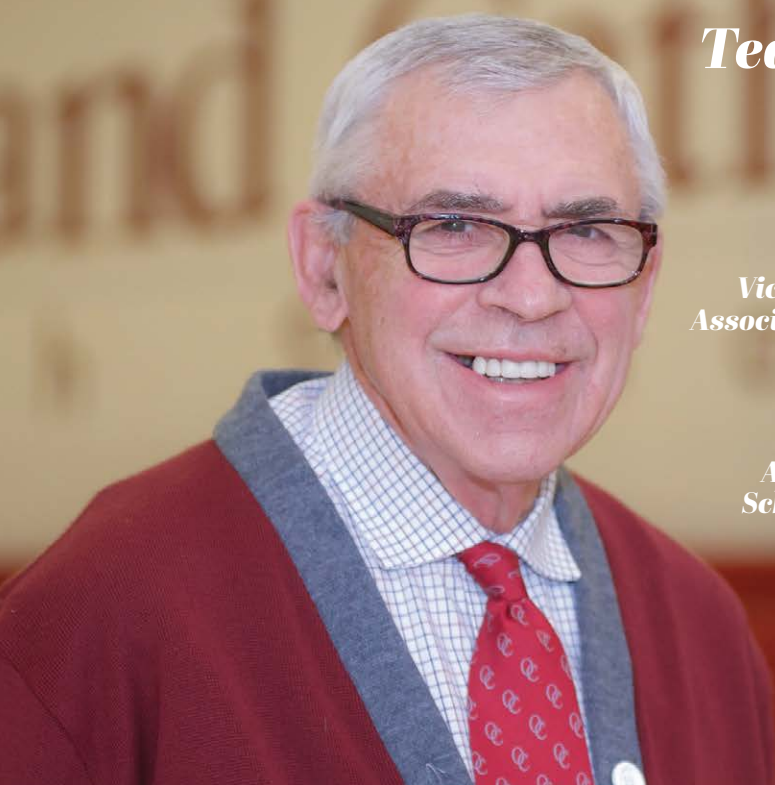
---

WHEN ASKED IF THERE WAS EVER A TIME WHEN GEORGE CONSIDERED TEACHING AS A CAREER, HE IS QUICK TO RESPOND:

***"No way was I doing this! I was determined to work as a political scientist. I wanted a government job. But, thank God it happened, because I've had a wonderful experience. I see OC biographies and talk to alumnae from Oakland Catholic and Sacred Heart, and I am in awe. I think: My God! I was a part of that! I'm so thankful I got to teach those girls! Being as old as I am, and seeing the change in opportunities for young women and girls—the doors open to them now—it's just been terrific."***

---

## George – the Legend



## Teacher of Social Studies

**Vice President of FPDT (Federation of Pittsburgh Diocesan Teachers)**

## Area Director of People-to-People

**Vice President of NACST (National Association of Catholic School Teachers)**

## Head Track & Cross Country Coach

**Athletic Director at Sacred Heart High School and Oakland Catholic High School**

## Assistant Basketball Coach (Sacred Heart)

**President of Pittsburgh Softball Association for Umpires**





# WITH 16 SPORTS AND 38 CLUBS, **You're Sure to Find Your Place Here.**

From cross country to fencing, golf to crew, there is at least one sport for you, even if you're not the sporting type. Clubs? We have 38, from Environmental to Step, RadiOC Podcast to Ukulele, Model UN to Crocheting. Many students try as many as they can, and some just lock in on the one or two that fuel their passion. Not to worry. You'll find something you love at OC.



# AROUND



*Welcome*

# CLASS OF 2025!





Each new academic year brings a new crop of students to our school community. The Class of 2025 hails from all corners of Allegheny County and beyond. Coming from over 38 different elementary and middle schools, this lively and engaging class brings experiences from our diocesan elementary schools, suburban and city public schools, charter schools, independent private schools, and home school settings. Their rich diversity in background and experience has fueled enthusiasm for new friends, new beginnings, and new endeavors. Now in their second semester, they have moved beyond learning the ropes and are immersed in life at OC! Some have already graduated to Student Ambassadors-in-training as they share their new love for OC with prospective students for next year!





## CELEBRATING THE OTAKU CULTURE

Sophomore Religion teacher, **Ms. Karczewski**, designed a lesson celebrating the Otaku culture of Japan! Students created manga style drawings, listened to music, and discussed the lasting impact of anime in both Japanese culture and its integration into American culture. In the discussion, students were able to connect the common virtues of heroes in classic anime as well as subthemes that connect to theology.



## OC BLOOD DRIVE

The OC Fall Blood Drive took place on Wednesday, November 17th. Over 40 students, faculty and staff supported this important community service opportunity. Thanks to the coordination of **Zach Palmer**, Oakland Catholic had 36 individuals participate and donate 33 blood products.



## FR. TORRES VISITS OC

**Father Fernando Torres** of St. Teresa of Kolkata Parish visited **Mrs. Gretchen Anselmo's** Spanish class back in October. Fr. Torres serves the Spanish-speaking community in Pittsburgh and shared information with OC students about his Mexican heritage and el Día de Muertos. You can catch Fr. Torres with his congregation of several hundred people at Mass every Sunday at St. Catherine of Siena Church in Brookline.



## NATIONAL PHILANTHROPY DAY

**Maeve Shaughnessy, OCHS'24** received recognition and an award for her work with ALS Kids on National Philanthropy Day presented by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Western PA Chapter and Pittsburgh Planned Giving Council. ALS Kids is a non-profit founded by Maeve and her friend **Sydney Birchard**.

## CASA SAN JOSÉ VISITS OC

Members of Casa San José, a Latino Resource and Welcome Center located in Dormont, spoke to OC Spanish classes last semester. Casa San José advocates for and empowers Latinos by promoting integration and self-sufficiency. Students engaged with **Sister Janice Vanderneck**, presenting thought-provoking questions about how they can learn more and help this organization.

## IRISH TRADITIONS

**Ms. Natalie Santucci** shared her knowledge and skills in the tradition of Irish folk music and step dancing. Students had the opportunity to try some beginner dance moves.

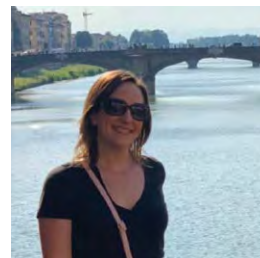
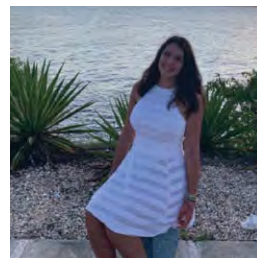
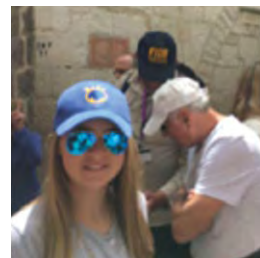
## GCI TRAVEL TALES

*Submitted by Matthew Williams*

At this time when fewer people have had the opportunity to travel abroad, Oakland Catholic students and faculty were able to bring their international experiences home to an OC audience. At the annual Travel Tales event held on December 2, students from Oakland Catholic's Global Competence Initiative (GCI) certificate program reflected on their travels and the lessons they learned from contact with new people, cultures, and histories. Presentations ranged from stories of vacations in Israel, St. Croix, and France to visits with extended family living in Turkey, Dominica, and Mexico. In addition, OC teachers **Elaina Tabb** and **Jennifer Schmidt** shared knowledge gained from their experiences in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Europe.

"Travel permits us to tangibly see and understand the concept of shared humanity, shared responsibility, and shared experiences" said Oakland Catholic President **Mary Claire Kasunic**. "It was wonderful to see the strong attendance...and presentations when travel has been so limited," added **Cindy McNulty**, retired OC teacher and former director of GCI.

Both **Alessandra Pazzaglia**, Associate Director of GCI, and **Matt Williams**, Director of GCI, hope that 2022 brings more opportunities for everyone to safely travel internationally.



## GCI HIGHLIGHTS

Congratulations to GCI members **Mia Flaherty, OCHS'24** and **Louisa Jen, OCHS'23** for completing the National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y), a highly selective 10-week intensive language program of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Mia studied Arabic and Louisa, Mandarin.



### GCI AND ASIAN CULTURES CLUB

On November 5, members of the Asian Cultures Club and GCI members attended a boba tea tasting event held at Duquesne University. In addition to tasting various delicious tea, students had a chance to play Kahoot based on different information about the history of boba tea. Our own **Natalia Connor, OCHS'25** won the game and a mascot made by Asian Cultures Club leader, **Briana Caldwell, OCHS'22**. Two other students from OC won Starbucks gift cards.



### GCI AND OC FILM CLUB COLLABORATION

On October 20th, the OC Film Club and GCI joined together to watch the 2015 documentary 'He Named Me Malala'. The following week, GCI seniors **Isa Liu-Lopez** and **Yolanda Yang** provided students with an update on Malala's work and the current status of female education in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Isa and Yolanda also led a discussion about the role America should play in promoting access to education globally.





## BENVENUTO A OAKLAND CATHOLIC!

### *A Student-Exchange Program is Initiated*

*From November 12-21, only four days after travel restrictions between Europe and the U.S. were lifted, six OC families hosted five high school students and their teacher from the Istituto Leone XIII, a Jesuit school in Milan, Italy, as part of the inaugural OC-Istituto Leone XIII Exchange.*

Last summer, a professor from Istituto Leone came across the Oakland Catholic website while visiting the University of Pittsburgh. She noted the Global Competence Initiative (GCI) certificate program and OC's extensive academic program. Intrigued, she reached out to administration and opened discussions on the possibility of a shared global experience.

Thanks to President **Mary Claire Kasunic**, Principal **Nicole Powell**, Assistant Principal **Sarah Kumar**, and Director and Associate Director of GCI, **Matt Williams** and **Alessandra Pazzaglia**, who held several virtual meetings in a short time and created a program that aligned with the objectives of both schools over the course of several weeks, Oakland Catholic was ready to accept its first exchange students. A feat that was only possible with the willingness of five OC families who graciously opened their homes to our visitors and agreed to all stipulations of Istituto Leone XIII and the current pandemic!

The exchange students spent their first weekend acclimating to their new surroundings and touring the city with their host families. Popular trips included the Strip District, Mt. Washington, sporting events, and museums.





On Sunday, November 14, OC Administrators and GCI Directors held a welcome brunch for the host families and their guests. Afterwards, many students attended the Oakland Catholic/Central Catholic MASQUE production, *Bringing Back Broadway*.

The intent was to make this short exchange as immersive an experience as possible. The Italian students followed their host sisters' class schedules and were encouraged to participate in class activities and discussion. The visiting exchange teacher also "sat-in" on multiple classes throughout the week, presenting where applicable.

On the weekend and in the evenings, host families entertained their guests and welcomed them into the daily routine of an American family; OC teachers treated their Italian colleague to evenings out and long conversations. The visiting students were surprised by the structure of the school day, (At their school in Milan, the teachers move between classes and the students stay in the same room all day.), and the close bonds witnessed between OC students and faculty.

On Wednesday, November 17, the International Day of the Girls, the 5 guests presented Italian and Milanese culture to GCI students during CCW sessions. They also answered student questions, which focused primarily on Italian impressions about various facets of American culture, from school, to cuisine, to music.



Thanks to host father **Richard Piacentini**, President and CEO of Phipps Conservatory, the group was afforded an exclusive preview of the upcoming Winter Flower Show and Light Garden.

The following day, the Italian students toured Carnegie Mellon and Pitt's campuses with their teacher, and enjoyed an authentic American lunch at the Union Grill on Craig Street.

After a quick but packed week, OC administration hosted a farewell dinner where OC Host Sisters presented their guests, now friends, with OC and Pittsburgh-inspired gifts. On Sunday, the group made their tearful goodbyes before heading off to the airport in an OC van. These goodbyes are only temporary however.

On April 1, the five OC host sisters will travel to Milan for 10 days and experience their own immersive experience. We look forward to growing our relationship with Istituto Leone XIII in the years to come through ongoing short exchanges and other interactions, providing our students with the authentic global experience this type of exchange offers.

A special thanks to the following OC students/administrators and their families for hosting our visitors: **Caroline Caruso, OCHS'22, Gabi Folino, OCHS'23, President Kasunic, Ellie Miles, OCHS'23, Anastasia Piacentini, OCHS'24, and Tseyanesh Rigotti, OCHS'23**. Associate Director of GCI, **Ms. Pazzaglia**, will serve as the teacher who travels with our students to Milano in April.



# NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTION CEREMONY



Oakland Catholic inducted 75 seniors and juniors into the National Honor Society on Thursday, November 18, in the Donahue Pavilion. NHS Moderator, Latin teacher **Ms. Heather Day**, opened the ceremonies. Senior NHS members **Audrey Flanagan, Caroline Sarneso, Rachel Sweeny**, and **Zixuan (Yolanda) Yang** offered reflections on the four pillars of NHS – Scholarship, Leadership, Service and Character.

Acting Principal **Nicole Powell** placed the NHS stoles on each new inductee, assisted by Assistant Principal **Sarah Butterfield Kumar**. After reciting the NHS pledge, President **Mary Claire Kasunic** closed the ceremony with congratulatory remarks. All adjourned for a reception and more congratulations in the concession area of the *Donahue Pavilion*. We look forward to the achievements and insights that the newly inducted NHS scholars will share with the OC Community for years to come!

## CLASS OF 2022

Deryn Bagley	Alana Fantini	Meredith McCalmont	Eve Rectenwald
Jayla Flenory	Livia Freiwald	Caroline McElroy	Ella-Jo Reinhart
Nora Foglia	Jillian Gallo	Katelyn McGuigan	Paris Reynolds
Nyiah Lance	Reese Gambill	Marley McFarland	Victoria Richard
Julia Nguyen	Molly Gatesman	Peyton McHugh	Tsehaynesh Rigotti
Emma Prokop	Erin Gurtner	Kiley McIntyre	Maura Schorr
	Margot Haller	Korina Mikhonin	Madeline Schlichter
	Rachel Haver	Cecilia Miller	Bridget Shaver

## CLASS OF 2023

Samantha Bainbridge	Katherine Helwick	Morgan Mollen	Chloe Shovlin
Vivian Bui	Olivia Jana	Mary Kathryn Monroe	Lindsey Smathers
Catherine Burns	Louisa Jen	Marigrace Murphy	Quinnlin Stanek
Ava Ciganik	Grace Kaczmarek	Marissa Noe	Lillianna Steich
Madison Cigna	Margaret Kepler	Regina Palladino	Alexa Stevwing
Maria Deasy	Colleen Kilpatrick	Veronica Pavlick	Victoria Stoessel
Charlotte Devlin	Madelinn Kubiska	Morgan Phillips	Lily Tinker
Isabel Doshi	Mia Lowry	Meghan Pohl	Christine Ursiny
Kezban Duzenli-Cetin	Brielle Lucadamo	Gabrielle Poillucci	Hannah Werner
Madeline Edmondston	Ava Maglin	Olivia Pretto	Isabella White
Fiona Elste	Monique Mauler	Alexandra Price	Jaylee Witcher
	Elena Mazariegos	Lauren Rajasenan	Mary Zagrocki

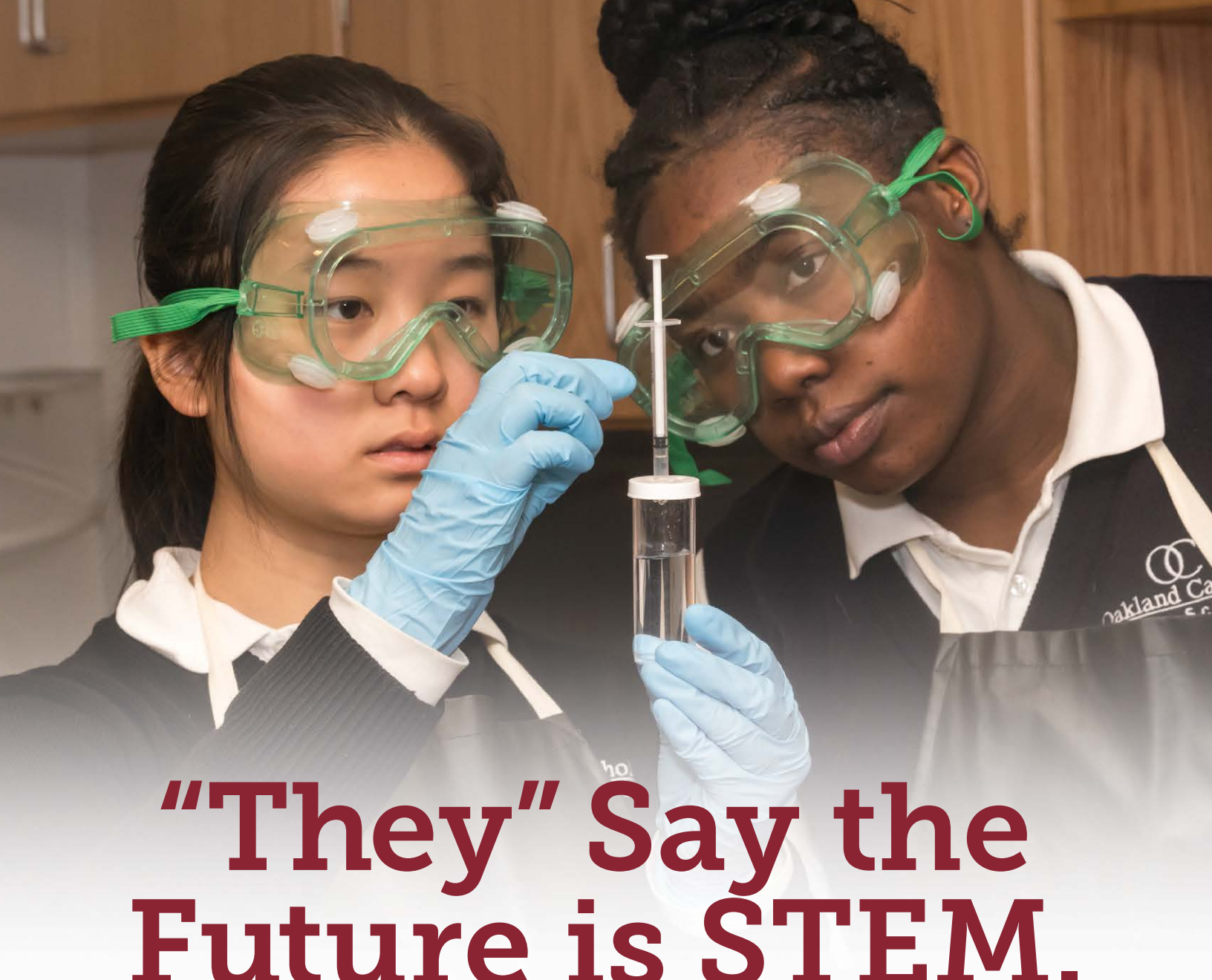
## INDUCTION PLEDGE

I pledge myself to uphold the high purposes of the National Honor Society to which I have been selected. Striving in every way by word and deed to make its ideals the ideals of my school and of my life. I pledge to maintain high scholastic standing, to endeavor intelligently and courageously to be a leader, to give of myself freely in service to others, and to hold as fundamental and worthy an untarnished character. In so doing, I shall prove myself worthy of a place in the National Honor Society.









# "They" Say the Future is STEM.

## WE SAY THAT'S ONE PART OF THE STORY.

Oakland Catholic is a big believer in preparing you for emerging fields, giving you a background in coding, and preparing you for robotics and engineering. But if you are going to lead, you'll need to articulate your scientific discoveries. And if you ultimately discover that STEM isn't your thing, know that the critical thinking you develop in your labs will contribute to your literary genius in English class and make you a wiz in the creative and performing arts.



## LATIN CLUB

Students in Latin II created and presented their monument models. A variety of materials were used including a cake model of the Temple of Vesta (filled with orange candies to represent the flames inside); paper and toothpicks for the Theater of Pompeii; and one student made her own clay to represent the Mausoleum of Augustus! In addition, there was a digital presentation and 3-D model of the Parthenon using the Sims Game.



## PHYSICS FUN

**Mr. Steve Graner's** Physics classes engaged in an active lesson on projectiles using marbles. He placed a projectile cannon on the table that shoots marbles at an exact velocity and precise angles. Students were tasked with calculating the initial velocity and launch angle to determine exactly where the marble is located, at any spot in the air, using a set of kinematic equations.



## SALVATION ARMY VOLUNTEERS

Every year, the Salvation Army has Kettle Bell Ringers out in the community. Several OC students have signed up for this opportunity to serve and get into the holiday spirit. **Grace Windfelder, OCHS'24** committed to roughly 50 hours during the month of December!

## INNOVATION LAB: BRINGING LESSONS TO LIFE

The CE Latin class diligently constructed a Trojan horse in the innovation lab, after reading the passage about the horse in Vergil's Aeneid.



## CHEMISTRY WITH MRS. SFORZA

In October, **Mrs. Sforza's** Chem classes applied lessons about light energy and the emission of photons by flame-testing different chemical compounds to observe the resulting colored flames. The lab demonstrated the impact of different chemicals and different amounts of energy on the variety of colors of the light produced.

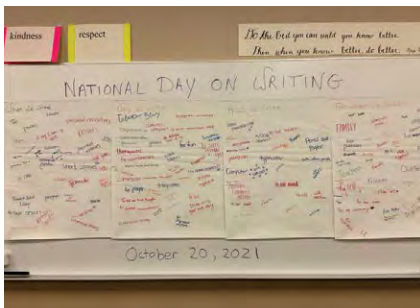






## LET'S TALK STATS

**Mr. Dufault**, parent of Senior **Ava**, visited Math teacher **Mrs. Linda Lodge's** classes right before Thanksgiving. He discussed his love for statistics, how it informed his career choices, and the variety of careers requiring a knowledge of statistics. Based on the students' thoughtful questions, it was clear he piqued their interest in the application of statistics!



## NATIONAL DAY ON WRITING

October 21 was designated National Day on Writing by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE). In recognition of the day, OC students contributed to graffiti boards, using the prompts: "what we write," "why we write," "how we write," and "for whom we write."



## OC BOOK GROUP

**Dr. Theresa Doerfler** of the OC English Department was awarded a Sr. Mary Paul Hickey Teacher Research award to conduct her Book Group this year. Thanks to her commitment to literature and cultivation of a love of reading, students will meet monthly to explore literature outside their classes. The first book discussed was "Shatter Me" by Tahereh Mafi. "Poet Warrior" was another. Faculty and staff are welcome to join and many have read the group's selections which are available to all in the ARC (Academic Resource Center).

## SPEECH AND DEBATE

The OC Speech and Debate Team continues to exercise a strong and active presence at competitions. In the fall, **Theresa Courtright, OCHS'25**, **Mia Flaherty, OCHS'24**, **Briella Lucadamo, OCHS'23**, and **Sydney Sword, OCHS'24** represented OC at the Moon Area Tournament; Sydney brought home a medal for earning 4th place in dramatic interpretation at the tournament. On October 30, Upper St. Clair hosted a novice tournament. **Róisín Tsang, OCHS'24** competed successfully in the Lincoln-Douglas debate category.



Seven OC students participated in the ShadySide Virtual Speech and Debate Tournament on November 20, 2021. Congratulations are due to **Erin Price, OCHS'24**, for earning second place in Impromptu and **Madeline Schlichter, OCHS'23**, for earning second place and a state bid in prose. In December, **Olivia Krummert, OCHS'22** placed 5th in Original Oratory at North Catholic. Additionally, Oakland Catholic earned 2nd place in the Small School Sweepstakes. Congratulations to the entire team for their time, talent, and success!





## MODEL UN

The Oakland Catholic Model United Nations Club has had a busy and successful fall season, participating in two virtual conferences. The University of Pittsburgh Model UN Conference was held on November 9, 2021 and 20 Oakland Catholic students participated. Students debated and discussed topics ranging from atomic energy, global trade, whistleblower protection, the Uighur crisis, Yemen, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and many more. They represented the nations of the United States, Turkmenistan, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Equatorial Guinea. The following students took home position paper awards: **Meredith McCalmont, OCHS'23, Catherine Weber, OCHS'22, Mia Verdini, OCHS'22, Vivian Bui, OCHS'23, and Haley Moreland, OCHS'22.**

On December 10th, the Model UN Club participated in the European Union Conference sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh's European Studies Center. Oakland Catholic sent 20 students representing ten different European Union countries. Our students spent the day discussing, debating, and resolving issues surrounding COVID-19, preserving democracy, and solving climate change. Oakland Catholic again made a strong showing in the category of position papers, winning the following awards: the team of **Haley Moreland, OCHS'22** and **Jane Pawlowicz, OCHS'22** won a first place award, the teams of **Marley McFarland, OCHS'23** and **Lauren Rajasenan, OCHS'23** and **Charlotte Devlin, OCHS'23** and **Olivia Pretto, OCHS'23** won second place awards, and the team of **Samantha Bainbridge, OCHS'23** and **Erin Gurtner, OCHS'23** won an Honorable Mention.

## E<sup>3</sup> OC LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

In keeping with the mission of the school, Oakland Catholic is pleased to introduce a 2-year certificate program specifically designed to cultivate leadership. This OC Leadership Initiative, E<sup>3</sup>—Engaged, Empowered, Empowering, was created to cultivate leadership development across a diverse cohort of students via opportunities that engage them in the process, empower them to put new skills into practice, and provide opportunities for them to empower others in the Oakland Catholic community. We are excited to bring this unique opportunity to the Class of 2024 in the program's inaugural year. If you are interested in supporting this initiative with a contribution to the recently established Leadership Fund, please reach out to **President Kasunic** at [president@oaklandcatholic.org](mailto:president@oaklandcatholic.org).





## ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB

**Amanda Sforza, OCHS'08**, OC chemistry teacher and moderator of the Environmental Club, planted trees with students at Frick Park on Monday, October 18th. It was a fun, breezy afternoon outside. The students learned about the disease that killed a lot of trees in the area and then planted new ones in their place. They even got to name their trees.



This event was made possible through a collaboration of Pittsburgh Park Rangers and Tree Pittsburgh. They provided all the supplies, while OC students supplied the manual labor. The overgrown grass and weeds made the work more challenging, but the trek through the woods made the excursion quite an adventure!

Participating students: **Kezban Duzenli-Cetin, OCHS'23, Meredith McCalmont, OCHS'23, Katie Carney, OCHS'24, Sabrina Leffler, OCHS'24, Katie Helwick, OCHS'23, Heather Helwick, OCHS'25, Emily Bonavita, OCHS'24, Boa Seo, OCHS'24, Cameron May, OCHS'25, Charlotte Devlin, OCHS'23, Marigrace Murphy, OCHS'23, Marley McFarland, OCHS'23, Olivia Pretto, OCHS'23, Alaya Hughes, OCHS'24, Vivian Bui, OCHS'23, Cea Miller, OCHS'23, Kyra Rockovich, OCHS'22, Avery Stephens, OCHS'23, and Lilli Peterson OCHS'24.**



## PSYCHOLOGY CLASS

In October, **Mr. O'Neil's** Psychology classes learned about neurons, the fundamental units of the brain and nervous system. Students then built neuron models out of candy!



A month later, **Mr. O'Neil's** classes conducted a sensory and perception lab, designed to introduce the concepts of sensation (the stimulus our sense receives) and perception (the way our brains interrupt that stimulus).

Each station had students explore one specific sense. Inversion goggles were a huge hit!

## ROMEO AND JULIET

While studying Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet", freshman English students created masks with symbols to represent a character of their choice, in preparation for Capulet's party, in Act 1.





## COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY WEDNESDAY (CCW)

October CCW's focused on Mental Health Awareness and was the first CCW for **Gabrielle Dean**, Director of Academic Technology. **Amy Blackmond** and **Steve Graner** led students in making wooden fidget spinners in the Innovation Lab to reduce stress. All students participated in a Dignity and Respect session with **Mr. Lucas** followed by other CCW options that included Puppy Therapy, Puzzle Toys!, Coloring Club, Guided Meditation—to name a few! On October 20, 2021 CCW **Gretchen Anselmo** shared photo of the girls with their stress balls for mental health CCW day. They were made with balloons filled with either oobleck (cornstarch and water), flour, or aqua beads. Some chose to decorate their stress balls with faces and hair.



November CCW's focused on Heritage. A sample of the sessions offered to students included Black Catholic History Month, Holiday Food Traditions, Designing and Building a Family Crest, GCI-Italy Exchange Student Presentation, and We Wear Culture: The Stories Behind What We Wear.



December CCW's provided an opportunity for students to Give Back or Provide Services in various sessions like wrapping gifts for the Black Student Union Christmas Drive, writing Christmas cards for Children's Hospital, writing letters to service members, or Christmas Caroling on Craig Street. These options and others allowed students to give back in one way or another.



On December 17, there was a Christmas "CCW" that followed the annual Christmas Mass. Students could choose from several options to gather with friends for Christmas card writing, watching Christmas movies, Christmas Karaoke, ornament and wreath making, gingerbread making, Christmas Bible study or red and green science experiments.



## FORT PITT CAPITAL

In November, thanks to arrangements facilitated by the School Counseling Center and parent **Ed Lettieri**, a member of Fort Pitt Capital, nineteen Oakland Catholic seniors and juniors visited the Fort Pitt Capital Group office in Pittsburgh. Fort Pitt Capital is an independent investment management firm that provides investment advice to individuals and institutions. Excursions like this provide exposure to a broad range of career opportunities not always considered by young women.



# OC GRANDPARENTS DAY

When you bring families of different generations together, there is a feeling of support and love in the air! And that is exactly the sentiment experienced during last semester's traditional celebration of OC Grandparents' Day. The November 1 event returned to an in-person (though some attended remotely) day on the OC campus. The morning began with granddaughters joining their grandparents in the *Rhodora J. Donahue Chapel in Honor of St. Joan of Arc*, prior to taking the short stroll together over to St. Paul Cathedral.

The Mass was concelebrated by **Fr. Kris Stubna** and **Fr. Joe Freedy**, OC's chaplain. The Mass was a beautiful tribute to both All Saints Day and Grandparents. Talented student musicians and readers graced the congregation with their gifts throughout the liturgy. After Mass, grandparents were excited to tour the school, interact with teachers, enjoy a continental breakfast, and spend time with their granddaughters. We enjoyed hosting nearing 300 family and OC community members who shared in this special day!

*Thank you to our OC Grandparents who were able to attend OC Grandparents' Day 2021. We hope you enjoyed your time with your granddaughter on OC's campus. Review and order pictures at [www.simplysistersphotography.com/](http://www.simplysistersphotography.com/) Client-Login using 'OCGrandparentsDay2021' to login.*







## WHAT OC GRANDPARENTS HAD TO SAY:

“ We enjoyed spending time with our granddaughter and seeing all the changes from when our daughters were students there. Love the beautiful chapel! ”

“ Thank you for having this tradition. My mom and our daughter really enjoyed it! ”

“ I thoroughly enjoyed myself. Thank you for sponsoring OC Grandparents' Day. It means a lot to all of us to spend time with our granddaughters and learn more about their high school experience. ”

“ Thank you, the OC staff, faculty, and students, for a wonderful celebration for OC Grandparents' Day! The Mass at the Cathedral was beautiful and the opportunity to spend time with our granddaughter at school for breakfast and to see the school was a lovely experience! ”





# STUDENT EVENTS



## HALLOWEEN

Students, staff and faculty were able to highlight their costumes in the annual Halloween competition held in the *Donahue Pavilion* during the Halloween Parade.





## BACK TO SCHOOL PICNIC

September's Back-to-School Picnic was coordinated by Latin teacher **Ms. Heather Day**. This year's picnic had a RodeoOC theme, as evident in the picnic's promotion posters that featured "Wanted" posters of volunteer faculty members.

After a few classes and Mass in the *Donahue Pavilion*, students, faculty, and staff enjoyed a picnic lunch in the open dining hall and courtyard, followed by outside competitions, including a dunk tank!



## FRIENDSGIVING

On November 18, thanks to the talented culinary skills of our AVI Food Service staff of **Judy** and friends, students, faculty, and staff enjoyed a delicious Thanksgiving meal with OC friends, reflecting on what they are grateful for during one of our newer traditions here at Oakland Catholic—Friendsgiving!

## BSU CHRISTMAS DRIVE

Thanks to the tremendous coordination efforts of the Black Student Union, Oakland Catholic held yet another successful Christmas Gift Drive to benefit children from families across the region who were in danger of not having presents under their trees on December 25. Every first period class adopted several children, donating gifts on their wish lists. BSU representatives dedicated hours to promoting the service activity, visiting classrooms to remind both students and teachers, and wrapping hundreds of gifts before delivering them to St. Benedict the Moor. Teachers and office staff quickly jumped in to fill gaps; in the end, the BSU secured additional wish lists so that the full generosity of the OC Community could be felt by as many as possible. Gifts were delivered on December 17, right before students headed to break. Each year gets bigger and better, and all for the greater good.





## COLLEGE COUNSELING HIGHLIGHTS

The College Counseling Center has experienced some personnel changes but absolutely no diminishment in their expertise. We wished former director **Ann Snyder** all the best over the summer as she pursued time at home with her newborn son. Although saddened by her departure, we were excited to bring **Mrs. Jenny Warden** on board in early August.

Mrs. Warden came to us with high recommendations from both university and high school colleagues in Admissions, as well as an extremely positive endorsement from her predecessor. A veteran in the field, Mrs. Warden brings expertise, experience on both sides of the college application process, and a vision as to how to not just execute, but enrich the best practices put into place at Oakland Catholic along the lines of college search, application, and matriculation. In early December, Mrs. Warden was joined by **Mrs. Kammy Kemmer** as College Counselor. Like Mrs. Warden, Mrs. Kemmer comes from the college side of the admissions process, providing her tremendous insight as she guides OC students toward finding the right fit for them in the next step of their academic journey. We are pleased to have such a wealth of experience and knowledge working together for the future of our students!

## COLLEGE VISITS AT OC

Oakland Catholic hosts close to 100 college visits during the fall semester. Reps visit in person in the OC College Counseling Center with groups of students, or virtually if travel is prohibitive, via the drop-down screens in the College Counseling Center. The visits permit Admissions Officers from a wide variety of colleges and universities to speak directly with interested students, and OC students have the opportunity to connect with individuals from the college of their choice who may be someone who actually reviews the student's application.



## HBCU STEEL CITY TOUR

On October 21, 14 OC students attended the Western Pennsylvania Council of Historical Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) fair at PNC Park. All those in attendance had already been accepted to at least one school at that point!

*"It was a great opportunity to have exposure to HBCUs from across the country, I was able to learn about different academic programs and make connections with admissions counselors. I was admitted to 4 schools and received full academic scholarships to two of them."*

**—TOLUWANI OGUNYEMI, OCHS'22**

*"It was great to see that the HBCUs were given a platform and we were able to be exposed to the academic programs that they can offer. I was admitted into one school during the visit."*

**—JA'MEES SINGLETARY, OCHS'22**

# CC ACCOMPLISHMENTS



## HANNAH WERNER, OCHS'23 SUMMER NOLS EXPEDITION

During the month of June, Hannah spent 30 days hiking over 110 miles on a National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) wilderness expedition through the Wind River Range in Wyoming.

She set out on the expedition June 6 with a group of ten teenagers and three instructors who were strangers, who soon became her closest friends. They hiked 3 to 14 miles every day, submitting mountains, rock climbing, and learning how to navigate in the backcountry alone.

The 30 days on this NOLS course helped Hannah gain confidence, leadership skills and discipline to take on her Junior year at OC.



## YOUNG WOMEN IN BIO AMBASSADOR

Congratulations to **Maddy Ng, OCHS'24** on being selected as a 2021-2022 Young Women In Bio (YWIB) Pittsburgh Ambassador!

Among the highly competitive applications, Maddy's stood out in regards to her passion for STEM and interest in becoming an Ambassador in the Young Women In Bio (YWIB) Pittsburgh chapter.

This organization focuses on promoting women, diversity and inclusion in STEM fields.



## YOUTH COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

**Lillian Martin, OCHS'23** was presented the "Youth Community Achievement" award on October 10th for her civic activism and volunteerism from an organization called Sisters Saving Ourselves Now.

Lillian was one of nine honorees recognized for her advocacy and social justice. Lillian is pictured with **Melanie Campbell**, a prominent civil rights leader from Washington D.C.





## GREAT EXPERIENCE AT DARTMOUTH

This summer, **Meghan Pohl, OCHS'23** was accepted to and participated in the Dartmouth College Institute for Security, Technology and Society ISTS/ GenCyber Cyber Security Summer Program. During the 5-week program, Meghan and other participating high school students from across the country explored topics in cyber security, privacy, digital forensics, and security awareness through Dartmouth College lectures and interactive activities.



## NATIONAL MERIT

Two OC seniors received a Letter of Commendation in recognition of their outstanding academic promise from the National Merit Scholarship Program. Congratulations to **Nora Brennan** and **Elizabeth Maier!**



## TWO OC SENIORS CREATE NEW INITIATIVE

Seniors, **Sofia Porco** and **Sofia Sanders** joined their political passions and global awareness to create an initiative to address menstrual poverty, with a specific focus on homeless women in the Pittsburgh area.

This summer Sofia and Sofia organized a successful feminine product drive as their first project.



## SPEECH AND DEBATE

On Saturday, December 18, ten OC students competed in the Sparkle Season Spectacular Virtual Speech and Debate Tournament and won much acclaim!

In the Lincoln-Douglas debate, **Mary Kate Monroe, OCHS'23** placed 6th and **Briella Lucadamo, OCHS'23** took home 3rd place as well as a PHSSL (Pennsylvania High School Speech League) bid.

In Speech, **Ella Maier, OCHS'22** earned 3rd place in Impromptu and **Madeline Schlichter, OCHS'23** earned 4th place in Prose.

Congratulations, all!



# MEDALLION BALL

The mission of St. Lucy's Auxiliary to the Blind is to encourage and inspire a lifetime commitment of volunteer service in young women. Each year the Auxiliary honors qualified candidates, who have completed a minimum of 150 hours of volunteer service, with the Joan of Arc Medallion while raising funds for the visually impaired.

The 58th Medallion Ball was held by St. Lucy's Auxiliary on Friday, November 26, 2021 at the Wyndham Grand hotel. Over 900 guests were present to celebrate with the 109 Medallion honorees, who volunteered a total of 19,240 hours of service to charitable organizations. They were each presented at the formal event, and received their St. Lucy's Medallion from **Bishop David Zubik** of the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh in honor of their service.

This year's Ball chairs were **Audrey Reilly** and her daughters **Jessica** and **Megan**.

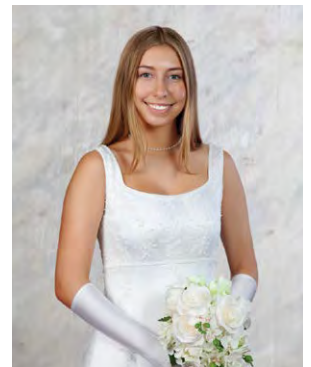
Congratulations to the 18 Oakland Catholic High School Medallion Ball participants who received the St. Lucy Medallion.

*Ball details submitted by Roseanne Wholey, CHS'72, Publicity Chair, Medallion Ball*

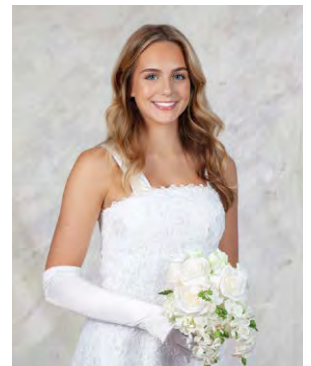
*Photos by Ron Richards Photography*



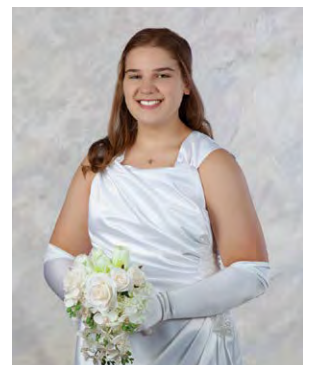
**AVA  
BARKICH**



**SHEA  
DEASY**



**CHRISTINA  
PEYTON**



**RACHEL  
SWEENY**



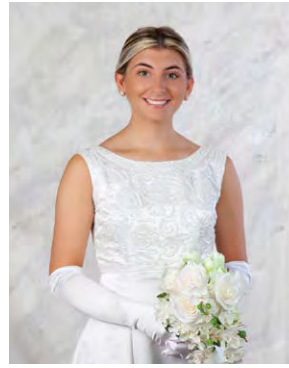




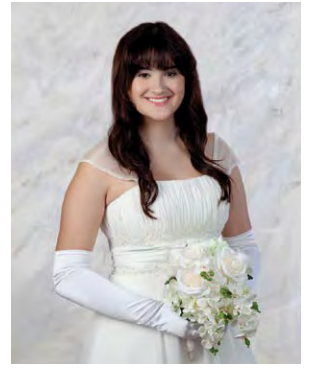
**CAROLINE  
CARUSO**



**ETHENA  
CONZEMIUS**



**ELIZA  
COSTA**



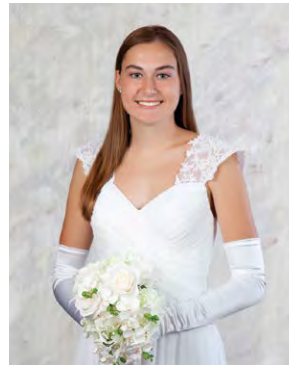
**CHLOE  
COX**



**FRANCESCA  
DIVITO**



**ELIZABETH  
MASSARO**



**HANNAH  
NIKLASON**



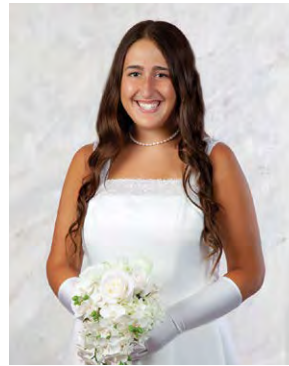
**JANE  
PAWLOWICZ**



**QUINCY  
PITCAIRN**



**SOFIA  
PORCO**



**GIANNA  
SACCO**



**CAROLINE  
SARNESO**



**AVA  
TAYLOR**



**MARINA  
ZDARKO**



***St. Lucy's Auxiliary to the Blind***

The Mission of St. Lucy's Auxiliary to the Blind is to encourage and inspire a lifetime commitment of volunteer service in young women. The Auxiliary honors qualified candidates with the Joan of Arc Medallion while raising funds for the visually impaired.

# OC ADMISSIONS

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD

International Day of the Girl Child is an annual and internationally recognized observance on October 11 that empowers girls and amplifies their voices. International Day of the Girl Child acknowledges the importance, power, and potential of adolescent girls by encouraging the opening up of more opportunities for them. At Oakland Catholic, we are dedicated to teaching young women to lead lives of faith, courage and commitment as they lay the foundation for their future as responsible and respected global leaders.



## OC INVITATIONAL

The first OC Invitational was held on Saturday, September 18, 2021 at Schenley Park. Boys and girls in grades 4-8 were invited to participate. It was a successful venture!



National Coalition of Girls' Schools



*"NCGS is the leading advocate for girls' schools, connecting and collaborating globally with individuals, schools, and organizations dedicated to educating and empowering girls."*

## DEDICATED TO HOW GIRLS LEARN

*All-girls learning environments capitalize on girls' unique learning styles.*

To be successful, students need more than just a feeling of support. That support must translate into actions geared toward student success. Nearly 96% of girls' school students report receiving more frequent feedback on their assignments and other course work than girls at coeducational schools.

## INSPIRATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

*Girls take center stage in all-girls learning environments.*

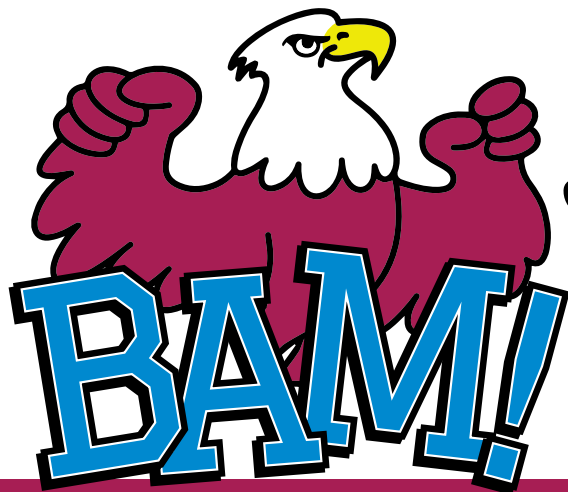
The robust learning environment encountered by students at girls' schools provides unequivocal support for the value of an all-girls educational environment.

## ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

*All-girls learning environments create a culture of achievement.*

Girls' school graduates are more likely to frequently seek alternative solutions to a problem and more than 2/3 report frequently supporting their arguments with logic, which coeducated graduates are less likely to report doing.





# Summer 2022 CAMPS

FOR GIRLS ENTERING 6<sup>TH</sup>-8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

BECAUSE ACADEMICS + ATHLETICS MATTER

**ACADEMIC CAMPS**  
TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS  
9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 14 —  
ARTIST FOR A DAY**

Immerse yourself in a hands-on, creative experience. Work with clay, paints, design, and artistic expression, and leave with your own creation.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 16 —  
TASTY TOUR OF ITALY**

Explore your inner chef while you learn about Italy. Try your hand at making traditional Italian dishes, and take home a handcrafted souvenir from your tour of different parts of this great country!

**TUESDAY, JUNE 21 —  
“CELL”BRATE SCIENCE!**

Join us to learn about the basic unit of life: the cell! We will explore how cells work in our own bodies and the world around us through interactive crafts, activities, and labs.

**COST:** \$75 PER SESSION  
PICK 3: \$200 • ALL 6: \$400

**THURSDAY, JUNE 23 —  
RUBBER BAND RACE CARS**

Harness your creativity and design your own rubber band drag racer. Using general household materials in the Innovation Lab, we will build and race a fully functional drag racer, measuring for speed and distance.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 28 — LED PLANETARIUM\***  
Come to OC's Innovation Lab where creativity and machines converge! Build an LED planetarium in the morning. Then, collaborate with your team to build a hoverboard you can actually take turns riding in the afternoon!

**THURSDAY, JUNE 30 —  
HOVERBOARD ADVENTURE\***

Come to OC's Innovation Lab where creativity and machines converge! Build a mini hoverboard in the morning. Continue in the afternoon with your team to build a hoverboard you can actually ride!

\*Sessions are not identical; participants will engage in different activities at each session. Sign up for both and become a Maker!

**COST:** \$50 PER SESSION  
ALL 3: \$125

**SPORTS SKILL SESSIONS**  
WEDNESDAYS  
9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

**WEDNESDAYS**

**JUNE 15 — VOLLEYBALL • JUNE 22 — SOCCER • JUNE 29 — BASKETBALL**

# HIGH SCHOOL IS HERE!

.....

## Start Your Journey Now.



**Only Here.**  
OaklandCatholic.org



## 6-8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ADMISSIONS EVENTS

### Acceptance Week

Monday, March 14 – Friday, March 18, 2022

### Accepted Student Social

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

### Explore OC — For Grades 5-7

Thursday, May 12, 2022

.....

*"My husband and I are so pleased with the education our daughters received at Oakland Catholic High School! We live in a public school district with a stellar academic reputation, but as the high school years are so formative, we were impressed by the mission of Oakland Catholic High School. Oakland Catholic educates each young woman with a holistic philosophy. The academics are rigorous, but equal weight is given to the development of their curiosity, spiritual growth and service. An Oakland Catholic diploma is a ticket to becoming a life-long learner, with the confidence and humility to make a positive impact in the world."*

—Kate Mayberry

**We are here to help! Contact us at [admissions@oaklandcatholic.org](mailto:admissions@oaklandcatholic.org)  
or visit [oaklandcatholic.org/admissions](http://oaklandcatholic.org/admissions)**



## ONLY HERE, WILL YOU FIND:

**GCI:** The Global Competence Initiative certificate program is unique to OC and underscores the global focus of our mission.

**Speech & Debate Team:** Our competitive club has achieved National Charter Status recognition for their success!

**Joan of Arc Society of Scholars:** An invitation-only honors program for students who push their education to the highest levels every year.

**Girls Who Code:** An approved chapter of the national organization whose mission is to increase the percentage of girls with coding ability.

**Mission Forward:** This 1:1 laptop program allows us to work on one platform, as one community, unified in a common learning experience.

THESE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE *unique components* OF AN OAKLAND CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE.

**1989**

YEAR OCHS WAS  
FOUNDED

**12:1**

STUDENT TO  
TEACHER RATIO

**525**

TOTAL STUDENT  
POPULATION

**100%**

ARE COLLEGE  
BOUND

**\$30+**

MILLION IN COLLEGE  
SCHOLARSHIPS

## Athletics, Clubs & Activities

### ATHLETICS & ATHLETIC CLUBS

Basketball  
Cheerleading  
Crew  
Cross Country  
Fencing  
Field Hockey  
Golf  
Lacrosse  
Soccer  
Softball  
Step Team  
Swimming

Tennis  
Track & Field  
Ultimate  
Volleyball

### CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

Anatomy Club  
Asian Cultures Club  
Black Student Union (BSU)  
Campus Ministry  
DataJam  
English Festival

Environmental Club  
Film Club  
Forte (Literary Magazine)  
French Club  
FTC Robotics Club  
Girls of Steel  
Girls Who Code  
Guatemala Club  
Latin Club  
Marching Band & Color Guard  
Masque  
Model UN  
OC Eagle Eye (Newspaper)

OC Theater Group  
Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS)  
Prom Committee  
Quiz Bowl  
RadiOC  
Science Fiction and Fantasy Club  
Ski Club  
Speech and Debate (Forensics)  
St. Benedict the Moor Club  
Stand Together  
Student Ambassadors  
Student Council  
Yearbook

## TUITION ASSISTANCE AND SCHOLARSHIPS

50% of the students attending Oakland Catholic receive tuition assistance. Visit our website to review opportunities.

*Find your voice. Let it be heard.* ONLY HERE AT OAKLAND CATHOLIC

SPIRITUALITY, SCHOLARSHIP, SERVICE

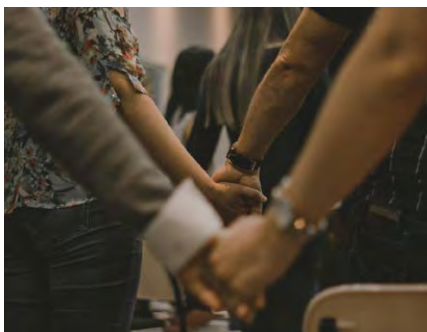
144 N. CRAIG STREET • PITTSBURGH, PA 15213 • 412.682.6633 • OAKLANDCATHOLIC.ORG

# CC CAMPUS MINISTRY



## COMFORT DRIVE SUCCESS

This fall, OC collected new blankets, warm socks, diapers, and other comfort items for the Women's Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh which helps over 50 women and their children in their facility. Students completely filled four 20-gallon bins with donations! This very successful drive was spearheaded by OC Senior **Ja'Mess Singletary, OCHS'22**.



## OC MOTHERS PRAYER GROUP

An OC Mothers Prayer group has been initiated at Oakland Catholic this fall. Mothers have been invited to gather for reflection and prayer before Thanksgiving and for a Morning of Reflection during the Advent season.



## PITTSBURGH MISSION

Over the weekend of November 19-21, 2021, 36 Oakland Catholic students gave their time, energy and joy to our Pittsburgh community. OC served over 150 local families during the Pittsburgh Mission through the Pittsburgh Project, serving alongside the Red Door, Light of Life Rescue Mission and many other local resources. Students assisted with sorting, organizing, and distributing food to families in need for the Thanksgiving holiday. We also helped with repairs on two homes. During the evenings, students attended Mass with **Father Joe Freedy**, adoration and confession. Overall, our students had a wonderful time with each other, our community and had the opportunity to grow in their faith.



## FIAT

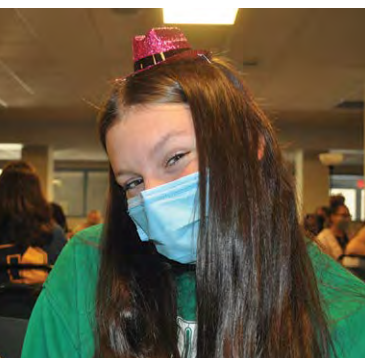
In August, senior FIAT leaders went through leadership and mentorship training. The days included conquering a high ropes course, discussing leadership qualities, playing team-building games, and ended with adoration by our school chaplain, **Fr. Joe Freedy**.



## THANKSGIVING PRAYER SERVICE AND FOOD DRIVE

OC Campus Ministry hosted the annual Thanksgiving Food Drive, setting up collection bins in the Religion classrooms. The van in the photo is stuffed full of donations that served to replenish the St Paul Cathedral parish food pantry in time for the holidays. Prior to the delivery, OC Chaplain **Fr. Joe Freedy** blessed the donated canned beans, corn, vegetables, boxed mashed potatoes and stuffing, cake mix, gravy mix, pasta, and plenty more, at the school prayer service held in the *Donahue Pavilion*.





## CLASS RETREATS

As the school year started, each class had the opportunity to come together for a day retreat. On September 8, the senior class started the day with a presentation from Dignity and Respect, and then spent the rest of the day in the church social room at Saint Paul's Cathedral, listening to speakers and playing collaborative games.

The junior class met on September 15 and were able to hear testimonies from OC alumna **Kristen (Deasy) Hill, OCHS'17** and her husband, **Santonio Hill**. During each retreat, there were opportunities to go to confession, small group sessions, quiet time during adoration, and the celebration of Mass.

Sophomores gathered for their retreat on September 29. The sophomores heard from speaker **Chika Anyanwu** who gave her testimony and talked about prayer, and also rapped Dr. Seuss lyrics while **Fr. Levi Hartle** of Blessed Trinity Parish beatboxed.

During the freshman retreat on Wednesday, October 6, it was amazing to hear from **Chika Anyanwu** and her talk about social media and not becoming numb to the world. **Fr. Matthew Hawkins**, a priest from the Diocese of Pittsburgh, spoke on being found by Jesus. And our chaplain, **Fr. Joe Freedy**, heard confessions, provided a meditation during adoration, and celebrated Mass.

A big thank you to all the Fiat leaders who led small groups and made the day possible!







## BEING CALLED by Dorrie Donahue

My cancer patient held the rosary I gave her, what she called the “worry beads”, while I finished changing her bags of I.V. fluids. Nursing was my first entrance into a call to serve.

“Dorrie, do you believe in heaven?” I don’t recall my response, but I remember feeling a longing to satiate her heart with His love. I first knew the love of God, the Father, riding horses at my family’s farm during the summers. Those long quiet rides taught me that silence is a powerful means to feel God’s strength, His delight in me, and His protection. As the horse moved, corn stalks bent in the field, and deer occasionally jumped, I felt God with me. I sensed He had a purpose for me different from what I had known coming from a large catholic family. God’s love, and a longing to know His purpose for me, led me to meet Saint John Paul II in Rome on Palm Sunday, 1994. The personal encounter with the pope that day served as my calling to join Christ in the mission of promoting the dignity of woman.

I have been consecrated with a life vow of celibacy as the spouse of Christ for 26 years. My ministry is supporting the life journey of young women through mentorship, spiritual direction, retreats and mission trips. I have served God in Rhode Island, Mexico, Atlanta, and Pittsburgh. As head of the Totus Tuus household in Pittsburgh, I welcome young women who want to discern a consecrated vocation in Totus Tuus. Along with my fellow consecrated women, we embrace young women who want to be close to Christ in the Eucharist by living a community life for a year.

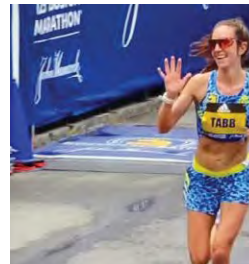
---

*If you would like to find out more about Totus Tuus and the impact of Mission Integration on Oakland Catholic High School, please reach out to Director of Mission Integration **Dorrie Donahue** at [ddonahue@oaklandcatholic.org](mailto:ddonahue@oaklandcatholic.org).*

# OC FACULTY NEWS

## MRS. TABB COMPLETES THE BOSTON MARATHON!

On Monday, October 11th, OC math teacher, **Mrs. Elaina Tabb** competed in the Boston Marathon. She was the second American female to cross the finish line finishing 12th in the women’s race and 88th overall. Mrs. Tabb’s 4th period Honors Calc class enthusiastically cheered and tracked her progress as she competed in the Boston Marathon. Congratulations to Mrs. Tabb!



## WRITING TO TRANSFORM

**Dr. Theresa Doerfler** was a Fellow of the Western Pennsylvania Writing Project’s Summer Institute for Teachers, a graduate course through the University of Pittsburgh entitled “Writing to Transform.” She worked with a writing mentor, met weekly with a small group of writing partners, and took part in both local and national study groups and discussion activities, including a month-long study of Gholdy Muhammad’s “Cultivating Genius: An Equity Framework for Culturally and Historically Responsive Literacy.”



## PTG PROVIDE-A-PIE

OC Faculty and Staff are so grateful to the PTG for the delicious pies! Thank you to all and Happy Thanksgiving!



## RETIREMENT

**Mary Beth Werner** officially worked in the Advancement Office for the last 11 years, but her commitment to Oakland Catholic began almost a decade before when her oldest daughter Amanda entered the halls as a freshman in 2001.

Even before she established our current and extensive database of all constituents (alumnae, faculty, staff, current parents, former parents, grandparents, students, donors, foundations, etc, etc, etc), Mary Beth shared her skills as a parent volunteer to begin the process of expanding, cleaning up, systematizing, and building that database.

Her “part-time” position has frequently demanded full-time hours as she researched individuals, tracked down updated contact information, and served as a volunteer at too many events to mention! Her work may not be visible to most, but it is absolutely foundational to the school’s mission, sustainability, and function.

Congratulations Mary Beth and thank you for your tremendous service and contribution of talent for the last 20 years!



## MRS. SARAH BUTTERFIELD KUMAR RETURNS TO OC AS ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

A graduate of Oakland Catholic High School, Mrs. Kumar was excited to return to OC on October 4, in her new role. Mrs. Kumar brings a wealth of experience in curriculum development, teacher coaching, educational programs, and administrative work. With a strong educational background in curriculum and instruction, education, and administrator certification, she fully understands the significance of the academic program provided to our students.

As an Oakland Catholic Alumna, she has a keen understanding of the value of a Catholic education, and in particular the Oakland Catholic educational experience. Mrs. Kumar looks forward to integrating the pillars of spirituality, scholarship, and service into her work with current students, families, and her OC colleagues.

We are excited to welcome Mrs. Sarah Butterfield Kumar to our leadership team and to introduce her to you in person at future school events and activities.



# OTHER GOOD NEWS!



## WELCOME TO THE WORLD VIRGINIA ROSE WARDEN!

Virginia Rose Warden was born at 4:08pm on September 19. She weighed 7 pounds, 11 ounces and was 20 inches long. Congratulations to the Warden family!



## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE McCRACKENS!

Congratulations to the McCracken family on the birth of their new baby boy, Evan Joseph McCracken who was born on October 18. He weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce and was 21.25 inches long.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MURCKOS!

Congratulations to Courtney and Frank Murcko on the early arrival of their son, Scott Alexander Murcko. Due on December 24, Scott decided that he wanted to be part of the Advent season as well as the Christmas season. He was born November 28 at 4:18am weighing 6 pounds, 15 ounces and measuring 20.5 inches long.

# MEET OUR NEW STAFF!



**GRETCHEN ANSELMO**  
*Spanish*



**STEPHANIE BACHMAN**  
*Business*



**LYNN BROWN**  
*President's Office*



**MARY ELIZABETH BROWN**  
*School Office*



**GABRIELLE DEAN**  
*Academic Technology*



**THERESA ENGELHARDT**  
*Music*



**FR. JOE FREEDY**  
*Chaplain*



**ALEXANDRA GROB**  
*Biology*



**SAMANTHA HORNYAK**  
*School Counseling*



**ALISON KEARNEY**  
*Math*



**KAMMY KEMMER**  
*College Counseling*



**SARAH BUTTERFIELD KUMAR**  
*Administration*



**JENNY LIU**  
*Advancement*



**LINDA LODGE**  
*Math*



**JENNIFER NESTLER**  
*Business*



**NATALIE SANTUCCI**  
*Religion*



**JENNIFER SCHMIDT**  
*English*



**ELAINA TABB**  
*Math*



**JENNIFER WARDEN**  
*College Counseling*



**JAMIE WEISS**  
*Biology*



**BREONA WILLIAMS**  
*Technology*



# CONGRATULATIONS TO AN ICONIC FIGURE ON HER RETIREMENT

*Graduated in 1970. Left Campus in 2021. Built a Legacy of Competence and Commitment.*

When **Debbie McGregor Ceponis** entered St. Paul Cathedral High School as a freshman in 1966, she followed in the footsteps of her older sister, **Jeanne '69**. (Three younger sisters followed her—**Mary Alice '74**, **Rita '76**, and **Nancy '80**.) She was excited to enter the brand-new Main Building. And, she never envisioned that this new campus would serve as her second home, not just for high school, but for the next 52 years of her life.

Deb loved her time at Cathedral, thrived in the all-girls Catholic environment, and embodied then, just as she still does today, the benefits of this educational experience. She was, she is, a competent, confident, faith-filled, ethical leader. In high school, she applied herself to her studies, played basketball with gusto, and took the business route that provided career preparation for young women at a time when options for work for women were much more limited. A fast typist and hard worker, she interned in the school office during senior year. Before she graduated, she had secured a position as secretary in the school office.

The day after her graduation, Deb showed up for work. She had been entrusted with a set of keys. Back in the day, it was fairly typical for school offices to shut down for long periods of time in the summer. Knowing that the principal and assistant principal had both been transferred and the school secretary was getting married, it didn't throw Debbie to be the only person coming to the office. She knew the routine, knew all the paperwork that had to be handled over the summer as one academic year was closed out and another one opened, and simply moved through her checklist of what needed to be accomplished.

Homeroom lists were typed up. Teacher schedules were mimeographed. Emergency cards were typed. There were no copy machines, no computers, no email. What she didn't know was when to expect the new principal. What the diocesan school office didn't know was that a hard-working young woman who took her responsibilities very seriously was plugging away daily.





In August, the newly appointed principal, **Sr. Georgine Scarpino** arrived. She was surprised to find someone already working. Debbie welcomed her with the same smile and warm hello that she used with anyone who entered the school for the next 50+ years. She then proceeded to lay out all she had readied for the pending school year.

That was the beginning of a lifelong career of competently assisting the educational leaders and behind-the-scenes operations of this Craig Street institution.

Fast-forward to 1989 and the opening of Oakland Catholic High School. Debbie believed in all-girls Catholic education and the legacy of its impact on this region; she wholeheartedly supported the newly established Oakland Catholic as a dedicated Cathedral alumna. She continued to work in the same office, growing her expertise and iconic stature.

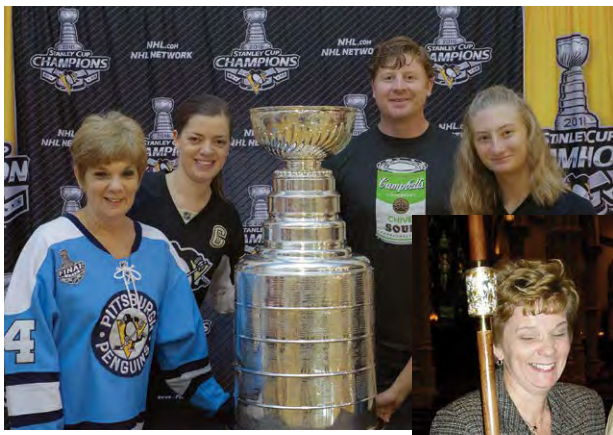
Her twin daughters, **Courtney** and **Amy**, accompanied her to school during their time at OC. She and newly-hired French teacher, **Mary Claire Kasunic**, bonded and started working as a volunteer Admissions team. Her energetic and enthusiastic sister **Mary Alice (McGregor) Devinney** joined her in the office in 1998. If anyone had a question about the school, big or small, Deb was your go-to-person. If she didn't have the answer, she definitely knew where to send you!

Fast forward again to the next century. In 2015, daughter **Courtney** took on the role of Admissions Officer and once again traveled to school with her Mom. **Amy** married and welcomed a daughter; Deb added "Gram" to her list of titles. Husband Jack retired. (He once asked Debbie when she thought she might retire. Her response: I honestly have never thought about it!) Courtney married.

In 2019, Deb joined Mary Claire to serve as Administrative Assistant to the President. Her sister Mary Alice's family was growing too, and in June 2021, Mary Alice retired to pursue a new career as "Mimi". (For those of you who know Mary Alice, there was a dynamic farewell speech, lots of laughter, and most definitely some dancing after the fact back in June!).







Deb's family was growing too. Amy was expecting her second; Courtney was expecting her first. After many pro/con lists, private conversations, and a growing desire to spend more time with her family, despite her loyal allegiance to Oakland Catholic, Debbie made the decision to retire. After ensuring that another school year was prepped and had gone off without a hitch, Debbie quietly spent September cleaning up, organizing, and passing on institutional memory. Friday, October 1, 2021 marked her last day in the office.

If you are imagining her lolling around, watching the soaps, and enjoying some ice cream, you are way off! She and Jack spent weeks in Jersey assisting Amy with the birth of her second daughter, and returned right before Thanksgiving, just in time to tend to Courtney's newborn son who arrived several weeks early.

***Her energy, emails, and texts continue to support us. Her legacy of excellence and dedication will sustain Oakland Catholic for years to come.***

***Congratulations Debbie!***



# THE ARTS AT

## POTTERY CEREAL PARTY

In November, Mrs. Koroly hosted a Thanksgiving Cereal Party with her Pottery classes.

This annual event is a chance for students to share a meal with friends, eating cereal out of their own homemade ceramic bowls!



## VIKING BAND

On November 11, the Viking Marching Band participated in the Veterans Day Parade in Downtown Pittsburgh. Oakland Catholic and Central Catholic band members marched in this event which honored veterans.



## MASQUE FALL PRODUCTION

The Central Catholic - Oakland Catholic Masque was proud to present "Bringing Back Broadway," an original musical revue, on Saturday, November 13 and Sunday, November 14.

With talented soloists, big production numbers, special effects, and a live, professional pit orchestra, "Bringing Back Broadway" is, at its core, a celebration of musical theatre, an art form that has suffered greatly during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.







## MASQUE CAST AND CREW

### CAST

MADISON ADAMS  
CHLOE BAKER  
CASSIDY BYRNE  
MIA CROFFORD  
KEZBAN DUZENLI-CETIN  
HEATHER HELWICK  
FRANCESCA HOH  
LOUISA JEN  
MAKENNA KEMPER  
GIANNA KENNELLY  
MIKAYLA KEYES  
MARIA KOLTAS  
MIA MAURIZIO  
MORGAN MCCRAY

VANESSA MOATS  
KAITLYN NACE  
AIDAN NICHOLAS  
LEAH OLSON  
NORA OTTIE  
GINA PALLADINO  
CAROLA PETRUCCI  
ALLIE PRICE  
MAIA RAMIREZ  
ELLA-JO REINHART  
TSEHAYNESH RIGOTTI  
MADELINE SCLICHTER  
SYDNEY SHERMAN  
CHRISTINE URSINY  
FRANCESCA VEONI

ISABELLA VIATOR  
KAYLEE WISER

### CREW

CARENA ALLEN  
VIVIAN BUI  
BRIANNA CALDWELL  
ALANNAH ENFIELD  
FIDELIA FRIMPONG-ANANI  
CHRISTINA LEE  
SOPHIA LOPRESTI  
CAROLINE MCELROY  
CECELIA MILLER  
KIERSTEN OLESINSKI  
MARTONE OLSAVSKY

DANICA PEIRCE  
JOSEPHINE RICHARDSON  
MARLEY SAAL  
BAYLIE SHROPSHIRE  
LINDSEY SMATHERS  
AVERY STEPHENS  
AMELIA STIPANOVIC  
FRANCESCA VEONI  
MICHAELA WEISMANTLE  
ISABELLA WHITE  
KAITLYN WHITE  
KENDRA WILMER



# CC ATHLETICS





# OC ATHLETICS HIGHLIGHTS

## 2021 HEISMAN AWARD

Congratulations to **Morgan Filar, OCHS'21** recipient of the 2021 Heisman High School Scholarship. Morgan is recognized for her outstanding achievements in academics, athletics, and community service.



## CROSS COUNTRY

The OC Cross country team successfully defended their section championship at Northmoreland Park in October. The Eagles were a perfect 8-0 in their competitions. The team finished 3 A Section 4 Champions and placed 14th out of 29 AAA Teams.

The top five finishers from WPIAL Championships were **Bridget Shaver, OCHS'23, Ellie Maentz, OCHS'24, Mia Crofford, OCHS'25, Mary Nagy, OCHS'23** and **Katie Smith, OCHS'23**.



## FIELD HOCKEY

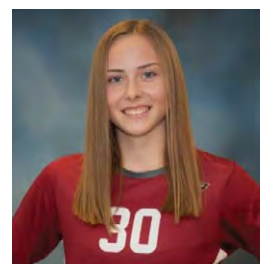
The Field Hockey team ended the season 1-9. They pulled in a great win against Greater Latrobe in mid-October on Senior Night! Senior goalie, **Caroline Sarneso**, made an amazing sliding tackle save in the second quarter putting the Greater Latrobe offense on their heels.

**Fiona Elste, OCHS'23** was announced a Section 2A WPIAL All-Star in Field Hockey! Congratulations on a great season! Congratulations to Seniors **Cami Kulbieda, Gianna Sacco, Caroline Sarneso**, and **Catherine Weber**!



## VOLLEYBALL

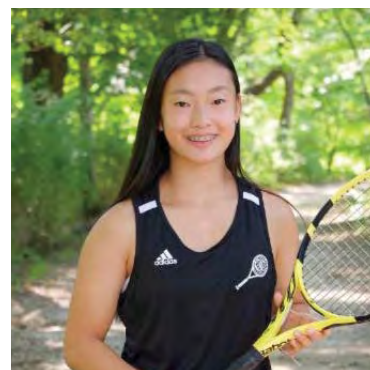
The All Section 1st Team included **Ava Barkich, OCHS'22, Madison Cigna, OCHS'23, Elizabeth Ford, OCHS'22**, and **Naomi Jesionowski, OCHS'22**. The All Section 2nd Team included **Audrey Pohlod, OCHS'22** and **Rachel Sweeny, OCHS'22**. Oakland Catholic finished as 4A Section 3 Champions with Section Results: 11-1, Season Results: 13-2 and Overall (post season): 14-3.



## TENNIS

The Tennis team finished with a section record of 5-3. Their WPIAL Team Record was 0-1 with a loss to Greater Latrobe in the first round.

WPIAL Singles **Isabella Liu-Lopez, OCHS'22** lost in the second round and WPIAL Doubles **Isabella Liu-Lopez, OCHS'22** and **Abby Santora OCHS'24** lost in the second round.



## GOLF

The Golf team finished with a record—5-5 and ended up in third place in 3A Section 2. Congratulations to Sophomores and Varsity Co-Captains, **Grace Windfelder, OCHS'24** and **Paige Meyers, OCHS'24** who represented Oakland Catholic in the WPIAL Golf Individual Championships at Hannastown Golf Club on Thursday, October 7th.

**Grace Windfelder, OCHS'24** finished and tied for 21st and **Paige Meyers, OCHS '24** finished 10th. Way to go Eagles!



## SOCCER

The soccer team had a season record of 13-4-1 and came in second in 3A Section 3. They made it to the Quarter Finals of the WPIAL's and lost to Mars 4-0. **Deryn Bagley, OCHS'22, Emily Cooper, OCHS'22, Gabi Folino, OCHS'23,** and **Mia Lowry, OCHS'23** finished both as all-section and all-WPIAL players this season.

It was senior night at Highmark stadium for the soccer team on October 6. The Eagles put on an impressive showing with a 5-0 victory! Congratulations to Seniors **Deryn Bagley, Claire Coldren, Emily Cooper, Lily Giovannelli, Hannah Niklason, Allie Samek,** and **Marina Zdarko** all had outstanding performances.







## OC EAGLEWEAR

Need a gift for a former Oakland Catholic student? Want to represent your OC pride around town? You can shop at OC EagleWear, our online store for gear, gifts, and all types of OC items. Head to [store.oaklandcatholic.org](https://store.oaklandcatholic.org) today!





SAVE THE DATE AND JOIN US FOR *Our Celebration*  
SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 2022 AT 6PM  
AT THE PITTSBURGH FIELD CLUB

OAKLAND  
CATHOLIC

*galaxy*

21-22

THE EVENING WILL FEATURE CONVERSATION, COCKTAILS,  
DINNER AND DANCING WITH THE ELITE SHOW BAND

*Hank & Tina Richard*

HONORARY CHAIRS

COCKTAIL ATTIRE



# ADVANCEMENT



**OAKLAND CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL** Our annual appeal, the Oakland Catholic Fund, is a vital component of support for Oakland Catholic High School. A gift to the Oakland Catholic Fund supports many aspects of the school, including enhancement of our curriculum and increases the tuition assistance made available to our students.

All alumnae, parents, and friends of Oakland Catholic are invited to make a gift to the Oakland Catholic Fund. Show your support by making a gift online TODAY at **GiveToOC.com**. Together we can make a difference!

## MONTHLY GIVING: RECURRING GIFTS

Oakland Catholic High School has been positively transforming the lives of students since 1989. Our alumnae often attribute their success to the foundation they received at Oakland Catholic High School. In order to provide our current students with opportunities to learn and grow in the values of Spirituality, Scholarship and Service, we ask that you join our call to action by making a recurring monthly, or quarterly, gift to the Oakland Catholic Fund.

Your recurring gift will ensure that Oakland Catholic High School remains an educational cornerstone in the lives of our students for many years to come. Gifts to the Oakland Catholic Fund support overall growth, enhanced curriculum, increased tuition assistance and much more. A gift in any amount is greatly appreciated, as your participation alone signifies your support of the mission of Oakland Catholic High School! Sign up today online at [oaklandcatholic.org](http://oaklandcatholic.org)—support OC—and your gift will be automatically received every month to support OC!

## SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Oakland Catholic High School offers an array of scholarship opportunities, both merit and need-based. These scholarships have all been supported by either their respective donors or by gifts to the Oakland Catholic Fund. If you would like to discuss establishment of a named scholarship, please contact **Mary Claire Kasunic** at [mckasunic@oaklandcatholic.org](mailto:mckasunic@oaklandcatholic.org).

### MERIT BASED AWARDS:

Academic Excellence Award  
Alumnae Scholarship  
Bishop's Scholarship  
Eagle Scholarship  
JOA Scholarship  
Oakland Catholic Scholarship (2)  
President's Scholarship  
Principal's Scholarship

### NAMED SCHOLARSHIPS:

Deborah L. Rice Scholarship  
Domenic Silvaggio, Sr. Scholarship  
Fine Arts Recognition Award  
Fine Arts Recognition Award  
George Rudolph Scholarship  
Katherine and Thomas J.M. Freyvogel Family Scholarship  
Katherine Donahue Freyvogel Scholarship (2)  
Leading Ladies Scholarship  
Loretta Grecco Scholarship  
Louise DiNardo Scholarship  
Maribeth and Richard S. Donley Family Scholarship  
Patricia and Judith Cawley Scholarship  
Richard R. Grandey Scholarship  
Ruth Donnelly Egler Scholarship (3)  
Sarafina Spoltore Raimondi Scholarship  
Spirituality Scholarship  
Steed Family Scholarship  
Susan and Ron Petnuch Family Scholarship  
Susanna McGraw Freyvogel Scholarship  
Thomas & Leona Spelman Scholarship

### GAP GRANT AWARDS:

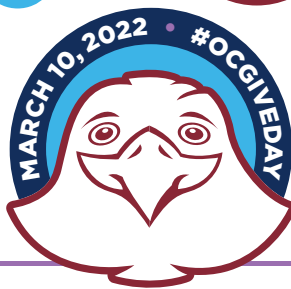
Academic Excellence Awards/  
Scholarships (JOA Scholars)



## THE TIME IS NOW

Make your impact  
today with a gift to  
Oakland Catholic.

**GiveToOC.com**



MAKE A  
*Gift!*

# GIVE DAY

OCFUND

## 2022 Challenges

VISIT [OCGIVEDAY.ORG](https://ocgiveday.org) TO LEARN MORE!

*Traditions*

WHY I *Give*

*George*

SAVE THE DATE: *March 10, 2022!*

We're excited to honor our students, traditions, and George on our seventh annual OC Give Day! So excited that we set the bar high with a goal of **\$125,000**. Over 500 donors helped us meet our goal last year. **This year, we're counting on YOU!** Donate on March 10 at [OCGIVEDAY.org](https://ocgiveday.org) with a one-time or recurring gift and help unlock an additional \$25,000 across three challenges.

Afraid you'll miss your chance to participate because of your schedule? **Pledge your gift in advance!** In 2021, we received multiple \$1,000 gifts in advance from VIP donors who couldn't wait to show their support! Help us meet our ambitious goal with a signature gift of this nature!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR  
FOR **THURSDAY, MARCH 10**  
*to share in the excitement!*



## WAYS TO GIVE

Thinking carefully about what to give—and when to give—can help magnify the impact of your gifts. With careful planning you may discover that your gifts have more charitable impact than you thought possible, and can reduce your overall tax bill.

### CURRENT GIFT OPPORTUNITIES

**Cash:** Gifts of cash, by check are the most popular ways to give.

**Online Donations:** One-time or monthly “recurring-gifts” can be made online.

**Recurring Gifts:** Making donations on a monthly basis helps to spread out your support throughout the entire year. For example:

- \$1,000 a year = \$83.33 a month
- \$500 a year = \$41.67 a month
- \$250 a year = \$20.83 a month

**Securities:** A gift of stocks, bonds or mutual fund shares may yield additional tax savings if they are worth more at the time of transfer than their original cost.

**Bequests:** A bequest is a gift made upon death through a will or a revocable trust.

To discuss these options contact **Karen Marner**, Vice President of Advancement at [kmarner@oaklandcatholic.org](mailto:kmarner@oaklandcatholic.org) or 412.682.6877.



## PLANNED GIVING: THE ULTIMATE GIFT

### *Remembering Oakland Catholic High School in Your Will*

While you are planning for the future needs of your family and reviewing your assets, please keep in mind the needs of Oakland Catholic so that FUTURE generations of OC students can be impacted by your thoughtfulness and generosity. We would like to grow the membership of the OC Legacy Society.

Membership includes friends of OC who, as loyal visionaries and generous benefactors, have included Oakland Catholic High School in their will or estate plan. We invite you to join the ranks. Our greatest hope for the OC Legacy Society is to grow our membership. We want to count you in!

The final expression of your wishes for your loved ones and concern for your family and friend is recorded in a will. If you do not have a will, please contact your attorney and/or financial adviser to discuss this important matter and consider a gift to OC! If you already have Oakland Catholic High School in your estate plans, please let us know. If you have any questions, please contact **Karen Marner**, Vice President of Advancement at 412.682.6877.

## OC GIVE DAY

OC Give Day is being planned for Thursday, March 10, 2022. Watch for information on how you can participate and support the students at OC now and in the future.



## EITC AND OSTC

Did you know that your state taxes could help support Oakland Catholic High School? EITC and OSTC are Pennsylvania state programs that give business owners and

corporations the opportunity to allocate a portion of their state taxes to a non-profit organization. As a 501(c)3 organization, Oakland Catholic qualifies for these programs and is grateful to the individuals and businesses for their support.

To learn more about how you and your business can participate in these important programs, please contact:

**Diane Totten**, Director of  
Constituent Relations  
412.682.6633 x1263  
dtotten@oaklandcatholic.org



## 2021-2022 MATCHING GIFTS

Abbott Laboratories  
AT&T

Blackbaud Giving Fund  
Dominion Foundation

Goldman Sachs Matching Gift Program  
Google

Johnson & Johnson  
New York Life

Oracle  
PepsiCo Foundation  
Pfizer Foundation

PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.  
The Bank of New York Mellon



## THANK YOU TO OUR CURRENT EITC & OSTC SUPPORTERS

Anonymous (2)

Michael & Lisa Anselmo

Thomas H. Ayoub, III &  
Associates, LLC

Carnegie Mellon University

CASTA-SOS I LLC

CASTA-SOS II LLC

CASTA III LLC

Karen & Joe DiVito (PAPE LLC)

Gary & Megan Doyle

Fathead's Saloon  
1805 East Carson St. Corporation

Federated Advisory Services

First National Bank

Diane & John Fisher

Glimcher Brokerage

Linda & Daniel Haller

Kelly Realtors, Inc

Gary A. & Lori Kroner

Peter & Alice Leone

Maher Duessel  
Certified Public Accountants

Doug & Carol MacPhail

Tom & Kelly McDonnell

Jim & Colleen Meyers

Nextier Bank

Hank & Tina Richard

Tim & Kristie Steitz

Francesco Tirone

Waste Management  
(via Bridge Foundation)

## MATCHING GIFTS: DOUBLE YOUR GIFT, DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT

As an educational, non-profit organization, Oakland Catholic High School is eligible to receive matching gifts from companies that match their employees' charitable donations. You can potentially double your gift to Oakland Catholic by participating in a matching gift program. Visit [oaklandcatholic.org/donation-page/other-ways-to-give](https://oaklandcatholic.org/donation-page/other-ways-to-give) to search for the Matching Gifts List to see if your company and you can double your impact!





# SAVE THE DATE AND JOIN US ON THE LINKS THIS SPRING!

**MONDAY, MAY 9, 2022**  
**THE PITTSBURGH FIELD CLUB**  
**SHOTGUN START – 12:30 P.M.**

Save the Date and plan to join Honorary Chairs Derek and Rebecca Mousseau and the OC Community. For more information, contact Karen Ferrari at 412.682.6797 or [kferrari@oaklandcatholic.org](mailto:kferrari@oaklandcatholic.org).

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2021 WINNING TEAMS!**



## **1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE TEAM**

Peter Dellovade, Chuck Nettles  
& Jim Bulger



## **2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE TEAM**

Derek Mousseau, Pete Kohelis,  
Pat Brady & Joe Gartner



## **3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE TEAM**

John Shovlin, Mossie Murphy,  
Nathan Smith & Joe Farrell

**Golf Sponsorship Opportunities and Golfer Registration  
information will be available in the spring of 2022.**



# SPONSOR A STUDENT

***Every year, hundreds of students are given the gift of an Oakland Catholic education thanks to the generosity of people like you.***

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

Each year, Oakland Catholic identifies students with significant financial need and builds financial aid packages to the best of the school's ability. Unfortunately, need is frequently greater than the resources available. By identifying a sponsor who supports a young woman across all four years of her OC education, we close the gap and provide her the chance to thrive and succeed in this unique educational environment. Sponsors connect with their students via updates from both the school and the student. In a very personal way, sponsors impact our world, one student at a time.

## WHOM DOES IT BENEFIT?

Students, Sponsors, the entire Oakland Catholic Community... our future world.

## HOW DO I BECOME A SPONSOR?

Simply select the level of commitment that reflects your circumstances, contact Vice President of Advancement Karen Marner by phone at 412.682.6877 or via email at [kmarner@oaklandcatholic.org](mailto:kmarner@oaklandcatholic.org) with your desire to become a Sponsor, and excitedly wait to meet your OC Student. With your generous support, she will soon soar as an OC Eagle.

## SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

Sponsorship is a 4-year commitment. Upon your student's graduation, you will have the opportunity to recommit to this program by sponsoring a new student.

**\$10,000 • \$5,000 • \$3,000**

*\*Yearly sponsorship contributions can be made annually, quarterly, or monthly. All contributions are tax deductible as charitable contributions.*

  
**Oakland Catholic**  
High School  
**Only Here.**





## RAINY DAY DRESS DOWN DAYS

When the OC Community “pays” to dress down on a Rainy Day Dress Down Day, they are really donating to the Rainy Day Fund. This fund is used to assist current OC families who encounter an emergency situation that affects their financial stability. Your dress down dollars supplement the school’s ability to support your classmates whose families are managing sudden changes or tragedy, so that they can remain at Oakland Catholic. OC gets a comfortable dress down day while paying it forward to help a fellow OC student.



The Rainy Day Socktober fundraiser was held for the first time this October. Students had the opportunity to provide support to the Rainy Day Fund by purchasing OC eagle socks!

A few Central Catholic students helped support OC too by purchasing OC socks!



## SPECIAL THANKS TO THE BRIDGE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

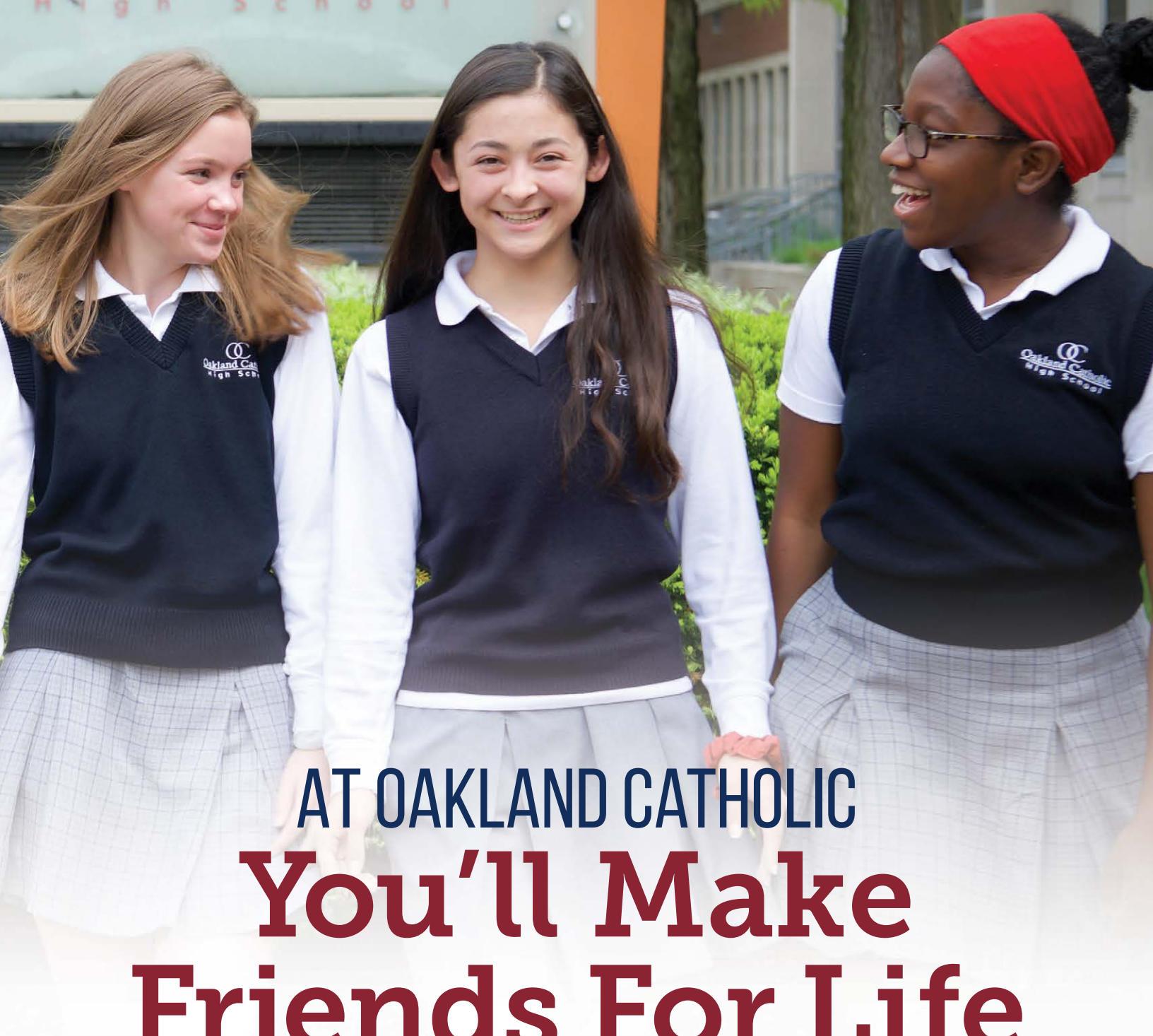
Thank you Bridge Educational Foundation and its donors, Malady & Wooten, RBC Capital Markets, and Waste Management, for their \$98,200 donation in scholarships to Pittsburgh families this school year!

Students attending the following schools will benefit from the tuition scholarships: Central Catholic High School, Campus Laboratory School at Carlow, Oakland Catholic High School, Pittsburgh Urban Christian School, Redeemer Lutheran School, Sacred Heart Elementary School, Sr. Thea Bowman Catholic Academy, St. Edmunds Academy, Waldorf School of Pittsburgh.



*“I am grateful in many ways to the faculty and staff of St. Paul’s Cathedral for providing me with unique opportunities to grow personally and academically. Not only did I receive an excellent academic and religious education, but also encouragement and support for my goals and dreams. It is exciting and wonderful to see Oakland Catholic do the same for so many other young women.”*

—MARY THERESA METZLER, CHS’72



# AT OAKLAND CATHOLIC **You'll Make Friends For Life**

The Oakland Catholic environment is defined by acceptance and inclusion. All are welcome in every club, every sport, and at every table. We are a diverse population of talented, enthusiastic, and supportive young women who root for our classmates to succeed. You won't find a best friend here—you'll find many. OC friends are friends for life.



## LUCCA RISTORANTE

### LOCAL RESTAURANT SUPPORT

If a member of the Oakland Catholic community dines at **Lucca Ristorante**, located on South Craig Street, on any Thursday, simply let their server know that they are from OC and the school will receive a donation from Lucca equivalent to 10% of the check! This is a great way to support the school while enjoying a delicious meal on their outside patio or inside the restaurant.

### AMAZON SMILE

Visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) today to shop tens of millions of products and choose Oakland Catholic High School as your charity of choice! The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate .5% of your purchase of eligible products.

*"Looking back at my years at SHHS, I know it changed my trajectory in life. The work ethic, focus on detail and self-assurance were truly infused into my core. I am blessed to have had the opportunity of all the positive influences. Thank you to the faculty and all my dear friends."*

—HEATHER HUGHES SCHMIDT, SHHS'89

### SIMPLY SISTERS PHOTOGRAPHY

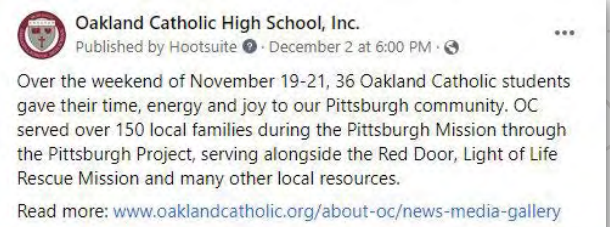
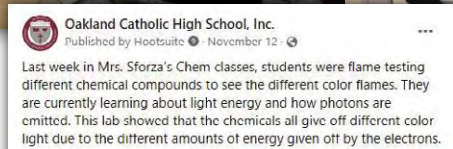
Throughout the year, Simply Sisters Photography is there to capture moments at our Oakland Catholic events. Photography used in this publication and throughout the year is courtesy of Simply Sisters Photography.

Our exclusive photographers—**Lynda Scahill** and **Stephanie Green** document all major events at Oakland Catholic to capture all of the special moments throughout the school year.

Please support Simply Sisters as they photograph and document our school year and honor copyright laws by purchasing photos as keepsakes. Pictures can be purchased from their website. A 4x6 photograph is reasonably priced, and a portion of all sales comes back to OC. Galleries from the 2021-2022 school year are still accessible and passwords are available upon request. Please call Simply Sisters at 412-657-7375 with any questions.







# Trending at OC

*Great news travels fast, but only to those who are connected.*

So when **Morgan Filar**, OCHS'21 secures the Heisman High School Scholarship, Ms. Sforza's Chemistry classes test different chemical compounds to see different color flames, OC Soccer players **Gabi Folino**, **Deryn Bagley**, **Mia Lowry** and **Emily Cooper** win their All Section and All WPIAL titles, five students and their teacher arrive from a Jesuit school in Milan, Italy for their inaugural student exchange program at Oakland Catholic, four OC scholar athletes **Marionna Logan**, **Deborah Watkins**, **Aibreann Shovlin**, and **Katherine Smith** attend the WPIAL Sportsmanship Summit at the Heinz History Center, 36 OC students give their time, energy and joy to the Pittsburgh Community to serve 150 local families during the Pittsburgh Mission through the Pittsburgh Project, and a successful blood drive takes place at Oakland Catholic High School those on OC social media got the news as it happened.

Follow us on Twitter @OCHS\_Pittsburgh and Instagram @ochseagles, and find us on Facebook @OCHSPittsburgh. Share your photos and videos using #OCHSPittsburgh!



# ALUMNAE NEWS



Oakland Catholic High School is eager to connect with our alumnae! Submit reunion information, career news, graduation updates and anything else you feel pertinent to **Diane Totten**, Director of Constituent Relations by sending an email to [dtotten@oaklandcatholic.org](mailto:dtotten@oaklandcatholic.org) or calling 412-682-6633 ext. 1263.



**Betsy Sarsfield, CHS'67**, and eight of her classmates met for lunch in Bloomfield at Lot 17 in September. Alumnae from this class gets together a couple times a year. **Ruth Branigan, CHS'69**, happily joined them for a day of laughs and camaraderie.



**Lynne Hayes-Freeland, CHS'73**, celebrated her retirement, after her 46-year career, with friends, colleagues, and admirers at the Energy Innovation Center during "A Tribute to a Media Icon." "I will still be around," she said. "There is still some work that I feel needs to be done in the city and I think there are voices that still need to be heard. So, I don't think I can walk away completely." *Photo Courtesy of Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. Lynne was a participant at the 2022 OC Career Symposium on February 2, 2022 at Oakland Catholic High School.*



**Kristen Ifft Wells, SHHS'86**, a partner in the Reed Smith Global Corporate Group and one of the firm's leading M&A attorneys, has been selected as among the 2021 ATHENA Awards finalists. The Greater Pittsburgh ATHENA Award is sponsored by the Pittsburgh Technology Council and annually recognizes women for exceptional professional accomplishments, outstanding mentorship, and notable contributions to the community.



**Kelley Cooper Miller, OCHS'91**, was featured as 100 People to Meet in 2022: Go-Getters by Virginia Business magazine. She was named one of the most influential female federal tax law attorneys in the nation by Law360. Kelley is a partner at Reed Smith's Washington, D.C. office, where her clients include Fortune 25 companies and privately held corporations worth more than \$1 billion. She is also an adjunct professor who teaches federal partnership tax at Georgetown University Law Center. Kelley is a recipient of the American Bar Association Section of Taxation's Janet Spragens Pro Bono Award and the Thomson Reuters Everyday Hero Award. In 2020, Kelley was the Commencement Speaker for the 2020 OC Graduation.



**Janera Solomon, OCHS'93 and Pitt'98**, was awarded the 2021 Dietrich School Distinguished Professional Achievement Award. The award recognizes alumni and alumnae who have made significant contributions to society, and whose accomplishments, affiliations, and careers have honored the University of Pittsburgh's legacy of excellence. Janera is a curator, producer, and nonprofit executive. She is recognized for her passionate commitment to creative and cultural expression as powerful tools for dialogue, collaboration, and social change. Janera was the Keynote Speaker for the OC Career Symposium in 2020.



**Megan Shepherd, OCHS'93,**

is the Program Director of Notre Dame Vision where she helps nourish the Catholic imagination of the young church through the

Notre Dame Vision summer conferences for high school students and their campus and youth ministry leaders. "I was a member of the very first freshman class when Oakland Catholic opened its doors in the fall of 1989. During my years at OC I grew intellectually from the leadership of teachers such as Mrs. Streiff and Ms. McNulty, grew stronger physically through the swim team (and finally a soccer team senior year), and deepened my faith through experiences of service, retreats, and prayer. When I graduated in 1993 as part of the first class to spend all four years at Oakland Catholic I was well equipped to head off to the University of Notre Dame where I received my undergraduate degree in Science Preprofessional Studies (pre-med) and Theology." This summer current OC student, **Rachel Sweeny**, participated in the program. She said, "The whole atmosphere of the Vision Program was incredible and I was surrounded by others who were just as passionate about growing in their faith as I am. The sense of community was undeniable and I learned so many new ways to connect with God and with those around me."



**Robyn Shepherd, OCHS'97**, joined the "Her Success Matters" podcast about the complexities of influencing and creating impact—including how a culture that celebrates the norm is critical. Among other things, she talked about the work that has been done in building Bridgewater's Women's Influence Network, which has over 400 members, and whose focus is to create moments of access, power, connection, and substance. *Robyn was a participant at the 2022 OC Career Symposium on February 2, 2022 at Oakland Catholic High School.*



**Sabrina Saunders Mosby, OCHS'99**, was named as having one of the best smiles in Pittsburgh by Pittsburgh Magazine. "My personal mantra is 'Smile and Move'.

Pittsburgh's unique number of bridges make me smile because they serve as a consistent reminder of all the ways people are connected in the region, and the progress made when we choose to cross them." *Photo courtesy of Pittsburgh Magazine, credit Chuck Beard.*



**Ashley (A.J.) Ross, OCHS'01,**

developed a love of sports in Pittsburgh at the Boys & Girls Club. She played "every sport under the sun" including soccer, basketball,

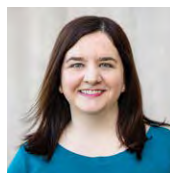
hockey and even football. She eventually focused on basketball and enjoyed plenty of WPIAL success playing for Suzie McConnell-Serio at OC. Currently, AJ is a sideline reporter with "NFL on CBS." When football season is over, she will transition into college basketball and March Madness. Then AJ will cover the WNBA during the spring/summer followed by the NFL training camps next year. *Photo courtesy of Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.*



**Brynne Sarsfield, OCHS'01,**

graduated with flying colors from NYU's Stern School of Business Executive MBA Program in August. While managing a very demanding

position in the advertising department at Univision in NYC, she attended class every other weekend for two years, and on her off weekends she worked tirelessly on papers and projects.



**Julie Ciaramella, OCHS'03,**

attended Duquesne University, where she graduated in 2007 with a bachelor's degree in journalism and in 2011 with a master's in media

arts and technology. While her lifelong dream has been to publish a book, it wasn't until 2016 that she wrote her first novel and began seriously pursuing publication. After receiving rejections on the manuscript, she began working on a second—and that book landed her a literary agent and a book deal. Her debut novel, a contemporary romance called "Just for Show," was published in January (under the pen name of Julie Hamilton) by Carina Press, an imprint of Harlequin/HarperCollins.



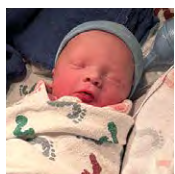
Julie credits her English teachers at Oakland Catholic for helping to further her love of books and writing.



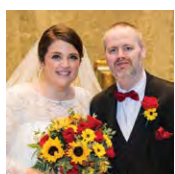
A surprise baby sprinkle for **Maria Magnotta** and **Courtney McMahon Strouse**, both OCHS'03 was planned and hosted by **Shannon McMahon Barr, OCHS'97**, and **Elisa Christian McMahon, OCHS'99**. "It was a fun day celebrating the mamas to be," said **Jamie McLaughlin, OCHS'03**. There are now two new babies in the world—Eden Victoria Strouse born October 2, and John August McMichael born November 6. In attendance were also **Gia Medwid, Meghan Beck**, and **Suzy Murton**, all OCHS'03.



**Julie Malingowski, OCHS'03**, is an Emergency Response Meteorologist with the National Weather Service. A large part of her current position is being a weather liaison for emergency response operations for government partners during large scale event planning and response. She frequently represents the National Weather Service embedded with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services and FEMA, and also works as a meteorologist on wildfires with Type 1 and 2 Incident Management Teams to support the teams planning tactical firefighting operations. You may see Julie's name in newspapers and on news interviews from time to time when weather across the western US reaches the attention of national news media.

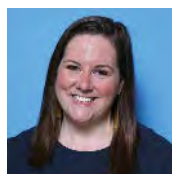


**Courtney Ceponis Murcko, OCHS'03**, and her husband, Frank, welcomed their first child, Scott Alexander, on November 28.



**Kate Oczypok, OCHS'03**, married Brad Phillips on October 23, 2021 at St. James Church in Sewickley. The reception was at the Sheraton Station Square in Pittsburgh. Kate was excited to spend the day with her sisters and bridesmaids (and fellow OC grads!) **Beth Oczypok, OCHS'06**,

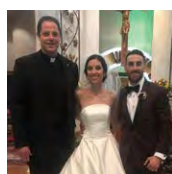
**Annie Otaibi, OCHS'07** and **Meg Oczypok, OCHS'13**. She also got to spend time with her best friend for the last 20 years, **Dezereee Hodish, OCHS'03**.



**Meghan Rafferty, OCHS'03**, was named the Executive Producer of 'NBC Nightly News' with Lester Holt in September. She had been senior broadcast producer on the program for the past two years. In addition to producing the nightly program, Meghan will "also be tasked with steering and expanding the Nightly brand across its many platforms." *Meghan was the Keynote Speaker at the OC Career Symposium on February 2, 2022 at Oakland Catholic High School.*



**Amy Ceponis Vetri, OCHS'03**, and her husband, Vince, welcomed their daughter, Lily Ann, into the world on October 23. She joins older sister, Charlotte, who is two years old.



**Mallory Campbell, OCHS'06**, married Michael Mannion on October 30 at St. Bede Church.



**Felicity A. Williams, Esq., OCHS'07** began her new appointment as Mayor Ed Gainey's Assistant Chief of Staff on January 4, 2022. Congratulations Felicity.

**Jacquelyn Coles, OCHS'08**, began a new position as Clinical Specialist at Medtronic.



**Rachel Dzombak, OCHS'08**, and Jeffrey Lackey married on May 1, 2021 in Pittsburgh, PA. They met as engineering undergraduates at Penn State University. **Julia Anselmo, OCHS'09**, was Rachel's maid-of-honor.



**Caroline Fitzgerald, OCHS'08**, is the CEO & Founder at GOALS Sports—a sports media company and sponsorship consulting agency focused on growing women's sports.

Best known for *The Business Case for Women's Sports* podcast & weekly newsletter, GOALS exists to prove that it's good business to invest in women's sports—with the end GOAL of creating a more equitable sports world.



**Meghan A. Farley, OCHS'08**, was recognized in the 2022 Edition of Best Lawyers in America: Ones to Watch. Meghan is an associate attorney with the litigation boutique

law firm, Conrad O'Brien, in Philadelphia. This is the second year in a row that Meghan has been named in Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch. This year, Meghan was recognized in the 2022 Edition of Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch for her practice areas of white-collar criminal defense and legal malpractice defense. In August 2020, Meghan was recognized in the 2021 Edition of Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch for the practice area of white-collar criminal defense. The Best Lawyers in America is based entirely on peer review. In its second year, Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch, "recognized attorneys who are earlier in their careers for outstanding professional excellence in private practice in the United States". Since 1981, Best Lawyers lists have earned the respect of the profession, the media, and the public, as the most reliable, unbiased source of legal referrals anywhere. Meghan is a 2012 graduate of Villanova University and 2016 graduate of Villanova University School of Law.



**Andi Thieman, OCHS'08**, is the founder of PennyLoafer, a monthly giving platform that connects individual donors to causes they care about. "The idea came after reflecting

on my own charitable giving habits, which were sporadic and reactive—almost a direct reflection of events happening in the world or requests that came my way."



**Julia Anselmo, OCHS'09**, got married on October 2, 2021. Two OC friends were happy to attend—**George Rudolph**, OC Goodwill Ambassador, and **Rachel Dzombak, OCHS'08**.



**Annelise Pompa, OCHS'09**, acquired her B.S Ed. in Early Childhood Education from Duquesne University. She has also acquired her PA permanent teaching certification.

After graduation Annelise has been teaching at Sacred Heart Elementary School and has been one of the first-grade teachers for the past 6 years.

**Abby Marchione, OCHS'11**, was promoted to Instructional Design Manager—Consumer Sales at Verizon.

**Devan Mercurio, OCHS'11**, and speaker at the OC Career Symposium 2021, started a new position as Manager of Donor Relations at Pittsburgh Public Theater.

**Jeimy Sanchez-Ruiz Ibarra, OCHS'13**, started a new position as Software Engineer at Resilient Coders.



**Sarah Richards, OCHS'13**, is a lyric soprano who sang in an inspiring recital featuring works of Baroque and Renaissance music by Purcell, Bach, and Mazzocchi. The event was

held at St. Bernard in October. Sarah is a cantor at St. Michael Archangel and is well-known for her numerous operatic roles, solo and festival performances, and appearances at international singers' competitions.



**Sabrina Helbig, OCHS'16**, received the IEEE Charles LeGeyt Fortescue Graduate Scholarship from University of Pittsburgh's Swanson School of Engineering. Sabrina is currently

studying electrical engineering focused on electric power.

**Lara Jelley, OCHS'16**, is a fashion designer in Brooklyn, NY.



**Abbey Lobello, OCHS'16**, has been promoted to Strategic Sales Analyst at Trane, based out of Charlotte, NC.



**Seo Young Yi, OCHS'16**, attends Sookmyung Women's University, one of the top 20 universities in Korea and the second best women's university. She took a gap year in the middle of her studies to do an internship with Price Waterhouse Korea, but turned down a job offer to complete her last semester of studies in Global Cooperation and Statistics. She was in Pittsburgh visiting her host mother in December and took a tour of Oakland Catholic. Seo hopes to visit the United States and Pittsburgh again soon. "Oakland Catholic was a great decision for me as an international student, and my education here helped me to attend one of Korea's best universities."

**Maggie Leone, OCHS'17**, recently moved to NYC to work at CBS News Radio. She graduated from Boston University in May with a BS in Journalism.



**Nieve Sabol, OCHS'17 and Tess Zentarsky, OCHS'17**, recently completed a TEFL certificate program through the International Accreditation of TESOL Qualifying Organizations. Nieve and Tess have been in Madrid, Spain teaching English as a foreign language.



**Teegan Zeh, OCHS'17**, graduated from Pitt this year with a degree in Information Science and a minor in Chinese. She was on the Dance Team all four years. Teegan is a member of the Atlanta Falcons Cheerleading Team, and moved to Atlanta to cheer in the NFL.

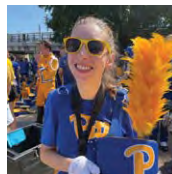


**Cora Marchand, OCHS'18**, is a senior at Penn State studying Food Science, which encompasses biology, chemistry, engineering, and nutrition with a minor in Microbiology.

Cora was a summer intern at Monday's Brewing, and says, "There was so much to the brewing process I didn't expect, like how much labor is involved—but, I like it!"

**Megan Nagy, OCHS'18**, has eagerly accepted a full-time position with Deloitte Consulting as a GPS Analyst in the Arlington, VA office following her graduation in May.

**Alissa Pampena, OCHS'18**, spent the summer as an eCommerce Marketplaces Intern for GNC. In addition to a multitude of day-to-day tasks, she was part of larger assignments including campaign implementation, performing marketplace audits, Amazon Prime Day, collaborating with different departments at GNC HQ, and presenting new ideas. After completing a twelve-week run, Alissa proudly announced that her internship was extended through the remainder of the calendar year.



**Kara Puszko, OCHS'18**, was selected to be a Section Leader in the University of Pittsburgh Varsity Marching band. She leads the tenor sax section. Kara marched with the Central Catholic marching band all four years during her time at Oakland Catholic.

**Sophia Rizzo, OCHS'18**, started a new position as Game Day Coordinator at Pittsburgh Penguins.

**Mandy Zheng, OCHS'18**, will be a summer intern at Aptar in Lincolnton, NC. She is a Plastics Engineering Technology student.

**Katherine Rose Anthony, OCHS'19**, was promoted to Chapter President at Alpha Phi International Fraternity.

**Caroline Richard, OCHS'19**, is a junior at Saint Louis University studying Nursing. She is currently back in Pittsburgh doing a Labor and Delivery clinical rotation. She works as a Patient Care Technician at Magee Women's Hospital.

**Anna Sproule, OCHS'19**, spent her summer as an intern working as a Computer Forensic Examiner at U.S. Department of Homeland Security.



**Maggie Smith and Andalusia Reilly, OCHS'20**, cheered on their fellow OC classmate, **Taylor Cigna, OCHS'20**, when Holy Cross played Colgate in volleyball. Taylor played well for Colgate and left the court with a win.



**Caroline McShea, OCHS'20**, successfully walked onto the varsity field hockey team at Smith College in Northampton, MA. Caroline accomplished this despite never having played field hockey previously, she credits cardiac conditioning from running on OC's cross country team as well as her long time participation in Robert Morris University's youth hockey program as making it possible. Smith is a member of the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC).



**Maggie Storti, OCHS'20**, is a sophomore goalkeeper at Case Western Reserve University where the soccer team recently finished a historic 2021 season. "The progress we made was insane. We exceeded expectations. It really came out to be something super special." The team has a 16-2-2 overall record which set program records for total wins and conference wins. Maggie also set a CWRU record for wins (16) and tied the program record for single-season clean sheets (13).



**Siying (Cynthia) Yu, OCHS'20**, hoped to be a student at Pitt this year. However, due to pandemic and other situations, she transferred to a university in Suzhou, China under an international joint partnership between China and the United Kingdom.

Even though she regrets that she cannot return to the United States, Cynthia agrees that this is a relatively suitable choice for her. She happily shared with us photos of a traditional Chinese dress called Qipao which her mother bought her. This Qipao is totally handmade from fabric to production. "I think handmade things are really meaningful in this era."



**Betsy Schmeler, OCHS'21**, took part in WYEP's Reimagination 8 program as a solo artist this year. "Although it seemed somewhat scary going into it, I was really excited to make one of my songs that was written with just an acoustic guitar into a fully produced, full-band track." As a freshman at the University of Southern California, Betsy feels that "...the Reimagination Project definitely showed me more possibilities in music than I knew before. I'm now super interested in public radio and broadcast, and I hope that in college I can join the student radio and get involved with the scene." Betsy was a member of the RadiOC podcast club. *Photo courtesy of NEXT Pittsburgh.*



**Caterina (Cat) Veneziano, OCHS'21**, was inducted into the National Society of Leadership and Success on November 19 at the Duquesne Union Ballroom.

She was among approximately 40 other who were also inducted. Cat is a sophomore at Duquesne majoring in early childhood education.



# REUNION NEWS

## PAST REUNIONS

**St. Paul Cathedral Class of 1971** held a class reunion on Saturday, October 9, in Oakland. Twenty-six classmates celebrated 50 years since their graduation. A wonderful afternoon of sharing memories was enjoyed by everyone!



## UPCOMING REUNIONS

### **The Sacred Heart High School Class of 1957**

is having a 65th Reunion at The Wooden Nickel Restaurant in Monroeville, PA on June 16, 2022. The alumnae are going to meet at noon for a 12:30pm lunch. If you have not yet been contacted by a member of the reunion committee, please email either **Bernadette (Bernie) Opalko Hull** at opalkob1@gmail.com or **Lynne Ferris Soltis** at soltislynne@netzero.com for more details.

### **The Cathedral High School Class of 1972**

will celebrate their 50th reunion on Saturday, August 13, 2022 at the Pittsburgh Field Club. For additional information contact **Meg Dukovic Hill** at 412-992-6359 or email megrethill@gmail.com. We are inviting the CHS Class of 1972 to "travel down the road and back again and looking forward to a great turnout!



# IN MEMORIAM

*The time it takes to heal from a great loss is different for each of us. God knows our hearts and always walks with us at the perfect pace of His comforting grace. Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the families of the following alumnae:*

## **ST. PAUL CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL**

Cecilia B. McCabe, CHS'51  
Teresa Prendergast Weis, CHS'52  
Cora Sue McCormick, CHS'62  
Mary Karen McFadden Storey, CHS'62  
Judith Cawley, CHS'72  
Joanne Mueller Andrews, CHS'76

Mary Helbling Sober, SHHS'64  
Marcia A. Straub, SHHS'72  
Mary Teresa O'Donoghue Gordon, SHHS'77  
Rita Harkins Stedeford, SHHS'80  
Patricia Armbruster Emmitt Mackie, SHHS'82  
Jude A. Vachon, SHHS'82  
Melinda S. Handler, SHHS'83  
Deborah A. Berger, SHHS'85

## **SACRED HEART HIGH SCHOOL**

Grace K. Enders SHHS'36  
Mavin L. Koval, SHHS'63

## **OUR LADY OF MERCY ACADEMY**

Bernadette Barkley Ivory, OLOMA  
Kathryn Freyvogel Edson Gordon, OLOMA'51  
Ellen F. Gunnell, OLOMA'63

*\*List as of January 31, 2022*



OAKLAND CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

*The Oakland Catholic Fund keeps this all-girls Catholic educational opportunity accessible to young women of this region. Your gift in honor, or in memory, of an alumna provides an opportunity to a future alumna.*



# OAKLAND CATHOLIC CONNECT

Oakland Catholic Connect allows you to re-connect with old classmates and enables you to utilize the trusted Oakland Catholic High School environment to expand your professional network. By fully integrating with social networks, and cultivating a culture of helping and giving back, you will be amazed by the vibrancy of the Oakland Catholic High School community.

For additional Alumnae news, sign up for Oakland Catholic Connect—an exclusive resource where Alumnae can seek career advice, mentor younger alum, post job and internship opportunities, share photos from reunions and more! Enhance and strengthen Oakland Catholic's Alumnae Relations by joining Oakland Catholic Connect today! **[www.OaklandCatholicConnect.org](http://www.OaklandCatholicConnect.org)**







## RECONNECT

Find and reminisce with fellow graduates, see what they have been up to and stay in touch.



## GIVE BACK

Introduce, employ, and offer to act as a mentor to our graduating students.



## EXPAND

Leverage your professional network to get introduced to people you should know.



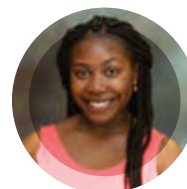
## ADVANCE

Advance your career through inside connections working in top companies.



## PROMOTE

Promote your business in the Business Directory and offer exclusive offers to your fellow alumnae.



# ALUMNAE SPOTLIGHTS



## ROSEANNE WHOLEY CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL

When I was asked to be the Cathedral Spotlight for the OC Review I pulled out some old yearbooks to research some of my accomplishments. Well, to be honest, there weren't many to be found. In my senior yearbook it states that I was on the yearbook staff, but I contributed very little. If I had helped out more, then my name probably would have been spelled correctly under the group yearbook committee photo (R. Ruggirro).

Since graduating from St. Paul Cathedral in 1972 my class has organized reunions every 5 years. I am helping with our 50th reunion, which is coming up in 2022. When I think back about my favorite high school memories it is all about my CHS friends. When we get together the conversation frequently turns to my shenanigans and getting myself, as well as others, in trouble. Reading through my autograph books I noted that several of the teachers wrote humorous things like "A lot of trouble", "To one of the more interesting inmates of the zoo", "I expect more from you next year", and "Seeing you only upon occasion, there's not much I can say except 'God bless the rest of the faculty'."

I would say that the greatest lesson I learned in high school was to behave myself, stop the shenanigans and pay attention in college, which I did and where I graduated with honor. After graduating from CHS, I majored in art education at Carlow University. Although I was thoroughly inspired by art, especially the impressionists, I ended up working in the financial field of medicine. The fact that I was good at finance surprised me because I considered myself to be very bad at math. Like the Donna Summer song, I always said that I worked hard for my money. I started working at Shadyside Hospital in 1968 in the dietary department, medical records and medical photography because I had to pay my own high school and college tuition. I have lived in Pittsburgh all of my life and started managing medical practices in 1979. I managed the practices of hundreds of physicians in Pittsburgh and around the country. By 1995 I was acting as a physician advocate by speaking as faculty at numerous medical meetings and training doctors to properly code and bill for the procedures that they performed. Until my retirement in 2020, I was President of Roseanne R. Wholey and Associates and frequently lectured around the country at physician conferences and working with industry to obtain reimbursement for new devices. I was also on the editorial advisory board for numerous medical coding and billing bulletins.

My jobs may have paid the bills but philanthropy was my passion. From 2002 to 2021 I spent thousands of hours on Boards, chairing fundraisers, and volunteering my time for organizations such as St. Lucy's Auxiliary to the Blind, Pittsburgh Festival Opera, Three Rivers Youth (the photo was taken in May, 2021 at the Nellie Leadership Awards Gala where I was presented one of several awards I received over my years of service), American Heart Association, and the University of Pittsburgh Institutional Review Board, just to name a few. Along with my husband, Dr. Mark Wholey, we donated \$1.5 million dollars to name a biomedical engineering lab at Carnegie Mellon University. When I retired I joked that I could either be found wearing a ballgown or sweat suits.

Work and volunteer service aside, my favorite job is that of being a Mom to Lauren, the love of my life and my greatest influence. Being a mother was like getting to live life all over again, and doing it right this time. After struggling my whole life, working hard for my money, I was motivated to create a better life for her. Back in the 1970's I always thought that by the time I had a daughter there would be equal pay for equal work. Unfortunately, this is still not the case. My advice to all young women is to keep fighting for pay equality so that this issue can be corrected by the time they have daughters.



# ALUMNAE SPOTLIGHTS

## FELICITY A. WILLIAMS, ESQ. OAKLAND CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Felicity A. Williams, Esq. graduated from Oakland Catholic in 2007 following years of playing field hockey and maintaining “deep friendships with classmates who have grown into my chosen family.”

In addition to these friendships with female classmates, Felicity has many females whom have greatly influenced her life. “I grew up in a home with three, strong Black women: my mother, my grandmother, and my great aunt. They modeled strength, courage, perseverance, love, integrity, and ingenuity.

All of them gave me a passion for community. I have followed in my Great Aunt Vivian’s footsteps by working in the Hill District, where she served as Principal of Madison Elementary for almost 20 years. Her work closing the racial achievement gap is an inspiration for the work I do today.”

“In my current role as Programs and Policy Manager and Special Assistant to the President and CEO at the Hill CDC, I lead the programs and policy teams, as well as communications across the organization. I’ve also worked to increase Black voter engagement and turnout through a campaign for eight counties in Western, Pennsylvania, contributed to the development of a policy agenda for Black Pittsburgh, been published on issues impacting the Black community, and engaged in both successful electoral and issue campaigns from criminal justice reform working with the ACLU of Pennsylvania to education reform.”

Felicity was recently honored with being named as PUMP and Pittsburgh Magazine’s 40 Under 40 Awardee. She was also an Onyx Woman Leadership Honoree in 2021.

“I stumbled into my field of work after deciding to change career paths following graduation from law school. I entered law school focused on developing a transactional legal career in business and finance. I pursued coursework in contracts, mergers and acquisitions, secured transactions, and other corporate related legal matters. At the same time, I was impacted by the formation and growth of the Black Lives Matter movement occurring across the country and felt called to use my gained skills and expertise to advance racial and economic justice.”

When asked what Felicity is most proud of she states, “My courage and my conviction. It has been those two qualities that have guided me through both my personal and professional life and aided me in overcoming challenges. Courage and conviction are also drivers for my dedication to racial and economic justice. It can be easy to get discouraged when working to tear down systems that empower few and disempower many. Changemakers must have the fortitude to stand in the gap.”

***On January 4, 2022, Felicity began her new appointment as Mayor Ed Gainey’s Assistant Chief of Staff.***



# ALUMNAE SPOTLIGHTS



## MARY SUE CERTO NEWCAMP OUR LADY OF MERCY ACADEMY

Catholic school education has always held the utmost importance to me. Catholicism is genius and its future rests in the graduates of Catholic schools. I feel blessed to have attended Catholic schools from elementary to high school to college. I have very fond memories of being in the last graduating class of 1979 at Our Lady of Mercy Academy (OLOMA) also known to us girls as Mt. Mercy. I loved the small class sizes and being involved in everything from track to tennis and field hockey to the yearbook, drama and art club.

I can still name many of the Sisters of Mercy who were our teachers and administrators. The younger nuns really befriended us and the older nuns really scared us. LOL—but in a good way. They were lovely committed women of faith who guided us through those formative years. We had a great time in high school. Big and little sisters as well as the Miss OLOMA sweetheart competition stands out as highlights.

My career life has centered around marketing communications. I've worked for small ad agencies as well as a large corporation. After I earned my master's degree in management I traveled quite a bit for work creating marketing videos and print materials as well as event planning. I then met my husband, Dan, and was fortunate to transition to work from our home office (long before COVID) acting as the business manager in our family contracting company. This flexibility enabled me to be hands on raising our three children. It was then that I rediscovered the importance of Catholic education. I wanted our kids to have the same opportunity for faith-based education that I had. It was a blessing that our kids were also able to attend Catholic grade school, high school and college. Which led me to serve on the board of directors at North Catholic high school for 6 years. Our board was instrumental in guiding the school to successfully transition from Troy Hill to Cranberry. I am very proud of the success of North Catholic and Oakland Catholic and all the other Pittsburgh area Catholic high schools. They are all bright spots in our city.

I am blessed to come from a wonderful family of origin. My parents had 14 children. While they are enjoying eternal life, my siblings are all still very close. The people who have had the most impact on me have all been people of faith: my parents and some aunts; a few of the Sisters of St. Joseph who I worked with as an adult; some of the younger priests of our diocese who are helping to re-ignite our local church; and most especially my "Bible Buddies", an extraordinary group of women whom I've been in a discipleship group with for the past 15 years. It is so rewarding to be journeying together on the road to heaven with other spiritually-minded women. I have learned and would offer this advice to all young women - that developing a personal relationship with God, that includes a daily habit of prayer, is the most important step you can take on your journey through life. Life can get hard! Everyone needs a friendship with the one for whom "nothing is impossible."

Besides marriage and family, volunteering has been one of the great joys of my life. Teaching our faith in CCD, visiting the elderly, assisting the homeless, going on mission to Appalachia, serving on parish council or helping out with the youth group... these are all ways that I have continued to find fulfillment. My favorite Bible verse is Luke 12:48 "to whom much is given, much will be expected". That line of wisdom means we are held responsible for what we have. If we have been blessed with talents, wealth, knowledge, time, and the like, God expects that we pass it on and help others. If you want to live a peace-filled life, I highly recommend that the young women of Oakland Catholic stay close to your family, develop a friendship with Jesus, and set your eyes on serving others. Be positive and thankful and you will experience much joy. Don't forget to laugh along the way!



# ALUMNAE SPOTLIGHTS

## CONCETTA SILVAGGIO SACRED HEART HIGH SCHOOL

My name is Concetta A. Silvaggio. I am the oldest child of Palma and Domenic Silvaggio and have five other siblings, two sisters and three brothers. I attended Sacred Heart High School and was in the graduating class of 1975. My two sisters also attended Sacred Heart High School. Sacred Heart High School's administration and faculty provided an environment that fostered learning and development, which helped me to excel in life.



I have several fond memories of my time in high school but the ones that stand out are two Christmas plays where I played the Grinch in "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" and Lucy in "A Charlie Brown Christmas".

Attending an all-female high school in the early 1970s was of great benefit to me. It allowed me to develop a confidence to express opinions and pursue goals without the hinderance of social pressures that might be found in a co-educational setting. I felt empowered to be involved in all of the different opportunities that Sacred Heart had to offer.

I was very active in student government, Service Club, French club, National Honor Society and part of the stage crew for my senior play.

I am presently employed as an attorney and managing partner in the law firm of Willman & Silvaggio, LLP. It is a litigation firm with fifteen attorneys. I have been practicing law for 36 years and am challenged every day.

The greatest influence in my life were my parents. They taught all of their children to work hard and set goals for themselves and work to achieve those goals. They instilled in all of us the desire to strive to do our best. These principles were nurtured at Sacred Heart where we were asked to share our talents and gifts with our family, classmates, church and community. One of my greatest influences in my professional life is my husband, Richard Rush.

One of the most important things that I learned at Sacred Heart was to have confidence in myself and a sense of high self-esteem.

The advice I offer to the young women at Oakland Catholic is that you are blessed with many opportunities and have a vital role in family, society and the church because of the talents, gifts, energies and inexhaustible creativity that you possess. Share it! The world will be a better place for it.



144 N. CRAIG STREET  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15213

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PITTSBURGH, PA  
PERMIT NO. 2574

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### OC GIVE DAY

Thursday, March 10, 2022

### OC GALA

Saturday, April 2, 2022  
The Pittsburgh Field Club

### SENIOR LITURGY & LUNCHEON

Wednesday, April 27, 2022  
St. Paul Cathedral &  
Oakland Catholic High School

### OC EAGLE CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday, May 9, 2022  
The Pittsburgh Field Club

### BACCALAUREATE MASS

Monday, May 23, 2022  
St. Paul Cathedral

### COMMENCEMENT

Wednesday, May 25, 2022  
Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall

*In an effort to be more environmentally  
responsible, only one OC Review will be  
mailed to each household.*

*If your daughter has moved from your  
home, please notify **Diane Totten** of her  
current address at 412.682.6633 x 1263  
or [dtotten@oaklandcatholic.org](mailto:dtotten@oaklandcatholic.org).*



# GIVE DAY

OCFUND

MARK YOUR CALENDAR  
FOR **THURSDAY, MARCH 10**  
*to share in the excitement!*

We're excited to honor our students, traditions,  
and George on our seventh annual OC Give Day! So  
excited that we set the bar high with a goal of **\$125,000**.  
Over 500 donors helped us meet our goal last year.

**This year, we're counting on YOU!**

TO LEARN MORE, VISIT **OCGIVEDAY.ORG**