

POWERHOUSE STUDENTS | CONTEMPLATING IMPACT | LEGACY EXPLORED

# The Mount

THE MAGAZINE OF MOUNT ST. DOMINIC ACADEMY | WINTER/SPRING 2023



The Women Who  
Make the Mount



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2023 ESSEX COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS  
IN THE 100 BUTTERFLY



# The Mount

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The Mount is a publication of Mount St. Dominic Academy.

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ON THE COVER: We are proud to feature the fierce and empowered women of the Mount who are shaping our community, and contributed to the creation of this issue.

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: **Reyna Gowie '23**, Principal **Laura Hollenbaugh**, **Morgan Brown '23**, **Bridget Castano '24**, and **Monica Wharton '94**.

PHOTO CREDITS: Cover photo by Fred Goode; Swim photo (left) by Jeff Stiebold



**Mount St. Dominic**  
ACADEMY



Honored Alumnae Guests, Standing from Left: **Sister Geraldine Yerg '61**, **Sister Ave Maria Clark '62**, **Ellen Cuniff '61**, **Sister Honora Werner, OP '56**, **Patricia Murphy McGarrity '56, P '89**, **Linda Sue Galate '62**, **Sandra Hoffman DeRogatis '62**, **Sister Fran Sullivan, OP '60**.  
Seated from Left: **Sister Pat Coakley, OP '49**, **Dolores Bailey Landon '46**, **Nancy Busby '61**, **Jo-Ann Conte Dixon '60**, **Ruthann Mulhern Otterbein '60, P '94, GP '20, '23**.  
Alumnae in attendance but not pictured: **Helena O'Hern Beamon '49**, **Betty Weber '53**, **Sister Luke Dworschak '56**.

Dear Friends,

ON A BEAUTIFULLY LOVELY MORNING IN SEPTEMBER, JUST A FEW DAYS INTO THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR, IT WAS OUR DISTINCT PLEASURE TO WELCOME BACK TO CAMPUS SEVERAL LOCAL MOUNT GRADUATES WHOSE CLASS YEARS SPANNED 1946 TO 1962.

That delightful luncheon provided our current community with a glimpse into our past; enabling the students who stopped by the Bishops' Dining Room or welcomed several of the visiting alumnae into their classrooms to connect with the women who blazed the trail before them - some having started their journey on this hill nearly 80 years ago.

The joy of that day - filled with faith, strength, connection and curiosity - was interwoven with the bonds of Mount sisterhood; both the tangible connections that sparked life-long, decades-old friendships as well as the philosophical connections that bridge our foundation to our future.

Some of the stories you'll read in the pages ahead, several of which have been written by the powerful and empowered women of today's MSDA, will reflect the breadth, depth, and evolution of our community of truth-seekers and change-makers, 130 years in the making.

Warmest regards,

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

# The Principal View: Mount Students Have Vision and Shine Their Light

MSDA PRINCIPAL  
LAURA HOLLENBAUGH  
EXPLORES THE  
MOUNTIE DEFAULT  
POSITION OF WONDER

**E**YES. SO MANY EYES! DIFFERENT COLORS AND SHAPES AND SIZES, PEERING OUT FROM ABOVE THE MASKS WE WERE TOLD WE MUST WEAR TO PROTECT OURSELVES AND ONE ANOTHER. Curious eyes.

Discerning eyes. Sometimes sleepy eyes. Dare I say even occasionally glaring eyes? Eyebrows raised and lowered, often only one at a time. And eyelashes, I hadn't realized how much eyelashes could tell me about another human being!

This is how I first came to know students at Mount St. Dominic Academy when I arrived in July 2020. Prior to coming here, I'd spent the better part of two decades becoming an expert in educating adolescent boys and raising three sons of my own. As I ventured into "girl world," with so many eyes on me, I recalled friends and former colleagues saying that one of the biggest differences between teaching boys and girls is that girls see everything. Girls notice everything. Girls don't miss a thing.

It didn't take me long to realize that no truer words have been spoken! We spent the next year and a half wearing masks and

reading one another's eyes. However, these eyes were doing a lot more than simply seeing me and the world around them. As I've grown to know our students over time, I've decided that this natural inclination of noticing is really just the beginning.

The young women of Mount St. Dominic Academy embrace what I think is best described as a default position of wonder. They don't just see, they pay attention. They analyze. They question. They discern. They feel. They challenge the status quo. They create. They act. They are, like prior generations of Mount alumnae, truth seekers. Our role, as the adults who accompany them on this high school journey, is to help them make sense of what they're seeing and what they're wondering. Our responsibility is to understand what it's like to be bombarded

by social media and have access to information like no generation before; to consider what it's like to battle societal demands of perfectionism; to be aware of the pressures of the current college admissions landscape; to appreciate and channel their new ways of thinking and understanding the world around them, even if it makes us uncomfortable; and to celebrate that they are the social justice mavens that the world needs right now.

Three years have gone quickly for me, and it is not lost on me that it is a true privilege to lead this team of educators and to see the world through the eyes of the young women who walk these halls. Like every family, we experience our bumps and bruises, but we are collaborating and evolving together. Each of us strives to be the best possible version of ourselves. And







MSDA Students and Ms. Hollenbaugh at Origami Club



The young women of the Mount don't just see, they pay attention. They analyze. They question. They discern. They feel. They challenge the status quo. They create. They act.

now, rather than thinking of the word "powerhouse" in the context of nationally ranked athletics teams, I have a deeper understanding of this term to describe a person of great strength or power who gives off light. Mounties are, indeed, powerhouses in the true sense of the word.

As we remain committed to our mission of empowering young women in the Dominican tradition, living in truth and love, we must acknowledge that each small action we take creates systems and patterns that become the ecosystem of Mount St. Dominic Academy. In partnership with our students and their families, we support this current generation of Mounties to simultaneously be

present to who they are and create who they must become. My hope is that as they become themselves, seeing, interpreting, and responding to the world in their own unique ways, they remain separate enough so as to not crowd each other, but aligned enough as sisters to maintain a shared direction. When this happens, we advance the mission of our Dominican founders and produce the next generation of Mount graduates who have the confidence to live authentically as truth seekers and change agents. Then and now, individually and together, Mounties shine their lights with eyes, hearts, and minds wide open.

Wondering what's next,

*Aura*



# IN CELEBRATION OF BLACK EXCELLENCE

## THE MSDA DIVERSITY CLUB CREATES MONTH-LONG COMMEMORATION

By Morgan Brown '23 and Reyna Gowie '23,  
Senior Co-Chairs of the BHM Planning Committee

**M**OUNT ST DOMINIC ACADEMY'S DIVERSITY CLUB IS A STUDENT LED ORGANIZATION THAT FOCUSES ON HIGHLIGHTING THE FACETS OF DIFFERENT CULTURAL GROUPS BOTH DURING CLUB MEETINGS AND IN SCHOOL-WIDE ASSEMBLIES. From Hispanic Heritage Month, to Black History Month, to Multicultural Day, the Mount's Diversity Club does its best to uplift the different cultural groups of the Mount and educate the community. This year, the Diversity Club spearheaded the various events for Black History Month, focusing on the theme, Black Excellence - a celebration of the perseverance, achievements, leadership, advocacy and impacts of the Black community.

One of the many ways the club highlighted Black Excellence was through daily morning announcements, where each day a Black artist was featured and their song was played over the Mount's loudspeaker system. Encapsulating the many successes of Black artists from the past and the present and representing various musical genres, a broad array of artists from James Brown to **Whitney Houston '81** to Steve Lacy were featured and provided an uplifting and often moving start to the community's day.

In addition to daily commemorations, the Diversity Club also created a comprehensive presentation on a few of the ways the Black community has exuded excellence. The schoolwide assembly began with a history lesson on notable Black inventors such as Garrett Morgan, inventor of the traffic signal, and Dr. Gladys West, inventor of GPS technology. After highlighting brilliant minds in various STEM fields, the club explored traditional "soul foods" and their historical significance

in the African American community. As a complement to the month-long commemoration, the Diversity Club collaborated with the Mount's cafeteria lunch service and featured soul food dishes every Wednesday in February, which included selections like fried chicken, catfish, collard greens, and cornbread.

The Club's presentation continued with more serious topics which impact the Black community's ability to be their most excellent selves. An informative discussion on affirmative action detailed what it is and its historical and present day impacts, including how it impacts today's college admissions process, and the policies currently in place in the United States. For the final topic, the Diversity Club spoke about Black representation in the media, covering topics such as the effects of misrepresentation for Black viewers, examples of bad representation and stereotypes, the genre known as blaxploitation, and finally examples of good media representation and why it is important for Black viewers. A student's personal reflection concluded the introductory conversation on the impacts of good media representation. The Diversity Club welcomed alumna Mrs. **Monica Wharton '94** as the keynote speaker for the day, and a question and answer session with Mrs. Wharton, led by a diversity club member.

The Diversity Club worked diligently to produce an informative, entertaining, and eye-opening presentation and cultural celebration of Black Excellence throughout the month, and looking back on this assembly, and every single day of Black History Month, it is evident that the mission of uplifting the different cultural groups of the Mount and educating the community on BIPOC issues and successes, was achieved once more.



### MSDA Diversity Club Black History Month Assembly Planning Committee

**Morgan Brown '23**  
**Reyna Gowie '23**  
**Jouvana Bruno '23**  
**Meeghan Lonieski '23**  
**Bridget Castano '24**  
**Jalissa Cortes '24**  
**Kaitlyn Ferris '24**  
**Elise McGirt '24**  
**Sadani Michel '24**  
**Mia Rivera-Diaz '24**  
**Ky-Ann Williams '24**  
**Arianna Jean-Philippe '25**  
**Maeko Marapao '25**  
**Madeline Bonarrigo '26**  
**Nicole Perez-Cheddie '10, Moderator**





Monica Wharton '94 in animated discussion with classmates Melissa Adams Giampapa '94, P '25 (and Mount faculty member) and Danielle West-Augustin '94, and Dr. Chris Hampton, Sister Peggy Ann Clinton, OP, and Laura Hollenbaugh; followed by her keynote conversation and a student-led Q&A with Jalissa Cortes '24.

## Alumna Reflects on Impact, Using Proverbs as a Guide

Class of 1994 graduate **Monica Wharton**, Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer for Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare in Memphis, returned to campus on February 9 as the keynote speaker for the Mount's celebration of Black History Month. When a previously planned conference commitment presented a logistical challenge to making in-person connections with students, Monica insisted - there is a way - and she and her assistant Felecia Hailstock made it so.

Monica brought the assembled students on a journey through her personal experiences while a student at the Mount; from some more light-hearted memories like recalling **Sister Peggy Ann's** pearls and the plaid uniforms, to **Sister Barbara's** deeper, philosophical question during a peer leaders retreat - "what is success?" A conversation, a core memory, a mentor, a mind-shift - nearly 30 years on and yet the impact was significant and lasting. Impact was a recurring theme throughout Monica's remarks - acknowledging the impact a place and a community can have on shaping your life as well as understanding the impact we each can make on the world around us.

"For me, success is about making an impact, it is about leaving a space better than you found it no matter where you are," Monica shared. "It is making sure that whatever room and space you occupy, that you remember that the world is greater than you. The world is greater than me. The world is about how we make an impact to make it better, for the people that are often unseen, unheard, and sometimes even unaccounted for."

In contemplation of the day's commemoration of Black History Month, Monica reminded the students that in addition to standing on the shoulders of their parents and the alumnae who came before them, they also stand on the shoulders of Black justice seekers who changed the landscape of the country and the world for all, including Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, Martin Luther King, Jr., Shirley Chisholm, Katherine Johnson, John Lewis, and countless others whose names we will never know but who paved the way for each of us. She also drew a connection to the many names we know from today's tragic headlines: Tyre Nichols, George Floyd, Trayvon Martin, Ahmaud Arbery, Eric Garner, Breonna Taylor, and Freddie Gray.

"I believe as a society, I believe as women, we owe them a debt to make sure we change the world. As we think about those tragedies, we know that they are happening far too often. I am asking you, what will you do as women, what will you do as leaders of the Mount, to make sure that those individuals, regardless of the rooms that you occupy, are heard?"

Concluding her remarks and reflections, Monica encouraged students to use Proverbs 31: 8-9 as a guide to positively impact the spaces they occupy, to ensure that everyone is seen and all voices are heard: Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.

Monica Wharton's reflections on Mount sisterhood, choices, and using your voice, along with a student-led Q&A are available on the Mount website.

SCAN THE CODE TO SEE MORE





# BRIDGING A LEGACY

## Bridget Castano '24 Reflects to Look Forward on her Family's Mount Legacy

I am my Nana's grandchild. There has never been any doubt about it. For most of my life it was hard to go anywhere without hearing the chorus of "You look so much like June." As 17-year olds (71 years apart), we both loved basketball and theater, pushed 5 ft. 8 inches, and wore our brown hair brushed over our MSDA senior sweaters. That's right - my Nana was a Mountie too; the late **June Dwyer Castano**, member of the Mount Class of 1951 who was a mission-driven basketball champion with a passion for writing and a penchant for performing.

I once brought home a worksheet from preschool to fill out with my parents before fire safety week at school. The sheet asked questions about the family plan in the event of an emergency, where to go, who to call, etc. Nana was watching me at the time so I presented my sheet to her and asked "what do I do in the event of an emergency?" Her response: "that's easy dear - you go to the nuns." When fire safety week came, my parents received a note home regarding my concerning fire safety plan; the Chief of the Caldwell Fire Department had not found it amusing.

What I could not have understood at the time, was that she meant the sisters would take care of me when I was troubled. She would be right in more ways than she knew. Nana had four sons. I was the first girl born in a generation, and Nana knew she finally had her Mountie. She knew a number of things back then in her 77 years of age that 5 year old me did not; namely - she had been diagnosed with dementia.

Thanks to Nana and her long-standing and deep-rooted relationships with the Dominican Sisters of Caldwell, the sisters were a constant in my life through the pain of losing her in slow motion. I met sisters on her couch every other weekend; they came to family get-togethers and to barbecues. **Sister Patrice Werner, OP** and **Sister Fran Sullivan, OP '60** almost never miss Christmas Eve dinner. They were and always have been part of the family - my grandmother saw to that. As Nana grew increasingly sick and could no longer drive me to our special outings at The Pancake House or come see me in my games and shows, a great many family members stepped in. Sister



Fran took over a number of duties; she never missed a show or a chance to take my sister **Kara '26** (who joined me at the Mount this school year) and I to pancakes.

It was one of the strangest experiences of my life to watch a person I half knew slowly and completely disappear. She would try to bridge the gap by showing old Mount yearbooks or regaling us with tales of her four years of undefeated Mount basketball and the four state titles that she had won with her two sisters. Before her sister **Carol** graduated in 1954 and ended the record with a tie, MSDA basketball had been undefeated for thirteen years. Nana would also play showtunes. She would wander around the house falling in and out of lucidity humming "I could have danced all night," and waltz a few steps as she walked past the lines of Christmas cards painted by **Sister Gerardine Mueller, OP '39** that hung in the hall to her bedroom. I can still see the sweatpants she always wore: slightly tattered, navy blue, and taut at the ankles, with the white Lady Lions paw on the right hip.

She died when I was twelve. At the wake, I watched lines and lines of people sign the guestbook just below the words: "In lieu of flowers, kindly donate to the Dominican Sisters of Caldwell." Shaking hands with hundreds of people wearing the Dominican crest on their lapel, I must have made the acquaintance of every sister, classmate, and Lacordaire student my grandmother ever taught within an 80 mile radius. I learned what it meant to be a legacy before I even knew the word. Each of them echoed the phrase I had come to expect: "You look so much like your grandmother." For many people that might grow frustrating, but it really has never bothered me. I do look like my grandmother. I am like her. If a hundred people who cared





**The Dwyer Castano Family Legacy:** **Bridget Castano '24** (left) performs in the MSDA Christmas Concert in December 2022 and **June Dwyer Castano '51** performs a Gaelic solo in a Mount concert.

enough about her to say goodbye thought that about me, how could I be anything but complemented.

Soon, it came time for me to apply to the only high school I had ever wanted to attend. It was simply always the plan: go to Nana's school, fill the missing link, be with my family. I thought of my grandmother and my first tour of the Mount - I was four. Nana picked me up from school and paraded my sister and me around the campus. We visited Sister Patrice in the college president's office and Nana marched us past her Veritas Award (now named in her honor) at Alumni Theater. She took us through every room in MSDA. We saw every sister, greeted every friend. They all knew her. I thought of those friends and the reality of their presence in my life. Sadly both Nana and I knew she wouldn't walk me into the Mount on my first day, so her sisters would do it for her. My first year was Sister Fran's last and I could feel a sort of understanding that she had seen me in my Nana's school and I now got to make it my own.

Accepted into the class of 2024, I began what I know now has been the happiest three years of my life. I was immediately immersed in the arts at MSDA, I am a member of the Drama Club and Choir, Vice President of the Thespian Society and head of Lord's Chords - one of the highest functioning clubs in school with ten members and multiple instruments in every service. As a Dominican Preacher and music representative on the preacher board, I am also co-founder of the MSDA Band "Music Mounties" with **Mia Rivera-Diaz '24**. Our band debut at this year's Christmas Concert will remain one of my favorite Mount memories. I even painted a mural about the history



and legacy of my Mount family, and spend my days working to improve my community and creating moments with my sister Kara, and my Mount sisters.

So much of my time in high school has seen me walking the path of my grandmother. She assisted with the Mount's literary magazine *The Golden Fleece* - as do I. She was a preacher - I am a preacher. She wrote for the school newspaper *The Argosy* - I write for *The Argosy*. I did not intentionally follow a path, I merely followed my interests. The way I see it, I am not so much walking the paved path of my grandmother, but reinvigorating it with new life and vibrant color as I go. My Nana is everywhere, but it can only be a comfort to me. My accepted students night I coincidentally sat in the seat in the PAC that bears her name. Nana's name is on a plaque in the arcade, in front of the office, in front of the science labs, in the Bishops' Dining Room, even my guidance counselor's office is named in her and my grandfather's honor. While I have endured multiple "Legacy Events" as the only person without a living Mount legacy, clearly she is ever present, inescapable in the best ways possible. I have been given the gift of creating change and new ideas in my school that will hopefully outlast my time here - all in the comfort of my Nana's indirect arms. If I am her legacy, I hope that is mine.



## #AreYouCheddieforThis?

### A FUTURE WITH A TWIST OF FATE CULMINATES IN WEDDING WITH A HASHTAG

When unique bonds are shared before paths in life officially cross, it's a special kind of kismet. And when those bonds are strengthened in the process of creating families, the word "destiny" shines front and center. In June 2001, **Andrea Cheddie '01** celebrated her graduation from Mount St. Dominic Academy with her little brother Andrew watching from his seat in Caldwell College gymnasium. Nine years later, while Andrew was celebrating his own high school graduation from Seton Hall Prep, **Nicole Perez '10**, his new girlfriend at the time, was concurrently processing into the MSDA Athletic Center as part of her own MSDA commencement. Eleven years later, in the fall and winter of 2022, the two Mount alumnae served as bridesmaids in each other's weddings.

"Chedding" (Cheddie + Wedding) Season began when Andrea married Dustin Passigli on a mild day in September at the Richfield Regency in Verona. No wedding party of Andrea's would be complete without two of her oldest friends, fellow Mount graduates **Jennifer Viray '01** and **Heather Perez Formaran '01**, as well as her then future sister-in-law Nicole '10. The couple live in Nutley with their two adored cats, April and Raphael.

A few months later, Andrea passed the bouquet to Nicole, who married Andrew Cheddie (Seton Hall Prep '10) during the Mount's Christmas break. The nuptials took place on the waterfront of the couple's adopted hometown of Jersey City, with a backdrop bookended by the Freedom Tower on one side and the Statue of Liberty on the other. Taking Andrew's place as audience cheerleader were several Mount alumnae and members of the Mount faculty who laughed, cried and cheered for the couple throughout the beautifully handcrafted wedding ceremony that was uniquely befitting of the couple and featured several beautiful Filipino wedding traditions.

Mount faculty member and Caldwell Dominican **Sister Peggy Ann Clinton, OP** was overjoyed to be reunited with several of her former students: officiant **Kaitlyn Rossi Kennedy '10**, groomsman **Grace Hanna '10**, and bridesmaids **Andrea Cheddie Passigli '01** and **Maeve Hanlon '10** (see photo above). A cosmic connection that began in 1997 when the first of these two brides became a Mount student has turned into a tight-knit family bonded by the Mount, and so much more.



**Nicole '10** and **Andrea '01** share the bonds of sisterhood as Mounties and as sisters-in-law.





# In Service to Others

## Traveling the World to Support Communities in Need

IT IS NOT UNCOMMON FOR MOUNT GRADUATES TO GIVE INCREDIBLE AMOUNTS OF THEIR TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE IN SUPPORT OF THE ORGANIZATIONS, COMMUNITIES AND CHARITIES THAT ARE CLOSE TO THEIR HEARTS. For some, the calling to be of service extends beyond borders, bringing these compassionate and skilled women deep into communities where the need is great, and resources are scarce.

### CARE FOR INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

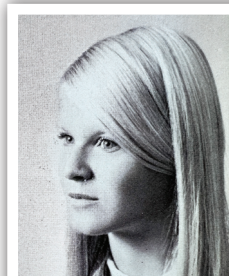
**Linda Kolarsick Clark, MSDA Class of 1970**, recently undertook her second mission to Nuevo Progreso, Guatemala, in support of the work being done for local communities at the Hospital de la Familia. The 70-bed facility serves the primarily indigenous community of the western highlands of Guatemala, characterized as the second poorest area in the western hemisphere. Children in the region suffer from chronic malnutrition, with the CDC reporting that basic health and nutrition services only meet 54 percent of the needs of the population located there.

With her background as an RN and specialty in critical care including work in the ICU at Monmouth Medical Center in Long Branch and her current role in the hospital's PACU (post-anesthesia care unit), Linda took on that same role in Guatemala supporting the general surgeries that can only take place when volunteer teams visit from the U.S. Upon her departure from Guatemala, she took time to share photos depicting special bonds she had made during her short yet incredibly meaningful time working with the patients and families in Nuevo Progreso.

Reflecting on her mission trip, Linda noted, "I feel that it is a privilege to serve in Guatemala. They are a kind, joyful, trusting people; with such a rich culture that they are so proud of. I am honored to have been a volunteer with such a wonderful team, led by Dr. Mark Schwartz, representing Hospital De la Familia. We don't save lives with the surgeries that we do in Guatemala; but we do change their lives for the better."

### REFUGEES IN NEED

For **Marcy Wychulis O'Connell, MSDA Class of 1989** and RN/MSN with Virtua Hospital's Mother Baby Unit, the most recent call to serve for her was when the invasion of Ukraine took place in February 2022. While contemplating what she could do to help, Marcy discovered International Medical Relief (IMR) - an organization that works to build medical and dental clinics in areas where millions of people have been excluded from today's healthcare systems, and provides disaster relief and emergency response services.



The IMR Disaster Area Response Teams (DART) typically consist of psychiatrists, EMTs, nurses, doctors, dentists, specialists, orthopedics, and students who provide critical care to individuals impacted by disasters such as hurricanes, earthquakes, and in the case of Ukraine - the resulting refugee crisis.

So in December 2022, Marcy set off for eastern Poland where more than 1.5 million refugees from Ukraine have applied for protected status, and spent her week-long (self-funded) mission trip providing acute care services like treating wounds and chronic illnesses, as well as emotional support for the women and children who had fled their homes, separated from their male family members who remain in Ukraine to fight.

"I am just too blessed to not pay it forward," Marcy recently shared through Virtua Hospital of her desire to travel to Poland in support of the refugees. "I truly went into medicine to help people. In nursing school, I had the opportunity to volunteer at a camp for kids battling cancer in central Pennsylvania and fell in love with volunteering ever since. As I look into my future, and perhaps even after I retire, I know I'll be volunteering on more medical missionary trips."



## COLLEGE SIGNINGS



**Grace Perez '23** signed her NLI commitment to play softball at Iona University.



**Sydney Rosenkranz '23** signed her NLI commitment to play softball at Quinnipiac University.



## LEAGUE CONFERENCE SELECTIONS

CROSS COUNTRY *SEC American Division*

SECOND TEAM - **Bella Dressler '25, Lily Nachbaur '25**

HONORABLE MENTION - **Amanda Hayes '23, Ava LaBruno '23**

FIELD HOCKEY *SEC Liberty Division*

FIRST TEAM - **Allie Palumbo '23, Sara Tortoriello '24**

SECOND TEAM - **Liz Forsatz '24, Bella DiGiovanni '23**

HONORABLE MENTION - **Liz Blendon '23**

*Union-Essex League*

FIRST TEAM - **Allie Palumbo '23**

SECOND TEAM - **Sara Tortoriello '24**

HONORABLE MENTION - **Liz Forsatz '24, Bella DiGiovanni '23**

SOCCER *SEC Liberty Division*

FIRST TEAM - **Lena Tusche '26, Maria Holevas '23**

SECOND TEAM - **Gianna Camporeale '26, Mary Hladik '25**

HONORABLE MENTION - **Mia Mangili '26, Maddie Natale '25**

TENNIS *SEC Liberty Division*

FIRST TEAM - **Rebecca Hess '24**

SECOND TEAM - **Tori Schmey '23**

HONORABLE MENTION - **Madison Cronin '26, Emma Buono '23**

*ALL Non-Public A Singles (NJ.com)*

THIRD TEAM - **Rebecca Hess '24**

VOLLEYBALL *SEC Liberty Division*

FIRST TEAM - **Bridget Lonergan '23**

SECOND TEAM - **Brooke Algieri '23, Izzy Rivera '24**

HONORABLE MENTION - **Ariana Rivera '26, Michela Peluso '23**

## RECOGNITIONS

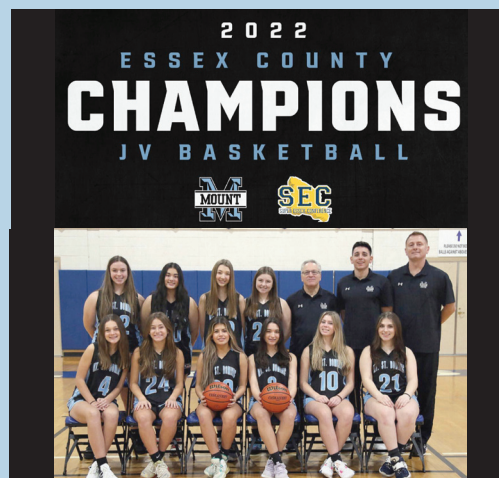


**Anna Cacciabarne '24** and **Keira Carbone '23** placed first in the Essex County Shot Put Relay Championship with combined throws of 65'0.5.

**Sophia Liwanag '25** is the Essex County Champion in the 100 Butterfly.



**MSDA JV Basketball** defeated Livingston High School to secure the Essex County JV Basketball Championship.



**MSDA Indoor Track** is the 2022-23 SEC Liberty Indoor Track Champion!





## SHAKESPEARE AT THE MOUNT: All-Female Cast Delivers in "The Comedy of Errors"

Comedic chaos kept the crowd in stitches during two successful performances of the Mount's Fall 2022 production, "The Comedy of Errors." With the cadence of Shakespeare's verse and the acting chops of the Mount's theatre arts students, the complex storyline full of head-scratching moments that featured two sets of identical twins separated at birth, was delivered with wry wit, finesse, and charm.

**Michelle Posner P'13**, Director of the Performing Arts at the Mount noted, "It was fantastic to work with this all-female cast and I am proud of the work the students put into this production. It is always such a pleasure to make theatre with these young women and working on Shakespeare with them, while it has its challenges, has been very rewarding." In advance of the performances, students worked with **Darin Frank Earl II**, a professional Shakespearean actor, who played an integral role in shaping the production and taught practical techniques as well as stage combat. Darin served as the associate director of the production and was an invaluable resource for Mrs. Posner, the cast and crew.

Members of the Mount community who also played key roles in the success of the production included **Kelly King '84, P'16, '23** as producer, as well as the performing arts parents who support the students in pursuing their passions.



Performance Photos © Fred Goode

## SPRING CONCERT:

**Wednesday, May 17, 2023**

Join us at 7:00pm

**Doris M. Byrne Performing Arts Center**

Enjoy a musical celebration with MSDA's Concert Choir, Dance Team, Forensics Club and our band, Music Mounties! Admission is free. See [www.msdaacademy.org/spring-concert](http://www.msdaacademy.org/spring-concert) for details.



Celebrate  
Spring at  
MSDA

## SPRING CONCERT

Enjoy Performances by  
**Choir**  
**Dance Team**  
**Forensic Team**



# Mentors at the Mount

## MSDA Alumnae Complement Our Community of Educators

Blending core curriculum requirements and varied elective options with opportunities to expand the learning experience beyond traditional high school coursework, the Mount strives to incorporate experienced external voices to expand students' exposure to diverse perspectives. Signature Programs, including the L.E.O. Entrepreneurship Program and the Senior Capstone in Directed Research, aim to bring elements of college and career into the classroom. From product ideation and patent law in L.E.O. to Capstone's intellectual exploration and thesis development, Signature Programs help students enhance their critical thinking skills and blend their coursework with real-world applications and perspectives. Enter; the mentors.

Close to 150 Mount students over the past several years have brought these programs to life, with nearly 100 Mount alumnae and friends of the Mount joining in as both team and individual mentor partners. Along with the programs' faculty moderators **Mrs. Christine Victori** (L.E.O.) and **Dr. Lidiya Torniyova** (Capstone), Mount mentors with expertise in a myriad of professions and passions continue to elevate and expand these key programs, and significantly enrich the student experience, giving of their time and talents. We celebrate the 2022-23 Mount Mentors (see list below), and express our deepest gratitude for their engagement with the students.

Alumnae and other friends of the Mount interested in being considered for a mentorship may reach out to the MSDA Alumnae office at [alumnae@msdacademy.org](mailto:alumnae@msdacademy.org) for more information.



### 2022-23 Senior Capstone in Directed Research

**Amanda M. Aster-McKenna '06**, Psy.D; Licensed Psychologist | Adjunct Professor Kean University

**Ruth M. DeBar Ph.D., BCBA-D**; Professor at Caldwell University; Center for Autism and Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) at Caldwell University

**Michelle Doyle '09**; Prospect Hill Academy Charter School Meals Program Director

**Randi-Jo Farrell-Hasko '11**; Therapist at Birch Tree Psychology

**Yasmin Islami '74**; Vice President, New Product Commercialization & Portfolio Strategy at Bayer

**Michelle Julian '14**; LSW | Mental Health Clinician at Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care

**Darlene Lowry**; Licensed Professional Counselor

**Keisha L. Mack, Ph.D. '88**; Co-Founder The MECCA Group & Clinical Psychologist

**Evelyn F. McCoy '09**; Senior Manager at Urban Institute

**Maggie Paruta '16**; Associate Research Scholar at NYU Stern Center for Sustainable Business

**Dr. Marie Pennanen '78**; Breast Surgeon, Chevy Chase Breast Center

**Lillian Posner '13**; Assistant Program Officer, National Endowment for Democracy

**Mandy Rodrigues Ed.D. '98**; University Lecturer at Kean University and Client Engagement Manager, KJR Consulting

**Emilie Stewart MEd., MSW '10**; Manager of Policy Advocacy and Community Engagement, Newark Opportunity Youth Network

### 2022-23 L.E.O. Entrepreneurship Program

**Sabrina Fruci '11**; Director, Onboarding & Client Enablement at Pagaya

**Jodi Funder**; Owner, Jola Coffee

**Julieanne Malley '07**; Associate Director Investor Relations at Varde Partners

**Monique Outerbridge '88**; HHS Lead Account Partner, IBM

**Veronica Padula '02**; Research Scientist, Clean Seas Program at the Seattle Aquarium



## The Mount Fund

At the Mount, we teach, preach, learn and love with intentionality and purpose, and strive to provide our students with the skills, courage and determination they need to discover their passions and use their gifts for the greater good. We draw daily inspiration from the words of Saint Catherine of Siena, "Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire."

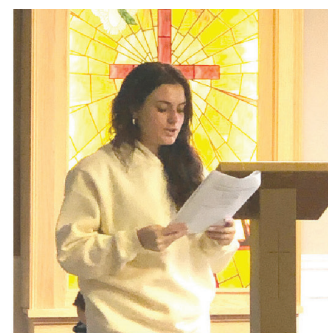
As our students develop their passions and seek the truth on their way to becoming justice-minded leaders and changemakers of tomorrow, it is our community of supporters that strengthens our foundation, sustains our growth and fuels our innovation.

The Mount Fund is our cornerstone annual fundraising campaign, and year-after-year, our community answers the call, reaffirming its faith in our mission of empowering young women in the Dominican tradition. Thank you in advance for your continued support which makes everything you see on the pages of this magazine - and so much more - possible. Simply put - there is no Mount without you!

To make a gift to The Mount Fund, we've included an envelope for your convenience, or, you can make a gift anytime online at [www.msdacademy.org/donate](http://www.msdacademy.org/donate).

Thank you in advance for your support of the wonderful young women we serve!

SCAN THE CODE  
TO DONATE



There is no **MOUNT** without you.





## Mount St. Dominic Academy

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[www.msdacademy.org](http://www.msdacademy.org)

For more information:  
[MSDAcademy.org/EVENTS](http://MSDAcademy.org/EVENTS)

THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION  
PRESENTS



# CASINO NIGHT

SATURDAY, MARCH 25 | MSDA ATHLETIC CENTER  
TICKETS: [WWW.MSDACADEMY.ORG/CASINO-NIGHT](http://WWW.MSDACADEMY.ORG/CASINO-NIGHT)

# DADS NIGHT OUT

THURSDAY, APRIL 20 | CAR LOFTS, FAIRFIELD  
TICKETS: [WWW.MSDACADEMY.ORG/DADS-NIGHT](http://WWW.MSDACADEMY.ORG/DADS-NIGHT)



## MOTHER DAUGHTER COMMUNION BREAKFAST

Sunday, April 30  
10:00am  
The Brownstone

TICKETS:  
[www.msdacademy.org/mother-daughter](http://www.msdacademy.org/mother-daughter)

9TH ANNUAL EVENT

MOUNT ST. DOMINIC ACADEMY

# MSDA '05K

## MEGHAN DOYLE

SATURDAY

IN PERSON **MAY 6** & VIRTUAL

REGISTER:

[www.msdacademy.org/msda05K](http://www.msdacademy.org/msda05K)

All proceeds support the MSDA Financial Assistance Program

## HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?

Keep the Mount updated with your family,  
social, and professional news.



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