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May Crowning 2016



Class of 1966 Inducted into the Golden Guild

Events Bring Alumnae Together

Alumnae gathered at Mercy High School for two networking events recently.

Close to 200 alumnae attended the All-School Reunion on June 5. A highlight of the day was the induction of the Class of 1966 into the Golden Guild. The program also included Mass, a welcome and school update from Sr. Delores Hannon, RSM, Mercy President, remarks by Kim Bryant Vavra '01, President-Elect, Alumnae Council, and a complimentary brunch.

The Alumnae Council sponsored “Cheers with Your Peers,” a wine and painting social in April. Stacia Slezak Luther '01 led a painting session with about 50 participants. Wine and appetizers were provided, and attendees viewed artwork created by Mercy students.



Enjoying the networking opportunity at the All-School Reunion from left to right are Lisa Bartlett Crum '85, Maureen Becka Falcon '85, Kelly Nystrom '86, Lisa Gaughan Eldrige '84, and Amy Gaughan McAuliffe '86.



“Cheers with Your Peers” included not only socializing but learning to paint. Pictured from left to right are Mary Beacom Emmer '84, Lorraine Beacom, Allison Rickers Hubbell '11, and Maddie Jewell '11.



Members of the Class of 1966 gathered the night before the All-School Reunion. Here from left to right are Olivia Torrez Patlan, Patricia Romano Inserra, Carolyn Yechout Rudol, Victoria Mangan Menard, and Kathleen Cogswell Davis.



The All-School Reunion began with Mass in the chapel.



Taking a break from painting at the “Cheers with Your Peers” event from left to right are Mary Lour Parr, Audrey Buckley, and Kathy Byrnes, owner of Village Canvas and Cabernet.

Cover photos:

The top photo features the 2016 May Crowning Court. Pictured from left to right are Madison Richter-Egger '17, Meghan Wolbach '17, Sofia Blankman '16, Shacty Alvarez-Hurtado '19, Rachel Johnson '16, Celine Tharuba '16, Adeline Costello '19, Molly Bartek-Miller '18, and Lauren Ramaekers '18. The Class of 1966 was inducted into the Golden Guild at the All-School Reunion. Pictured from left to right are front row: Catherine Schafer Brisby, Sharon Bisbee Anania, Bernadette Thell Martin, Christine Svacina Caniglia, Patricia Romano Inserra, Linda Brown Duffy, Trudy Waldmann Salvo, Connie Florida Pera, Ursula M. Kalinowski, and Virginia Irvine Bognich. 2nd row: Susan Walsh Snitily, Margaret Smith Bragg, Suzanne Liebentritt Garcia, Diane Lambert Lovstad, Marguerite Keenan Kirby, Christine Van Sichel Girard, Margaret Stewart Hladik, Marianne Beck Hall, Linda Albracht, Carolyn Yechout Rudol, Joyce Blair Wilson, Sally Miller Storr, and Olivia Torrez Patlan. 3rd row : Kathleen Kuehl Havlik, Kathryn Kulceski McMillan, Kathleen Conway Surdell, Anne Pedersen Mahoney, Peggy Doll Lewis, Patricia Murphy, Mary Shirley Weber, Jane Tourek Morinelli, Anne Vanosdall Watzke, Susan Tylski Mann, Crescynthia Vacanti Rogers, and Jeanine Anderson Zeman. 4th row: Dr. Maryanne Stevens, RSM, Kathleen Baines Kizer, Janell Schueller Nesler, Victoria Kafka Kirchner, Cynthia Clayton Currie, Nancy Farha Fagan, Mary Jo Noonan Beda, Shirley Mach Evans, and Susan Cook Waldren.

Fueling Her Creative Passion

“Some of my best memories of my time at Mercy were spent creating,” said Molly Cavanaugh '90, co-host of the radio show, “The Big Party Morning Show” and veteran of The Second City in Chicago.

“My jobs throughout my career have fallen into the ‘unique’ category, and in no small part that was due to my being able to explore the more unique side of working life via my studies at Mercy and then at New York University (NYU),” she added.

Molly was very involved in theatre while a Mercy student and recalls fondly the rehearsals in the old gym. She feels that Mercy is a place where all interests are nurtured--from sports, to academics, to the arts.

She decided to attend Mercy because she encountered a ‘close knit feeling’ when she visited the school in 8th grade. Even though she attended Holy Cross across the street, she said the transition was much more than walking across that pavement. She remembers fondly the Lock In event and the fun girls she met from all over the city.

“It is funny because many of the women I met that night are still my dear friends almost 30 years later,” she said.

After graduating in 1990, she attended NYU and earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Fine Arts. She has traveled the world performing and writing for The Second City. Molly has always been drawn to ‘performing,’ but also she is a blogger/columnist for MOmaha.

Although she supports Mercy from a distance as she currently lives in Chicago, she has donated her time, talent, and resources to the school. Molly recently narrated the school’s new brand video.

She is amazed by the impressive and remarkable accomplishments that her fellow classmates have achieved and knows their stories can motivate those who wonder, “What Mercy can do for me?” But she would turn around that question and pose to potential students, “What do you want it to do?”

Molly’s answer would be that Mercy allowed her the support and opportunities to explore and strengthen her talents, both academically and creatively.

“That was my journey, and Mercy was there with and for me along the way,” she added.



Mercy was featured on the radio with the “Big Party Morning Show.” Pictured from front to back are Sarah Regan, Principal, 2016 Student Council President, Emma Ecker, Molly Cavanaugh '90, and Big Party.

Calling All Alumnae!

Are you interested in getting more involved at Mercy? Do you want to help plan the next awesome alumnae event? Do you enjoy telling everyone you know how great Mercy High is? If so, then we have just the place for you! The Alumnae Council is always looking for women who want to become more involved with Mercy. Right now, we are actively recruiting a few new Alumnae Council members from graduating classes of the 60’s, 70’s, and 90’s. The need changes each year, so if you’re from another Mercy decade, or simply want to volunteer for an event without joining the Alumnae Council, please let us know by contacting Katy Butts ’03, Alumnae Relations Director & Events Manager, at buttsk@mercyhigh.org or 402-553-9424.

This is only a small sampling of the stories about Mercy High School. To read more look at the school’s website at mercyhigh.org or follow us on social media on



Student Life

97% of the Class of 2016 will be going on to college and received scholarships worth more than \$4.1 million from these institutions, businesses or foundations.

Benedictine College

Abott Scholarship(2)
Academic Award
College Award(3)
Maathai Scholarship
Scholarship Award(2)
Voice Scholarship

Brandon Tomcat Memorial Archery Tournament

Butler University
Academic Scholarship

College of Saint Mary

Academic Scholarship
Academic Achievement
Scholarship

Colorado School of Mines

Merit Scholarship

Colorado State University

Presidential Scholarship

Concordia University, NE

Academic Scholarship

Creighton University

Founders Award (5)
Grace Keenan Scholarship for
Excellence
Linn Award
Roman Shaffle, S.J Award (3)
Smola-McCormick
Scholarship

Doane College

Board of Trustees' Scholarship
Presidential Scholarship
Theatre Scholarship
Van Hoy Scholarship

Drake University

Drake Bulldog Scholarship
Presidential Scholarship

Evangel University

Founder's Scholarship

Grace University

GPA Award

Hamline University

Achievement Scholarship

Iowa State University

Award for Competitive
Excellence Scholarship (2)

Kansas State University

Honors Scholarship

Knights of Columbus

College Scholarship

Long Island University Post

Recognition Scholarship

Loyola University Chicago

Damen Scholarship
Deans' Scholarship

Marquette University

Pere Marquette Award

McCabe Memorial Teaching Scholarship

Mercy College

Presidential Scholarship

Metropolitan Community College

Board of Governors'
Scholarship

Missouri University of Science and Technology

Trustees' Scholarship
Trustees' Out-of-State
Scholarship
University Scholarship

Missouri Western State University

Dean's Academic Scholarship

Mount Marty College

Excellence Scholarship
Merit Scholarship
Scholastica Scholarship

Nebraska Methodist College

Harmony Award

Nebraska Wesleyan University

Achievement Scholarship (6)
Archway Scholarship
Black and Gold Scholarship (2)
Founders Scholarship
President's Scholarship (2)
Theatre Scholarship

Northwest Missouri State University

Freshman Merit Award (3)
Green and White Advantage
Scholarship (3)

Offutt Officer Spouses' Club Scholarship

Omaha World-Herald

Outstanding Student
Scholarship

Peru State College

Board of Trustees' Scholarship

Regis University

Achievement Catholic Award
Board of Trustees Scholarship
Blue/Gold Scholarship
Science Distinction Award
Scholarship

Rochester Institute of Technology National Institute for the Deaf

Merit Scholarship
President's Scholarship

Rockhurst University

Breen Scholarship
Knapp Scholarship (2)
Loyola Scholarship (6)
McCabe Scholarship (2)
Regent's Scholarship

Rotary Club of Omaha West

Outstanding Senior
Scholarship

Runza/KETV Student of the Week

Saint Louis University

Deans' Scholarship
Vice Presidents' Scholarship

Saint Mary's University of Minnesota

DeLaSalle Christian Brother
Scholarship
Presidential Scholarship
Saint Cecilia Scholarship
for Music

South Dakota School of Mines & Technology

SD Mines Scholar

Southern Arkansas University

Blue and Gold Award

Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation

College Opportunity
Scholarship
Scholarship

The American Red Cross

Young Minds Change Lives
Scholarship

University of Colorado Boulder

Chancellor's Achievement
Scholarship

University of Kansas

Excellence Scholarship (3)
Department of Chemical
and Petroleum Scholarship
Midwest Student Exchange
Program Scholarship
School of Engineering
Dean's Scholarship

University of Missouri Kansas City

Achievement Award
Non-Resident Award

University of Nebraska Kearney

Chancellor's Scholarship
G. Robert Muchmore
Scholarship

University of Nebraska Lincoln

Chancellor's Leadership (3)
College of Agricultural
Sciences and Natural
Resources Scholarship (2)
David Distinguished
Scholarship (3)
Honors Scholarship(5)
James Canfield Scholarship (5)
Nebraska Emerging Leader
Scholarship
Nebraska Legends Scholarship
Pepsi Scholar
Regents Scholarship (3)
Scholarship Award

University of Nebraska Omaha

Chancellor's Scholarship (2)
Dean's Scholarship (4)
Goodrich Scholarship
Mockelman Memorial
Scholarship
Regents Scholarship (3)

University of South Dakota

Coyote Commitment
Achievement Scholarship(2)

University of St. Thomas Award

Scholarship Award
St. Thomas Award
Trustees' Academic
Scholarship (2)

Wisconsin Lutheran College

Presidential Scholarship

Class of 2016 Key Honors

The Class of 2016 excelled in academics, service commitment, and extracurricular activities. Highlighted below are some of the students' awards.

- Michelle Allen and Hannah Opp were named Outstanding Seniors, the top award given to a senior student. The annual award winners are chosen by the senior class, faculty, and administration and must "represent the class in an outstanding way." Honorees are considered by their peers and leaders to be loyal, trustworthy, spirited, compassionate, generous, and dedicated while also being involved in school activities.
- Mary Jandrain, Vivian Parr, and Maggie Vankat received the Sister Catherine Franey Award, the top music honor given to a senior at Mercy.
- This year's valedictorian was Mikayla Rosenthal, and Michelle Allen was salutatorian.
- Allie Peterson and Jenny Gilbert received the highest athletic honor bestowed on a Mercy athlete--the Sister Edith Award. The award honors the athlete(s) who best portray the qualities that are most important in athletics like teamwork, spirit, and more.
- Seven Honors Art students presented art pieces at the Senior Show, the capstone of their Mercy High art career. The girls design and develop their own curriculum as they contract projects for each quarter working with the art teacher. Students were Allayna Bash, Sofia Blankman, Rylie Combs, Ann Krause, Natalie Leonard, Theresa Nguyen, and Nicole Weberg.
- During the Theatre Awards Night, students received "Tonys" for their work on and behind the stage.
 - Best Supporting Technician, Izzy Brown
 - Best Technician, Josie Wren
 - Best Stage Manager, Lyndee Hoge
 - Best Supporting Actor, Patrick Render
 - Best Actor, Adam Fulbright
 - Best Break-Through Performance, Clare Kendall
 - Best Supporting Actress, Riah Carrera
 - Best Actress, Vivian Parr
- Two seniors were recognized for their community service. Alexandra Schulz received the Catherine McAuley Award for Extraordinary Service, for the most service hours during the year. Izabela Kruszcak received the Sr. Jeanne O'Rourke Award for strong service hours and advocacy for justice.



Pictured from left to right are Outstanding Seniors Hannah Opp and Michelle Allen.



Receiving the Sister Catherine Franey Award for excellence in music from left to right are Mary Jandrain, Vivian Parr, and Maggie Vankat with Music Teacher, Mrs. Patricia Yunker.



Allie Peterson and Jenny Gilbert, pictured from left to right are recipients of the Sister Edith Award for athletics.

Alumnae News (Available pictures follow the items)

1950s

Sr. Carolyn Thirtle OSF, SJ '55 will be celebrating her Diamond Jubilee as a Dubuque Franciscan on June 26. She is volunteering at a nursing home, Stonehill Franciscan Services, in the therapy department.

1970s

Marilyn Smith Havel '70 and her husband Len took a trip to Alaska last year putting about 9,000 miles on their camper.



Len and Marilyn Havel in front of the Portage Glacier.

Liz James Joyce '72 talks about her tax account job and the impact a Mercy education made on her in an article under Alumnae Features on Mercy's website.



The Class of 1974 helped celebrate the 60th birthday of classmate Lisa Tosone in March at a restaurant in Omaha. The group meets monthly.



Pictured left to right back row: Denise Bowyer, Maggie Milone O'Donnell, Connie Mangano '73, Theresa Franco, Mary Lincoln, Lisa Tosone. Front row: Theresa Miklas Ryan, Mary Margaret Fenton, Sarita Ruma '73, and Margaret Safranek Nugent.

1990s

Her family gave her the choice of where she would attend school, but after visiting Mercy, "I had the feeling I belonged there," said **Rebecca (Becky) Marie Dale Girthoffer '99**. Read her story on Mercy's website under Alumnae Features.

2000s

She works for one of North America's largest construction and engineering organizations, and she credits Mercy with giving her the confidence to lead and take on new challenges. Read about **Julie Pentis Link '02** at Alumnae Features on Mercy's website.



Rose Grabow Anderson '03 and her husband are realizing their dream by opening a restaurant in Omaha at the end of June. Featuring European cuisine, the business is named for their daughter Baela Rose and will open in late June.

Attending Mercy High School, where every leadership position is primarily held by a woman, has helped **Kristine Mattini Evans '06** stay confident in pursuing a career in a male-dominated job field. Read her story on Mercy's website under Alumnae Features.



Kristine Evans is a transportation engineer and works on state highways and other projects.

Sam Engelkamp '07 recently started her dream job at Yahoo! as a receptionist and administrative assistant.

Working as a digital specialist for the *Omaha World-Herald* is **Rachel Slowik '12** who recently graduated from University of Nebraska Kearney.

Calla Kessler '14 was in Nepal as part of the University of Nebraska – Lincoln College of Journalism and Mass Communications program called Global Eyewitness. See her blog and photos at <http://bit.ly/1UtNXUv>.

In Celebration

Weddings/Anniversaries

Loretta “Larri” Smejkal Caniglia, SJ '50 and her husband Joseph celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on June 4, 2016 with family and friends.

Jaclyn Liechti Pillitteri '03 married Nicholas Pillitteri on September 19, 2015.



Paula Sweeney Valls '10 married Joshua Valls on February 20, 2016.



Births

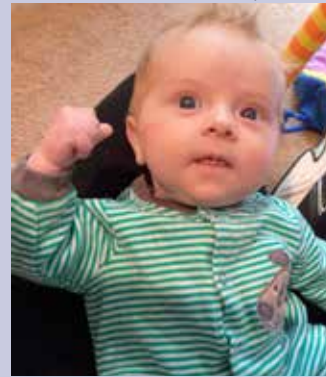
Rachel Burbach Burns '94 and her husband James welcomed Emma Rose Burns on March 29, 2016.



Amanda Fulton '98 adopted a baby boy, Everett Paul, in January 2016. Amanda also has a new job as a Personal Care Nurse for Westside Community Schools.



Anne Zadina McGill '00 and Jason McGill welcomed Callum Robert McGill to their family on March 13, 2016.



In Memoriam

We extend sympathy to the families and friends of those alumnae who have died between March 1, 2016-May 31, 2016. We try to make this list as accurate as possible. Please inform Naomi Chambers at chambersn@mercyhigh.org if we missed anyone.

Mildred Taylor Nanfito, SJ '33
Rosemary Sorrell Boland, SJ '41
Frances Filip Holmes, SJ'42
Justine Seitz Jeffrey, SJ '43
Margaret Mullaly Stratman, SJ '44
Josephine Polito Elworth, SJ '47
Theresa Dymak Ponec, SJ '48
Barbara Horacek, SM '48
Sr. M. Frances Kosiut, OSF, SM '48
Theresa Sobetski Widhalm, SJ '49
Dolores Paladnio Gerken, SJ'50
Donna Goldsberry Cortese, SM '50
Margaret Sullivan Livingston, SM '51
Mary M. Tanner, SM '53
Glenda Mausbach Merwald '56
Darlene Stangl Sullivan '56
Patricia Fangman Courage '58
Mary Weidner McGowan '58
Karen Van Moorleghem McKeone '58
Barbara Tigges Stewart '59
Judith Schultz Tomaszkiwicz '59
Christine Standeven Cervený '62
Peggy Holly Olson '65
Diane DiMari O'Brien '66

Celebrating 25 Years!



**Driving for
Excellence
GOLF FEST**

July 18, 2016

**The Players Club
at Deer Park**

**Join Us for a Day of Fun
to Benefit Mercy's
Negotiated Tuition
Program**

**11:00 a.m. -Check-in and Cookout Lunch
Noon-Shotgun Start, Texas Scramble
Buffet Dinner and Prizes to Follow
\$150 Single and \$600 Foursome Donation**

(\$75/\$300 tax deductible)

Special Alumna pricing of \$125
(single ticket, \$50 tax deductible)

Sponsorships

**\$2,500 Carts-\$5,000 Dinner-
\$2,500 Prize-\$1,000 Tee**

*Sponsors receive one or more foursomes, sign recognition,
unlimited beer, lunch, dinner, and more!*

NEW ONLINE EXPRESS CHECK -IN

All donations accepted and appreciated.

**Register online at
<https://mercyhigh.org/mercy/golffest/>
or contact Jim Pogge
at poggej@mercyhigh.org
or call 402.553.9424.**