



Dear Mercy Alumna,

This week's celebration of Thanksgiving is a reminder to us to be grateful for the many gifts that we have received. Thanksgiving offers a special opportunity to reflect on our blessings, and to recommit ourselves to using our gifts to benefit the world. At this time of Thanksgiving, we pause to reflect on the support of our alumnae and the impact it has made on our community. I am grateful to you for your many contributions to our Alma Mater. Whether you have shared your expertise with current Mercy Girls, emailed words of advice to our newest Mercy graduates, volunteered your time for one of our service opportunities, joined us for virtual events, added your voice to our recent conversations ensuring each Mercy Girl feels known, cherished, and loved, supported Mercy financially, or championed Mercy in a myriad of other ways, I say THANK YOU on behalf of our Mercy community! We continue to be so proud and grateful for all the ways our alumnae continue to show their Mercy values to the world.



May this time be joyful and may you and your family be blessed with good health.  
Happy Thanksgiving!

Fondly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen E. Maimone". The signature is written on a light-colored background.

Karen Lippy Maimone '92, P'19  
Director of Alumnae Engagement

P.S. Thank you to all who have sent in photos of your Mercy Legacy family! Stay tuned for an exciting new addition showcasing our Legacy Families coming soon to our Mercy website. There is still time to participate; [email](#) your photos today!

## MERCY DAY 2020

### CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2021!

Mercy Day/Ring Day may have needed to look a little different this year, but it was a fabulous day. Not only did we celebrate the day that Catherine McAuley opened the first House of Mercy in 1827, but we honored the Class of 2021 as they received their long-awaited Mercy rings! This year, due to COVID-19 restrictions, the celebration occurred at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Fullerton. To view a replay of the livestream of the day's events, click [here](#). To read a reflection by **Ana Frujinou '21** on *What The Mercy Ring Means*, click [here](#). **Kristen Snyder Reynolds '92, P'21**, mother of **Kelsey '21**, shared with the Class of 2021 and their guests the *History of the Mercy Ring*. Our newest Mercy seniors who came to us from the Institute of Notre Dame were officially welcomed to the Mercy community and presented with beautiful Mercy-themed bracelets to mark their special day.





*Top Left: Kelsey Reynolds '21 & her mother, Kristen Snyder Reynolds '92, P'21 Top Right: Autumn Costley '21 & her mother, Davida Robinson '97, P'21 Bottom Left: Laura LeBrun Hatcher '94, P'21 & her daughter, Olivia Hatcher '21 Bottom Right: Cathy Wozny Ritzes '92, P'21 & her daughter, Emily Ritzes '21*



*Top Left: Laine Reddish '21 & her mother, Tricia Tollen Reddish '91, P'19,'21 Top Right: Gail Hilseberg Deutsch '86, P'21 & her daughter, Gill Deutsch '21 Bottom Right: A student from the Class of 2021 proudly admires her new Legacy Ring donated by Beverley Luckey Short '75 Bottom Right: Isabella Herda '21 & her mother, Amanda Herda '97*

## **CLASS OF 1971 BECOMES GRANDSISTERS**

As the 50th reunion celebratory year begins for the Class of 1971, they were the eighth class to become "Grandsisters." This endearing term was coined by the Class of 2014 when they learned some members of the class of 1964 were coming to their Mercy Day ring ceremony to participate in the distribution of their long-anticipated Mercy rings. On that day, the class of 1964 became Grandsisters to the Class of 2014! And so, the tradition has continued since. Should conditions permit, the Class of 1971 will also be invited to join the Class of 2021 for their graduation in June, escorting

them as their Grandsisters into the Cathedral for the same graduation walk they took in 1971!

While social distancing requirements prevented the Class of 1971 from attending Mercy Day/Ring Day in person, our Mercy Girls from the Class of 2021 were thrilled to hear advice from their Grandsisters via email.

To read the advice from the Grandsisters, and to see their "then" and "now" photos, click [here](#).

### **FROM NIAKIA CHEESE, DIRECTOR OF EQUITY AND INCLUSION**



*Psalms 9:1 I will give thanks to the Lord with all my heart; I will tell of all Your wonders.*

In this season of Thanksgiving, despite the many challenges in our world, I am truly grateful for the marvelous things happening in my life and in the Mercy community. The scripture above, found in the Book of Psalms, reminds me to relish in the Lord's wonderful work and to share His many blessings.

Earlier this month, Mercy announced the retirement of Principal **Jeanne Blakeslee**, at the end of this academic year. I am honored to serve as a member of the Principal Search Committee. This impressive committee chaired by **Tess Veloso '68**, former director of communications and former Mercy trustee, reflects the rich diversity of the Mercy community. Other alumnae joining us on this journey to find our next academic leader are **Dr. Kia Myrick McDaniel '95**, director of curriculum and instruction, Prince George's County Public Schools, and **Kathleen Radebaugh '04**, assistant principal for academic affairs, Little Flower Catholic High School for Girls, in Philadelphia. Other committee members include **Sister Pat Smith, RSM, Ph.D.**, trustee and former faculty member, **Nancy Uryasz**, chair, science department, **Cheryl Smith P'17**, recently retired from the Maryland Department of Transportation's Office of Minority Business Enterprises, **Lou Heidrick GP'16**, retired principal, Calvert Hall College High School, **Brian Marana**, assistant principal for academics, Loyola Blakefield, and **Heather Cucuzzella**, principal, Immaculate Conception School.

During the months of October and November, Mercy has been actively reaching out to alumnae, past parents, and friends who believe in the mission of Mercy and who would like to support our efforts to become a more inclusive community. We want every one of our Mercy Girls to feel *Known, Cherished, and Loved*. The following alumnae have joined our Mission, Equity, and Inclusion Committee:

**Karen Ross Blake '82, Co-Chair**

**Cheryl Frazier '98, Co-Chair**

**Jackie Loya-Torres '84**

**Shanna Williams Edmond '95, P'20, President, Mercy High School Alumnae Association**

**Kathleen Radebaugh '04**

**Kristen Medley '05**

**Kandace Medley '11**

I am deeply grateful to these dedicated alumnae for their commitment to this mission-centered work at Mercy.

## **CONNECTING WOMEN OF MERCY WITH TODAY'S MERCY GIRLS**



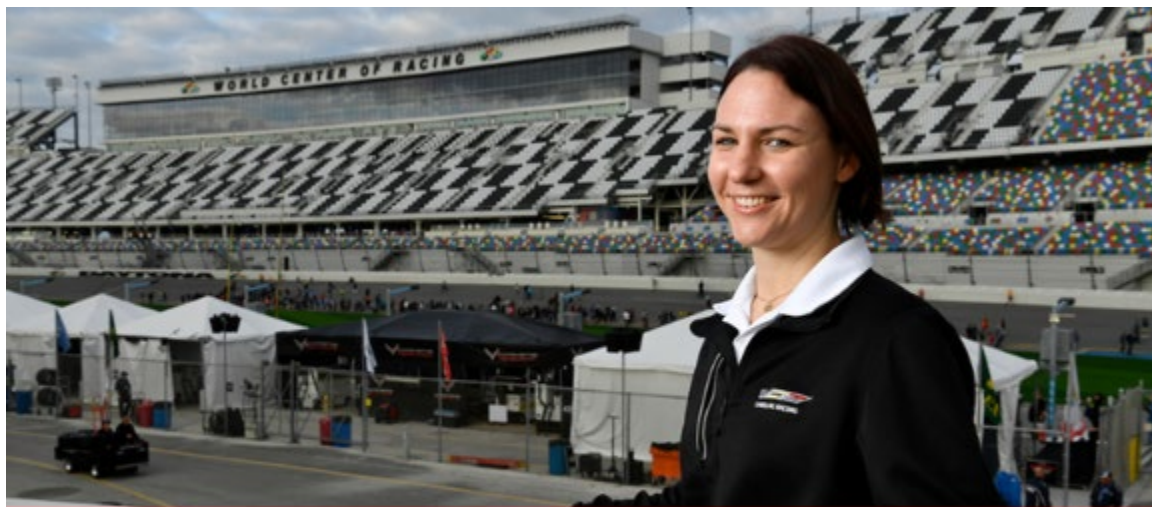
**Rebecca Landerkin '15** was a guest teacher in our *Dance Exploration for All* class. Rebecca, who holds a B.F.A. in Dance Performance and Choreography from Towson University, taught our Mercy Girls about African social dancing as a portion of their dance history unit.





**Dr. Rachel Troch '08**

**Dr. Rachel Troch '08**, a second year Neonatology Fellow at Children's National Hospital in Washington, D.C and a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, shared her expertise with sophomores in [The Sister Agnese Neumann Scholars Program](#) in partnership with MedStar Good Samaritan Hospital and the [Women in Medicine Program](#) in partnership with Mercy Medical Center.



***Laura Wontrop Klauser '04***

**Laura Wontrop Klauser '04**, Cadillac Racing Program manager with General Motors, invited current Mercy Girls to attend the virtual Girls Learning Engineering and Mentoring (GLEAM) Panel Discussion, sponsored by the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE). This panel promoted gender diversity and inclusion focusing on

networking and mentoring across topics that are of interest to women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) professions. Laura was a featured panelist.



**Shanna Williams Edmond '95, P'20**, president of the Mercy High School Alumnae Association, was invited to speak to Mercy's Black Awareness Club at their first meeting of the year. Shanna expressed her joy around the revival of the club and pledged the Alumnae Association's support. Alumnae interested in sharing their personal or professional journey or expertise in health and wellness, college and career, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship with the Black Awareness Club should contact [Ms. Niakia Cheese](#).





**Amanda Pugh '18**, a graduate of Mercy's Mother Catherine McAuley Chapter of the National Honor Society, returned to virtually share with the senior members of the chapter her experiences as a member of the University of Lynchburg's Westover Honors College and to offer them advice for enrolling in a college honors program.



*Christina Meninger '96*

**Christina Meninger '96**, a graduate of the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), connected with **Laila Porter**, a current Mercy senior who is considering attending RIT. Christina shared with Laila her experiences as a film, video, and animation major at RIT.





Members of the Class of 1964 joined our Freshmen Emmaus Day via Zoom to share how their unique experience as the first class at Mercy compared to the Class of 2024's unique beginning. The members of the first class shared stories of eating lunch in the hallways since the dining hall had not been completed, creating some of our beloved Mercy traditions, and how their class has maintained a strong sisterhood for more than 50 years. Members of the Class of '64 participating in the virtual panel were: **Mary Margaret Bollinger Frederick '64, P'89, '98; Charlene Fleming Sibler '64; Pam Hauf Brooks '64; Mary Jean Ireton Bohager '64, GP '24; Sally Riley '64; Peg Rudolph Tabor '64; and Geri Saylor Morrison '64.**

## BE A GEM DAY 2020



Gifts  
\$8,871

Donors  
84



Total  
\$11,992

Gifts  
\$3,121

Donors  
53

Many thanks to our generous alumnae for participating in this year's Be a Gem Day, Mercy's Annual Day of of Giving. Team Plaid Kilts put up a great fight, but in the end, Team Brown Skirts and Saddles raised the most money and had the greatest number of donors to the campaign. While we enjoyed the spirited competition, the real winners were the Mercy Girls of today, as each of these gifts will directly impact their Mercy experience! Stay tuned for next year's competition!



Interested in a book written by a Mercy Alumna? Check out these incredible reads! By popular request, we will be continuing this series in future newsletters. To have a book that you have written added to the list, please email Karen Lippy Maimone '92, P'19.

**Lynne Spigelmire Viti, Ph.D. '65:** *Dancing at Lake Montebello, Going Too Fast: Stories, The Glamorganshire Bible, and Baltimore Girls*

**Beth Hurley Luers '70:** *Creating Light*

**Fran Hawkins Jackson '83:** *The Grown Woman Detox: Achieve Optimal Health by Eliminating Food, Feelings, and Foolishness*

**Robin Rhodes Haynes '95:** *The Fundamentals of Finances Applied to Every Day Living and This Is Not the Final Chapter: A Memoir of Faith, Strength and Tenacity*

**Victoria Zucas '05:** *An Introduction to 3D Printing*

**Amanda Pugh '18:** *My Healing Path*

## **FROM THE ALUMNAE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

It's almost December and, to most of us, that means it's time to stay home, celebrate the holidays with family, reflect on our past year, and dedicate ourselves to do more in the year that follows.

During these unprecedented times, we pray that each of you is able to find peace. The peace that Jesus found even while on the cross provides us each with a model. While created in his likeness we all have the capacity to channel that inner peace and direct our thoughts, actions, and deeds.

On behalf of the Alumnae Executive Board, we wish you and your family a blessed year-end. We cannot wait to share the exciting initiatives that we are working on to enhance and engage fellow Alumnae and current Mercy Sisters.



## Day of Service at First Fruits Farm

On October 10, 2020, Mercy High School Alumnae joined forces with other members of the Mercy community to serve at First Fruit Farms. This dynamic group picked over 70,000 pounds of potatoes which will be distributed to local food pantries, soup



kitchens, and homeless shelters to share with those who are experiencing food insecurity. Thank you to all who participated for making Mercy real!



Thank you to our generous alumnae for all of the contributions to our Student Council-sponsored Food Drive! With your help, we were able to "stuff that bus" and provide fantastic support to both The Franciscan Center and St. Benedict's Food Pantry! Thank you for continuing to live out your Mercy values!

### **Support Mercy with a Legacy Gift**

Are you a member of the [Circle of Mercy](#)? Our legacy giving program, the Circle of Mercy, allows donors to make a lasting impact. To join, just name Mercy in your will, trust, or as a beneficiary of an insurance policy. Contact Amy Kemp, director of advancement, for more information about how you can support Mercy Girls in this special way!

### **WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**



Have a life update to share? Want to announce a promotion, job change, college update, or graduation? Now is the perfect time to share a class note!

[Class notes](#) are brief updates shared with the larger Mercy community on the alumnae section of our webpage. High-res photos of your special events are welcome and we will include them alongside your notes as space allows. Email your submissions to the [Alumnae Engagement Office](#) today.

## STAY CONNECTED TO MERCY

Did you move? Change your email address? The Alumnae Engagement Office periodically distributes communications via US Mail and email and we want to keep YOU in the loop! Update your information [online](#) or by [email](#).

Mercy High School also has an active presence on social media. Be sure to like and follow our pages for immediate updates and as a way to share information and connect instantly with your Mercy sisters!



Connect with Mercy High School on Facebook!



Follow Mercy High School on Instagram!



Follow Mercy High School on Twitter!



Join our Closed Alumnae Facebook Group



Join our group on LinkedIn!



Latest Nursery News



We remember all members of the [Mercy High School community](#) who have gone before us. May they rest in peace.



Let us [pray](#) for one another.

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