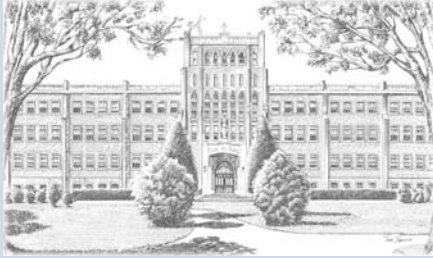


Focus

Celebrating 80 years of educating young women.



The Alumnae Newsletter of
Mount St. Mary Academy

Spring/Summer 2008

Mount St. Mary Academy, founded by the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur, is a Catholic, private, college preparatory school for young women. Within a nurturing and academically challenging environment, the Academy strives to develop the whole person. Guided by our Catholic tradition, and rooted in Gospel values, we educate young women dedicated to lifelong learning, moral integrity and service to and acceptance of others.



Guardian Angel Scholarships Take Flight

Five new scholarships will be awarded thanks to the generous response by alumnae to our plea for scholarship support. One of our "guardian angels" shared her story with us:

My husband and I were looking to increase our yearly donations this year as we felt we have not given as much as we'd like to charitable causes in past years. We thought about potential places to contribute and I prayed and reflected on this topic. Then I saw the guardian angel article in the last MSM newsletter and presented it to my husband along with my reasons for wanting to contribute to this program. Right away he was in full support!

I had always known I wanted to attend MSM -- even in grade school. It was the only school to which I applied as an 8th grader. I had been to many MSM musicals, craft shows, and other functions in those grade school years and the Mount just felt like home. However, it was expensive (although not as expensive as it is today!) and my parents could not really afford it. I did receive some scholarships but I still had to participate in the "work study program" after school. So while most of the other students got on a bus right after school, I cleaned classrooms a few days per week during my first three years. It was a small price to pay to be able to attend this school. While in school I learned a great deal about myself and felt totally prepared for my university experience all in the comfort of a loving environment surrounded by my dear friends.

Looking back now, though, I think I learned even more about parental love. As I am now a parent of three I guess I am becoming more aware of the kind of love parents have for their children. As I mentioned previously my parents could not easily afford the Mount. My dad's income was generally used to pay the usual household bills while my mom worked tireless hours to make enough to pay for our tuition (my sister graduated 2 years after me). My mom had her own business, which she really enjoyed but the income was not steady. She worked a lot at night and on weekends. My mom didn't complain or make us feel guilty about working so much. As a freshman I was not aware of money in the same sense that I was even as a senior. I wasn't aware of how the tuition was being paid or what the real "cost" was; I just knew I was in a place that I loved and I had to clean classrooms to be there.

All that being said we just want to be able to give a girl who is as passionate about attending MSM, as I was a chance to make one of her dreams come true. Maybe she'll still have to clean classrooms too but it will be worth the hard work. In addition I was attracted to this specific program for the connection it will give me to the school and to the recipient. I look forward to communicating with her through letters, email, and potentially meeting her, perhaps even attending her graduation. Her name and picture will be added to our "Pray for..." wall we have in our kitchen. She will forever be in our hearts and minds.

Every year, dozens of scholarships are awarded – many funded by alumnae. At times, a scholarship makes it possible for a young woman to fulfill her dream of attending the Mount. Julianna Penberthy (2010) received an alumnae scholarship. She wrote, "I cannot express my gratitude enough for the scholarship. I feel as though I am the luckiest young woman to be able to be in such a great school. Mount will always be a huge part of my life and I have you to thank for that."

For more information on donating to an existing scholarship fund or creating a new scholarship endowment, please contact the development office at 716-877-1358.



Amanda Adams (2012), shown on the right, has been awarded the Sara Susty Prelewicz Memorial Scholarship for her freshman year. She wanted to share this photo so that we could see how happy she was to get accepted to the Mount. She writes: "It is with excitement and a humble heart that I and my mother both send you a deeply grateful **"Thank You!"** It has been a very happy few days, first getting the news that I was accepted to Mount St. Mary's and the additional news that I had been granted this very special scholarship."



Dear Sister Alumnae,

As I'm writing this, we are saying good-bye to the Class of 2008. We've distributed our gifts, had hugs and tears in the halls, and we have made them promise to visit us – often!

It seems as though time goes so quickly that it can't be possible that we now need to let go of them to make room for the next senior class. Such is the cycle of life at Mount St. Mary Academy. As one class joins the Alumnae Association and moves on to college, another comes in to fill its place.

The cycle of life also means saying good-bye to faculty members who have played key roles in forming freshman girls to young women. Mrs. Mary Ann Fancher (once known to us as Sr. John Nicholas) is retiring to her new role of Grandma to granddaughter, Emma. For decades, Mary Ann has been a friendly face and feisty spirit around the Mount, a role model and loyal friend to all of us. She has always felt like a Mountie and has always acted like a Mountie, so it was most appropriate that she received the Honorary Alumna Award during our Baccalaureate Mass on May 20th.

Also retiring from her teaching post is Mrs. Marcella Forde Uhlman (1954) who has taught Latin and Classics for several years. Marcella's story of the Mount has also come full circle, as you'll learn through the story of her MSM ring on page 3.

The life our students enjoy at the Mount is, in part, thanks to the support of our alumnae. Your gifts, your purchase of a locker plaque, your visits and reunions, all remind these young women that they are never alone in their journey to womanhood. This issue of Focus highlights an alumna who, by becoming a Mount Guardian Angel, has provided a scholarship that will make this journey possible for more young women.

I urge you to remember your roots and consider a gift, planned gift and/or bequest to make a Mount education possible for the next generation. *Thank you for your prayers and support, and most of all – thank you for being a part of the Mount circle of life.*

Dawn M. Riggie '71
Principal



Dawn Riggie presents honorary alumna, Mary Ann Fancher, with her corsage. See page 4 for more about our alumnae award winners.

2008 Chrysalis Auction Another Great Success!

Thank you Kathie Rizzo Young (1977), pictured below left, for leading the auction to a successful end two years in a row. Guests, including Sr. Carol Ann Kleindinst (1967) and Jennifer Pitz-Jones (1996), had a terrific time at Chrysalis where more than 800 fabulous auction items were showcased.



Why not plan on meeting your classmates at the 2009 auction? It will be held on Saturday, March 28, 2009 and will be chaired by Donna Hoelscher Suchan (1978) and her sisters, Kathy Hoelscher Glieco (1981) and Kim Hoelscher Curtin (1981).

Come to our 2009 Auction

A Special Mount Ring

My graduation ring came from a very special family, the Fordes, and I was fortunate to be the recipient of this ring. The Fordes were the pillars of the Mount and to this day, remain special to Mount St. Mary Academy. One of their daughters was a nun of the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur order. Her name was Sister Mary of the Rosary and she devoted her life to Christ through her devotion and teaching. Another daughter is Marcella Forde Uhlman (1954) who has just retired as a Latin and Classics teacher at the Mount.

Marcella is very special to me. She gave up her Mount ring so that I could have a graduation ring. Marcella was salutatorian of her graduating class of 1954. How privileged I felt to be wearing her ring at my graduation. My mother was a widow and the Forde family was very dear to my family. Mrs. Forde asked Marcella if she would give the ring to me. She did not hesitate. It was one less expense that helped my mother at that time in our lives. Those of you, who know of the Forde family, would know that to help and give to others was always their way.

Mrs. Forde (Marie) was the heart and soul of the family. She, along with her husband, Ed, did endless charitable works, especially for the blind. She spent her last days living at the Mount under the kind and loving care of the Sisters.

I now have returned the ring to Marcella so that she, in turn, can share it with another Mountie who will appreciate it as much as I have. My wish is that this ring would always be handed over to another graduate when the current Mountie is ready to give up the **SPECIAL MOUNT RING**.

-- Mary Schultz Cunningham (1960)

Donations of class rings are gratefully accepted and will be passed to a needy and deserving Mountie. Please send your ring to the Development Office, 3756 Delaware Avenue, Kenmore, NY 14217.

Mounties and Alumnae – Together in the Community

Maria Fahs, Class of 2010, recently took part in a media literacy and civic engagement project at WNED called, *Our City: Buffalo* and their work was broadcast on WNED and its digital sister station, ThinkBright, in March.

Our City: Buffalo, gave 26 high school students the chance to take a closer look at the people, places and things that make the City of Buffalo special and unique. After a competitive application process, students selected a caring adult mentor and a topic, and then they were given the skills and the time in the field to capture their ideas on tape. The combined work of these students was edited at WNED and the resulting sixty-minute documentary was previewed to the students and a select group of VIPs at a special Red Carpet Preview event at WNED.



Maria chose to explore the topic of arts and performance in Buffalo and did an outstanding job. She did research, arranged to tape at several locations and turned in great footage.

Donielle Scherff (1994) was so happy to work with Maria through the process and proud to know first hand that MSM is still nurturing articulate, intelligent, purposeful young women who will be the leaders of tomorrow.

Our City: Buffalo will be available online at www.ThinkBright.org and in other WNED/ThinkBright media formats.

The photo shows Maria and Donielle, along with another young woman at the Red Carpet Preview for *Our City: Buffalo*.



Marcella Forde Uhlman (1954), left, looks at her class ring being returned by Mary Schultz Cunningham (1960).

Baccalaureate Mass 2008

Each year the alumnae association is proud to honor members of our alumnae and greater community whose spirit and generosity has benefited those around them in a manner that embodies the values and traditions of Mount St. Mary Academy.

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

This year the award was given to **Emily Crainer (2008)** and to her parents, **John and Nadine Crainer**.

Emily has made every moment at the Mount count. Since her freshman year, she's been involved with student council, the pep squad, and sports. She has been a student ambassador, member of Students for a Just Society, Future Business Leaders of America, and the Language, Youth to Youth and Math Clubs as well as being Club Chairman of Respect Life.



(L to R) Mary Ann Fancher, John and Nadine Crainer, Anne Kohl, Emily Crainer in front.

Additionally, Emily could cheerfully be found working every Open House, Taste of the Town and Auction Events, Freshman orientation and registration, parent teacher nights, as well as ushering our guests during musical and masses.

She and classmate, Emily Young, served as student ambassadors during our 80th anniversary celebrations this past September and have worked throughout the year with the alumnae and development departments.

Annually on the academic honor roll, Emily is also an accomplished athlete and has been a member of varsity swimming and indoor track as well as JV and Varsity Softball.

Beyond the Mount, she has given her time to the St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen as well as St. Christopher's Summerfest.

Setting an example of fellowship and service to their daughters, John and Nadine Crainer have given countless hours of dedication to the stewardship of our athletic program. They have been an instrumental part of the team committed to the re-dedication of the MSM Sports Hall of Fame, have been active members of Sports Boosters, and volunteered with the Taste of the Town events. They have given many hours of support to the Mount's Chrysalis auction, chairing sub-committees to ensure the event is a financial success.

We are deeply grateful for their hard work and commitment to enriching the Mount St. Mary Academy community.

ALUMNA OF THE YEAR

Anne Kohl (1984) received this award from her friend and colleague, Julie Rosenecker Wojick, (1985).

Anne has been a staff member at Mount since 1995. In her role as Business Manager, she oversees school renovations and improvements that require creativity, attention to detail and a tremendous amount of patient to complete during the summer months while the students are absent (truly a labor of love in an un-airconditioned building).

Her kindness and understanding are often appreciated, but not necessarily evident, to many Mounties and their families as she handles the collection of tuition. In times of hardship, students and their families have counted on Anne's innate ability to listen to them and her willingness to help. In her own quiet way, she always looks out for those in need at Mount St. Mary and does her best everyday to make a difference.

She is always willing to lend her expertise to further the Mount's goals as evident when she served on our Middle States Planning Committee. Yet still, she finds time to serve her community, especially as a member of St. Christopher Parish. Her dedication to the people of the parish is commendable and includes: 20 years as a Eucharistic Minister, eight years on the school board, serving four years as its president; and nearly a decade on the parish finance committee, a post she still holds today.

This Alumna of the Year award is the Mount's highest honor given to a graduate, and Anne embodies what we at Mount St. Mary Academy hope our graduate will become: a dedicated, caring individual, with a strong faith in God, committed to giving back to her alma mater and her community.

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HONORARY ALUMNA INDUCTEE

When does someone become a “Mountie?” For some, like **Mary Ann Fancher**, it seems as though she has simply always been a Mountie – at times, it seems as if she is even more of a Mountie than some of our Mounties! Mary Ann, who is retiring this year, began her teaching career at the Mount as Sister John Nicholas. She was then a member of our community as a parent – to daughters Chrissy and Cathy before returning to a full-time teaching position in 1986.

A Namur Sister, a woman of Christ, Mary Ann has always lived a life of service – to family, friends, students, and those in need. This commitment is evident in her work with Sertoma, as a coordinator of the annual blood drive, as well as Thanksgiving and holiday dinners for the needy of our community. She’s been a role model to our students as moderator of Serteens, and along with the students, she volunteers at St. Luke’s, Schofield Residence and the Children’s Psychiatric Center. She’s been an extra pair of hands at endless MSM events such as the medieval dinner, and as a huge sports fan, coached our students – particularly in badminton.

Her feisty spirit has always been evident...like when her red high-topped sneakers would peak out beneath her Sister’s habit, when she cheered on her Beloved Buffalo Bills, or danced the jitterbug with Mrs. Maureen Ellis.

Her generosity shined as she hosted many faculty parties, coordinated student lunches and tirelessly worked at Mount events.

She has already received numerous community awards to recognize her service and previously was a recipient of the MSM Volunteer of the Year Award. At last, we are able to officially recognize Mary Ann as a fellow Mountie.

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Sports Hall of Fame Inductees

The MSM Sports Hall of Fame Committee inducted three new members to the Sports Hall of Fame. The requirements and qualifications for induction are significantly challenging making induction into the Hall of Fame a true honor and a testament to those honored with selection.

The first to be honored was **Katie Martin (2004)** -- a standout athlete both on the soccer field and the basketball court.

In soccer she played all four years on the varsity team and was named to the All Msgr. Martin team in each of those years. As a sophomore, Katie was named team MVP, All-WNY, and All-New York State.

Junior year, Katie was again named All-New York State and helped lead our team to the 2003 Msgr. Martin League championship. As a Senior, she served as team captain and maintained her commitment to excellence, which was recognized with team MVP honors. In addition, Katie was again All-WNY and Msgr. Martin League MVP.

Katie also distinguished herself in basketball playing varsity as a sophomore, junior and senior and earning the most improved player award in both her sophomore and junior years. As a senior she was All-Msgr. Martin League, team captain, and the team MVP.

She continued to excel in her athletic endeavors playing soccer for Monroe Community College where, before her graduation, she led her team to consecutive National championships, was an All-Region player and was honored as the National Championship game MVP.

Dr. Robert Herzog (Dr. Bob) was the second inductee. He started contributing to the MSM sports programs in the mid 1990s when the varsity soccer team needed an interim coach. His immediate affection for MSM and the athletes he coached led him to continue as the varsity coach for four years. He started a JV soccer program his first year to develop the talent that would lead to great success in subsequent years.

While still coaching soccer, this seemingly tireless coach turned his attention to MSM track. In a stroke of coaching genius he decided to make participation in the track program mandatory for soccer players – a move that paid dividends for both sports. By 2002 the MSM track team won the Msgr. Martin Championship and finished the season with an undefeated record.

By 2005, he was coaching both cross country and track and decided the best way to build on our success was to start the Mount’s first official indoor track team. With our athletes training and competing year round, MSM was soon a track powerhouse.



*MSM Sports Hall of Fame Inductees,
Sally Stumpf and Dr. Bob Herzog.*

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Becoming even more involved, Dr. Bob was also President of the Board of Trustees for a number of years and a most generous benefactor who often took it upon himself to upgrade our team uniforms and equipment.

Subsequent to his retirement from coaching, his service and dedication was recognized by his student athletes who planted a tree in his honor in the front yard of the school. At the foot of that tree, the following words which were spoken countless times to MSM runners during his tenure, are etched in a stone: "If you lift your feet, God will always put them down."

The final inductee into the Sports Hall of Fame was **Mrs. Sally Stumpf** who served MSM as a physical education teacher and athletic director for over 25 years. It is no exaggeration to say that she built the foundation for what we recognize today as a comprehensive MSM sports program. Her dedication and efforts came at a time in history when girls' athletic programs did not have the financial support, fan base or the general acceptance that they currently enjoy.

In spite of the attitude of the times and with great passion, Mrs. Stumpf ensured that the students in the 1960s and 1970s were treated to sports opportunities in basketball, field hockey, softball, gymnastics, badminton and even archery. In addition to organizing all these sports teams, she was the coach for the gymnastics and badminton teams. She made sports possible for a generation of students and helped them to see that girls could compete in the field of athletics.

Sally is also no stranger to being honored for her efforts. She is a recipient of the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award from the Diocese of Buffalo. Her awards and honors from the sport of gymnastics are numerous, not the least of which is her membership in the Gymnastics Hall of Fame. She also coached the USA gymnastics team in competitive tournaments with Cuba, Mexico and Canada, and coached at the Pan American Games in Chicago. Her body of work also included an assistant directorship for the gymnastics program at Canisius College and the opening of Stumpf's Gymnastic Center.

If you visit our Sports Hallway and look at the current roster of athletes – they all owe a debt of gratitude to Mrs. Stumpf for laying the groundwork for athletic success at MSM, as well as all of our inductees for mentoring MSM's fine sports program.

Sports Hall of Fame Nominations

The MSM Sports Hall of Fame endeavors to recognize those athletes, coaches and athletic benefactors who have achieved the highest honor in their sports, and presented themselves as exemplary representatives of Mount St. Mary Academy through sportsmanship, leadership and talent.

Those selected to the Hall of Fame are honored with the placement of a photo plaque in the Sports Hallway. A listing of their achievements is included on their plaque so that current and future athletes, students, and visitors can appreciate the great contributions of the Hall's inductees. It is our hope that students especially will have an appreciation of the inductees' various contributions to the great sports tradition at Mount St. Mary Academy.

Vision Statement:

Athletes will be nominated for acceptance and voted upon by a committee comprised of pre-selected representatives of MSM Athletic, Academic and Administrative departments. Athletes will be presented and inducted annually during MSM's Baccalaureate Mass and Alumnae Awards Ceremony in May. Those inductees will be recognized by having a plaque with their picture and listed sport(s) and accomplishments placed on the wall located in the athletic wing of the school.

The selection criteria and nominating process is as described below. An advocate must represent the nominee to the Selection Committee during their annual meeting, which is to take place during the first weeks of April. Nominations are accepted in writing throughout the year and may be submitted to the Director of Development, Mount St. Mary Academy, 3756 Delaware Ave., Kenmore, NY 14217. You are invited to submit your nominations for candidates who meet the following criteria:

- Graduate of Mount St. Mary Academy.
- Monsignor Martin League selection for soccer, volleyball, basketball, softball or lacrosse / Individual State Representative for swimming.
- League MVP for swimming, track, badminton, cross-country, golf, bowling, etc.
- Player who is selected to the All-Western New York Team of her particular sport.

In addition to the above: consideration if nominee is a multiple sport athlete who has achieved two League honors.

Notes:

Advocates are required to make a presentation of their nominations to the Selection Committee. This presentation should be no more than five minutes. If a nominee does not meet all of the criteria, the advocate can speak to prior sports awards and involvements. For example, if the nominee is not a graduate of MSM but has made a significant contribution to the athletic program at the school, the advocate can speak to this accomplishment(s).

Class of 1960

It seems that the older we get, all roads lead to Florida. This road went to Valrico for Carol Mertzluft Brady '60 and then to Palm Harbor for Mary Jo Flynn Renner '60, to Sarasota for Mary Ellen Zang Hoffman '60, and finally to Lake Wales for Mary Margaret Major Hourigan '60, Gerrie Palka Brown '60 and Cornelia Quinlan Arbeiter '60. We all met for lunch and had a wonderful, laugh-filled afternoon reminiscing about our days at MSM. There must be more alumnae from the Class of 1960 in the land of eternal sunshine. We'd love to find you and get together again. If you're interested you can email Mary Ellen at ra.hoffman@sbcglobal.net.



Mount St. Mary Academy Takes Darien Lake by Storm

The MSM Band, Jazz Ensemble, and String Ensemble participated in the Darien Lake Music Festival competition on Saturday, May 17.

All three groups achieved great success. Concert Band placed first in its division as well as winning a Grand Champion award for the highest score among all participants. String Ensemble won first place and took home a Grand Champion trophy, as well.

Jazz Ensemble also won first place and a Grand Champion award. With a score of 99.2, the ensemble had the highest score awarded to any instrumental group in the history of the event. Section awards were given to the saxophone, trumpet, trombone, and rhythm sections. This is the Jazz Ensemble's third year in a row of achieving Grand Champion status.

"This was truly an unprecedented success," noted Band Director John Hathaway. "The students this year were exceptionally talented with skills far greater than they or I had realized. This was a spectacular way to bring the year to a close."



Roslyn Romanowski (1978) was the special guest speaker at January's National Honor Society ceremony. Judged on service, leadership, character, academics and an essay, 43 Mounties were inducted.



Dr. Roslyn Romanowski (1978) poses with Principal Dawn Riggie (1971) prior to delivering her speech to the 2008 National Honor Society Inductees.



NHS inductee, Laura Jakiel (2008), is shown with her grandmother, Gerry Kruetzer McMahon (1950) and mother, Mary McMahon Jakiel (1975).

From our 2008 Valedictorian, Hillary Hamp

Today is the destination toward which we have striven for the past four years, and those years have certainly been the best of my life so far. We entered Mount Saint Mary Academy as girls, and we now leave having grown into young women. We have made friends, created memories, and learned much within these halls. And the journey we have taken culminates today at graduation, when we receive our diplomas. When you consider it, however, these documents prove very little and we do not need them to put value on our high school careers.

There is a musical, well-known and beloved to many of us, especially after it was performed this past autumn upon the stage where I now stand. Few people are unfamiliar with the story of Dorothy and her traveling companions in *The Wizard of Oz*. Dorothy, the scarecrow, the tin man and the lion all set out down the yellow brick road for the Emerald City to see the Wizard in the hope of receiving certain things: a brain, a heart, courage, and a way back home. So did we, the class of 2008, set out for our graduation day, seeking a diploma to certify that we were ready to face the world beyond high school. In doing so, we were more like Dorothy and her friends than we may think. No, we didn't have Dorothy's magic ruby slippers- perhaps the closest we came to that was the illegal ankle socks that we hoped to slip past Mrs. Wilkinson (Dean of Students) every day. But like the travelers in Oz we at times lost sight of the fact that life is not about the destination, but rather the journey, and by the time that we reached our destination we had already gained the things that we would need to succeed in our lives.

The things we gained in high school are not so different from the attributes sought by the scarecrow, lion, tin man and Dorothy. We have certainly been given brains, knowledge and the ability to write and think critically for ourselves. Our teachers must be thanked for that. But they also went far above and beyond the call of their job, putting in long hours and helping us to grow from children to young women.

For the gift of courage, we must thank our coaches and other mentors. They believed in us and gave us courage to have confidence in ourselves and rise to challenges. Whether it was on the playing field, onstage, or in the classroom, they shared with us both joyous victories and heartbreaking losses.

Finally, to our parents; you are to be thanked for giving us our hearts. You have loved us unconditionally, put up with endless grief, allowed us to make our own mistakes, and sacrificed so much to give us this Catholic education.

It is said that a woman's character is her fate. Through the development of our brains, hearts and courage at the Mount we have grown into women of good character in the spirit of our school's founders the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur. We have also gained one more thing through our four years at the Mount: a home. Dorothy discovered that she had the power to go home within herself all along, and we too will always have a home within the Mount community – something Mrs. Riggie has always told us.

Having arrived at graduation day, we may have reached our Emerald City, but that is where the path of the class of 2008 diverges from Dorothy's. Her journey is more or less complete after she discovers that "there's no place like home" and returns to Kansas. We now turn, not homeward and inward, but outward, standing at the beginning of many more journeys. We get to choose which direction the yellow brick road of our own lives may lead -- and we have the opportunity to build it, brick by brick.

The opportunities ahead of us are vast; to succeed in any profession and become leaders in our communities. We come of age this year and have the opportunity to vote in what is possibly one of the most historic elections our country has ever witnessed. Our choices will shape the world, and while it may sound trite, our actions have the potential to change the world, if we wish to do so. Now is our time. I ask you, my fellow classmates, to take risks and dream big, but at the same time to not remain so focused on your destinations, your future "graduation days," that you miss the chance to revel in the journey.

Our journey at the Mount ends this afternoon, and some of us may always wish that we had just a little more time to spend together before our friendships are scattered across state lines and we must face the scary challenges the future holds: college and then the "real world." This is a sad time, but when we cry, let us cry not tears of regret, but tears of joy for the friends we have made, the experiences we have had, and the love we have been shown.

I am so proud to be a member of this class and I will always cherish the times we have shared. And more than anything, my wish for all of you, is that your dreams stay big, and that this life becomes all that you want it to.

Thank you and God Bless.

Change

By: Danielle Stewart, Class of 2011

Change happens if it is not wanted
Like birds flying away for the winter
Or kids discovering of the first time
It's really their parents that come down the
chimney on Christmas Eve

One day boys have cooties
And the next they are all you can talk about
Imaginations are replaced by computers and cell
phones

It never ends
Not until there is nothing left to change
It moves so fast you can't catch up to it
Like a butterfly soaring through the sky
But the memories will always be there
So hold on tight and never forget
But change happens even if it is not wanted

Engagements & Weddings

Kristin Foegen (2003) was recently engaged to James Kager. A September 2010 wedding is being planned.

Melanie Gorenflo (2001) married Jack Kuritzky on October 13, 2007. **Megan Gorenflo (2006)**, sister of the bride, was the Maid of Honor.

Katie Guinther (2002) married Richard Anthony Morris in May 2008.

Saturday May 3, 2008 at 1 pm in St. Edmund Catholic Church, Town of Tonawanda, was the setting of the marriage ceremony uniting **Kelly A. Hennessy (1997)** and Timothy A. Oldenburg. The mass was performed by Rev. Michael G. Uebler, and con-celebrated by Rev. Msgr. Francis G. Braun, Rev. John J. Braun, Rev. F. Patrick Melfi, Rev. Charles E. Slisz, and Rev. Robert A. Wozniak. A reception followed at The Niagara Club in Niagara Falls.

Parents of the bride are Mr. and Mrs. Michael G. Hennessy of the Town of Tonawanda. Mr. and Mrs. Timothy J. Oldenburg of North Tonawanda are the groom's parents. The newly married couple will live in the Town of Tonawanda, after a honeymoon in Antigua.

Kelly graduated from Syracuse University and is pursuing her MBA from Medaille College. She will graduate in July, and is employed as a custom sales representative for Mod-Pac Corp.

The bridegroom is a graduate of North Tonawanda High School and University at Buffalo. He also received his MBA from Medaille College, and his Masters in Educational Administration from Niagara University. He is the assistant principal at West Seneca East High School.

The bride was escorted to the altar by her father and wore a Casablanca, portrait style gown with very simple beading throughout it. She also wore elbow length gloves, a Cathedral length veil and carried a bouquet with white hydrangea, orange gerbera daisies, a touch of green Kermit poms finished with a collar of greens.

The bridal party consisted of ten bridesmaids and ten groomsmen. The maid of honor was **Angela Christiano (1997)**, best friend of the bride for 22 years. Other bridesmaids included Jenna Sybert, sister of the groom, **Amanda Jaworek (2008)**, cousin of the bride, **Molly Bagley (1997)**, **Kelly Scott Cerifko (1997)**, Shiri Factor, Jacqueline Haynes, **Erin McNeill Radley (1997)**, **Kristen Talbot (1997)** and Emily Thornbury.

The best men were James Hennessy, cousin of the bride and Andrew Olewnik. Other groomsmen

included Patrick Hennessy and Timothy Hennessy, brothers of the bride, and Louis Cercone, David Eadie, Jack Gallagher, Bryan Leavoy, Paul Steinig and Douglas Sybert.

Jill Ziolkowski (1999) married Greg Wade on October 13, 2007. They are currently residing in Lockport, New York.

New Arrivals

Ted and **Lisa Azzarelli-Brown (1989)** announce the birth of their son, Michael Aidan Brown, October 13, 2007. He joins big brother, Teddy (4).

Rebecca Bauer Christie (1991) and husband, Rob, welcomed their third child, Anna Elizabeth on September 20, 2007. Elizabeth joins big brothers Jack (4) and Will (2).

Amy Caruana Gabriel (1987) and husband, Christopher, would like to announce the July 13, 2007 birth of their son, Sam Christopher. **Denise Caruana Wirth (1988)** and **Emily Caruana (2006)** are the proud aunts.

Mary Ann Fancher, Faculty and Honorary Alumna, is proud to announce the birth of her granddaughter, Emma. Proud mom is **Christina Fancher-Cwiklinski (1994)** and thrilled auntie is **Catherine Fancher-Mongiolo (1997)**.

Christine MacMillan Campeau (1994) and her husband, Jeffrey, welcomed their first child, Alexander Joseph Campeau, on May 16, 2007. The proud grandparents are **Louise Ferraro Campeau (1962)** and Dennis and Cheryl Mac Millan.

Horacio and **Denise Rossitto Gavilan (1986)** are thrilled to announce the birth of their second child, Gianna Marie Gavilan, who was born on December 20, 2007. She joins big brother, Samuel (3).

Lindsay (Lu) Shields Laughlin (2002) and husband, Daniel, welcomed their son, Daniel Jacob Jr., who was born on December 12, 2007. The proud grandmother is **Mary Jean Sciandra Shields (1968)**.

Milo and **Suzanne Velasco Phelps (1990)** announce the birth of their son, Henry Joseph Phleps, on December 17, 2007. Henry joins big brother Jorge Milo Phelps (4).

In Memoriam

Please pray for the following members of the Mount community who have passed on.

James M. Bedard Jr., May 3, 2008, father of **Dona Bedard Buszka (1966)**, **Susan Bedard (1967)** and **Virginia (Ginger) Bedard (1970)**.

Sheila Dougherty Schuster (1951), January 16, 2008, sister of **Sister Kathleen Dougherty SSMN (1953)**.

Margaret M. Glaser, mother of **Mary Lou Glaser Dobelbower (1959)**, **Sue Glaser Powers (1961)** and grandmother of **Deborah Baldwin Flynn (1981)**, **Bridget Baldwin Aronica-Mann (1982)**

and **Mollie Baldwin Ciocca (1986)**. Margaret taught English at the Mount during the early sixties.

Joseph J. Golda, February 6, 2008, father of **Janine Golda Hilliard (1979)**.

Diane Hackett Wightman (1953), March 30, 2008.

Marcella Kanaley, January 1, 2008, mother of **Kathleen Kanaley Prem (1964)**, **Mary Elizabeth Kanaley Swann (1967)**, **Bridget Kanaley (1977)** and mother-in-law of **Kathleen Higgins Kanaley (1969)** and **Catherine Cercone Kanaley (1981)**.

Elizabeth Barbara Kantor, December 9, 2007, mother of **Joan Kantor Holesko (1962)**.

Bonnie Kindron Womack (1957), January 20, 2008.

Robert Knoble, May 7, 2008, father of **Katherine Knoble Tanner (1981)** and **Ann Knoble Csapo (1983)**.

Charles J. Kolb Jr., January 14, 2008, brother of **Susan Kolb Carroll (1954)**.

Peter J. Quermback, December 10, 2007, husband of **Mary Hutchinson Quermback (1946)**.

Alice Rose Marzolf, February 23, 2008, mother of **Suzanne Marzolf Glasgow (1958)** and **Barbara Marzolf Falkowski (1958)**.

Kenneth Beiter, May 4, 2008, grandfather of **Katie McGuire (2001)** and **Megan McGuire (2002)**.

Sister Sally Mills (Sr. Francis Xavier), February 15, 2008. Sister Sally was a "legend" at MSM, known for her many friends, her ability to run the snow plow when needed, her managing back stage and the auditorium lights for the Mount plays, and her many stories connected with her teaching of Social Studies. Sister Sally was a graduate of St. Mary Seminary but loved MSM and had many happy memories of it.

Catherine Muehlbauer, May 4, 2008, mother of **Sister Catherine Muehlbauer (1967)**.

Bruce Kelso, May 30, 2007, husband of **Barbara Neupert Kelso (1947)**. Father of **Jeanne Kelso Bates (1973)** and **John Kelso**.

Richard Pietrzak, January 10, 2008, father of **Charlene Pietrzak Saeva (1969)**.

Marjorie J. Russ, December 11, 2007, mother of **Gail Russ Cavanaugh (1965)** and **Linda Russ Govacs (1965)**.

Ida M. Sacco, September 4, 2007, mother of **Rachelle Sacco DiCarlo (1964)** and **Carol Sacco Janiszewski (1971)**. Grandmother of **Nicole Janiszewski (1997)** and **Natalie Janiszewski (1999)**.

Paul A. Subkoviak, October 5, 2007, father of **M. Paulette Subkoviak Donovan (1964)**.

Linda Vathy, March 26, 2008, mother of **Lisa Vathy (1989)**.

Robert G. Wahler, February 23, 2008, father of **Deborah Wahler Russell (1967)**, **Diane Wahler Pohlar (1969)** and **Susanne Wahler King (1970)**. Grandfather of **Karen Russell Belton (1997)**. Robert was very active in the St. Joseph Workers at the Mount and helped them paint many of the classrooms.

Margaret Sowa Osinski (1957), May 26, 2008, mother of **Susan Osinski (1985)**.

Bulletin Board

Mary Lynn Arlotta (2004) was named Female Scholar-Athlete of the year at D'Youville College. She holds a 3.4 GPA and set new single-season pitching records for wins, innings pitched and strikeouts. She was named her team's MVP. In addition, she was named North Eastern Athletic Conference Player of the Week.

Mary M. Bagley (1984) is a Senior Systems Analyst at Rich Products Corporation where she has been an associate for 14 years. She is a member of the Project Management Institute and on March 13, 2008 she passed the Project Management Professional Examination and is now a certified PMP.

Patricia Caruana (1980) is a Psychotherapist with the Caruana Professional Group, which provides Life Coaching services to individuals, groups and small businesses. Life Coaching is a powerful and effective professional alliance designed to help people achieve their highest personal and professional goals. "Our area of special interest is in working with female entrepreneurs." The majority of Life Coaching is done virtually through conference calls and webcam, which allows for an international clientele. Visit www.cprogroup.com for more information, including Tele-Classes and Virtual groups. Trish has an internet radio show called the Life Coaching Network. www.blogtalkradio.com/Trish-Caruana

Carla Dentico Weeks (1978) writes: I have lived in Cincinnati, Ohio for the past 7 years. I have two wonderful kids – 21 and 17 and own my own business (Lu-Lu's) but I miss Buffalo terribly!

Liz Estoff (2000) graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2007 with her M.S. in Veterinary Pathobiology. As part of her research project, she had the opportunity to travel to Uganda and participate in data collection within Kibale National Park. She continues to work at the College of Veterinary Medicine where she assists with teaching veterinary students and works in the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

Kristin Foegen (2003) has recently graduated from D'Youville with a BS/MS degree in Physician Assistant Studies. Kristin received the Outstanding Physician Assistant Student of the Year Award and has accepted a job with University Orthopaedics. She is specializing in Spine Surgery and says she loves it.

Melanie Gorenflo Kuritzky (2001) received her Masters degree in Physical Therapy in May 2006 and is currently living in Rochester where she works as a Physical Therapist.

Linda Hauptman Fotheringham (1973) is a retired home day care provider living in Kenmore, New York with her husband Scott. Linda retired due to her declining health; she has a serious rare lung disease that will require a lung transplant. Please keep Linda and her family in your prayers during this difficult time. Linda and Scott are celebrating the engagement of their daughter, Sarah Beth. Linda mentions that their son, Justin Scott blessed them with their first grandchild, Elise Joy.

Donna Hoelscher Suchan (1978) is the recipient of the 2008 St. Thomas More Award. This annual award is given to an attorney who demonstrates a balance between commitment to the law and commitment to the principles of the Catholic faith. Donna, who has 23 years of experience in the real property area, is an associate attorney with Phillips Lytle LLP in the firms' land, environment and energy group where she handles commercial real estate transactions and telecom leasing issues. She has held positions on the board of trustees of Mount St. Mary Academy and the finance council of St. Gregory the Great Church where she is an active member of their mission team. She has made several trips to the March for Life in Washington, C.D. with the St. Gregory's Respect Life Committee. Additionally, Donna's community service activities include volunteering with the St. Monica Scholars Program, the Mount's Internship Program and providing legal assistance to the Mount.

Carole Jaros-Miller (1964) is recently retired after 40 years as a flight attendant with American Airlines, and her husband, Jim, retired after 40 years as an engineer with Bell Helicopter Textron. They will be leaving Texas and moving to Mount Dora, Florida when their new home is completed.

Courtney Kiszewski (2004) writes: Where did the time go? Four years ago we were seniors in high school, planning our future, picking a college, and finding the perfect white dress for graduation. Now, we are seniors in college planning the rest of our lives. I have been very busy over the last four years and have not spent much time in Western New York. I completed an eight-month internship with General Electric in Schenectady, New York in 2006 working on Steam Turbines. Then I moved to Greenville, South Carolina during the summer of 2007 to work for General Electric Wind Turbine Technology. In February of 2008, I was one of three students that represented Clarkson University at the annual conference for the Mechanical Engineering Honor Society, Pi Tau Sigma. I am currently completing my final semester at Clarkson University where I am researching Fluid Mechanics and both vertical and horizontal axis wind turbines. In September 2007, I accepted a full time position with General Electric in the Edison Engineering Development program where I'll start work in July. While on program, I will be completing my Master's Degree through Georgia Tech. I'm looking forward to coming home in June and hope to meet up with my fellow Mounties.

Jenna-Marie Mango (2003) has accepted a teaching position in Maryland as a Special Education Teacher.

Patricia McNamara Card (1964) was recently awarded Teacher of the Year in the West Seneca Central School District.

Theresa Najjar (2003) just graduated from Nazareth College of Rochester with a Masters of Science in Physical Therapy degree. Theresa will start work at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, MA as a physical therapist in their inpatient department in July 2008.

Sheilagh O'Connor (1989) writes that she is currently living in the Upper East Side of New York City. Sheilagh just spent the last six months in chemo for stage 4 Hodgkins Disease, but states that she is in remission and is "ready to start planning our 20 year reunion for the class of 1989."

Laura Powalski (2006) has been voted captain of the Women's Swimming and Diving team at University at Buffalo.

Kim Scanlon Floss (1986) informed us that her aunt, Helen Scanlon, turned 100 years old on May 29th. Although not a graduate of the Mount, Helen has been a strong supporter of the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur and the Mount over the years. Kim tells us that Helen's mind is as sharp as ever, she has a great sense of humor, and still gets around fairly well. To recognize the occasion, Miss Scanlon was presented with an honorary diploma from Mount St. Mary Academy at her birthday celebrations. She is quite an inspiration to us all!



Donielle Scherff (1994) envisions and implements collaborative local, regional and national outreach events for PBS. In addition to Our City: Buffalo, recent initiatives have included a nationally recognized health and wellness project called b-Healthy for Life, Demystifying Dyslexia, a national television outreach initiative on learning challenges, and a statewide HIV/AIDS prevention project called Breaking the Silence, which has been adopted as the curriculum for the Buffalo Public Schools. She is also a Community Music School Trustee and a founding member of the Buffalo Book Fair.

Emma Walsh (2006) sets a new softball school record at Alfred University. In a game against Cazenovia College, AU led 11-0 after two innings and tacked on three runs in the third and fourth, and four runs in the fifth. Sophomore first baseman, Emma Walsh, went 3-for-4 with a double and a homerun and a new school-record seven RBI's.

Service

Ten great reasons to attend a reunion (per the Class of 1973):

- Because you've never looked better.
- Because it will be an incentive to lose 10 pounds.
- Because you missed the last one.
- Because it's good to come to a reunion while you can still see and hear fairly well.
- Because your mother would want you to go.
- Because it's a great chance to renew old friendships.
- So you can return the locker key you forgot to turn in after graduation.
- Because with menopausal memories, it will be like meeting new people.
- Because we're planning a pajama party in the gym afterwards.
- Because it will be a hoot!

Class of 1949

Betty Myers is not wasting any time to begin plans for their 60th reunion. She wants to ensure that all out of town Mounties are able to return for this special event. Please feel free to contact her at 716-807-0680 for more information.

Class of 1950

They plan to meet, God willing, on October 3, 2008 with noon Mass at St. Gregory the Great on Maple Road, followed by lunch at The Protocol Restaurant on Transit at 1pm. Please tell your friends. No notices will be sent, so read your MSM alumnae newsletter!!

Class of 1958

Save the date of September 13, 2008 for your 50th reunion. You'll enjoy a 3 p.m. tour of the Mount followed by Mass in the MSM Chapel. A 6 p.m. dinner will be served at the Country Club of Buffalo. Check the Focus newsletter, or contact Carol Condon Dubel at cdubel@rochester.rr.com or Joan Baker LaMendola at (716) 912-5776. If you have an e-mail address, please let Carol know.

Class of 1959

It's never too early to start thinking about the 50th reunion, so save September 19, 2009 for this special celebration. If you have thoughts, ideas or would like to help with reunion planning, please contact Carol Deinhart Jauch at daniel.jauch@att.net or 716-634-8122.

Class of 1968

Susan Allen Gehl (1968) is in her own business and has been since 1995. Visit it at transNETMedia.com. She has been in Phoenix, Arizona since 1981 and is anxious to visit with all her friends from the Mount at the 40-year reunion this summer. She is so anxious she started MSM68alumnae.org. So far 23 graduates have logged into the site. If you are a 1968 graduate, please visit the site and share what you been doing for the past 40 years.

The reunion will be held on Saturday, August 23 from 7-11 pm for a girls-only party at Bijou Grille, 643 Main St., Buffalo. On Sunday, August 24 at 11 am will be Mass and Brunch at the Mount when families will be welcome to join in the fun.

For further information, call Marcia Nichols Kester at 716-668-4730 or Marciakester@aol.com.

Class of 1978

SAVE THE DATE for the 30th Reunion.

It's a girls' night out on Friday, November 28, 2008 (Friday after Thanksgiving), 6-9 pm at My Tomato Pie - Sheridan Drive/Norhtown Plaza, Tonawanda. 30 years---\$30 per ticket. Cash Bar.

Your Reunion Committee Co-Chairs are Roslyn Romanowski, Nancy Fischer Schimenti, Donna Hoelscher Suchan, Sharon Morelli Sullivan.

If you are unable to attend, we'd still like to know what you're up to...please send a short bio via email to Sharon for distribution that evening.

For further information or to update your contact information, contact Sharon Morelli Sullivan via email: Sharon_Sullivan@msn.com or 716-876-9385 (home) or 716-913-7101 (cell).

Class of 1998

The class will be getting together at SoHo on August 9th. More details will follow. For questions, please contact Jennifer Hahn Ortner, jennifereortner@yahoo.com, or Melissa Zizzo, zizzomr@yahoo.com.

Have a question about reunions? Don't hesitate to call the MSM alumnae office at 716-877-1358 ext. 304.



Focus

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Class of 2009 Receive Rings



The Mount St. Mary Academy community gathered on December 7 to celebrate one of the school's most cherished traditions – Junior Ring Ceremony at Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Bishop Edward Kmiec, shown with Leah Stephens Luhr Snyder (1949) and granddaughter Nora Kearney (2009), celebrated his first Mass at Mount St. Mary, making the event even more memorable.

Members of the Class of 2009 received their rings and red roses from Principal Mrs. Dawn Riggie (1971). Several students carried on another wonderful MSM tradition by receiving their class rings from a family member.

**Come home to our
Homecoming Mass!
Saturday, September 6th, 2008
at 4 pm
in the MSM Auditorium.
Your invitation will
be mailed this summer.**

*"Raise money for
Mount St. Mary Academy
just by searching the
Internet with GoodSearch -
www.goodsearch.com
powered by Yahoo!"*

Focus

*The Alumnae Newsletter of
Mount St. Mary Academy*

We welcome your comments!

Please send them to:

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