



Dear Mercy Alumna,
Please join me in welcoming the Class of 2021 to our alumnae family! This group of 87 exceptional Women of Mercy join more than 8,000 other Mercy alumnae who continue to make a difference in our world. From their families to their careers to their volunteer service, our graduates continue to live their Mercy values and share the charism of Catherine McAuley. They are eager to connect with our youngest alumnae and enjoy sharing their experiences, their professional expertise, or college advice. Class of 2021: reach out to this community via our [Alumnae Facebook page](#) or [LinkedIn group](#); they can't wait to meet you! Don't forget to keep the [Alumnae Office](#) informed of your future accomplishments in college and beyond; we love to celebrate all of our Women of Mercy! To read about our alumnae's most recent achievements, go to [Class Notes](#). We hope you will always consider Mercy your home and that you will visit us often.



I am also excited to share that, by popular demand, the Alumnae Association has launched their first-ever Alumnae Online Store! The store features Mercy Alumnae branded merchandise including women's casual and professional clothing and infant and children's clothing, as well as items for your home and office. Items are available for pick up at Fully Promoted in Towson, Maryland, or, for a small charge, can be shipped directly to your home. See the photo below for a sampling of the merchandise offered. The store is only open until June 18th so hurry and [purchase](#) your alumnae gear today and show your Mercy pride! Wishing you and your family a wonderful and safe summer!
Fondly,

Karen Lippy Maimone

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



IN MEMORIAM SR. CAROL WHEELER, RSM



As we shared with you via a special email and on Facebook, we were saddened by the news that Sister Carol E. Wheeler, RSM, Mercy's former president, principal, and teacher, died at 5:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 15, at Stella Maris after a long illness. She was 84 years old.

A native of Mobile, Alabama, Sister Carol entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1959 in Mount Washington and was known as Sister Seraphia in the early years of her religious life. She came to Mercy High School as an English and religion teacher in 1961. She left Mercy in 1972 to complete graduate work in philosophy at Georgetown University. She also pursued advanced study at the University of Chicago and Yale University. In 1977, Sister Carol became principal of Mercy and continued in that role until 2009, when she was named

president. Although her administrative duties were significant, she taught seniors in her signature class, *Introduction to Philosophical Thinking*, until she concluded her tenure as president in 2013.

Under Sister Carol's leadership, Mercy established a number of innovative academic offerings including the Honors Program and the Mentor Program, and she led the fundraising and construction of the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Auditorium and the Dorothy Williams Bunting Science Center. Sister Carol was a creative and influential educator in the United States, and a sabbatical in New Zealand extended her network internationally.



To learn more about Sr. Carol's legacy as featured in an article in *The Catholic Review* click [here](#).

Please remember in your prayers the Sisters of Mercy, Sister Carol's family, especially her own sister Erin Wheeler, and Sister Helen Doherty, a member of the Mercy High School faculty who has been Sister Carol's faithful friend and community member for many years.

Eternal rest grant unto Sister Carol, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS:

Saturday, June 26, 2021

A Memorial Mass of Remembrance will be held at 10 a.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 8501 Loch Raven Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland.

GIFTS IN MEMORIAM:

The Sisters of Mercy invite gifts in Sister Carol's memory to the *Seraphia Scholars Fund*, an endowed fund she established to provide Mercy Girls with tuition assistance. Thank you for helping to fulfill her wishes and for your kind generosity. To make a gift, click [here](#) and note the ***Seraphia Scholars Fund*** in the memo box.

Graduation Weekend



This weekend the Class of 2021 is celebrating their Baccalaureate and Graduation at The Cathedral of Mary Our Queen. Be sure to watch your email late next week for a video of graduation highlights.

Please join our community in praying for our graduates:

Let us remember that we are in the presence of God.

Let us unite our hearts in prayer and entrust to the hands of the Lord our Mercy Girls who will graduate this weekend.

May God who began this good work in them carry it through to completion, enabling them to use their talents to the fullest.

May God give them the grace to make wise choices and to be faithful to their commitments, always confident in the support of those who love them.

May their integrity be a gift to the world and may the Spirit of God be with them always. Amen.

My God, I am Yours for time and eternity. Teach me to cast myself entirely into the arms of Your loving providence.

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



Lauren Waldt, Esq. '06 & Law and Social Action students



Lauren Waldt, Esq. '06, Judicial Law Clerk for the Department of Justice, Immigration Court of Memphis, Tennessee, shared her expertise with some of our Mercy students in our signature [Law and Social Action Program](#). Lauren earned her Bachelor of Science degree in International Relations from James Madison University followed by her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Baltimore School of Law in 2020. Prior to attending law school, Lauren's passion and desire to serve marginalized people, which was inspired by her time as a Mercy student, led her to work at the International Rescue Committee Baltimore and Health Care for the Homeless. As a law student, Lauren was accepted into the prestigious Department of Justice Honors Program in the Immigration Division. Lauren was admitted to the Tennessee Bar in June 2021.



Unissa Cruse '10 & Dance Exploration for All class



Unissa Cruse '10 returned to Mercy twice as a guest instructor for the Dance Exploration for All class, sharing her knowledge and teaching our Mercy Girls hip hop as part of their 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.



**Lindsay Berg Arnold '14 &
Seminar Students**



Lindsay Berg Arnold '14 lent her expertise as a mental performance coach to our current Mercy Girls in a Sport Psychology Seminar. Though Lindsay primarily works with athletes, her presentation discussed imagery, self-talk, routines, and breathing, and was of great benefit to all who tuned in campus-wide for this great talk on mental skills training!



Menu'Ette Silver '13

Special thanks to **Menu'Ette Silver '13** for sharing her fascinating career as a filmmaker in Los Angeles with the Black Awareness Club. Along with her insights about her time at Mercy, the advice she had for her younger self and her encouragement to the students to follow their hearts and to work hard to reach their goals meant so much to the girls! Menu'Ette also spoke about career pathways in directing for women and people of color. In discussing her documentary, *The Dope Years: The Story of Latasha Harlins*, Menu'Ette energized our girls about the film and spoke about a pilot she submitted as well.



Kelly Ward Meeder, Pharm. D. '10
Women In Medicine &
Sr. Agnese Neumann Scholars

Mercy Girls in the Women in Medicine Program and the [Sister Agnese Neumann Scholars Program](#) met virtually with **Kelly Ward Meeder, Pharm. D. '10** to discuss her journey from the halls of Mercy to a career as a pharmacist at Mercy

Medical Center. Our girls were inspired by Dr. Meeder's career path and her message that "if you work hard, put forth your best effort, and dedicate yourself to the task, you can achieve whatever goal you have set for yourself."



Kayleigh Maimone '19 & Mercy Ensemble & Madrigals



Kayleigh Maimone '19 joined the Mercy Madrigals and Mercy Ensemble Players during their virtual spring concert. Kayleigh, an alumna member of the Madrigals, joined her Mercy little sister, **Olivia Hatcher '21** as vocalists on the Mercy Ensemble Players piece, *Suite from The Planets* by Gustav Holst. To listen to the entire concert, click [here](#).



Shianne Antoine Williams-Brown '11

Shianne Antoine Williams-Browne '11 was a guest choreographer for our Spring Dance Concert. She choreographed a piece entitled *Boy Band Dreams* for the Apprentice Dance Company. To watch the dance concert, click [here](#).



Shannon Aikens Quinn '12 & Varsity Lacrosse



Shannon Aikens Quinn '12, a former member of the Mercy lacrosse team, joined our Varsity and Junior Varsity lacrosse teams to share her experiences as a former college player on the Loyola University Maryland Women's Lacrosse team. Shannon also provided a training session for the team in preparation for their semi-final game.



Briana Shirey LCSW-C '93

Briana Shirey, LCSW-C '93 spoke with students in Mercy's [Law and Social Action Program](#) about her professional journey, beginning with her Mercy

experience where her passion for helping others began, through earning her degree in Social Work and Community Organizing and Public Policy, to working with Child Protective Services, which connected her with the legal world of Family Support Services through the court system. Briana was recently promoted to the supervisor of Baltimore County's Family Support Services, where she helps evaluate challenging child welfare and parental custody issues under difficult circumstances, helping the courts choose the best path for children in need and connecting children and parents to the guidance and resources that will improve their wellness. Briana's powerful passion for serving and supporting vulnerable populations in the greater Baltimore area was evident, and the students appreciated the impact she had on those communities through our legal system.

MERCY MAGIC VARSITY SOFTBALL: 2021 IAAM B Conference Champions



Many thanks to the alumnae who came out to Bachman Sports Complex on May 18th to cheer our Varsity Softball team on to a championship win. The team made school history earning the first IAAM B Conference Championship title, and we know the cheers of our dedicated alumnae helped to spur them on to victory. Pictured to the left are pitcher **Gretchen Barstad '22** and her family, including her

grandmother, **Kathy Boyle Taylor '65, GP'13,'22, '23**; her aunt, **Ruth Boyle Flaherty '72, P'09**; her cousin, **Kelsey Flaherty '09**; and her sister, **Kirsten Barstad '13**.



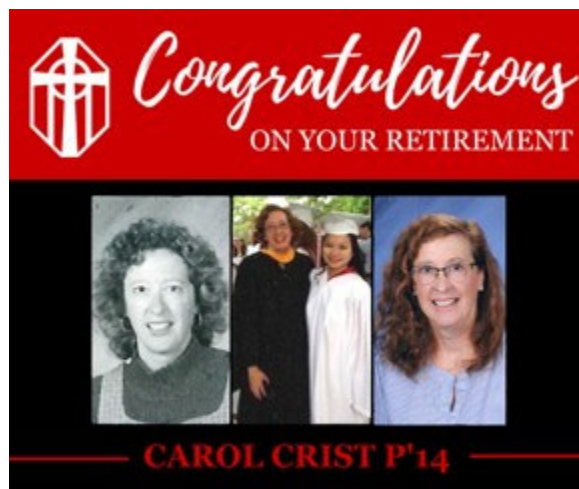
To watch highlights from this incredible game, click [here](#).

FACULTY AND STAFF RETIREMENTS



Join us in congratulating **Kitty Yanson '66** on her recent retirement after 32 years of service to Mercy! During her tenure, Kitty has served as a teacher and department chair in our English Department, as a theater arts teacher, and as moderator of our school newspaper, *The Shield*, and literary magazine, *The Lance*, helping countless Mercy Girls hone their writing craft.

Congratulations are also in order for **Carol Crist P'14** on her recent retirement after 21 years of service to Mercy! During her tenure, Carol has served as a teacher in our mathematics and science departments and as a moderator of our Student Council, helping countless Mercy Girls develop their love of science and build their leadership skills. Most recently, Carol has served as director of our off-campus and special programs, coordinating exceptional experiences for students in our signature programs including our Catherine McAuley Honors Program, [Women in Medicine Program in partnership with Mercy Medical Center, Baltimore, MD, Sr. Agnese Neumann Scholars Program in partnership with MedStar Good Samaritan Hospital and Mentor Program.](#)



Please congratulate **Carol Gonce Rego '76**, Mercy's registrar, on her upcoming retirement after 45 years of service to Mercy! When asked about her colleague and classmate, Dean of Students **Mary Ella Franz Marion '76, P'09** said, "Carol Rego is the unsung hero of Mercy High School. She consistently commits selfless acts and is the most caring and dedicated person. For any gathering or celebration, Carol is ready and willing to supply her delicious appetizers and desserts to the delight of the faculty



and staff! I am not quite sure what we will do without the experience and vast knowledge of Carol Rego! She is truly one in a million!"



A final set of congratulations to **Jeanne Blakeslee**, an exceptional teacher and for the last seven years, our remarkable principal. Jeanne joined our faculty as a Theology teacher in 1976. She has been a staple in the Social Studies department, teaching Psychology and Advanced Placement Psychology to countless Mercy Girls! Jeanne's work as principal of our beloved school is her "second act" at Mercy. A deep affection for the charism of Catherine McAuley and a whole-hearted dedication to our mission brought

Jeanne back to Mercy as principal in 2014. Jeanne's visionary leadership has energized our academic programming and provided new opportunities for Mercy Girls to learn and laugh, to pray and thrive. To read more about Jeanne's impactful career, click [here](#).

ADVANCEMENT UPDATE

Our student fundraiser and Garnet Gala were the source of much celebration in April. Our Mercy Girls smashed their original goal of \$30,000 in the first ten days of the student fundraiser and went on to raise more than \$80,000. The Garnet Gala, held virtually on April 16, was a great commemoration of Mercy's 60 years. Guests tuned in from across the country to watch the Gala (it can be found [here](#)), bid on amazing items in the silent auction, and through donations helped us achieve a \$15,000 matching grant from the Bon Secours Foundation.

Our fiscal year ends in just a few short weeks on June 30. If you haven't made your gift to **The Fund for Mercy High School** there is still time. Gifts to **The Fund for Mercy High School** help fund tuition assistance, campus improvements, lab supplies, and so much more. Show your support of Mercy and our Mercy Girls by [making your gift today](#).

FROM THE ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD

Class of 2021 Alumnae Induction



The Class of 2021 was officially welcomed into the Alumnae Association on the evening of Friday, May 21st at their Senior Sunset Gathering. **Shanna Williams Edmond '95, P'21**, alumnae executive board president, provided the official welcome to the class and gave each new alumna a gift including a congratulatory gift including a Mercy Alumna laundry bag from the Alumnae Association and a Catherine McAuley pendant and Mercy High School Alumna car sticker from the Alumnae Office. Also returning to surprise the

soon-to-be graduates were members of the Class of 2019, 2021's Big Sister Class.





Top Left: Shanna Williams Edmond '95, P'21, alumnae executive board president

Top Right: Mary Ella Marion '76, P'09, dean of students, and Tahillah Larhue '19

Bottom Left: Shanna Williams Edmond '95, P'21, alumnae executive board president shares remarks with members of the Class of 2021

Bottom Right: Kayleigh Maimone '19, Stephanie Berger '19, Hailey Wienecke '19, & Lydia Morris '19

News from the Black Alumnae Affinity Group

Please join us for a planning meeting, where we will discuss future events! Please check your email and the Mercy High School Alumnae Facebook page for further updates regarding date and time. Interested in joining us? 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

News from the Young Alumnae Affinity Group

The Young Alumnae Affinity Group, who aims to seeks to engage and reconnect alumnae t Women of Mercy who are up to 15 years post-graduation, is still

looking for members. 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



Support Mercy High School while you shop! Supporting Mercy is easy, simply click [here](#) to direct Amazon to donate a portion of your purchase price to us, with no extra fees or costs for you! Please share this link with your family and friends and help support our outstanding current Mercy Girls!



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](#).

Bernadette Steinhice Gesser '64: *Bob the Big Bad Bluefish and The Adventures of Rocky, Croaker, and Spot*

Elizabeth Gibbons Smith '65: *Twin Strokes*

Kathy Seibert Coogan '65: *Babies' Breath, Stories of the Sad, the Sick, the Evil, and How They Were Born*

Carol Phyles Brown '67: *The Obedience Factor*

Sheryl Mueller Martin '68: *Tao of Dreaming*

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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