

Blue & Gold

For the Alumni, Parents and Friends of Waldron Mercy Academy

Fall 2015



Waldron Welcomes
Pope Francis!

In This Issue

Welcome Letter	1
Faculty & Staff News.....	2
Tiger's Postgame Update	3
Advancement News	4-5
WMA News	6
Parent/Alumni Spotlight	7
Pope Visit	8-10
In Memoriam.....	11
Saluting the Class of 2015	12-13
Alumni Notes.....	14-16



Visit us on Facebook!
For alumni - www.facebook.com/waldronalumni
For parents and friends -
www.facebook.com/waldronmercyacademy



Follow us on Twitter!
www.twitter.com/WaldronMercy



Check out our videos on SchoolTube!
www.schooltube.com



www.linkedin.com
Search groups for "Waldron Mercy Alumni" or
"Waldron Mercy Academy Parents and Friends"

Cover Photo: Some of our **ECC students** dressed as Pope Francis!

Mission Statement:

Waldron Mercy Academy, a Catholic school sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, is a diverse, faith community rooted in the gospel values of mercy and justice. We are a school where the joy of discovery inspires serious study, social responsibility, and strong faith.

Blue & Gold

Volume Eleven, Issue One

Blue & Gold is published twice a year, by the Marketing and Communication Office, for the alumni, parents and friends of Waldron Mercy Academy.

Contributors

Jon Derewicz | Director of Athletics
Peg Flynn | Director of Stewardship and Alumni Relations
Trish Lockett | Director of Marketing and Communications
Pam Stites | Assistant Director of Special Events and Projects

Photography

Peg Flynn
Trish Lockett

Design

Nancy Biddle | Biddle Design (www.biddledesign.com)

From the Principal

Our theme this year, *We are a Family in Mercy*, focuses on our call to live and learn together and to celebrate the families within Waldron Mercy Academy and in our world. Mercy is always close to our hearts. It tempers how we live, how we think, how we act toward one another. It truly defines us as a school and is who we are at our core. How appropriate that we are about to embark on "The Year of Mercy" so soon after Pope Francis' visit to the United States.



Even before the pope touched down on this side of the Atlantic, the excitement of Pope Francis' arrival was palpable. It was on the news, on the radio, and in our classrooms and hallways. A life-sized cardboard cutout of Pope Francis even made an appearance on campus. Our teachers and students enjoyed taking selfies with him. It was a fun way to introduce him to our younger students, who dressed like him, wearing the *mitre* or *zucchetto* and carrying the Papal flag for all to see as they paraded through the halls.

Many of our families and faculty and staff members went to the city to see him and be in his presence in Washington D.C., or at the World Meeting of Families, the Liturgy at the Basilica of Ss. Peter and Paul, or the Liturgy on the Parkway. Anyone I've spoken with who attended, said that his visit was life changing. It brought all Catholics, and people of other religions, together, united in love and faith.

Pope Francis said, *"Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope."* It is with courage and hope that we all continue to live as a collective Family in Mercy.

In this issue of *Blue & Gold*, we highlight some of the members of the Waldron community who participated in the Pope's visit and surrounding events. We will also meet alumni who share the importance of giving back to Waldron in Mercy. We take great pride in our extended Waldron family who continue to live Mercy in their daily lives.

Nell Stetson

Faculty & Staff

Liz Meyer, science specialist, was part of a Middle States visiting team to St. John the Baptist School in Wilmington, Del. Liz also attended The New Essentials: Creativity & Instructional Strategies offered by Montgomery County Intermediate Unit (MCIU) in October. The workshop addressed some of the most popular and effective strategies to infuse classrooms with one of the most critical skills for gifted learners: creativity.

Michelle Orapallo, grade three, **Sam Sheng**, grade four, **Michael Borton**, music director, and **Barb Scott**, technology director, attended the four-day International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Conference in the summer, at which teachers explored technology apps for classroom iPads and ideas to enhance student learning through technology. **Sue Burns**, grades five and six math, **Katie DeSanto**, grade eight language arts, **Kitty Ferry**, grade three, **Irene Pawlish**, grades seven and eight math, and **Lucille Morinelli**, librarian/media specialist, attended one-day ISTE sessions.

Dennis Mastriano, grade six religion and social studies, took a course, Differentiated Instruction, through Gratz College. The course focused on designing effective instruction that responds to the needs of all learners — using learning style, interest, and level of readiness. This course investigated the theory, rationale, and principles of differentiated instruction and applied them to the classroom setting.

Bob Fogarty, grades seven and eight religion, and **Eileen Flanagan**, grades seven and eight social studies, attended a talk and film screening of "Urban Trinity," about the history of the Catholic Church in Philadelphia, held at St. Joseph's University.

Jessica Carswell, director of institutional advancement, co-presented on day of giving campaigns at an Association of Delaware Valley

New and Familiar Faces Grace Us

Welcome to our new director of institutional advancement, **Jessica Carswell**. She is an accomplished fundraiser with experience in non-profit development programs and higher education. She most recently was director of institutional advancement at Bryn Athyn College, ANC Secondary Schools, and General Church where she led the advancement team. Her strengths lie in stewarding leadership prospects, developing annual giving programs, and implementing strategic goals, infrastructure, and processes. Jessica holds a Master of Education in Higher Education Management from the University of Pennsylvania and a Bachelor of Arts in English from Penn State University. Jessica officially began as our new director on June 29.



We also welcome **Bernadette (Betsy) O'Connell**, who came out of semi-retirement to join us as our interim director of religious education, **Angel Graham**, who returned to WMA as the interim coordinator of outreach ministries, **Carolina Kakos**, who returns as a full-time Spanish teacher, **Shawn Burt**, as our new chef-manager, **Patty Papatheodore**, as our preschool art teacher, **Mary Goodman**, as our reading specialist, and **Jim (Mac) McMenamin**, from Main Line Protection Services as our new security guard.



Music teacher Sue Lerner (second from right) performed with Stevie Wonder at the Wells Fargo Center in October.

Independent Schools workshop. She challenged attendees to develop a Philadelphia-area campaign to benefit all of our schools and have some healthy competition in the mix. **Peg Flynn**, director of stewardship and alumni relations, was also in attendance.

All **Waldron Mercy Child Care staff** were recertified for first aid and infant CPR this fall.

Barb Scott attended MCIU's Creativity and Instructional Strategies by Lisa Van Gemert. She also attended the Philadelphia Area Independent School Business Officers Association (PAISBOA) tech director's workshop Resources to Help You Choose the Best Education App.

Linda Betlejeski, preschool music, performed on the stage of Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts with the Ambler Symphony Orchestra in October, in a concert of Chinese music commemorating the 70th anniversary of the victory of WWII.

Sam Pierce, grades seven and eight science, attended the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) conference in November, which was held at the Philadelphia Convention Center. She attended presentations and workshops on STEM and middle school science.

Sam Sheng, grade four, took classes on Microsoft's One Note and on the flipped classroom, and on digital citizenship at the MCIU this summer.

Sandy Evans, pre-k, attended Splash 2015 Early Childhood Educational Conference, in Grapevine, Texas, this summer. In the fall, she attended Dr. Jean's Active Learning Adventure: Let's Make It Purposeful, Planful, and Playful, where teachers discovered hands-on learning experiences for literacy, math, and science that make children's learning more meaningful and fun through games, activities, and songs.

Tiger's Postgame *Update*

JV Soccer – 2015 CAL Champions!

Once again this season, Waldron Mercy's JV soccer team has kept the program tops in the Catholic Academy League (CAL). The JV team did have a small hiccup on Homecoming Day with a loss to Gwynedd-Mercy Academy, but ran the table and was undefeated in all other league matchups to win the Championship. Our varsity and/or JV soccer teams have won five of the past six CAL Championships in soccer. The Championship team was coached by Rachel Sacchetti and Nick Gerbo.



(first row, from left) Noah Campbell, Mick Meredith, Jack Gallagher, Billy Ross, Mikel Leiva, Christopher Frabizzio, Michael Leahy; (second row, from left) Luke Hoey, Michael Miele, Jessica Osciak, Andrea-Rose Oates, Lauren Anderson, Cassidy Scott, Thomas Hart, Nicholas Kemp, with Jon Derewicz, athletic director



Mrs. Joanne Zarro, mother of Lauren '16, presented Bob Gallagher, physical education director and volleyball coach, with a sterling silver whistle in appreciation of his over 20 years of service and dedication to WMA. The volleyball team was thrilled to celebrate this accomplishment with him at this year's Homecoming!

We look forward to beginning our winter sports season! Good luck to our basketball and swimming teams!

Advancement **News**

Waldron Mercy Academy Receives \$20,000 from the Charitas Foundation

Waldron Mercy Academy was awarded \$20,000 from the Charitas Foundation again this fall. The Foundation seeks to positively impact the lives of individuals through sowing financial seeds into organizations that have life-changing missions. This gift will support the Waldron's Financial Aid Fund and provide access to a Waldron education to many deserving students. The Charitas Foundation was established in 2011 by Dr. Alyn Waller, Dr. Ellyn Jo Waller, and their daughters, Morgan '05, and Eryka '06.

Class of 1967 Scholarship Awarded

Through the generosity of **Bill Kuharich '67** and several of his classmates, the inaugural Class of 1967 Scholarship has been awarded to a Waldron Mercy Academy student. Bill, executive chief of staff for the Cleveland Browns, his wife, Betsy, and daughter Megan, attended a breakfast to honor the recipient of the scholarship. Classmates George Zeller and Curtis Cockenber were also in attendance.

If you are a member of the class of 1967, and are interested in contributing to the scholarship to provide a Mercy education to a deserving student, please contact Jessica Carswell, director of institutional advancement, at jcarswell@waldronmercy.org, or 484-420-4702.



Nell Stetser and Bill Kuharich

Alumni Return for Second Annual All-Class Reunion



Dr. Evan McClennen Metza '99 and Mia Gentile Dempsey '99, who have been friends since fourth grade, were thrilled to visit their old classrooms.



Members of the Class of 1977: John Williamson, Derek Redcross, John Minutella, Marc Bonavitacola, J. Chris McGuire, and Clinton O'Brien were onboard to acknowledge their classmate, Barkley Sample, for receiving the Outstanding Alumnus Award at the All-Class Reunion.



Friends since first grade, Derek Redcross presents Barkley Sample with an envelope containing gifts to WMA from his classmates in Barkley's honor.



Bill Baldini '90, Melissa Baxter Shevlin '90, and Patrick Leach '90.

Tech Program Gets Generous Support from the 22nd Annual Golf & Tennis Classic

More than 150 WMA parents, alumni and supporters turned out at Llanerch Country Club. Many golf and tennis prizes were given out, and raffles and live auction items won, including a 50/50 prize of \$700! A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Mother Patricia Waldron Award to Steve Stritch, former WMA executive director of advancement. Steve is fondly remembered for many kind and generous practices, including writing notes to students who appeared in a WMA play, made a special presentation at Community Gathering, or did something else of note. When presenting Steve with his award, Nell Stetser, principal, said: "This is a perfect example of what it is to live in Mercy: Building a more personal relationship and recognizing people for even the smallest things. And of course it meant the world to our children that someone thought enough about what they did to put it in writing."

Many thanks to Williamson Hospitality, our title sponsor, and the many other corporate and family sponsors and underwriters; and all who attended, donated money and gifts, and volunteered.

Many thanks to Lou Marchese (golf chair), Suzanne Mullen (tennis chair), Stephen and Evelyn Bennett, Michael Collinelli '04, Blake Cooper, Chris Coyne, Bill Frio '84, Jeff Mullen, Judy Rizzo, Jim Shaud, and Jim Strite.

Please join us September 19, 2016, for this wonderful event.



We appreciate the support of our alumni. (from left) Bill O'Brien '68, Patrick Stritch '95, Jim Stritch '94, John Thomas Stritch '09, Andrew McCloskey '84, Bill Frio '84, Albert Perry '94, Stephen Stritch '00, Rob D'Anjolell '76, Ed Chermol '78, Mike Lynch '70, Michael Collinelli '04, Jack Zeller '68, Susan Kelly O'Neill '92, Harry Williamson '71, and Sabrina Perry '98
Not pictured: Bill Gilhool '51, Jim McGovern '85, Michael Pacifico '72, Joseph Pacifico '70



Committee members Stephen and Evelyn Bennett with Suzanne Mullen, tennis chair

Nell Stetser, principal, presents the Mother Patricia Waldron Award to Steve Stritch



WMA News



Mykee Fowlin Visits WMA

Dr. Michael (Mykee) Fowlin, actor/psychologist/poet, performed his award-winning "You Don't Know Me...Until You Know Me," his original and powerful performance dealing with bullying and friend relationships. Grades six, seven and eight were in attendance, along with current parents.

Dr. Fowlin is nationally known and shares his messages on the issues of race, discrimination, violence prevention and personal identity.

Liz Meyer, science specialist, has been chosen to be a Toshiba/ExploraVision ambassador for the 2015–2016 academic year. She represented the program at the National Science Teachers Association conference in Philadelphia in



November. Liz was selected from a rich database of educators who have motivated and supported their students' interest in science and technology through ExploraVision. Her nomination as one of only up to six prospective ambassadors to serve for the 2015–2016 program year stems from both her achievement as an ExploraVision winner-coach as a back-to-back winner in 2014 and 2015, and her demonstrated ability to inform, excite and inspire others through shared experiences and model success.

The ExploraVision Ambassador Program was created, first and foremost, to provide an extended tier of recognition for exemplary ExploraVision coaches for their commitment to and achievements in the program. Ambassadors will be offered professional development opportunities and platforms to leverage their enthusiasm and experience as a winning coach to further communicate the value of the program. Ambassador program activities are also designed to create an extended ExploraVision peer educator network and build the capacity to enhance the STEM excellence and unleash the imaginations of a growing number of K–12 students.



Dr. Lisa Dissinger, child psychologist, began her series of presentations with "Promoting Emotional and Social Intelligence at Home" this fall. She will be presenting throughout the year for parents of child care children and lower school students. In April, she will do a special presentation for parents of Middle School students. Please check WMA's online calendar for details.



From the Office of Admission

We know you know someone, ages three months to eighth grade, who would benefit from the advantage of a Waldron Mercy education. Spread the word about our upcoming **Open Houses in 2016**, on Wednesday, January 13, at 7 p.m., Tuesday, March 1, at 9 a.m., and Tuesday, April 5, at 9 a.m.

Contact Sr. Joellen McDonnell, RSM, at jmcdonnell@waldronmercy.org, or 484-420-2706, for more information.

Spotlight On...

Parent Volunteer - Nicole Fenlon McKeown '91

Nicole, mom to Sienna '20 and John '23, has been a Waldron alumnus for 24 years, and a WMA parent for five of those years. She says that the privilege of going to a school like Waldron Mercy made her the person she is today. She learned to love school and work to the best of her ability because teachers made her feel important and that she could make a difference. "When it came time to pick an elementary school for our children, Waldron Mercy was our choice," says Nicole. "Walking through the doors as a parent and seeing the values of the students, teachers, and staff made the decision easy."

She considers herself lucky to have a career (Nicole has been an affiliate professor of education at Eastern University for the past 11 years, and a student teaching supervisor at Saint Joseph's University) where she is able to spend a great deal of time with her children and volunteer at school. She remembers her parents volunteering, going on field trips, chaperoning school dances, and going to school picnics, and knew she wanted to do the same for her own children.

Nicole, chair of the Parents Association's Hospitality Committee, began volunteering for field trips and parties when her children were in pre-k and kindergarten. She read at Drop Everything And Read (DEAR) Time and has worked with small groups during Math Explorations and STEM projects and activities. Serving as a homeroom parent for two years has allowed her to go to many events and make connections with her children's teachers and friends, and other parents. For the past two years, she has also worked as a member of the decorating and class gift committees for Tigerfest.

"Waldron is rooted in Mercy," says Nicole. "Giving back is our way of showing that Mercy."



Alumni Volunteer - Michael Collinelli '04

If you've attended the Golf and Tennis Classic or Tigerfest, you may have met Michael Collinelli '04, one of WMA's younger alums who volunteers at these events.

After Michael graduated from Waldron Mercy Academy, he attended LaSalle College High School and Temple University, where he earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in finance.

Currently, Mike works in Blue Bell as a registered representative with Mutual of Omaha Investor Services Inc., member FINRA/SIPC. "I help people in all different stages of life make sound financial decisions," Michael says. "This could be everything from protecting their income if something unexpected were to happen; to helping them save for retirement." One of the highlights he has been extremely excited about is the educational seminar regarding the financial concerns of sending a child to college that Mike and Mutual of Omaha presented last year for a small group of WMA parents. "We make it our primary



Mike, volunteering at Tigerfest 2015

goal to educate the people that we meet with, something I think I learned from my time at WMA," he says.

Michael says that he gives back to WMA because it's something that he's always been taught to do. "From the time I was there as a student, I saw both of my parents become heavily involved with the school," he says. "As I left and went to high school and college, I started to realize just how special WMA is, and I knew that once I had the opportunity to return, I absolutely had to." Michael says that as soon as he volunteered for the first time, he knew he had to find

more ways to give back to the community that had given him so much growing up. "I couldn't be happier for that decision. I think it's important for others to get involved and give back, because that is what makes WMA really tick. The teachers and employees are undoubtedly the backbone of the school, but the students, parents and alumni are the heart and soul," he says. "I see the pride that we all have for the school at every meeting or event I attend, and I think that is what makes WMA truly great."

Michael and Mutual of Omaha Investor Services, Inc. are not affiliated with F.A.C.T.S.

The Historic Papal Visit to America and the WMA community was there!

Many members of the Waldron Mercy community were able to attend the events surrounding the visit of Pope Francis. Here is just a sampling of stories from the historic weekend.



Charlene Angelini, music teacher, sang at the Pope's liturgies.



"He was right in front of us and when he looked directly at us and blessed us I felt so blessed to be so near to him. It was amazing!"

– Hannah Downing '20



Sharon Ann Logan, housekeeping, with Pope Francis cutout



Tyler Schrode '25 and his classmates paraded around school wearing zucchettos and carrying paper flags



Marge Goldberg, violin and viola teacher, played for the Opening Mass for the Meeting of Families.



"It was important for us as a family to share in the celebration as the city prepared for the pope's historic visit. The knotted grotto was a beautiful testimony to the power of prayer and the spirit of mercy and community and was a powerful activity we could experience together. It was a once in a lifetime memory!"

– **Suzanne Gallagher, P '19, '19, '23 and '26**



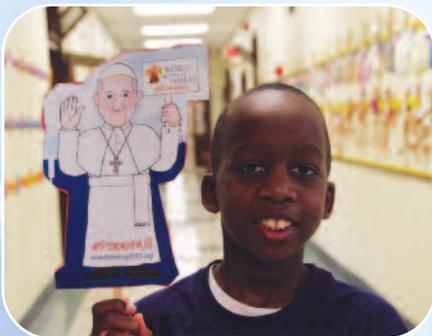
"While Cristiano tried very hard to see the pope during his visit... He didn't have much luck.

However, he did get to write his own special intentions and pray at the Knotted Grotto at the Cathedral of Ss. Peter and Paul, greeted the National Guard or "Real Army Men" on Broad Street, took pictures with a cardboard cut out of Pope Francis and watched the Papal Mass on a Jumbotron, amongst thousands of people at City Hall. Cristiano met families from all over the world that weekend. It was a great experience for him to have been part of the peaceful and joyous energy, in a great city we get to call home!"

– **Sonia Forcina P '24**

"I went to Washington D.C. with my mom to see Pope Francis. We watched on big TVs from the Capitol Lawn. It was an amazing experience especially when the pope blessed all the children that were on the capital lawn. I will never forget that day!"

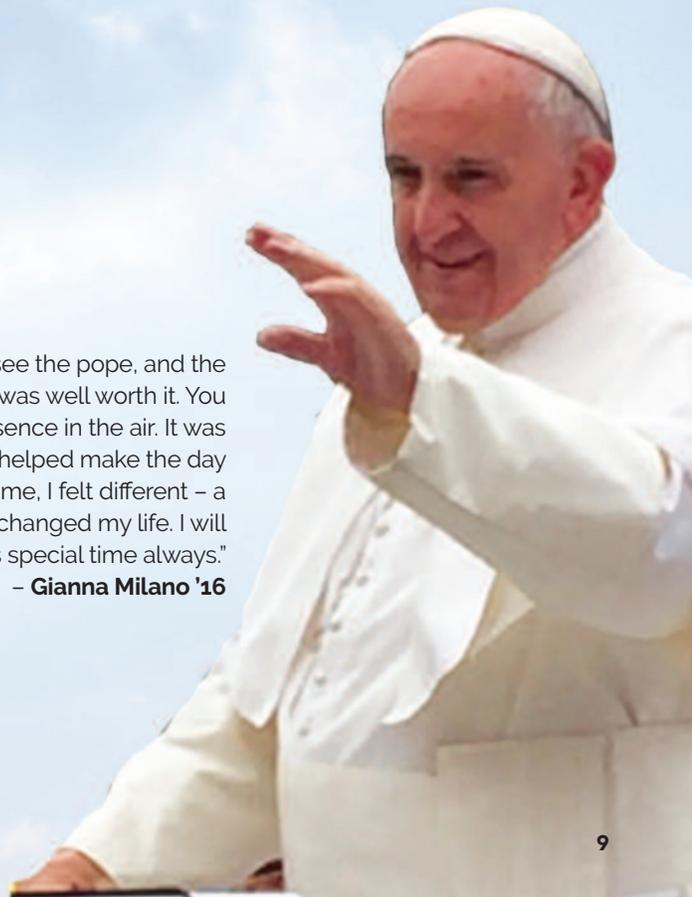
– **Jake Santoro '21**



Cole Reed '21 holds Flat Pope Francis.

"My mom and I went to see the pope, and the long wait, getting up at 6:30 was well worth it. You could almost feel God's presence in the air. It was nice all the people who helped make the day peaceful. When the Pope came, I felt different – a good different. His visit changed my life. I will remember this special time always."

– **Gianna Milano '16**



Historic Papal Visit



"The pope's presence was a treasured moment in my life. His message was powerful yet simple, "do unto others as you would have done to you." He made such an impression on me that I now approach each day with more tenderness and reflect on how I can better myself and those around me. I am a believer that one person can change the world and I'm certain he is doing just that! "

- **Starr Scorsone P '21, '22**



"The pope's arrival in Philadelphia transformed our city. We had the opportunity to volunteer over the weekend. We were part of guest services and hospitality. Surprisingly, we enjoyed the 'no car' zones. We certainly got in enough walking exercise that weekend! People walked everywhere, and they were smiling. The beauty of the Mass on the Parkway, especially when the umbrellas escorted the Eucharistic Ministers as they distributed communion, was breathtaking.

Our volunteering duties took us from the Art Museum to 2nd and Race Streets. We both met at Independence Hall where Pope Francis drove by us, the first of several times he was so close. The speech there was the only place where we were both in the same place at the same time.

It was such a wonderful experience to be a part of this historic event in such a simple way by volunteering. We both thoroughly enjoyed the entire weekend and appreciated having the Monday off from school to recuperate, rest, and reflect."

- **Angela McKelvey, grade two, and Eileen Flanagan, grades seven and eight social studies**



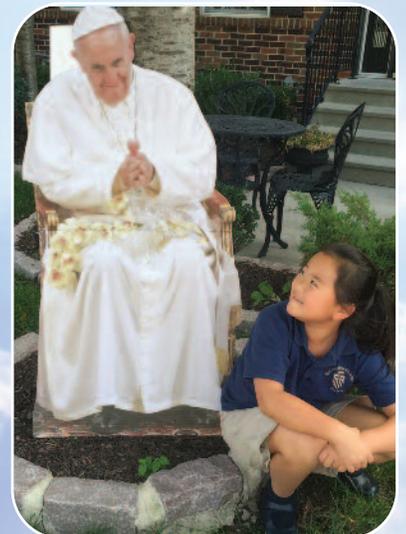
"A once in a lifetime experience! The presence of God among us was powerfully felt, standing among the faith-filled pilgrims."

- **Sister Marianna Walsh, RSM, WMA trustee, and Sister Joellen McDonnell, RSM, director of admission**



Courtney McLaughlin's grade 2 class take a selfie with Pope Francis.

Marisa McKinley '21 with her pope cutout



In Memoriam

Margaret Anderson, great-grandmother of Jess '16, Lauren '18, and Emma Anderson '25

John Augustine '00

Stephen Blount, father of Shakia Blount '04

Robert A. Boyd, husband of Maria, father of Mariel Boyd '01

Marie Brennan, mother of Charles Brennan, grandmother of Amanda Brennan '05

Howard J. Burns, father of Bonnie Guarini, WMA faculty

Thomas Coleman, uncle of Nancy Killeen, WMA faculty

Michael Coyle, father of Michael Coyle '06

Eugene Coyne '73

Dominic D'Amico, father of Sissy D'Amico, grandfather of Massimo Amici '15

Marion D'Eramo, grandmother of Mark Jr. '00, Allyson '06, Sean '06, Elizabeth '06 D'Eramo

Sister Mary Delphine, RSM

Brian Dougherty, father-in-law of Joanne Dougherty, WMA faculty, grandfather of Isabel Dougherty '16

Loretta Greim, mother of Matthew Greim '89

Greg Hamilton, father of John '23

Mary Leonard, grandmother of Joe Leonard '93, WMA faculty, and great-grandmother of Jess '16, Lauren '18, and Emma Anderson '25

Joanna Yeo McErlean, mother of Joseph McErlean '75

Susan McKinley, sister-in-law of Nancy McKinley, WMA faculty, aunt of Elisa '16 and Marisa '21 McKinley

Christine McLaughlin, mother-in-law of Courtney McLaughlin, WMA faculty, grandmother of Ian '26 McLaughlin

Shaun F. O'Malley '48, brother of E. Campion '45, W. Gresham '46, and Hilaire '53 O'Malley

Joseph Pacifico, father of Joseph '70 and Michael '72 Pacifico

Clara Rugnetta, grandmother of Michael '99 Rugnetta

Antoinette Ruzzi, grandmother of Michael '92 and Jennifer Ruzzi Hartle '96

Dom Sapienza, brother-in-law of Nancy McKinley, WMA faculty, uncle of Elisa '16 and Marisa '21 McKinley

Barbara Smith, sister of Lorraine Cox, WMA faculty

June Tassoni, mother of Lee Tassoni, grandmother of Monica '02, and Leah '06 Tassoni

Robert Testin, father of Joan Testin, former WMA faculty

Harriet Van Blunk, aunt of Nancy McKinley, WMA faculty, great-aunt of Elisa '16 and Marisa '21 McKinley

Thomas P. Welch '38

Remembering Meg Harley

Meg Harley, Waldron's science teacher from 1985 to 1998, passed away in July. Meg, a visionary, truly loved teaching science. Her progressive educational philosophy paved the way for today's STEM program.

Meg's deepest commitment was to her students, and she made sure they were actively engaged in each lesson. Whether creating cell replicas from food items or donning green for Frog Dissection Day, Meg made science fun and active. "Mrs. Harley was a wonderful teacher who left a lasting impression on all of her students. Her love of science was infectious and she made the subject more approachable, particularly for young girls," says Alysa Suero Zirilli '89. "Mrs. Harley's science lessons started me on the path to my career as a geologist."

Many alumni remember the rain forest that Meg planned in the Science Lab. With the help of parent-volunteers, Meg carried rocks, dirt, and foliage in to recreate a true rain forest atmosphere, complete with a working waterfall. When visitors and students entered the lab, they were transformed to the balmy tropics.

Eager to stay current in the ever-progressing science field, Meg attended a NASA summer camp for teachers at the George C. Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala. Meg would proudly wear her NASA jacket around school. Meg loved not only challenging her students but herself, as well. Meg decided to take to the air, enrolling in flight school to become a pilot. She loved the freedom and vastness of space and wanted to be a part of it.

"I was impressed by Meg's insatiable curiosity for life and her exploration of new adventures," remarks Joyce McFarlane, mother of Christopher '95 and Michael '99. "I remember her excitement about taking pilot lessons and her first flight to Ocean City. Meg had a lively glint in her eyes that radiated larger and brighter than her smile."

As a part of a yearlong Renaissance theme, Meg orchestrated a "Wizards Day" (pre-Harry Potter). To demonstrate how science can be fun and "magical," each classroom was involved in hands-on experiments like creating "fluorescent goo." WMA students, faculty and staff dressed in wizards' garb. It was not only a wonderful educational adventure, but a great community builder for WMA as parents took an active part in every phase of the project.

Meg was truly a remarkable teacher and advocate in showing students that science encompasses everything and was not to be thought of as difficult. Her enthusiasm and energy were contagious. Her legacy lives on at Waldron in the hearts she touched and the minds she inspired.



Matthew Mulvihill '96, Andrew Paradise and Timothy Houser '96, with Meg Harley

Class of 2015



Jonathan Isaiah Aner
 Winston Carroll Barnes
 Alexander William Bendinelli
 Christopher Lippincott Biddle Jr.
 Skylar Ardis Brown
 Nicholas Catroppa
 Nicholas Andrew Chermol
 Matthew Andrew Cionci
 Domenic Colavita
 Madeleine Grace Conners
 Anna Grace Coyne
 Francis Richards Coyne
 Marcus Amir Curvan
 Ava Marie Donatucci

Jean-Marie Stephanie
 Dundovich
 Payton Susann Fox
 Christian James Giuliani
 Michael Campbell Gleason
 Aidan Thomas Harvey
 Olivia Marie Hayes
 Caitlyn Chunshun Hayes
 Scott Vincent Hibbs
 Pierce Dean Hodges
 Leo Jay Hurst
 Hope Cecilia Johnson
 Julia Kennedy Jones
 Julia Sofia Korsak

Anne Dayoung Kwon
 Sophia Ann Lamb
 Marla Elizabeth Leal
 Olivia Leuzzi
 Katharine Elizabeth Mastriano
 Conor Jacob McCabe
 Sean Larkin McFillin
 Julia Constance McGovern
 Noelle Patricia Mullen
 Erin Rose Murray
 James Matthew Nolan
 Bryan Joseph Nolan
 Aaron Preston Nuble
 Elizabeth Bell O'Neill

Hannah Mary Pang
 Samantha Marie Peacock
 Nicolette Kristine Perry
 Sehdev James-Thomas
 Pressley
 Kaitlyn Elizabeth Przydzial
 Amy Maria Ratigan
 Mary Grace Schrieber
 John William Sutton
 Vaughn Jaylen Waldron
 Alexander Marley Welsh

Many of our students have been with us for most of their formative years on Waldron's campus. We present the 2015 Waldron Lifers!



(from left) Elizabeth O'Neill, Matthew Cionci, Sehdev Pressley, and Winston Barnes

(first row, from left) Aaron Nuble, Domenic Colavita, Christian Giuliani, Jay Hurst, Nicholas Catroppa, Michael Gleason; (top row, from left) Pierce Hodges, Skylar Brown, Jean-Marie Dundovich, Samantha Peacock, Kaitlyn Przydzial, Noelle Mullen, Julia McGovern (missing: Aidan Harvey)



Awards and Scholarships

General Excellence Award

Ava Marie Donatucci

For Excellence in the study of Religion

Kaitlyn Elizabeth Przydzial

Honorable Mention

Anne Dayoung Kwon

Erin Rose Murray

Alexander Marley Welsh

For Excellence in the study of Advanced Mathematics

Francis Richards Coyne

Honorable Mention

Anne Dayoung Kwon

Kaitlyn Elizabeth Przydzial

Amy Maria Ratigan

For Excellence in the study of Mathematics

Alexander Marley Welsh

Honorable Mention

Jonathan Isaiah Aner

Christian James Giuliani

Leo Jay Hurst

For Excellence in the study of English

Kaitlyn Elizabeth Przydzial

Honorable Mention

Francis Richards Coyne

Caitlyn Chunshun Hayes

Anne Dayoung Kwon

For Excellence in the study of Writing

Alexander Marley Welsh

Honorable Mention

Michael Campbell Gleason

Anne Dayoung Kwon

Noelle Patricia Mullen

For Excellence in the study of Social Studies

Kaitlyn Elizabeth Przydzial

Honorable Mention

Francis Richards Coyne

Anne Dayoung Kwon

Katharine Elizabeth Mastriano

For Excellence in the study of Science

Francis Richards Coyne

Honorable Mention

Hannah Mary Pang

Kaitlyn Elizabeth Przydzial

Alexander Marley Welsh

For Excellence in the study of Spanish

Alexander Marley Welsh

Honorable Mention

Jonathan Isaiah Aner

Anne Dayoung Kwon

Kaitlyn Elizabeth Przydzial

For Excellence in the study of Art

Pierce Dean Hodges

For Excellence in the study of Music

Payton Susann Fox

Outstanding Achievement

Nicholas Catroppa

Francis Richards Coyne

Ava Marie Donatucci

Michael Campbell Gleason

Christian James Giuliani

Caitlyn Chunshun Hayes

Pierce Dean Hodges

Anne Dayoung Kwon

Noelle Patricia Mullen

Hannah Mary Pang

Kaitlyn Elizabeth Przydzial

Amy Maria Ratigan

Alexander Marley Welsh

Effort Awards

Leo Jay Hurst

Katharine Elizabeth Mastriano

Noelle Patricia Mullen

The following Mercy Awards are presented to the students who exhibit the Mercy philosophy of trust, hospitality, openness, and outreach.

Matthew Andrew Cionci

Vaughn Jaylen Waldron

Ava Marie Donatucci

Service Awards are presented to the students who have consistently given their time to assist others.

Jonathan Isaiah Aner

Anne Dayoung Kwon

Hope Cecilia Johnson

Samantha Marie Peacock

The Leadership Award is presented to two students who exemplify the qualities of mercy, service, effort, and the ability to influence others to do the same.

Ava Marie Donatucci

Kaitlyn Elizabeth Przydzial

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO THE CLASS OF 2015

Nicholas Catroppa
St. Joseph's Preparatory
School – Principal Grant
Scholarship

Scott Vincent Hibbs
St. Joseph's Preparatory
School – Xaverian
Scholarship

Anna Grace Coyne
The Agnes Irwin School –
Grant

Julia Sofia Korsak
John W. Hallahan High
School for Girls – Scholarship

Francis Richards Coyne
St. Joseph's Preparatory
School – Ignatian Scholarship

Marla Elizabeth Leal
Merion Mercy Academy –
Grant

Ava Marie Donatucci
Merion Mercy Academy –
Mercy Scholarship

Sehdev James-Thomas Pressley
Roman Catholic High School
– Cahillite Scholarship

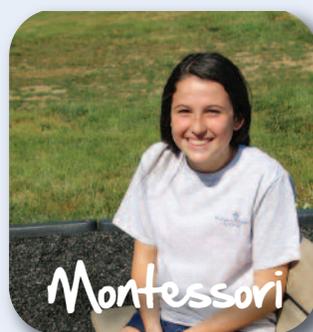
Jean-Marie Stephanie
Dundovich
The Agnes Irwin School – AIS
Scholar Award

Kaitlyn Elizabeth Przydzial
Merion Mercy Academy –
Academic Scholarship
Mount Saint Joseph's –
President's Academic
Scholarship

Michael Campbell Gleason
St. Joseph's Preparatory
School – Principal Grant



(from left) Sean McFillin, Sophia Lamb, Anna Grace Coyne, Ava Marie Donatucci, Francis Coyne, Olivia Leuzzi, and Conor McCabe



Nicolette Perry



(from left) Matthew Nolan, Bryan Nolan, Katie Mastriano, and Payton Fox

Alumni Notes

Write to us! Contact us if you've gotten married, had a baby, moved, retired, or if you just want to keep in touch with your fellow Waldron alumni. Email Peg Flynn, director of stewardship and alumni relations, at mflynn@waldronmercy.org.

► 1951

Dr. William J. Gilhool is chairman, Division of Gastroenterology, at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in Philadelphia. Among his many awards are: Ambulatory Care Physician of the Year and Teacher of the Year. He is also a Fellow, American College of Physicians; Fellow, College of Physicians of Philadelphia; Fellow, American College of Osteopathic Internists and Diplomat, National Board of Medical Examiners. Bill joins us each year for tennis at the annual Golf and Tennis Classic.



► 1960

B. Paul Pillion Jr. has been married to his wife, Ann, for 35 years and has worked in the insurance business since 1969. After retiring from Pacific Life as regional manager two years ago, he took one week off before starting his own company. A graduate of LaSalle College High School, Paul attended Villanova University and served in the U.S. Army Infantry from 1966 to 1969, achieving the final rank of captain. *(from left) Paul, wife, Ann, and children, Alexandra, Brian, Elizabeth, and Michael*

► 1984

Dan Simmons is now program and operations manager in the Department of Recreation Services and Parks in Conshohocken.



Dan earned his M.Ed. in sports management from Temple University. Dan sent special thanks to Waldron and remarked, "Waldron has made me who I am today!"

► 1993

Bernadette Attaquin Osterhaus is currently living in South Korea and working for the United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) as a project engineer. She is responsible for construction surveillance of 15 barracks that will house approximately 4,300 soldiers. As a project engineer for a massive relocation effort, she functions as a liaison between the host nation's government and the U.S. federal government partnering to ensure quality construction. All of her federal career has involved improving the quality of life for our nation's airmen and veterans.



► 1994

Jeff Kelly and his wife, Alycia, welcomed daughter, Summer Evalyn, on August 10, 2015. Jeff and Alycia have a son, Penn, and reside in Short Hills, N.J.



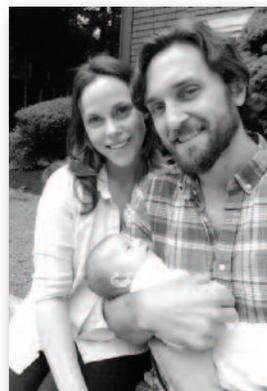
Lauryn Overbey is a business development manager, North America, at Armacell. She is a graduate of



Tuskegee University where she was vice president of her class and attained a B.S. in biology. Lauryn did graduate studies in microbiology at Thomas Jefferson and earned her Executive MBA from St. Joseph's University in 2010.

► 1995

Devin Kristin was born to **Ryan Cassidy** and his wife, Christine, on June 7, 2015. Joining his brother, **Patrick '91**, at New Balance in Boston, Ryan serves as digital associate manager for running. An avid runner himself, Ryan has competed in numerous marathons in Chicago where he previously resided.





► **1995 (continued)**
Agnes Bateman studied history at Davidson College and earned her M.Ed. at Chestnut Hill College. She now lives in Big Sky, Mont., and teaches elementary special education in nearby Bozeman.

Jaclyn Grenfell Ough and her husband, Brian, residents of Phoenix, Arizona, welcomed their third child, Beckett John, to their growing family on August 13, 2015. Sister Olivia, age 3, and Connor, age 2, are thrilled with the new addition.



► **1997**
Dr. Gregory Tsai Guffanti (pictured with wife, Lucy Corbett, at their wedding in Portland, Ore.) Gregory graduated from St. Joseph's Prep, Brown University, Jefferson Medical College, and the Oregon Health & Science University Family Medicine Residency program. Gregory specializes in taking care of families throughout their lives. He has had the privilege of caring for three generations of a family at one time.

Matt Scafdi is a senior consultant at Towers Watson in Philadelphia. Matt is a graduate of St. Joseph's Prep and the University of Pennsylvania where he earned a B.A. in communications and history. This year, Matt earned an M.S. in organizational dynamics from the University of Pennsylvania.

Trish Silva Strehle, and her husband, Justin, welcomed Hudson Thomas, on October 15.



► **1998**
Tim Mahoney married Elizabeth Walley on September 19, 2015, at Old St. Mary's Church in Philadelphia, with **Jamie O'Neill '98** serving as best man. Fellow alums **Eddie Keels '98**, **Matt Lancaster '98**, **Tony Spigonardo '98**, **Kevin Dugan '98**, **J. Francis Mahoney '59**, **Peter Greenhalgh '59**, **Fran Mahoney '92**, and **Sally Mahoney Westbrook '94** were in attendance.



► **1999**
Ali Van Norden is the events coordinator at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia. In this role, she is the lead contact for the majority of the museum's internal events. She handles logistics for smaller rental events and serves as onsite facilitator for events from meetings to weddings. Ali is a graduate of Merion Mercy Academy and Penn State University. She was inducted into the Centre for Sports Journalism and a member of the National Scholars Honor Society.



► **2000**
Laura Rubolina and Christopher Haraburda welcomed son, Benjamin, who was born on October 2, 2015. A resident of Altoona, Pa., Laura was a history major at Penn State University and is employed by the Altoona Area School District.



► **2001**
Mike (MJ) Andrews received the Walsh Award at Fordham University's annual Gridiron Club Dinner in New York this September. MJ was honored with this award for founding the Steve Hudacek Fordham Mentoring Program. This program is designed to connect current student-athletes with former players who serve as mentors. Named in honor of MJ's grandfather, Steve Hudacek, a standout player for the Fordham Rams in the early 1940s, and who was inducted into the school's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1989, the mentors are a resource that current players can contact to help with any problem, large or small. In accepting the award, MJ remarked, "I'm just hoping the Mentoring Program can show the student-athletes what it's like to be 'Men for Others' and that my grandfather would be proud of what we're doing."



Baby Luca Suro was born to **David Suro Jr.**, and his wife, Lauren, on September 1, 2015. David and his family own and operate Tequilas Restaurant in Philadelphia.



Alumni Notes



► 2002

Mary Grace Maggiano Bateman is an occupational/hand therapist at the Rothman Institute. Mary Grace married Dr. Dexter Bateman on May 30, 2015. She is a graduate of Merion Mercy and the University of Delaware where she earned a B.S. in Exercise Physiology. She earned an M.S. in Occupational Therapy from Philadelphia University.



► 2010

At the 133rd Annual Royal Canadian Henley Regatta, **Jim McManus** (right) won the U23 Men's Lightweight Pair event with teammate, Joseph Pinolla-Vizza. Jim is a sophomore at Cornell University. In his first season there, Jim helped Cornell earn its second consecutive Jope Cup by rowing from the bow seat in the third varsity eight that won a gold medal at the 2015 EARC Sprints. While at Malvern Prep, Jim earned three varsity letters in rowing and served as team captain during his senior season. He was a three-time scholastic national champion and a four-time Philadelphia city champion. Jim also earned a gold medal in the heavyweight double at the 2014 Stotesbury Regatta.

► 2012

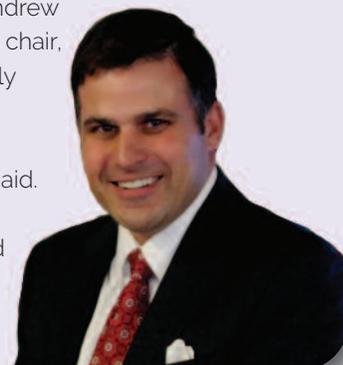
Daniela Colavita, a senior at Merion Mercy, was named a Main Line Student of the Week in a recent issue of *The Main Line Times*. She was accepted to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's (CHOP) Teen Explorer Program in 2014. Last summer, she shadowed a physician at CHOP where she also spent time in the operating room and NICU. Daniela's career goal is to become a pediatrician. She also finds time to serve as field hockey coaching assistant at Waldron and is Senior Leader at Merion Mercy's Latin Club. In addition, Daniela is a member of several Honor Societies, including National Honor Society, Math, Science, and Latin.



► 2014

Abby Fafara will be attending school in Italy for her sophomore year of high school. St. Basil Academy is allowing Abby to study abroad through a special program, titled "American Field Service."

Our deepest thanks to **Andrew McCloskey '84** who has stepped down from his duties as chair of the Board of Trustees. Andrew's extraordinary leadership, passion and dedication to WMA has been an example to us over his tenure since 2012. He will continue to serve as an active member of the Board of Trustees. Principal Nell Stetser announced that Sister Marie Michele Donnelly, RSM, our current vice chair, will become the acting chair through June 2016. Andrew joined the inaugural Waldron Board in 2001, and rejoined in 2011. During Andrew's recent tenure as chair, he helped the Waldron community transition to the leadership of the first lay principal, and actively participated with the Board and faculty in developing the current strategic plan, laying the groundwork for future curricular and capital improvements. Andrew also played an instrumental role in recruiting businesses to participate in EITC/OSTC programs in support of student financial aid. Andrew was instrumental in creating the All-Class Reunion and Outstanding Alumnus Award. His creative energies were an inspiration to everyone with whom he worked. Andrew's leadership and devotion to Waldron were recently acknowledged and praised in a meeting with members of the Sponsorship Council and the Mid-Atlantic Leadership Team of the Sisters of Mercy.



Ways to Give

There are so many ways you can make a difference in the lives of our students and faculty. Below are just a couple of opportunities for you to consider. To learn more, please contact Jessica Carswell, Director of Institutional Advancement, at 484-420-2702 or jcarswell@waldronmercy.org.

The Waldron Annual Fund

Our annual campaign provides immediate support to current operational activities and expenses. Your gift supports outreach opportunities, academic programming, faculty compensation, technology enhancements, and building and grounds maintenance. The campaign runs from July 1 through June 30 each year.

Matching Gifts and the United Way

Your gift can be doubled or even tripled through your company's matching gift program. Check with your employer about this opportunity.

WMA is an approved organization under the United Way's Giving Program. To direct your gift to WMA use the following designation number #14245.

Pennsylvania's Tax Credit Programs

If your company pays state tax in Pennsylvania, it may be possible to distribute the funds to WMA instead. Through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) programs, your company can receive a substantial tax credit—as much as 90% of the value of the gift—while supporting WMA's student financial aid fund. The program allows C-Corps, S-Corps, Partnerships, and LLCs to contribute. Over 50 of our students have benefited from these funds.

To learn more, please contact Alison Nolan, Director of Special Events and Corporate Relations, at 484-420-2716.

Special Events

Each year we benefit from the support of generous volunteers and contributors who support our Golf & Tennis Classic in the fall and our Tigerfest Auction in the spring. These events are wonderful opportunities to connect with the Waldron community while supporting our school. There are countless opportunities to get involved including donating auction and raffle items, sponsorships, underwriting event costs, volunteering time, and attending the event.

To learn more, please contact Alison Nolan, Director of Special Events and Corporate Relations, at 484-420-2716.

Planned Gifts

One of the simplest ways to give a planned gift to Waldron is through a bequest in your will. After providing for your heirs, you may wish to include Waldron Mercy Academy in your estate plans. This is just one of the many ways to create a legacy gift. You can also consider gifts through trusts, annuities, and other life-income vehicles.

Gifts of this nature are special to Waldron because they support our future and the many generations of students to come. We welcome legacy donors into the Edgar H. Griffith's '35 Planned Giving Society and recognize their support through special publications and invitations through the year.

To discuss some of the planned gift options that may make sense for you, please contact Jessica Carswell, Director of Institutional Advancement, at 484-420-2702 or jcarswell@waldronmercy.org.

Advancing the Mission...Serving Our Family in Mercy

Have you made your gift to the 2015-2016 Waldron Annual Fund campaign?

You can make a difference in the lives of our students and faculty with a gift today. Simply return the enclosed envelope or visit us online at www.waldronmercy.org/give.

Thank you for helping to advance our mission, supporting our students, and celebrating this year of Mercy and our families.

For More Information

For further information on the above **Ways to Give**, contact Jessica Carswell, Director of Institutional Advancement, at 484-420-2702, or jcarswell@waldronmercy.org.



WALDRON MERCY ACADEMY

A Twice-Recognized Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

513 Montgomery Avenue
Merion Station, PA 19066

Address Service Requested

Attention Alumni:



Please check out our website to:

- Connect with fellow alums
- Share your news for *Blue & Gold*
- Learn about upcoming events

Log in at:

<https://www.waldronmercy.org/AlumniSignUp>

If you prefer not to share your contact information in our online Alumni Directory, please email Peg Flynn at mflynn@waldronmercy.org. You can also choose that option when you log on to our website.

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Upper Darby, PA
Permit No. 85



Save the Date for Tigerfest 2016! | Saturday, March 19, 2016

**New
Location!**

Hilton Philadelphia City Avenue

Support our festive fundraiser!

Underwrite an auction expense | Advertise in our ad book | Donate an auction item | Have fun at the event!

Proceeds benefit capital improvements, financial aid, Mercy outreach, and faculty and staff benefits.