

the CLOVER

Mercy McAuley Alumnae Magazine | FALL 2023



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**Mercy
McAuley**

mercymcauley.org/alumnae

A LETTER FROM OUR INTERIM PRESIDENT

Karen Hanrahan

Dear Alumnae & Friends,

It is my pleasure to introduce myself and share how excited I am to be a part of Mercy McAuley as your Interim President! Before coming here, I served as the Head of School at Mercy Burlingame in the San Francisco Bay area and was the Advancement Director at St. Mary-Bay View in Rhode Island. I have also been a member of the Mercy Education Board for three years.

As a Cleveland native, I am enjoying my time in Cincinnati; the rich history and tradition of Mercy education in this city is wonderful!

This year, Mercy in Ohio celebrates several milestones. It was in August 1858—165 years ago—that the Sisters of Mercy arrived in Cincinnati. By October the Sisters opened a House of Mercy for young women and children and, in the same month, they started a night school for young women and an infant boy's school in the basement of St. Thomas Church. In 1883 – 140 years ago – Our Lady of Mercy Normal School (Teacher's College) opened. Throughout all these years, the Sisters of Mercy have had a presence in dozens of parish elementary schools throughout the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

In 1915, Mercy Villa Academy opened as both an elementary and high school in Westwood. In 1943, the Archdiocese asked the Sisters to make the Villa a secondary school. It became Mother of Mercy High School in 1943—80

years ago. Continuing their dedication to the education of young women, the Sisters established McAuley High School in 1960.

This year we celebrate the fifth anniversary of the opening of Mercy McAuley High School—an important Mercy education presence in Cincinnati. Mercy McAuley provides young women with a challenging curriculum, competitive athletic teams, and amazing fine arts programs. There is no question Mercy Education is alive and well in Cincinnati!

As I meet students every day at Mercy McAuley, I am reminded of Catherine McAuley's quote: "I have great confidence in you to do what you think best. State your opinion and always act with courage."

These are the young women who follow in your footsteps. They are smart, opinionated, active, community-oriented, fun, and lively! Mercy McAuley students are Catherine's girls through and through!

I encourage you to celebrate your Mercy education milestones, share your memories, be involved, state your opinions and be courageous. Catherine would be thrilled by Mercy's presence here!

**In Mercy,
Karen Hanrahan**



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ALUMNA SPOTLIGHT—JULIE SPEIER '91

A mission to make a difference

Julie Speier is not only a wife, a mother, and a teacher, but also a generous supporter of children in Nicaragua. She discovered her passion for early childhood education when she was a student at McAuley High School, thanks to Ms. Kouch's inspiring Child Development class. Julie was an outstanding student and a leader in many activities, including being the captain of the swim team and the State Runner-up, in the orchestra, a senior retreat leader, and the prom queen. She earned a full scholarship to Boston University, where she continued to swim and pursue her dream of teaching young children.

“The accountability, values and leadership skills I learned in high school still guide me today.”

After graduating from Boston University, Julie was ready for a new adventure. Her college roommate had decorated their dorm room with photographs of Hawaii and Kelly Slater, a professional surfer. That's when Julie decided that she would move to Hawaii after graduation to become a surfer. There, she taught at a local school, waitressed at Duke's Canoe Club on Waikiki beach and learned how to surf for four years. She loved her life in Hawaii, but she missed her hometown of Cincinnati. She moved back and worked at Cincinnati Country Day for seven years, becoming the Head Teacher of the Toddler House. In 2004, she was called to step out of her comfort zone and move again.

Julie's adventurous spirit took her to New York City next, where she met her husband, John. John is an Irishman who shares Julie's love for travel and giving back. When they found out they were expecting their first daughter, they realized they did not want to raise their family in New



Above: Julie speaks to a group at the San Juan Del Sur Day School. Below: Julie pictured with her oldest daughter at a surf competition.



York City, so they started looking for a new place to call home. That's when they both heard about San Juan del Sur, a town on Nicaragua's southwest coast with beautiful beaches and great surfing waves. It seemed like fate! They immediately embraced the local culture of humble, hardworking people. Julie's passion for lifelong learning and community service inspired her and John to start a school. In 2009, they opened their doors to about eight preschool students. The school grew steadily, adding new grade levels and expanding its facilities. Today, the school serves over 175 children from more than 18 countries and is located on an organic farm overlooking the Pacific.



*Above, Julie surfing the waves of San Juan del Sur.
Below, Julie, her husband John, and their three children.*



Julie works with a young student at the San Juan del Sur Day School.



through the skill and sport of swimming. “McAuley gave me the strong foundation that I needed to build my life,” Julie said. “The accountability, values and leadership skills I learned in high school still guide me today.”

Julie is proud of the school and community that she played a critical part in developing.

Julie and John have three wonderful children who all attend the San Juan del Sur Day School. In 2022, Julie and John decided to step back from the daily operations which they sold to a group of parents. She remains an active and involved parent. She is ready for her next big venture: building a community swimming pool with a focus on making the sports of swimming and surfing accessible to more local kids, especially girls. Her oldest daughter is a national-level surfer. Julie noticed that the local girls were missing out on the sport, so she decided to use her swimming, surfing, coaching, and lifeguarding skills to build an aquatics program and improve lives

To learn more about the San Juan del Sur Day School visit their website: <https://sanjuandelsurdayschool.com>.

To learn more about her aquatics program, or to plan your own swim/surf/Spanish/service adventure vacation to Nicaragua email Julie directly at: julieaspeier@gmail.com

Our Condolences

Please remember the family and friends of the following alumnae in your prayers:



Sr. Donata Ovelgonne RSM
Mercy 1946
February 1, 2023



Irene Windholtz Joesting
Mercy 1946
September 12, 2022



Rose Marie Moloney Landers
Mercy 1949
July 13, 2019



Sr. Carol Ann Holzschuh RSM
Mercy 1950
February 1, 2023



Sr. Ann Mary Lay, RSM
Mercy 1951
July 25, 2023



Peggy Halpin Schmeltzer
Mercy 1951
November 14, 2022



Clare Steinker Kentrup
Mercy 1957
February 13, 2023



Marian Olding Nusekable
Mercy 1957
February 16, 2023



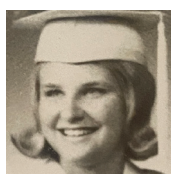
Barbara Wiegel Zepf
Mercy 1961
April 8, 2022



Nancy Klett Kroeger
Mercy 1963
February 11, 2023



Donna Willenbrink Csavina
Mercy 1964
July 30, 2022



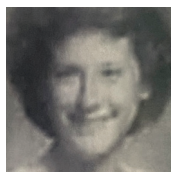
Susan Mersmann Foll
Mercy 1968
December 6, 2022



Janice Lynn Meadows Dusold
Mercy 1970
December 27, 2022



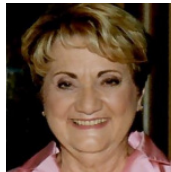
Cheryl Uehlein Donisi
Mercy 1976
January 22, 2022



Theresa Beckman De Serrato
Mercy 1981
March 19, 2023



Maureen Ryan Paduano
McAuley 1964
March 22, 2023



Mrs. Rita Spaccarelli Drieaus
April 26, 2023
Mrs. Drieaus and her family are devoted members of the Circle of Mercy, her generous contributions will have a lasting impact on our students for many years to come.



Susan Moelchert Kuhlman
McAuley 1969
November 15, 2022



Mary Ann Lampe Randolph
McAuley 1970
April 23, 2023



Kathryn Orendorff Wolkittel
McAuley 1976
June 2, 2023



Eileen Bens
McAuley 1982
December 18, 2022



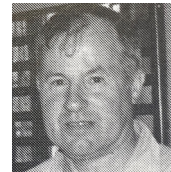
Teresa Stenger McKeown
McAuley 1983
June 18, 2022



Karen Droppelman
McAuley 1985
July 1, 2022



Miesha Howard
McAuley 2008
May 29, 2023



Mr. Bill Konerman
January 24, 2023
Bill was loved during his many years at as a maintenance man at McAuley. He was a smiling face for students and will be missed by many.

CONGRATULATIONS Class of 2023!

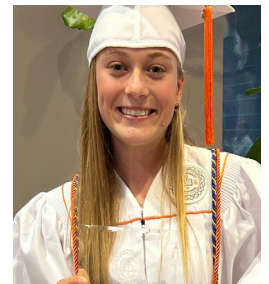


Congratulations to seniors Lizzie Schloss and Lindsay Woodard, who were finalists in the National Merit Scholarship competition.



The Catherine McAuley Award was presented to Olivia Duker. This honor is given to an outstanding senior who exemplifies Catherine and her works of Mercy. Employees nominated students for this award, and the members of the senior class voted on the final winner.

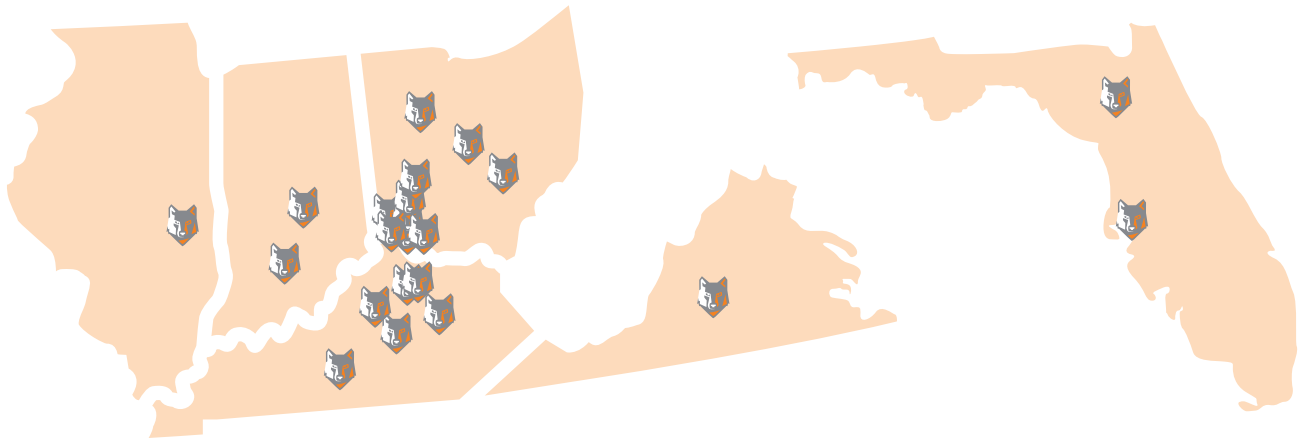
The Circle of Mercy Award was presented to Anna Carroll. This award recognizes a graduate for her commitment to providing service during her four years at Mercy McAuley.



“We walked through the doors of Mercy McAuley back in 2019 as young girls, and we walk out those same doors now as Women of Mercy. We have become embodiments of the five values we sing about in our alma mater: excellence, leadership, service, compassion, and faith. We are remarkable examples of determined excellence, strong leaders, servants of our communities, compassionate souls, and faith-filled individuals. After all, we are the legacy of Catherine here!”

Ella Davis, '23

Our 2023 graduates are attending **26** different colleges and universities in the fall!



\$14,673,034

**total scholarship dollars earned
by the class of 2023!**

CONGRATULATIONS PAM VISSING!

Pam Vissing, McAuley '74, is a longtime teacher, mentor, and friend! Pam taught English at McAuley from (1978 – 2018) and at Mercy McAuley from 2018 – 2023. Her commitment and dedication to Mercy education shines bright in the thousands of students she's taught throughout her 45 years! Pam's legacy continues in her students' love for English class, and through the Forever 49 Foundation. Formed in honor of her late sister, Beth Vissing Nieman, McAuley '86, the Forever 49 Foundation offers tuition assistance for students of LaSalle and Mercy McAuley High School who are affected in some way by cancer. **We are so thankful for Pam and will miss her greatly—best wishes for retirement!**

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING



1978



2023

PAM VISSING'S RETIREMENT!

45 YEARS!

ALUMNAE MILESTONES



Mary Lynn Rattermann Knochelman's, Mercy '78, family has grown by two in 2022. Son, Matt Knochelman and his wife **Kiersten Kelley**, Mercy '07, welcomed their 3rd Daughter, Josephine Ruth Knochelman, on July 13, 2022! Mary's daughter **Melinda Rose Knochelman**, Mercy '08, married Collin James Eckerle on December 3, 2022!



Carol Erb, McAuley '78, was named "Industry Member of the Year" by the School Nutritional Association! Carol is a Senior Director, Education and Sales, at J.T.M. Food Group!

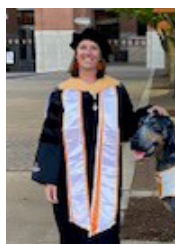


Diana Bertke Glass, Mercy '81, earned her Black Belt in Taekwondo after 9 years of lessons! Diana is pictured second from the left!

Patty Lusheck Ragio, Mercy '85, was appointed to her new role as CEO of First Tee Greater Cincinnati & Northern Kentucky. Her chapter serves over 20,000 kids and teens each year over nine locations and seven counties by instilling life skills and character strengths through the game of golf!



Katie Mullalley Toomey, McAuley '02, took her daughter Lily (green dress) to the Bibbiti Boppiti Boutique in Disney World in May of 2023, and their stylist was Emily, a McAuley '15 graduate, a magical coincidence!



Emily Salyers Meyer, McAuley '96, earned a Doctorate in Social Work from The University of Tennessee in May of 2023! Her mom, Mary Beth Monter Salyers, McAuley '71 and her daughter Bella Meyer, Mercy McAuley '26 are very proud!



Jen Frerick Stern, McAuley '04, married Jason on the beach at Anna Maria Island in May 2023 with their closest friends and family. It was a beautiful day!



Stephanie Powers Spare, Mercy '07 welcomed a baby boy, Jackson, on February 9, 2023!



Alexandra Smith Moser, McAuley '09, married husband, Casey, in October of 2021. They welcomed their first baby, Bodhi in July 2022 and are expecting their second in December 2023! They are finishing building a custom forever home!



Lexie Bolin Backer, McAuley '11, and her husband, Kurt, welcomed their second child, Eloise Layne, to their

family. Big sister, Evelyn, is so happy, and aunt, **Gabrielle Bolin**, McAuley '12, and grandma, **Amy Fleisch Bolin**, McAuley '79, are thrilled!



Allie Hart Smogor, Mercy '11, and her husband welcomed their first child, Luke, in December of 2022! Aunts **Jackie Hart Fiest**, Mercy '09, **Olivia Hart**, Mercy '15 and grandma **Nancy Hisch Hart**, Mercy '82 are thrilled!



Danielle Reynolds Meineke, McAuley '13, and husband, Alex, welcomed firstborn, Oliver, in July 2023! He came home in a onesie printed by **Christine**

Ruhe, McAuley '13. Danielle and Christine are still good friends ten years post-graduation!



Alison Moore Bentle, McAuley '14, and husband welcomed baby Leonardo Leland Bentle on July 27!



Jessica Richter Hulsman, Mercy '15, married husband, Jason, in October 2022! She celebrated with lots of Mercy classmates by her side: **Katie Koch**, '15, **Jill Stern**, '15, **Amanda Wullenweber**, '15, **Maria Vetter**, '15, **Abby Schatzman**, '15, **Katelyn Harrell**, '15, **Lynsey Kurzhals**, '15, **Lauren Gallagher**, '15, **Erika Schmitt**, '15, **Natalie Luken**, '15



Hannah Hollstegge, Mercy McAuley '19, graduated from Miami University, May 2023 and is excited to start her first teaching job at St. Lawrence with the 5th graders!

To submit a milestone please use the online form: mercymcauley.org/alumnae/news/milestones

Upcoming Events

Join us for the Golden Guild Induction Ceremony!

September 22, 2023: Mercy McAuley will host an All School Mass, Mercy Day Celebrations, and will induct any alumnae who graduated 50 years ago into the Golden Guild. Visit mercymcauley.org/alumnae/events/golden-guild for more information.



Alumnae of the class of 1973 are invited to their 50th Class Reunions!

September 23, 2023: McAuley 50th Reunion

November 10, 2023: Mother of Mercy 50th Reunion

Contact Katie Koch to get connected to your class at KochK@mercymcauley.org

Women Who

INSPIRE

11.16.2023

Women Who Inspire

Join us on November 16 from 6-9 p.m. in the Mercy McAuley Auditorium to hear from some truly inspiring women. To purchase tickets and for more information, visit our website <https://www.mercymcauley.org/support-us/women-who-inspire>.

2022-23 School Year

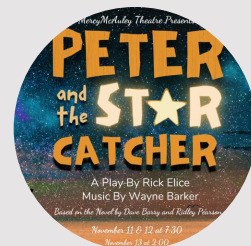
Milestone Moments

SEPT



The Annual Raffle raised over \$70,575!
The Seniors took first place!

NOV



Mercy McAuley Theater presented, "Peter and the Starcatcher!"
Congratulations to the cast and crew!

OCT



Mercy Day Celebration!

Open House!
We welcomed the community into our school!



Golden Guild Induction
Classes of 1972 celebrated their 50th reunion!

Women Who INSPIRE

11.16.2023



Senior, Kylee Heidemann '23, won the golf state champion title!
Way to go Kylee!

AUG



Start of the 2022-23 school year!
August 11, 2022

JAN

**Father Daughter
Dance**
80's themed!



Commitment Day
We welcomed our
newest wolves!

FEB

*continued
on the
next page*

**Eleven students won
Scholastic Art
& Writing Awards**



Megan Sunderman '23
competed at state for diving

DEC



**Wolves Winter
Wonderland!**

Alumnae and their
little ones enjoyed hot
chocolate, pancakes,
games, crafts, and
pictures with Santa!

**A year of fun and
accomplishments!**



Moonlight Gala!
We raised over \$140k to support Mercy McAuley students!

MAR



Easter Egg Hunt! Mercy McAuley welcomed over 100 families to campus for an egg hunt!



Wolves Classic Golf Outing!
Thanks to all who played!

MAY

#BIGDayOfGiving on St. Patrick's Day!
Together we raised over \$71,830!

APR



We welcomed the Class of 2023 to the Circle of Mercy as our newest alumnae!



Spring Musical
Seussical won TWO Cappies!
Alumnae Council hosted a pre-show party with cast!



Golden Guild Breakfast with seniors! Alumnae who graduated over 50 years ago joined the class of '23 for a potluck breakfast!

Girls' Schools Unite!



Girls' Schools Unite was a success for all-girls Catholic education! Collectively all six schools raised over \$478,000!

Kristen Berwanger '25 went to state for discus throwing!
Congrats Kristen!





Save the Date!

Save the dates for our upcoming events. More information can be found on our website at mercymcauley.org/alumnae.

September 22, 2023 All School Mass, Mercy Day Celebrations

September 23, 2023 McAuley 50th Reunion

October 21, 2023 Alumnae Night at FC Cincinnati

October 29, 2023 Open House

November 6-10, 2023 Alumnae Thanksgiving Food Collection

November 10, 2023 Mother of Mercy 50th Reunion

November 16, 2023 Women Who Inspire

November 21, 2023 Thanksgiving Memorial Mass

December 9, 2023 Wolves Winter Wonderland

March 16, 2024 BIG Day of Giving

March 23, 2024 Easter Egg Hunt

April 22-24, 2024 Girls Schools Unite Campaign

April 24, 2024 Golden Guild Breakfast with Class of 2024

Stay connected!

Update your contact information on our website:
mercymcauley.org/alumnae/update

Visit us:

mercymcauley.org/alumnae

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-  McAuley High School Alumnae
-  Mother of Mercy High School Alumnae
-  MercyMcAuleyHS
-  @mercymcauleyhighschool

the CLOVER

Karen Hanrahan
Interim President

Katie Koch, Mercy '15
Manager, Annual Giving & Alumnae Engagement

Lori Rochford, McAuley '80
Director of Advancement

Mercy McAuley High School
6000 Oakwood Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45224

mercymcauley.org
(513) 681-1800