



Dear Mercy Alumna,

Happy New Year from Mercy High School!

Did you know there are more than 8,000 Mercy alumnae living throughout the United States and abroad? Our Women of Mercy were especially generous in 2020 sharing their gifts of time, talent and treasure with their Mercy sisters. To learn more about how some of our alumnae have shared professional expertise with the Mercy community in the past month, please check out the *Connecting Women of Mercy to Today's Mercy Girls* below.

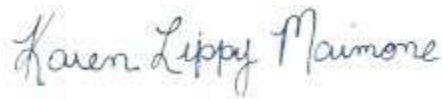
In our recent [alumnae survey](#), it was evident that more Mercy alumnae are eager to connect with our youngest Mercy sisters. Please help us create these important connections by updating your professional information [here](#). In addition, please join our newly formed [Mercy High School Baltimore Alumnae](#) community on LinkedIn. Another area of interest, indicated by the [alumnae survey](#), was a strong desire to volunteer in the Mercy community and beyond. Read below for two upcoming service

opportunities. If you didn't have a chance to respond, the [survey](#) is still open. We want to hear from you!

In a traditional year, this week we would have been eagerly preparing to welcome many of you back to campus and to the SECU arena for The Big Game. Each year, we looked forward to reconnecting with you and learning about your newest endeavors at this annual event. The Big Game was about so much more than a basketball rivalry...it was a way for Women of Mercy to reconnect with one another, their alma mater, and their IND friends. We now need new ways to connect and celebrate. Share with [me](#) your ideas.

I look forward to connecting with you in 2021!

Fondly,



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

FOUNDATION DAY 2020

ALUMNAE AWARDS



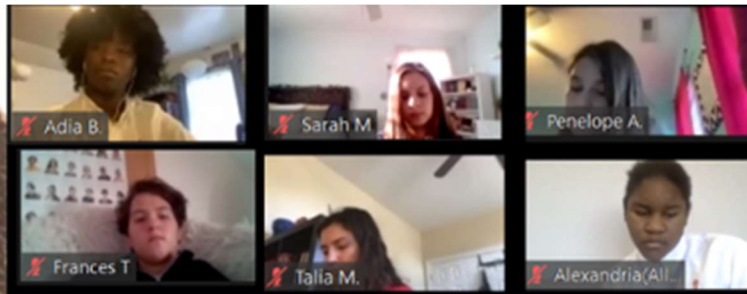
Congratulations to our distinguished alumnae award winners: **Laura Wontrop Klauser '04**, recipient of the *McAuley Award for an Outstanding Alumna*; **Dr. Kia Myrick**

McDaniel '95, recipient of the *Sr. M. Joannes Clifford Award*; and **Mary Agnes Myers Votta '68, P10**, recipient of the *Spirit of Mercy Service Award*. These amazing Women of Mercy received their awards at our annual Foundation Day Assembly. Kicked off by a joint prayer offered by **Sr. Mary Anne Smith, RSM** and **Sr. Kathy Jager, SSND**, the assembly recognized our newest Mercy Girls who joined us from the Institute of Notre Dame and celebrated the similar missions of the founders of each order, [Catherine McAuley](#) and [Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger](#). Following the prayer, we heard from **Sr. Deirdre Mullan, RSM** who shared information about [The Mercy Girl Effect](#), which has united Mercy schools from around the world to provide significant funding for the development of seven small schools and scholarship funds in Sudan, Zambia, Nigeria, Cambodia and Kenya. Mercy High School Baltimore has participated in The Mercy Girl Effect for the past 15 years. Following Sr. Deirdre's presentation, **Shanna Williams Edmond '95, P'20**, alumnae association president, presented each honoree with her award. Check out [highlights](#) from the assembly and [read more about our awardees!](#)

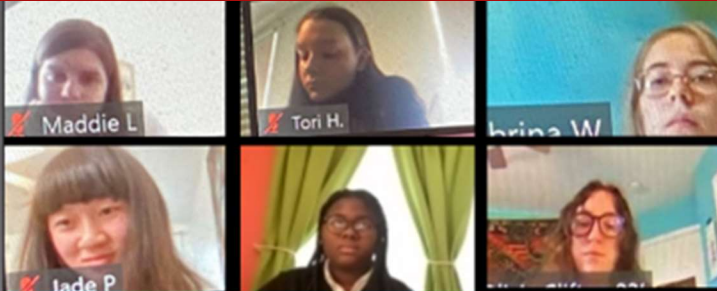
CONNECTING WOMEN OF MERCY WITH TODAY'S MERCY GIRLS



Annie Armiger '07, writer and associate producer at CNN Creative Marketing, shared her experiences with Mercy Girls in our Women in Technology program. Our girls were excited to see examples of Annie's work and to learn how best to prepare themselves for potential production careers.



**La Shawna Epps Obame
MA, LCPC, NCC '06**



**Briana Synder,
PhD, RN-BC, CNE '01**

La Shawna Epps Obame, MA, LCPC, NCC '06 and **Briana Synder, PhD, RN-BC, CNE '01** spoke with students about how to best manage stress. This important discussion took place as part of the health and wellness component of our four-year Seminar curriculum. In addition, La Shawna and Briana presented professional development sessions for our faculty and staff. La Shawna shared her expertise concerning teen depression, self-harm, and suicide. Briana's presentation focused on stress awareness and management as well as self-care practices.



Kelly Shanahan Vest, RN '07 shared her background and experiences with our second year students participating in our *Women in Medicine Program* in partnership with *Mercy Medical Center* where she works as a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit nurse. Kelly was recently named one of the region's Top Nurses by [Baltimore Magazine](#)!



Unissa Cruse '10 recently returned to Mercy as a guest instructor for the *Dance Exploration for All* class, teaching our Mercy Girls hip hop as part of their current unit of study. Unissa has performed extensively throughout the United States and Canada, including roles in "West Side Story," "Mary Poppins," and several plays and short films.

In the Baltimore area, Unissa is best known for winning the "Hairspray Live!" competition, earning a role in the nationally televised NBC production.

Alumnae panel



Sarah Coffman '19
*University of Maryland,
Global Public
Health Scholar*



Lindsey Dixon '18
*Howard University,
Mellon Mays
Undergraduate Fellow*



Rachael Huebler '18
*York College of Pennsylvania,
Graham Innovation Scholar &
University Innovation Fellow*



Kayleigh Maimone '19
*Washington College,
Presidential Fellow &
John S. Toll Science
& Mathematics Fellow*



Amanda Pugh '18
*University of Lynchburg
Westover Honors College*



Leyla Robinson '19
Towson University



Bria Bailey '19
*Baltimore City
Community College,
Granville T. Woods Honors Program*



Claire Corte '19
University of Lynchburg



Taylor Colimore '18
Virginia Commonwealth University



Shanelle Fleet '18
St. Mary's College of Maryland



Kathryn Paturzo '18
*Elon University,
Undergraduate
College Fellow*

Many thanks to alumnae from the **Classes of 2018 and 2019** who offered advice to Mercy Seniors during Seminar. These Women of Mercy shared their college selection process as well as their college experiences and advice with the Class of 2021.



Join the Mercy High School, Loyola Blakefield, Notre Dame Preparatory, and Maryvale Preparatory Alumnae/i Associations in a joint service event benefitting Attire 4 Hire and Suited To Succeed.

Your professional attire can give economically disadvantaged men and women in the Baltimore area the boost they need as they prepare to re-enter the workforce!

To donate, please bring your new or used men's and women's professional attire to the reception desk at Mercy between January 6th and February 20th from 7:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m., or drop off your donation at Knott Hall on the Loyola Blakefield campus on February 21st and 22nd from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

If you would like to volunteer to join us to collect, sort, box, or deliver donations, please contact [Karen Lippy Maimone '92, P'19](#), director of alumnae engagement.



Many thanks to alumna **Erin Stewart Rossetti '99** and her fifth grade students at West Towson Elementary for creating and sending holiday messages to the Sisters of Mercy living at Springwell Senior Living Community. The Sisters loved the letters and drawings and it brought them so much holiday joy! If you would like to correspond with the Sisters, as a loving act of service, please contact the [Alumnae Office](#) for details.

A Mercy Girl...



Then & Now

We asked and you answered! We love these photos of a few of our legacy families! Whether in the brown skirt and saddles, or the plaid kilt and bucs, "Once a Mercy Girl, always a Mercy Girl." To see more, click [here](#).

*Pictured above are **Mary Jean Ireton Bohager '64, GP '24** and her granddaughter, **Mary Katharine Wilmot '24!** Do you have a legacy photo to share? [Email](#) it for inclusion on the [Legacy Family](#) portion of our [Alumnae Website](#).*



A mother daughter duo

*Left: **Jocelyn Bennett '88, P'24***

*Right: **Kendall Joseph '24***



A family affair: Madison Loritz '24, her mother, Michelle Smith Loritz '92, P'24, and her aunts, Nicole Smith Friedel '95 and Allison Loritz Nadelhaft '96 are all proud Mercy Girls.

*Top Left: **Michelle Smith Loritz '92, P'24***

*Top Right: **Nicole Smith Friedel '95***

*Bottom Left: **Allison Loritz Nadelhaft '96***

*Bottom Right: **Madison Loritz '24***

FROM THE ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD

Announcing the Black Alumnae Affinity Group

We are proud to announce the formation of the [Black Alumnae Affinity](#) group! As part of the Mercy Alumnae Association, the Black Alumnae Affinity Group seeks to engage and reconnect Black alumnae to Mercy. Additionally, the group serves as a support system

for Black students whether they are currently navigating their tenure at Mercy or preparing to transition into Women of Mercy. The Black Alumnae Affinity Group seeks to connect with current students by partnering with the Black Awareness Club, as well as engage Black alumnae through meetings, networking, alumnae events, and other initiatives. Please complete this [form](#) to receive further information and future updates on how you can reconnect with Mercy and support our Mercy sisters! Please contact BlackAlumnaeAffinityGroup@mercyhighschool.com with any questions.

-Taylor Hall '08, Chair, Black Alumnae Affinity Group

Announcing the Young Alumnae Affinity Group

We are also excited to announce the formation of the [Young Alumnae Affinity](#) group! As part of the Mercy Alumnae Association, the Young Alumnae Affinity Group seeks to engage and reconnect alumnae to Mercy. "Young Alumnae" are defined as those Women of Mercy who are up to 15 years post-graduation. This affinity group needs your input on creating events designed with you in mind! We also would like to connect our youngest alumnae to our current Mercy Girls as they prepare to enter college and explore career opportunities. Please complete this [form](#) to receive further information and future updates on how you can reconnect with Mercy and support our Mercy sisters! Please contact YoungAlumnaeAffinityGroup@mercyhighschool.com with any questions.

-Tammy Mays '85, P'11, Lauren Calva '10, Maura Commodari '12, & Kayleigh Maimone '19

Young Alumnae Affinity Group Committee



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.

Betty Unkelbach Ciesla '69: *Hematology in Practice*

Mary Claire Helldorfer '72: *Dark Secrets* series and *Kissed by an Angel* (both under pen name Elizabeth Chandler)

Angelica Walters '85: *The Dead Girls Club*, *Cry Your Way Home*, *Paper Tigers*, and *Sing Me Your Scars*

Kiki Petrosino '97: *White Blood: a Lyric of Virginia*, *Witch Wife*, *Hymn for the Black Terrific*, and *Fort Red Border*

Roseanne Ward McManus, Ph.D. '00: *Statements of Resolve: Achieving Coercive Credibility in International Conflict*

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.

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)
Mercy High School
<https://www.mercyhighschool.com/>