FROM THE DESK OF OUR PRESIDENT
Ed Curtin

Rochester, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, New York City. To these cities this past year we brought our MPS Alumni Road Show, and they served as highlights for my first year as president. These gatherings served as invaluable opportunities to reconnect with alums who live in these areas and to get a sense of how mercy is being spread throughout the world. I know I will not adequately express how wonderful it has been to be in the presence of such interesting, talented and dedicated people. To hear of the growth and experiences shared at these gatherings brought smiles of great satisfaction to all of the Mercyhurst Prep representatives who participated. Quite simply, we love maintaining these strong connections and look forward to many more road shows. I was also fortunate enough during the school year to conduct tours for visiting alumni, both planned and as serendipitous visits. I am proud of the school and even more proud of the many exceptional people that have been educated in this Mercy tradition. So, to be able to show the school, with our many renovations, to returning alums and to hear the stories they tell of their time here brings great comfort to me.

I am writing about this now because I want all of our alumni to know how very much we value our continued relationship with you, and to offer perhaps the best way for you to stay in touch. This summer the alumni association is hosting the first ever MPS Reunion Weekend during the weekend of August 5 through the 7. It promises to be a special few days as the committee has planned a weekend filled with activities and opportunities to meet with old friends and make new ones as you share the common bonds of attending MPS. And how apropos, during this Holy Year of Mercy. To be able to share time and memories with each other is a true gift, and one that you hopefully will cherish long after the events have ended. Please consider taking part in any or all of the scheduled activities, and create some of your own, but come, join the many Lakers who have graced our halls, fields, courts, and stage. As Sr. Joanna Regan said of Catherine McAuley, “Catherine was energized by friendship, that choicest of all human gifts.” Let us revel in this choicest of gifts each time we meet, especially during this exciting weekend.

In Mercy,

Ed Curtin
As we get closer to the beginning of the 2016-17 school year, my thoughts immediately embrace the ideas of wonderful new beginnings and established traditions. The graduates of MPS are beginning a new chapter of their lives as they are stepping out into the world beyond high school while the new freshmen entering MPS are beginning their high school journey and learning MPS traditions – and the parents and guardians of both these groups are beginning their new phase of life also while maintaining established traditions.

As President of the Board of Governors Alumni Association, I encourage our alums and students to ‘grow with us – not away from us’. The Alumni Association Board of Governors has implemented some wonderful examples of this: Our MPS Reunion Weekend is the 1st weekend in August. We encourage all alums to take advantage of this weekend – see former teachers and classmates while engaging in many events including a soccer game, rowing event, art show, Golden Anniversary Luncheon, Sunday mass and brunch and a nighttime party on Saturday evening at the Convention Center.

The Alumni Association also fosters a close relationship with and among MPS alumni in order to advance the Mercyhurst Prep School mission. Not only are we advocates for alums, but we encourage those students who will become future alums. As part of my personal mission, I wish to promote the Alumni Association and encourage all alums to recognize and embrace the value of being an MPS alumna/alumnus – as we are all Marked by Pride and Spirit.

Therefore, the selection process was highly competitive. We wish we could award a scholarship to all incoming students of alums; however, we had to narrow down our selection in order to provide a worthwhile amount to each recipient. We believe that these chosen students will excel in their new life as MPS Lakers. These scholarships will be renewed every year with the provision that recipients maintain good academic and student status.

The Alumni Association chooses recipients to be awarded at the Legacy Gala in March 2017. The Board is eager to accept all nominations for the 2017 Awards. Nomination forms and info can be found on our website at mpslakers.com/alumni/ or on our Mercyhurst Prep Alumni Association FaceBook page. Please consider nominees for these special awards.

I wish to thank the Board, the MPS staff and faculty, and Ed Curtin for their continued enthusiasm and support as we venture into the 2016-17 school year with creative new beginnings and established traditions that innovate our wonderful legacy here at Mercyhurst Prep.

Marilee Warner ‘78
Alumni President

FROM THE DESK OF OUR ALUMNI PRESIDENT Marilee Warner ’78
As you probably know, President Obama became the first President in 88 years to travel to Cuba last March. You probably don’t know that 2001 MPS graduate Dave Matteson, played a very important, ground-breaking role in that particular mission. As a Critical Care Air Transport Team (CCATT) physician for the United States Air Force Medical Corps, Dave was selected to be a member of the Tactical Critical Care Evaluation Team – Enhanced (TCCET-E). He and team members can transform a cargo plane, a C-17 in this case, into a whole hospital, including an operating room that can do surgery before takeoff or in flight. Dave served as the President’s personal anesthesiologist, but luckily his services were not needed.

In the spring, Dave participated in a big training exercise throughout the Dominican Republic with the Air Force. He volunteered as the lead anesthesiologist and perioperative chief of an orthopedic surgery team consisting of 14 people. It was based primarily out of Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. They made use of a local hospital in Rio San Juan and saw nearly 500 patients in the clinic over a two-week period. They performed over 30 surgeries, including a complex 10-hour reconstructive arm and hand surgery.

Joining the military first entered Dave’s mind as he completed a family tree project while at Mercyhurst Prep, when he discovered that many of his family members had served in the military. After college, he made the decision to go to medical school and realized the military offers a generous scholarship in exchange for active duty service afterwards. The idea of helping veterans, active duty service members and their families was additionally appealing.

Dave was recently invited to become an instructor at the Air Force CCATT and TCCET training platform in Cincinnati, Ohio. Although he liked his station in Texas, he felt he could not pass up this opportunity. Half of his time will be devoted to being a course instructor, organizing and teaching lectures, roundtable discussions, clinical exercises, and high-fidelity simulations. The other half will be spent as an anesthesiologist at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center.

Dr. Matteson’s career is quite impressive for a 30 something young man and he acknowledges that some credit goes to MPS. “There is no way I would have achieved so much, and so early in my career, if it were not for the tremendous education provided by MPS. Although I have lived hundreds to thousands of miles away from Erie for most of the past decade, I still try to remain involved with MPS because I wouldn't have had all the amazing opportunities without it.”

“The whole experience was tremendously rewarding and I am particularly proud of the amazing medical care that our team provided.”
When Erika looks back on her four years at MPS, she recalls the emphasis placed on appreciating different cultures, ideas and values. She said, “I think opening your heart to these things at a young age is essential to the developing mind.”

The travel bug first hit her as a junior when she participated in the school’s spring break trip to Europe, specifically France and Spain. She found the idea of living abroad enticing, but after graduating from the University of Pittsburgh-Bradford with a major in communications and a minor in marketing and Spanish, she realized teaching ESL in Europe would not be practical.

Erika Braeger ’08
Learning through travel

On to Plan B, which included a stint in Orlando, Florida with Disney and various other jobs, but for one reason or another, these did not pan out. Nothing seemed to create the excitement she was looking for until her first job abroad, teaching English in China. This was her first trip to Asia and Erica soon realized some of her preconceptions… underdeveloped, dangerous, dirty… were misleading and inaccurate. She said, “I have never lived somewhere that is so concerned about preserving traditions, family values and health. Living here is also very simple, so I very quickly became more humble.”

Most long-term travelers experience some form of culture shock or disambiguation, likely in the form of frustration and adjustment. Erika spent nine months teaching in a public elementary school in China. She discovered that the meaning of some English words meant something slightly different there. For example, “maybe” for us is interpreted as perhaps or possible. When her teachers in China told her to go to her apartment and get her air conditioner fixed, they really meant, “Go now!” Also, “wait ten minutes,” really means just wait a minute.

She traveled around South East Asia before going to Vietnam for the following school year and she is still there teaching English. Erika loves that she can buy vegetables laid out on a tarp in an alley from a woman making only $50 a month, or eat a simple dinner placed on a plastic table. “The beauty of such simple experiences has helped me to pause and appreciate the ways of life here,” said Erika.

Two of the most important lessons she has learned are to relax and be adaptable. She has found a calling in education and could see it as a career choice. She has been doing various projects with writing curriculum and designing educational materials and plans to get either an MA or a DELTA in the near future and continue to work as an educator.
We are honored and proud of all of our 2016 Laker Legend recipients who received recognition at the March 5 Laker Legend Scholarship Gala, held at MPS. These distinctions place our awardees in an elite category of Mercyhurst Seminary/Preparatory School graduates and honorary Lakers who have made noteworthy contributions to humanity.

The awards honor each recipient as one who has distinguished him or herself in a profession, volunteer activities, or in a personal commitment to an issue, project, or cause that has made an impact on their life and/or the lives of others.

Dr. Ellen Dailey

Dr. Ellen Dailey ’71
Distinguished Alumni Career Award Recipient
Physician, Partner with OB-GYN Associates of Erie, PC

“I am deeply grateful for the solid and broad education Mercyhurst provided me during a formative time in my life. This is now increasingly evident from the vantage point of over four decades. During my years at Mercyhurst, our country was shaken to the core by social conflict and changes accompanying the Civil Rights movement, the feminist movement and the Vietnam War. In the face of this turmoil, Mercyhurst and the Sisters of Mercy provided stability and guidance for me. Although the school has changed in many ways since I was a student, the core values of respect for human dignity, compassion, and the quest for academic excellence remain the same. The sound habits of decorum, scholarship, and pursuit of life-long learning fostered by MPS served me well during college, medical school, residency, and in professional practice. In our current environment of economic uncertainty, international tensions, and deep cultural divisions at home, a Mercyhurst education continues to be relevant. I am proud to be a member of the Mercyhurst family.”

Sister Mary Felice Duska

Sister Mary Felice Duska, RSM ’52
Distinguished Alumni Service Award Recipient
Executive Director of Mercy Terrace Apartments / Choir Director at the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse

“I received an excellent education at the Seminary, which prepared me well for future studies and ultimately for my teaching career. In addition, the seeds of my religious vocation were nurtured there.”

Andrew A. Dulin

Andrew A. Dulin, Major, USAF ’00
Young Alumni Award
Director of Operations in Hanover, MD

“My MPS education was absolutely top-shelf. However, what I really learned was how to live a caring, respectful life of service from the MPS Family.”

Andrew was serving his country during the Gala, so his parents, Duane and Barbara Dulin accepted the award for him.
Nancy Zimmerman (center) and some team members: Ruth Imhof (left) and Casey Zimmerman

Nancy Zimmerman
Mercy Award
International Baccalaureate
CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service)
Coordinator / Community Service Coordinator at MPS / Middle States Internal Coordinator / Co-moderator of Feed the Hungry Club with Terry Healey beginning in 2002, joined by Ruth Imhof later in the ministry

“I first experienced MPS through the eyes of my two children when we were shown incredible hospitality at Open House in 1993. As my son Dan ’97 and my daughter Casey ’99 attended MPS, I saw the respect that they received, the service they were asked to do, and the justice that was a foundation of school regulations. The Mercy Charism has been clearly in the forefront of the school throughout my involvement.”

Marco & Betsy Monsalve
Laker Legend Philanthropy Award
Marco Monsalve – Chairman & CEO McManis Monsalve Associates
Betsy Monsalve – Director/Corporate Secretary McManis Monsalve Associates

“The Aura Scholarship is the best investment we have ever made. The hopes, dreams, hard work and success of nine bright young women to date have put flesh, joy and meaning for us onto the old maxim “You get more than you give!” The Aura Scholarship experience has shown us that ordinary people – we both come from working class backgrounds – with some planning and partnering, have enough to give to change lives, without extraordinary sacrifice or jeopardizing their own security. Ordinary people can be philanthropists and experience the satisfaction of actually seeing the transformative impact that giving back a premium education can have on young lives now and for future generations. We can think of no better way to honor and perpetuate the life-giving example and blessings we received from our self-educated mothers than to pass them on to young women and future mothers. We can think of no better way to leverage our own blessings into a legacy to leave the world a better place.”

Angie Potthoff ‘92
Laker Legend Sports Award
Director of Athletics & Wellness, Chartiers Valley High School / Former Assistant Coach and Associate Director for Operations and Technology at the University of Notre Dame

“Mercyhurst Prep played a huge role in who I am today. I am a well-rounded woman with an appreciation for all people and a respect for the Catholic faith and Catholic community.”

Angie Potthoff

A Sponsored Ministry of the Sisters of Mercy
Then & NOW...

If you recognize the first picture, you are most likely an earlier graduate of MPS, since this photo is circa 1960s.

The second is a more recent photo of the school which includes the outdoor mural from 2014.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

CONGRATULATIONS!
Our 2016 International Baccalaureate Diploma candidates are Patrick Fraunknecht, Ryan Boorum, Ashley Khouri, Xavier Zonna, Madison Burhenn, Conor Banta, Audrey Bell, Ben Waldee, Sampson Yuan and Bennett McCoy.
ALUMNI WITH GRADUATING SENIORS FROM THE CLASS OF 2016

Jill Rzomp Breski ’88 and Jill Breski

Abigail Harrington and Annmarie Harrington ’86

Amanda Espin and Tina Piano Espin ’87

Amber Gonser Lutterbaugh ’92, Brooke Lutterbaugh and Chris Lutterbaugh ‘90

Frederick Gillespie and Julie Ball Gillespie ’86

James Baldauf ’82 and William Baldauf
ALUMNI WITH GRADUATING SENIORS FROM THE CLASS OF 2016

Scott Bielanin ’91 and Chelsey Bielanin

Madison Burhenn and Eda Fuhrmann Burhenn ’90

Alex Schroeck and Michele Iarussi Schroeck ’90

Marilee Warner ’78, William Riva and Samantha Riva ‘12

Maureen Dailey Winschel ’84, Timothy Winchel and Lauren Winschel ‘14

Stacy Meister Wing ’90 and Logan Wing
Amber Schmidt and Darryl Schmidt ’95

Anne Dammeyer ’91 and Olivia Newport

Kurt Gerhard ’99, Ashlyn Pieri and Tina Pieri Asmus ’00

Wayne Shreve ’85 and Jennifer Shreve

Catherine Duda and Cynthia Lewis Duda ’75

Lisa Schroek Gillespie ’86 and Sara Gillespie

Missing from photos were Fred Jones ’93, Tyler Jones, Bridget Healy Schoenig ’86 and Margaret Schoenig
Save the Date!
4.22.17

The longest-running multicultural song and dance company in the United States will perform one night only at MPS to benefit the MPS Performing Arts Center.

Currently performing with the Tamburitzans is our own Kaeli Stolar ’14
This year MPS and the alumni association are planning an MPS Reunion Weekend on August 5, 6 and 7. Here are the details.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5
- **Golden Anniversary Luncheon @ Erie Yacht Club**
  12 PM / Honoring the classes from 1926 -1966 as our guests / Other classes are welcome to attend. $15

- **Alumni Art Show at MPS**
The show will run from August 5 to September 10. Works will be accepted throughout the summer during school office hours. Pieces should be framed and ready to hang and no larger than 36” in any dimension. A reception will be held on August 5 at 7 PM. For more information contact Dr. Jamie Borowicz at jborowicz@mpslakers.com.

An Art Show reception will take place on August 5 beginning at 7 PM at Mercyhurst Prep.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6
- **Alumni Row on the Bay / 8 AM**
  Meet at the MPS Boathouse
  At the foot of Sommerheim Drive
  Contact Dave Geiger at dgeiger2000@yahoo.com

- **Alumni Soccer Games at MPS**
  Also in conjunction with the all-school reunion, we will be hosting the first ever Alumni Soccer Games. The games will be played on Saturday, August 6. Join us to play or just to socialize with fellow players from 37 years of great MPS soccer teams. If you are interested in participating, contact Dr. Jamie Borowicz at jborowicz@mpslakers.com.

- **An Evening Party at the Bayfront Convention Center**
  All Classes Invited! / Saturday, August 6, 2016
  Bayfront Convention Center / 6 PM
  Music-Food-2 Drink Tokens / $47 per person / $84 couple
  Must be 21 to attend

  RSVP by July 25. After that date, tickets for the Saturday Bayfront event will be $55 per individual and $100 a couple.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7
- **Mass / 10:30 AM** at the Mercy Motherhouse
  Tour of the school to see our new renovations! / Approx. 11:15 AM / Light brunch – No Fee – 12 PM

Go to our secure site to register for the MPS Reunion Weekend:

mpslakers.com/reunionweekend

facebook.com/events/963859067006782/
REUNIONS: LAKERS REUNITE

DON’T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO SEE OLD FRIENDS AND SHARE NEW MEMORIES

The Class of 1994 celebrated their 22nd reunion the weekend of June 11. Some classmates toured the school and are pictured here with President Ed Curtin. This class was special to Ed since it was his first class as a teacher at MPS.

CLASS OF 1966 – 50th REUNION
Golden Anniversary Luncheon
Friday, August 5 / Erie Yacht Club
12 PM
Honoring the classes from 1926-1966 as our guests / Other classes are welcome to attend @ $15
Saturday and Sunday, August 6 and 7
Participating in the all school reunion plans (see previous page)

CLASS OF 1970 – 46th REUNION
(a/k/a Our “will you still need me, will you still feed me?” get-together)
Friday, August 5 / Colony Pub & Grille, 2067 West Eighth Street, Erie / 6 PM
Participating in the all school reunion plans (see previous page)

CLASS OF 1971 – 45th REUNION
Friday, August 5 / Informal gathering at Calamari’s / 7 PM
Saturday, August 6 / Gentle, Laugha Yoga Class at the Erie Yacht Club @ Yacht Club - Lighthouse Pavilion 9:15 AM / NO FEE / Bring a mat or a beach towel /ABSOLUTELY NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED / Light, continental breakfast included
Saturday and Sunday, August 6 and 7
Participating in the all school reunion plans (see previous page)

Questions? Contact Marcia Izbicki Gensheimer - mgensheimer@mpslakers.com or call 814-824-2067 or 814-825-4500.

CLASS OF 1976 – 40th REUNION
Saturday, August 13 / Erie Maennerchor / 7 PM / Lynne Karle Wright

CLASS OF 1981 – 35th REUNION
Friday, August 5 / Home of John Alberstadt / 7 PM
Saturday and Sunday, August 6 and 7
Participating in the all school reunion plans (see previous page)

Questions? Contact Annette Vacanti Cullen - annmarcul@roadrunner.com

CLASS OF 2006 – 10th REUNION
What:
Class of 2006 10-Year Reunion event!
Who:
All members of the 2006 graduating class & their significant others
When:
Friday, November 25, 2016, 6-9 PM
Where:
The Brewerie at Union Station, 123 W. 14th St.
Please look for more details and RSVP information to come via our Facebook group page: MPS Class of 2006.
Hope to see everyone there!
1960s

Janice DiLuzio '71 earned her Ph.D. in psychology from Gannon University.

Laurie Root '75 was named one of the twelve 2016 Women Making History awardees. She is the senior vice president at United Way of Erie County and Erie Rotary Club president-elect. She is a member of Athena PowerLink, American Association of University Women Erie, Women's Roundtable and supports other professional women's groups.

1970s

Martie Russel '67 was the Association of Junior Leagues International winner of the 2016 Mary Harriman Community Leadership award.

Kelly Erven Maslar '87 has retired as the MPS award winning tennis coach since she and her husband will move to Savannah, Georgia in August. She was a PIAA State Champion herself in 1985 and 1986. She served as the MPS girls head tennis coach for 17 years, has 16 District 10 team championships, 16 league championships. Kelly tied the District 10 record with 4 straight consecutive team championships in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015. She also coached 4 state doubles championship teams in her career. She coached at MPS for 17 years and will be greatly missed.

1980s

Carla Fischer '83 founded and serves as president of Annex Learning Inc. since 1999, after working for General Electric for 12 years. She travels around the world teaching leadership to corporate executives and has worked in 46 countries.

Solitaire Miles Robertson ‘85 and her western swing band were awarded “Best Song” by the Academy of Western Artists (AWA) at the 20th Annual Will Rogers Awards. The song, “Love is a Lingering Thing”, is from their 2015 album Susie Blue and the Lonesome Fellas. Go to susiebluelonesomefellas.com for more information.

Arthur Martone '80, MPS performing Arts chair, met up with Justin Fischer ’98 and Eric Sciotto ‘93 on a trip to NYC.

Coach Kelly Maslar is pictured 3rd from left with her 2015 award winning team.

Kelly Erven Maslar ’87 has retired as the MPS award winning tennis coach since she and her husband will move to Savannah, Georgia in August. She was a PIAA State Champion herself in 1985 and 1986. She served as the MPS girls head tennis coach for 17 years, has 16 District 10 team championships, 16 league championships. Kelly tied the District 10 record with 4 straight consecutive team championships in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015. She also coached 4 state doubles championship teams in her career. She coached at MPS for 17 years and will be greatly missed.
Kathleen Drumm McCroskey NCC LPC ’88 married Eric McCroskey at St. Joseph’s Church in Erie in November 2015. She is a licensed professional counselor in private practice. Her professional profile can be found on the Psychology Today website.

1990s

Christopher Pecoraro ’93 is a finance business partner at Erie Insurance. His wife Heidi Malanowski-Pecoraro ’95 is a math teacher for the Erie School District and a part-time fitness instructor at the Glenwood YMCA. They both reside in Erie and are the proud parents of future Laker, Mario Pecoraro.

Seth Leslie ’97 is the owner/operator of Ag-Grow Teas which he founded in 2015. His unique process revives the soil and offers a healthy alternative to using pesticides and fertilizers. His website is aggrowteas.com.

Dr. Heather Tardio Hurst ’98 has been practicing dentistry in Fairview for 9 years now, and has been the owner of the practice for 5 years.

2000s

The photo shows a recent renovation to Dr. Hurst’s office building.

Katina Boetger-Hunter ’00 will be competing in the World Championship of Public Speaking this August. She has been competing since February of this year and has advanced through four levels of competitions. After winning first place in the District 13 International Speech Contest, Katina became the one delegate out of the approximate 400 competitors to advance. The World Semi-Finals will be held in Washington D.C. at the Toastmaster International Convention. She will be presenting her speech “The Gift” in front of approximately 1500 people. A first-place win at the Semi-Finals will guarantee her a spot on the World Stage where she must present an original speech in front of the 5,000 member audience. Those interested in seeing Katina’s qualifying speech can visit her website at katinahunter.wix.com/speaking. The Toastmaster International Convention competition will be streaming live through the Toastmasters.org website.

Amanda Iadeluca ’01 and Bryan Iadeluca ’02 along with their family spent weeks traveling through Italy in December 2015. The trip began in Rome then onto Turin, Florence, and Venice and culminated with the wedding of their former foreign exchange student “sister” Cristina Merli at Castle Brando in Cison Di Valmarino. The three “siblings” have reunited at least yearly since then and have traveled to Norway together and
numerous places in the USA including Boston, Orlando and most recently Key West.

Erin Blakeslee ’02 is a doctoral candidate in writing history & theory at Case Western Reserve University and was recently selected for both a College of Arts & Sciences Dissertation Fellowship and a competitive award in recognition of excellence in teaching.

Hank Barbour ’03 earned his master’s in secondary education: pedagogy and practice from Mercyhurst University. He was selected as an outstanding graduate and received the Sister Eustace Taylor Graduate Student Award for 2016. Hank is our library/resource director and also teaches social studies.

Maureen Musatto ’03 graduated from Case Western Reserve University in nursing in 2007. She worked in the Neurological Intensive Care Unit at NY Presbyterian Hospital. She is starting a new position as nurse practitioner in oncology at NYU. She earned a master’s as an NP from Columbia University. She is married to Brian Johnson, who works as a fireman for New York City Fire Department.

Halle Stockton ’04 was promoted to managing editor of PublicSource, an investigative and in-depth news website in Pittsburgh. She was also honored with a national Sigma Delta Chi award from the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) for feature reporting on a story about a couple who both have cerebral palsy. In addition, she won two first-place awards for investigative/enterprise reporting from the SPJ Keystone Pro Chapter and the Pennsylvania Women’s Press Association for her project on workers with disabilities earning far below minimum wage.

ACHIEVA, a Southwestern Pennsylvania nonprofit, chose her to receive the 2015 Excellence in Media award for her coverage of disability issues. Halle is also a recipient of a 2015-16 ‘Truth in Finance’ prize, awarded by the Pennsylvania Institute for Certified Public Accountants, for a story on potentially excessive overtime at county nursing homes. She is also a member of the current class of Leadership Development Initiative, a program of Leadership Pittsburgh.

Chelsea Gordon ’05 visited MPS during a pep rally and inspired the students with her basketball story.

Emily Sanner ’06 exchanged wedding vows with Drew Whiting in October. Laura Sanner ’09, sister of the bride, served as maid of honor. Candace Tomczak ’06 was one of the bridesmaids. Emily earned a bachelor’s degree from Elon University in North Carolina. She is employed as director of Midwest accounts for Kargo, a national mobile and tech company. Her husband earned a degree from the University of Notre Dame and a law degree from Loyola Chicago School of Law. He is a founding partner of Axia Law in Chicago, where the couple resides.

Aurelian Braun Lauer ’09 married Matthew Lauer on January 9, 2016 at St. Ann’s Roman Catholic Church in Washington, D.C.

Alexandria Schaefer ’09 is working for the National Governors Association in D.C.
Alexandra Kleckner ’11, a student at Mercyhurst University, was named a 2016 Scholar Athlete by the Collegiate Rowing Coaches Association. She raced in the D 2 NCAA Championship races.

David Benckowski ’12 graduated Summa Cum Laude from Marietta College in Marietta, Ohio with a degree in petroleum engineering. He accepted a position as petroleum engineer with Chesapeake Energy and resides in Shreveport, Louisiana.

Marie Georger ’12 graduated in April from the University of Michigan with a degree in organizational leadership. Her team finished the swimming season as Big 10 champions. Marie has retired after 16 years of swimming. She plans to pursue a master’s degree from Mercyhurst University. She will work as a graduate assistant for their water polo team. At MPS, Marie was a five-time state champion and was named District 10 Female Swimmer of the Year four times. She was twice named the Varsity Cup Female Athlete of the Year.

Linden Lester ’12 will begin a year of service beginning in August with Olancho Aid Foundation. This non-profit empowers young Hondurans to transform themselves and their communities through education. Linden will be teaching at a primary school in Santa Clara.

Katie Zelina ’09 is working as a kindergarten teacher in Budapest and teaching English.


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Megan Natalo ’12 is a senior at Youngstown State University completing a hospitality major. She began an internship through the Disney College program at Disney World, working the front desk at the French Quarter/Riverside Resorts. She then transferred to EPCOT as an attraction hostess. The internship began in January and continues through July.

Emily E. Schultz ’12 recently presented a TED Talk at Denison University about why we feel obligated to partake in social media, the ways we think it connects us, and conversely the reality many of us experience. The main objective was to discuss the emotional voids and how we might partake in
social media more responsibly. It was an honor for Emily to be selected among Denison faculty members, students, and community members to present. Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Psyj-S9H7YQ. Emily will be attending the University of Oxford in Oxford, UK this fall in pursuit of a master’s in education.

Emily Engott ’13, a student at the University of Rhode Island, was named a 2016 Scholar Athlete by the Collegiate Rowing Coaches Association. Emily also raced in the NCAA Division 1 championships in California.

Emma Weisenfluh ’13 spent two weeks in Tanzania through the one-credit Canisius Ambassadors for Conservation course. She studied chimpanzees and elephants in the Gombe Stream and Ruaha National Parks. Emma also gave a presentation to MPS students about her experience in Tanzania.

Matthew Benczkowski ’15 was chosen as one of two students to represent the University of Pittsburgh at the 2016 SEA-PHAGES Symposium. The event took place in June at the Janelia Research Campus, which is part of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute in Ashburn, Virginia. Matthew presented his research findings from the past school year at Pitt. Matthew discovered his own phage and his work will be published. He took first place in his research presentation.

Megan Rupp Tarasi ’03 and husband Paul on the September birth of twin daughters.
YOUR 2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the success of current and future MPS students.

You are helping to change lives by making this outstanding Mercy, Catholic education available to deserving students.

“YOU CHANGED MY LIFE. YOUR SELFLESSNESS AND GENEROSITY HAVE MADE AN IMPACT ON ME THAT I WILL NEVER FORGET. NOT ONLY DID YOU GIVE ME AN OPPORTUNITY AT AN AMAZING EDUCATION, BUT A LIFE LESSON. YOU TAUGHT ME THAT THE GREATEST GIFT IN LIFE IS TO GIVE RATHER THAN RECEIVE.”

Blanca Miranda, ‘12,
Nursing student at Gannon University
Blanca Miranda, recently wrote this in thanks to those who helped make her Mercyhurst Prep education possible.

The names of all those who have helped MPS students and programs with a financial donation from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 are listed online at mpslakers.com/annualreport.

If you would like a printed copy, please contact Drew Funk at dfunk@mpslakers.com or 814-824-2066.

HERE ARE SOME OF NEXT 90 CAMPAIGN FOR TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE

1. Summer/Fall of 2016 - The old “Audi” is being transformed into a state of the art Performing Arts Center (PAC). Please help to make this happen for our students by sponsoring a new theatre seat. Larger naming rights are available.

Completed projects: Please call 814-824-2408 to arrange a tour of the new Hirt DREAM Labs, fully renovated Vorsheck Library & Research Center, Hilbert Lobby, and MPS Cafeteria.

Large and small naming opportunities are available to help you leave your legacy at MPS.

mpsakers.com/next90

IMAGINE THE IMPACT ON DESERVING STUDENTS IF EVERY MEMBER OF THE MERCYHURST PREP COMMUNITY PARTICIPATED IN SOME WAY.
THE WAYS YOU CAN GET INVOLVED THIS YEAR:

ANNUAL APPEAL FOR THE MERCYHURST PREP FUND
2. The MP Fund is a major source of scholarships and financial aid for deserving MPS students. It also helps provide vital student programs and services.

TECHNOLOGY FUND
3. Helps to ensure that each current and future Laker has access to the cutting-edge classroom technology they need to succeed.

DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS
4. All donations to this fund go directly to MPS scholarships.

ADVOCATE
5. This is an opportunity to sponsor a student for one, two, three, or all four of their years at MPS. There is a $1,000 per year minimum commitment.

PLANNED GIFTS
6. These creative gift-giving opportunities help to secure the school’s future. Many do not include an outright gift today, but instead, a promise of a gift in the future by naming MPS in your will or as beneficiary for an insurance policy.

EITC & OSTC TAX CREDITS
7. These are wonderful “win-win” opportunities for PA businesses and MPS! Pennsylvania’s Educational Improvement Tax Credit and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit programs allow you to re-direct your PA state tax dollars and designate the funds for MPS Scholarships for pennies on the dollar.

New in 2016-Individuals can receive a 90% tax credit on donations made to MPS scholarships in lieu of PA personal income taxes.

MATCHING GIFTS
8. Please check to see if your employer matches donations. Their generosity adds to yours, doubling, and sometimes even tripling the benefit to MPS students.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS
9. Join your MPS family for fun and exciting events that strengthen the MPS community and provide scholarships and other benefits for students.

FOR MORE DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT LISA NIETUPSKI AT LZNIETUPSKI@MPSLAKERS.COM OR 814-824-2408.

MPSLAKERS.COM
SAVE THE DATES! OUR UPCOMING MPS EVENTS:

All School Reunion Weekend
All classes invited!
August 5, 6, 7 2016

The Alumni Association booked **Jackson Station** to play at the MPS Reunion Bayfront event on Saturday, August 6! We hope you will join the party! Go to [mpslanders.com/reunions](http://mpslanders.com/reunions) to register. Tickets are $47 per person or $84 per couple. After July 25 the price will increase to $55 per person or $100 per couple.

**Homecoming Tailgate Party**
October 21
@ MPS

**Open House**
November 6,
12-3 PM
For 6, 7 & 8 Graders and their families

**Fall Musical**
**Godspell**
November 17, 18, 19 & 20
@ MPS

**Laker Legends Scholarship Gala**
March 4, 2017
[mpslanders.com/gala](http://mpslanders.com/gala)

**The Tamburitzans come to MPS!**
April 22, 2017
The longest-running multicultural song and dance company in the United States will perform one night only at MPS to benefit the MPS Performing Arts Center.
Currently performing with the Tamburitzans is our own Kaeli Stolar ’14.

**Erie Gives Day**
Erie Gives Day is August 9. You will have the opportunity to join your Laker family in helping to fund the wheelchair accessible area of the soon to be transformed MPS Performing Arts Center. Our goal is $30,000. With your help, we can make it!
Any donation of $25 or more made from 8 am to 8 pm on that day will have a portion of that gift matched by the Erie Community Foundation. Go to [www.ErieGives.org](http://www.ErieGives.org) on Aug. 9.

**Laker Glow 5K**
April 29, 2017
[mpslanders.com/lakerglow](http://mpslanders.com/lakerglow)

**Thank you!**

For more information on how to match your interests with opportunities to help MPS students, please contact Lisa Nietupski at (814) 824-2408, lnietupski@mpslanders.com or visit [mpslanders.com](http://mpslanders.com) and go to the “Giving” tab.

“Broadway On The Hill” – Performing Arts Center Fundraiser
October 15, 2016

A one-time only concert event starring Broadway’s own **Nick Adams ’01, Eric Sciotto ’93, Julie Craig ’01** and a cast of talented alums.

**Contact Art Martone ’80** for details
amartone@mpslanders.com

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**MPS Reunion Weekend**

**Tailgate Party**
September 2
@ MPS

**Tailgate Party**
October 7
@ MPS

**Erie Gives**

**Broadway On The Hill** – Performing Arts Center Fundraiser
October 15, 2016

A one-time only concert event starring Broadway’s own **Nick Adams ’01, Eric Sciotto ’93, Julie Craig ’01** and a cast of talented alums.

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EDITOR’S NOTE:
What an exciting year it has been for Mercyhurst Prep! Among the many activities, we were proud to honor special alumni, donors and athletes at the Laker Legend Scholarship Gala that took place on March 5. Our guests dressed for the Roaring 20s theme and enjoyed the evening with an added benefit of seeing the new renovations.

Our “Next 90” renovation project completed two of the four phases: the Bell Faculty Suite, Our Lady of Mercy Chapel/McAuley Campus Ministry, Vorsheck Library/Research Center, the Hirt DREAM Labs, Dining Hall/Community Room and the Entryway to Mission. Phase three entails a new Performing Arts Center, and renovations began in May. It will include all new seating, state of the art lighting, a new 600 square feet storage area, a new stage, lighting, green room and much more. Stay tuned for continuing information about this project.

Please mark your calendars for our first MPS Reunion Weekend. If you have not been to the school in a while, please consider joining us for the MPS Reunion Weekend, especially on Sunday for mass, tours and a light breakfast. See details on page 13. and check our website for updates – mpslakers.com/reunionweekend. If those dates do not fit your schedule, you know you are welcome at any time.

Marcia Henahume

PARENTS OF MPS GRADUATES:
If your son/daughter has moved from your home, please contact us with his/her new address. We would be happy to keep you on our mailing list if you would like, but we also wish to maintain an accurate class list, especially for class reunions. Contact Drew Funk at dfunk@mpslakers.com.

MPSCAPADES
This issue of MPScapades, as well as recent past issues, are available at mpslakers.com. If you prefer to view our newsletter online rather than receive it in the mail, contact Drew Funk at dfunk@mpslakers.com.

PLEASE NOTE:
In order to help reduce waste, you are receiving one issue of MPScapades per household.

If you would like an additional issue, please contact us at 814-824-2066 or email dfunk@mpslakers.com.
**PLEASE REMEMBER TO UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION WITH THE MPS ALUMNI OFFICE.**

Please mail this form to Mercyhurst Prep Alumni Office, 538 East Grandview Blvd., Erie, PA 16504 or email this information to alumni@mpslakers.com

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