Dear Members of our Mercy High School Community,

Spring is always a time for new beginnings, for starting again to grow and to stretch in the direction of our desires. This spring is no exception. On January 24th we formally re-established our local Mercy High School Board of Directors and entrusted to them responsibility for the oversight of Mercy’s educational mission. Sr. Judith Frikker, President of the West Midwest Community of the Sisters of Mercy and other members of the Sisters’ leadership team and I ritualized this moment at a special Missioning ceremony that evening. I am so grateful for the generosity and commitment that the members of our new Board bring to us.

The Sisters of Mercy leadership team has appointed the following persons to guide Mercy into the future:

- Penny Stack Alexander, ’78
- Kelli Benz
- Sr. Judy Cannon, RSM
- Bart Gaul
- Bob Grassilli
- Stacey Longwich, ’98
- Carol Kelley
- Sr. Mary Kilgariff, RSM
- Clare Pool Purpura, ’75
- Sr. Katherine Doyle, RSM (ex-officio)

In the coming months we will continue to recruit additional members to our Board. This is an important work, one which can never be underestimated. The duties of Mercy’s Board are formidable. They take on the responsibility for fiscal management, strategic planning, integrity of mission and academic excellence. They set the over-all vision and policy which guides the life of the school. Together with our new President they will focus the vision that will shape the form and dynamism of Mercy in the 21st century. That is why I am so excited to have this wonderful group of Mercy partners to tend the Mercy mission and our service to all our students and family.

Each member of our new Board has said “Yes” because they deeply believe in our mission. Catherine McAuley saw that the education of women for fullness of life, for leadership in shaping society was a vital work of mercy. Educating young women to make a difference in the world is a work that calls forth our best efforts. I know that every member of the Board has that vision seared in their hearts and minds. Please remember them in your prayers as they begin this new work.

Blessings,

Sr. Katherine Doyle RSM
Interim President, Mercy High School
The Art of Mercy

SF Zoomobile visits Mercy...

A new approach for exploring life drawing, art students in Honors and Advanced Art drew from live animals courtesy of the San Francisco Zoomobile. Mercy is the first high school in the area to have such a visit from the SF Zoo. Students drew, painted and photographed from a small menagerie of animals that came from the Education Department; including a baby alligator and a chinchilla. This is an example of how students expand their awareness of Visual Arts throughout their four years of Art offered at Mercy. The Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising is one art school that visits Foundation Art 1 students as they begin as freshman, learning how to draw and paint. Intermediate Art 2 students every year tour the Walt Disney Family Museum and learn about careers in the arts. Honors Art 3 and AP 2D Art students receive a private art tour of the Cantor Arts Center at Stanford. These students are also members of the National Art Honor Society and in keeping with our mission of global awareness and service they create, every year, portraits for orphans around the world for the Memory Project.

In addition to Art, the Visual Arts program at Mercy includes the in depth study of Ceramics and Photography. Mercy offers three years of Ceramics, including Honors 3, which receives a private Rodin Sculpture Tour at Cantor Arts Center every year and will be visiting the Heath Ceramics Factory for a private tour of their process of creating functional and thoughtfully designed pieces found in restaurants, homes and museums. Ceramics, Photography and Art all have digital portfolio websites that feature the ongoing works by Mercy students. The works of all visual artists at Mercy are displayed yearly at our annual Mercy Art Fest, which occurs in May. —Nazira Kury Arnold ’98, Mercy Art Teacher
Freshmen Hadley Popa & Daniella Simi named Finalists in the Photographer’s Forum

Journalism and photography instructor Marie Durquet was thrilled when she learned that Freshmen Hadley Popa & Daniella Simi had been named as finalist in the 33rd Annual College & High School Photography Contest. Hadley’s photo is pictured at left and Daniella’s photo is at right. This contest, co-sponsored by Nikon, had over 16,000 photographs submitted from the U.S., Canada and around the world. Their work will appear in this year’s edition of the Best of College & High School Photography 2013. Final judging is now underway, and notification will be announced sometime in February. We wish Hadley and Daniella well in this next round of judging!
Welcome New Board of Directors!

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So we all have the iPad...now what?!

As news of Mercy’s all inclusive iPad program has spread, the school has received a lot of attention from the local tech community. Here are some highlights:

• Representatives from Steelcase Education Solutions observed our classrooms to see how the iPad is integrated in the classroom. Steelcase focuses on helping schools create effective, rewarding and inspiring learning environments to meet the evolving needs of students and educators. The representatives from their research division gathered information from our classroom environments, and also provided suggestions and feedback while sharing their expertise for innovation in furniture, tools and technologies for learning spaces. During the visit, they found out about the renovations to our Biology labs and offered many options for smarter, active learning spaces. http://www.steelcase.com/en/products/category/educational/pages/overview.aspx

• In December, the founder/president/CEO of Exo-Labs presented the Focus Microscope Camera for the iPad to members of the Mercy science department. The Focus Microscope Camera can be used with any standard microscope to stream live images and video to an iPad, iPhone, or iPod Touch. Their free apps allow you to capture and share content, perform measurements, and create annotations. We are hoping to work together in a pilot program to incorporate their equipment in our science labs and provide feedback and suggestions in the evolution of the product. http://www.exo-labs.com/index.php

• Mercy recognizes the importance of keeping our faculty and student body well trained on the iPad. Students learn new skills on a consistent basis from their instructors, counselors, members of the resource centers and of course their classmates. Additionally, professional development is provided both on and off campus for staff several times a year. The possibility of offering workshop training for parents and elementary school faculty and staff is in conversation as well.
Marka Ballard Signs to Play Softball for Kutztown University

Surrounded by her parents, Mercy High School senior Marka Ballard of Redwood City signed her Letter of Intent to play softball with Kutztown University on November 14, 2012. Marka is excited to be chosen to play for Kutztown as they are the fourth ranked Division 2 softball team in the United States. Marka Ballard is last season’s MVP and was runner up for conference player of the year. She is a terrific all around athlete and is an extremely hard worker and dedicated softball player. Mercy High School Athletic Director (pictured above at right) Daniella Gilmartin-Matteucci ’04 stated “Marka’s pitching, hitting, and fielding are key for Mercy softball as they look to win another WBAL title. Marka’s love, skill, and knowledge of the game will serve her well in her collegiate career.”

Mercy Dance Rocks!!!

What a year it’s shaping up to be for the Mercy Dance Program! Both Varsity and Junior Varsity Song Pom/Dance teams qualified for the USA Nationals Dance and Cheer competition which will take place in Anaheim California in March 2013. Continuing with that winning tradition both Varsity and the Hip Hop dance team competed at two Jamz Dance championships! Mercy Hip Hop received two first place wins and a bid to Jamz Nationals while Varsity Pom brought home two second place wins while scoring a bid to Jamz nationals held at the Orleans Arena in Las Vegas!

Mercy’s Dance Program offers an extensive array of dance technique classes. All dance classes are taught in our professional on-campus dance studio by instructors with experience as professional dancers and/or choreographers. In addition, students have the chance to study with world-renowned artists in our guest artist programs. A vast array of styles of dance are taken during the year including but not limited to tap, jazz, ballet, modern, African and ethnic dances. Advanced dance classes require prerequisites and a placement audition. Our mission is to provide students with the opportunity to study in a professional environment that encourages creativity, commitment and achievement. The development of the whole student through artistic expression, technique, discipline, cultural awareness and community involvement provides a basis for success in all aspects of life as well as a foundation for further study in the arts.

—Gary Ferguson, Dance Instructor/Coach
Mercy Parents’ Club (MPC) kicked off the school year with the President’s Barbeque in August, the 2nd Annual Wine Tasting & Sale in September, the Mother Daughter Tea in October and Casino del Kohl in November. Funds raised from this year’s MPC events will go toward renovation of the Biology labs. MPC encourages all parents to get involved. Spring events include Father Daughter Dance, Faculty Staff Appreciation Lunch, Come Sail Away! - our 2013 auction and our Athletic Department fundraiser - Mexican Fiesta! Make sure to visit the Parents section of our website at www.mercyhsb.com for details about any of these events.

Photos taken at Mercy Parents’ Club events: left page - President’s Welcome BBQ; Mercy’s Wine Tasting & Sale and Casino del Kohl: right page (top) Mother Daughter Tea (bottom) more Casino Del Kohl.
The Mercy Parents’ Club invites you to...

Come Sail Away!

Mercy’s 30th Annual Auction & Dinner!

Saturday, March 9, 2013
5:30 pm • Kohl Mansion

Funds raised from 2012-2013 Mercy Parents’ Club events will go toward renovation of the Biology labs.

$100 per person

Silent Auction • Live Auction • Student Performances
Hors d’oeuvres • No Host Cocktails • Dinner • Dancing

For more information regarding the event, sponsorships or donating auction items, contact Event Coordinator Patricia Glasser at 650-762-1199 or pglasser@mercyhsb.com.
On Campus

The Heart of Mercy
Faculty/Staff Honored

On Mercy Day the following Faculty and Staff were honored for dedicating themselves to the Mercy Community and making a difference in the lives of our students. A heartfelt thank you!

40 years
Mary Louise Castillo

35 years
Joan Nocetti
Jeanne Biernat

30 years
Cathy Fontaine

25 years
Liz Barthe

20 years
Pam Matthews

15 years
Dianne Devin

10 years
Nadine Baroudi
Lynn Beal
Kay Carter

5 years
Christine Folan
Darrell Justus
Kathy McKay

Mercy Day!

In September, the Mercy Community celebrated their connection to the larger Mercy family through our annual Mercy Week celebrations. During this funfilled week, the girls participated in many activities to celebrate Mercy and to welcome the Freshmen Class of 2016! Mercy Day celebrations take place throughout the world as Mercy schools, hospitals and other service organizations celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy. On September 24, 1827, Catherine McAuley, the foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, dedicated the first House of Mercy in Dublin, Ireland. The House of Mercy served as a shelter for women in need, a school for children and at times a soup kitchen for the hungry.

At Mercy Burlingame, Mercy Day began with an all school photo taken on the patio near the mansion followed by a beautiful Prayer Service in the Motherhouse Chapel. At the prayer service, Jesse Manibusan, an internationally known youth singer who has performed at World Youth Day and for Pope John Paul II, gave an inspirational and powerful performance and had the whole student body singing along with him. The students then changed into their class colors and the day continued with a barbecue luncheon, games, skits, and a spirited rally on “the green.”
What’s Mole Day?

Honors Chemistry classes celebrated MOLE DAY on October 23rd from 6:02 am to 6:02 pm. The mole is a number (6.02 x 10^23) that is used in chemistry to help with calculations of very small particles (atoms, molecules, etc.). It is a unit; just like 12 is a dozen. The date comes from the numbers in the value 10^23 which dictate Oct. 23rd, while the time comes from the 6.02. All students in the class made a “mole”. They then voted on the moles from their class (most original, cutest, ugliest, best dressed...the categories are decided upon by each class). All students received an email card at 6:02 am wishing them a Happy Mole Day! Students brought in snacks like MOLElasses cookies, guaca-mole dip and chips, sang mole songs, made mole cards, and some had mole races.

Senior Amanda Odasz Receives Peninsula Arts Council 2012 Diamond Award

The Peninsula Arts Council presented San Mateo County’s Arts Hall of Fame Awards at the 11th Annual Diamond Awards Benefit Gala on January 25th. The Diamond Awards recognize ten individuals and organizations, in nine categories, for their outstanding artistic achievements and contributions to the arts in San Mateo County. Of over 60 nominations received through an open call, the Peninsula Arts Council and guest judges had the daunting task of narrowing down the finalists and selecting the final 10 recipients. Mercy’s Amanda Odasz ’12 was one of the ten new honorees and will join a roster of over 100 artists and organizations who have received this prestigious award over the event’s 10-year history. “These awards are about recognizing all aspects of our arts eco system and showcasing the individuals and organizations who advance the arts in San Mateo County,” notes Julie Fellers, President of Peninsula Arts Council.
Mercy’s **Cross Country** team finished second in league advancing them to the Division IV CCS Championships where the team finished in 6th place overall. This is the highest achievement the Cross Country team has made in Mercy’s history! The **Varsity Volleyball** team tied for first place in the WBAL Skyline Division and competed through the quarter finals in the CCS Division IV Playoffs. Mercy **Golf** had a standout athlete this year, Senior Miranda Wiss finished 16th out of 90 as an Individual Competitor in the CCS Golf Championships. Congratulations to our **Water Polo** and **Tennis** teams for a good season all around! With the success of the fall season, over 15 Mercy athletes made 1st and 2nd All League teams and Honorable Mention. The **Varsity and Junior Varsity Song Pom** teams qualified for the USA Nationals Competition which will take place in Anaheim California in March 2013. The **Cheer** team also qualified for USA Nationals with their first place finish in the James Logan High School Regional Competition. **Please follow us on twitter or visit our website** [www.mercyhsb.com](http://www.mercyhsb.com) **for more immediate updates.**
Class Trips

Seniors - Giants Game!

The SF Giants Senior Tri-School event on September 7th was a success for both Mercy HSB and the Giants! While Scutaro hit a tiebreaking, two-run single in the seventh inning that broke his bat, and the San Francisco Giants beat the rival Dodgers 5-2 on Friday night to extend their NL West lead, the Mercy Seniors did something even more impressive: THEY HAD OVER 80 STUDENTS ATTEND THE GAME! A record. The evening was full of garlic fries, panda hats and jumbo-tron appearances.

Juniors - Six Flags!

On September 8th, the Mercy Juniors had their most successful class trip ever. 60 students attended Six Flags Discovery Theme Park in Vallejo. Throughout the day, they could be spotted wearing capes, cheering at the wildlife shows and screaming while riding some of the scariest coasters in California. The trip seemed very appropriate, given that their class theme is the Junior Justice League!

Fall Play a Success!

This past fall, Tri-School Productions students presented Carlo Goldoni’s *The Servant of Two Masters*. The classic “comedia” play electrified the stage. The plot being a humble who finds himself in search of a master to take care of him. Not only does he find one master, he finds two! “The plays was hilarious, and fun for all ages,” said Mercy sophomore Maggie Eichler, “This was my first time doing a Tri-School production. I had a great time with the cast!”

Don’t miss...

Students at Mercy engage the community around them both locally and globally. Students participate in direct service, develop a sense of empathy for others and engage in social analysis. Our Service Learning, Urban Plunge and Immersion programs reflect the dedication of Catherine McAuley and the Sisters of Mercy to those in need. Such programs offer students the opportunity to immerse themselves in the struggles of others and create a global view of social justice.

Mercy students volunteer more than 9,000 hours annually in areas such as: serving the hungry, visiting the sick and elderly, tutoring, and building homes for the homeless. Students have traveled to Ecuador to minister to the blind and deaf, Martinique and Salinas to work with agricultural communities, New Orleans to build houses, and Chicago to serve those with developmental disabilities. Such opportunities encourage students to respond to the gospel call to serve those less fortunate.

Locally, our students reach out to the Burlingame community as they provide service at: Shelter Network, Mills Estate Villa, Stepping Stones Preschool, Burlingame Long Term Care Center, St. Paul’s Church, and an alzheimer care home. In addition, members of the Mercy Pom teams participated in the Burlingame holiday parade, the Advanced/Honors Chorale sang at the Burlingame Women’s Center and the Interact Club brought teddy bears to several local organizations and are making Valentine’s Day cards for the cardiac unit at Peninsula Hospital.

Mercy High School Burlingame students and faculty joined seven other schools at the Ignatian Solidarity Network’s Arrupe Leaders Summit from January 18-20, 2013. The Arrupe Leadership Summit invited emerging student leaders for social justice to spend a weekend strengthening their capacity to effect positive social change while deepening their understanding of the relationship between faith and justice emphasized in the spirituality of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Full story available on website.
Ciara Travels to Tanzania

Last summer, Ciara Fitzpatrick ‘15, (pictured second from right) traveled to Bukoba, Tanzania with a delegation of five people to visit the Sisters of Theresian AIDS Orphanage there. The purpose of the trip was to celebrate the completion of the Orphan Center which took seven years to build. The Orphanage was funded by the generous donations of many friends and family here in the United States. For Ciara, this was an eye opening experience which changed her life. She will continue to dedicate efforts to the children of the orphanage and the Sisters of Theresian, Bukuba.

Urban Plunge

Mercy’s Urban Plunge is an overnight opportunity for students to serve and learn from people who are homeless. Students and faculty go to various homeless shelters, listen to stories, play board games, eat meals, make crafts with kids, and visit a homeless encampment. As a group, they reflect on their experiences in a faith context and it is important that the girls are able to support one another and be open to sharing their reflections with others. Mercy’s Urban Plunge is designed to “plunge” students into the life experience of those who are homeless, to learn from them and develop hearts that can respond with compassion to their needs. While the experience is short (only two days), the impact is great and leaves an indelible mark on the girls’ minds and hearts.

Honoring Kate...

This year, the Service and Justice Core Team is honoring Mercy students who go above and beyond in service to our community. Sophomore Kate Nappi was honored in October. Kate served for two weeks this past summer at a camp for people with disabilities where she participated in daily activities with the campers doing arts and crafts, hiking, and even the basics like helping them pick out their outfits. Kate found a new passion in working with people with disabilities and even hopes to incorporate that into her future career by becoming an occupational therapist.
Catherine’s Companions...

Catherine’s Companions is a wonderful program started by our Campus Ministry and Campus Service Learning Coordinator, Jessica Mueller. It is a way for the girls and Sisters of Mercy who are living on campus in the Marian Oaks to connect and share experiences! Senior, Allison Cox got started with Catherine’s Companions about three years ago and currently serves as the club President. Monthly, 12-15 girls and 25 Sisters gather enjoying a themed activity. The girls and Sisters get together and might share a “comfortable cup of tea” as Catherine did all those years ago, play Bingo, or work on a project such as the “no sew” blankets that they create for the homeless.

When Jessica started meeting with the group, she went home and told her mom about this new Club, and that she had met Sister Mary Joanne DeVincenti. Her mom was thrilled and told her “Oh, your Grandmother knows her – they all grew up together and were good friends with another Priest, that is a family friend, and so started this special bond between the two of them. Allison stated “how fun it is to connect with the Sisters, to get to know them personally, and that although they are a generation apart, the gap lessens as they enjoy TV shows and share similar interests in books and activities.

Interact Club Carols with the Sisters!

Mercy students in the interact Club, along with Mercy teacher/Interact Club moderator Cynthia Yabes, joined in song with the Marian Convent Sisters of Mercy enjoying each other’s company and singing Christmas Carols.
Catherine’s Legacy

With deep appreciation, we would like to remember and thank the following donors who are members of our Catherine’s Legacy Society. The following bequests were received this school year:

Jeanne Ward Bone ’36
Sr. Marian Curran, RSM ’40
Janet Galeno ’69
Clare Carey Willard ’43

We are proud to announce that the bequest by Jeanne Ward Bone is the second largest gift in Mercy’s history and will support tuition assistance for our students. The gifts from Sr. Marian Clare and Clare Carey Willard also support named scholarships for our girls and Janet’s gift is to the overall support of the high school. Thank you Jeanne, Sr. Marian, Janet and Clare! You will help current and future girls benefit from a Mercy education for years to come!

Throughout our history, Mercy has continued to benefit from planned gifts. When you make a planned gift to Mercy, you will have the reassurance that your gift will be invested prudently and will provide you with the peace of mind and personal satisfaction that your generosity will impact countless students and faculty in a meaningful way, far, far into the future. Planned gifts could have numerous impacts on Mercy from increased tuition assistance, building renovations, as well as facility and program enhancements.

To those who have already created a planned gift, I extend my warmest thanks. To those who have not yet done so, I would only encourage you to prayerfully consider it. Each gift builds a bigger and better Mercy High School.

For information on Mercy’s planned giving program, please find extensive information on our website or contact Mary Lund, Director of Advancement at mlund@mercyhsb.com or 650.762.1190. Please let us know if you have remembered Mercy in your will.
Welcome Alumnae Daughters!

This year, Mercy High School was excited to have eight Alumnae daughters in the Class of 2016!

Class of 2016 alumnae daughters and their moms: left to right top row— Angelica Arnold, daughter of Rita Raffo Arnold ’75; Silvana Hoffman, daughter of Jane Antonini Hoffman ’88; Allison Koehler, daughter of Tracy Brady Koehler ’93; Sarah Pieri, daughter of Denise Barbegelata Pieri ’89. Bottom row left to right: Jessica Barri, daughter of Katie Olson Barri ’81; Shannon Grady, daughter of Colette Regan Grady ’82; Jacqueline Almes, daughter of Brenda Palala Almes ’82; Graeson Fee, daughter of Stephanie Ashe-Fee ’81.

Mercy’s New Athletic Director

Daniella Gilmartin-Matteucci ’04

For the 2012-2013 school year Mercy appointed alumna Daniella Gilmartin-Matteucci ’04 as our new Athletic Director. Daniella has taught physical education, coached Mercy’s Water Polo and Soccer teams and is a graduate of St. Mary’s College majoring in Kinesiology.
Taking Control

Rachel Quizon ’08, a nursing student at Dominican University of California, gave a presentation to Pat Bradley’s Anatomy/Physiology class on adolescents and breast cancer. The presentation was part of her senior thesis and focused on the importance of young women learning about normal and abnormal breast anatomy. Although adolescent girls are not a high risk group for breast cancer, they must still be aware of risk factors and understand how to take action should they see something that might be considered abnormal.

Nancy Cafferata Gorell ‘76

National Corporate Secretary
National Navy League of the United States

Nancy Cafferata Gorrell (center) shared with us the photo, taken by Lisa Nipp, which was featured in the 2013 SeaPower Almanac. Nancy serves as the National Corporate Secretary for the National Navy League*. The Navy League of the United States* (NLUS) was founded in 1902 with the encouragement of President Theodore Roosevelt. The Navy League is a volunteer organization and provides a powerful voice for a stronger sea service to Congress and to the American people. The Navy League has grown into the foremost citizens’ organization to serve, support, and stand with all the sea services – U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Coast Guard and U.S.-flag Merchant Marine. The Navy League is comprised of 46,000 civilians in more than 250 councils around the world working to support sea service members and their families. To learn more about the National Navy League of the United States visit their website at http://www.navyleague.org/.

College—what is it Like?

In January, 17 Mercy graduates returned to campus to speak to our juniors and seniors about college life. As our seniors completed the college application process they now await acceptance letters and face the daunting task of determining which college/university will be the best fit for their next four years. The college students spoke about how they chose the college they are attending, the challenges of adjusting to college life - leaving your old friends and making new ones, homesickness, deciding whether or not to “rush” in a sorority, time management and, overall, how to be successful in college.
Homecoming 2013, Sept. 15th! All Mercy alumnae are invited, reunion classes ending in “3” and “8” will be honored. **Reunion Classes** — we invite you to hold your reunion at Homecoming. Rooms and tables will be reserved based upon the number of classmates in attendance. This year’s reunion classes include ‘38, ’43, ’48, ’53, ’58, ’63, ’68, ’73, ’78, ’83, ’88, ’93, ’98, 2003 and 2008! We would be happy to assist you in planning your reunion by providing, class lists, lables or any help you might need to make the day special. Please contact Mary Lund in the Advancement Office 650.762.1190 for further assistance. Reservations are $55 per person and may be made online at Mercy’s website www.mercyhsb.com. Please let us know about all reunions, we will post them on the Mercy website.
Over 200 Mercy alums celebrated reunions and renewed friendships at the 2012 Homecoming! The “girls” talked, laughed and reminisced about their wonderful years at Mercy. There were members from the Class of 1947 to the Class of 2007 present! The day began with “Coffee with the Sisters,” followed by Mass in the Motherhouse Chapel and a catered lunch in the Great Hall. Don’t miss Homecoming 2013, Sept. 15th! All Mercy alumnae are invited, reunion classes ending in “3” and “8” will be honored.
Calling All Alums!  Let us know what you are up to!  We love to have information for the Class Notes section of the Oaks, as well as information we can use in an article!  Use the enclosed envelope to send us your news and photo or e-mail us at alumnae@mercyhsb.com.  We look forward to hearing from you soon!

1956
Cecilia Monahan Wilkinson writes, “Married 50 years, recently celebrated our 50th on the occasion of our 1st grandchild’s wedding, wonderful day! Retired RN for 6 years loved my years of nursing and enjoying retirement; Eucharistic Minister and minister to the homebound and convalescent home; member Our Lady of Solitude altar society, help with altar linens and care of the altar.”

1960
Barbara Rose (Bobbie) Thiemann Billings (photo above) writes, “The three of us, (me, Kathleen Emrey ’60 and Trish McLaughlin McMahon ’60) get together for lunch several times throughout the year to remember our time at Mercy and to catch up on our lives today.  Recently we celebrated turning 70!”

1963
Lolita Alonso de Leeuw and her sister Anita Alonso Eden ’58 completed the Camino de Santiago on October 10, 2012.  The Camino is an ancient path well-known for it’s historical and spiritual significance.  Lolita writes, “It was a fantastic adventure walking through miles of vineyards, arrows and scallop shells and we always felt perfectly safe.  We lived out of our backpacks, stayed in albergues and thoroughly enjoyed different regional interpretations of the “menu del dia”.  Even sang Sister Vivian’s song, “Somos Amigas” along the way.  Our motto was “Sin dolor, no hay gloria”.  Also, took a side trip to La Coruna which was the birth place of our father.  It was the trip of a lifetime for both of us!”

1964
Pat Brislin Middleton (photos p. 25) writes, I am a real estate broker in northern California.  I have 2 daughters and 5 granddaughters, ages 7, twins at 9, 11 and 16 years old.  I wish they could all go to Mercy High School.  Our Catholic schools are mostly closed up here due to our economy.  I feel it is a great loss to this community.  My daughter Shevaun is a high school vice principal.  My daughter Rebecca works for a venture capitalist firm in Menlo Park, CA.”

1965
Melanie Allen Taylor (photo p. 25) writes, “I have pic from a small gathering of ’65 grads , we are all turning ’65 this year!”

1966
Cheri Kistner Romig is President of the Laguna Beach Board of Realtors-2013.

1967
Suzanne Michelony temporarily left retirement to take over the Principal/ Superintendency of a charter school in Chico, Ca.  Suzanne writes, “Will return to travels and artwork in January when my newly hired replacement takes over.”

1969
Diane Flynn Keith is an alternative education specialist, parenting coach, and author of the best-selling book, Carschooling: Over 350 Entertaining
Games & Activities To Turn Travel Time Into Learning Time. Diane is the Editor-In-Chief of Homefires.com, and is recognized internationally as an expert in education outside the traditional classroom walls. For the past 20 years, Diane has been a featured guest expert on alternative education for major media networks including ABC, CBS, NBC, and PBS, and is a popular Keynote Speaker at education conferences throughout the U.S. Diane’s brand new book, “Papa’s Pearls: A Father’s Gift of Love and Wisdom to His Children and Grandchildren,” is a tribute to her father, Carol J. Flynn, who died in December of 2011. The book shares his quirky sayings and loving customs that are keys for how to live an extraordinary life. Diane lives with her husband of 35 years, Cliff Keith, in Redwood City, CA, where they raised their two sons, Nick and Chad.

1972

Liz Fajardo (photos) writes, “We had a blast at our 40th reunion!”

Kathy Houle Maddox (photos) (Senior Class President) On September 15th, the Mercy class of ’72 celebrated their 40th reunion at Embassy Suites in Burlingame with 65 classmates in attendance. Kathy Houle Maddox planned the event with Chris DeMattei Phillips, Joan Monaghan, Cathy Dunleavy Rosaia, Barbara Julius, Cathy Lehaney Myers, and Marian Rouse. The evening kicked off with a no-host cocktail hour and lots of screams and laughter as former classmates entered the party room. Throughout the dinner hour, Cathy Myers and Marian Rouse raffled off donated prizes with all proceeds going to the Mercy Making a Difference scholarship program. $1150 was generated for the program. The party lasted until midnight with lots of laughter, reminiscing, pictures, dancing and singing. Lifelong friendships were reinforced with lots of email and phone numbers shared by everyone. The night ended with a group sing-along of the Mercy fight song and alma mater, “All Hail Mercy High.” 38 Alumnae also attended the Mercy Homecoming the very next day. The Class of ’72 shares updates and photos on their Facebook page at http://www.facebook.com/Mercy1972.

Eugenia Paine Rapasky (photo) “Great time at the Mercy High School class of 1972 - 40th Reunion with good friends at the Embassy Suites, Burlingame, CA, on September 15th. The reunion committee did an outstanding job!”

1970

Valerie Paoli Oliver writes, “That little infant boy I brought to the 25th reunion is graduating from Serra this year. I remember being at the Kohl mansion, in the auditorium, with Sam. My how time flies! He is my third. My 20 year old daughter is at UPENN and my 23 year old son is figuring life out! Let’s plan another class reunion soon!”

1972

Valerie Paoli Oliver writes, “That little infant boy I brought to the 25th reunion is graduating from Serra this year. I remember being at the Kohl mansion, in the auditorium, with Sam. My how time flies! He is my third. My 20 year old daughter is at UPENN and my 23 year old son is figuring life out! Let’s plan another class reunion soon!”

1972
1973
Cheryl Landucci McFall welcomed a baby granddaughter, Hannah Marie Massaro - she was named after Cheryl's mom (deceased). She was born on 12/10/12 at 4:33 am and weighed in at 6 lbs 5 oz. She was born at Sequoia Hospital in Redwood City. Cheryl's daughter Tracy and son-in-law John Massaro live in San Carlos.

1975
Katherine McInnis McCoy ’73, grandson Aiden and husband Craig. Nicolas, Kimberly and Kian; 

1976
Judy Gumba Keating 

1973 Katherine McInnis McCoy ’73, grandson Aiden and husband Craig.

1972
Cheryl Landucci McFall writes (photo), “I just celebrated my 20th anniversary at Genentech in South San Francisco. Today at Genentech we had the two Giants World series trophy’s to view and have our picture take with. It was very exciting! I have two adult son's Kyle and Neil. They are both on their own and I’m very proud of them. Kyle my oldest just graduated with a Master in Fine Art from the America Film Academy (AFI) in Los Angeles. His focus was in directing. He did his under gradate degree at the University of San Francisco (USF) and majored in Business/Accounting. Kyle and his wife Thuy will continue to live in Los Angeles to continue his directing career. My second son Neil is in the Sheet Metal Union of San Mateo County Local 104 and he loves “building America” as he puts it. He resides in San Mateo. I have been very blessed over the years.

Katherine McInnis McCoy (photo) lives in the Seattle area with her husband Craig and their 8 year old grandson Aiden. Katherine writes, “Life is busy with a young boy in the house, filled with homework, basket ball games, soccer, track meets and Tai Kwon Do - they say it keeps you young (we are just tired and happy!) I have so many fond memories of my high school days at Mercy, it will always be a special place in my heart. I’m on Facebook - if you want to connect look me up!”

1975
Judy Gumba Keating (photo) writes, “I graduated from USF in 1979 with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Cum Laude, and then in 1981 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Cum Laude. I married Kevin Keating in 1977, also a USF Alumni. We married in 1980. We have two sons, Casey Keating, M.D. (29 years old) and Nicholas Keating, U.S.Air Force, Space Command (27 years old). Nicholas is married to Lisa Keating. They live in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Casey lives in West Hollywood and is in the Radiology Residency at Kaiser, Sunset, Los Angeles. He plans to be an Interventional Radiologist. Kevin and I are “semi-retired” in Fresno, California. I work part-time as a Case Manager R.N. at St. Agnes Medical Center. We live in Fresno and have a vacation home in Shaver Lake, California for summer fun and winter snow activities.”

1976
Charmaine Power Glenn (photo) writes, “We moved to Bend Oregon in 2004 and enjoy the outdoors (skiing, hiking, biking, kayaking and walking our dog Guinness) when not working.” Charmaine’s son Aaron graduated from University of Oregon in June with his Bachelor’s in International Relations. Daughter Carissa managed a tea shop in the bay area for a year then left the company to continue education in Central Oregon. She will be receiving her Associate degree in English Lit in June. Charmaine worked for Allegiant for 5 years who stopped their service in Bend/Redmond in 2012. After many years of service, she realized that she hadn’t taken advantage of the travel benefits that come with the job. So making a quick decision she flew on “stand by” to Iceland then on to Amsterdam and then finally to Dubai all in seven days. Travel went well. She is now working for Delta Global Services which handles United and Delta flights out of Bend/Redmond Oregon. She also works part-time at Sunriver Resort as a Concierge.

1977
Nora Sotelo Kury writes, (photo) “Félix and I recently celebrated 33 years of marriage! I am still working at Stanford University, managing a Neurobiology lab. Happily, we live very close to our daughters and grandchildren, Nicolás (1 ½), Kian (4), and Kimberly (13).”

1980
Vivian Hernandez is pursuing her master’s degree as a pediatric nurse practitioner while continuing to work as an RN at UCSF in the pediatric ICU.

1981
Erin McHale Armusewicz (photo) writes, “Attached a picture from our annual Easter Party - which my pal Margaret Giampaoli ’81 attends with daughters. I am crouched down between Jessica and Cerra.
1982
Anna Schaffer Levaggi writes, “Married 21 years to Scott Levaggi (Serra ’81); Two children Alexandra (Mercy ’13) and Anthony (Serra ’16). Employed at JP Morgan in San Francisco. I enjoy seeing former classmates at Julie Britton’s annual class reunion!”

1984
Rev. Mary Adelsberger just began a new ministry in Woodland CA as senior pastor of American Lutheran. Mary writes, “Greg and I moved into the oldest house in town, a huge victorian home built in 1870. It works well for church work, and is pretty cool to live in, although it has its particular quirks.”

Lisa Davies recently completed her Doctorate in Educational Leadership. Algebra is a Civil Right, Increasing Achievement for African American Males in Algebra through Teacher Collaboration was the focus. Lisa is a middle school principal in the East Bay.

1985
Deanna Pritchard Bleidistel (photos) writes, “My family recently adopted a 4 year old dog, Brady. My oldest daughter, Amanda, graduated from Tesoro High School and is in her first year of college as well as applying for a scholarship to become a nurse in the Navy. My twins, Amber and Andrew, are in 8th grade and will be going to Washington D.C. this June and were given the honor of placing the California wreath on the tomb of the unknown soldier. I am teaching 6th grade at Ladera Ranch Middle School and my husband, Michael, works at Tri-City Hospital near San Diego in the Emergency Room. Mike and I celebrated our 20th wedding anniversary this past July in Hawaii. There have been many blessings in my life and I am so very thankful for all of them.”

1988
Maribel Lavin Larson (photo) writes, “This past year has been a very exciting one for me and my family. In August 2011 our family relocated to Nairobi, Kenya and soon after, my husband Chad, son Mateo (now 7), and I were blessed with twin boys! Marco Johann Larson and Spencer Baraza Larson were born on November 29, 2011 at 7:00am and 7:02am at the Aga Khan University Hospital in Nairobi. We are all doing well and enjoying our new life tremendously, if anyone is ever in the “neighborhood”, please give us a shout (maribellarson@yahoo.com), take care everyone! XO”

1990
Jennifer Watson Cheng wrote on 12/11/12, “I am about to have my 2nd child tonight. My husband is currently the US Navy Blue Angels #8 (Event Coordinator) for the 2013 and 2014 seasons. Pictures to follow.”

1999

2000
Amy Catanzaro Merrell writes, “My husband Jake and I welcomed a beautiful baby girl, Olivia Grace, into the world on August 17.”

2002
Kendyl Eriksen writes, “After completing my Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Washington, I moved back down to California. I now live in San Francisco and work at the California Academy of Sciences as a Specialty Tour Guide and volunteer with Golden State Greyhound Adoption.”
2003

Jessica Hollenbach Galletta (photo) married Serra Alum Nicholas Tonelli Galletta ‘03 (son of Carol Galletta, Mercy Burlingame AMES Program Director) on August 3, 2012, at Vintner’s Inn, Santa Rosa. Mercy Alums Gina Wilson ‘03 and Lauren Andrews Fleming ‘03 were in the wedding. Nick is currently working for Innovative Mechanical and Jessica is practicing law at a firm in San Mateo. They now reside in Foster City.

2004


2005

Kelly Gilmore Benson (photos) married Ryan on August 10, 2012. Mercy Alums Kelly’s sister Lauren Gilmore ‘11 (maid of honor) and Michelle Cavalieri ‘05 were both in the wedding.

Antoinette (Toni) de Leon, RDH writes, “I graduated from West Coast University with a Bachelors of Science in Dental Hygiene in Anaheim, CA! I moved back to Burlingame from Orange County in September 2012 and I now work as a Registered Dental Hygienist, help teach at a Dental Assistant School in Millbrae and recently entered the financial industry and a non-profit organization, Heartland Institute of Financial Education, where we help families with Life and Health Insurance and college funding and planning.”

2007

Jamie Perez (photo) writes, “I graduated just about a year ago, Dec. 2011, from Cal Poly SLO with a BS in Civil Engineering and decided to choose adventure over a cubicle and joined the Peace Corps! I was shipped off to Peru in September 2012 and after 10 weeks of training was happily sworn in as an official Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) volunteer in late November. I’m in the first month of my 2 years of service in the northern coast of La Libertad, Peru and am leaning heavily on my 4 years of Spanish at Mercy to support me. My younger sister, Marlee ‘15, is a sophomore at Mercy right now and we’ve set up a pen pal correspondence between me and her Spanish 2H class. With 23 months left of service there’s quite a bit of room for adventures to be had and I hope to be updating you once again in the future.”

2010

Cathleen Bottini (photo) writes, “I transferred to Santa Clara University this Fall (from CSU Monterey) and will graduate in 2014 with a degree in Sociology. I have been a Zumba Fitness Instructor for one year this December and teach classes at my school (Santa Clara University). Teaching Zumba has shaped me to be a confident and outgoing gal who isn’t afraid to be goofy and let lose with her peers. Being goofy and unafraid to let loose brings out the fun in others, and the fun and music allows people to get a good workout without even knowing it! Every time I see one of my peers smiling in class I am reminded of how teaching Zumba has forever changed my life. Zumba allows me to carry out my core values that I gained at Mercy; a love of being of service to others and helping others to be healthy and confident. I attached a photo of me teaching Zumba to the sorority Alpha Delta Pi.”
In Memoriam

Please remember the following alumnae, alumnae family members and friends of the Mercy High School Community in your prayers. Please note we have tried our best to list all deceased members and relatives of the Mercy Community. In the event we have missed someone, please contact Mercy at 650.762.1190 and we will include their name in the next Oaks.

The Mercy Mass Program

At each of our school liturgies we pray for those people who have been acknowledged in the Mercy Mass Program. Donations are made in memory of a loved one and to honor others for anniversaries, birthdays, or at times of illness. To enroll a loved one in the Mercy Mass Program, simply contact the Mercy Advancement Office at 650.762.1190 or www.mercyhsb.com.

ALUMNAE
Sister Marian Curran, RSM ‘40 sister of Ruth Curran Dolim ’41, aunt of Judith Dolim Shafer ’77 and Clare Dolim, Mercy Honorary Alum
Margaret Lynch Dillon ’53
Janet Galeno ’69
Joyce Page Hinkle ’51
Mary Oswald Jarler ’45
Arleen Navarret Moock ’71
Moira Anderson Plowman ’57
Pauline Delucchi Pollastrini ’41
Marlene Murphy Tannehill ’54

FAMILY & FRIENDS
Al Baccelli husband of Peggy Littman Baccelli ’46
Alma Bagnani grandmother of Gianna Bagnani ’12
Richard Battaglia husband of Betty Battaglia, Mercy High School Staff
Helen Beegan mother of Patricia Beegan Kenney ’71 and Genemarie Beegan RSM ’73
Altine Bentson mother of Margaret Bentson ’69, Barbara Bentson Grimes ’75 and Patricia Bentson ’77
Joseph Beresford, Sr. and Helen Beresford parents of Kaye Beresford Stallard ’57, Barbara Beresford Dinelli ’58, Louise Beresford Hall ’62 and Joseph Beresford, Jr.
John Bigot father of Kathleen Bigot Wieder ’64 and Joanne Bigot Thompson ’66
Frank Brooks husband of Patricia Brooks ’47
Frank Campi uncle of Barbara Campi Herrera ’73 and Susan Campi Odom ’74
Barbara Cassidy grandmother to Patrick & Betsy Pfeiffer, Mercy Staff
Debbie Common former Mercy Staff and mother of Jaime Common Toscano ’97 and Kristin Common ’00; aunt of Morgan Fornesi ’10
James R. Connell father of Mary Connell ’74 and Patricia Connell Simonis ’76
Catherine Dubrow aunt of Grace Osborne ’13
William J. Egan husband of Mary Schwartz Egan ’56
Guo Jiang Li grandfather of Vanessa Zheng ’13
John R. Harris father of Christine Folan, Mercy High School Staff
Helen Heanne grandmother of Marie Gribble ’05
LaVerne Held mother of Laura Held former Mercy High School President 2003-2012
William Henderson grandfather of Melanie Henderson Cirigliano ’73 and Great-Grandfather of Jillian Cirigliano ’99 and Natalie Cirigliano ’02

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Mary Hitchcock grandmother of Evelyn Hitchcock ’12
John Hurley husband of Barbara Boden Hurley ’42
Carl Inman husband of Mary Muliany Inman ’52 and Brother of Suzanne Inman Furrer ’53
Clarence and Geraldine Johnson parents of Kathleen Johnson Manca ’61
Jane Melc wife of George Melc member of the SOM maintenance team
Jesse Morse brother-in-law of Jennifer Kockos Morse ’74
Luisa Navarro grandmother of Emily Martinez ’15
Kim Nguyen grandmother of Jazzel Nguyen ’13 and Belle Nguyen ’15
John Nichols husband of Jane Maule Nichols ’47 and brother-in-law of Joan Maule Stern ’49
C. Joseph Passalacqua father of Tina M. Passalacqua ’92, grandfather of Samantha Takizawa ’13 and Natalie Frisica ’16
Dolores Piazza grandmother of Kyleigh Uroz ’14
Elaine Piffero grandmother of Michelle Calderoni ’06
Inez Porter grandmother of Michele Macmillan, Mercy High School Counselor
Brigida Radoc grandmother of Cassidy Ricasa ’16
Antonio Ramos brother of Lilia Ramos Cady ’52
Miriam Repetto mother of Anne Repetto Pagano ’71
Larry Sheehan brother of Diane Sheehan Key ’55
Manfred (Fred) Speier father of Jackie Speier ’68 and grandfather of Stephanie Sierra ’12
Michael Sternick uncle of Evelyn Hitchcock ’12
Anthony Uroz grandfather of Kyleigh Uroz ’14
Michael Villeneuve husband of Magaret Gill Villeneuve ’59
Maryann Whippo grandmother of Madison Gould ’12 and Emma Gould ’16

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Memorial Celebrations, Conférences, Meetings and Retreats

Contact us about special pricing for Mercy friends and family
www.mercy-center.org or 650.340.7405

A place to meet in quiet beauty...
THE OAKS is published twice yearly for the Alumnae, Parents, and Friends of Mercy High School Burlingame, a Catholic College Preparatory since 1931. Mercy High School is sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, West Midwest Community.

Photography by Mercy High School Staff and Journalism Students.

In an effort to go green we will only be sending one Oaks per household. Please share with all. Thank you!

Sr. Katherine Doyle, Interim President
Lisa Tortorich, Principal
Mary Lund, Director of Advancement
Carol Fraher, Director of Public Relations

2013 Board of Directors:
  Penny Stack Alexander ’78
  Kelli Benz
  Sr. Judy Cannon, RSM
  Bart Gaul
  Bob Grassilli
  Stacey Longwich ’98
  Carol Kelley
  Sr. Mary Kilgariff, RSM
  Clare Pool Purpura ’75
  Sr. Katherine Doyle, RSM (ex-officio)

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Admissions Office | 650.762.1114
Alumnae Office | 650.762.1190
FAX | 650.343.2976
Email | alumnae@mercyhsb.com
www.mercyhsb.com

Events

Visit our website for details on these and other events, www.mercyhsb.com.

“Come Sail Away!”
Auction and Dinner
Saturday, March 9, 2013
5:30 pm - Kohl Mansion
See page 11 for details

“The Drowsy Chaperone”
Tri-School Spring Musical
at Serra High School Theater
March 14, 15, 16, 22, 23 - 7:30 pm • March 17 - 2:00 pm

Making a Difference Scholarship Benefit Dinner
Thursday, April 25, 2013 - 6:30 pm
See opposite page for details

Mercy Dance Recital
at Serra High School Theater
Sunday, May 5, 2013

Spring Concert
Tuesday, May 7, 2013 - 7:30 pm - Kohl Mansion

Mexican Fiesta
Athletic Fundraiser
Friday, May 10, 2013 - 6:30 pm - Kohl Mansion

Mercy Arts Fest
Tuesday, May 21, 2013 - 5:00 pm - Kohl Mansion

Baccalaureate Mass
Saturday, June 1, 2013 - 7:00 pm - OLA

Graduation
St. Ignatius Church (USF)
Sunday, June 2, 2013 - 2:00 pm
Making A Difference

Scholarship Benefit Dinner
Thursday, April 25, 2013 • 6:30pm
Green Hills Country Club, Millbrae, CA
Advance Reservations Required

You Can Make A Difference
Through Making A Difference we have been able to say “yes” to more students in need of financial assistance. We are seeking support from our Mercy community to help us meet the increased needs of our families. Our goal is to raise $175,000 at Making A Difference 2013.

We invite you to join us at the Scholarship Benefit Dinner
The dinner is generously underwritten by Bob Grassilli and the Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Community. This allows 100% of all gifts, sponsorships and reservations to directly support tuition assistance for our students.

Sponsorship levels range from $250 - $25,000; individual tickets are $150.00. A current listing of all sponsors as well as the benefits of sponsorship may be found on Mercy’s website under Giving to Mercy. If you would like an invitation, please contact the Advancement Office at 650.762.1190 or email mlund@mercyhsb.com. You may also make a reservation online through Mercy’s website. Advance reservations are required.

Be a sponsor! Make your reservation or gift today!
You may make a tax-deductible donation and/or reservation to Making A Difference at www.mercyhsb.com or use the enclosed envelope to mail your gift directly to the Mercy High School Advancement Office.

Together we can make a difference!
Mercy’s 6th & 7th Grade Open House
Friday, May 3, 2013
1:30 - 3:30 pm
See yourself at Mercy!
Visit www.mercyhsb.com for details.

Summer Program
for girls entering
6th, 7th & 8th grade
Tools for School with a Twist!
Visit www.mercyhsb.com for more information.