MEET OUR LAKER LEGENDS!

Meet Our laker legends!
FROM THE DESK OF OUR PRESIDENT
Ed Curtin

Mercyhurst Preparatory School, a community filled with Mercy, Pride, and Spirit, has been providing students with the skills necessary to take their place among those who endeavor to make the world a better place. Lofty expectations for sure, but my favorite part of our school’s vision statement is that we inspire in our students a passion for the possible, and if we are to believe that, which we do, then making the world more livable and more merciful ought to be an expectation, for it is indeed possible, albeit no easy task. The Sisters of Mercy, visionaries and pioneers, have worked tirelessly to ensure that this message would carry on in their schools. I am proud that we maintain the charism of Mercy, which consists of the core values of justice, service, hospitality, concern for the dignity of all persons, and compassionate presence. Along with the Critical Concerns of the Sisters of Mercy, we hold these values in very high regard, and it is our responsibility to educate our young men and women in this mission, as well as foster a scholarly approach to their academic pursuits.

In the four years spent at Mercyhurst Prep, our students are exposed to many interesting and important ideas, and the true gift is that they are able to shape them into worldviews that suit each person. We are committed to creating a community in which all may deepen their spiritual awareness, broaden their intellectual endeavors, strengthen their personal integrity, enhance their individual talents, and embrace their global responsibility. It is never lost on me that students enter our doors as fourteen-year-olds with dreams and aspirations and graduate as eighteen-year-olds with a purpose in life. The true blessing of an MPS education is how our alumni share the mission, and I have been blessed to witness, through many great encounters with our wonderful alumni, that Mercy is indeed being spread throughout the entire world.

Evidence to these sentiments abound in the following pages, with incredible alumni stories, demonstrating our graduates’ profound promulgation of the core values of the charism of Catherine McAuley and the Sisters of Mercy. I hope it inspires all to share in this essential ministry.

In Mercy,

Ed Curtin

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SPRING 2020

Check us out at mpslakers.com
I hope that 2020 is off to a great start for you and your family!

2019 was a big year for the MPS alumni community. After twenty-seven years as the public relations and alumni director, Marcia Gensheimer ’71 retired. Marcia gave so much of herself to Mercyhurst Prep over the years, and for that we are truly grateful. She was honored at this year’s Laker Legends Scholarship Gala with our Distinguished Alumni Award for service and career. There were few people that we could think of who deserved this more than her after everything that she has done for our beloved MPS.

With Marcia’s retirement, it made sense to evaluate whether public relations and alumni services should be two distinct roles instead of one. The decision to separate the positions was simple when two outstanding alumni stepped up to fill Marcia’s shoes. We are so pleased to welcome them back!

It takes a special skill set to be able to understand how to best market our school to students of the future. My fellow classmate Alyson Amendola ‘89 has been hired to do just that as the director of marketing and communications. And I am so pleased that we now have an individual specifically focused on our alumni! Allison Rosatti ‘12, daughter of Judy Zimmerman Rosatti ’80, has been hired as the director of alumni relations and individual giving. Allison’s youth and vitality will bring new life to our efforts to connect with alumni of all ages.

As we continue to grow as an alumni community, it is harder and harder to stay in touch with everyone. With all the changes on the hill, there are lots of new and exciting things taking place at MPS. In order to stay connected and up to date with all the fun, please go to www.mpslakers.com/keep-in-touch to submit any updates to your contact information. Also don’t forget to like and follow us on Facebook at Mercyhurst Prep Alumni. And share your news with Allison at arosatti@mpslakers.com so that the MPS community can celebrate all the great things our alumni are doing!

I am excited about all the changes and look forward to connecting with you in 2020!

Jessica Horan-Kunco ‘89
Alumni Board President
Marcia Gensheimer, MPS Class of 1971
Distinguished Alumni Award for Career and Service

Marcia was often heard saying she had the best position at MPS because there was always something new and exciting to share regarding public relations and/or alumni accomplishments. She felt lucky to be the one assigned to publicize the activities of “the best high school in the area.”

Marcia received her BA in elementary education/early childhood from Mercyhurst College (now University) and completed post graduate work at Gannon University and Edinboro University. Prior to her position with Mercyhurst Prep, Marcia served as a former member of the Our Lady of Mount Carmel school board and freelance writer for many local publications.

Marcia credits Sr. Joanne Courneen for recognizing the need for a full-time marketing and alumni relations director and trusting her capabilities. What had started as a part-time public relations position grew to a full-time role for twenty-seven years, a role Marcia described as challenging, exciting, and rewarding. She feels fortunate to have always loved her job. During her tenure, Marcia developed new programs and expanded projects like the weekly e-newsletter, Laker Life, and MPScapades. She was integral in publicizing major announcements like being the first school in the area to implement personal iPad distribution and instruction, the archive project, the Alumni Recognition Dinner, which became the Laker Legends Gala, the establishment of the 15-member Alumni Board of Governors, the creation of the Pennsylvania International Academy (PIA), and renovations of the athletic/stage area wing, the Betsy and Bill Vorsheck Library and Research Center, front foyer, cafeteria, DREAM Lab, and Performing Arts Center.

While Marcia is now retired from MPS and enjoying a variety of hobbies including spending more time with her daughters and their families, MPS will always remain a special part of her life. Marcia adds, “I have great admiration and respect for the Sisters of Mercy for modeling and teaching the Charism of Compassionate Presence, Concern for the Dignity of All Persons, Hospitality, Justice, and Service. These as well as the Critical Concerns (Women, Nonviolence, Earth, Racism, Immigration) have become a cornerstone of my life.”

Marcia has two daughters, Emily Gensheimer Ferko ’99 and Beth Gensheimer Newman ’03, and three grandchildren, Lincoln (7), Olive (5), and Ezra (3).

Charles Stachera, Honorary Alumni

There are some very important years in the history of Mercyhurst Prep, years that stand out as being pivotal to its growth. 1926, the school began as Mercyhurst Seminary; 1963, the new building was constructed and open to any female student; and 1973, we enrolled young men into the Mercyhurst Preparatory School. Then there was 1975, the year Charles Stachera began teaching mathematics at Mercyhurst Prep.

What started as a job after graduating from Gannon University turned into a career for Chuck as a math department chair, IT specialist, ski club moderator, and girls volleyball coach. He has served on the Erie Catholic Diocese Technology Committee, on the Middle States Association visitation team, and as a member of the Mercy Education System of the Americas Technology Cohort. Chuck is also a member of the National Catholic Educational Association and a former member of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

“In the past 45 years no one person has been more clearly identified with our school. Chuck has served in myriad roles and with a passion for the possible rarely seen. He has mentored younger teachers and assisted every administration in these past four decades. It is an honor for us to present this award to Chuck, a true treasure at MPS,” shares Ed Curtin, MPS president.

While Chuck currently works in the MPS IT department, he spent the majority of his years as a math teacher at MPS. He was recognized with the Distinguished Teacher Service Award 1975–2005 and presented with the Teacher of the Year award in 2001 by the MPS Board of Directors. In Chuck’s words, “As the years pass, I realize that MPS provides not only an excellent academic program for its students but also a preparation for all aspects of their lives. The Mercy Charism (justice, service, hospitality, compassionate presence, and respect for the dignity of all persons), which is a pillar of the MPS school community, also became part of my personal standards. As I slowly step away from working at MPS, although it will always be a big part of who I am, I see my time at MPS not as a job, not as a career, but as a calling that I have been privileged to have had.”
Julia DeMarco Persinger, MPS Class of 1970
Mercy Award

The Mercy Award winner should be an individual who has demonstrated exemplary commitment to the Mercyhurst Prep School mission “to prepare students from all religious and ethnic backgrounds for a successful, productive, and compassionate life in an ever-changing and interdependent world.” Julia DeMarco Persinger embodies that mission. She received the MPS Mercy Award her freshman year at Mercyhurst Prep and has since spent her life caring for her family and her community.

After MPS, Julia received her bachelor of science degree from Georgetown University and a master of arts in pastoral ministry from the Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology. Julia’s history of involvement with a variety of charitable organizations has varied from committee member to chairperson, and she shares that “Mercyhurst Prep nurtured and encouraged a life of faith and values.” She said, “The wonderful Sisters of Mercy instilled in me faith and personal qualities that would carry me through my life. My formation at Mercyhurst gave me the values that helped me in choosing a husband, raising a family, and giving service to a number of organizations.”

Julia founded “Lids for Kids,” which supplies handmade knitted hats to every baby that visits GiGi’s Playhouse, a Down syndrome achievement center. As the pastoral associate for Catechetics at St. Rose of Lima Church in Short Hill, New Jersey, Julia was responsible for 700 families in the Religious Education Program, including the sacramental preparation for children in both religious education and the school affiliated with St. Rose.

Married for 46 years, Julia feels extremely blessed to be able to minister with her husband, Joe, a deacon. They have served together for twenty years at St. Rose of Lima Church and six years at the United States Naval Academy Chapel in Annapolis, Maryland. In that time, they have prepared almost 2,000 families for the Sacrament of Baptism.

Julia and Joe have generously supported MPS in numerous ways including the refurbishment of Our Lady of Mercy Chapel at MPS. A cherished memory is the celebration of their 40th wedding anniversary with extended family in the chapel.

Julia attended Mercyhurst Prep because her parents were convinced that Mercyhurst would give their children the best Catholic faith formation along with the best academic foundation to prepare them for college and beyond. In Julia’s words, “It did all of that and much more.”

Julia and Joe have four children and six grandchildren.

Kathy and Jim Dammeyer, Honorary ’15
Laker Legends Philanthropy Award

To say that honorary MPS Alumni Kathy and Jim Dammeyer have hearts for Mercyhurst Prep is an understatement. They make a positive impact on student lives in so many ways and are always willing to support student programs, offer ideas, and recommend Mercyhurst Prep to those they meet.

Jim is a graduate of the Illinois Institute of Technology. He recently retired as a sales engineer for Boldt Machinery. Kathy graduated from Nazareth College of Rochester, later earning a master of science in teaching mathematics from the University of Illinois. She taught math in secondary schools in the Chicago area.

Kathy and Jim have both served on the MPS Board of Trustees. Kathy is a former board chair and currently serves on the advancement committee. Jim has chaired the building and grounds committee. The Dammeyers remain active in numerous organizations including St. George Church and the Erie Women’s Fund.

“We feel a sense of appreciation for the dedication and work ethic inspired by the Sisters of Mercy and continued through their administrators, teachers, and staff.” Our son Thomas ’90, daughter Annemarie ’91, and granddaughter Olivia Newport ’16 received a fine education at Mercyhurst Prep, preparing them well for college and life.”

We are grateful for the Dammeyer’s incredible generosity and support and are honored to be able to present them with the 2020 Laker Legends Philanthropy Award.
The International Baccalaureate (IB) Program at Mercyhurst Prep provides Lakers with a worldview education that encourages an understanding and appreciation of other cultures, languages, and points of view. This philosophy of education leads to inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people who create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. The IB program at Mercyhurst encourages students to become active, compassionate, and lifelong learners who understand that other people with their differences can also be right.

Prior to Christmas break, MPS was happy to welcome back a few of the 2019 graduates who received IB diplomas. Courtney Jung ’19, University of Rochester, investigated the extent to which Jewish Israeli and Muslim Arab historical perspectives differ in regards to the First Intifada. Yeshim Onipede ’19, a student at Boston University, undertook a comparative literary analysis exploring the influence of social class and financial security on marital choice in This Side of Paradise by F. Scott Fitzgerald and Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen. Morgan Schnars ’19 completed an investigation regarding the credit given to Rosalind Franklin and her role in the discovery of the structure of DNA. Morgan is currently pursuing studies at Pennsylvania State University.

Two additional MPS students received their IB Diplomas but were unable to attend the diploma ceremony. Katharyn Stefanovski ’19 explored the concepts of fate and free will expressed in The Lord of the Rings by J. R. R. Tolkien. Katharyn is currently a student in Notre Dame University’s Holy Cross College Gateway Program. Yangxioajun (Gawaine) Zhang ’19 undertook an evaluative historical analysis of the extent to which the policy known as “One Country, Two Systems” could be considered a success for both mainland China and Hong Kong. Gawaine is pursuing studies at Georgia Tech. He earned the Bi-lingual IB diploma.

**Congratulations to all of our IB students!**
Use grit and determination, seek mentors, and surround yourself with people who lift you up. Those messages from RJ Messenger '06 and his business partner, Glenn Stearns, resonated with MPS students at the November 21, 2019, assembly.

Since 2015, RJ has owned Iron Empire Clothing, and this past year he appeared on the very popular Discovery Channel television show, Undercover Billionaire. The premise was this: Discovery would drop billionaire Glenn Stearns off in an average US city (Erie) to see whether he could build a million-dollar company in 90 days with only $100 in his pocket and none of the contacts he has built over 30 years in business. That company is now known as Underdog BBQ. Central to the show was Glenn's relationship with RJ, who is now a part of the Underdog BBQ team.

RJ is a proud graduate of Mercyhurst Prep and visited his alma mater with Glenn to share his inspirational, entrepreneurial story with students. RJ credits MPS with giving him the tools to develop a brand and help build his T-shirt business.

Speaking about the opportunity to spend time with the students, RJ said, “It was a surreal experience for me, being a student there about 14 years ago, sitting in those same exact seats in the auditorium as the students were, and now being able to stand on stage alongside my newfound business partner and very good friend, self-made billionaire Glenn Stearns, and speak about overcoming adversity and chasing your dreams. And although this is something that I do frequently at schools, this time felt a little more gratifying because I, too, once sat in those exact same seats, barely making it through high school, and faced adversity for years to come with the choices and decisions I made, and there I stood before them as a speaker about my success and how anything is possible that you put your mind to. So thank you to everyone at Mercyhurst Prep for making this possible!”

Glenn visited Erie in November to celebrate the grand opening of RJ’s new Iron Empire store located in the Lakewood Plaza.

Congratulations, RJ!

"Work hard and follow your dreams, but never forget where you came from" – RJ Messenger
Dominic Notarione '99 is well traveled. Actually, that is an understatement. He has traveled to many continents several times, lived and worked on three continents, and visited forty-eight of fifty states by the time he was forty years old.

After graduating from MPS, Dominic attended Penn State University on an Army ROTC scholarship. He graduated and spent five years as an active duty officer. While stationed in Baghdad, Iraq, he ran his first marathon on dirt roads late at night. Dominic earned a Bronze Star and left the Army as a captain in 2009 for Pittsburgh. He is currently managing an IT organization that builds simulation trainers to train Navy sailors how to operate the nuclear reactor power plants on their submarines and aircraft carriers. He also started a real estate investing company in July of 2018 with his girlfriend, Sue. Since the start, they have bought and renovated, or are currently renovating, $1.4 million in properties.

Aside from all the success in his career, Dominic is an avid outdoorsman. He has completed two major climbs within the last two years. In 2018, Dominic and a friend took a trip to Nepal where they spent thirteen days trekking from Lukla (9,383') to Gokyo Lakes (16,400'), then over Cho La Pass (17,782') to Kala Patar and Everest Base Camp (17,600'). He said, "That was probably the most amazing hike I've ever done and couldn't possibly recommend it more! Around every turn there was another grouping of snowcapped monstrous mountains as far as you could see." Then, in 2019, he and another friend climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro. This was a six-day trek to the top and back. They began in a tropical rain forest, hiked through a high desert, and ended up traversing the three glaciers at the summit.

Dom said, "On summit day we left at midnight and climbed the nine hours to Uhuru Peak in 20 degree temperatures with 20-30 mph winds. Our guides made it seem like it was pretty normal, but after we summited and were on our way back down, they were laughing about how ridiculous the weather was this time."

So far, Dom has completed over fifty marathons and half marathons all over the world and is an alpine ski patroller at Seven Springs. We are sure this isn't the end of Dom's zest for life and can't wait to hear about his next adventure!
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

During Meghan O’Brien’s ’15 four years at MPS, she was involved in the performing arts, the spring musicals, and dance company. She was also on the cheerleading squad, so it was clear that she liked to perform and was comfortable in front of a crowd. “Performance was always a huge aspect of my life, and something that I could fully grow into at MPS.” Meghan knew that she wanted to continue to be “on stage” as she furthered her education, but she didn’t necessarily want to pursue musical theatre or dance as a career. Her love of performing led to her interest in communications, specifically broadcasting. She felt that broadcast journalism was a natural fit because it allowed her to creatively express herself and be seen on camera in front of an audience. “It is like performing, just in a different way.”

Meghan is currently working at NBC as part of NBC Universal’s Page Program. This program is a year-long rotation where college grads get the opportunity to further develop their interests within television from the business, content, and consumer perspective. Every year there are over 15,000 applicants, and just over 200 are chosen for the program; it is extremely competitive. Since she began the program, she has worked on NBC’s late night shows The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon, Late Night with Seth Meyers, and SNL. Over the summer, she ran the green room and managed all of the guests for the Today Show, and currently she is on assignment at Corporate Communications Production. Meghan works on talent interviews and promos. She also oversees the Page Program social media accounts and works for the SNL Talent Team.

Meghan received her degree in broadcast and digital journalism from Syracuse University’s S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications. After graduation she moved to New York City to begin the NBC Page Program. She now lives and works in NYC and is loving it. We can’t wait to see what comes next for Meghan!
Paul Yoculan Sr. lived a positive, passionate, and enriched life until his passing on December 24, 2019. Through Paul's time as a coach, in his life in the musical arts, and in his relationships, he taught others how to believe in themselves, have confidence, and focus on building good character. For the past fifteen years, Paul was a baseball coach at Mercyhurst Prep. He was also a self-taught and established musician. He began his musical exploration singing a cappella in high school and formed The Younger Brothers band. Paul performed throughout the United States for most of his life and has many musical accomplishments to his name.

Paul's blended talents of coaching and music fueled his deep appreciation for Mercyhurst Prep. As a man of athletics and arts, he believed there was no limit to what young people could accomplish. After Paul's passing, his family established the Paul F. Yoculan Sr. Memorial Scholarship to memorialize Paul's legacy of living a good and generous life. The scholarship honors and celebrates the dedicated work and everlasting impressions he has left on so many student athletes, musicians, and families over his lifetime.

Paul's love for Mercyhurst Prep is also shared by his grandchildren Paul Yoculan III ’08, Kerry Yoculan ’08, and Alexis Yoculan ’23. His son Paul Jr. is an assistant MPS baseball coach, and granddaughter Erica Potter is an assistant MPS basketball coach.

If you would like to honor the memory of Paul Yoculan Sr. with a gift to Mercyhurst Prep, please visit www.mpslakers.com/yoculan. Or, you may send a donation to the Mercyhurst Prep Advancement Office, 538 East Grandview Blvd., Erie, PA 16504, with Yoculan Memorial Scholarship on the memo line.

IMPACT THE LIFE OF A LAKER:

We are grateful to the family of Paul Yoculan Sr. for honoring their father and grandfather with a scholarship in his name. MPS meant so much to Paul, and because of their kindhearted generosity, his legacy will be carried forward through the recipients of his scholarship. Whether you make a gift to the Paul Yoculan Sr. Memorial Scholarship or another Mercyhurst Prep scholarship fund, your gift transforms the lives of MPS students.

You can make a true difference by considering one of the many opportunities to help a student who might not otherwise be able to receive an outstanding Mercy Catholic education. There are many ways to make a tremendous impact in a young person's life or support a vital student program or service.

For more information on how to help Mercyhurst Prep students who truly need it, please contact MPS advancement director Lisa Nietupski at 814-824-2408 or lzniejupski@mpslakers.com. You can also find more information at mpslakers.com.

Thank you!

LAKERS can be Anything and Everything!
MPS 2019 REUNIONS

All School Reunion

MPS Soccer

MPS Rowing

Class of 1969—50th year reunion

Class of 1989

Class of 1981
GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Class of 1951

Class of 1952

Class of 1958

Class of 1966

Class of 1967

Class of 1968
Golden Anniversary Luncheon
Graduates 1926–1970

Be our guest as we honor anniversaries from 50 years ago and more!

President Ed Curtin
Invites you to our MPS Golden Anniversary Luncheon
Friday, August 7, 2020
9:30-10:15 a.m., Tour of MPS
10:15-11:00 a.m., Mass at MPS
Noon, Lake Shore Country Club (5950 Lake Shore Drive, Erie)

Please note:
Invitations to honorees from the golden anniversary years will follow this summer.
BLACK FRIDAY BASH!
Gregory Guelcher ’81, PhD, is the 2019 recipient of the Sharon Walker Faculty Excellence Award at Morningside College. This is the third time Greg has won this award. The award is based upon the accomplishments and activities of a faculty member during the previous academic year, and they must demonstrate excellence in four categories: teaching, advising, scholarship, and service.

Solitaire Miles ’85 had her painting of Stephen Colbert featured on his “Fan Art Friday” segment. Her band Susie Blue and the Lonesome Fellas is also set to release their second album this spring.

Sean Conley ’88 is releasing his latest book, The Point After, a vivid account of life in the NFL and an inspiring story of what comes after. It is on preorder now and set to release July 1.

Geoffrey Glover ’90, PhD, received the Tina and David Bellet Excellence in Teaching Award this past April. This annual award recognizes outstanding and innovative teaching in undergraduate studies in the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh.

Stephen Herbstritt ’92 married his high school sweetheart, Sarah Zimmerman ’92, on October 12, 2019, at the Dreams Punta Cana Resort in the Dominican Republic. An Erie reception followed on October 25, 2019. Many of their fellow MPS alumni family and friends celebrated with them. Cara Herbstritt ’89, Charlie Caryl ’92, Cassandra DiMarco Hawley ’02, Lynne Rafalowski Maher ’92 (Matron of Honor), and Brad Obmann ’92 (Best Man) joined them for their tropical ceremony while even more alumni joined for the Erie reception: Paul Mannarelli ’92, Rob Goring ’86, Maria Henry ’18, and Hannah Marchant ’16.

Craig Woodard ’92 released his second book, Down Syndrome, Blessed with ThisAbility. It tells the story of his family and six other families’ experiences with their children who have been blessed with Down Syndrome.

Eric Sciotto ’93 will be playing the role of Giuseppe in the Chicago run of The Light in the Piazza. He will be performing alongside opera star Renee Fleming.

Jonathan Nolan ’93 (left) was recently awarded the 2019 Imagine Award from Erie Arts and Culture. This award recognizes an educator who has made an outstanding contribution to the community by using arts and culture in an educational setting to inspire and empower students. Jon has been the dedicated band teacher at Woodrow Wilson Middle School since 2004. He, along with the Woodrow Wilson Middle School music program, was also selected as a 2019 Merit Award winner.
Diandra Jones ‘97 relocated to Hawaii last August. She published a memoir, *Irma Was Here*, now a #1 New Release Best Seller, on Amazon. The book is based on her experience along with her husband surviving Irma, history’s strongest open Atlantic hurricane, on September 6, 2017, in the British Virgin Islands. The book aims to reveal the personal side of climate change. You can visit [www.diandrajones.com](http://www.diandrajones.com) for more information.

2000s

Jennifer Allen ‘00 lives in Portland, OR, and has resided there since 2006. She has her dream job of being a library teacher at an elementary school in the David Douglas School District where she gets to read books and help children to love books and libraries.

Sarah Signorino ‘00 was chosen to be 1 of 21 delegates representing North America at the Global Congress to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the creation of Secretariat for the Social Apostolate. The Congress consisted of a 5-day gathering held in Rome last November. There were 210 delegates from 62 countries in attendance. They were blessed with a private audience with Pope Francis where he spent time greeting each individual person.

Sarah’s words to Pope Francis were, “Thank you for your joy,” as she shook his hand.

John Heekin ’01 got married June 1, 2019, in St. Petersburg, FL. John married Tabitha DuMont whom he met in Tallahassee, FL. John also recently joined Senator Rick Scott’s team and is serving as Senator Scott’s General Counsel in Washington, DC.

Julie Craig ‘01 released her debut solo album on January 10, 2020, featuring her soprano vocals in the classical crossover style, backed by a full, 46-piece orchestra from Budapest, Hungary.

Anthony Bruno ’02 started a new position as the client service manager at Interim HealthCare in Erie, PA.

Katie Boetger ’03 is engaged to Bradley Holuta. Katie is a graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania and is a vice president of client service at BNY Mellon, a corporate bank in Pittsburgh. Bradley graduated from Cleveland State University and the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and is an attorney with the law firm Marcus & Mack in Indiana County. A summer wedding is planned.

Kyle Bentley ’03 was named the 2020 Assistant Principal of the Year by the Delaware Association of School Administrators. He is the assistant principal at Cape Henlopen High School in Lewes, Delaware.

Mary Oliver Masi ‘04 is living in Los Angeles and working as a TV writer. She primarily writes for network procedural shows like *Chicago PD*, *APB*, and *Take Two*. She is currently working on the CBS show *FBI*.

Kelly Miele ’06 was recently awarded the Young Alumni Award from Gannon University. She graduated from
Gannon in 2010 with bachelor of arts in English/secondary education and again in 2014 with a master of education in curriculum and instruction. She has been teaching English at Fairview High School for over ten years.

**Tracey Lucas ’06** moved from Washington, DC, to Denver, CO, in September 2018. She purchased her first house in Arvada, CO, with her boyfriend, Craig, in August 2019 and then started a new job as lead communications manager for CenturyLink in September 2019.

**Julie Kaminski ’06** and **Daniel Labrozzi ’02** were married on December 28, 2019. They celebrated the ceremony in Erie at her family’s parish, Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

**Carolyn Leary Gallegos ’07** is the new assistant principal at Highline Academy Southeast in Denver, CO. Following graduation from the University of Notre Dame she earned her MS in education through ND’s Alliance for Catholic Education and her certification to teach English language learners via ND’s Chile Alliance for Catholic Education. Carolyn has taught in Los Angeles, Santiago, and Denver. She and Tomas Gallegos married in July 2017.

**Patrick Leary ’09** graduated Summa Cum Laude from Vermont Law School, with an emphasis on environmental law. He was editor of the Vermont Law Review. Following graduation from the University of Notre Dame, Pat worked in Montana and Pennsylvania, then completed a Thru-Hike of the Appalachian Trail. He will now be working in the General Counsel Office of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in Washington, D.C.

**Andrea Allgeier Majewski ’09** married **Ricky Majewski ’09** in Erie on October 6, 2018. They currently live in Cleveland, Ohio, where Andrea is employed as a trauma surgery physician assistant and Ricky works as a financial advisor.

**Julia Bartko ’10** graduated with honors from the University of Pittsburgh with a BS in psychology, a minor in sociology, and a certificate in women and gender studies in 2013. She then attended the Wright Institute in Berkeley, CA, where she received a master’s degree in psychology in 2016. This helped her earn her APA-Accredited pre-doctoral internship at Johns Hopkins University as a therapist. She recently acquired her doctorate in June of 2019 from the Wright Institute. Anna is currently in private practice near Philadelphia, PA.

**Andy Pregler ’11** (center) got married on September 28, 2019. Helping him celebrate were some fellow MPS Alumni. (From left) **Eddie Baxter ’11**, **Phil Martone ’12**, **Zach Palmer ’11** (groomsman), **Nathaniel Ropski ’11** (groomsman), **Chris Martone ’13**, **Ian Borczon ’11**

**Kyle Marinelli ’12** is a graduate student at Carnegie Mellon University pursuing an MS in public policy and an MBA, focusing on high-tech policy and economics. Prior to graduate school Kyle was a strategy analyst within JPMorgan’s Broker-Dealer and received his BS in supply chain management from Penn State. Kyle is currently a cybersecurity consultant intern at Ridge Global LLC and last June wrote an article featured on Smerconish.com.

**Max Weber ’12** is the marketing director for Erie Apparel along with doing marketing consulting for other local brands. He is also the owner and fitness coach at Max Weber Fitness, and he is a cofounder of Nibble Nutrition.
Cassie Ford Chalupczynski ’12 married Kyle Chalupczynski ’06 on August 10, 2019, in Erie. Their bridal party included many fellow MPS alumni. (L to r) Sara Kaput, Megan Farrell ’13, Kaylee Chalupczynski, Allison Rosatti ’12, Jillian Carroll ’12, Mariah Matczack ’12, Cassie Ford Chalupczynski ’12, Kyle Chalupczynski ’06, Matt Kunik ’06, Sam Hvezda ’08, Eric Cyterski ’06, Daniel Ford, Matt Abata ’08, Eric Komar ’06, and Jake Agresti ’06

Marine 1st Lt. Catherine Stark ’12 was one of the first Marine Corps officers to be chosen to fly the F-35’s C variant right out of flight school. She was also the first female Marine chosen to fly the F-35C.

Joe Lojewski ’14 received his master’s degree at Wesleyan West Virginia in athletic training. He is currently the head athletic trainer at Niagara Wheatfield High School in Buffalo, NY.

Jacob Weber ’15 graduated from the University of Dayton in May of 2019 with his degree in business administration. He is currently working at Big Sky Resort in Montana until April of this year and then plans to return to Erie.

Kyle Weber ’15 was recently discharged from Active Duty Army after four years. He is currently in the National Guard and is working in Erie at Smith Provisions in the distribution and maintenance divisions.

Cassie Zimmer ’15 was chosen as a fellow for the largest qualitative study ever undertaken about life in the United States, the American Voices Project. Cassie is one of 75 fellows selected from over 1,500 applicants for this initiative of Stanford and Princeton universities. The goal is to interview 5,000 people in all 50 states and Puerto Rico about life in the US and then take the information gathered and use it to inform local, state, and federal policy to improve the country. The study lasts one year and will take Cassie throughout the Southwestern United States, California, and Alaska, moving every 6 weeks from July 2019 to July 2020.

Madeline Mehler ’15 graduated from Kent State in May of 2019. She received a job offer not even a week after graduation and currently lives in St. Louis, MO, working as a full-time assistant designer of performance and classwear for Weissman’s Designs for Dance.

Nicholas Woll ’16 is finishing up his last year at Mercyhurst University and will graduate this May with a double major in psychology and religious studies. He then plans to attend graduate school.

Elspeth Mizner ’16 graduated in three and a half years from Saint Vincent College on December 14, 2019, with a BA in communication. She accepted an offer for her dream job, a position with Erie News Now as a multimedia journalist, and started this past December.

Ruth Golden ’17 was awarded the 2019 Tennis on Campus Leader Award from USTA (United States Tennis Association) Middle States.

Reid Fauble ’17 is currently studying abroad in London for her junior year at the London School of Economics and Political Science in their study abroad program that admits only 300 students globally. She is there for nine months, and so far within her first two months, she has visited six countries. She was recently accepted to a BA/MA program at American University where she will study public policy. She plans to have two bachelor degrees, one certificate, and her master’s by the end of 2022.

Adel Vogt ’19 attended and performed at the 2020 Rose Bowl as part of the University of Oregon color guard. While there, she marched in the 6-mile long Rose Parade with the U of O marching band, and they also had the chance to march in Disneyland.
Sympathy

The Mercyhurst Prep community of alumni, students, faculty, staff, and parents extends sympathy at the loss of the following members of our extended family:

ALUMNI:
Nancy McDonald Fiasco ’45
Sally Knox Dugan ’46
Elaine Galanis Boetger ’50
Mary Anne Skelly McIlwree ’53
Erin McCarthy ’90
Michael McBride ’88
Dorothea Claridge Murray ’42
Kathleen Schaaf ’70
Deborah Doyle Skovron ’67
Kelley Ganska Wilke ’96
Janet “Miki” Mahoney ’45
Erica Tomprowski Jones ’91

MOTHER OF:
Karen Mead ’70
Craig Moffatt ’78
John Boetger ’81
Danny Burhenn ’86 and
Steve Burhenn ’90
James Desin ’11
Katie Feehley Allison ’69 and
Alice Feehley-Maus ’73
Patrick Carney ’84
Jacquelyn Wlodarczyk
Mazanowski ’70
Karl Gressley ’95 and
Annemarie Gressley Gerbik ’97
Cheryl Ignasiak Puntl ’82
Maureen Taft Back ’77
Katharine Willis McMaster ’68
Jennifer Drzewiecki Widdowson ’00
Monica Igras ’98
Christian Razanauskas ’80
Michele Timon ’88
Brian Fallon ’96, Joseph Fallon ’99, and
Justin Fallon ’07
Mark Priscaro ’81
Margaret Scottino Irvin ’73
Karen Wells ’80
Kathy Kuhl Wilhelm ’78,
Carolyn Kuhl ’81, Kelli Kuhl ’83, and
Kristy Kuhl Klapsons ’87
Jennifer Freeman Terrill ’93
Christine Alexander Brown ’82
Lisa Watson ’82
Sheila Peden ’76, Mary Peden Reber ’78, and
Gary Peden ’83
Virginia Regelman Giel ’79
Brent Jones ’12 and
Brandon Jones ’15
Elizabeth Kennedy Rooks ’76 and
Grace Kennedy Foster ’77
Marlene Pasqualicchio
Fochtman ’69 and Mary Beth Pasqualicchio ’77
Stephanie Sivak ’79 and
Veronica Sivak ’81
Barbara Brabender ’80
Timothy O’Connor ’85

FATHER OF:
Feri Ferati ’03
Jill Rzomp Breski ’88
Sarah Keep Swiderski ’05
Amy Timon Lytle ’89
Lisa Kaczenski Cope ’88 and
Jenny Kaczenski ’91
Nicole Pontillo Duckworth ’99,
Amy Pontillo Reszkowski ’01, and
Anne Marie Pontillo ’04
Kevin Sweeney ’85 and
Bryan Sweeney ’86
Heidi Hinkler Hazlett ’91, Theresa
Hinkler Mikovich ’92, Bridget Hinkler
Fetzner ’92, and Thomas Hinkler ’94
Jane Steinbaugh Hynes ’69
Jeffrey Fiolek ’85
Maura DeSarro Fought ’05
Vaughn Schmidt ’05
Heidi Hokaj Moorhead ’90
Julie Lanieczik Zamiroski ’82
Kevin Kunik ’89, Kimberly Kunik
Lingenfelter ’94, Renee Kunik
Vercillo ’97, Rebecca Kunik ’99,
Jason Kunik ’00, Justin Kunik ’04, and
Matthew Kunik ’06
Tressa Piano ’84 and Tina Piano
Espin ’87
Holly Johnson Klan ’96
Christopher Samick ’86 and
Rebecca Samick Hilling ’89
Karen Wells ’80
Kara Ettwein Kreger ’93
Jason Wagoner ’94
Cynthia Nicola Morschhauser ’71
Asa Drew ’95 and Aaron Drew ’96
Jill Moczulske Kinney ’95
Joshua Triplett ’07
Cheryl Vickers Norris ’76 and
Deann Vickers Spears ’80
Kate Schaefer ’09 and
Alex Schaefer ’09
Patrick Case ’91
Julie Strobel-Kaldorf ’93,
Lisa Strobel-Jones ’99, and
Sarah Strobel ’06
Thomas (Candia) Kishel ’86
STEPMOTHER OF:
Dave Geiger ’87
Ann Johnson Halbach ’84 and
Mary Johnson Siegel ’89

SISTER OF:
Heidi Williams McCloskey ’65
Anne Bowden Storey ’78
Brenda Sanford ’91
Sr. Charlene Schaaf ’68 and
Carolyn Schaaf Butlerwick ’72
Frederick Schleicher ’85 and
Mary Jo Schleicher ’88
Mary Jo Doyle Lydic ’74
Noora Akram ’12
Leanne Ganska Hennessy ’03
Wendy Sturm Berger ’79 and
Amy Sturm Pack ’84

BROTHER OF:
Dorothy Lyons ’71
Ivan McBride ’83 and
John McBride ’97
Maggie Schoenig ’16 and
Hannah Schoenig ’18
Mary Anne Flecken Welsh ’69
Holly Pierce Peterson ’95
Salina Lindsey ’00
Diane Maus ’68
Jim Grotkowski ’80
Linda Thornbloom Albright ’77
Monica Mauer Capabianco ’69

HUSBAND OF:
Sally Sontheimer Dedad ’57
Lynne Lechtner Stewart ’71
Sara Rish Kitchen ’02
Carol Sosey Hanley ’57
Darlene Jankowski Loupe ’73
Janet Rinderle Kunik ’67

WIFE OF:
Todd Miller ’86

SON OF:
Bridget Healy Schoenig ’86
Margaret Simmons ’72
Sheila Martin Pierce ’59

STEP-DAUGHTER OF:
Betsy Hirt Vorscheck ’73

SISTERS OF MERCY:
Sr. Domenica DeLeo, RSM

OTHER:
Mother of former social studies teacher
Frank Amicucci
Brother of former athletic secretary
Maria Potthoff
Former teacher Margaret Mary Ferko
Mother of former board member
Don Boetger
Sister of former teacher
Georgia Chludzinski
Mother of administrative assistant to the
president Grace Billey
Father of brand manager/graphic
designer Michele Martin
Sister of teacher Ryan Maloney
Brother of former assistant business
director Sharon Siciliano
Assistant baseball coach
Paul Yoculan Younger Sr.
Former development director and board
member Sr. Domenica Deleo, RSM
Former principal Rebecca Sullivan
Chevalier formerly Sr. Rebecca
Husband of former principal
Rebecca Sullivan Chevalier formerly
Sr. Rebecca

*notices as of February 29, 2020
Send us your birth announcements, and we will send your little Laker a special MPS tee. Please email arosatti@mpslakers.com.

Congratulations to:

**Taw Maksin**

*Jenifer D’Annibale Maksin ‘96* and husband, Mark, on the April 2019 birth of Taw Robert Maksin.

**Ella Marie** wearing a 102-year-old baptismal gown made for her great-grandfather by her great-great-grandmother.

*Mike Reilly ’08 and Bethany Coon Reilly ’09* on the October 2018 birth of Ella Marie Reilly.

**Josephine Rose**

*Melissa Gervase ’00* on the March 2019 birth of her first child, Josephine Rose.

**Christian James Ermis**

*Mary Ellen Leisering Ermis ’02* and husband, Reis, on the November 2019 birth of their first child, Christian James Ermis.

**Eloise Grace Bartlett**

*Brianne Carideo Bartlett ’08* and husband, Jesse, on the February 2020 birth of their second daughter, Eloise (Ellie) Grace Bartlett.

**Jennifer, Logan, Kiernan, Steve, and Remington Conway**

*Jennifer Kacprowicz Conway ’89* and Steven Conway ’88 on the adoption of Kiernan and Logan in November 2019. Remington was adopted in July 2018.
Summer on the Hill

Visit mpslakers.com/summer for camp and class details or email twyman@mpslakers.com for more information and to register.
FACES OF MERCYHURST PREP

#iamalaker
SAVE THE DATE

APRIL 2020
Easter vacation
9-17

MAY 2020
Prom
2 8:00 p.m.–midnight • Masonic Temple

Spring Dance Concert
15 7:00 p.m. • Mercyhurst Prep Performing Arts Center

MPS Rowing Regatta
16 9:00 a.m. • Presque Isle

Spring Music Concert
20 7:00 p.m. • Mercyhurst Prep Performing Arts Center

JUNE 2020
Senior Banquet
2 6 p.m. • MPS Cafeteria

Senior Baccalaureate Mass
3 7 p.m. • Our Lady of Peace Church

MPS Graduation
4 7 p.m. • Erie Insurance Arena

Last day of school
12 Last day of school

A Sponsored Ministry of the Sisters of Mercy
PLEASE REMEMBER TO UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION!
Mail this form to Mercyhurst Prep Alumni Relations, 538 East Grandview Blvd., Erie, PA 16504 or submit your update online at www.mpslakers.com/keep-in-touch.

Name: (first) (maiden) (last)

Spouse Name Year of graduation from Mercyhurst Prep

Address

City State Zip

Home Phone Cell Phone Work Phone

Email

Exciting news and updates for the next issue of MPScapades: 

Check us out at mpslakers.com