MERCY Academy

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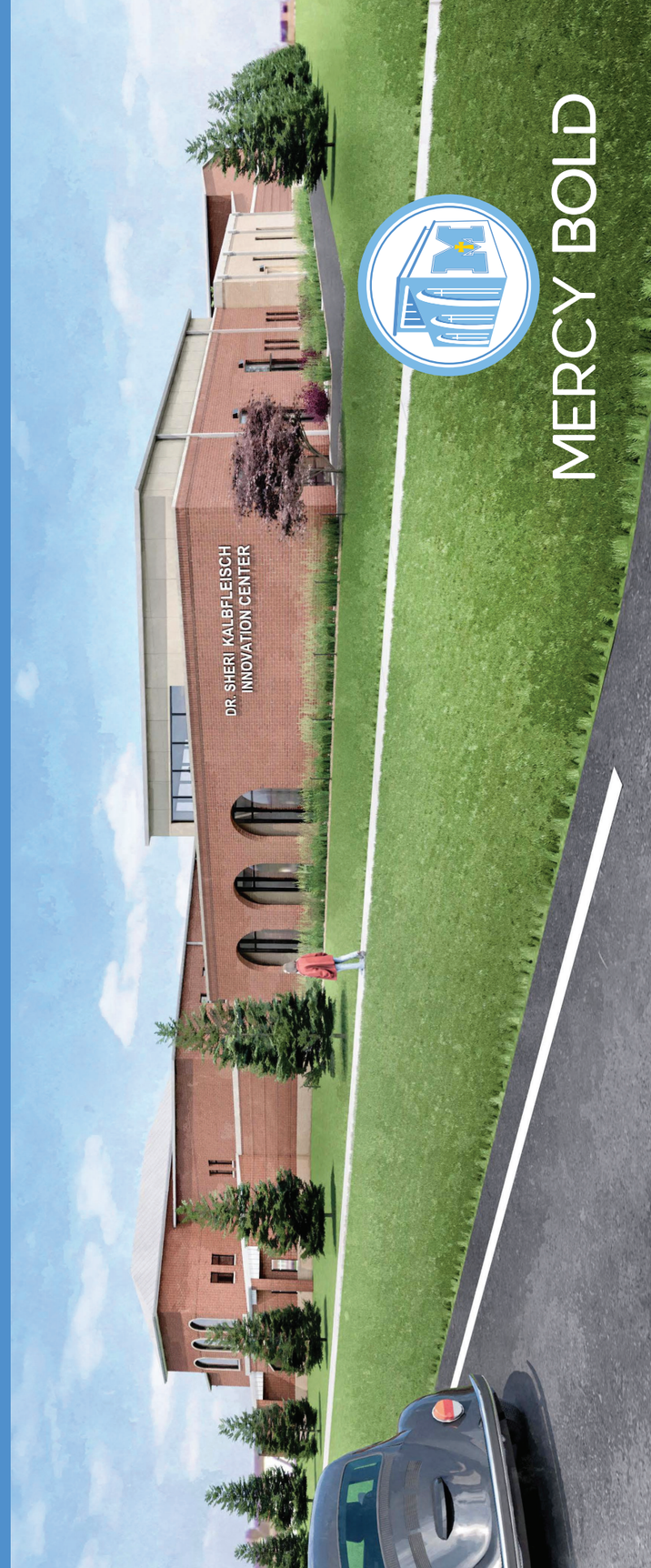
# MERCY BOLD

BE BOLD WITH MERCY

Summer 2025

# JAGWIRE

## Mercy launches $15 million Bold Capital Campaign



## FROM MERCY'S CO-CHAIRS OF THE BOLD LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

**Dear Friends of Mercy,**

As Co-Chairs of the BOLD Leadership Committee, Steve and I are thrilled to share this campaign with the Mercy community. Our connection to Mercy runs deep. Steve's mother, Shirley Mercer Kamber, graduated in 1952 and worked at Mercy for many years. Our daughter, Mary Kamber, is a graduate of the Class of 2013, and I graduated in 1985.

Mercy Academy is a special place. The staff truly know and care for students beyond their academics, focusing on developing the whole person. Additionally, Mercy's size and economic diversity set it apart. This campaign is essential to give girls of all means opportunities to thrive in STEAM fields. It is not just about a building - it will provide academic rigor, role models, and scholarships to these young women.

It has been a blessing to be involved behind the scenes over the past few years as this project has developed. Now, as it enters the public eye, we invite all of you to join us and, "Be BOLD with Mercy!"



In Mercy,

*Donna Kaelin Kamber '85*

*Dr. Steve Kamber*

MERCY BOLD
BE BOLD WITH MERCY

### THANK YOU TO OUR BOLD CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE:

**Donna Kaelin Kamber '85 & Dr. Steve Kamber, Co-Chairs**
**Yolanda Williams Ali '74**
**Jill Joseph Bell '80**
**Monica Beam Bohn '90**
**Wendy & Larry Carlton**
**Paul Cox**
**Shelly Klefot Cronen '05 & Jesse Cronen**
**Missy & James DeSmet**
**Peggy Hagerty Duffy '85**
**Ann & Mark Evans**
**Karen Ramser Filcik '75 & Jeff Filcik**
**Paul Kalbfleisch**
**Heather & Mark Preston**
**Mary Mershon Reisert H'94**
**Teresa Kleinhenz Riggs '76 & Brian Riggs**
**Megan Atkins Thoben '07**
**Dr. Susie Williams '00**
**Ashley DeVault Zaring '01 & Dr. Robert Zaring**

### MERCY EXTENDS A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

**Jeff Filcik, JD, MAT**
*Chair*
**Karen Roalofs '89**
*Vice Chair*
**Teresa Kleinhenz Riggs '76**
*Treasurer*
**Kathy Newman Beam '68**
*Secretary*
Kim Brohm '98
Larry Carlton
Tiffany Cooper-Allen '88
Kathy Robinson Dreyer '98
Peggy Hagerty Duffy '85
Andrea Nelson Hennessey '98
Dr. Susie Williams '00
Ashley DeVault Zaring '01


# JAGWIRE
**Summer 2025**

The *JagWire* is published by the Advancement Office of Mercy Academy.

**Becky Wise Montague '91,**
President

**Dr. Cynthia Smith-Ough,**
Principal

**Lorraine Carner**
Director of Athletics

**Dr. Stephanie Boyle Heitz '99,**
Director of Operations

**Leslie Hibdon H'13,**
Director of Advancement

**Emily McCullough,**
Director of Admissions and Marketing

**Emily Willis,**
Director of Annual Giving & Alumnae Relations

**Special thanks to:**
Amy Newman with PUSH design LLC.

Comments and submissions for the *JagWire* or any change of name or address can be made at **mercyacademy.com/jagwire**.

Mercy Academy
5801 Fegenbush Lane
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## In This Issue. . .




### On the Cover:

In March, Mercy Academy announced the $15 million **BOLD** Capital Campaign to raise meaningful funds designated to build a STEAM Innovation Center, invest in 5.5 acres of adjacent land for further development, and increase tuition assistance for every young woman who dreams of attending Mercy Academy.

# Mercy Academy has a Legacy of Being

# BOLD

- **In 1885, the Sisters of Mercy boldly founded the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy.**
- **In 1993, despite recommendations to close, our dedicated community kept Mercy open, and, in 2000, earned a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence.**
- **In 2007, we boldly relocated to a new 24-acre campus, boosting enrollment by 40%.**
- **In 2013, the "You're Not a Princess" campaign spotlighted our innovative curriculum, receiving national acclaim.**
- **In 2016, we became the first all-girls school in the U.S. to achieve Cognia STEM certification.**

Now, we aim to be **BOLD** again with a $15 million capital campaign to enhance facilities, academic programs, and tuition assistance for a transformative Mercy education.

## Introducing the Mercy BOLD Capital Campaign



On March 7, the eve of International Women's Day, Mercy held a celebration to announce the Mercy BOLD campaign. Wearing new "Be BOLD with Mercy" shirts, students gathered in the gym for a program featuring alumnae and current students and an announcement video. The event encouraged students to **"Be BOLD"** and embrace all the possibilities that Mercy offers them.

Mercy's announcement was featured on local news channels, *Business First*, and *The Record*.





## The Mercy BOLD Capital Campaign has three priorities:

### DR. SHERI KALBFLEISCH INNOVATION CENTER - 5.7 MILLION

The Dr. Sheri Kalbfleisch Innovation Center will be a 12,000-square-foot STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) Innovation Center. This state-of-the-art facility is designed by an all-female team, led by Mercy alumnae.




### TUITION ASSISTANCE - 8 MILLION

Students are at the heart of everything we do at Mercy. That's why growing our tuition assistance program is so important. Increasing our Mercy Fund provides support for students today, and a strong endowment will provide consistent funding for tuition assistance in the future.



### LAND INVESTMENT - 1.3 MILLION

In 2024, we announced the purchase of 5.5 acres of land directly next door to our Fegenbush campus. This bold investment prevents Mercy from becoming landlocked and gives us room to grow. Expanding our campus footprint demonstrates the long-term commitment we have for student success. Investing in property allows us to remain an innovative leader in education and in control of our surrounding environment.





# THE DR. SHERI KALBFLEISCH *Innovation* CENTER

Mercy is known for our innovative, performance-based learning and STEAM curriculum.
The Dr. Sheri Kalbfleisch Innovation Center will enhance student experiences with:

- **Two state-of-the-art STEAM shops**
- **Health Science Lab featuring a digital dissection table and mock medical exam room**
- **Technology classroom for the freshmen Introduction to STEAM course**
- **Two courtyards / outdoor classrooms**
- **Two spacious studios for 2D art and ceramics**
- **Four collaborative spaces for project-based learning**
- **Faculty wellness room**

The architecture and design team for the Innovation Center is led by alumna Erin Ruhl '05, architect with Omni Architects. Erin shared the thought that went into her design: "We wanted to honor Mercy's history while embracing the experience that future students will have. Details such as the arches in the front pay homage to the Broadway campus, while keeping true to the feeling and design of the campus on Fegenbush."












*"Sheri believed it all starts with an education, and Mercy is a top-notch education."*

— *Paul Kalbfleisch*

Dr. Sheri Sauer Kalbfleisch, Class of 1965, was an influential alumna and physician in the Louisville community. After she passed away, her husband, Paul Kalbfleisch, honored her memory and love of Mercy Academy with a two million dollar gift designated for a new Innovation Center on Mercy's campus.



MERCY BOLD
BE BOLD WITH MERCY



*Health Science Lab*

# By Mercy For Mercy

A unique and defining aspect of the **BOLD Capital Campaign** is the number of Mercy Academy graduates who are giving their time and professional expertise to ensure the success of this project.

From the researcher, real estate agent, and attorney, to the architect, engineers, and advisors - the all-female project team, comprised of many Mercy alumnae, have been at the forefront of building, advising and engineering the Mercy BOLD campaign from the very start.

***We are proud of and grateful for their investment in the next generation of Mercy's STEAM leaders!***



### Mariah Weyland Gratz '98

**Weyland Ventures**

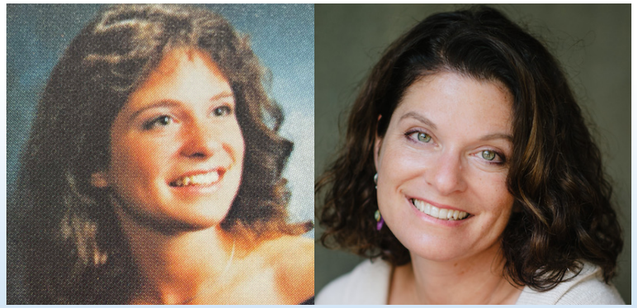
Developed the original conceptual design for the Innovation Center in 2017.



### Jenna Hollinden '12

**Pennington & Company**

Conducted the campaign feasibility study, interviewing Mercy's top donors and stakeholders.



### Peggy Hagerty Duffy '85

**Hagerty Engineering, Inc.**

Geotechnical Engineer, assisted with the acquisition of 5.5 acres of land adjacent to our current campus.





### Rhonda Karageorge '83

**Commonwealth Commercial Real Estate**

Served as the commercial real estate agent for the purchase of the adjacent property.



### Emily Meyer Ziegler '09

**Frost Brown Todd**

Real estate attorney who assisted with the purchase of 5.5 acres of land for $1.3 million.



### Erin Ruhl '05

**Omni Architects**

Architect for the Innovation Center, collaborating with Mercy's faculty and staff and advising on STEAM educational best practices to inform space design and capabilities.



### Abby Hans '19

**CMTA**

Mechanical Engineer designing the new facility to be Zero Energy Ready, with a geothermal heating and cooling system plus other design features that will reduce environmental impacts and lower operational costs.



### Ashley DeVault Zaring '01

**Humana**

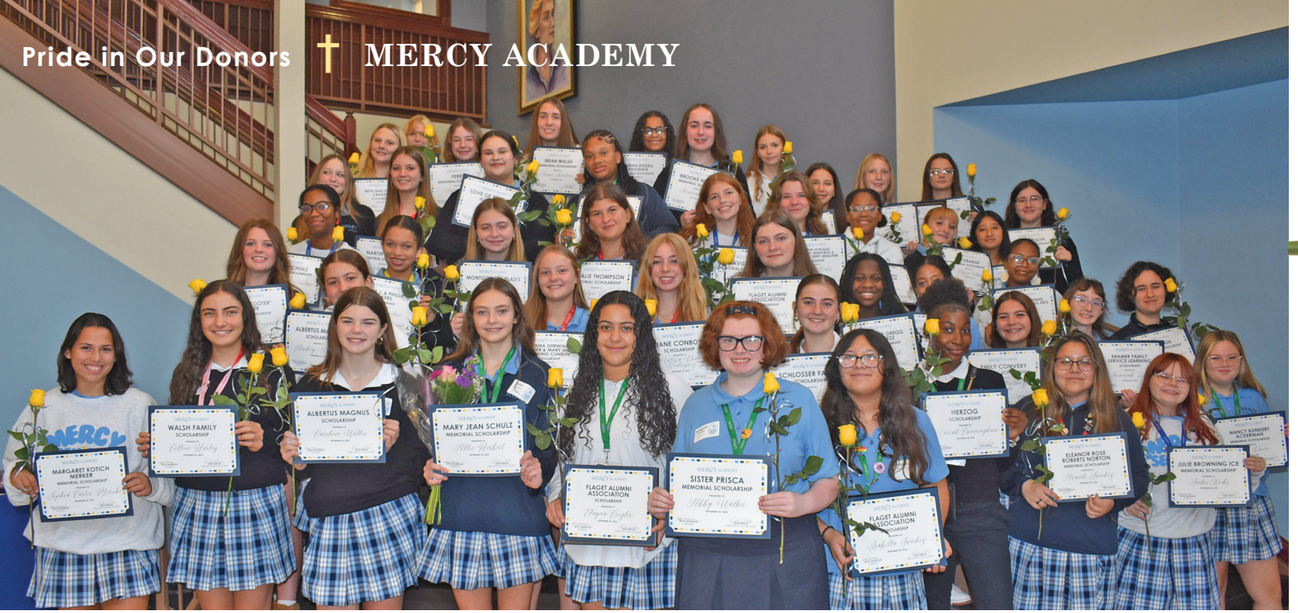
Providing her construction and IT experience to serve as the construction committee chair.



### Jennifer Nash Forst '99

**Jennifer Forst Communications**

Brand strategist and communications consultant providing marketing, PR, and storytelling support.



# Mercy Day *Scholarships*

Establishing a Mercy Day Scholarship is a wonderful way to honor or remember a loved one while providing tuition assistance to a current Mercy student. If you would like to establish a Mercy Day Scholarship, please contact Leslie Hibdon at **(502) 671-2010** or **lhibdon@mercyjaguars.com**.

## Scholarship Name:

- Adams Family
- Albertus Magnus
- Beth and Frank Craven
- Brian "Big Dog" Walsh Memorial
- Brooke Nicklies Memorial
- Carlton Family Mathematics
- Cebe Family
- Dr. Stephanie & Stephen A. Heitz Family
- Drew Wilson Memorial
- Eleanor Rose Roberts Norton Memorial
- Emily Convery Memorial
- Flaget Alumni Association
- Head Sisters
- Helen Dillon Mazzoli Memorial
- Herzog
- Jane Conboy
- Jennifer N. Harris Class of 2010
- Joe Nash Memorial
- Julie Browning Ice Memorial
- Karen Ramser Filcik
- Kitty Yocum Darst
- Kramer Family Service Learning
- Laura Schulz Memorial
- LaVerne Schlaug Gregory Memorial & Susan and Terry Meagher
- Lily Strange Memorial
- Linda Roalofs Memorial
- Love of Reading
- Margaret Kotich Merker Memorial
- Martin Napper Memorial
- Mary Alice Gregg Byerly 1922 Memorial
- Mary Jean Schulz Memorial
- Montgomery & Blazis
- Nancy J. and Phillip O. Akers
- Nancy Kundert Ackerman Memorial
- Natalie Thompson Memorial
- Norma Gerwing Bender & Mary Ann Gerwing Cundiff
- Norma Russell Ragsdale Memorial
- Patricia Ann "Patsy" Hartigan
- Patricia Higgins Memorial
- Perry Memorial
- Roalofs Spirit of Mercy
- Schlosser Family
- Scott "Scooter" Kremer Memorial
- Sheri Applegate Memorial
- Sister Mary Carmel Performing Arts
- Sister Mary Prisca Pfeffer Memorial
- Sisters at Mercy
- Travis Riley Memorial
- Tricia Banta Amburgey "Carpe Diem" Memorial
- Twyla Gollar Memorial
- Walsh Family



# *NEW* Scholarships:

### Cebe Family Scholarship

This scholarship was established to honor the Cebe family - Joan Cebe Birk '60, Carol Cebe Bornschein '63, Mary Cebe Cushing '67, and Susie Cebe Hoffman '70.





### Head Sisters Scholarship

This scholarship was established in 2025 by Bonna Head Taurman '49. She is proud of the education that Mercy Academy provided to herself and her sisters, Mary Delores Head Schaffner '54 and Sr. Mary Pelagia Head '48.

### Dr. Stephanie & Stephen A. Heitz Family Scholarship

The Dr. Stephanie & Stephen A. Heitz Family Scholarship was created to support students who value education, perseverance, and service to others. It honors a spirit of giving back by individuals working to make a difference in their communities. Rooted in the Mercy tradition, the scholarship is shaped by the values of compassion, justice, and a deep commitment to education. It also reflects Dr. Heitz's dedication to the mission of the Sisters of Mercy and carrying those values into daily life.





### Linda Roalofs Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship was established by the Roalofs family in 2025 to honor Linda Roalofs, a beloved past teacher at Mercy Academy. The scholarship is given to a graduate from St. Bernard.

**To learn more about each of our scholarships or to make a gift to a scholarship, visit www.mercyacademy.com/scholarships.**

# FEATURED *Scholarship*

## EMILY CONVERY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



Each year at the Mercy Day Scholarship Reception, sponsors of scholarships have the opportunity to meet the recipients of their scholarship. This year, one meeting seemed extra special as **Meghan Poole Wright '05** and **Maggie Stovall Blakeslee '05** attended to represent the Emily Convery Memorial Scholarship - the scholarship memorializing their dear friend and classmate.

Meghan and Maggie brought photos and shared memories with Elise, this year's scholarship recipient. Meghan, an English teacher at Mercy, said that every time she sees Elise in the halls, "I smile because I know that Emily's legacy as a Mercy girl lives on every year her scholarship is awarded. I also get to see the benefit of a Mercy education from a unique perspective as I watch that student grow through the year. I love not only sharing about Emily with the students but getting to know about the students that are impacted by her memorial."

**Emily Convery '05** was preparing for medical school when she became ill with mitochondrial disease. Despite her health struggles, she always had a positive attitude and a beautiful smile. After she passed in 2016, her loved ones established this scholarship to keep her memory alive.

Meghan and Maggie told Elise about Emily's dreams and health struggles, but, more than that, they shared just who Emily was as a person. Meghan said, "Emily had an infectious joy about her. She was kind and brilliant and driven. She loved being outdoors and in the sunshine. She was a competitive swimmer. She loved to water ski. She was an animal lover. She had a beautiful singing voice. She was a VERY good friend. She had freckles that would pop in the sun and a smile that could light up a room, but she also had a gentleness about her that put others at ease."




Emily was a true woman of Mercy and a beloved alumna, friend, and family member. We are proud to honor her each year with the Emily Convery Memorial Scholarship.

# WE CELEBRATE THE *Life* OF...




### MERCY ALUMNAE:

**1947 Genevieve Howard Cahill**

**1947 Mary Schupp Peter**
*Sister: Rita Schupp Smith '54*

**1949 Jean Hemmer Drexler**

**1951 Doris Vollmer Sostarich**
*Sister: Ruth Vollmer Schmuckie '53*

**1952 Mary Barb Arnold Unclebach**
*Daughter: Brenda Unclebach Conn '78*
*Niece: Marita Schmitt Justice '83*

**1953 Elizabeth Hamilton Cox**
*Sister: Patricia Hamilton '60*
*Sister: Frances Hamilton Gross '62*
*Sister: Charlene Hamilton Farmer '64*
*Granddaughter: Cortney Cox '08*

**1953 Marilyn Elliott Mitchell**
*Sister: Dorothy Elliott Weikel '55*

**1954 Joyce Voit McKiernan**
*Sister: Norma Voit Oeswein '57*
*Granddaughter: Tara McKiernan Burns '07*

**1954 Rita Schupp Smith**
*Sister: Mary Schupp Peter '47*

**1954 Helen Masterson Stewart**

**1955 Ruth Edelen Mattingly**
*Sister-in-law: Betty Herbert Edelen '48*

**1958 Carolyn Legler Wick**

**1959 Dolores "Dodie" Mooney Connell**

**1960 Pauline Pierce Oliver**

**1963 Linda Cox Kraft**

**1965 Nancy Penner Ault**

**1984 Nancy Rohleder Martin**
*Aunt: Karen Russ '56*
*Mother: Betty Russ Rohleder '60*
*Niece: Haley Rohleder '12*
*Niece: Morgan Rohleder '17*

**1986 Janice Kinney Cornell**
*Sister-in-Law: Vivian Kleinhenz Cornell '80*
*Sister: Carol Kinney Holliger '87*
*Niece: Emily Cornell '04*
*Niece: Abby Cornell Cahoe '05*
*Niece: Liz Cornell '08*
*Niece: Nina Cornell '12*

**1992 Sonja Oglesby**

**2005 Samantha Strange**

### FAMILY:

**Joe Aschbacher**
*Niece: Greta Aschbacher Hittle '06*
*Niece: Sadie Aschbacher Ray '08*

**Donald Brock**
*Sister: Cheryl Brock O'Leary '67*
*Sister: Janice Brock McHugh '71*
*Granddaughter: Emery Carey '28*

**Ernest Diebold**
*Wife: Barbara Eichert Diebold '57*

**George Feller**
*Sister-in-law: Rosemary Lichtefeld Feller '55*
*Niece: Theresa Feller '74*
*Niece: Mary Feller Keswani '78*
*Niece: Michelle Feller Bryant '80*

**John Fong**
*Daughter: Gabby Fong '12*
*Daughter: Olivia Fong '14*

**Phil Geevarghese**
*Wife: Brett Meyer '95*

**Ralph Gravatte**
*Niece: Dee Bacigalupi Riesenberg '90*
*Niece: Cindy Bacigalupi Broyles '84*
*Niece: Allison Bacigalupi Weiter '81*

**Vince Grenough**
*Daughter: Suzanne Grenough '94*

**Christy Higdon**
*Assistant Basketball Coach*

**Jack Ising, Jr.**
*Wife: Suzanne Owen Ising '67*
*Granddaughter: Olivia Ising '24*

**Henrietta Kaelin**
*Daughter: Karen Kaelin Lutes '78*
*Daughter: Pamela Kaelin Johnson '78*

**Catherine Klefot**
*Granddaughter: Shelly Klefot Cronen '05*
*Step-Great Granddaughter: Caroline Cronen '25*

**Peggy Korfhage**
*Daughter: Linda Korfhage Dauenhauer '85*
*Granddaughter: Jaclyn Dauenhauer '16*
*Granddaughter: Mackenzie Dauenhauer '19*

**Margaret McGaha**
*Granddaughter: Josie Jacobs '27*

**Roxane McNabb**
*Granddaughter: Maddie McNabb '26*

**John Murphy**
*Daughter: Meghan Murphy Brock '00*
*Granddaughter: Hannah Brock '27*

**Charlie Ogle**
*Granddaughter: Sydney Schaffer '21*
*Granddaughter: Laynie Schaffer '23*

**Phillip Passafiume, Jr.**
*Daughter: Gina Passafiume Dicken '74*
*Daughter: Laura Passafiume Koch '76*
*Granddaughter: Katie Dicken Pearson '00*
*Granddaughter: Becky Koch '07*
*Granddaughter: Kelly Koch Cooper '16*

**Ted Reverman**
*Daughter: Jennifer Reverman Coleman '86*
*Daughter: Cathy Reverman Bates '89*
*Granddaughter: Caroline Reverman '25*

**Linda Roalofs**
*Former Faculty*
*Daughter: Dr. Christine Roalofs '85*
*Daughter: Karen Roalofs '89*
*Daughter: Katie Roalofs Yann '92*
*Granddaughter: Jada Yann '22*

**William Schneider, Jr.**
*Daughter: Karen Schneider Franke '79*

**Charles "Chuck" Servino**
*Daughter: Kris Servino Schmitt '97*
*Daughter: Kate Servino Curtsinger '00*

**Bob Smith**
*Daughter-in-law: Kim Craven Smith '97*
*Granddaughter: Avery Smith '23*
*Granddaughter: Nora Smith '25*

**Mary Sternberg**
*Granddaughter: Brandi Ratterman Utley '11*
*Granddaughter: Lexie Ratterman '13*
*Granddaughter: Cassidy Ratterman Rinella '15*

**Ron Timmering**
*Daughter-in-Law: Beverly Bratcher Timmering '88*

**Jack Walsh**
*Sister: Charlotte Walsh Ruzanka '72*
*Sister: Susan Walsh '80*
*Sister: Angie Walsh Kleine-Kracht '81*
*Niece: Maggie Kleine-Kracht Edwards '13*
*Niece: Jeanna Kleine-Kracht Burkhead Cunningham '18*



Obituaries in the *JagWire* are based on information provided by members of the Mercy community. Please send information regarding the death of an individual to the Advancement Office by calling (502)671-2010 x2302 or by sending the information to Candace Cox at ccox@mercyjaguars.com.



*Mercy supported me. I was at Mercy for 21 years, and every day that I went there I was fulfilled. It made me a better woman.* ***I really feel that the support that Mercy gave me needs to be returned. That's what I'm hoping to do with my gift and my support in this campaign.***

*— Mary Mershon Reisert H'94*

*Former Teacher & Development Director*

# Ways to *Give*

**Supporting the Mercy BOLD Campaign is easy! Simply return the enclosed envelope to Mercy Academy with your pledge or one-time donation.** You can choose to designate your gift to the Innovation Center, Land Purchase, Tuition Assistance, or the Area of Greatest Need. Please make checks payable to Mercy Academy.

## Some additional ways to support the campaign:

### GIVE ONLINE

You can make a one-time gift or split your gift up over the course of months or years. Visit **www.mercyacademy.com/BOLD** or scan the QR code to donate.

### GIFTS OF STOCK & SECURITIES

We welcome gifts of stock. You can provide the following information to your broker, or provide them with the Stock Transfer Form at **www.mercyacademy.com/BOLD**.

Legal Name: Academy of Our Lady of Mercy
Federal Employer Identification Number: 61-1116388
DTC Number: 0015
Account Number: 034-034160
Broker: Morgan Stanley
Broker Contact: Contact the Perrone Wealth Management Group at (502)394-4063 with any questions or to confirm receipt of your gift.

### ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER

We can set up an automatic transfer of funds from your bank account each month, quarter, or year to pay your campaign pledge. If you are interested in this option, please include a voided check with your pledge.

### IRA QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION

If you are 70 ½ or older, you can give directly from your IRA to Mercy Academy. Beginning the year you turn 73, your gift can count towards all or part of your required minimum distribution. This can be a very tax-smart way to support the Mercy BOLD Campaign.

### DONOR-ADVISED FUND

You can make your gift to Mercy Academy through your established donor-advised fund.

### PLANNED GIVING

There are many ways to make a legacy gift to Mercy Academy. Those who notify us of their intentions are members of the 1885 Legacy Society.

**Some of the most common forms of planned giving are to:**

Make a simple bequest to Mercy Academy in your will after taking care of loved ones. You can bequeath a specific amount or a percentage of your estate.

Name Mercy Academy as the beneficiary of life insurance or retirement plans.

If you would like to discuss ways to support the Mercy BOLD Campaign, contact **Leslie Hibdon** at 502-671-2010 ext. 2212 or **lhibdon@mercyjaguars.com**.

***I would encourage every alumna to participate - there is no amount too small.*** *Mercy developed us into well-rounded young women. Really, it's giving back to a cause that has helped you as an individual to be successful. So many of us have daughters, and it's investing in their future and the experience they will have one day.*

*— Dr. Susie Williams, MD '00*

*Alumna & Board Member*



# KENNEDY SCOTT

## Class of 2017

## Art Therapist, Gilda's Club



It was during **Kennedy Scott's** time at Mercy that she learned she wanted to pursue a career in art. After changing career aspirations "weekly" in her younger days, Kennedy credits her art teachers at Mercy for not only nurturing her talent, but also expanding her awareness and understanding of career options in the art field.



"As a 14 year-old, I had no idea there were artistic careers in the world, but I was always a creative person and always a people person," says Kennedy.

"I took art all four years, which allowed me to discover what I was interested in and also cultivate relationships with my teachers, who were always willing to talk to me about a different kind of career path and the possibilities with art. It changed my life - it really did."

After graduating from Mercy in 2017, Kennedy attended the prestigious Savannah College of Art & Design (SCAD). Then, Kennedy returned to Louisville and pursued a Masters in Art Therapy at U of L; eager to combine two things she loved - art and working with people. Through this degree, Kennedy became trained in the "beautiful intersection" of art intervention and verbal psychotherapy.

Today, Kennedy is a licensed art therapist working at Gilda's Club, a free support community that offers a variety of programs and activities for people navigating cancer. Reflecting on her path to her career, Kennedy said, "It all stems from the foundation I received at Mercy. I carry that with me and I always have. It's allowed me to be who I am today."

In addition to looking back with pride on her Mercy experience, Kennedy also is looking forward to what the Mercy BOLD campaign will mean for future generations of students.

Because she has experienced the collaborative nature of both an arts education and career, she loves how different disciplines - from painting to ceramics to photography - plus more traditional STEM subjects, will be able to collaborate in the new Innovation Center.

"It's a beautiful thing to envision, that all of this will be housed under one roof. It all shares this common thread of creativity - inspiration will be able to fill the hallways," says Kennedy.

When asked how she will feel when the Dr. Sheri Kalbfleisch Innovation Center opens, Kennedy was emotional. "I loved my time at Mercy," she said, "and I want that experience for the next generation. Being able to be involved as an alumnae is very special to me - it's a full-circle moment."





# THE ST. ALBERT INITIATIVE:

## *Science and the Catholic Faith*



***"With science, we are asking 'how' questions. Faith is what asks the 'why' questions."***

*— Pat Burton*

On March 6, 2025, three teachers and thirty three students attended the **St. Albert Initiative: a half-day conference on faith and science.** This event, held at Bellarmine University, gave attendees the opportunity to hear from Catholic scientists in many different fields.

Students attended breakout sessions on artificial intelligence, astronomy, evolution and more.

"What we hope our students know is you can be Catholic and a scientist," said science teacher Pat Burton. "That can be a misconception, but there have always been Catholic scientists." Theology teacher Frances Ashbrook added that the conference showed students, "an openness about how we can communicate together. These topics are not in opposition."






Our **Women's Health and Fitness** class wrapped up their year with a celebratory color run.



In April, 86 alumnae, parents, and friends of Mercy attended our annual **Career Conference** to educate students about their professions.

In February, **Lorraine Carner** was named Athletic Director for Mercy Academy.





Our annual **Mother-Daughter Luncheon and Style Show** was held at the Marriott East. Students enjoyed an afternoon with important women in their life, and seniors modeled fashions from David's Bridal, Magnolia & Fig, Sandi's Styles, and XO by Sophia's.








Our Archery Jags placed third overall at the NASP State Tournament! Congratulations to **Megan Dawson '25** for being the third place overall high school girl and to **Brianna Shelburne '26** for being the first place overall high school girl!



**Izzie Yadon '26** placed first in the Biomedical and Health Sciences category at the Louisville Regional Science Fair! Her research project, A Model of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome: Chicken Embryos and Ethanol, involved countless hours of literature review and laboratory research. Congratulations, Izzie!




**Katie Sue Price '25** was named an All State Attorney at the Mock Trial state competition. Katie Sue has been involved in Mock Trial since attending the Mock Trial summer camp as a sixth grader.

Before Spring Break, Mercy welcomed the Fern Creek Fire Department and Louisville Metro Police to campus to educate our students about the dangers of drunk driving. After witnessing a realistic crash simulation of a fatal accident, students moved inside to hear from Theresa Martinez about the human cost of their choices. Theresa's daughter, **Ashley Martinez '08**, was tragically killed by a drunk driver. We are so grateful to these members of our community for taking the time to provide our students with the knowledge to make informed choices!



Our **cheerleading jaguars** competed in nationals in Orlando, FL





The **Fellowship of Mercy Athletes (FMA)** partnered with Trinity High School and the Community Catholic Center to support the Angel Tree Project.

In February, our Black Student Union held an all-school assembly to celebrate Black History Month. They welcomed alumnae **Rev. Linda Roberts Jackson '84**, **Autumn Camp '23**, and **Destiny Morris '24** as well as renowned vocalist Toni Green. It was a powerful event with music, poetry, and testimony directly from our Black students.





**OUR JUNIOR CLASS,** as well as a few seniors from our AP Government and Politics class, headed to Frankfort to advocate for important legislation with their senators and representatives.



Our **basketball jaguars** were the 6th Region champs and continued on to the state tournament at Rupp Arena in Lexington, KY.

Our **Future Business Leaders of America** had another successful year! 80 students attended the FBLA state competition, and 33 placed in the top five of their event. 14 of these students will be competing in Nationals this summer in Anaheim, California!









Thank you to all who attended our spring theatre performances of **Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella***! We had a great time performing this classic tale with a fun and colorful eighties twist.

**Laney O'Connell '26** received the Sheri Applegate Award, a scholarship in memory of **Sheri Applegate '84**, who tragically died in a car accident just days before graduation. The award is given to a rising senior who shares the qualities that made Sheri so special: someone unselfish and caring, a diligent worker seeking to fulfill the best in herself, someone willing to serve and help others, and someone who goes about her daily tasks with a spirit of joyfulness and fun.



## Congratulations to the Class of 2025!

Our newest alumnae were awarded over **$15.3 million in scholarships** and performed **28,285 hours of service** for the community.



# Save the Date

## REUNION WEEKEND



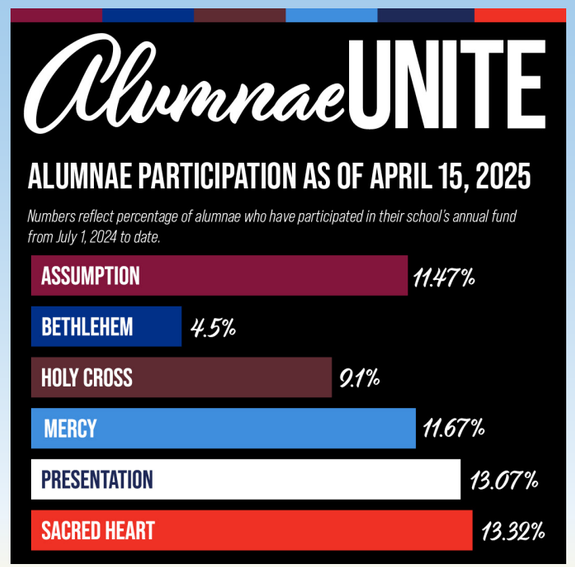
Reunion Weekend is **August 2** and **August 3, 2025**. We will be celebrating classes ending in **0's** and **5's**! To see if your class is planning an individual reunion, please check **www.mercyacademy.com/reunions**.

For help planning your class reunion, please contact **Emily Willis** at **ewillis@mercyjaguars.com**.

**Thank you to everyone who participated in the Alumnae Unite challenge!** Collectively, our six schools brought in over **$400,000** - a true win for Catholic education.

Our next t-shirt and cookie pick-up date will be during Reunion Weekend on August 2 and August 3. If you need to schedule an alternate time for pick-up, please contact Emily Willis at **ewillis@mercyjaguars.com**. Please note that cookies are only available on designated pick-up dates!




## Top 10 Classes by Participation

1. **1991** with **40.38%**
2. **1972** with **35.14%**
3. **1999** with **30.23%**
4. **1951** with **30.00%**
5. **1970** with **27.78%**
6. **1980** with **25.00%**
7. **1966** with **23.53%**
8. **1973** with **23.21%**
9. **2002** with **22.29%**
10. **1965** with **22.00%**







The **CLASS OF 1972**, gathered to celebrate the holidays in December 2024



**LONNIE WILLIAMS ALI '74** appeared on the TODAY show to discuss how her late husband Muhammad Ali's legacy lives on through the Muhammad Ali Center, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary. She also shared information from "The 2025 Compassion Report" - a landmark study of how compassion is shaped in America.



**JOHANNA SCHNERINGER WHEATLEY '86** was featured for Republic Bank in the Women's History Month edition of Business First. Johanna is a Treasury Management Officer with over 25 years of experience in banking.



**CARRIE HATFIELD '93** was recognized as one of the Top 50 Women Leaders of Louisville for 2024 by Women We Admire. Carrie has over 25 years of leadership experience in the healthcare industry.



**MEGAN ATKINS THOBEN '07** was a speaker at the 2025 Passenger Terminal Expo & Conference in Madrid, Spain. She shared how the Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport is working to make air travel more accessible for all travelers.



**KATIE ROLOAFS YANN '92** was inducted into the Louisville Catholic Sports Hall of Fame. She is pictured with former Athletic Director, Mark Evans, who was inducted last year!



**CHRISTIN LYNCH '08** welcomed Sage Elizabeth to her family on November 9, 2024.



**KATIE SPRADLIN WEATHERHOLT '08** welcomed Griffin James to her family on December 26, 2024.

**GENNY PRICE HUETT '09** welcomed Ethan to the world on November 26, 2024. Ethan is also the first grandchild of **Cecelia Hart Price '75.**





**MEGAN DOHERTY TASSIN '10** & Nicholas Tassin - November 2, 2024.



**LAUREN BEAHL DUTCHESHEN '12** & Matthew Dutcheshen - June 20, 2024.

**JACKIE STANDAFER '14** welcomed Salem Raye Bishop to the world on September 21, 2024.



**MEREDITH HELLENE DENARI '11** welcomed Eli James to her family on December 9, 2024. The Denari family lives in North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.



**KIMBERLY WILLIAMS '12**
& Samuel Souers - December 31, 2024.



The **CLASS OF 2015** celebrated their 10 Year Reunion at Hauck's Corner on February 28, 2025.



**LAUREN FARIS LONG '11** welcomed Hudson Brian to the world on January 31, 2025.





**ALICIA KALBFLEISCH SHAWLER '13** & US Navy Lt. Jacob Shawler - October 26, 2024. Alicia also has started her time as a private practice outpatient therapist in Virginia Beach, VA after working in an acute pediatric inpatient hospital setting for the past two years.



**KAITLYN BALLARD STOLTZ '15** welcomed Ella Grace to her family on September 25, 2024.

We would love to update your classmates on what is going on in your life. Please submit updates at **mercyacademy.com/jagwire**.

**LIZZIE GLASS O'DANIEL '16**
& Collin O'Daniel - December 21, 2024



**LYNSEY BEAHL '19**
welcomed Lexi Marie Rose to the world on August 11, 2024.






**GABBY GIVENS '22** graduated from Paul Mitchell and is now beginning her career as a cosmetologist at Pure Salon Spa.



**ALEXIS ALLEN '16** welcomed Emersyn Marie to her family on July 26, 2024.




**KRISTEN GRAAS '20** presented two research posters at the Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists (SAAS) Conference in Irving, Texas.

**MADISON SCHMITT JEROME '16** & Anthony Jerome - September 7, 2024.



**ELENA SCOTT '21**
played in the NCAA Championship game for University of Louisville Volleyball, and also won ACC Defensive Player of the Year for the second year in a row. Elena now plays for Indy Ignite, Indiana's first professional volleyball team.




We hosted our annual **Young Alumnae Homecoming** on December 19, 2025. We welcomed members of the classes of **2020, 2021, 2022, 2023** and **2024** back to campus to visit with classmates and teachers, explore the building, and, of course, enjoy a Mercy cookie!



# BOB'S BIRTHDAY BASH

## 30TH ANNUAL BENEFIT OFF BROADWAY

### *$281,392 raised to benefit our tuition assistance program*

Happy Birthday, BOB! On February 8, 2025, we gathered for the **30th Annual Benefit Off Broadway**. Thank you to everyone who participated by attending, purchasing chances, bidding during the silent and live auction, volunteering their time, and more! A complete list of winners can be found on our website.




Congratulations to our **$25,000 Capital Prize winners**, Kristen and Ryan Frey, and their daughter, Lily Frey '28. Lily received a $50 gift card to the campus store for selling the winning ticket!





## *Thank you, Benefit Off Broadway Sponsors!*

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# Save THE Date

Feb. 14, 2026

**Blue Valentine Benefit Off Broadway** is **February 14, 2026**. Grab your Valentine or your Galentines, and join us for an all-inclusive Valentine's Day experience with dinner, dancing, drinks, and plenty of Mercy spirit.




### Blue Valentine Through the Decades

Whether called **Blue Valentine** or simply the Valentine's Dance, this event was a treasured tradition for generations of Mercy students.

