

COMPASSION IN ACTION | FOUNDATION FORWARD | PREACHING GOOD NEWS

The Mount

THE MAGAZINE OF MOUNT ST. DOMINIC ACADEMY | SUMMER 2022



**Empowered Leaders
of Today and Tomorrow**

CONTENTS

4 Celebrating
Mount Seniors

6 Graduation 2022

8 MSDA Names Dr.
Christopher Kennedy
Hampton Head of
School

10 Students and
Alumna Rally
in Support of
Ukraine

12 Mounties Making
Moves & News

14 Students Preach
the Good News

16 All About the Arts

18 Athletics Wrap-Up

20 Growing Families,
Weddings and
Memorials

22 Annual Report



The Mount

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ON THE COVER:

Photo by Pushparaj Aitwal

2022 MSDA Commencement Speakers:
U.S. Army Captain **Stasia Rogacki '10**
along with MSDA graduates **Christina
Piparo '22** and **Natalia Ferruggia '22**

LEFT: Baccalaureate Mass and Awards
Ceremony; Notre Dame Church, North
Caldwell



Mount St. Dominic
ACADEMY

FROM THE EDITOR



Dear Friends,

September 12, 2021, marked the first time since March of 2020 that the entire student body, faculty and staff assembled as one complete Mount St. Dominic Academy community. Mind you, the way we "assembled," and what that looked like was still very different (spacing, masks, quarantines), but we were both figuratively, and pretty much literally, together.

Just a few days later, the Mount's Campus Minister at that time Dr. Christopher Kennedy Hampton, launched an endeavor among the school community to honor International Day of Peace - the creation of 1,000 orizuru: paper cranes. This tiny Japanese symbol of peace, loyalty, and longevity, if created in a group of 1,000, is said to bring good fortune and a wish to be granted for those patient and committed enough to complete the task.

Today, with a successful school year in the rear view, and a new one excitedly and quickly approaching, hundreds of those petite and colorful cranes remain aloft and in-flight, creating an elevated path through the hallway toward the main office where Dr. Hampton now resides as the new MSDA Head of School. A new leader for the next chapter of the Mount's nearly 130-year history, an in-person and maskless graduation, a proper prom, hard-fought tug-of-war battles during field day, and hugs - LOTS OF HUGS... wishes granted, indeed.

We wish for you, our loyal alumnae, students, families and friends, all that the cranes symbolize and more - including a few free moments to take a break and read through this issue of *The Mount* to be inspired, enlightened and delighted by our extraordinary community.

We wish for you,
our loyal alumnae,
students, families
and friends, all
that the cranes
symbolize and
more.

平和 (Peace.)

Kate Sullivan '88
Director, MSDA Alumnae Relations
Editor, *The Mount*



Celebrating Mount Seniors

NEW AND TIME-HONORED MILESTONE MARKERS CREATE LASTING MEMORIES

In the ramp up to the final stretch of senior year at the Mount, some new traditions punctuated by celebrations and camaraderie make the final few months at MSDA a very special time for the graduates.

Thanks to Mother Nature, the 100 Days 'Til Graduation event morphed into a 75 Days 'Til Graduation assembly, but the wait was worth it as the entire student body, staff and faculty cheered (loudly), danced to Harry Styles, and waved flashlights in the darkness of the Doris M. Byrne Performing Arts Center. Speeches from Sophomore class president **Liz Forsatz '25** on behalf of the Little Sisters and faculty member **Melissa Giampapa '94**, along with a video tribute reel featuring alumnae and staff, honored the seniors and showered them with much love.

The fun continued once AP exams concluded with the commemoration of Senior Week, which included many sweet treats, the presentation of senior gifts, including an MSDA throw blanket to bring to college, celebratory lawn signs, and a school shirt and yearbook signing extravaganza!





MSDA Class of 2022

American University, DC
Ave Maria University, FL
Belmont University, TN
Bentley University, MA
Boston University, MA
Brandeis University, MA
Bucknell University, PA
Centenary University, NJ
Clemson University, SC
College of Charleston, SC
College of the Holy Cross, MA
Drew University, NJ
Drexel University, PA
Duquesne University, PA
Elon University, NC
Emerson College, MA
Fairfield University, CT
Fordham University, NY
George Washington University, DC
Georgia Institute of Technology, GA
Gettysburg College, PA
High Point University, NC
Hobart and William Smith Colleges, NY
Hofstra University, NY
Lafayette College, PA
Lehigh University, PA
Liberty University, VA
Loyola University Chicago, IL
Loyola University Maryland, MD
Manhattan College, NY
Marist College, NY
Messiah University, PA
Miami University Ohio, OH
Michigan State University, MI
Monmouth University, NJ
Montclair State University, NJ
Moravian College, PA
Northeastern University, MA
Nova Southeastern University, FL
Ohio State University, OH
Pace University, NY
Pennsylvania State University, PA
Providence College, RI

Purdue University, IN
Quinnipiac University, CT
Ramapo College, NJ
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, NY
Rhodes College, TN
Rider University, NJ
Rowan University, NJ
Rutgers University, NJ
Sacred Heart University, CT
Saint Anselm College, NH
Saint Joseph's University, PA
Salve Regina University, RI
Seton Hall University, NJ
Smith College, MA
Stevens Institute of Technology, NJ
Stockton University, NJ
Stony Brook University, NY
Susquehanna University, PA
Syracuse University, NY
Temple University, PA
Texas A & M University, TX
The Catholic University of America, DC
The College of New Jersey, NJ
University of California-Irvine, CA
University of Connecticut, CT
University of Delaware, DE
University of Georgia, GA
University of Maryland, MD
University of Massachusetts, MA
University of Miami, FL
University of Michigan, MI
University of New Hampshire, NH
University of Pittsburgh, PA
University of Rhode Island, RI
University of Scranton, PA
University of South Carolina, SC
University of Tennessee, TN
University of Vermont, VT
University of Wisconsin, WI
Villanova University, PA
Virginia Polytechnic Institute, VA
Wells College, NY

40
amazing
graduates

100%
college
acceptance rate

85
accepted at
colleges and
universities

100%
attending
4-year colleges

\$9+
million
in grants
and
scholarships

BACCALAUREATE AND SENIOR AWARDS

For achieving highest honors in the Class of 2022, a gold medal for achievement was awarded to the Valedictorian, **Natalia Ferruggia '22**. Natalia was also awarded with the LINDA ARNDT AWARD IN SOCIAL STUDIES.

A silver medal for high achievement in the Class of 2022 was awarded to the Salutatorian, **Christina Piparo '22**. Christina was also awarded with the DONNA HAUPTVOGEL AWARD IN MATHEMATICS and the EILEEN HIRCE AWARD IN SCIENCE.

The MARY PAT EVANS AWARD, which recognizes a graduate whose character reflects the values held close by the beloved faculty member, including reverence, respect, confidence and a love of the Mount, was awarded to **Kaitlin Gibson '22**.

The National Hispanic Recognition Program honored **Isabella Castillo '22** as a 2021-2022 NATIONAL HISPANIC SCHOLAR for her excellence in academic achievement.



Graduation Photos by Pushparaj Aitwal

THE GIFT OF CONNECTION: The Tight-knit Class of 2022 Moves On and Up

It was the annual MSDA Decision Day celebration, where the graduating class proudly showcases the swag of their chosen college. Rainy weather had forced the typically sprawling and spontaneous festivities indoors, but were it not for the closer quarters within the Mount's Athletic Center, compounded by several attempts at artistic indoor drone photos, the extemporaneous remark by one of the soon-to-be graduates huddled on the bleachers might not have been heard, or perhaps even made. To paraphrase... "It didn't happen overnight, but all these girls are my friends. I'm going to miss everyone."

MIGHTY CONNECTED

Considering the chaotic and unpredictable nature of the past two-plus years, this was not guaranteed to be the destiny of the MSDA Class of 2022. They started their time at the Mount in typical freshmen fashion, but as they neared the end of the second trimester of their sophomore year, the pandemic took hold, throwing more than a small curveball at burgeoning friendships and class camaraderie. And yet, as graduation day neared, it became clear - this class of 40 young women conjured a way to build connections and realize the many gifts their years at the Mount had provided - foremost among them, each other.

The joyful procession of graduates from the Doris M. Byrne Performing Arts Center across to the Athletic Center - with roses in hand and smiles for miles - was greeted by family and friends, faculty and staff. What followed was the culmination of years of determination, commitment and drive - a formal recognition of the individual and collective efforts and accomplishments of





the graduating class; scholars, athletes, performers, changemakers – so many exceptional things – accepted to 85 colleges and universities, having earned more than \$9 million in scholarships and awards.

COMMON THEMES

Welcoming the graduates and guests in attendance, Salutatorian **Christina Piparo '22**, who will be attending American University in the fall, remarked that hers was the first senior class since the pandemic began that was able to host all of the traditional milestone-marking activities like the annual Disney trip, prom, and a maskless commencement. Reflecting on her time at MSDA before offering a prayer, Christina said, "Mount has given us so many gifts, but the greatest gift we have received is each other. Over the past four years, our small but mighty grade has become such a close knit community that will stay with us for the rest of our lives."

In remarks that provided both a look back at her own experiences, as well as suggestions for successfully transitioning from the more intimate and comfortable environment of high school, to the large and somewhat unpredictable world of college and beyond, United States Army Captain **Stasia Rogacki '10** encouraged the graduates accordingly: "Trust in yourself, have a vision, pursue your dream. Make goals for five and ten years down the road. Future challenges will have you questioning yourself, your values, and your identity. It is normal and will continue to happen the rest of your life. It's how you know you are growing and developing into the best version of you. You will live your best life when you live by the values you have already begun to develop here at the Mount. Furthermore, you are the real winner of life when you become the best version of yourself."

Valedictorian **Natalia Ferruggia '22**, who will be attending Lafayette College in the fall, also looked to the future predict-

ing that among her classmates would be 39 fellow notable women - including a famous sports broadcaster, a nobel laureate, an academy award winner and a groundbreaking physician, to name just a few - so much made possible by not only what, but how they learned at the Mount. "At this school we've learned the true definition of community, we've learned HOW to learn not only from books, but from those around you, and how truly important that community of those around you really is. In my opinion, there is no more important gift to have in life than that of the ability to connect with, learn from, and communicate with others, and every single one of us has that gift in excess. We will be able to use such a gift as we move on and up in the world, and we can carry that gift with the knowledge that our time together as a class truly gave it to us."

FAMILY BONDS OF MSDA LEGACY

Mount St. Dominic Academy expresses our sincere gratitude to our legacy families who continue to enrich and strengthen our special community. From left to right: **Tricia Wroebl Ayuso '88** with her daughter **Alivia '22** who will be attending Seton Hall University; **Anne Poueymirou Stusnick '85** and her daughter **Maria '22** who will be attending Fordham University; and **Kimilani DeGrezia Tanella '87** and her daughter **Grace '22** who will be attending Villanova University.





From Campus Ministry to the Main Office

Dr. Christopher Kennedy Hampton is Named MSDA Head of School

Every staff member, teacher, and student has a distinct journey that leads them to becoming a part of the Mount St. Dominic Academy community. With a route that has included stops in Kolkata (Calcutta), India, Farmington, Connecticut and the "fishbowl" on the 3rd floor in the Mount's media center, **Dr. Christopher Kennedy Hampton** – newly appointed MSDA Head of School – is no exception.

Closing in on his one-year anniversary as part of the staff at the Mount, Dr. Hampton first came to MSDA as Campus Minister in August 2021. In an interview with students for *The Argosy* at that time, Dr. Hampton remarked that he had never encountered the position of Campus Minister at the high school level before coming across the Mount's post advertising the role. After having relocated to New York City with his wife, Rene, in the fall of 2019, and then soon after to New Jersey in search of a little more space

to make pandemic-related restrictions slightly less confining, the position appealed to Dr. Hampton as a way to channel his passion for ministry that has been a lifetime in the making.

A CALL TO MINISTRY

Born and raised in Connecticut along with his six siblings, a short while after earning his B.A. in International Relations and Affairs at Johns Hopkins University, Dr. Hampton set off to Rome to the Pontifical North American College in pursuit of becoming a priest. While his studies in Italy, including outreach-based mission work with Mother Teresa in Kolkata (Calcutta), India, were transformative and served to strengthen his faith, he also discovered that the priesthood was not his true calling, but most certainly ministry – in many forms – was.

With a change in course and a return to the United States, Dr. Hampton's pursuit of a career in outreach to youth took shape while earning his Masters in Education, and

MSDA Head of School Dr. Christopher Kennedy Hampton joyfully presents a diploma to **Alexis Dolegowski '22** who will be attending the University of Rhode Island.

subsequently his Doctor of Education (EdD) in Educational Leadership and Administration, both from the University of Hartford in Connecticut. The Constitution State, and specifically the campus of Miss Porter's School, became home to the Hampton family, including their four children – each of whom attended Johns Hopkins undergrad and have successful careers of their own. Throughout his twenty-year tenure at the prestigious college prep boarding school for girls, Dr. Hampton was active in admissions and served as a faculty member focused on ethical leadership coursework. Later roles including director of development at Avon Old Farms School in Connecticut, principal at St. Michael Academy in Fernandina Beach, Florida, and director of communications and the annual fund at Notre Dame School for girls in Manhattan, paved the way for his journey to the Mount.

“My goal is to be a catalyst for these amazing students, giving them the tools to discover their own paths, to hone their own skills and passions, allowing them to find their own place in the world.”

1,000 CRANES BRING GOOD FORTUNE TO THE MOUNT
Early in his tenure as MSDA Campus Minister, Dr. Hampton challenged the students to create 1,000 origami paper cranes in celebration of International Day of Peace. A symbol of good fortune and luck in support of the Mount community's wish for world peace; the colorful cranes currently adorn the second floor of Aquinas Hall, creating a whimsical pathway leading to the main office, and now – rather symbolically – Dr. Hampton's home base at MSDA.

"Coming to Mount St. Dominic Academy felt like coming home. Serendipitously discovering this precious school was yet another example of God's continuous revelation to me in my professional journey as well as my faith journey. Being open to His call is what we are all about at The Mount," Dr. Hampton noted. "My goal is to be a catalyst for these amazing students, giving them the tools to discover their own paths, to hone their own skills and passions, allowing them to find their own place in the world." With a working knowledge of the culture and charm unique to the Mount, and the benefit of student relationships formed in the classroom as part of his religion classes and Siena Service responsibilities, his transition to interim head of school in January 2022 was seamless and successful. Named as the Mount's new permanent head of school in May, Dr. Hampton proudly resided over Baccalaureate and Commencement, welcoming the MSDA Class of 2022 into the community of Mount alumnae and setting the stage for a period of continued growth, evolution and faith for Mount St. Dominic Academy.

PHOTOS TOP TO BOTTOM:
MSDA Students hone their origami skills on their way to 1,000 cranes; Dr. Hampton visits the green room for a podcast interview; All the world's a stage, and Dr. Hampton added his talents as a member of the cast of the spring musical, Newsies.



Photo by Fred Goode

Photos by Fred Goode

Mounties Put Veritas and Caritas into Action for Ukraine

STRAIGHT FROM THE HEADLINES TO THE HALLS OF MOUNT ST. DOMINIC ACADEMY, once the news of Russia's invasion of Ukraine was known and the immediate and heartbreaking consequences began to unfold, MSDA's Ukrainian students and alumnae were moved to action.

THE DESIRE TO EDUCATE MEETS A COMMITMENT TO EMPOWER

Living the Mount's mission of educating young women to be socially responsible, globally aware leaders of tomorrow, when approached by Ukrainian-American seniors **Sophia Kowal '22** and **Nina Rakowsky '22** with a proposal for a school-wide assembly focused on Ukraine, the administration said "Абсолютно так (Translation - absolutely, yes!)"

With only a small amount of time to prepare because of a very full spring calendar, Sophia and Nina researched, prepared and led an assembly that made a big impact on the students, staff and faculty. Created with the intent to dispel misinformation and educate the community on the acts of aggression and war which have led to a tragic and widespread humanitarian crisis, the presentation was built on a fact-based foundation of historic data and current events, and infused with homeland pride and first-hand accounts.

Enlightened and inspired, the school community rallied in support of their peers' hope to help the citizens of Ukraine, and collected medical supplies to send to the front-line fighters and families.





THE NEEDS ARE VAST BUT HELPERS ARE DETERMINED

140 days since the first bombs were dropped, **Lada Hapij Bidiak '88** found herself explaining to a co-worker that the war in Ukraine was far from over. A deep connection to the country with her grandparents and father all born in Ukraine, and many family members and friends directly impacted by the current crisis, Lada turned her anger, sadness and frustration with the situation into compassion, action and problem solving.

Known within their community as the "Compassion Connection," Lada and her friend and fellow Ukrainian Olena Kiyko have gathered critically needed supplies and shipped 409 boxes weighing nearly 9,500 pounds to aid refugee relief efforts and support the troops. Donated funds have covered the more than \$20,000 in shipping costs, with medical, surgical, tactical and humanitarian supplies being transported directly to those in need, including orphanages, medical centers, military hospitals, clinics, and the front lines. A recent request for help from the soldiers was for water purification tablets, and due to the generosity of their network and community, Lada and Olena were able to collect 12,000 of them - enough to purify 1,500 gallons of water.

Through information and aid - veritas and caritas - the students and graduates of the Mount are making an impact and putting love into action. Both groups of women, who share a lifelong connection as Lada attended Ukrainian summer camp with Nina's parents, have also created opportunities for their friends, neighbors and communities to lend a hand as well. These change-makers are utilizing their heritage, knowledge and connections to effect real chance and help support an ally in crisis.



PHOTOS:
Mount students and alumna collect much needed supplies in support of the crisis in Ukraine.

MSDA ALUMNAE UPDATES

Compassionate and Skilled Educator, Jane Dwyer Lee '81 is Named FSU College of Social Work Professor of the Year

Reading through the student testimonials submitted to the administration of Florida State University in recognition of MSDA Class of 1981 graduate **Jane Dwyer Lee**, MSW, LCSW, it becomes immediately evident that the impact she has on her students extends far beyond the title of “teaching professor.” A member of the faculty at FSU for 15 years, Jane was recognized as the College of Social Work Professor of the Year – a student-generated award – during the Class of 2022 commencement ceremony.

Jane brings to the classroom expertise in behavioral health, substance use, international social work, gender and women's studies, cultural diversity and criminal justice; uniquely coupling her subject matter expertise with a teaching style that one student remarked is akin to the comfort and engagement felt at a “dinner party.” According to her students, Jane challenges them to do their best and to step outside their comfort zones; provides constant encouragement; makes them feel welcome and cared for; wants everyone to be heard; is tough when needed, but also compassionate, caring, and kind. A sought after public speaker, Jane has traveled the world to address and inspire diverse audiences, and be of service in

several global communities. She is currently in Prague, Czech Republic teaching the social work courses required for the Social Work & International Affairs: Human Rights program offered by Florida State. Students enrolled in the Social Work track will meet with Non-Governmental Organizations and social service organizations addressing topics like health care, human rights and criminal justice.

Making a difference in both near and far, Jane's impact is best summed up by one of her students; “Professor Dwyer Lee instilled in me as an undergraduate student that I could do anything I set my mind to. Now, as a graduate student, I have her for Women's Issues and continue to feel like I can accomplish anything with her avid support and encouragement during our class.”



Lauren DeCillis '75, Pioneer of Gender Center at UT Dallas, Retires

Lauren DeCillis '75, founding director of the Galerstein Women's Center at the University of Texas at Dallas, retired from her position in March 2022. Initially created in 1996 to represent, counsel and document unequal treatment of campus women studying and working in a male-dominated environment, the Women's Center welcomed anyone needing support and resources. Under her insightful, progressive and tireless leadership, the Center expanded services and outreach, and was renamed the Galerstein Gender Center. Lauren created not just a space, but a campus community that “advocates for and supports women, LGBTQ+ people and all communities facing oppression.” Providing everything from community resources, educational workshops, lectures with community and industry professionals, leadership development training for students, celebratory programs, Lauren's work and passion as head of the Galerstein Gender Center has enabled UT Dallas to receive five out of five stars on the National Campus Pride Index, earn a “Best of the Best” ranking among nationwide campuses for LGBTQ students, and support countless students with a safe and welcoming space and meaningful resources. In 2021, Lauren was recognized by the United Nations Association of the United States of America with the 2021 UN Day Global Leadership Award for her work on gender equality.

On the occasion of her retirement, Dr. Yvette E. Pearson, vice president for diversity, equity and inclusion at UT Texas at Dallas noted, “Under DeCillis' leadership, the center, which was formerly a women's center, expanded its mission to include equity for members of the LGBTQ+ community. As a result, UT Dallas has gained national recognition as one of the top universities for LGBTQ+ inclusion... Innovations such as the LilyPad lactation rooms and advocacy for parenting and child care resources have all been hallmarks of her leadership.”

The Mount community wishes Lauren the best of luck in her retirement, along with all of the MSDA Alumnae who devote so much of their time over the course of their careers and lives in service to their communities, in an effort to make the world a better and kinder place.



CAREER CORNER - MOUNTIES MAKING MOVES

Sister Gina Scaringella, OP '86

began work in January 2022 as the assistant editor of *Give Us This Day*, the prayer periodical published by Liturgical Press in Collegeville, Minnesota. Centered on the Word of God, *Give Us This Day* draws inspiration from multiple diverse voices, and strives to deliver a relevant and trustworthy understanding of Scripture. In addition to the print publication and social media channels, the inspiring content guiding individuals through personal prayerfulness is also available through the convenient *Give Us This Day* mobile app.

For years, Sister Gina and many other Caldwell Dominican sisters have prayed daily with *Give Us This Day*. Delighted to bring the Dominican preaching mission to her work, Sister Gina points out that the publication is actually a ministerial work of the Order of Saint Benedict, since Liturgical Press is the publishing house of St. John's Abbey, a community of Benedictine monks in Collegeville. Sister Gina visited her colleagues in Minnesota in May, but works remotely from the Sisters of St. Dominic Motherhouse in Caldwell. Having been a medical copy editor before she entered religious life, Sister Gina sees her new ministry as a wonderful way to use her professional skills for the sake of preaching the Gospel. To learn more about *Give Us This Day*, visit giveusthisday.org.



Colleen Otterbein McElroy

'94, P'23 has been named principal of Saint Catherine of Siena School in Cedar Grove, New Jersey. An educator with more than 20 years of experience, Colleen was most recently a member of the faculty at Cedar Grove High School. Colleen brings a life-long and multifaceted relationship with the community of Saint Catherine's into her new role, including her bonds to the church as a parishioner, her belief in the mission of the school as a graduate and as the parent of graduates, as an officer of the Home School Association and as a former teacher on the faculty.



Becki Wronko Civello '00

recently joined New York City-based Next League - a technology services provider focused in the sports industry - as Vice President of Strategic Operations. With years of experience focused on client services/account management and Commercial operations, Becki brings a wealth of knowledge to her new role, having worked in sports, tech and digital throughout her career in roles at AOL, Madison Square Garden and Infront X (formerly Omnigon Communications). Becki is passionate about creating professional opportunities for young women, focused on creating a pipeline of diverse candidates for Next League and looking forward to helping coach and create growth opportunities for all employees. Becki is also a member of Chief, the only private membership network focused on connecting and supporting female leaders.



Kellyann West Valentine '02,

was promoted to manager, Airport Parking, for The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Having joined the PANYNJ in 2008 as a leadership fellow, Kellyann has focused most of her career with the organization on the specialty of ground transportation and parking for the NY/NJ network of airports, and recently earned the designation of Accredited Airport Executive.



Jacqueline Smith '17

has been named a contract specialist for the U.S. Army Contracting Command at Picatinny Arsenal in New Jersey. After graduating Magna Cum Laude from the University of Mary Washington in May 2021 with a BS in business administration and a minor in sports management, she spent a year as a contract specialist with Marine Corps Systems Command in Quantico, Virginia. As part of her role, Jacqueline is involved with all aspects of developing classified and unclassified contracts at Picatinny Arsenal and is in the process of receiving her DAWIA contracting certification (Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act as overseen by the Department of Defense).



Mount Students Answer St. Dominic's Call to Preach the "Good News"

It goes without saying that students of all ages look forward to summer break, with hopes to spend time with family and friends, perhaps take on a job, or plan an adventure to a new location. But for many students at the Mount, part of the anticipation of the extended break from June through August is the National High School Preaching Conference historically hosted by the Dominican Youth Movement USA. However, when for the third summer in a row the conference in its traditional form was canceled, students in pursuit of their passion for preaching were left without a clear path.

"Called to be signs of joy and hope," the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville were not about to let the fire to preach be extinguished for these young people, and worked to create a regional conference for students from Lacordaire Academy, St. Dominic Academy, and the Mount. MSDA participants were **Cara D'Angelo '23**, **Devin Hamilton '23**, **Katie King '23**, and **Amanda Rohde '23**, led by faculty member **Mrs. Christine Victori P '21**.

There was no time to spare after arrival, as the students spent several hours in service to the Sisters by assisting on their organic farm with the arduous-yet-essential task of weeding. Day two of the regional conference included study of the Dominican Saints, the role that the four pillars of the Dominican charism have in the lives of all Dominicans, an exploration of the works of Dominican Artists, and perhaps most importantly - time devoted to direct interaction with the Sisters themselves. A visit with Sister Flor who serves a local community through the Church of St. Dominic in El Salvador as well as a demonstration of "Preaching through Sacred Movement" with a liturgical dance by Jessica Abejar drew the day's formal activities to a close, allowing for the students time in the evening to prepare for the closing liturgy. The students put their preaching skills into practice as readers of the scripture and intercessions, leaders of a "Sacred Movement" dance with the congregation, and with a reflection on the Gospel during the mass, prepared by **Katie King '23**.

"Coming back to school in the fall, I am more than ready and very excited to take all of our new learnings from the conference and explain it to all of the Dominican Preachers as well as the rest of the school," Katie noted. "I was always proud and honored to be a Dominican Preacher at the Mount, and after the conference, I learned that I wanted all the other preachers at the Mount to feel the same way. I hope that by the time I leave the Mount in 2023, many of the remaining and future preachers will have that same confidence, dedication, and liveliness towards the program that I currently have and will uphold in the coming school year."



"Our time spent at the preaching conference was invaluable. The trip provided opportunities for service, bonding, and learning more about our Dominican faith, all of which led to the strengthening of our sense of community both among the girls at the conference and with our Dominican family as a whole," remarked **Amanda Rohde '23**. "We learned about the value of preaching through more than just words- through movement, art, and actions. In devoting ourselves to experiencing all aspects of our school's foundational values, we have been able to create a plan to further develop the Mount's commitment to our faith and share all we've learned with the entire school community."

The Dominican Preachers play a pivotal role in the way Mount students learn and grow in their own personal faith journeys, and work to weave the Dominican traditions into the fabric of the Mount Community. An extension of the Sisters of St. Dominic and a present-day expression of Saint Dominic's vision, the young women of the Mount who are called to preach strengthen our ongoing commitment to living the pillars of prayer, community, study and mission.



Diversity Club Delivers Dynamic Program for MSDA's Multicultural Day

On May 13, members of the Mount's Diversity Club, with the guidance of faculty member **Ms. Nicole Perez '10**, hosted Multicultural Day and honored Asian American Pacific Islanders month. A potluck lunch, with cuisines representing the many cultures of the Mount, set the stage for an afternoon of break-out sessions led by students who presented close to 30 diverse, vibrant and interesting cultures. A schoolwide assembly to conclude the celebration featured a special spotlight honoring AAPI Heritage Month as members of the Diversity Club performed Tinikling, the national dance of the Philippines.



Glamour Gals

In the spring of 2022, the MSDA chapter of the GlamourGals – a national organization with the goal of ending elder loneliness – made a plan to visit their neighbors, the wonderful residents of Marian Manor, residing just across the street from campus. In their bright pink club shirts, twelve Mount students put to use their manicure and makeover skills, along with their commitment to kindness while building connections and sharing stories with their new intergenerational friends. If a picture is worth a thousand words, then the experience shared by the residents and the students was utterly priceless.



Alumnae News, Reunions, Unions... Oh My!

Save the Date(s)!

Saturday, September 17: **MSDA Alumnae Milestone Reception for All Class Years ending in 2 & 7**

Saturday, October 1, 2022: **MSDA Class of 1982 40th Reunion**

Wednesday, December 21, 2022: **Young Alumnae Catching Up Party for MSDA Class Years 2019, 2020, 2021 & 2022**

October 2023: **MSDA Homecoming** (stay tuned for more details!)

Got News? We'd love to hear it!

Have you moved, changed jobs, earned a new degree, retired, or expanded your family? Please fill us in! Share news any time of year by sending your updates to alumnae@msdacademy.org.

Upcoming Magazine Deadlines

Winter 2023: January 3, 2023

Summer 2023 (births, weddings, memorial remembrances): June 15, 2023

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#CurrentMood - The Sisterhood!



Members of the **MSDA Class of 1992** (with special guests **Sister Fran Sullivan OP '60** and **Sister Peggy Ann Clinton, OP**) gathered together in celebration of their 30th reunion in May at McCloone's Boathouse in West Orange.



In July, members of the **MSDA Class of 1975** enjoyed an evening of good laughs, great food, and a rousing rendition of the Alma Mater at the home of classmate **Lenore Palma Schleuning '75**.

Arts Abound at MSDA

As has become customary in March at the Mount, crossing the threshold into the Doris M. Byrne Performing Arts Center, each ticket provides passage to a theatrical experience you'd be sure could only be found on Broadway. The 2022 production of "Newsies" was no exception. The set design transported the audience to the inner workings of the printing presses of the late 1800s in New York City, as the cast delivered four performances that made theatregoers want to stand up and "Seize the Day." Supported by the sure and steady tech crew, and under the guidance of **Michelle Posner P '13**, director of the performing arts, and producer **Kelly Sullivan King '84, P '16, '23**, the headline for Newsies is "Smash Hit at MSDA!" In addition, the cast and crew of the fall drama, "Letters to Sala," was recognized for their hard work by way of several nominations as part of the Montclair State FOXY Awards.

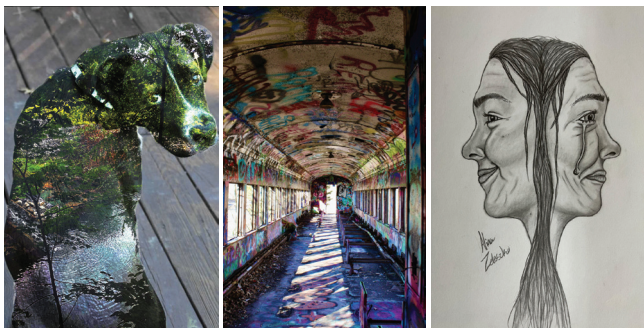
From the stage to the easel, art at the Mount comes in many forms. With faculty member **Rita Cochran** at the helm of the fine arts curriculum, students spend the year exploring their creativity through painting, drawing and various fine art media.

FOXY Nominations and Awards

Congratulations to Mount theater students for receiving Montclair State University FOXY Nominations for our Fall Production *Letters to Sala*:

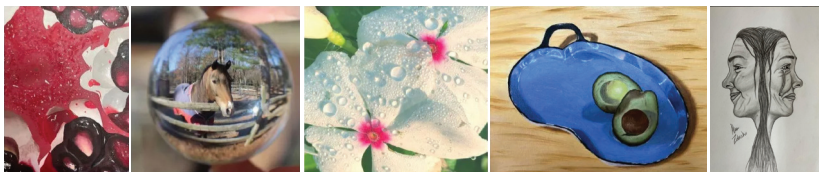
- Outstanding Achievement in Hair and Makeup Design
- Outstanding Achievement in Lighting Design -- **Ashley Houck**
- Outstanding Achievement in Media/Special Effects
- Outstanding Achievement in Educational Impact and Community Outreach
- Outstanding Performance of an Actress in a Period Dramatic Play - **Bridget Castano '24**
- Outstanding Production of Period Dramatic Play

The awards were announced during the MSU Theatre Night held on Monday, May 23 and MSDA received the Inaugural Susan Kerner Award for "Outstanding Achievement in Educational Impact and Community Engagement." Congratulations to Director **Mrs. Michelle Posner P '13** and Producer **Mrs. Kelly King '84, P '16, '23** for bringing *Letters to Sala* to the Mount community and the stage.



Teen Arts Festival

The Mount participated in the Essex County Teen Arts Festival, an opportunity that showcases youth talent in the county's 22 municipalities. Professional artists were judges of their work and shared constructive criticism with the students so that they could grow and develop as artists. **Carina Navas '22**, **Christina Piparo '22**, and **Alina Zeleszko '22** were selected to participate in a statewide showcase. View all the wonderful submissions by several Mount students. We are proud of the MSDA students for exhibiting their skill and creativity. View the work by all our students at www.msdacademy.org/arts/arts-news.



National Art Honor Society

The Mount is proud of the Outstanding Student Artwork featured in the NAHS News, Spring 2022 Issue. In this showcase is artwork created by talented members of the National Art Honor Society, including five MSDA students: **Sophia Kowal '22**, **Christina Piparo '22**, **Krystal Rudder '22**, **Marie Stusnick '22**, and **Alina Zeleszko '22**. View the work by all our students at www.msdacademy.org/arts/arts-news.



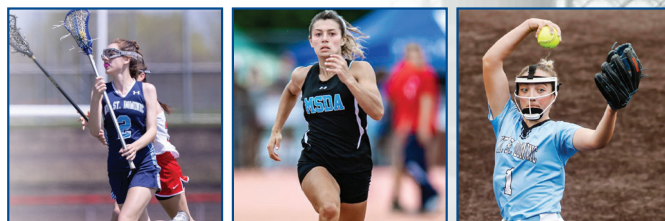
Photo by Fred Goode
MSDA students perform in "Newsies" spring production.



AWARDS

Tess McKiernan '22 - MSDA 2021-22 NJSIAA Scholar Athlete Award Recipient. Tess played Field Hockey, Swimming, and Lacrosse for The Mount.

Gianna Mangili '22 - 2022 MSDA Outstanding Senior Athlete Lions Paw Award Winner and 2022 SEC Essex County Scholar Athlete Award. Gianna is a 3 sport varsity athlete for the Mount, participating in Fall Soccer, Winter Track & Field, and Spring Track & Field.



LEAGUE NEWS & CONFERENCE SELECTIONS

LACROSSE

SEC Independence Conference Selections

First Team - **Brooke Matias '22, Erin Murphy '24**

Second Team - **Jayden DeSilva '25**

Honorable Mention - **Erin Brown '22**

SOFTBALL

SEC American Conference Selections

First Team - **Olivia Bibbo '24, Sophia Kiseloski '22, Grace Perez '23, Olivia Sasfai '23, Gianna Stern '24**

Second Team - **Breilla Longo '25, Sydney Rosenkranz '23**

Honorable Mention - **Anna Cacciabarne '24, Naya Martinez '23**

NJ.com All State Softball Teams

First Team - **Sophia Kiseloski '22** (Utility)

Third Team - **Sydney Rosenkranz '23** (Catcher)

NJ.com All Non-Public Teams

First Team - **Grace Perez '23** (Pitcher), **Olivia Bibbo '24** (Outfield), **Sophia Kiseloski '22** (Utility)

Second Team - **Sydney Rosenkranz '23** (Catcher)

Third Team - **Olivia Sasfai '23** (Infield)

NFCA (National Fastpitch Coaches Association)

First Team - **Sophia Kiseloski '22**

SPRING TRACK & FIELD

The Mount Spring Track & Field team featured 23 dedicated athletes who finished 3rd in the overall standings at the SEC conference meet. Two individual athletes **Gianna Mangili '22** (who graduates with four individual and three school relay records between winter and spring track), **Amanda Galasso '23**, and one relay team consisting of **Mangili, Galasso, Riley Merklinger '24**, and **Julia Camporeale '23** went on to compete in the State Meet of Champions.

All Non-Public Teams

First Team - **Gianna Mangili '22**

All State Teams

Second Team - **Gianna Mangili '22**

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MOUNT SOFTBALL TEAM

- (26-5) Season Record
- SEC American Division Champs
- SEC Team of the Year
- Essex County Champs
- Non Public A North Sectional Champs

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MOUNT LACROSSE TEAM

The 2022 Mount Lacrosse Team was the Liberty Division champions!





Photo by Jeff Stiefbold
Super Essex Conference Team of the Year

Births & Growing Families



Misty Foreman Johnson '03 and her husband, Craig, daughter Paige in June 2022, joining big brother Aethen.



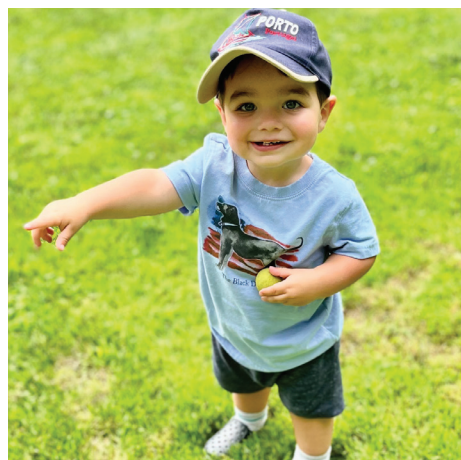
Cristy Garcia Rivera '05 and her husband Luis welcomed their son Diego Luis in May 2022. He arrived in epic style at a whopping 10lbs. and 20.5" long and clearly is a Disney fan like his Mommy!



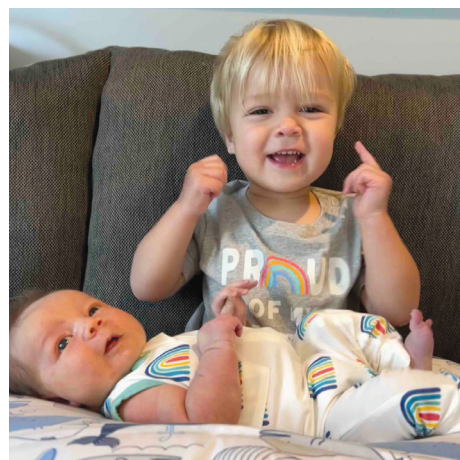
Allison DeVincentis Bari '06 and her husband Allen welcomed their daughter Camille "Millie" in December 2021.



Lauren Carnevale '07 and her husband, Steve Gesuela, welcomed their daughter Mila Rose in June 2022.



Lauren Schleuning DaSilva '08 and her husband Brian welcomed Lucas Nicholas in February 2021.



With their second round pick in May 2022, Team Johnson (**Ashley O'Connor Johnson '09** and her husband Rob) selected Jett Scott, joining first round pick, big brother Madden.



Gianna Fazio Sopko '10 and her husband Rob welcomed their son Robert Joseph "RJ" in November 2021.

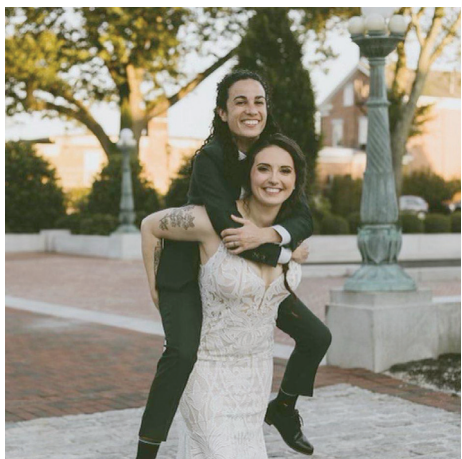


Amanda Paxson Best '11 and her husband Mike welcomed their son Patrick Michael in January 2022.



Martina Shaker Dawoud '12 and her husband George welcomed their son Aaron George in May 2022, joining big brother Daniel.

Weddings



Christina Torres '07 and **Karen Levandoski '09** were married on June 1, 2022 at Jockey Hollow Bar +Kitchen in Morristown, NJ. The couple reside in Morristown with their dog, Turtle, and two cats, George and Stanley.



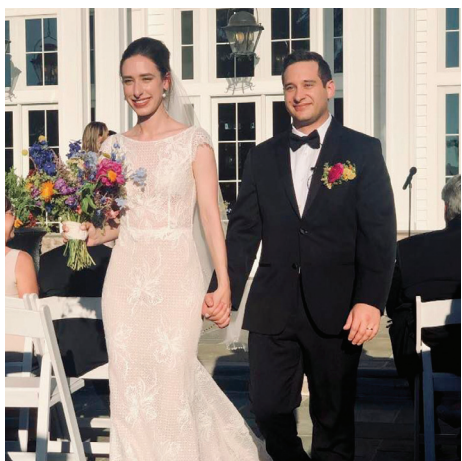
Giana Corrado '08 and Chris Morgan were married on May 6, 2022 in Jupiter, Florida. The couple resides in Palm Beach Gardens. Giana is a Speech-language Pathologist and Chris is a police officer.



Danielle Painter '09 and Rob Zacum were married on June 4, 2022 at Beaver Brook Country Club in Clinton, NJ (surrounded by several Mounties!), and honeymooned in Bora Bora. The couple resides in Somerville, NJ with their fur baby, Lucy.



Courtney O'Reilly '10 and Brandon Briggs were married on June 4, 2022 in Randolph, NJ. The couple met while Courtney was in medical school in Maine, and currently resides in West Hartford, Connecticut where she is a resident in Psychiatry at UConn Health.



Lauren Bomberg, LPC, BC-DMT '12 and Dr. John David Yachmetz, DDS celebrated their marriage on July 3, 2022 after 9 years together, with alumnae **Kaitlin Astrella '12** and **Myra Rivera '13** by their sides.



Mary Kotulak '12 and Andrew Kratsch were married on May 20, 2022 at the Rosecliff Mansion in Newport, RI. They have recently relocated for work and now reside in Seattle, WA.

IN MEMORY

The Mount St. Dominic Academy community extends its deepest sympathy to the loved ones of alumnae, family, and friends who have been called home to God. Submit the names of loved ones for special remembrance by the MSDA community on All Saints Day at www.msdacademy.org/support/prayer-intentions.

MSDA Alumnae

Virginia "Ginny" Ehrler Ball '49
Carol Anne Duym Bukwich '59
Cathleen Montague Carey '56
Joan DeTrollo Dennis '57
Patricia McDermitt Gillich '48
Joan Forrest Horne '53
Elizabeth "Betty" Kroeplin '50
Frances D. Semler '37

Sisters of St. Dominic

Sister Elizabeth Michael Boyle, OP
 Sister Genevieve Marie Long, OP
 Sister Patricia Mahoney, OP
 Sister Mary McGuinness, OP '51
 Sister Ellen McMahon, OP '61
 Sister Margaret Mary Meyer, OP
 Sister Michel Rodgers, OP

Family

Thomas Martin Connor, M.D., father of **Coleen Connor '88**

Joseph DeLuca, father of **Maria DeLuca '10** and **Kim DeLuca '14**

Mildred L. Doran, mother of **Maureen T. Keogh '72**, **Jane Ellen Regan '75**, and **Patricia E. Doran '78**

Elizabeth "Betty" Murphy Durkin, mother of **Liz Durkin '80**, and **Tish Durkin O'Sullivan '84**

George Evans, father of **Margaret Evans Beattie '82**; husband of the late **Mrs. Mary Pat Evans**, beloved MSDA faculty member

Carol Fay, mother of **Karen Fay Brett '78**

Dessell D. Foy, mother of **Maureen Brown '66**, **Sheila Lacouture '70** and **Michelle Jordan '80**

Thomas R. Hilberth, father of **Nicole Hilberth Rodrigues '96**

Robert W. Hildreth, husband of **Elizabeth Eick-Hildreth '63** and father of **Kate Hildreth '01**

Mildred (Millie) Hooper, mother of **Elaine Hooper Trusio '79** and **Nancy Hooper '80**

Taylor Sunshine Linke-Dennis, daughter of **Sunshine Linke Tillawi '95**, and niece of **Shara Linke Wood '93**

J. Michael Nolan Jr., brother of **Susan M. Nolan '74**

Luigi Scaglione, father of **Vincenza Scaglione DiUbaldo '88**

Joan Seibel, mother of **Dana Rosamilia Saunders '88**

Karol Olivia Sullivan, mother of **Kate Sullivan '88** and grandmother of **Katie Sullivan '17**

Claire Frances Waldron (nee Mehl), mother of **Kate O'Callaghan '85**

THE MOUNT FUND



Thanks to the generous contributions and incredible loyalty of the extended Mount St. Dominic Academy community, *The Mount Fund - Foundation Forward*, was an incredible success.

Your commitment to our mission and belief in our students is simply overwhelming.

Through the gifts made to The Mount Fund, we have raised close to \$350,000, exceeding our goal and providing critical funds needed to bridge the gap between the cost of tuition and what it takes to provide our students and families with the enriching experiences they deserve.

We have also raised more than \$100,000 in restricted funds that provide support for special initiatives like funding for Robotics and the L.E.O. Program, and important projects such as upgrading our wireless network.

It is important to remember #WeAreTheMount. Every member of our community who reads these words makes an impact - through your prayers, your belief, your good wishes, your time and your gifts - it all adds up to make the Mount all that we know it has been, and all that we know it will continue to be for generations to come.





The Dominican Fund

We are eternally grateful for each and every gift made to The Dominican Fund, focused on creating opportunities for Mount students to learn and grow in the Dominican charism. Through the support of these generous donors, the Mount will continue to inform, inspire, and empower young women for years to come.

The Dominican Fund remains open, and gifts continue to be received.

For more information, visit the Mount website, or contact the MSDA Development office at development@msdacademy.org.

**Please note, this list of names reflects donations received in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022.*

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THE MOUNT FUND 2021-2022

WE ARE PLEASED TO PRESENT A PREVIEW OF OUR 2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT.

It is with great appreciation that we recognize the generosity of those who have contributed to The Mount Fund. This list has been prepared to ensure the accuracy of the information. Please accept our apologies for any errors and email corrections to ttaylor@msdacademy.org.

The gifts listed below were compiled as of June 30, 2022. A complete Annual Report will be posted online as of September 1, 2022.

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 Ms. Athena Zois '76

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 Mr. & Mrs. Mark Adiedo P '25

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 Mr. & Mrs. Adam Canton P '03

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The Honorable Madeline Cox Arleo P '16

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Mr. M. Bevilacqua & Ms. G. Sullivan P '23

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Mrs. Jennifer Whitmore Kalwa '06

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Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Carroll P '13

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Mrs. Mary Scheurer, FS

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Mrs. Patricia Filak '69

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Ms. Joan Michaelson '72

In honor of the Class of 1974
Ms. Carol Visceglia '74

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Major Mary Flynn O'Brien '76

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Ms. Erin Bolger '12

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Sister Patricia Tavis, OP

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Mrs. Kathleen Corke Marhold '87

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Administration of MSDA
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Desonne P '11

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Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Dolan P '24

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Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Ellenis P '25

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Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bochis P '20, '23

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Mr. & Mrs. Raul Garcia P '18
Mrs. Angelica Harrison GP '18

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Mr. & Mrs. David Gibson GP '22
Mr. & Mrs. Geoffrey Gibson P '22

In honor of Mary Hanlon P '78, '81
Mrs. Susan Murnane Dyckman '78

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Mr. Ronald Herzog P '14

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Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Hladik P '20, '21, '25

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Mr. & Mrs. Demetrios Holevas P '21, '23

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Mrs. Toni-Lynn Imperiale Scibilia '87

In honor of Gerard Imperiale
Mrs. Toni-Lynn Imperiale Scibilia '87

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Mr. & Mrs. Martin Kiseloski P '22

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Mr. Gary Kaup GP '24

In honor of Riley Kopp '24
Mr. Gary Kaup GP '24
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Kopp P '24

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Ms. Francesca Leo '04

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Mrs. Elizabeth Portuese Banka '71

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Mr. & Mrs. Scott Russell P '88 '92

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Sister Patricia Tavis, OP

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Mrs. Linda Stewart P '10, '12, FS

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Sister Frances Sullivan, OP '60

In honor of Sister Fran Sullivan, OP '60
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Dr. Sabina Porcaro '73
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Sister Elsie Bernauer, OP

In honor of Sister Patricia Tully, OP, FS
Mrs. Mary Scheurer, FS

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Mr. & Mrs. Demetrios Holevas

In honor of Anna Victoria Vitale '12
Ms. Alma Salazar P '12

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Mr. & Mrs. Jason Davitt P '23

In honor of Women's Day
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Mrs. Irene Trawinski GP '22

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Ms. Athena Zois '76

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Ms. Gina Capozza '07

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Ms. Susan Dooley
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Mrs. Eileen Cassels Aker '95
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Mrs. Eileen Cassels Aker '95
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Mrs. Marion Clarke O'Neill '75

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Mrs. Kathleen Corke Marhold '87

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Mrs. Mairead Costello Clifford '89

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	In memory of Sister Barbara Moore, OP Ms. Annette Bergins	In memory of Dr. & Mrs. Stanley J. Siwek Mrs. Marianne Siwek Mulligan '71	

P - Parent
GP - Grandparent
FS - Faculty/Staff



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