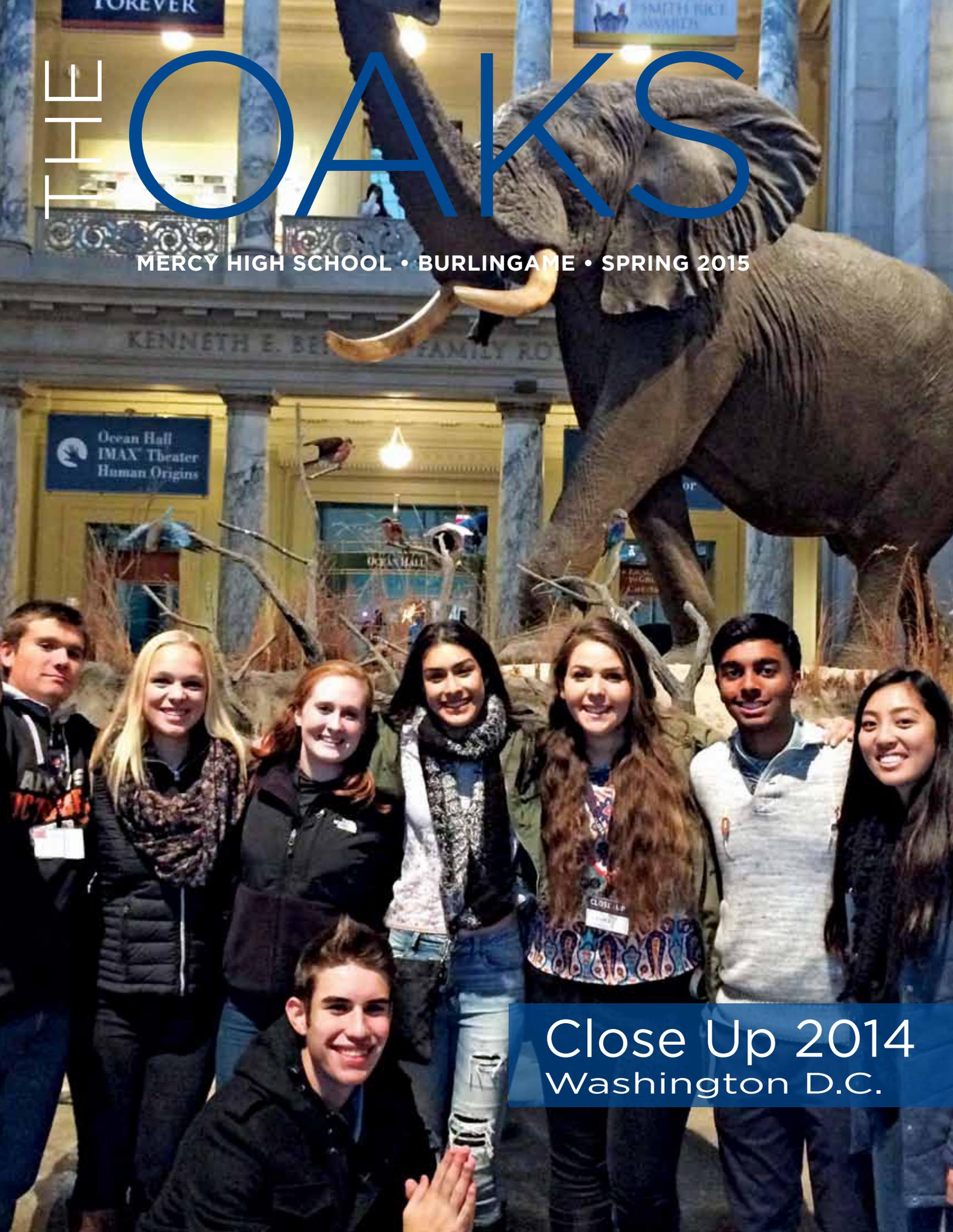


THE

# OAKS

MERCY HIGH SCHOOL • BURLINGAME • SPRING 2015



Close Up 2014  
Washington D.C.



# MERCY BURLINGAME

## FEATURES

- Close Up 2014 4
- Circle of Mercy 6
- Alums Come “Home” to Mercy 8
- Homecoming 10
- Fall Play 12
- Fabulous Works of Art Contest 13

## DEPARTMENTS

- On Campus 14
- Mercy Mission 18
- Making A Difference 20
- Athletics 22
- MPC Mercy Parent Club 24
- Alumnae 26
- Class Notes 30
- In Memoriam 37
- Upcoming Events 40

### Annual Report 2013-14 Addendum:

*A heartfelt thank you to the Thomas family for their generosity to Mercy High School; their name was accidently omitted from the Honor Roll of Donors.*



## Dear Mercy Community:

Throughout this school year we have talked about Mercy as being a place where young women are known, challenged and transformed. Mercy is also a place where girls are...

- Finding their voice
  - Focusing on learning
  - Questioning assumptions
  - Learning to collaborate - on teams, in organizations
  - Maximizing their potential
- Living their faith through involvement in all aspects of campus ministry
  - Gaining introspective on social issues through service
  - Becoming a woman who will make a difference in the world in her own way

A recent study conducted by the National Coalition of Girls' Schools analyzed responses from nearly 13,000 high school girls who are attending all-girls independent schools, coed independent schools and coed public schools. Results of the survey showed that virtually all the young women in an all-girls environment expect to earn a four-year degree; two-thirds expect to go on to do graduate-level work. Less than 40% of girls in coed situations plan to do graduate level work.

In addition, girls attending all-girls' schools have higher levels of confidence in academic work, especially writing, speaking, critical thinking, teamwork and independent learning. They also feel more supported by their peers and their teachers. This is why all-girls' schools are game changers.

At Mercy we know the value of an all-girls' education. Students enter Mercy as young girls and leave as confident, caring young women ready to fulfill their greatest potential and make the world a better place.

As you can also see in this issue of the Oaks, Mercy girls also know that they can always come home to Mercy and Kohl Mansion. Enjoy reading about the wonderful classes, events and activities that have been happening at Mercy so far this year.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Hanrahan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Karen Hanrahan  
Head of School



## Close Up 2014

Mercy and Serra students participated in Close Up's Washington D.C. High School program in November. Close Up provides an inside look at democracy in action. Using the nation's capital as a living classroom, our students and teachers got a "close up" view of government - interacting with people, processes and places that make Washington D.C. so unique. From visits to Washington's famous monuments, memorials, and institutions, to meetings with our Congressional delegation on Capitol Hill, Mercy and Serra students got a first-hand look at the American political system and a better understanding of the role they, as students, play in our democracy.

Close Up is not just a tour, nor is it a series of lectures. Close Up takes what students learn in the classroom and brings it to life! Close Up students also get face to face with Washington insiders that play a key role in the American political system. These instrumental political players take time to answer questions from students and explain more about how they impact government and policy. The program culminates with a banquet and dance, giving students the chance to unwind, say goodbye to their new friends, and reflect on what they have learned during their trip.



### Jackie Speier Presents Proclamation

At the MOMA event in December, Congresswoman Jackie Speier '68, mother of Stephanie '12, presented Head of School Karen Hanrahan with a U.S. Congressional Proclamation in honor of the 100th Birthday of the Kohl Mansion. Mercy was honored to receive this beautiful proclamation as a culmination to a year of birthday celebrations.





## Circle of Mercy 2014

### *Caroline and Charlie Romeo receive the Catherine McAuley Award*

What a great night! Mercy High School Burlingame held its annual Circle of Mercy dinner honoring our generous benefactors. It was an evening filled with inspiration and excitement! During the evening, Karen Hanrahan, Head of School, presented Caroline and Charlie Romeo with the Catherine McAuley Award. This award honors those who truly represent a commitment to Catherine McAuley's vision and the education of young women. Their generosity of spirit, commitment to the values and vision of the Sisters of Mercy and Catherine McAuley are truly an example to us all.

**From the first day that Christina Romeo, Class of 2014, stepped into the halls of Mercy, her parents became immersed in the Mercy community as well as champions of Mercy in the broader community.**

From the first day that Christina Romeo, Class of 2014, stepped into the halls of Mercy, her parents became immersed in the Mercy community as well as champions of Mercy in the broader community.

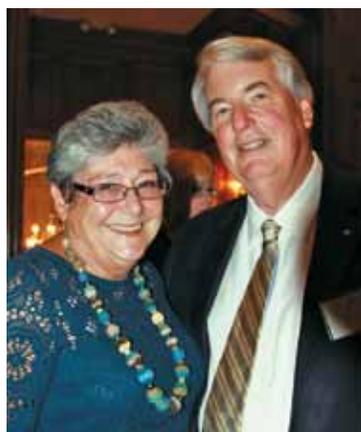
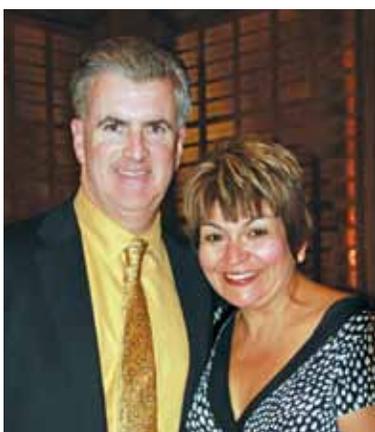
Caroline became a leader within the Mercy Parent Club from day one and is also a charter member of the Steering Committee for Making A Difference. She has chaired our Mother Daughter Tea and for three years chaired our Annual Auction reinventing the auction into the highly successful Martinis at the Mansion.

Charlie and Caroline are true advocates of Mercy education and have seen the difference Mercy made in the life of their daughter who is now a freshman at St. Mary's College. They have also been extremely generous donors: they responded to a call to help with tuition for a senior who wasn't going to be able to return, have generously sponsored and underwritten various fundraising events from the annual auction to Making A Difference. Their passion for Mercy is infectious.

Their family and friends have also supported Mercy in many ways through their attendance at events and the Romeo Vineyards donations of wine. Their generosity of spirit, commitment to the values and vision of the Sisters of Mercy and Catherine McAuley are truly an example to us all.



A Heartfelt  
Thank You to  
our Generous  
Benefactors!





## Alums come “Home” to Mercy

*Over the Christmas holidays, Mercy alumnae from Classes 2000 to 2014 returned to Mercy to visit with teachers, celebrate with classmates and renew friendships.*

The Mercy High School Alumnae Association hosted “Christmas Cheer” for Classes 2000 to 2010 and “Home for the Holidays” for Classes 2011 to 2014. Many girls also came back during the day to visit with teachers or to speak with our juniors and seniors at our College Forum.

The Alumnae Board sponsors various events throughout the year from Homecoming to Christmas at Kohl and is getting involved in expanding our social media outreach to alums. We are delighted to welcome new members to the Board: Kim Fisher '84, Kathleen Alvarado Mankowski '84, Shelby Molini '09, Brenda Gordon-McMillan Russell '74 and Lizzy Waddell '09. Special thanks to Casey Sternsmith '99 for her years of service on the Alumnae Board. We invite all alums to come back to Mercy and to get involved. Anyone interested in learning more about the Alumnae Board may contact Mary Lund, Director of Advancement, at 650.762.1190 or [mlund@mercyhsb.com](mailto:mlund@mercyhsb.com).

### Alumnae Board

Caroline Connolly Bottoms '77  
Patricia Ivancich Dassios '97  
Kim Fisher '84  
Eugenia Dubbiosi Hovland '59  
Kathleen Lama '87  
Kathleen Alvarado Mankowski '84  
Shelby Molini '09  
Katherine Lacunza Pompili '78  
Brenda Gordon-McMillan Russell '74  
Lorraine Mozini Sbragia '60  
Lizzy Waddell '09  
Karen Hanrahan, *Head of School*  
Mary Lund, *Director of Advancement*  
Carol Fraher, *Asst. Director of Advancement & Director Public Relations*





# FEATURE



## Homecoming 2014

*"All Hail Mercy High..."*

### Once a Mercy Girl Always a Mercy Girl!

The halls of Mercy were filled with excitement as alumnae from the 1930's to the 2000's returned to Mercy to celebrate their reunions. Over 150 "Mercy girls" gathered for a beautiful Mass at the Motherhouse Chapel followed by a luncheon at the Mansion. Class pictures were taken on the Senior Stairs or on the green. Some of our graduates had not been back for up to 50 years. Friendships were renewed and laughter filled the Mansion.

Before the Liturgy, the Mercy Associates hosted a beautiful Coffee with the Sisters in the Motherhouse (see pictures page 28). Mass was celebrated by Father Stephen Howell with music by Sister Suzanne, Sister Marguerite and Sister Jean Evans and other members of the Sisters of Mercy choir. The Mass ended with the singing of the Alma Mater and Mercy Fight Song!



## ALUMNAE Homecoming/Reunion Sunday, Sept. 20, 2015

All Mercy alumnae are invited!  
*Celebrating classes ending in '0 and '5*

10:00 a.m. Coffee with the Sisters

11:00 a.m. Mass

Noon - Reunion Luncheon, Kohl Mansion.  
Advance reservations required. Reservations  
can be made at [www.mercyhsb.com](http://www.mercyhsb.com).





## The Diary of Anne Frank

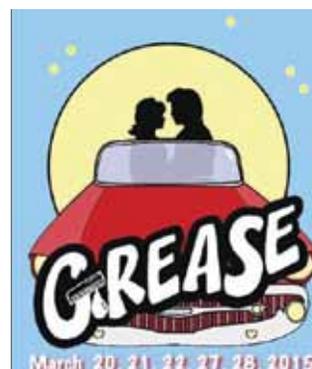
Tri-School Productions students from Serra, Notre Dame and Mercy presented *The Diary of Anne Frank* in the fall. This poignant play is a reminder of the horrors of war and the powerful courage of the human spirit as documented by 13-year-old Anne (played by NDB freshman Gabriella Fanucchi) in the diary found by her father, Otto Frank (played by Serra junior Mikey Takla) on his return to their hiding place, the Annex. Over the course of four nights, Director Darva Campbell featured two years of the Frank and Van Daan families' seclusion and the European theater of Amsterdam during World War II, complete with Hitler and his Nazi army.

**Congrats to the following Mercy girls who were in the play:** Maggie Eichler as Edith Frank, Natalie Friscia as Margot Frank, Cat Bigelow as Dutch Minister and Michelle Curran, Maddy Rozansky and Gabrielle Zaslove as soldiers. We couldn't do it without our Stage Crew from all three schools.



**Thanks to the following Mercy girls on Stage Crew:** Vivian Bright, Cristina Espinosa, Graeson Fee, Kathleen Gardner, Jara Gross, Emily Kelly, Madison Miller, Marlee Perez, Maya Thone, Fran Tongson and Claire Zimmerman.

We are very grateful to all of the Tri-School Productions staff members, to our own Pam Matthews, and the many parents, alums and alumnae parents who continue to support Tri-School Productions.



Don't Miss...  
**GREASE**  
Spring Musical  
at Serra

March 20, 21, 27, 28  
7:30 p.m.

March 22 - 2:00 p.m.

# Fabulous WORKS of Art

a Mercy High School Art Contest



In January, Mercy High School's Visual Arts Department conducted its first annual Art competition "Fabulous Works of Art" for 6th, 7th and 8th grade girls. The Artwork was judged by Mercy students who are members of the National Arts Honor Society - Mercy High School Chapter, using the guidelines set forth by the California Standards for the Visual Arts. The participating schools were Holy Angels, Our Lady of Mercy, St. Catherine of Siena, St. Monica, and St. Pius Schools and prizes were awarded to: **First Place -- Natasha Siapno, Our Lady of Mercy** (pictured at left). **Second Place -- Jamie Pineda, Holy Angels. Third Place -- Alison Wong, St Catherine of Siena.** Mercy High School Head of School, Karen Hanrahan, and Mercy Art Instructor and event organizer, Nadine Baroudi-Salamé, would like to thank all of the courageous young ladies for their amazing work and wonderful talent. Below are a few of the wonderful works of art that were entered.

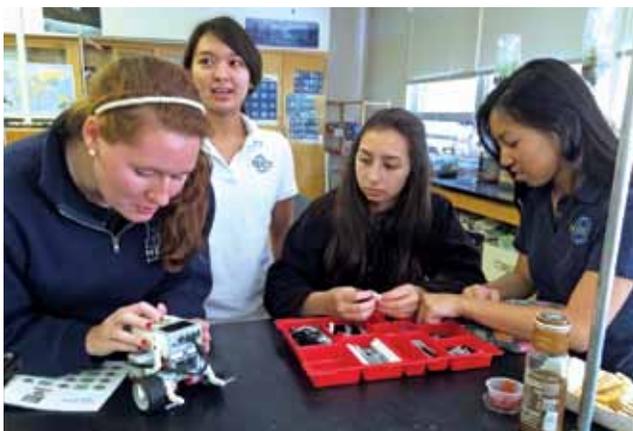


## Exploring Art

The National Art Honor Society students visited the Cantor Art Center at Stanford. Students visited the European, Modern and Contemporary and Rodin galleries. Students had a great time analyzing and discussing famous works of art. Here they are pictured in front of the "Gates of Hell" by Rodin. NAHS students are advanced 2D and 3D artists.



# On Campus



## Robots@Mercy

At Mercy High School Burlingame, Robotics Club Moderator Jennifer Lambdin is engaging her girls in a course of creative engineering! The girls are currently building two LEGO EV3 robots. As soon as the robots are ready, they will program them to make their way through an obstacle course. During the course of the year, the girls also plan to build robots from breadboards and programming PicAxe microprocessors to control them.



## Tearing Up The Track!

Twin sisters Toni and Annie Breidinger '17, are ranked in the top five of the Honda Performance Development Western Pavement Series. With racing in their blood — their uncle, John Breidinger, raced Formula Ford cars as a hobby in the 1970s — the Breidinger girls were behind the wheel since their father Charles Breidinger enlisted them in a Micro Max go-kart league as 9-year-olds. The Breidingers have grown accustomed to their mile-a-minute lifestyles. In addition to competing on the Western Pavement Series, they each rank in the top five of the Junior Rotax circuit in the Red Line Oil Karting Championships. The girls are outstanding students both on the Highest Honor Roll and are very competitive members of the Varsity Cheer Squad. *Photos courtesy of Charles Breidinger and Roger Seymour Photography.*





Yena Kim



Audrey McNay



Marlee Perez



Amanjot Samra

## National Merit Scholars Recognized for Outstanding Academics

Four Mercy girls have been recognized for academic excellence by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Mercy's commended students are **Audrey McNay**, **Marlee Perez** and **Amanjot Samra**. About 34,000 students qualified as commended students of the more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2015 competition by taking the 2013 PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Our semifinalist was **Yena Kim** one of 16,000 students in the nation who qualified as semi-finalists. Yena now has the opportunity to continue in the competition for 7,600 National Merit Scholarships worth about \$3.3 million. This recognition shows the girls excellent academic performance and their teachers outstanding preparation and instruction.



## Raiders Host Learning Lab

On November 4th, a group of Mercy students had the opportunity for a behind the scenes look at what it takes to run an NFL franchise at the Oakland Raiders *Learning Lab* sponsored by the Oakland Raiders and their executives. Mercy students were chosen as the students to speak to the media on behalf of the attendees (600 students), parents and educators who gathered together for a partnership on leadership. This interview aired on ABC news that evening.

The learning lab focused on financial literacy and career choices. One of the most impressive speakers was offensive guard, Kevin Boothe, a nine year NFL veteran who graduated from Cornell University. Although he is currently on an NFL team, he just finished his MBA which he worked on during the last two off seasons. The *Lab* concluded with great advice: don't compete with the guy or girl sitting next to you in school or work...compete with the you of yesterday.



## Finding your passion!

Alumnae Karyn DeMarini Szeman '88, Stacey Longwich '98 and Liz Lopez '07 spoke to the students about their careers. Each of the speakers spoke about the influence Mercy had on their lives and encouraged the girls to explore different careers and to not be afraid to try new things. They encouraged the students to find their passion, pursue it and to be the best person they could be!



## Times Remembered *Let Us Never Forget The Past*

Mercy was honored to have Jean Gize come and speak to our students about her experience in a Japanese Internment Camp during WWII. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and President Roosevelt declared War on Japan; a series of acts were set into motion. One of them was the internment of over 130,000 Japanese American citizens. Jean, who was 4 at the time, and her family were one of those who were uprooted from their home in Oakland and moved to Tanforan Park and then eventually to Topaz, an internment camp in Utah.

Jean told the girls of the many horrors that these families had to undergo including the terrible conditions of both Tanforan Race Track and then Topaz the Internment Camp in the middle of the hot, dry and dusty Utah dessert. Jean explained that her mother’s “Glass Half Full” approach to life helped them stay strong. After her father and uncle went off to fight the war in Italy, Jean and her mother were sent to Hidden Villa Ranch in Los Altos, where her mother became a cook for the Duveneck family. They were very progressive and believed in social justice and they opened their home and sheltered refugees fleeing from the Nazis and assisted Japanese American families returning from internment camps. Upon closing, Jean asked the girls to always be brave and never again let something like this happen. She encouraged the girls to always work for social justice and to always remember that in a way, we are all immigrants.



## Cheese Please!

Mercy third and fourth year French classes had the opportunity to make their own Mozzarella cheese with a lesson from Aline Martial who is a fromagère in Tiburon. The lesson was done all in French, of course! (*French translation of this story below.*) Aline makes cheeses of all kinds in her home with completely organic ingredients from local farms. The girls learned the process of making curds and whey from raw pasteurized milk and then handling the whey to finally make little Mozzarella balls.

### *Du fromage, s’il vous plaît!*

*Aline fait toutes sortes de fromages chez elle dont les ingrédients bio proviennent des fermes locales. Les élèves ont appris à faire le caillé et la présure du lait cru pasteurisé, manipulant enfin la présure pour en faire des boulettes de Mozzarella ou bocconcini.*

## Faculty and Staff Honored

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



25 years

Janet Morello



20 years

Sarah Rowan



15 years

Sandra Albers



10 years

Nazira Kury-Arnold



5 years

Patricia Glasser



## Helping Our Lady of Angels' Senior Community

Mercy High School Burlingame and Mills High School in Millbrae recently held a collaborative event for the seniors in the community which was a great success! Volunteer students from Mercy and from Mills came together and organized a bingo luncheon for senior ladies from Our Lady of Angels Parish in Burlingame. Students served lunch and afterwards sat down and played bingo with the 30 attending seniors – giving them a bit of extra help if needed. Coordinator for the event, Kelli Benz said "It was an amazing collaboration between the youth and our senior community and I was so happy that it was so well received."

This was the first event (of which we hope will be many more to come) where the students from a Public High School and a Catholic High School came together in a community service effort. We would like to extend our gratitude to Peter Diaz at Mercy and Victoria Mantler and the Mills High School students for making this a reality. Future events are already in the process of being organized!



## Junior Ring Ceremony *The Tradition Continues*

A time honored tradition at Mercy Burlingame is that of the Junior Ring Ceremony. As underclass women, the girls anxiously await the day early in their Junior year, that they participate in the rite of passage for all Mercy girls and become upper-class women and get to wear their coveted Mercy High School ring! This year, the juniors outdid themselves with a beautiful ceremony filled with tradition and their own special touches. Stacey Longwich '98, Mercy's new Director of Marketing spoke to the girls about what being a Mercy girl truly is and how they are so privileged to be a part of this great Mercy sisterhood. The girls were presented with roses by Head of School Karen Hanrahan and art teacher and current Mercy mom, Nazira Kury-Arnold '98.



## Giants Game *Senior Trip*

The seniors of the class of 2015 brought good luck to our SF Giants as they beat the Los Angeles Dodgers on Friday September 12th. The girls had a great time and kicked off their Senior Year with this great night at the ballpark!



# Mercy Mission

## Mission Gathering with Mercy B and Mercy SF

Each year we have a Mission Gathering exploring topics related to the educational vision of the Sisters of Mercy. This fall, Mercy Burlingame and Mercy SF teachers, administrators and staff met at Mercy B to hear from Sr. Aine O'Connor, RSM, who is currently the Mercy representative for Global Action at the United Nations. Sr. Aine gave an inspiring presentation on the Critical Concerns of the Sisters of Mercy from an international perspective. Sr. Aine O'Connor, RSM, a native of Ireland and a member of the South Central Community, formerly served as the Assistant to the President for Mission at Mercy Medical Center Baltimore. She spent two years on a Mercy Global Poverty Education Program where she visited different parts of the world to learn from Sisters of Mercy and community organizers and gain a better appreciation of global poverty.



## Students in Action

Erin Sisk attended the Students In Action Spring Training event as a member of our SIA organization on campus. She learned all about coming up with ideas to fundraise for a worthy cause, setting goals and implementing them. At the end of the training, students had a special speaker, Ronnie Lott, who talked to them about the good they do through service. Erin was fortunate to have been given a special autographed football by Mr. Lott! Doing good has its rewards! Great catch Erin!



## Many Hands Make Light Work...

Students in the Catherine's Companion Club worked with some of the Sisters of Mercy at Marian Care to create baby blankets. It was a true expression of love and a wonderful opportunity to have the girls work hand in hand with the Sisters to create these wonderful soft blankets for needy children in the community. Throughout the year, as part of Mercy's Service Learning Program, Catherine's Companions works to find opportunities that both the group and the Sisters can participate in together as they continue the service inspired by Catherine McAuley's own service to the poor and marginalized. She continues to teach the girls that the best way for your life to become one of compassionate service is to practice it!



## Justice Liturgy *Lead by Example*

On January 20th the students and faculty at Mercy High School, Burlingame honored two Sisters of Mercy. At the school's Justice Liturgy, Sr. Patsy Harney and Sr. Marian Rose Power were honored for their service to the poor. Sr. Patsy was recognized for her work at Mercy Housing and Sr. Marian Rose was honored for her work at St. Peter's School. Both Sisters were recognized as women who Lead by Example.



## Hearts for Kenya

The Mercy Community sponsored a Candy-Gram Drive for Catholic Schools Week. Students were encouraged to buy Candy-Grams for \$1 each for classmates at Mercy, Serra and Riordan High Schools. The students raised over \$3,000 which was donated to the Rafiki Organization in Siaya County, Kenya. The funds will be used to buy school uniforms for students who are educated by this community based organization. Mercy graduate Michele Ostertag '87 founded the organization to provide health and education services to AIDS orphans in the region.



## Soup Supper

Our annual soup supper benefited Catherine's Center on Tuesday, November 4th. It was an inspiring and educational evening. The meal included a simple soup supper and a speaker from Catherine's Center. All proceeds went directly to Catherine's Center, which is a transitional program for women transitioning from the justice system into society. Catherine's Center is sponsored by St. Vincent de Paul and the Sisters of Mercy.



## School Supply Drive

The Campus Ministry Department collected school supplies for resident students at Mercy Housing's affordable housing units in Visitation Valley. The girls provided binders, divider tabs, notebooks, pens, pencils and other supplies to get the residents ready for their upcoming school year.

# MAKING a difference Scholarship Benefit

**Your gift will change a young girl's life.**

**Making A Difference is not just about providing financial aid, it is about providing an opportunity for a young girl to attend Mercy, an opportunity which can change her life forever.**

**Mercy High School** has always offered tuition assistance to our students. This commitment allows us to fulfill our mission of educating young women of all economic backgrounds. However, rising costs and a challenging economy make it difficult for many families to afford a Mercy education. The requests for assistance have dramatically risen over the past few years. In 2004, we established our "Making A Difference" Program in order to raise the additional funds necessary to help us reach our goal of ensuring that all qualified applicants who dream of a Mercy education are afforded that opportunity. This program is a crucial source of funding for our tuition assistance program. Funding for Mercy's tuition assistance comes from individual donations, foundations, grants, endowment interest and the "Making A Difference" Program.

**Through "Making A Difference," we have raised over \$1,200,000** allowing us to say "yes" to more students. We are seeking support from our Mercy community to help us meet the increased needs of our families. The Making A Difference 2014 program raised over \$240,000. The Benefit is being underwritten by the Board of Directors. 100% of all sponsorships, donations and ticket sales directly assists girls in need of financial aid.

**This year's Benefit Dinner is more important than ever!**

- Mercy's tuition for 2014-15 is \$19,557.
- Nearly 26% of our families receive financial aid.
- Financial aid and scholarship funding for 2014-15 is approximately \$720,500 of which \$240,000 was raised through our Making A Difference program last year.
- The Making A Difference Scholarship Benefit Dinner is underwritten by the Board of Directors allowing 100% of donations to benefit our students in need of financial assistance.



## Sponsorship Levels:

- \$25,000+ Catherine McAuley Sponsor\*\*♦**
- \$10,000+ Platinum Sponsor\*\*♦**
- \$5,000+ Gold Sponsor\*\*♦**
- \$2,500+ Silver Sponsor\*♦**
- \$1,500+ Presidential Sponsor\*♦**
- \$1,000+ Bronze Sponsor♦**
  - Six reserved seats at Making A Difference
- \$500+ Blue & White Sponsor**
  - Four reserved seats at Making A Difference
- \$250+ Crusader Sponsor**
  - Two reserved seats at Making A Difference

### Individual Tickets - \$150

All Sponsors will receive recognition on Mercy's website, in the printed program, publications and event signage.

- \* Sponsors of \$5,000 and above will have their name inscribed on the Kohl Mansion Donor Wall.
- \* Sponsors of \$1,500 and above will have a reserved table for twelve at the Making A Difference Benefit and two tickets to the Circle of Mercy in October.
- ♦ Sponsors of \$1,000 or more will be invited to the kick-off reception on Feb. 26, 2015.

### Board of Directors Event Underwriters

Penny Stack Alexander '78  
Kelli Benz  
Judy Cannon, RSM  
Cindy McDonald Dunleavy '81  
Patricia Flanagan '65  
Bart Gaul  
Robert Grassilli, Chair  
Karen Hanrahan, Head of School  
Mary Kilgariff, RSM  
Alan Maffei  
Brandy Martinez Navarro '98  
Clare Pool Purpura '75

### Steering Committee

Janet Abbott  
Kelli Benz  
Cathy Dunleavy Rosaia '72, Chair  
Joan Fitzpatrick  
Stacey Longwich '98  
Mary Lund  
Clare Pool Purpura '75  
Caroline Romeo

### Honorary Committee

Amy Bayley, RSM '68  
Norbert and Inger Bischofberger  
Marguerite Buchanan, RSM  
Rosann Fraher, RSM  
Father Michael Mahoney, OFM,  
Capuchin, OLA  
Dr. Scott & Martha Ann Milliken  
Bob and Jackie O'Donnell  
Lorraine Welch Paul '68  
Steve and Tami Pellizzari  
Paul and Janet Selenger  
Robertson '53  
Charlie and Caroline Romeo  
Janet Rozzano, RSM  
Father John Ryan, St. Catherine  
Casey Sternsmith '99  
Sandi Stoppolini  
Karyn DeMartini Szeman '88  
Linda Thomas  
Aileen Whelan MD '76

For additional information about the Making A Difference Scholarship Benefit, to become a sponsor or to make a gift, please contact Mary Lund, Director of Advancement at 650.762.1190 or [mlund@mercyhsb.com](mailto:mlund@mercyhsb.com).

**A gift of any amount is greatly appreciated!**

**Make your reservation today!**

**Making A Difference  
Scholarship Benefit Dinner**  
Thurs. April 30, 2015 • 6:00pm  
Green Hills Country Club, Millbrae, CA

**Don't miss out, last year was  
a sell-out!**

Reservations required.  
Register online at [www.mercyhsb.com](http://www.mercyhsb.com)



**Keynote Speaker:**  
Brandy Martinez  
Navarro '98



**Event Chair:**  
Cathy Dunleavy  
Rosaia '72

**Student Speaker: Sammy Baker '15**

**MAKING a  
difference**  
Scholarship Benefit

Reservations, sponsorships and gifts  
may be made online at  
[www.mercyhsb.com/MakingADifference](http://www.mercyhsb.com/MakingADifference)  
or with the enclosed envelope

Mercy High School is a  
non-profit organization.  
Charitable Tax ID# 94-1230999



# Athletics

## 2014 Fall Sports Highlights

They're off to see the mouse! **Congratulations to the JV Pom Team** for their first place win at James Logan High School which qualified them for USA Spirit Nationals! We would also like to **congratulate Varsity Pom** and the **Hip Hop Dance teams** for also qualifying for USA Spirit and Dance Nationals in Anaheim California. We would also like to congratulate **Varsity Pom and Hip Hop** for their First place wins at the Adrenaline Regional Championship qualifying them for Jamz Dance team Nationals in Las Vegas! Further **congratulations to Mercy Cheer** for qualifying for USA Spirit Nationals. The teams will be traveling to Nationals in Southern California March 20-22 to compete against the best high school and studio teams in the country.

**Congratulations to our Varsity Volleyball team** who won their league, qualified for the CCS Playoffs, and played a hard fought match against Carmel Valley High School. **Congratulations to our JV Volleyball team** who went undefeated this season and ran away with the JV League Championship! Great job ladies! We are so proud of you and the future of Mercy Volleyball looks very bright!

**Congratulations to our Cross-Country team** that finished 4th in team standings at the WBAL finals and qualified 7 girls for CCS championships! Special congratulations to Meghan Moyer who finished 6th individually and earned a league medal.



**Congratulations to our Water Polo Seniors who played their last home Water Polo game vs Notre Dame Belmont and won 9-7!!! Thank you so much for your years of outstanding service to Mercy Athletics! Pictured from left to right is Shelby McMillan, Grace Casolo, Nina Moutoux, Norma Courey, Jordan Greene, and Vanessa Kibblewhite.**



## Annual Alumnae Basketball and Soccer Games!

Mercy Athletics hosted its annual alumnae basketball and soccer games this year. The returning alumnae came back excited to face the varsity teams in both sports. Each game had at least fifteen alumnae show up which was exciting for the athletic program. Mercy will continue with this tradition in hopes of adding even more alumnae games next year.



## WBAL All League Athletes Fall 2014

### Cross-Country:

Meghan Moyer - 1st team all league  
 Zoe Jinishian - Honorable mention  
 Lauren Tiffit - Honorable Mention

### Tennis:

Francesca Faoro - 2nd team all league  
 Sam Kotmel - 2nd team all league

### Water Polo:

Jordan Green - 1st team  
 Maddy Gomes - 1st team  
 Shelby McMillan - 1st team  
 Vanessa Kibblewhite - 2nd team  
 Nina Moutoux - 2nd team  
 Grace Cosolo - Honorable mention

### Golf:

Nicole Patricio - Honorable Mention

### Volleyball:

Julia Ferraro - 1st team  
 Andria Larrat - 1st team  
 Claire Hardiman - 2nd team  
 Sabrina Santo - 2nd team  
 Kathleen Dougherty -  
 Honorable Mention





# MPC

## Mercy Parent Club

### Mercy Parent Club . . . off to a great start!

The Mercy Parent Club kicked off the year with a **Welcome Barbeque** for parents and faculty. It was an evening filled with great excitement as new parents joined our school community and returning parents renewed friendships after summer break. In October, we hosted our traditional **“Mother Daughter Tea”** with 500 moms, daughters and grandmothers enjoying a beautiful sit-down tea in the Mansion and on the patio. It was a beautiful afternoon with many of the ladies, both young and old, decked out in amazing hats!

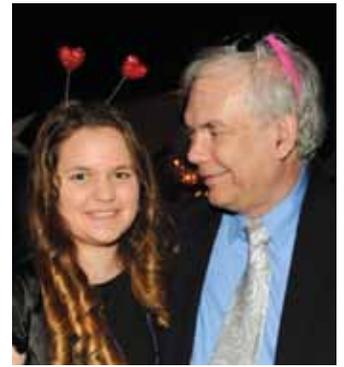
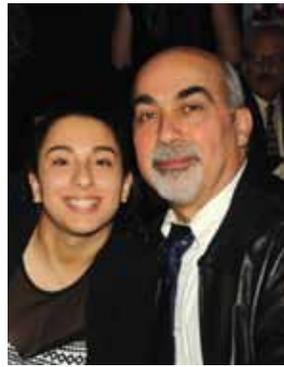
**“A Taste and Take Wine Event”** was a huge hit with wine lovers, vintners and connoisseurs! The event featured more than 10 wineries with many of the winemakers present who discussed their wines with our guests. The Mercy Parent Club provided exquisite hors d'oeuvres and 50% of all wine sales were donated to Mercy by the wineries.

This semester, Mercy dads and daughters came to our **“Black and White” Father Daughter Dance**, an evening filled with music, games and dancing! We also honored all of the dedicated teachers, staff and administration with our **Faculty/Staff Appreciation Luncheon** in early February.

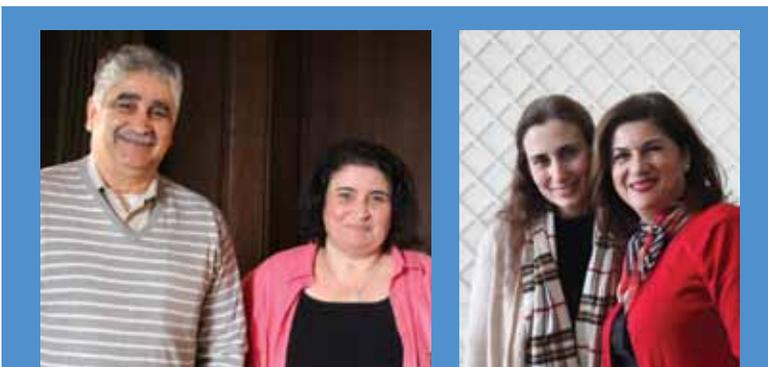
**Special thanks to our MPC officers, event chairs and the many, many parents who make these events possible.** Each year we host two MPC fundraisers: **“A Taste and Take Wine Event”** in November and **“Martinis at the Mansion”** in March. The proceeds from these two events, along with the funds raised through eScript, allow us to sponsor our traditional hospitality events such as the Welcome BBQ, Mother Daughter Tea, Father Daughter Dance, Faculty Appreciation Luncheon and the Senior Mother Daughter Mass and Brunch – all at no charge to our families. The remaining proceeds, generally around \$40,000, are donated to the school for special projects which benefit all of the students.



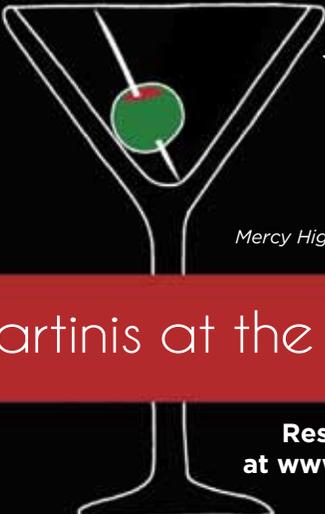
**Photos:** above taken at the **Welcome Barbeque** for parents and the **Taste and Take Wine Event**.



Photos: above taken at the Mother Daughter Tea; above right Father Daughter Dance.



Special thanks to the Fakhouri and Mizarawi families, owners of Crepevine Restaurant in Burlingame and Nueve Mexican Bar and Grill in Bay Hill Shopping Center in San Bruno for donating the delicious food for the annual Faculty/Staff Appreciation Luncheon! It was amazing!



**SHAKEN  
NOT STIRRED**

**Saturday, March 14, 2015  
6:00pm • Kohl Mansion**

*Buffet Food  
Stations, Spirits,  
Silent and Live  
Auction!*

**\$80 per person**

*All proceeds benefit  
Mercy High School, Burlingame.*

**Martinis at the Mansion**

**Reservations online  
at [www.mercyhsb.com](http://www.mercyhsb.com)**



# Alumnae

## Alumna Spotlight

*Mercy prepares our students for the opportunities tomorrow brings. Our alumnae continue to grow and flourish in college, graduate school and beyond. Each issue of The Oaks will feature an Alumnae Spotlight, highlighting a different woman each time touting her achievements and how her experience at Mercy has shaped her future. We hope you will be inspired by these amazing women.*

## Irene Bischofberger '11

### PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

**What does it mean to you to be a Mercy girl?** Being a Mercy girl means joining a community of women who are academically driven and determined. They demonstrate intelligence and creativity daily while being involved with a variety of campus activities. When I became a Mercy girl I knew that I was going to create bonds with my classmates that would last forever.

**What did you like best about going to Mercy?** I had some of the most incredible teachers when I went to Mercy. They were constantly pushing me to be the best I could be. They were so passionate about what they were teaching and inspired me to find that passion in my life.

### What is your best memory of Mercy? Do you have a memorable event/funny story to share?

One of my favorite memories of Mercy was being on Senior Council and planning the Senior Sleepover. I had so much fun running around the mansion at night with my classmates playing Sardines. I remember when one person hid in the Senior Lounge and we were all crammed in the corner, so that no one would be able to find us. My other favorite part of that night was when we had everyone write notes to each other and place them in bags that lined the stairs. By the end of the night, all of the bags were overflowing with kind words. It made me so proud of my class because we all saw the potential and greatness in each other.

### Please explain what the Mercy sisterhood/community means to you.

The Mercy community is a group of women who I can always look to for help and advice. While attending Mercy, I felt like everyone was my family and I knew I had an amazing support system surrounding me. This still proves true years later because I still am friends with people I met during my time at Mercy.

### Do you still keep in touch with your fellow Mercy girls?

Mercy blessed me with incredible friendships that I still hold dear today. I have four very close friends from Mercy and we still do so much together today whether it's going to get ice cream on summer nights or traveling Europe together. I know that they will always be there for me and they have been a great support system for me throughout college.



## **YOUR LIFE TODAY**

**College: University of Denver '15**

**Major: Marketing**

**Minor: Art**



### **Tell us about your internship last summer in NYC.**

This past summer I had the opportunity to live in New York City and work for a boutique public relations firm. Moving to New York had always been a dream of mine and I was so lucky that I got to spend a couple months in the city that never sleeps. I was very nervous walking to Wunderlich Inc. on my first day because I had no previous PR experience. Within the first couple of weeks, I learned how to write press releases, pitches, and media alerts. My media pitches got turned into full-page articles that were published in magazines such as Us Weekly and New York Post's Page Six. Everyday I was learning something new whether it was finding out that every publication has editorial calendars or that there is a lot of research that goes into writing pitches. In addition to all the skills I developed and learned, the women working at Wunderlich Inc. PR constantly inspired me. Not many people get to work for a powerhouse of determined and inspirational women. They taught me everything

I know about public relations and so much more. They welcomed me with open arms understanding that I had no experience beforehand in this industry and were always there for me if I ever had questions. I came to NYC just to see what PR was all about, but I left with life-long mentors. Growing up in high school in an all-girl environment, I was able to develop relationships differently than from those who attended co-ed schools. Mercy taught me to always ask questions and going to school there gave me the confidence to jump into the unknown world of public relations and try to soak up as much as I could.

### **Tell us about your trip in December to India - why you decided to go to India, what you did there and the impact that the experience had on you.**

I decided to sign up for a DU class that involved going to India for a month and volunteering there during Winter Break. Being an American adoptee of East Indian heritage, I wanted a first-hand experience of the country I had an ethnic connection to, but no real sense of. I volunteered at a school teaching English and Math to 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders. I was terrified to teach because it was very daunting to try to explain subjects to students whose first language wasn't English. Mercy had prepared me for this through the numerous presentations I had given during my four years there. Through these presentations I became a charismatic leader who was able to command a room easily. I was able to get over my fear of teaching and communicate with the students because of the skills Mercy taught me.



### **Do you know what you will do after graduation?**

I recently finished applying to graduate school for a Masters in Public Relations. After my internship I realized that it is the field I want to go into and I feel that I have so much more to learn in this department. Hopefully, I will be attending graduate school before working in the Public Relations Department for a tech start-up in San Francisco.

### **How did Mercy help you to achieve your goals?**

Mercy provided me with a strong foundation for which I based all of my decisions off of. I was able to be involved in different activities such as student council, track and field and student ambassadors. I have developed a global perspective from attending Mercy and it has come into play during my travels, which include studying abroad in Florence, Italy for a semester my Junior year. My experiences at Mercy developed my confidence and self-awareness allowing me to become the person I am today.

# Alumnae



## Coffee with the Sisters

For several years the Mercy Associates have sponsored “Coffee with the Sisters” prior to the annual Alumnae Homecoming Mass. We are very grateful to the Associates for hosting this lovely event which gives our alumnae an opportunity to connect with many Sisters of Mercy who were their classmates, teachers and friends. Special thanks to Catherine Collins Wilkinson '63 who started this event and to Suzanne Waligore '67 who took the lead this year when Catherine was out of town. *Coffee with the Sisters 2015 will be held on September 20, 2015 at 10:00 am prior to our 11:00 am Alumnae Homecoming Mass.*





## MOMA Christmas at Mercy

*Moms of Mercy Alums (MOMA) gathered in December to celebrate Christmas at Kohl Mansion!*

We invite all Mercy alumnae moms, no matter what year your daughter graduated; to join MOMA to stay connected not only to Mercy, but to the many moms you made friends with while your daughter(s) attended Mercy. MOMA invites you to remain connected in whatever degree you are able or desire. There are several events and activities during the school year in which MOMA are invited to volunteer; from helping with the Mother Daughter Tea to chaperoning a field trip or working in our AMES program. We welcome your attendance at our annual Advent and Lenten evenings of reflection, at all of our school fundraisers, and every few years we will also host a "MOMA Christmas At Mercy" in December. More information is available at [www.mercyhsb.com/moma](http://www.mercyhsb.com/moma) or contact Mary Lund in the Advancement Office.





1963

### Stay connected!

Send your name and email to [mlund@mercyhsb.com](mailto:mlund@mercyhsb.com).

### Homecoming 2015 - Sunday, Sept. 20th

All Mercy alumnae are invited! Reunion classes ending in "0" and "5" will be honored. We invite you to hold your reunion at Homecoming. Reservations can be made at [www.mercyhsb.com](http://www.mercyhsb.com).

# Class Notes

## 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](mailto:alumnae@mercyhsb.com). We look forward to hearing from you soon!

### 1941

**Ruth Curran Dolim's** (photo on pg. 31) daughter Clare sent in the following class note: Ruth's husband George turned 90 on January 2, 2015. Steve, Margie, & Stephanie, Judy, Lily & Charlie and Greg came down for Christmas. Clare planned her Dad's 90th Birthday Party. There were 27 people including some friends and all of George's brothers as well as three relatives from Ruth's side of the family. Believe it or not, even though we didn't plan it this way, all of George's nieces and nephews who live in Northern California were able to attend. We had 11 for lunch at home on December 26, 2014 followed by a birthday dinner for 27 at Il Fornaio in Burlingame. Clare ordered a delicious cake from Safeway. A good time was had by all.

**Susan Torriglia Monahan** writes, "25 years at Mission College and still love every minute of it as the Career and Transfer Advisor there. Still singing--hope to see each of you soon."



1961

College in Yambio, Wester Equatoria, South Sudan which has been very peaceful during this time of fighting in the east. Sister Pat Johannsen, a Sister of Charity of Leavenworth, Kansas, is our fantastic Science tutor here in Yambio Solidarity Teacher Training College. She tells us that there are new Solidarity members joining us and about a computer class that is being offered to our Fourth Year In-Service students. Because the college is expanding, it is necessary to be sure we will have enough water, so another bore hole is in the process of being dug. The men digging the bore hole went 149 meters down and struck hard rock and plenty of water. We hope it will all be as clean as our current water hole. We continue to pray for peace. Thank you for keeping us in your prayer."

### 1960

**Mary Conway Zodrow** (photo below) writes, "Here is a photo of **Megs Mackesy Scholfield, Susan Torriglia Monahan, me, Patricia Conway Putkey** and **Joanne Hickey Prolo** on our way to our annual January luncheon!"



### 1963

**Maureen Marconi** (photo above) writes, "My husband and I did a 30 day cruise from Dubai to Cape Town this winter with a stop in India to see the Taj Mahal. We are enjoying retirement traveling to exotic lands--next up is Australia and in the spring Southeast Asia, Japan, and China. We welcomed our second granddaughter, Layla, in November 2014."

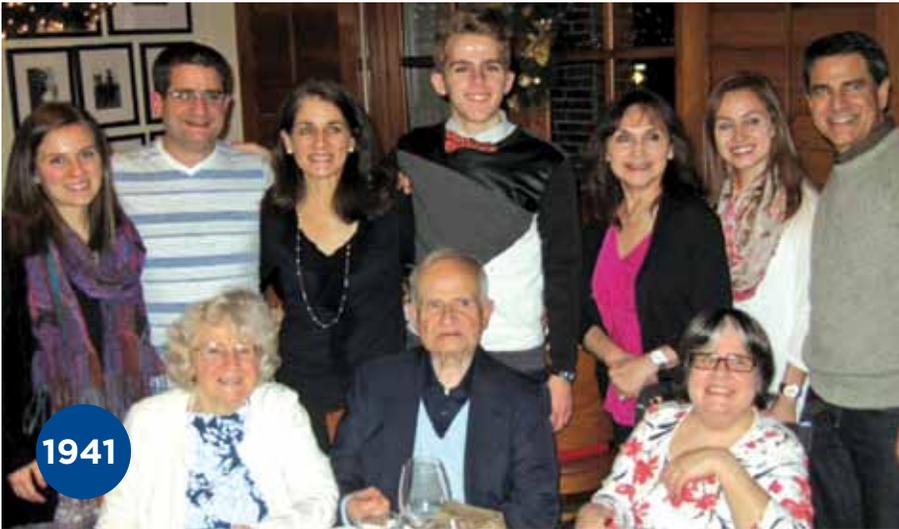


1960

### 1961

**Sr. Carolyn Jeane Buhs SND** (photos above) writes, "Our Solidarity Teacher Training College in Malakal was looted last January at the beginning of the current civil war being fought in eastern South Sudan. Malakal is now a ghost town. It is located near the oil fields which are hotly desired by both sides in the current fighting. We won't try to reopen the College there until there is peace. Meanwhile, I'm among the Displaced and am now enjoying teaching Social Studies in Solidarity Teacher Training

**Janet Ruffing, RSM, PhD '63** (photo) (and former Mercy HS teacher, and currently teaching at Yale Divinity School) traveled to China in July, ending her jubilee celebration by visiting ten of her graduates or colleagues from Fordham University. The trip included: Beijing, Shenyang, Hebei Province, and X'ian. The photo shows her with Srs. Mianfang li, and Jean with whom she taught a workshop, line-by-line translation for spiritual directors and formators. It was wonderful to see these



1941

**PHOTOS: 1941** (*l to r bottom*) **Ruth Curran Dolim '41**, her husband George and daughter Clare; (*l to r top row Ruth's family*): Lily Shafer (granddaughter), Greg Dolim (son), **Judy Shafer Dolim '77** (daughter), Charlie Shafer (grandson), Margie Dolim (daughter-in-law), Stephanie Dolim (granddaughter) and Steve Dolim (son)

**1963 Dr. Janet K. Ruffing, RSM** with Sr. Mianfang and Sr. Jean

**1970 Annie Stegemna Battée**

**1976 Nancy Cafferata Gorell, Jen Watson Cheng '90** and her husband Lieutenant Commander Michael Cheng



1963



1970



1976

sisters, priests, and others flourishing years after graduation working with great energy in very challenging situations. One of the sight-seeing highlights was a visit to Zhoukoudian, outside of Beijing, where Theilhard de Chardin worked with an international team that discovered "Peking Man."

## 1966

**Annette Marie Torre-Lopes** writes, "I have moved from Antioch, CA to a senior mobile home park, Stonegate Park, at 103 Cambria Circle, Citrus Heights, CA 95621 in October 2014 to live closer to my son and daughter-in-law. I am in a senior community and have met a lot of seniors here. They have Bingo and Bunco, and Potluck's once a month. My new phone number is 916.735.7664, cell phone 916-208-5208. I am learning about the Sacramento area and I do not have any more family members on the Peninsula. I am here and more involved with family. My brother lives in Grass Valley, and his sons also live in Citrus Heights. I am getting involved with Saint Rose of Lima Parish, in Roseville, CA, as Citrus Heights borders with Roseville. Keep in touch through my new address or phone numbers listed above. *God bless.*"

## 1970

**Annie Stegeman Battée (photo)** writes, "For the past 26 years I have been a Neighborhood Services Specialist working with Neighborhood Associations for the City of Salem, Oregon. In May I was honored to present the topic "Volunteers: One Style Does Not Fit All" at the Neighborhoods, USA National Conference. I volunteer for a number of groups, including serving on the Board of the Portland Chapter of the organization that supports the ethical use of the Myers Briggs Type Indicator. This summer I traveled to a number of Historic National Park Lodges."

## 1971

**Carol Bethscheider Morgan** writes, "Widowed in February 2012, I recently retired from my job in Boston and moved to Hot Springs Village, Arkansas to be close to my sister **Janine Bethscheider '64.**"

## 1974

**Jean Bove Goerss MD MPH** writes, "I am writing because I just moved back to California. I am living with my mother in Millbrae now. I went to University of Portland for college and Loyola-Stritch in Chicago area for medical school, Mayo Clinic for a pediatrics residency, Tacoma Washington to work as a pediatrician, then back to Rochester Minnesota to do

a fellowship in medical genetics at Mayo and get an MPH in epidemiology at University of Minnesota, then moved to Phoenix, Arizona with my husband and 2 boys. I just quit my job evaluating disability claims for the Social Security Administration. Between 1995 and 2007 I was home with my sons and learning all I could about Aspergers (and by extension autism) and gifted children. I helped write a book about misdiagnoses in gifted children and adults during that time and gave many presentations at conferences. My husband divorced me in 2010. My oldest son is finishing his final semester of law school at NYU and my younger son is living with his Dad and working on his music. Whew, that's what happens when you procrastinate and don't keep up with people. I am currently looking for a job, hoping to work from home. My Dad died about 10 years ago, but Mom is still going strong (thank God). My sibs are still in the area. Paula graduated Mercy, John and Jim went to Serra. Paula is a nurse administrator, John works in Silicon Valley and Jim is a musician and producer."

## 1976

**Nancy Cafferata Gorell (photo)** who serves as the National Corporate Secretary and Ombudsman for The National Navy League of the United States, attended the 2013 Blue Angels End of the Season Event down

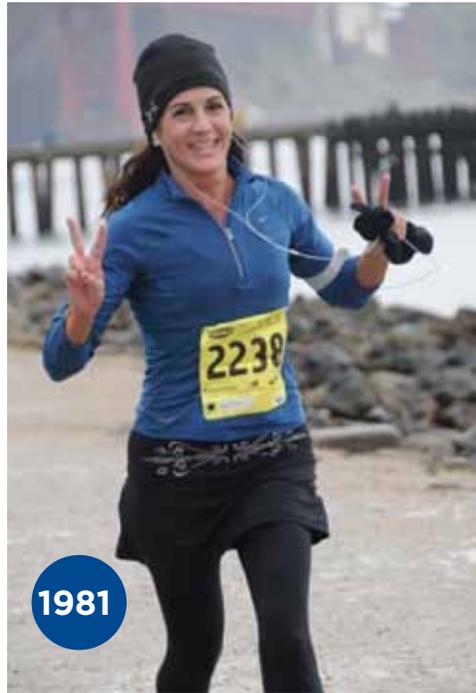
## Class Notes

**1976 Nancy Cafferata Gorell (cont.)** in Pensacola, FL. Nancy ran into **Jen Watson Cheng '90**, who graduated Mercy Burlingame in 1990. She married Lieutenant Commander Michael Cheng, the Blue Angel Event Coordinator and he graduated Saint Ignatius in 1991. They have been married since August 2006. Lieutenant Commander Michael Cheng has been in the Navy since 2001. It is a small world!



### **Marianne Nagle McDonald '77** *Help Marianne Beat Lyme Disease*

**Hello fellow alumnae!** I would like to ask for support regarding my diagnosis of Lyme disease. **My daughter, Shannon started a GoFundMe campaign for me, a fund for me called "Help Marianne Beat Lyme Disease" <http://www.gofundme.com/mariannesfund>.** The last four years have been extremely difficult. I have had symptoms of burning feet, hands, fast heart rate, anxiety lightheadedness, malaise, and no energy. I was working as a registered nurse prior to this but now I am unable to work. This past year my family has also had other challenges. My former husband and father of my daughter passed away from gastric cancer that had metastasized to his lungs, bones and most of his body. He died within six months of his diagnosis. Shortly after that my 3 year old granddaughter, Dorothy was diagnosed with Wilm's tumor of her left kidney which extended all the way up into her heart. She underwent surgery, chemotherapy and radiation. We are counting on a full recovery for my precious, sweet granddaughter. It has been a very tough time for me. It is hard for me to ask for help, but sometimes you just have to face the fear and ask. No donation is too small and prayers and healing thoughts are so appreciated. I am so grateful for anything you can do. I'm living back in San Bruno now, and I think it would be fun to meet up with some old friends. Love to all!



### **1978**

**Carla Heinlo Strauch** writes, "My daughter goes to Dominican University in San Rafael. Shayna is a freshman. The classes are only 12 to 15 students. She loves it."

### **1981**

**Susan Lopez-Guerra (photo above)** writes, "I work full-time for a start-up and recently became a Fitness & Nutrition Coach which I really enjoy. There is nothing more gratifying than helping others. My boyfriend and I recently bought a home in Cameron Park after living in San Mateo for most of our lives. He still works in San Mateo as a Fire Captain but the commute is worth it! We love it here! I was also pleasantly surprised how many Mercy alums live here in El Dorado County! So nice to always have people you know wherever you go."



exemplifies inclusive leadership, and who

### **1983**

**Marie Bayley Andel**, CSAA Insurance Group's chief administrative officer, received the Outstanding Executive Award from leadership development firm Linkage Inc. Each year, Linkage selects an executive who has demonstrated a deep commitment to advancing women leaders in their organization, who

goes above and beyond what's required to contribute and make a difference for women leaders within their company. "Marie Andel is an excellent choice for this award and we couldn't be prouder," said Paula Downey, president and CEO of CSAA Insurance Group. "In addition to identifying opportunities and establishing effective diversity and inclusion programs, Marie is a strong leader who serves as an outstanding role model for others. As a chief administrative officer, Marie is responsible for leading the company's efforts in corporate culture; corporate communications; talent management; leadership development; employee benefits and services; program management; and real estate, facilities and security. Andel also serves on the boards of the American Red Cross, Bay Area Chapter and the Community Safety Foundation, funded by CSAA Insurance Group. Marie has been honored by the *San Francisco Business Times* as one of the Bay Area's Most Influential Women in Business.

**Yolanda Valdes Thayer** writes, "Living in the Bay Area married 28 yrs. I have 2 amazing adult children & 3 dogs. I have had my own business for 7 years. Primadonnamakeover Hair & Makeup on location & Perfume Bar Soiree. Serving the whole Bay Area & Beyond. [www.primadonnamakeover.com](http://www.primadonnamakeover.com) [www.perfumesoiree.com](http://www.perfumesoiree.com)."

### **1985**

**The Class of 1985** will be celebrating our 30 Year Reunion during Mercy Homecoming on **Sunday, September 20, 2015**. As of this date, at least 30 class members are expected to attend! **All '85 Alumnae are invited to join the class' Facebook group at [facebook.com/1524539227827647](https://www.facebook.com/1524539227827647)**

**Anne Coykendall Wilhoit** writes, "After 12 years living abroad in Singapore and Japan, I have repatriated to the USA and am residing in Michigan with my husband David, and our High School daughter Amanda. Our older daughter Katie is a freshman in college in Boston."

## **ALUMNAE** **Homecoming/Reunion** **Sunday, Sept. 20, 2015**

All Mercy alumnae are invited!  
*Celebrating classes ending in '0 and '5*

10:00 a.m. Coffee with the Sisters

11:00 a.m. Mass

Noon – Reunion Luncheon, Kohl Mansion.  
Advance reservations required. Reservations can be made at [www.mercyhsb.com](http://www.mercyhsb.com).



1986



1986

**AnaGloria Rodriguez-Wilkinsons (photos above)** writes “Hi Class of 1986! The Rodriguez-Wilkinsons are doing well in Denver, CO. Our two kids, Penelope, 9, and Jasper, 7, are doing well and not only are they bilingual, but also bi-literate. This past October we took a 15 day family trip to France to celebrate my husband’s 50th birthday, our 14th wedding anniversary, and our daughter’s 9th birthday. It was quite a treat to see my husband every day for 15 straight days--being an associate professor of neurosurgery at The Children’s Hospital Colorado keeps him very busy, which in turn keeps me busy taking care of the home front. Please get in touch if you’re coming out to beautiful Colorado.”



1990

1990

**Stacy Demakas Moffat (photo)** writes, “My daughter, Samantha Moffat, who graduated from Rocklin High School in June, is now playing softball on a scholarship at Holy Names University in Oakland Hills.”

2002

**Monique Nielsen (photos)** writes, “I, along with my girlfriends from Mercy are 2002 graduates. I have been designated to send the update email from all of us to let you know our updates. Within the last 2 years we have had some very exciting news to share including travel, babies, and weddings! We are so proud of our Mercy roots and thankful to Mercy for instilling the value of friendship that has carried with us these last 13 years.” Here are the updates:

**#1. Monique Nielsen** received an academic scholarship and started law school at Golden Gate University in August. She was fortunate enough to make Deans list first semester and plans to specialize in International Law.



2002 #2



**#2. Shea Stella ‘02** married Martin Oviedo in San Francisco in 2013 (pictured l to r) **Monique Nielsen ‘02**, **Monica Gomez ‘02**, **Shea**, and **Kari Talvola ‘02** served as bridesmaids, and Shea’s sister was the maid of honor, **Jaime Stella ‘98**. Shea is currently living in New York and works in Manhattan in the NY real estate market. She is moving back to San Francisco with her husband within the next few months. (photo l to r) **Monica, Monique, Kari, Naomi** and **Shea** (top) have made annual trips to NY to visit Shea for the last three years.



2002 #3

**#3. Naomi Vaede-Paschen ‘02** got married to Mitch Paschen in 2013 in Burlingame and in November 2014 had a baby girl, Ava Victoria. (photo **Kari**,

**Naomi, Monica, Monique, Jessica**.) Naomi is currently living in Belmont and the Mercy girls will be spending her 31st birthday with her on January 27th.



2002 #4

**#4. Michelle Villalobous-Rodriguez ‘02** recently purchased a new home in the Hayward Hills with her husband Jaime Rodriguez and three children Miliana, Geo, and Briella. *Pictured (l to r) Kari Talvola ‘02, Samira Judah ‘02, Monique Nielsen ‘02, Michelle* and *Veronica Murillo ‘02*, and recently celebrated with Michelle at a champagne brunch for her husband, Jamie’s birthday.



2002 #5

**#5. Monique Nielsen ‘02** and **Kari Talvola ‘02** have traveled to Turkey, Greece, Syria, China and Ireland together since 2012. (photos above)



2002 #6

**#6. Veronica Murillo ‘02** recently started working at LinkedIn, transferring from her pervious job at Genentech. *Photo l to r Michelle Villalobous ‘02, Monique Nielsen ‘02, Veronica Murillo ‘02* and *Kari Talvola ‘02*, in San Francisco.

**#7. Monica Gomez ‘02** is currently in Los Angeles obtaining her Doctorate in Forensic Psychology.

## Class Notes



**#8. Kari Talvola** recently got a promotion and is a Managing Director at Fibre Trade, an International paper company in Burlingame. She had a christmas party in December at her home in San Mateo. *Photo, top row Mercy Girls. Starting from left: Veronica, Michelle, Monique, Naomi, Kari, Samira.*

## 2005

**Jessica DeNurra Arias (photos)** recently married her high school sweetheart of 12 years, Daniel Arias, on May 24, 2014. The ceremony was held at Saint Ignatius in SF and the reception was at the Kohl Mansion. 3 of her bridesmaids are also Mercy '05 Alums pictured above (*l to r*) Jessica's sister Monica Valencia, **Andrea Deschler '05**, **Jessica**, her sister-in-law Cindy Arias, **Christina Milcarek '05**, and **Rochelle Faugier '05**. Jessica graduated from the University of San Francisco with a major in Sociology and is currently living in San Mateo and works in the BioTech industry.



## 2006

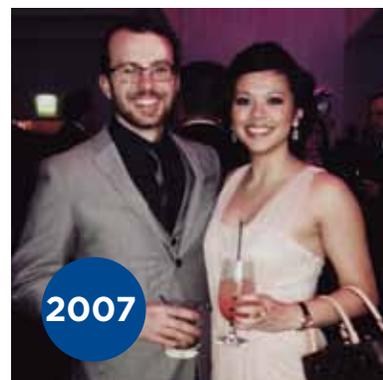
**Nicole Bordi Armanino (photo)** writes, "This past year has been a very exciting one for me! Last year I married Anthony Armanino, a Serra Alum class of 2005, at St. Veronicas Church February 8, 2014. In attendance our best man Chris Stegman, also a Serra alum class of 2005, and my sister & maid of honor, **Melissa Bordi '14**, a Mercy Alum class of 2014! Also we are expecting our first child this July!

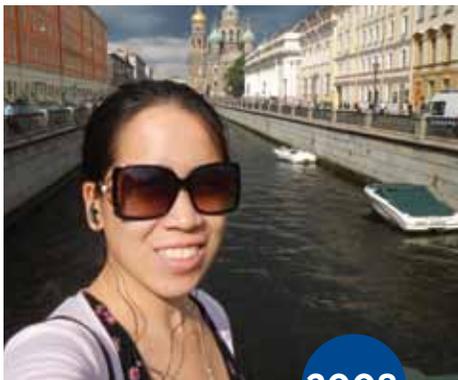
**Lisa Champman** is teaching 8th grade Math and Science at Mark West Charter in Santa Rosa.

## 2007

**Liz Lopez (photo)** lives and works in Mountain View, CA as a product marketing manager for Shape Security. After graduating UC Irvine in 2011, she transitioned her academic focus on History and Political Science to Marketing and Business Development for startups in Silicon Valley. Since leaving Mercy, she has traveled around Western Europe and Asia and lived abroad during college, most notably in England and Washington, DC. Liz still carries on the Tri-School Productions spirit, and sings in community choirs on the Peninsula. If you're interested in reaching out, contact her at [hello@elizabeth-lopez.com](mailto:hello@elizabeth-lopez.com)."

**Lauren Rhodes** recently portrayed Constanze Weber in Hillbarn Theatre's production of Amadeus.





2008



2008



## ALUMNAE Homecoming/Reunion Sunday, Sept. 20, 2015

All Mercy alumnae are invited!  
Celebrating classes ending in '0 and '5

10:00 a.m. Coffee with the Sisters

11:00 a.m. Mass

Noon - Reunion Luncheon, Kohl Mansion.  
Advance reservations required. Reservations can be made at [www.mercyhsb.com](http://www.mercyhsb.com).



2017

2000

## 2008

**Marissa Wong (photos at left)** writes, "I decided to take on the full time position of being Chief Printer for Ryan Edwards Communications. I go onboard the Queen Mary 2 and the Queen Victoria four to five months at a time. I have been learning a lot being a technician for the two printers we operate onboard. If the printers break down, it's my job to fix them as the guests need their daily program every day. Although I did miss a ton of ports due to the printers being broken, I was able to get out on a handful of ports to explore."



## 2011

**Elizabeth Aiello-Coppola** of Pacifica, CA has been selected, through a highly competitive process, to be a Senior Ambassador at Northern

Arizona University (NAU). She will be a member of the University's leadership team that administers the school's nationally recognized new student orientation program. As part of her role she will mentor the student orientation leaders and coordinate the day-to-day operations of the orientation program for new students and their families. NAU is a public university located in Flagstaff, Arizona with an undergraduate enrollment of 20,746 students. Elizabeth, a senior, is on the Dean's list and is a member of the Greek organization, Chi Omega. Elizabeth attended Vallemar School in Pacifica from kindergarten to eighth grade and is a 2011 alumna of Mercy High School Burlingame.

## 2017 & 2000

Sandy Justman writes, "My daughter **Claire Justman '17** and I were pleasantly surprised to find out that our fabulous guide for our Adventures by Disney tour July '14 was **Summer Rose Sofos '00!** Summer Rose is the consummate professional, who managed to keep 40 "adventurers" on track and on schedule for our tour of *Walt Disney Co. -related operations, such as Walt Disney Studios and Disneyland*. For those who don't know, being chosen as an Adventures by Disney guide is quite an honor, and Summer Rose is well deserving of it! At left is a photo of the two Mercy girls at the Big Thunder Ranch BBQ!"

## Mercy Volunteer Corps

ARE YOU READY FOR ADVENTURE? IS THIS YOUR TIME TO EMBRACE COMPASSIONATE SERVICE, SPIRITUALITY, AND A SIMPLE LIFESTYLE? DO YOU HAVE A YEAR TO SPEND...CULTIVATING MERCY AND JUSTICE IN OUR WORLD? Think of a YEAR OF SERVICE with MERCY VOLUNTEER CORPS!

In partnership with the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, women and men of Mercy Volunteer Corps (MVC) enter into relationship with people who are economically poor and marginalized. MVC promotes social change by placing and supporting volunteers for one year of service in the U.S. and South America. Mercy Volunteers work in education, healthcare, and social services while living together in community and growing spiritually.

Mercy Volunteer Corps is looking for dedicated women and men who are:

- 21 Years or Older
- High School or College Graduate
- Motivated by the Gospel to Serve
- Comfortable with the Catholic Church
- In Good Health
- Flexible and Adaptable
- Gifted with a Sense of Humor
- Single or Married With No Dependents

For more information, please visit the Mercy Volunteer Corps website at [www.mercyvolunteers.org](http://www.mercyvolunteers.org) or contact Angie Carlton, the Community Coordinator for the West Midwest at [angiecarlton@mercyvolunteers.org](mailto:angiecarlton@mercyvolunteers.org) or by phone at 402-399-2438.



# Planned Giving

## Catherine's Legacy

*Leave a legacy, remember Mercy in your will!*

A planned give may be the largest gift you ever make...

### 2014-15 Bequest

John and Juliana Molloy Shields '51

*Thank you for remembering Mercy with a gift of securities!*



### Why do you need a will?

Because it allows you to:

- Direct the division of your property the way you choose—not the way the state decides.
- Name a guardian for your minor children.
- Select an executor (personal representative) who is well-qualified to settle your estate promptly and economically, with careful attention to your wishes.
- Devise an estate plan, with the help of a qualified attorney and other advisors, to minimize the taxes on your estate.

### Remember Mercy in your Will:

Once you have taken care of your family members, just a few sentences in your will are all that is needed. The official bequest language for Mercy High School, Burlingame is: "I, [name], of [city, state, ZIP], give, devise and bequeath to Mercy High School, Burlingame [written amount or percentage of the estate or description of property] for its unrestricted use and purpose."

For information on creating your first will or more information regarding estate planning, contact Mary Lund at 650-762-1190 or [www.mercyhsb.com](http://www.mercyhsb.com) – click Giving to Mercy – click Planned Giving. Notify Mary Lund if you have remembered Mercy in your will or estate plan so that you can become a member of Catherine's Legacy.

## Follow us on *(links posted on front page of [www.mercyhsb.com](http://www.mercyhsb.com))*



@mercyburlingame



Mercy High School  
Burlingame



@mercyburlingame



Mercy High School  
Burlingame

## ALUMNAE

**Teresa Hallendorf Desmarais '63**

**Ann Egan Diedrich '40**

**Linda Gilsdorf '66** sister of Helen Gilsdorf RSM '56, Ann Gilsdorf King '63, Judy Gilsdorf Lake '67, Mary Gilsdorf Petillo '79 and Eileen Gilsdorf Delzell '80

**Joan O'Grady Leaver '42** sister of Rita O'Grady O'Connor '39, Nellie O'Grady Negri '40 (Deceased)

**Barbara McGee '54**

**Mary Ann Woodall '66**

## FAMILY & FRIENDS

**Philip Almonte** father of Andrea Almonte '18

**Estelle Andre** mother-in-law of Nancy Souza Andre '81

**Richard Andre** father-in-law of Nancy Souza Andre '81

**Vincent "Vince" Baldocchi** father of Terry Baldocchi La Marina, Kohl Mansion Director of Events

**Dixie Bazzani** mother of Janice Bazzani '69, grandmother of Kelly Bazzani '98, mother-in-law of Pamela Meuser Bazzani '68

**Ron Bellatorre** father of Jennifer Munsey, Mercy Events Coordinator

**Shirley Bianchi** mother of Lori Bianchi Madsen '71

**Josephine Brosnan** mother of Betty Brosnan '69, Sheila Brosnan '77, mother-in-law of Carla Lovi Brosnan

**Ronald "Ronnie" Cirigliano** brother-in-law of Melanie Meisel Cirigliano '73, uncle of Natalie Cirigliano '02, Mercy VP for Student Life and Jillian Cirigliano '99

**Lois Cordo** mother of Denise Cordo Marino '79

**Clarence Cravalho** husband of Mary Monast Cravalho '50

**Robert (Bob) Davidson** father of Jeanne Davidson '71 (Deceased)

**Donald Davis** husband of Vivian Ellenburg Davis '56

**Conchita Diaz** grandmother of Margarita Francisco '16 and Catalina Francisco '10

**George Dobson** grandfather of Kelcey Dobson '18

**James Doherty, Sr.** grandfather of Christina and Kathryn Doherty '13 and Karen Doherty

**Robert Eugene Dryden** father of Lynn Van Etton '72

**Rick Fisher** brother of Kim Fisher Frochtweig '84

**Mary Ghorso** mother of Rose Ghorso Carmick '81, grandmother of Rebecca Carmick '16, Kathryn Ghorso '11 and Tiffany Ghorso '02

**Charlotte Grippi** mother of Charlene Grippi Chanteloup '58

# 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.

**Donald Harris** father-in-law of Judith Turner Harris '72

**Teresa Hurley** grandmother of Julia Hurley '16 and sister of M. Edith Hurley, RSM

**Mack Jepsen** father of Emma Jepsen '08

**Elizabeth Lacunza** mother of Katherine Lacunza Pompili '78, Monica Lacunza Gentry '79, grandmother of Francisca Pompili '12 and Jordan Gentry '15

**Jim Marconi** brother of Maureen Marconi '63 and Nancy Marconi Bayless '65

**Bob Montgomery** grandfather of Lauren Martinelli '16

**Steve Murphy** brother of Sing Murphy '74

**Marjorie Grace Ramos** mother-in-law of Rita Ramos, former Mercy staff member and grandmother of Nicole Ramos Cleary '99

**John Shields** husband of Juliana Molloy Shields '51 (Deceased)

**Pablo Silva-Re** grandfather of Allison Tapia '15 and Christina Tapia '12

**Vladimir Sladkov** grandfather of Natalie Brewer '15

**Victor Soracco** uncle of Coleen Soracco and Brittany Soracco staff members of Burlingame Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Community

**Walter Spellman** husband of Mary Dwyer Spellman '49

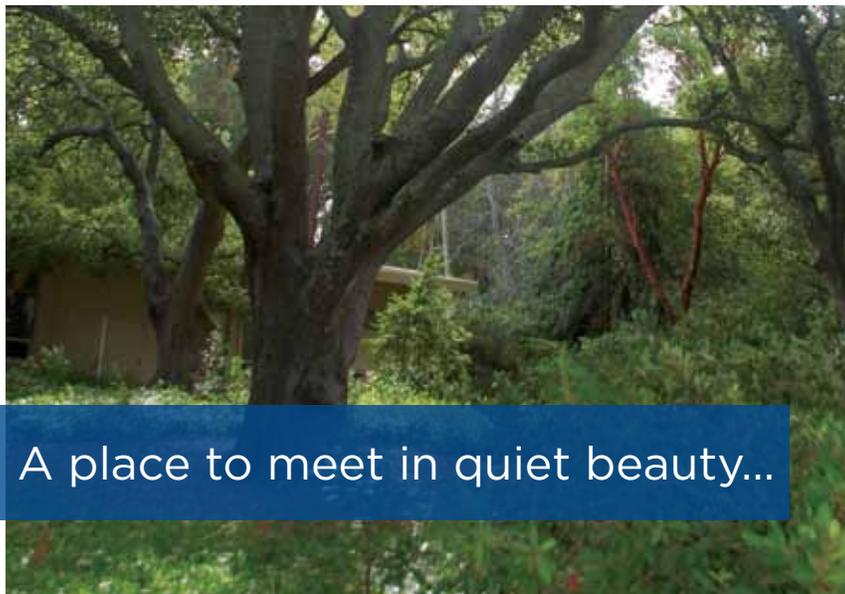
**Michael Spellman** son of Mary Dwyer Spellman '49

**Ralph Turner** father of Judith Turner Harris '72

**Robert Williams** father of Ann Williams Regan '69 and Barbara Williams Labagh '62

## 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 [salbers@mercyhsb.com](mailto:salbers@mercyhsb.com) or make a gift online at [mercyhsb.com](http://mercyhsb.com).



A place to meet in quiet beauty...

## Memorial Celebrations, Conferences, Meetings and Retreats

Contact us about special pricing for Mercy friends and family  
[www.mercy-center.org](http://www.mercy-center.org) or 650.340.7405



MERCY CENTER



# Mercy High School SPRING Open House!

Wednesday, May 13, 2015  
6pm - 9pm



**Explore Mercy's campus, meet our students, teachers and administrators and learn more about our community. Register at [www.mercyhsb.com](http://www.mercyhsb.com)**

*We look forward to seeing you!*

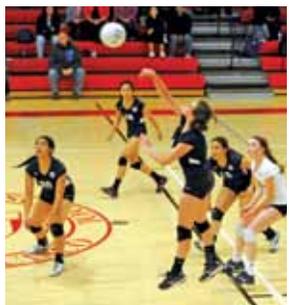
## Academic Classroom Presentations

- Math: Algebra, Geometry, Calculus & Statistics
- Science: Chemistry, Robotics, Coding & Forensics
- Visual Performing Arts: Dance, 2D Art, Photography, 3D
- Art, Chorale & Drama
- Religion, Service and Immersion Trips
- English & World History
- World Language: Spanish, French & American Sign Language



## Explore Extracurricular Opportunities at Mercy

- 14 Sports Teams
- Student Leadership Opportunities
- Service and Philanthropy Events & Trips
- Dances & Social Opportunities



**RIU  
MERCY** Mercy Mission  
is Action and  
Contemplation

Liturgies • Kairos  
Saturdays of Service  
Immersion Trips

**17** Honors  
Courses  
**16** AP  
Courses

**VPA**  
excellence

**14** Sports 70% of Mercy Girls  
Play at Least One



**Be Known • Be Challenged • Be Transformed**

Mercy High School • 2750 Adeline Drive • Burlingame • CA 94010 • 650.343.3631



# Spend Your Summer at Mercy High School Burlingame!



## 6th-8th Grades Girls June 15 - July 10 • 8:30am - 3:00pm

### • Tools 4 School for girls entering into 6th & 7th Grade

Classes consist of Math Skills, Reading & Writing Groups, Beginning Computer Coding, Design Tinkering, Musical Theater, Drama, Dance, Swimming, Art and Cooking. The first three Fridays will include field trips.

### • Transitional Tools for girls entering into 8th Grade

Builds on the Tools for School program with an emphasis on critical thinking skills, preparation for HSPT and field trips that are more focused to this age group. There will also be many familiar aspects to the program such as Art, Dance, Cooking and Musical Theater.



## Summer Camps High School Girls

*Start dates vary - for more info [www.mercyhsb.com/summer](http://www.mercyhsb.com/summer)*

Enrichment courses in SAT Prep, Mindfulness & Wellness, Cooking & Baking, Fashion & Design, Coding & Forensic



## Summer School High School Girls & Boys

*Start dates vary - for more info [www.mercyhsb.com/summer](http://www.mercyhsb.com/summer)*

A variety of courses will be offered for credit. Please check our website.

# 2015 Summer at Mercy Burlingame

Mercy High School • 2750 Adeline Drive • Burlingame • CA 94010 • 650.343.3631



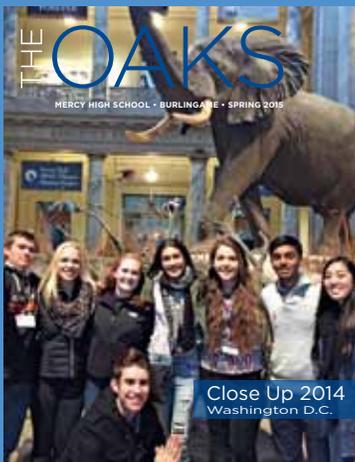
**Visit [www.mercyhsb.com/summer](http://www.mercyhsb.com/summer) for more info and to enroll.**



MERCY HIGH SCHOOL  
 2750 ADELIN DR  
 BURLINGAME CA 94010-5597

*Change Service Requested*

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 MERCY HIGH SCHOOL



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.

Close Up 2014  
 Washington D.C.

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

**Administration:**

Karen Hanrahan, *Head of School*  
 Lauren Conklin, *Assistant Principal for Academics*  
 Natalie Cirigliano, *Assistant Principal for Student Life*

**Oaks Editorial Team:**

Mary Lund, *Director of Advancement*  
 Carol Fraher, *Asst. Director of Advancement and Director of Public Relations*  
 Stacey Longwich, *Director of Marketing*  
 Jill Scerri, *Graphic Communications*

**Main Office | 650.343.3631**

**Advancement & Alumnae Office**  
 650.762.1190

**Admissions Office | 650.762.1114**

**FAX | 650.343.2976**

**Email | alumnae@mercyhsb.com**

**www.mercyhsb.com**

## Upcoming Events...

*Visit our website for details on these and other events at [www.mercyhsb.com](http://www.mercyhsb.com)*

**Martinis at the Mansion**  
 Saturday, March 14, 2015

**Grease**  
 Tri-School Spring Musical  
 at *Serra*  
 March 20, 21, 27, 28 - 7:30 p.m.  
 March 22 - 2:00 p.m.

**Making A Difference**  
 Thursday, April, 30, 2015  
 6:00 pm

**Spring Concert at Mercy**  
 Tuesday, May 5, 2015

**Mercy Dance Concert**  
 Saturday, May 11, 2015

**MercyArtsFest at Mercy**  
 Tuesday, May 12, 2015

**Spring Open House**  
 Wednesday, May 13, 2015

**Baccalaureate Mass**  
 Saturday, May 30, 2015  
 OLA

**Graduation**  
 St. Ignatius Church (USF)  
 Sunday, May 31, 2015



@mercyburlingame



Mercy High School  
 Burlingame



@mercyburlingame



Mercy High School  
 Burlingame