



500 Van Emburgh Avenue  
Township of Washington, NJ 07676

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SERVICE  
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## UPCOMING

### 2019 Special Events

JUN  
06

#### Hoboken Traveling Plaid

**6-8 p.m.**

Calling all Hoboken and New York City area alumnae! Please join us in the Mile Square City for a Traveling Plaid reunion. All IHA alumnae are welcome! \$25 per person.  
Cadillac Cantina, Hoboken

NOV  
1-2

#### Reunion Weekend

Join us in celebrating our alumnae from the Classes of 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2009, and 2014.  
Reunion Weekend features a Friday night Sip n Paint, a Saturday morning 5K Run/Walk/Crawl, a Saturday evening Memorial Mass at 5 p.m. (*please note the new time*), followed by an Alumnae Cocktail Reception at 6 p.m.

OCT  
03

#### Blue Eagle Open

**Registration and lunch, 11 a.m.,**  
followed by 1 p.m. shotgun start.  
Forest Hill Field Club, Bloomfield

NOV  
24

#### Fashion Show

*Please note the change of date!*

**10:30 a.m.** doors open for a basket preview and brunch hors d'oeuvres. IHA students and boys from area schools will model the latest fashions and attendees will try their luck at winning hundreds of awesome basket prizes.  
The Estate at Florentine Gardens, River Vale

OCT  
20

#### Open House

**11 a.m.-2 p.m.**  
Meet faculty and staff, tour the building, and ask questions of our student Eagle Ambassadors.



NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2019  
VOL. 35, NO. 1



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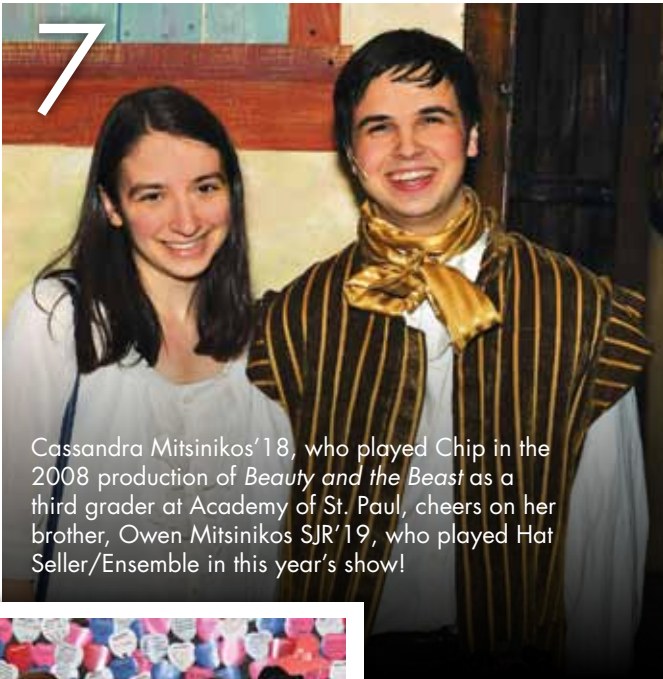
19 Women in Communications  
Alumnae Panel

28 National Honor Society  
Seniors Honored

**Cover Shot:** Zach Mackiewicz SJR'20 as the Beast and Jenna Clover'20 as Belle in the 2019 production of *Beauty and the Beast*

## Our Mission

Immaculate Heart Academy is a college preparatory high school in the Archdiocese of Newark which has as its purpose the complete education of young women. By both cultivating the traditional Christian values of the Roman Catholic Church and by upholding exceptional academic standards, IHA offers a unique educational experience for the young women in our community. Immaculate Heart Academy strives to develop every aspect of the individual by educating the mind, nurturing the spirit, and promoting a healthy lifestyle. By instilling in its students a sense of responsibility, confidence, justice, peace, and compassion, Immaculate Heart Academy prepares its students for life throughout the twenty-first century.



7  
Cassandra Mitsinikos'18, who played Chip in the 2008 production of *Beauty and the Beast* as a third grader at Academy of St. Paul, cheers on her brother, Owen Mitsinikos SJR'19, who played Hat Seller/Ensemble in this year's show!



23  
Faculty and staff Giving Day Ambassadors, Ms. Maureen McNulty, Mrs. Melissa O'Sullivan, Mrs. Tara Hopfenspirger, and Mrs. Angelique Morelli.



25  
Kaitlyn Brown'19, Charlotte Stanton'19, Josephine Oshodi'19, and Rebecca Nadler'19 enjoy a bagel breakfast before beginning the MathWorks Math Modeling Challenge.



29  
Denise Peoples, Dr. Selim Arcasoy P'20, Sonia Carlen, and Alexandra Argentieri visit IHA to speak about lung transplants and organ donation.



30  
Gloria Kolakowski Amoroso'86 P'20, '22 loves the homemade IHA plaid bears and quilt she won at this year's Beefsteak.



40  
IHA Varsity Basketball wins its eighth consecutive Sectional Championship! Read the full Winter Sports Report beginning on page 38.



33  
Christine Ollmann'10, Mariah Roche-McConnell'10, and Dana Monocky'10 reunite at the joint IHA/Bergen Catholic Alumnae Event at Jack Doyle's in New York City.



PRESIDENT Patricia Molloy  
PRINCIPAL Jason Schlereth  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Tara Hopfenspirger  
CONTRIBUTORS John Downey  
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## President's Corner



Dear friends,

The end of the school year is always a busy time; it seems that the month of May is always packed with activities... Mothers' Day, first communions, college graduations, weddings, and all varieties of athletic events. Sometimes it seems impossible to get a moment to reflect on all that is whizzing by!

Of course, the graduation of the Class of 2019 is one of those many joyous events. The young women who have experienced the sisterhood and community of Immaculate Heart Academy will never forget those life-changing days, weeks, and months spent among dedicated teachers, counselors, staff members, and coaches. The positive and affirming relationships they have developed will always be with them. Each young graduate will always be part of the fifty-nine-year-old IHA family.

During this school year, students adopted a theme, "eshet chayil," meaning woman

of valor, woman of worth, woman of strength. The Hebrew phrase comes from Proverbs 31:10 and captures the sense of empowerment that our young women feel, especially when serving others as Jesus did. The phrase continues to inspire students as they experience God's unconditional love for them.

Parents, students, alumnae, friends—your support makes IHA a reality and, for that, I thank you. I thank you on behalf of all the young women who have had their lives changed by the IHA experience. Please continue to walk with us on this journey. Help our young women to continue changing the world as "eshet chayil!"

My very best wishes for a safe and happy summer.

*Pat Molloy*

Patricia Molloy  
President

Lily Implicito'20, Audrey Kellogg'20, and Emma Matesic'20 are inducted into the Immaculate Heart Academy National Honor Society.



Isabella Gorsd'20, Allison Sandt'20, Isabella DeCurtis'20, Rosie the Blue Eagle, Elizabeth Croci'20, and Mary Farlese'20 serve as Eagle Ambassadors at Accepted Students Night for the Class of 2023.



# IHA PRESENTS *Beauty and the Beast*

This Year's Most Enchanting Event

Gaston, played by Sean Moran SJR'19, shows off his muscles as all of his fans look on.





**OUR INAUGURAL SPRING MUSICAL**, *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, was performed April 5, 6, and 7, 2019 for four different sell-out audiences. Students from IHA, St. Joseph Regional High School, Bergen Catholic High School, Bergen County Academies, Don Bosco Prep High School, and Pascack Valley High School made up the talented cast and skillful crew of this year's memorable production. Student-actors brilliantly told the classic love story of Belle, a young woman in a provincial town, and the Beast, who is really a prince trapped under an enchantress' spell.



Allison Sandt'20 as Madame De La Grande Bouche and Quinn Burns SJR'21 as Cogsworth proudly gaze upon Prince Adam, played by Zach Mackiewicz SJR'20, and Belle, played by Jenna Clover'20. The two live happily ever after once they broke the enchantress' spell.



Aimee Mockler'20, Colton Maurer BCA'21 as Lumiere, and Lauryn Mockler'21

*Beauty and the Beast* was produced by Ms. Maureen McNulty, English teacher and coordinator of the performing arts; directed by Jodi Capeless P'22; musically directed by Ed Ginter; and choreographed by Kimberly Galberaith P'22. Thank you to our talented set designer, Patt Tanner; lighting designer, TJ Essig and Polaris Lighting; sound designer, Matt Morgan and Concert Audio; costume designer, Nancy Reynolds P'09; props designer, Frank Riccobono; and makeup designer, Dee Spencer Bush. Special thanks to Miss Kerry Carroll'04, social studies teacher, for being this year's dedicated faculty musical liaison.

This year's musical featured a large cast of principal characters and supporting cast members, all of whom impressed audiences with their outstanding performances. Jenna Clover'20 shined as Belle and Zach Mackiewicz (SJR'20) played a captivating Beast. Nora-Lisa Hamre'21 played a wonderful Narrator and Bookseller, Azriela Quiles'22 was a mesmerizing Enchantress, and Ralph Ignacio (SJR'20) played a loveable Maurice. Sean Moran (SJR'19) was

outstanding as cocky Gaston, and Alex Costabile (BC'21) was a hysterical Lefou. Matthew Ranagan (SJR'19) was the Baker, Mia Grossman'21 was the Aristocratic Lady, Kyle Towey (PV'21) played the Fish Man and the wonderfully creepy Monsieur D'Arque, and Aimee Mockler'20 was the Sausage Curl Girl. Congratulations to Owen Mitsinikos (SJR'19) for acting as a great Hat Seller; Samantha Gonnello'19 for playing the Milkmaid wonderfully; and Caroline Dyson'21, Isabella Haines'19, and Olivia DeMartini'21 for being the funniest Silly Girls. Quinn Burns (SJR'21) was fabulous as Cogsworth, Colton Maurer (BCA'21) shined as Lumière, Grace Capeless'22 played a brilliant Babette, Emily Ash'19 was the perfect Mrs. Potts, Amanda Potenza'21 played an adorable Chip, and Allison Sandt'20 dazzled as the wardrobe, Madame De La Grande Bouche.

This year's show would not have been possible without the steadfast crew and production team including Myra Chaudhry'19, stage manager, and Mary Farlese'20 and Amanda Molloy'20, assistant stage managers. Thank you to our props mistress, Kerri Woolley'20; sound director, Regina Garvey'19; and lighting director, Lauren Plastina'22. Thank you to the many committed students who made up our backstage, props, and wardrobe crews, in addition to everyone who helped with lobby design and set painting and construction. We'd like to give a special shout out to Sydney Taylor'19 for designing this year's beautiful Playbill cover! And we are especially grateful to the many parent, faculty, staff, and student volunteers who dedicated their time and services to make *Beauty and the Beast* yet another spectacular musical production. You brilliantly told this "Tale as Old as Time," and it will be remembered for years to come.



Allison Sandt'20 as Madame De La Grande Bouche, Grace Capeless'22 as Babette, and Emily Ash'19 as Mrs. Potts

## 2008 Cast and Crew Reunion



Our Belles, past and present, Colleen Martorano'08 and Jenna Clover'20



Cast and crewmembers from our 2008 production of *Beauty and the Beast* reunited before this year's Saturday evening performance. We were thrilled to welcome back, ten years later, back row, left to right, Cassandra Mitsinikos'18, a third grade student at St. Paul's Academy at the time who played Chip in IHA's production; Julia Pandise'12, sound tech crewmember; Colleen McVeigh'10, lighting tech crewmember; Brendan Rooney'12, Ensemble; Emily Pandise'10, stage manager; Larissa Reynolds'08, Silly Girl #2/Dance Captain; and Connor Briggs'12, Narrator/Ensemble. Front row, left to right, are Courtney Kofoed'12, Ensemble, and Colleen Martorano'08, Belle.





Members of IHA's Science Department, past and present, attend the 2019 Hall of Fame luncheon to support honoree and colleague, Susan Adamo. From left to right are Angela Holuba Roberts'05 F; Rosemary Fuhrman P'01, '05 FF; Helen DeMartini P'21 F; Alice Nudelman F; Sue Adamo F; Tamie Lieto P'11, '14 FF; Darla Addabbo P'07 F; Lauren Fitzgerald F; Erika Brennan F; and Stephen Opremcak F.

# 2019 Hall of FAME

Nine New Honorees Inducted



Laura Coti Garrett'75, 2019 Hall of Fame honoree



Beth DiCiancia Garrigan'76 P'06 F; Valerie Gradel Keenan'76 P'14, 2019 Hall of Fame honoree; and Ellen Donoghue'76 F



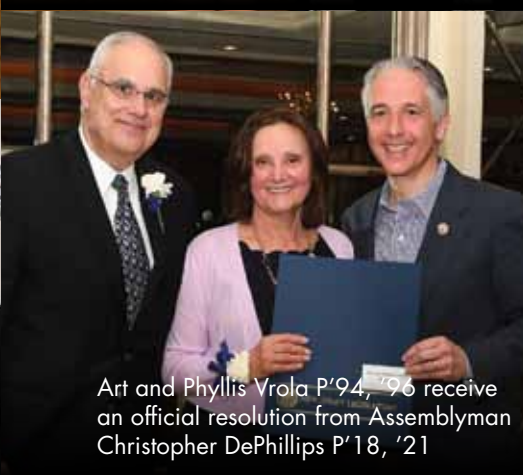
The Nolan Family: Erik Boyd, Andrea Nolan Boyd P'08; Maria Nolan P'08, 2019 IHA Hall of Fame honoree; Tom Nolan P'08; and Joe Nolan



Joanellyn Schubert'97; Julieanne Sees'97, 2019 Hall of Fame honoree; and Sr. Nancy Strillacci ASCJ FF



2019 Hall of Fame honorees, Julieanne Sees'97; Maria Nolan P'08; Art and Phyllis Vrola P'94, '99; Rosemary and Anthony Cali P'12, '15, '19, '23; Susan Adamo; Valerie Gradel Keenan'76 P'14; and Laura Coti Garrett'75



Art and Phyllis Vrola P'94, '96 receive an official resolution from Assemblyman Christopher DePhillips P'18, '21



Sr. Nancy Strillacci FF hugs Julieanne Sees'97 after introducing her.



Patricia Molloy, president, presents a Hall of Fame plaque to Rosemary and Anthony Cali P'12, '15, '19, '23

**This year's Hall of Fame celebration** was held on April 14, 2019 at Seasons in Township of Washington. During the celebratory luncheon, nine new members were inducted into the Immaculate Heart Academy Hall of Fame. After Patricia Molloy, president, welcomed guests and Sr. Margaret Gaffikin FSP led guests in an opening prayer, honorees were introduced by family members and friends close to them.

In the Alumna category, **Valerie Gradel Keenan'76 P'14** was introduced by her daughter, Kerianne Keenan'14, and **Laura Coti Garrett'75** was introduced by her sons, Jonathan and David Garrett. In the Educator category, **Susan Adamo F** was introduced by her former IHA colleague, Rosemary Fuhrman P'01, '05 FF. In the Parents category, Beth DiCiancia Garrigan'76 P'06 introduced **Anthony and Rosemary Cali P'12, '15, '19, '23**, and **Art and Phyllis Vrola P'94, '99** were introduced by their daughters, Roseann Vrola Santaniello'94 and Jean Vrola'99. For our Merit category honorees, **Maria Nolan P'08** was introduced by Bob Fazio P'09, '12, '18 and **Julieanne Sees'97** was introduced by Sr. Nancy Strillacci ASCJ FF.

All honorees were recognized with an official resolution from Assemblyman Christopher DePhillips P'18, '21, acknowledging their induction into the IHA Hall of Fame. Beth DiCiancia Garrigan'76, director of alumnae engagement and special events, made closing remarks, thanking the many people who made the Hall of Fame luncheon possible. Thank you to Event Sponsor, Hackensack Meridian Health; Silver Sponsor, Bergen Catholic High School; and Blue Sponsors, Maureen Cooney Daniello'77 and Dan Daniello, Consultative Board Member, P'15. We are incredibly grateful for our donors, Anna Reilly Camella P'03; Banador Information Systems, Inc.; Rosemary Fuhrman FF, P'01, '05; Student Bus



Company, Shaw's Lock Service, and William P. Kalosieh, PhD. Special thanks to Patricia Molloy, president, and Jason Schlereth, principal, for their continued support, and the many vendors and faculty and parent volunteers who dedicated their time and services to this event.

The IHA Hall of Fame, sponsored by our Alumnae Association, has as its sole purpose to honor in perpetuity alumnae, faculty, and contributors to IHA's outstanding tradition. Since the Hall of Fame was established in 1993, we have inducted eighty-four individuals who have made exceptional contributions to IHA or who have achieved noteworthy personal and/or professional goals. It was a pleasure to recognize nine new members in 2019.



The Garrett Family: Jonathon, Divya, Laura Coti Garrett'75, Robert, and David



The Cali Family: Anthony, Rosemary, Gabriella'19, Kristen'23, Anthony, Victoria'15, and Courtney'12



Geraldine Boland F, Giselle Destro Conheeney'91, Anna Destro P'91, and Maria Nolan P'08



IHA faculty and staff members join together to support and celebrate the 2019 honorees.



The Vrola Family: Racheal DiRico GP'94, '99; Christopher Santaniello, Roseann Vrola Santaniello'94, Victoria Santaniello'32; Art; Phyllis; and Jean'99



Anthony Adamo; Vince Herold FF, Rosemary Fuhrman P'01, '05 FF; and Sue Adamo F.



The Keenan Family: James, Sarah, Kerianne'14, Chris Gradel, Valerie Gradel Keenan'76 P'14, Tim P'14, Mark, and Paul



Valerie Gradel Keenan'76 P'14 shows off her personalized Physical Education jumper from when she was a student at IHA.



Lourdes Silva Sinkovitz'75 P'05, '10; Susan Anlian Ketigian'75; Laura Coti Garrett'75; Meryl Conte Clayton'75; and Therese Collins DeMarco'75



IHA alumnae join together for a group photo at the Hall of Fame celebration.



Rosemary Fuhrman P'01, '05 FF introduces Sue Adamo F.



# DID YOU KNOW THAT...

The IHA Traffic Safety Squad announced that ninety-seven percent of IHA students wore their seat belts in the two safety checks this fall, naming IHA in second place in the Hackensack University Medical Center Seat Belt Challenge. IHA tied with Indian Hills High School for second place. Additionally, [Olivia Landolfi'21's](#) poster about the dangers of drinking and driving was a first place winner in the HUMC Safe Teen Driving Challenge poster contest.



Poster by Olivia Landolfi'21

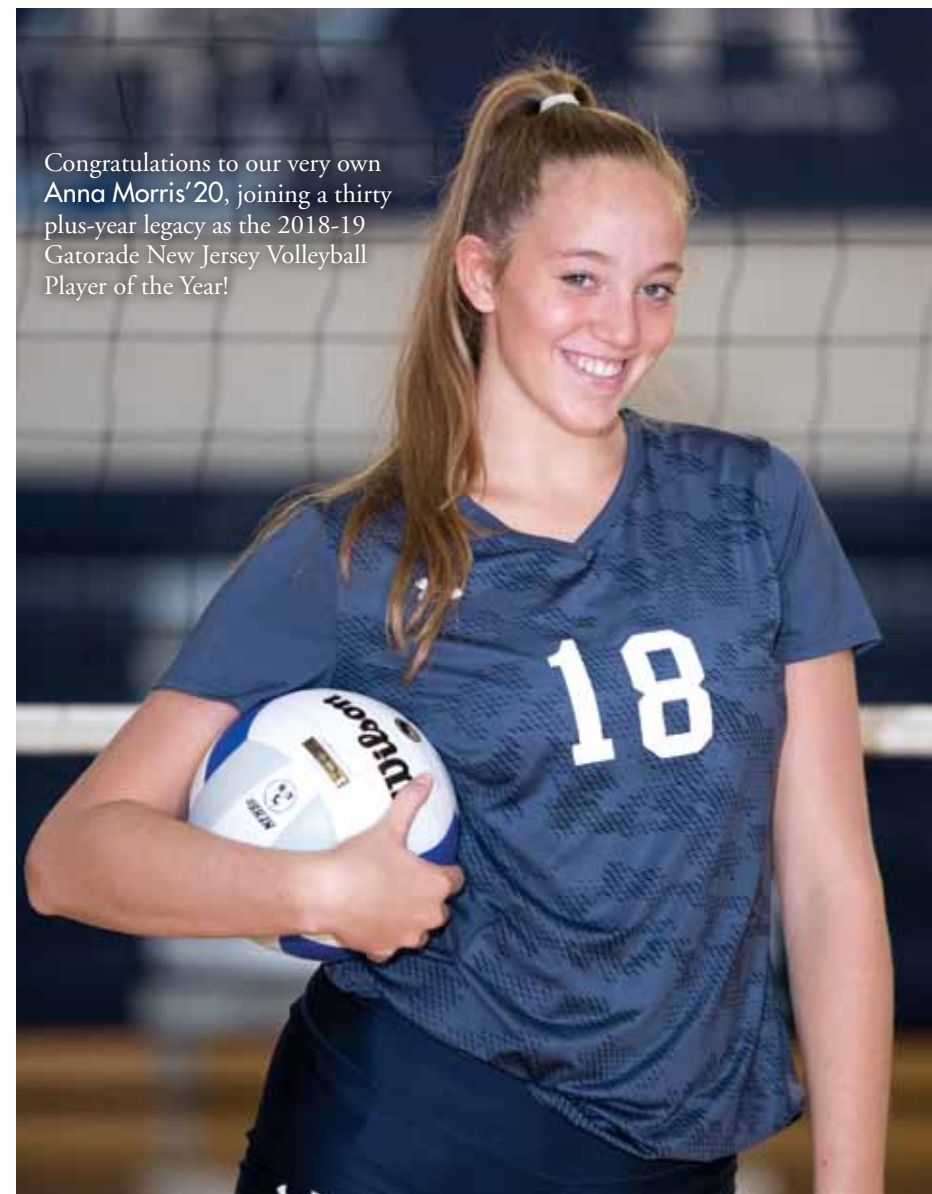
Sixteen IHA [French students](#) in our French I to French IV AP courses visited Madeleine's Petit Paris in Northvale for a Christmas celebration together with World Language teachers, [Dr. Arta Boutcher](#) and [Mrs. Maria Daly-Vals](#). Madeleine's was beautifully decorated for Christmas and the owners, dressed



as Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus, sang French carols together with the students. "Everyone ordered in French and enjoyed the food and the conversation," Dr. Boutcher said. "This is an annual excursion we have been taking for the last five years and we hope to repeat it again for years to come!"

[Christine Ajao'21](#) was honored with the Archdiocesan Youth Discipleship Award on November 18, 2018. This award was presented to Christine by the Archdiocese of Newark and signed by Mr. Thomas G. Conboy, director of the Office for Youth & Young Adult Ministry. The description of the award reads, "The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry congratulates

Christine Ajao for answering the call to discipleship through your outstanding service to family, community, school, and parish." Christine received the award for being a leader on Immaculate Conception Church's Mission Trip. She has been a parishioner at Immaculate Conception, Mahwah for almost fourteen years.



Congratulations to our very own Anna Morris'20, joining a thirty plus-year legacy as the 2018-19 Gatorade New Jersey Volleyball Player of the Year!

Three of our IHA Ice Hockey athletes played in the New Jersey Girls Ice Hockey All-Star Game on Saturday, March 2, 2019 at the Prudential Center. Thank

you to [Livia Angioletti'21](#), [Quinlyn Maloney'21](#) (both pictured in the front row), and [Nina Winborn'21](#) for proudly representing the IHA Blue Eagles!



[Isabella Garzon](#) and her Studio L All Star dance team won first place at the UDA National Dance Team Championships held in Disney World from January 1-3, 2019. Isabella and her team also represented the U.S.A. at the World Dance Competition Championships in April.



Immaculate Heart Academy recently earned the College Board's [AP® Computer Science Female Diversity Award](#) for attaining female student representation in AP® Computer Science A for 2018. Our AP® Computer Science course is taught by [Mrs. Theresa Seymour Dolan'95](#).

Among the more than eighteen thousand secondary schools worldwide that offer AP® courses, IHA is one of only six hundred eighty-five that have achieved this important result.



### Members of IHA's Club Être

were invited to Morgan Stanley, leading investment bank and financial services company, to learn about the financial world. A visit to the Fearless Girl Statue and a tour of the New York Stock Exchange were also included in the learning experience. Club Être is a forum where girls are inspired by successful women. The goal of the club is to empower girls by encouraging bravery, philanthropy, financial literacy, and young entrepreneurship.



From left to right are Sanvi Bhatnagar'22; Elizabeth Spizzo'21; Kirstin McGeary'19; Lauren Burke'19; Cassidy King'19; Alessia Ruggiero'19; Lauren Buonomo'20; Alessandra Priolo'19; Olivia Pavin'19; Mrs. Christine Cabrera Capizzi'89, business teacher and club moderator; Lily Implicito'20; and Caroline Wright'20

### Members of the St. Brigid Society

visited CBS studios on January 23, 2019. Students toured the entire broadcasting studio, including the

place from which Walter Cronkite announced the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The group then walked across the street to the

60 Minutes studios, where they met with anchor and journalist, Scott Pelley, and CBS producer, IHA's own Katie Kerbstat'07.



Back row, left to right, are Catherine Nixon'21, Claire Hoffmann'21, Olivia Coughlin'21, Alexandra Betsy'21, Kevynne Callwood'21, Julie Marotti'21, Anna Salewycz'21, and Mia Grossman'21. Front row, left to right, are Katherine Conway'21, Alyssa Longo'21, Bianca D'Costa'21, Scott Pelley, Sinead Gilmartin'22, Anna Gehres'22, Anja Kranenburg'21, and Katherine Cottrell'21.

On February 9, 2019 the Apostles of the Sacred Heart celebrated the beatification of their foundress, Mother Clelia. Representatives from all schools who have or have had the Apostles teaching were invited to attend. **Ms. Geraldine Boland, director of guidance**, and **Mrs. Beth DiCiancia Garrigan'76,**

**director of alumnae engagement and special events**, were part of the entrance procession. **Mrs. Kitty Kelly, guidance secretary**, was also invited to attend. Pictured are members of the IHA community and sisters who taught at IHA at the celebration at St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City.



Back row, left to right, are Sr. Doretta D'Albero ASCJ, Mrs. Beth DiCiancia Garrigan'76, Ms. Geraldine Boland, and Bob Kelly. Front row, left to right, are Sr. Sharon Kalert ASCJ, Sr. Lisa Retort ASCJ, and Mrs. Kitty Kelly

On March 21, 2019, **Clare Donnelly'19** visited the United Nations Headquarters in New York City as a delegate at the World Down Syndrome Day Conference, run by Down Syndrome International (DSI), with a focus on Inclusive Education. "I was able to meet and take a photo with Andrew Boys, the Executive Director of DSI, an organization based out of the United Kingdom," Clare said. "Sue Swenson, President of Inclusion International and past Deputy Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education under the Obama Administration, spoke about the history and progress of special education in the United States. Ambassadors from Brazil, Poland, and Japan were also present. Self-advocates, Alexander Lee, Janice McPhillips, Maksymilian Bojarowski, and Marta Sodano spoke about their journey through education to encourage

acceptance and inclusion. My favorite quote from the conference was 'inclusion is not only a matter of knowledge but a matter of will,' said by Daniela Gamboa Zapatel, an Inclusive Education Coordinator at the Peruvian Down Syndrome Society."



**Mrs. Terry Skjold**, Physical Education Department chairperson and driver education teacher, was recently named the co-chairperson of the New Jersey Association of Health Physical Education Recreation and Dance (NJASPERD) Driver Education Committee. In early February, Mrs. Skjold presented a session entitled "Promoting Safe Driving Outside the Driver Ed. Classroom" at the Rebeka Vereia Foundation's annual Safety Symposium for educators. At the recent NJASPERD annual convention, Mrs. Skjold was the facilitator of the Innovative Driver Education Lesson Panel and the co-speaker of the Technology in Driver Education session.

**Jenna Clover'20, Victoria Donatucci'19, and Allison Sandt'20**, members of IHA's A Cappella Choir, performed the National Anthem at the Fairleigh Dickinson Knights vs. Saint Francis Red Flash game on February 14, 2019 at the Rothman Center at Fairleigh Dickinson University. The NEC quarterfinal game was broadcasted on CBS Sports. Our girls did such an outstanding job that they were asked to come back to perform the anthem again!





# St. Brigid Society Students Hear From Impressive Alumnae

On Wednesday, February 6, 2019, sixty-three sophomore members of the St. Brigid Society heard from an alumnae panel of seven IHA graduates. Thank you to the following alumnae for sharing their knowledge and expertise with our students!

## Erin Conaton '88 – President, Conaton Strategies LLC

Erin is the former Staff Director at the Committee on Armed Services at the U.S. House of Representatives; former Under Secretary of the Air Force; and former Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. For the past few years, Erin has been helping companies understand how the Pentagon and Congress work, teaching at the Army War College, Seton Hall University, and, her alma mater, Georgetown University.



Annalyce D'Agostino '13 speaks to the St. Brigid Society members about being a freelance artist.

## Jacqueline Genovese Bova '08 – Intellectual Property Associate, Goodwin Procter LLP

Jacqueline works specifically on patent matters, representing clients where litigation involves patents and patented technology. Her practice ranges from cases involving pharmaceutical drugs to consumer products and involves litigation mainly in Federal Court.

## Kayla Kaspar '08 – Research & Development (R&D) Engineer, Becton Dickinson

After graduating from Fairfield University in 2012, Kayla worked at a mechanical engineering company for a year and then decided to pursue a master's degree in biomedical engineering with a concentration in project management at Stevens Institute of Technology. She graduated from Stevens in 2015 and was hired as an R&D engineer at Becton Dickinson in the Medical Segment, specifically Pharmaceutical Systems - Self

Administered Injection Systems. Her role in R&D combines her problem-solving skills from her mechanical engineering background with a focus on biology and medicine to improve human health and healthcare at all levels.

## Kaitlin Thompson '09 – Senior Analyst, Ernst & Young

Kaitlin spent the first four years of her career in international tax in the financial services industry, and transitioned to forensic accounting at Ernst & Young in late 2017. Katie directly liaises with clients to understand their situation and create an appropriate response plan for performing technical review and analysis of incidents. She assists with global scale investigations of financial institutions; provides analysis of governance policies, including conflict of interest policies to prevent the risks of misappropriation of assets, financial statements, or corruption; and assists with projects around anti-bribery matters.



From left to right are Kaitlin Thompson '09, Annalyce D'Agostino '13, Jacqueline Genovese Bova '08, Erin Conaton '88, Kayla Kaspar '08, Jessica Lamb '13, and Emily Horne '13.

## Annalyce D'Agostino '13 – Freelance Artist and Content Creator

Annalyce is a photo editor, mini-set builder, traditional and digital painter and illustrator, storyteller, actress, singer, and voiceover artist. Far from the standard nine to five career, Annie juggles clients, gigs, and side jobs on the daily as a freelance artist. She most recently produced a self-

created video series for children, which hit the Internet this past February.

## Emily Horne '13 – Category Specialist, Jet.com

A 2017 graduate of Georgetown University, Emily now acts as a “mini-CEO” of a very specific category of products on Jet.com and Walmart.com.

She manages the plant-based nutrition category (plant protein powders, superfoods, etc.), deciding everything including which brands to sell, which items to promote and merchandise, and supply chain management to ensure the items are never out of stock. The company is young; out of Emily's team of twenty-three people, twenty are under the age of twenty-five.

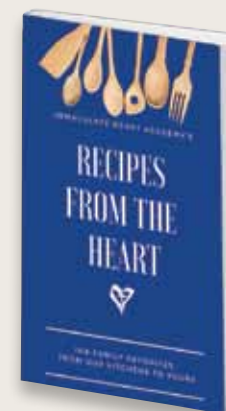
## Jessica Lamb '13 – Registered Nurse, Post Surgical Unit, Holy Name Hospital

Jessica graduated from DeSales University in 2017 with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. All patients that receive surgery at Holy Name recover in the Post Surgical Unit, where Jessie alternates as a clinical floor nurse and a charge nurse. She also volunteers for the New Milford Ambulance Corp and attended a medical mission in Peru in November of 2018.

# Recipes from the Heart

## IHA Publishes Cookbook Sold in Campus Shop

Our IHA Parents' Club has created a custom cookbook, *Recipes from the Heart*, featuring favorite recipes from our entire community, including alumnae, faculty, former faculty, current parents, and parents of alumnae. These cookbooks were professionally published and are sure to be a treasured keepsake for us all. Please visit the IHA Campus Shop to order yours today!



# Mr. John Downey Named Certified Athletic Administrator

The National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) recently announced that Mr. John Downey, Director of Athletics, has been recognized by the association as a Certified Athletic Administrator. To earn this distinction, Mr. Downey has demonstrated the highest level of knowledge and expertise in the field of interscholastic athletic administration. The voluntary certification process included a thorough evaluation of the candidate's educational background, experience and professional contributions, as well as a rigorous, comprehensive written examination. Mr. Downey, who has been the IHA's director of athletics for eight years, is one of an elite group of interscholastic athletic administrators nationwide to attain this level of professionalism.

The NIAAA is a national professional organization consisting of all fifty state athletic administrator associations and more than ten thousand individual

members. It is dedicated to promoting the professional growth of high school athletic administrators and preserving the educational nature of interscholastic athletics and the place of these programs in the secondary school curriculum. Congratulations, Mr. Downey!



Kayla Kaspar '08 visits her sister, Alexandra Kaspar '21, during the alumnae panel.



# 2019 St. Brigid Society Induction

Members of the Class of 2023 Join the Society

This winter, we were fortunate to have the opportunity to recognize a distinguished selection of members of the incoming Class of 2023. On February 13, 2019 forty future freshmen were inducted into the Immaculate Heart Academy St. Brigid Society.

In 2012, Immaculate Heart Academy established the St. Brigid Society in honor of the Patron Saint of Scholars, St. Brigid. The society's purpose was, and still is, to recognize the outstanding academic promise of prospective IHA students. Incoming freshmen who attain exemplary scores on the High School Placement Test (HSPT) are invited into the St. Brigid Society.

While at IHA, members of the society take part in special trips and experiences offered throughout the year. Present IHA freshmen who earn Distinguished Honors in at least one semester and Honors in the other semester are inducted into the St. Brigid Society at the beginning of their sophomore year. In addition to their excellent achievements in school, and performing well on standardized tests, these students show a great deal of promise and will no doubt be future leaders of IHA.

Anais Aguero  
Megan Anderson  
Marie Baldwin  
Maria Bocxe  
Emma Burgess  
Abby Cavlov  
Ariana Chen  
Grace Coughlin  
Rhianna D'Silva  
Katherine Deane  
Abigail Diehl  
Emma Dillane  
Sofia Doblosky

Erin Erturan  
Caitlin Fritz  
Lauren Grae  
Neela Grizzetti  
Noelle Haskell  
Sonia Hinojosa-Sostre  
Leanna Johnston  
Gianna Joshua  
Emily Kim  
Madison Klak  
Layla Libanan  
Natalia Maglicic  
Judith Mathew

Chloe McLees  
Kate Menake  
Meghan Minogue  
Johanna Murphy  
Molly Nelson  
Julianna Porrovecchio  
Antonina Randazzo  
Casey Roberts  
Alexandra Rossi  
Sophia Rowell  
Carolyn Sandt  
Mary Stoker  
Brianna Washburn



## Women in Communications Alumnae Panel

On Tuesday, March 19, 2019, our school community heard from six inspiring Immaculate Heart Academy alumnae about their jobs in various fields within communications. We were honored to welcome back the following IHA alumnae to our 2019 Women in Communications panel. In above photo, back row, left to right, are Brittany Stephanis'13, digital video editor at *New York Magazine*; Emily Pandise'10, assignment editor for the National News Gathering Desk at NBC Universal Media, LLC; and Elysha Beckerman'07, content lead at Giant Spoon. Front row, left to right, are Tess Quinlan'10, senior editor for the digital editorial team at NBC Sports; Liz Hynes'13, assistant to Stephen Colbert at *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*; and Lauren Finocchiaro Sikora'00, vice president of operations and accounts at PR firm, Bullfrog and Baum.

Lauren Finocchiaro Sikora'00 said coming back to her alma mater cemented "the amazing foundation" IHA gave her. "Communications is a creative field where problem solving, risk taking, and hard

work are vital to success—all things I honed in high school," she said. "There's no one path to a creative career and I hope that, by hearing about my journey, it encouraged everyone to just try everything so they can find what's right for them."

The last time Elysha Beckerman'07 stepped foot on IHA's campus was June 2007. "Now, nearly twelve years later,

I was honored to be on the other side of the plaid skirt, sharing my journey from high school graduation day to the present," she said. "During the panel, I mentioned a few lessons that I've learned along the way, and one that still rings true to me today is to trust in yourself and your experiences to guide you. I wish the future IHA alumnae nothing but a life full of lessons and success."



Elysha Beckerman'07 kicks off the Women in Communications Alumnae Panel as her fellow alumnae look on.



Top: Jennifer Klak, Madison Klak'23, and Henry Klak celebrate Madison's induction.



Left bottom: Carolyn Sandt'23 and Mrs. Donna Sandt P'20, '23 F

Right bottom: Katherine Deane'23 and Leanna Johnston'23





# Student-Artists Honored with Scholastic Art Awards

The Alliance for Young Artists & Writers honored four Immaculate Heart Academy students with 2019 Scholastic Art Awards. Congratulations to:

## Anyssa Merlini'19

Silver Key – *The Art of Science*, Fashion  
Honorable Mention – *Child of the Refugee Crisis*, Mixed Media

## Kang Hyun Ryu'20

Silver Key – *Edge of Knowledge*, Painting

## Elise Vergos'20

Honorable Mention – *August 12, New York City*, Painting

## Theresa Weglarz'19

Honorable Mention – *Lighting Portraits*, Photography

The 2019 Scholastic Art Awards: Northern New Jersey Region Awards Ceremony & Opening Reception was held on February 28, 2019. Since 1923, the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards have recognized some of America's most celebrated artists while they were teenagers, including Andy Warhol, Zac Posen, Idelle Weber, and Luis Jiménez. We are proud to count our IHA student-artists among these esteemed Scholastic Awards alumni!



Theresa Weglarz'19, Anyssa Merlini'19, Kang Hyun Ryu'20, and Elise Vergos'20



Edge of Knowledge



August 12, New York City



Child of the Refugee Crisis



The Art of Science



Lighting Portraits

# Former Student-Artists Return for Art Alumnae Event

On January 9, 2019, IHA's National Art Honor Society (NAHS) hosted its annual Art Alumnae Event in IHA's beautiful art studio. Present NAHS and art students heard from fourteen inspiring young alumnae who are currently studying various fields of art in college.

We were honored to welcome back, standing, left to right, Tara McCormack'16 (The College of New Jersey), Samantha Scian'18 (Catholic University), Kaguya Okawa-O'Connell'18 (NYIT), Caroline DePhillips'18 (Boston College), Olivia Priolo'17 (University of Delaware), Julia Podest'17 (University of Delaware), and Grace Martin'15 (Pratt Institute). Seated, left to right, are Madison Calbi'18 (Quinnipiac University), Riley DeRosa'18 (St. John's University), Olivia Cantarella'18 (RIT), Michaela Cavanagh'18 (Marist College), Katherine Evans'18 (University of Dayton), and Gloria Kim'18 (New York University). Not pictured is Julia Bertussi'18 (Ithaca College).





# Chloe Woznicki'19 Launches Candle Business

CandlezbyChloe Takes off through Instagram Marketing



Senior entrepreneur, Chloe Woznicki'19, recently combined her passion for business, her candle printing hobby, and newfound knowledge from her Introduction to Business course to try her hand at starting her very own venture—CandlezbyChloe. Chloe had regularly made printed candles as gifts for friends and family, and she said everyone always loved them and encouraged her to sell them...so she did!

"I was contemplating ways to make extra money during the holiday season and thought, 'why not?'" Chloe said. "Everyone in my family always comes up with great business inventions and ideas, but no one ever follows through with them. So I wanted to be the one to

follow through and see if I would become successful by doing so!"

Chloe launched her business on December 12, 2018 and made more than \$1,100 in sales in the first two weeks alone. That's when she knew CandlezbyChloe was a hit. She offers two different size candles—small for \$12 and large for \$20. Prices vary based on the amount of personal customization. In order to attract customers, Chloe created an Instagram account (@candlezbychloe) that includes a custom logo and photos of all the candles she has made. To order or for business inquiries, customers contact Chloe directly through Instagram or via email at chloewoz20@gmail.com.

Chloe said she learned from Introduction to Business teacher, Mrs. Christine Cabrera Capizzi'89, that marketing and advertising are the keys to success for any company. "On my Instagram, I advertise holiday sales and seasonal themes and ask that clients post a picture with their candle, tagging my brand to promote others' interest," she explained. "I have been successful in connecting with many Instagram influencers with large followings through hashtags and having a good overall presence online."

Chloe said Mrs. Capizzi also taught her the behind-the-scenes challenges an entrepreneur may face when starting a business. "She gave great advice and the necessary tools to be a successful woman in business," Chloe said. "All my life, I have been surrounded by the strongest of women who have built me to be an independent, confident young woman."

Chloe is promoting her brand this summer at various New Jersey shore points through craft fairs and flea markets and plans to make themed candles depicting the many attractions the shore has to offer. She has also been in contact with various boutiques throughout the state that are interested in selling her products. Next year, Chloe plans to major in business in college, while continuing to create her candles.

"I hope to inspire women, especially my peers, to be the best version of themselves because anything is possible if you put your mind to it and are truly passionate and dedicated," said Chloe. "If you have a dream or a goal in life, chase it with all your heart!"



# 2019 Valentine's Day of Giving

IHA's Heart Skips a Beat on Giving Day

Love was in the air at Immaculate Heart Academy on February 14, 2019 as we celebrated our first-ever Valentine's Day of Giving! The goal was to receive one hundred donations from alumnae, current and past parents, faculty, staff, and students. The results made our heart skip a beat.

The fundraising initiative, which supported IHA's Annual Fund, garnered more than nine hundred donations and raised more than \$56,000. We nearly quadrupled the amount that was raised for last year's Giving Day. For weeks leading up to Valentine's Day, IHA rolled out a major #iheartIHA social media campaign to promote the fundraising initiative. IHA's social media were flooded with video clips featuring members of our community expressing their love for IHA and why they planned to give on Giving Day.

At the helm of Giving Day planning was Mrs. Angelique Morelli, IHA director of development. Mrs. Morelli said that a major highlight of the campaign was reaching one hundred percent participation of our students, faculty, and staff.

"IHA is a community that loves to come together and give back," said Mrs. Morelli. "It was no surprise to me that faculty and staff reached one hundred percent

participation the day before Giving Day, and that every single student made a gift. Full student participation was reached by 9:30 a.m. on February 14!"

To gear up for Giving Day, Mrs. Morelli instituted a school-wide pre-Giving Day initiative called, *Jump-Start for the Heart*. The entire school had one week to make a gift of \$5 or more that would be put toward the amount raised for Giving Day. Donations from students and faculty were collected in homerooms along with a #iheartIHA valentine. Everyone was asked to write why they love IHA on the heart and they were put on display in our main lobby.

"*Jump-Start for the Heart* was a fun way to kick off Giving Day," Mrs. Morelli said. "I wanted our alumnae and parents to feel excited and motivated to give by seeing how our students, faculty, and staff supported the cause before the day even arrived."

To say thank you and to show appreciation for everyone's generosity, Ms. Patricia Molloy, president, and Mr. Jason Schlereth, principal, gave the entire school the day off on Friday, February 15, 2019.

There were other rewards at stake as well. Ray and Yolanda Kunz P'92, '94, GP'20, '21; David Seelinger P'19; and the IHA Consultative Board all pledged to be Giving Challenge Donors. These generous contributors pledged to each give a special gift if we met or beat our goal of receiving one hundred donations. Their generosity and kindness is deeply appreciated. Valerie Gradel Keenan'76 P'14, Consultative Board Chairperson, said when she first heard of the Giving Donor Challenge, she felt confident that the goal would be reached and



Kayla Luna'21, Emmersen Dabal'21, Kaitlyn DeMicco'21, and Hannah Specthrie'21



Elizabeth Rattazzi'19 and Theresa Weglarz'19

surpassed. "As the Board chair, I knew that we would support this endeavor enthusiastically," Valerie said. "Reaching our goal confirmed my belief in the Board's commitment to IHA."

We could not have achieved this success without the help from IHA's Giving Day Ambassadors. Clare Donnelly'19, Courtney Caccamo'19, Bella Sabino'20, Bella Estevez'21, and Margaux Yannaci'22 served as student ambassadors, while Mrs. Melissa O'Sullivan, director of college counseling; Mrs. Tara Hopfenspirger, director of communications; and Ms. Maureen McNulty, English and performing arts teacher, served as faculty/staff ambassadors. Mrs. Morelli said the ambassadors truly served to inspire and motivate the IHA community at large to #showlovetoIHA.

"The success of Giving Day was, above all, a reflection of the support and enthusiasm of our students, our faculty, and friends all over the country who stepped forward to help us make an IHA education available to as many young women as possible," said Ms. Molloy. Yes, we raised funds for our financial aid program, but the real joy came from knowing that IHA has a place in the hearts of so many."





# National Honor Society Seniors Honored

Four NHS Members Receive NHS Awards for the First Semester

**N**ational Honor Society senior members are honored each semester for living out the four pillars of the NHS—Character, Scholarship, Leadership, and Service. While all NHS members are expected to uphold these qualities, these four IHA students have gone above and beyond. Congratulations to:

## Jaclyn Bozzetti'19 – Character

Jaclyn Bozzetti is not an unfamiliar name around IHA. Whether she is working closely with her peers or spreading cheer all around the school, Jaclyn plays an active role in all she does. In the classroom, Jaclyn is attentive and has the drive to learn, but, most importantly, she loves to help her fellow classmates. She is full of life in class and is always sporting a smile. As stated in the NHS Character requirements, Jaclyn upholds principles of morality and ethics, is cooperative, demonstrates high standards of honesty and reliability, and shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others.

## Myra Chaudhry'19 – Scholarship

Myra is an active student at IHA and can always be found helping others. Despite her rigorous courses, Myra finds time to perfect her photography skills as a member of the Photography Club. She uses her gift of scholarship to contribute to and positively influence the IHA community, whether it is through NHS tutoring or helping a classmate before an AP Calculus BC or AP English test. As stated in the NHS Scholarship requirements, NHS students have and will maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher, which Myra continually exceeds.



Myra Chaudhry'19, Tinamarie Dadic'19, Isabella Haines'19, and Jaclyn Bozzetti'19



## Tinamarie Dadic'19 – Leadership

Tina is a natural leader in all that she does. She is always willing to listen to everyone and encourages others to take part in their community. By demonstrating her determination and strong work ethic, Tina continues to be inspiring and successful. As stated in the NHS Leadership requirements, Tina proves to be a leader who is resourceful, a good problem solver, a promoter of school activities, an idea-contributor, dependable, and who exemplifies positive attitudes about life.

## Isabella Haines'19 – Service

Isabella is well known at IHA for her continued willingness to always help her peers. As a prominent member of the Christian Service Board, Isabella is an active participant in many different drives and events that benefit our community's less fortunate. Isabella's strong faith is present in all she does, and she is always

willing to give more of herself to those around her. As stated in the NHS Service requirements, Isabella voluntarily contributes to her school and community without compensation and with a positive, courteous, and enthusiastic spirit. Because of Isabella's incredible ability to brighten everyone's day and her positive influence the various communities to which she belongs, she is the ideal recipient of the NHS Service award.

Mrs. Melissa O'Sullivan, director of college counseling and NHS moderator, said working with this very talented pool of young ladies has been an absolute pleasure. "Seeing these girls grow and prosper in their senior year is very rewarding," she said, "Even though there is technically only one award for each category, they all exemplify very strong character, leadership, service, and scholarship. They work tirelessly to achieve success and I couldn't be more proud of them."

# STEM Students Win M3 Challenge Honorable Mention Award

Seniors Excel in First Year Competing in National Math Competition

**O**n March 3, 2019, a team of five students and three alternates represented Immaculate Heart Academy in the national MathWorks Math Modeling (M3) Challenge. This rigorous, fourteen-hour competition is unlike any other high school competition in mathematics, pushing junior and senior students to the limits of their math knowledge and testing their ability to work together as a team. Members of the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) launched the M3 Challenge in 2006.

Students representing IHA's team were Kaitlyn Brown'19, Rebecca Nadler'19, Josephine Oshodi'19, Emily Pecoraro'19, and Charlotte Stanton'19. Alternates were Katrina Fett'19, Myra Chaudhry'19, and Ella Parker'20. All participants are students in IHA's STEM@theheart program, as well as members of the Mu Alpha Theta Honor Society. Each member of the team brought a unique strength—as a mathematician, researcher, writer, critical thinker, and problem solver.

Using the math modeling process, eight hundred seventy-seven teams across the globe addressed a complex, real-world problem, akin to those problems faced by professional mathematicians working in the industry. This year's problem prompted students to create a mathematical model to predict the spread of nicotine use due to vaping over the next ten years and compare vaping to cigarette use. Students had to build a second model to simulate the likelihood that a given individual will use a given substance, taking into account social influence and character traits as well as characteristics of the drug itself, and predict how many high school seniors will use these substances. They were

then tasked with developing a metric to measure and rank the impact of the use of various substances.

The team prepared a technical report of about twenty pages that presented the problem and proposed a solution. Team members then presented a defense of the solution and the mathematical model used, and included a "sensitivity analysis" that explored the strengths and weaknesses of their models and explained what they have learned.

After two rounds of judging by professional applied mathematicians, the IHA team's solution was selected to receive **one of only twenty-two Honorable Mention awards! Only four percent of the submitted papers were selected for recognition.** Each Honorable Mention award-winning team is presented a scholarship prize in the amount of \$1,000, to be divided equally among the team members. The individual amounts will be paid directly to the colleges or universities at which

the winning students ultimately enroll. Approximately thirty-five teams were recognized with scholarship prizes in total, with the champion team receiving \$20,000. Each year, the Challenge awards scholarship prizes totaling \$100,000.

Mrs. Elizabeth Kearns, Mathematics Department chair and Mu Alpha Theta advisor, served as the coach of the Math Challenge team. She was thrilled that her students had the opportunity to work collaboratively on a real-world problem that their generation is presently facing. "This experience was invaluable and offered them a different perspective from classroom mathematics," she said. "They were able to see the power of mathematics in the real world and how much good they can do for others by sharing their gift and love of mathematics. I commend the team for the courage and grit it takes to compete against some of the tops schools and most talented math students in the country. And to receive Honorable Mention in our first year competing—I'm ecstatic! I am already looking forward to next year."



Mrs. Elizabeth Kearns, Mathematic Department chairperson and M3 Challenge coach; Emily Pecoraro'19; Rebecca Nadler'19; Charlotte Stanton'19; Kaitlyn Brown'19; and Josephine Oshodi'19



# Cassandra Mitsinikos'18 Receives Two Future City Alumni Awards

Cassandra Mitsinikos'18, IHA Class of 2018 Valedictorian, recently received two special alumni awards from the nationally renowned Future City organization—New Jersey Alumnus of the Year and National Alumnus of the Year. Future City is a project-based engineering education program where students in sixth, seventh, and eighth grades imagine, research, design, and build cities of the future. Cassie participated in Future City as an eighth grader at Academy of St. Paul, Ramsey in 2014.

Cassie's former St. Paul's teachers nominated her for the state-level award, which she received at the regional competition held at Rutgers University on January 19, 2019. Cassie was then placed in a pool of other regional

honorees from across the country and was selected as the National Alumnus of the Year. She received the national award at the Future City Finals competition in Washington, D.C. on February 19, 2019.

At the finals, Cassie also served as a judge of the projects presented by students from all over the United States who won first place in their regional competitions. Cassie felt honored when she found out she had been chosen as the National Alumnus of the Year, and was so excited for the opportunity to share the passion she's developed for engineering with the seventh and eighth graders who made it to the finals. She said it was fun to see and judge all of the creative and unique solutions to the problems facing cities. "I also loved getting to talk with them about the parts of the project that they enjoyed,

like the research, design, and model creation," she said. "I could tell that most of them had felt the same spark I had five years ago that made me apply to IHA's STEM program, and subsequently to Johns Hopkins' engineering school."

Cassie presented a speech at the Finals' award ceremony to all competition attendees including middle school students, teachers, organization members, corporate sponsors, and others. In her speech, Cassie touched on her time in IHA's STEM@theheart program and now as a freshman at Johns Hopkins University studying civil engineering. She is currently working with the JHU chapter of Engineers without Borders to build a bridge in Ecuador to connect a rural community to important services they need. She hopes to use her education to improve the efficiency and storage of renewable energy technologies—the aspect of her team's Future City project that fascinated her the most. She was thrilled to share her engineering journey and excited to be seen as a role model for the young girls in attendance. Her mother, Mary; father, Chris; and brother, Owen (SJR'19) all attended the D.C. competition to show their support.

The STEM program at IHA gave Cassie a strong foundation in math and science, and she feels IHA prepared her well overall for college. "Not only was I able to learn important math and science concepts, but the AP classes I took taught me a lot about applying those concepts to problem-solving, which is a major focus of the engineering courses I've been taking this year," she explained. "I think my passion for engineering grew during my time at IHA, as I discovered that I liked learning through problem-solving. I began to see the engineering fields as giving me the opportunity to continue learning this way through college and eventually even in a career."



Cassandra Mitsinikos'18,  
Future City National Alumnus  
of the Year



All of the IHA music students are beyond grateful for the Yamaha Clavinova digital piano from Janet Martin GP'22.

## Hitting High Notes

### Music Department Receives Two Piano Donations

Two generous families donated pianos to the Immaculate Heart Academy Music Department, and we want to say thank you!

Janet Martin GP'22 donated a Yamaha Clavinova digital piano that is being used primarily in classes, for rehearsals, liturgies, and special performances throughout the building. Because it is digital, it never goes out of tune and can play other sounds like an organ, a 70s electric piano, and a violin. Mrs. Barbara Donatacci P'19, music teacher, uses the Clavinova to augment the other donated piano for rehearsals that call for additional instrumentation. Next year, the Clavinova will be used at the Dinner of Gratitude, Reunion Weekend Mass, and our Senior Citizen Thanksgiving Dinner.

Janet said she made the donation in honor of her "little singing granddaughter," Laura Rickli'22. "When I attended my first choral presentation at IHA, I was thrilled to hear so many angel voices sing in unison and such excellent soloists, but they were sorely in need of proper accompaniment," she explained. "My gift

to the Performing Arts staff and students will allow these talented girls to continue to grow and develop under the nurturing guidance of the professional IHA Arts staff. May this piano be a source of joy to all who play it and all who hear its lovely melodies in great IHA productions."

Frank and Lisa Ahearn P'18 donated a Boston Grand piano, a gorgeous addition to the Music Room. It is used mainly during Chorus class and rehearsals, and for student performances. Mrs. Donatacci looks forward to utilizing the Boston Grand even more next year for the new Musical Theater History and Production class, where students will use the Music Room as a 'Black Box Theater' to present vignettes from a variety of Broadway shows.

"Our inspiration when thinking about where to donate the piano was to provide a home where the piano would bring happiness and help young students with their musical aspirations," Frank said. "It was an easy choice for us. There is no better place than IHA."

Our music students send their thanks to Frank and Lisa Ahearn P'18 for donating a beautiful Boston Grand piano.

Mrs. Donatacci said she plans to create more performance opportunities for students in the various vocal ensembles and orchestra, and she can now use the Music Room as a performance space because of these two generous donations. "Offering the students the opportunity to use instruments of this quality is a great experience for them," Mrs. Donatacci said. "I have been blessed to have the support of both current and alumnae families for our choral program. The piano donations came just as we needed them most. To teach with instruments like these—new and high quality—is a gift that I appreciate every day."

If you are interested in donating instruments (guitars and other string instruments are on the current wish list) to the IHA Music Department, please contact Mrs. Angelique Morelli, director of development, at 201.445.6800, ext. 185 or amorelli@ihanj.com.





# Soaring Eagle Awards Distributed

Two groups of Soaring Eagle Awards were recently distributed to recognize students who demonstrate excellence and work to the best of their ability in a particular subject area. Jason Schlereth, principal, presents Soaring Eagle Awards four times a year.



On the morning of Thursday, January 24, 2019, ten outstanding IHA students were recognized with Soaring Eagle Awards for the second half of the first semester. Standing, left to right, are Courtney Driscoll'19 (English – Ms. Maureen McNulty), Patricia Christensen'19 (Mathematics – Mr. John Millard), Gabriele Welp'19 (Technology – Mrs. Theresa Seymour Dolan'95), Michelle Marino'21 (Physical Education – Mrs. Terry Skjold), Vanessa Pecora'21 (Communications – Mr. Phil Bernardi), Nicole Krumrei'20 (The Arts – Mrs. Mary Carnevale), Barbara Mattura'21 (Social Studies – Ms. Lia Kunnapas'09), and Patricia Durante'19 (Religious Studies – Ms. Geri Braden). Seated, left to right, are Sydney Severini'22 (Science – Dr. Erika Brennan) and Sophia Ruggier'20 (World Languages – Dr. Arta Boutcher).



On April 9, 2019, ten students were recognized with Soaring Eagle Awards for the first half of the second semester. Congratulations to, standing, left to right, Gianna Stirone'21 (Mathematics – Mrs. Lori Cellini), Maria Cangelosi'21 (Religious Studies – Mrs. Beth Mueller Szydluk'84), Alexandra Stadler'19 (Science – Ms. Lauren Fitzgerald), Bryn Bogan'19 (Physical Education – Ms. Shemayne Williams), Jane DiLauro'19 (Social Studies – Ms. Pam Lewis-Cantor), Abbey Benus'22 (World Languages – Mrs. Maria Daly-Valls), and Madeline Foglia'19 (The Arts – Mrs. Lisa Encke). Seated, left to right, are Melanie Harrigan'20 (English – Ms. Liana Macedo), Karleena Pineda'21 (Technology – Mrs. Theresa Seymour Dolan'95), and Angela Messere'22 (Communications – Mr. Phil Bernardi).

# First Semester Distinguished Scholars

Congratulations to the following students who have been named Distinguished Scholars by earning an average of 95 or better for the first semester:

**Freshmen**

Madeline Andrews  
Kiara Bassora  
Sophia Bednarek  
Riley Benedik  
Paulina Biagioni  
Jessica Boyd  
Erin Burke  
Grace Calianese  
Alyssa Darella  
Kayla De Pol  
Sofia Durante  
Gabriella Fava  
Kylie Galiger  
Katherine Garbett  
Lindsay Keogh  
Jessica Kielur  
Brianna Kuchenmeister  
Ashley Mariscal

Riley McGovern  
Sophia Miller  
Heerali Patel  
Lindsey Polchin  
Olivia Raia  
Nina Rakowsky  
Jenna Savino  
Sarah Vella  
Sanaiya Villanueva  
Christiane Wahba  
Margaux Yannacci  
Jayda Yatko  
Katherine Young  
Riley Ypelaar

**Sophomores**

Abigail Auty  
Alexandra Betsy  
Angelina Casale  
Katherine Conway  
Bianca D'Costa  
Catherine DePalma  
Nicole Erik  
Valerie Hiemer  
Caroline Kane  
Mary Rose Kelly  
Gabriella Kittaneh  
Cailee LaFrance  
Antonia Luppino  
Daniela Makowka  
Brooke Marotti  
Hanna Martin  
Clare McGowan  
Allison Monroe

Lauren Montgomery  
Freya Nair  
Lauren Turci  
Sarah Zampino

**Juniors**

Logan Applin  
Sophie Bogacz  
Loretta Borghi  
Elizabeth Croci  
Yoona Kim  
Emma Matesic  
Meghan McGuire  
Grace Mendolia  
Katharine O'Connor  
Jessica O'Neill  
Ella Parker  
Raghavi Patel  
Sophia Ruggier

Kang Hyun Ryu  
Sophia Scian  
Ava Sciubba  
Emily Soranno  
Katherine Subliskey  
Hana Vozzo  
Maggie Woods

**Seniors**

Kaitlyn Brown  
Courtney Caccamo  
Casey Conniff  
Bernadette Goratowski  
Shannon Jordan  
Kirstin McGeary  
Olivia Pavin  
Alessandra Priolo  
Alexandra Stadler

## Live Life, Give Life

Dr. Selim Arcasoy P'20 Presents on Lung Transplants and Organ Donation



Dr. Selim Arcasoy P'20, Denise Peoples, and Leyla Arcasoy'20

On the afternoon of January 8, 2019, we welcomed Dr. Selim Arcasoy P'20 to give a school-wide presentation on transplants and organ donation. Dr. Arcasoy, father of IHA junior, Leyla, is the Medical Program Director of Lung Transplantation at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital of Columbia and Cornell University. He presented thought-provoking facts about organ transplants, giving special attention to lung transplants, and also introduced three of his former patients, all recipients of double lung transplants.

Sonia Carlen, Alexandra Argentieri, and Denise Peoples talked to the IHA

community about their arduous yet inspiring transplant journeys. Denise, who is a family support and community educator for the N.J. Sharing Network, also spoke specifically on how our students and faculty members can educate themselves and their families on the decision of becoming an organ donor.

The N.J. Sharing Network is the non-profit organization responsible for the recovery and placement of donated organs and tissue for those in need of a life-saving transplant. Nearly four thousand New Jersey residents are currently awaiting transplantation, while one hundred and fifteen thousand

people are on the national waiting list. The organization's goal is to educate New Jersey residents about the life-saving benefits of organ and tissue donation and transplantation, so they can discuss donation with their families and make the personal decision to register as a donor.

We are so very grateful to Dr. Arcasoy, Sonia, Alexandra, and Denise for sharing their expertise and experiences with the IHA community! To learn more about organ and tissue donation and/or to register to become a donor, visit [www.njsharingnetwork.org](http://www.njsharingnetwork.org).



# 2019 Beefsteak Dinner

Parents and Coaches  
Celebrate IHA Athletics

Thank you to our many guests who attended another awesome IHA Beefsteak to celebrate athletics at IHA! On January 26, 2019, hundreds of Blue Eagles supporters joined together in the gymnasium to enjoy a beefsteak dinner catered by The Brownstone and music by Magic Moments Productions. Money raised at the IHA Beefsteak goes directly to the Blue Eagle Fund to support athletics at Immaculate Heart. Guests won numerous fabulous basket prizes—from a packed Yeti Tundra cooler and a beach bike to an IHA plaid quilt and bears set and a fire pit filled with outdoor games. Prizes included in this year's Super Silent Auction were a Stephen Curry Autographed Jersey; a V.I.P. New Jersey Devils Package; Black Diamond Hoop Earrings; and a San Juan, Puerto Rico Getaway.

Congratulations to our many big winners of evening:

## 50/50 Raffle

Anthony Cali P'12, '15, '19, '23

## Mega Raffle - Billy Joel Concert

Lia Kunnapas'09

## Mega Raffle - Elton John Concert

Peter and Leslie Skae P'21

## Alumna/Alumna Parent Raffle

John Feery P'08

We'd like to send special thanks to IHA Beefsteak co-chairs, Margaret Kourgelis P'19 and Grace King P'16, '19, '22, and our many other parent and faculty volunteers. And thank you to our bartenders, Danielle Garrigan'06 and Ms. Shemayne Williams F. Attendees were especially grateful for the signature drink of the evening, the Blue Eagle!



The Blue Eagle signature drink



Top Right: Ted Sutton P'16, '18, '20; Katie Parsells Bizub'82 P'21; Julia Earls Sutton'86 P'16, '18, '20; Patti DePhillips P'18, '21; Matt Sartori F; Christopher DePhillips P'18, '21; and Toby Bizub P'21

Middle Right: Standing, left to right, are Maria Stewart P'22; John Stewart P'22; Ted Podest P'14, '22; and Mary Pat Podest P'14, '22. Seated, left to right, are Samuel Raia P'19, '22; Benita Rai P'19, '22; James Dimele P'22; and Erlene Dimele P'22.

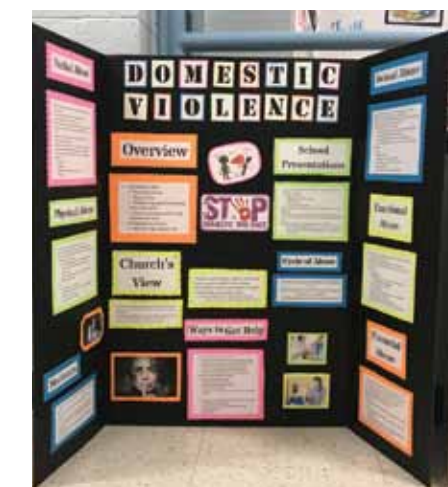
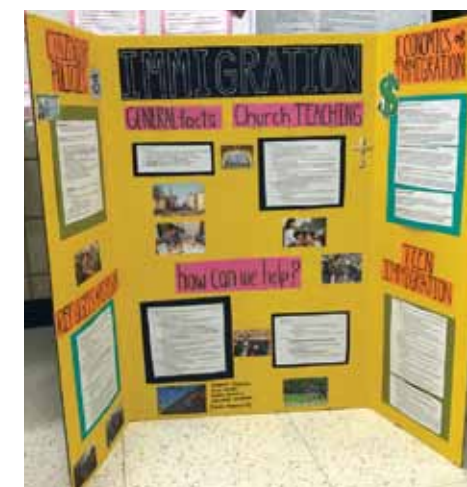
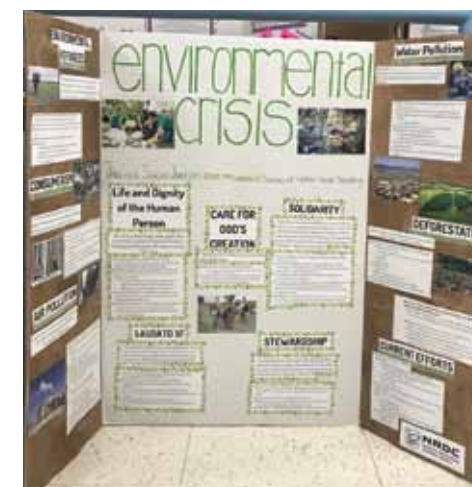
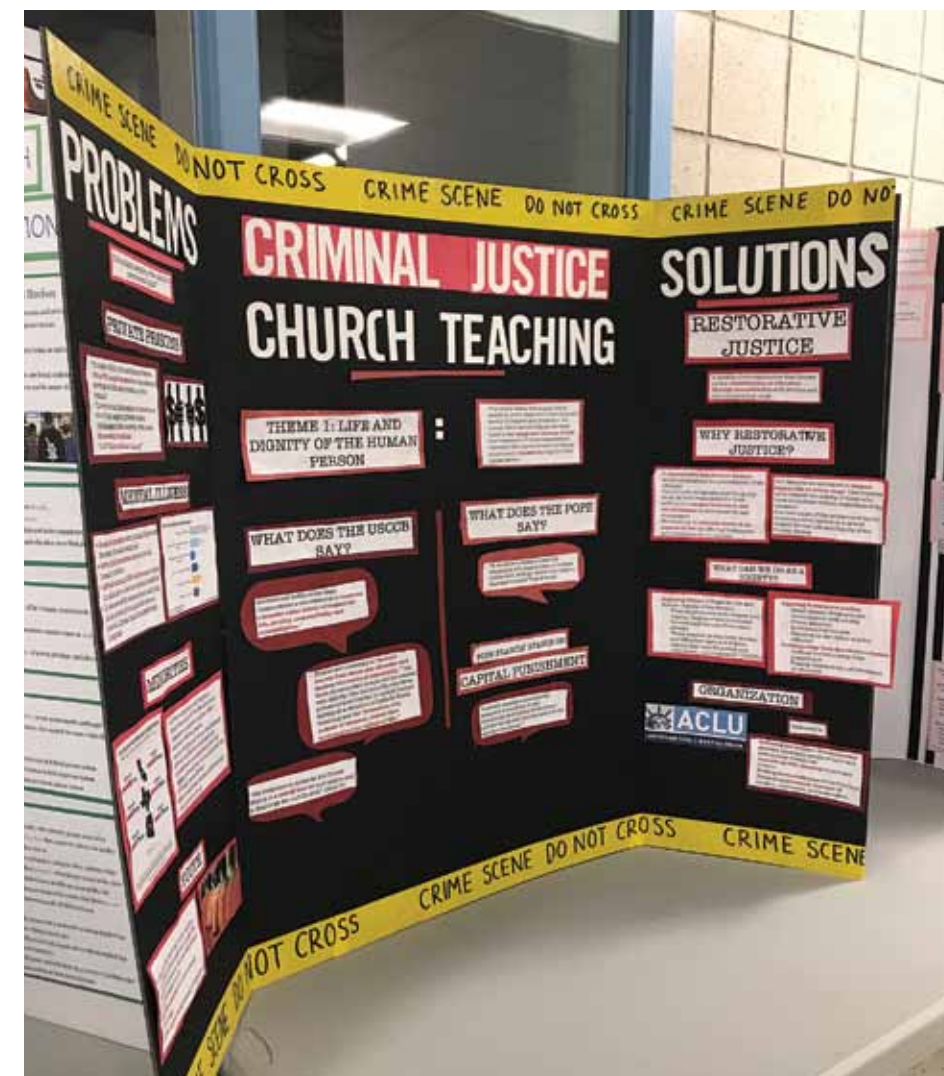
Bottom Right: The 2019 Beefsteak Committee

# Social Justice Projects on Display

During 2019 Catholic Schools Week, the seniors' Social Justice projects were on display for the IHA community to view. Small groups of seniors subdivided their social justice issues to research them further, including learning about the Church's views on specific issues and ways we can help. Their creative trifolds were the culmination of all of their hard work, and they were put on display to help educate underclassmen about these critical issues and how we can all make a difference.

Jaclyn Bozzetti'19 and her group researched and completed their project on the topic of Homelessness in America. While working on the project, she learned that the leading factors that cause homelessness are losing one's job and receiving bills that are higher than a person's earnings. Jaclyn believes this project seamlessly blends the Religious Studies curriculum with the Christian Service culture that is so prevalent at IHA.

"I believe it is beneficial for my classmates and me to complete projects like this because, as students at Immaculate Heart Academy, we participate in Christian Service opportunities and projects interacting with and helping the homeless and other groups in society who are in need of help," Jaclyn said. "It is important to be informed and compassionate when volunteering."





# Ms. Linda Chelotti'76 and Dr. Sue Kenney Selected as COSW Honorees

Ms. Linda Chelotti'76, Social Studies Department chairperson, and Dr. Sue Kenney, English teacher, were selected as Bergen County Junior Commission on the Status of Women (COSW) 2019 Women's History Month honorees!

This year's theme, "Visionary Women: Champions of Peace and Nonviolence," provided an opportunity to honor

women who have contributed to improving the workplace and fighting for economic equality for all women. Bergen County Executive James Tedesco III and the Board of Chosen Freeholders hosted an event on March 28, 2019, sponsored by the Department of Human Services COSW. The event was held to honor the hard work and accomplishments of Ms. Chelotti, Dr. Kenney, and the other honorees.

Both Clare Donnelly'19 and Victoria Donatacci'19, Junior Commissioners for the COSW, nominated Ms. Chelotti for the honor. Clare also nominated Dr. Kenney. The requirements for the nominees included that they were "female champions of peace and nonviolence" whose "contributions should be of significance and should amount to more than one single act." Eleven women were chosen out of the twenty-three nominated.

Clare nominated Dr. Kenney in recognition of her humanitarian work. "As a former First Friends Organization Trustee," Clare explained, "she advocates on behalf of detained immigrants and asylum speakers in order to ensure that they are treated with dignity and respect."

Our students nominated Ms. Chelotti for her non-profit work and to recognize her commitment to educating young women on the importance of self-confidence and self-awareness in a male-dominated culture. "Ms. Chelotti headed an HIV/AIDS hospice, comforting people of all ages who ended up passing away during their struggle with HIV/AIDS before medication became readily available," Clare said. "She also helped develop urban youth and domestic violence programs."

"Ms. Chelotti has accomplished and contributed so much prior to teaching at IHA, from her work in AIDs hospice to working with ill children in hospitals," Victoria said. "But there is nothing more inspirational than an intelligent and motivated feminist teaching at an all-girls school. For me, that teacher is Ms. Chelotti, and I am incredibly grateful to have had her."



Claire Donnelly'19, Victoria Donatacci'19, Dr. Sue Kenney, and Ms. Linda Chelotti'76

# IHA Reunion in Naples, Florida

Alumnae Gather for Traveling Plaid Event

A small group of our alumnae sisters joined together in Naples, Florida for a special Traveling Plaid Reunion in February! Kate McPartland Kearns'76 graciously hosted a luncheon for fellow IHA alumnae, Linda Beritelli Walsh'67, Patti Erickson Dellas'74, Ann Marie Mortillo Okoniewski'76, Colleen McGeary Kosciuszka'76, Ellen Donoghue'76, Ellen Burke'76, Dale Quinn Murphy'76, Donna Hohmann Cullen'78, Therese O'Shea Benson'07, and Karen O'Shea P'07. Beth DiCiancia Garrigan'76, director of alumnae engagement and special events, updated the group on IHA today while everyone enjoyed each other's company and reminisced about their alma mater.



Karen O'Shea P'07, Donna Hohmann Cullen'78, and Therese O'Shea Benson'07

The Class of 1976 attendees include, standing, left to right, Kate McPartland Kearns'76, Ann Marie Mortillo Okoniewski'76, Colleen McGeary Kosciuszka'76, and Ellen Burke'76. Seated, left to right, are Dale Quinn Murphy'76, Beth DiCiancia Garrigan'76 P'06, and Ellen Donoghue'76.

# Blue Eagles and Crusaders Reunite and Network

Immaculate Heart Academy alumnae joined together with their Bergen Catholic High School brothers for a joint reunion at Jack Doyle's in New York City on March 28, 2019. Thank you to Beth DiCiancia Garrigan'76 and Zeke Rodgers BC'92 for planning the reunion and networking event and Brendan Creegan BC'04, owner of Jack Doyle's, for hosting.

IHA ladies, we are hosting a Traveling Plaid event at Cadillac Cantina in Hoboken on June 6, 2019. Please spread word to fellow alumnae who work or live in the area. More details and a registration link are coming soon via email. Please join us!



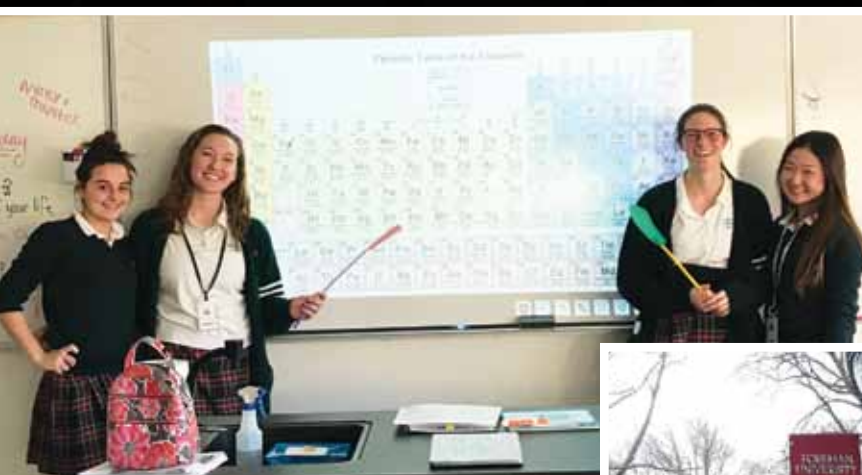
IHA alumnae enjoy the joint reunion with Bergen Catholic alumni at Jack Doyle's.



# SCENE | Around IHA



Members of the Applied Engineering Club, moderated by Mrs. Alice Nudelman, Information Management Specialist and PLTW Engineering Teacher at IHA, continue to dive into the world of engineering with an abundance of hands-on activities. To celebrate Engineers Week in February, students designed and built the blades of a wind machine. The team that produced the most volts by capturing the power of the wind, measured using a multimeter, won the challenge! The Applied Engineering students show off their new club Engineers Dream Big t-shirts and display their blade designs.



**Above:** Jana Mucci'20, Victoria Bertussi'19, Regina Garvey'19, and Yoona Kim'20 lead the Science Olympiad middle school students in a Periodic Table Memory Game.



**Top:** Alessandra DelPrete'19, Theresa Weglarz'19, Mia Farinella'19, Elizabeth Rattazzi'19, Nicole Calianese'19, Margaret Bowers'19, Juliana Lucrezia'19, and Samantha Gonnello'19 dance the night away at the Senior Dance.  
**Left:** St. Brigid Society students visited Fordham University on March 13, 2019. Our IHA girls toured with IHA alumna, Cayla Moore'17, Fordham Class of 2021.



IHA juniors and sophomores attend a College Tour Trip, visiting Elon University, Wake Forest University, and College of William & Mary. Students are pictured at Elon with their tour guide, IHA alumna, Victoria Cali'15, fourth from the right.



**Above:** Sanaiya Villanueva'22, Sophia Miller'22, Sofia Durante'22, and Sarah Vella'22 serve as judges at the Our Lady of Mercy, Park Ridge STEM Fair.



Junior class officers, Olivia Costello'20, secretary; Isabella Gorsd'20, vice president; Angeline Jacob'20, president; Ava Poulin'20, events coordinator; and Nicole Gysin'20, treasurer, enjoy their Junior Prom.



More than forty of our seniors attended a Parents' Club-sponsored self-defense class taught by instructor, Lauren Fish, on Tuesday, February 26, 2019. Thank you to Cassidy King'19 and Emma Bruno'19 for the idea to hold the class at IHA! Each participant also received a Mace brand keychain alarm. Lauren has been training in mixed martial arts for six years, primarily in Muay Thai (kickboxing), jiu-jitsu and wrestling (grappling), and boxing. Lauren trains out of Tiger Schulmann's Martial Arts and teaches WomanSafe self-defense and rape prevention seminars at many of its locations in New Jersey and New York.



# Summer@theheart

Two Full Sessions and Three Mini Sessions

**July 9 – August 1, 2019**

**Monday – Thursday**

**9 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

Join us for **Summer@theheart**, IHA's co-ed summer enrichment program for 7th through 12th grade students.

Online registration is now open.

For more information and to register, please visit [ihanj.com](http://ihanj.com).

## IHA's Athletic Field Complex Set to Soar to New Heights

In January, Immaculate Heart Academy launched *Soaring to New Heights*, a campaign to renovate and enhance our athletic field complex. This \$1 million fundraising initiative that will break ground in June of 2019, will be ready for our students to play on for the 2019-2020 school year. Mrs. Angelique Morelli, director of development, who is spearheading the fundraising efforts, is looking forward to seeing the project come to fruition.

"In order to maintain IHA's competitive edge as having a top athletics program, it is paramount that we invest in our athletic facilities," Mrs. Morelli said. "Providing a safe space with upgraded equipment will provide our students with the environment to hone their athletic prowess and set up future Blue Eagles with success in the years to come."

Both students and spectators will reap the rewards of the renovations. The area itself will feature a new and improved turf field, which has been proven to reduce injuries while athletes are in play. The

turf will be installed in the Summer of 2019. In addition, our new walkway and spectators' patio will offer an elevated view of the field and be ADA compliant, so that all fans can access IHA's athletic complex easily and safely. This portion of the project is slated to be finished in the Spring of 2020. The completion of the entire project will greatly benefit all of our students, whether they're participating in physical education classes, or athletes competing to win the big game. All gifts will go toward updating and maintaining these new spaces. Existing areas and equipment regularly used by our students will also benefit from gifts IHA receives.

Mr. John Downey, director of athletics, is eager for the project to get underway. "With all the improvements that are planned as part of this renovation, I look forward to seeing our program's future success and continued growth," Mr. Downey said. "I am so grateful to all of the families who have already given and for those who plan to show their support. Once completed, these upgrades will help

us evolve with the constant demands of high school athletics."

If you are interested in making a gift or pledge to *Soaring to New Heights*, or have any questions, please contact Mrs. Morelli at 201.445.6800, ext. 185 or [amorelli@ihanj.com](mailto:amorelli@ihanj.com).

### Remaining Naming Opportunities:

Field  
Fans' Entrance  
Spectators' Patio  
Scoreboard  
Dugout  
Batting Cage  
Pitching Warm-Up Area  
Pitcher's Mound  
Home Plate  
First Base  
Second Base  
Third Base  
Home Bench for Softball  
Visitor's Bench for Soccer/LAX

### A GLIMPSE OF COURSES BEING OFFERED:

Creative Writing

Essay Writing

Grammar Boot Camp

Intro to Algebra

Intro to Batik & Resist Textile Design

Intro to Broadcasting

Intro to Calligraphy

Intro to Clay

Intro to Geometry

Intro to Mandarin

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# WINTER | sports wrap-up



Camelia Achury'21



Nicole Calianese'19



Jillian Shea'21



Joan Tejera'20, Patricia Christensen'19, and Ella Parker'20

## SWIM TEAM

The IHA Swim Team had another successful season in 2018-2019, finishing with a record of 10-1. Throughout the season, IHA swam against some of the best teams in the state. IHA captured its twenty-eighth consecutive league title, and its twenty-first Bergen County title. In the NJSIAA State Tournament, Immaculate Heart defeated Bishop Eustace Preparatory School 119.5-50.5 in the semifinals and The Pingry School 104-66 in the finals to capture its twelfth consecutive state title. In addition, the team placed third at the National Catholic High School Championship in Baltimore, Maryland, competing against some of the best Catholic high school swim teams in the country. To conclude the season, five girls competed at the NJSIAA State Individual Swimming

Championship. The 200 Medley relay of Taylor Whang'21, Sydney Severini'22, Emmy Mazzacano'21, and Isabelle Arevalo'19 came in fourth place and the 400 Freestyle relay of Taylor Whang'21, Morgan Williams'22, Emmy Mazzacano'21, and Isabelle Arevalo'19 came in eleventh place. Individually, Isabelle Arevalo'19 placed fourth in the 50 Freestyle and ninth in the 100 Freestyle. Emmy Mazzacano'21 placed twenty-third in the 200 Freestyle and twenty-second in the 500 Freestyle. Sydney Severini'22 placed twenty-eighth in the 200 Individual Medley and twelfth in the 100 Breaststroke. Taylor Whang'21 placed twenty-third in the 500 freestyle and thirty-sixth in the 100 Back. Morgan Williams'22 placed thirty-second in the 500 Freestyle.

### Big North Conference All-League Honors First-Team

Isabelle Arevalo'19, Nicole Calianese'19, Alyssa Quicosa'19, Giavanna Baquerizo'20, Emmy Mazzacano'21, Daniella Navia'21, Taylor Whang'21, Sydney Severini'22, and Morgan Williams'22

### Second-Team

Courtney Caccamo'19, Nicole Calianese'19, Dahlia Getsos'19, Alyssa Quicosa'19, Phiona Tobia'19, Giavanna Baquerizo'20, Kristina Organista'20, Camelia Achury'21, Jillian Shea'21, and Morgan Williams'22

### Honorable Mention

Kirstin McGeary'19

### BCWCA All-County Honors First-Team

Isabelle Arevalo'19, Kelly McDermott'20, Emmy Mazzacano'21, Daniella Navia'21, Taylor Whang'21, and Sydney Severini'22

### Second-Team

Isabelle Arevalo'19, Kelly McDermott'20, Ella Parker'20, Daniella Navia'21, and Sydney Severini'22

### Third-Team

Giavanna Baquerizo'20, Kelly McDermott'20, and Taylor Whang'21

### Honorable Mention

Ella Parker'20, Emmy Mazzacano'21, and Daniella Navia'21

### The Star-Ledger All-State Honors Third-Team

Isabelle Arevalo'19



BASKETBALL

Entering the season with high expectations and challenged by an ambitious schedule, IHA Varsity Basketball proved once again worthy of the hype. Senior captains, Gianna Matesic’19 and Eliya Herriott’19, were instrumental, leading the team to an undefeated Big North United Division championship, an appearance in the Bergen County Finals, and the program’s eighth consecutive Non-Public North A Championship. Other highlights included

college showcase wins over Springfield Central High School from Massachusetts in the “Hoops for Hearts Challenge” in New York City and a victory over South West Academy from Canada in the prestigious “New Year’s Resolution” in Paterson. The team averaged fifty-five points per game, while allowing only thirty-three and a half. IHA finished with a final ranking of number two in Bergen County, and number seven in the state.



Eliya Herriott’19



Anna Morris’20



2018-19 seniors, Gianna Matesic’19 and Eliya Herriott’19



The 2018-19 Varsity Basketball Team huddles together.



Emma Matesic’20

Big North All-League Honors  
First-Team

Eliya Herriott’19, Brittany Graff’20, Emma Matesic’20, and Anna Morris’20

Second-Team

Samantha Rinaldi’20

Honorable Mention

Gianna Matesic’19

BCWCA All-County Honors

First-Team

Eliya Herriott’19, Brittany Graff’20, and Anna Morris’20

Third-Team

Emma Matesic’20

The Star-Ledger All-Non-Public Honors

Second-Team

Anna Morris’20

The Star-Ledger All-State Honors

Third-Team

Anna Morris’20

BOWLING

IHA Bowling had a very impressive season. The girls demonstrated a great deal of improvement in their bowling skills and their camaraderie and sportsmanship were exceptional. With many returning bowlers from last year and replenished with new players this year, the team was very competitive. Gianna Stirone’21 led the team by being named First-Team All-League, coming in fourth in the league, and Honorable Mention All-County. Newcomer, Skylar Scasserra’21, ranked eighth in the league, was also named to First-Team All-League. We wish all the best to graduating senior, Gabriella Cali’19, in college and beyond!



Gianna Niece’21

2018-19 Varsity Bowling Team



Big North All-League Honors  
First-Team

Skylar Scasserra’21 and Gianna Stirone’21

Second-Team

Gabriella Cali’19 and Blathnat Cannon’21

Honorable Mention

Stella Farrell’20

BCWCA All-County Honors

Honorable Mention

Gianna Stirone’21



Gabriella Cali’19

DANCE TEAM

IHA’s Varsity Dance team had an excellent season. This was the first year the team expanded the program, entering three varsity-level dances in competitions and nearly doubling the size of the team. Varsity Jazz never placed lower than second at a regional competition, a huge accomplishment for a relatively new

program. The team says goodbye to five seniors, Gabriella Raia’19, Daniella Zunic’19, Joni Medzadourian’19, Shannon Jordan’19, and Rebecca Nadler’19. Joni, Shannon, and Rebecca are the last remaining members of the program’s inaugural team and the first members to ever dance all four years at IHA.



2018-19 Varsity Dance Team

Ramapo College Regional Competition

Varsity Jazz – First  
Varsity Variety – First  
Varsity Lyrical – First  
Grand Champion (Highest Score in All Categories)

Montclair State University Regional Competition

Varsity Lyrical – First  
Overall Best Technique Award

Lakeland Dance Team Regional Competition

Varsity Jazz – First; Overall Best Choreography Award  
Varsity Variety – First  
Varsity Lyrical – First

Pascack Valley Invitational

Varsity Lyrical – First





2018-19 Varsity Winter Track Team

WINTER TRACK

The Winter Track team was able to capture the prestigious Bergen County Relays title for the second time in three seasons. This championship victory was the highlight of the season, which also saw several athletes catapult into the All-Time Top 10 List. Rachel Bell’20, Nicole Gysin’20, Christine Ajao’21, Madison Libby’21, and Emma Viggiano’21 entered the IHA All-Time List and paced the Blue Eagles to a third place finish at the League Championships.



Tinamarie Dadic’19, Danielle Velez’19, Angeleisa Russer’19, and Tara Daly’19



Olivia Dubois’20



Nicole Gysin’20



Madison Libby’21

**Big North All-League Honors**  
**First-Team**  
Nicole Gysin’20 and Geri Tabbachino’21

**Second-Team**  
Tinamarie Dadic’19, Rachel Bell’20, Jennie Certo’20, Olivia Dubois’20, Ava Sciubba’20, Christine Ajao’21, Madison Libby’21, Daniela Makowka’21, and Keara Skae’21

**Honorable Mention**  
Mary Patricia Sayre’20



Meghan Hogan’22

ICE HOCKEY

IHA Ice Hockey had a rough time against out-of-state opponents this season, but went 10-5-1 otherwise. Down the stretch, the team caught fire with wins over Oak Knoll twice and Kent Place in the Prep Tournament. Nina Winborn’21 collected nineteen goals and fifteen assists for a team-high thirty-four points. Livia Angioletti’21, who anchored the team’s defense, and Logan Sifflinger’20 combined for thirty-one points. Quinlyn Maloney’21 led the charge offensively with twenty-seven goals, third-most in the state.



2018-19 Varsity Ice Hockey Team

**WHILMA Miran All-Academic Honors**  
**First-Team**  
Fionah Lynch’19 and Emily Pecoraro’19

**Honorable Mention**  
Katrina Fett’19

**WHILMA Harry Rulon-Miller Sportsmanship Award**  
Megan Hogan’22

**WHILMA All-Miran Division Honors**  
**Honorable Mention**  
Nina Winborn’21

**NJISAA All-State Prep Honors**  
Zoe Dupuis’21 and Nina Winborn’21

**All-State Honors**  
**Honorable Mention**  
Nina Winborn’21

**2019 New Jersey High School All-Star Team**  
Livia Angioletti’21, Quinlyn Maloney’21, and Nina Winborn’21

SKI TEAM

The IHA Ski Team’s season goal was to qualify for State Championships, which it did with a 10-10 regular season record. The team is sad to say goodbye to three-time All-State skier, Shannon Quiles’19, who was ranked fourth overall in the state. But it added two outstanding freshmen this season and has underclassmen with solid race experience joining the ever-improving upperclassmen. The future is looking bright for IHA Ski Team.



2018-19 Varsity Ski Team



Mary Grace Maurer’22



Shannon Quiles’19

**NJISAA All-State Honors**  
**First-Team**  
Shannon Quiles’19

**Liberty League All-Conference Honors**  
**First-Team**  
Shannon Quiles’19





# CLASS notes

**'66** Eileen Cordo Quaglino retired from Ramapo College of New Jersey as a career adviser after thirty-three years. She thoroughly loved her job and working with college students. She had resisted retiring for several years and finally retired with much trepidation—it was the best thing she could have done. Eileen tutors English as a Second Language at the Dixon Homestead Library in Dumont, and won the Project Literacy of Bergen County Tutor of the Year Award. She is also a volunteer at the library and presents a resume workshop every month. Eileen is now enjoying the time to focus on needlework; read; visit her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren in Maryland; and do whatever she wants whenever she wants—her definition of retirement. She encourages those from the class of '66 who haven't taken the plunge yet, to do so and enjoy.

**'04** Katherine Fry Hedlund writes, "My husband, John, and I are thrilled to announce the birth of our first child, Liam John, on December 8, 2018. Liam was born at 2:25 p.m. weighing 7 lbs, 14 oz and measuring 19.5 inches long. He arrived eight days after his due date and was worth the wait! He is absolutely perfect and the light of our lives. John and I are thoroughly enjoying our time with our son and watching him grow! My husband and I reside in Montvale and have been married for six years. I am currently employed as an occupational therapist

for the West Orange School District. John is co-founder and executive producer of Open Iris Entertainment, a full service film, TV, and live streaming production company."



Liam John Hedlund

**'05** Jaclyn Olsen Jaeger writes, "I continue to work at UConn Health as a double board-certified internist and geriatrician. My clinical and educational leadership roles continue to expand within the organization. I now direct the UConn Medical School week-long pre-clinical curriculum in geriatrics, serve as the content matter expert for the medical care of geriatric hip fracture patients, and work as the lead transitional care physician for UConn Health. In my

'spare time' I applied for and received a full grant to pursue my certification in medical directorship via the American Medical Director's Association. I am also proud to report that my manuscript entitled *The Practice of Picking Produce* was published in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society, the lead national (if not international!) geriatrics medical journal. I credit the education and leadership development I received at IHA to not only enter, but thrive in the increasingly competitive academic medicine environment. When not working at my dream job, my husband and I enjoy traveling to Hawaii, California, Florida, and the Jersey Shore."

**'06** Alexis Layman Mraz writes, "I recently defended my dissertation 'Forecasting in the Unseeable: A Mixed Methods Model of Planktonic and Biofilm-Bound Legionella pneumophila in Building Water Systems,' and received my Ph.D. in environmental health sciences from The Ohio State University. Throughout the program, I often found myself grateful for the support of friends I made at IHA and the teachers who fostered a lifelong love of learning. I am now working as a post-doctoral fellow at Temple University's Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics. I work in the Water Health and Applied Microbiology Laboratory focusing on microbial source tracking in surface water. I love the work I do and count myself very fortunate for the opportunities I have had, especially attending IHA."

**'07** Jenny Connell Donaghy and her Bergen Catholic High School sweetheart husband, Brian, welcomed their first baby on August 24, 2018. Charlotte Grace Donaghy may only be a baby, but she's ready for class at Immaculate Heart Academy in her kilt and green socks!



**'08** Christina Scrudato Priore married DJ Priore on October 4, 2018 at the Westmount Country Club. She writes, "I currently work at David E. Owens Middle School in New Milford as an eighth grade teacher, and one of my coworkers is Caitlin Carroll Knappenberger'03. IHA girls stick together! My husband and I went on a 'Minnie Moon' to Disney in October and a honeymoon to Costa Rica in April 2019. We just bought a house in Fairfield, New Jersey, and I have two smart and handsome stepsons, Daniel and Nicolas." IHA alumnae took a group photo at Christina's wedding. Top row, left to right, are Elizabeth Imken'08, Caitlin Carroll Knappenberger'03, Jessica Scrudato'13, Theresa Pastorelle'08, Christina Scrudato Priore'08, and

Jennifer Keller'09. Bottom row, left to right, are Stephanie Cruz'09, Tena Elman'08, Jennifer O'Connell'07, Alyssa Sceppaguerchio'08, and Juliette D'Ambrosio'09.



**'09** Julie Ubriaco Gomez and her husband, Rudy, welcomed their first child, Gianna Thérèse Gomez, on February 20, 2019. She was 6 lbs, 3 oz and 20 inches long. Julie and Rudy reside in West New York, New Jersey. Julie works as a pediatric intensive care unit nurse at NYP Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital in New York City and recently graduated with a master's degree as a family nurse practitioner. Rudy also works in New York City in sales. Jane Mahoney Ubriaco and her husband, Michael Ubriaco (BC'08), welcomed Colette Marie Ubriaco on January 29, 2019. She was 6 lbs, 6 oz and 20 ½ inches long. The Ubriaco family lives in Hoboken; Jane works for a food importer and Michael works in finance. Julie Ubriaco Gomez and Jane Mahoney Ubriaco became best friends at IHA and are now sisters-in-law by marriage, as Jane married Julie's brother. The alumnae say they can't wait for Baby Gianna and Baby Colette to share in the IHA spirit!



Gianna Thérèse Gomez



Colette Marie Ubriaco



**'10** Gina Cotugno graduated cum laude from Seton Hall University's College of Nursing in 2014. After obtaining an R.N. license toward the end of 2014, Gina was accepted as one of the first in Hackensack University Medical Center's new-nurse-graduate program. Once she completed that program, Gina was hired in the Urology and Kidney Transplant Unit and has been there ever since. During her three years on the unit, Gina has been involved in many councils and committees within the hospital such as Unit Based Council and the Nursing Informatics Council. She recently completed working on a task force to rewrite her organization's

Falls Risk policy and received her Board Certification in Medical-Surgical Nursing this past July. "Out of all my experiences, patient interaction is what I love most about my job," Gina writes. "Because transplant patients require certain medications and care, any time they are admitted to the hospital, they must come to our floor. This allows us to develop a special bond with the patient, making them more like family than your typical patient. I believe that my experiences have not only allowed me to grow as a nurse, but also to become a better person." Gina's desire to continue to become a better nurse drove her this summer to apply and be accepted into Seton Hall's Acute Care Nurse Practitioner program.

Gina Cotugno'10



Kimberly Denis Schubiger writes, "I was married on September 15, 2018 in Lambertville, New Jersey to William Schubiger. We met at a Penn State tailgate after we graduated. Two of my best friends from IHA, Renee Daly'10 and Rosalie Carbone'10, were bridesmaids. We honeymooned in Iceland and Switzerland for two weeks of adventure. I am the fourth generation business owner of Denis Flowers & Gifts in New Milford. I have owned the shop for four years already and I have had the pleasure of working with many IHA brides! It is always so much fun to reminisce and design the flowers for their wedding days. I now live in Morristown with my husband and we have a big year of travel plans ahead!"



Renee Daly'10, Kimberly Denis Schubiger'10, and Rosalie Carbone'10



**'12** Briana Gorman writes, "In May of 2016, I graduated from the United States Naval Academy with a Bachelor of Science degree in quantitative

economics. After graduation, I moved to Pensacola, Florida for flight school. In September of 2018, I earned my wings of gold as a Naval Flight Officer. I am currently living in Virginia Beach and training in the F/A-18F."

Randi del Rosario had a lot of help from her IHA sisters celebrating her bachelorette party weekend in the Poconos! From left to right are Gabriella Andrews'12, Jamie del Rosario'16,

Kayla Makhlof'12, Randi del Rosario'12, Kristen Ness'12, Jessica Cervini'12, and Megan Stryko'12. Randi was just married on May 18, 2019.



**'13** Jessica Scrudato graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in fine arts from Fairleigh Dickinson University's Florham Campus in May 2018.

Lucia DeNicola writes, "After graduating from Villanova University College of Engineering in 2017 with a major in mechanical engineering and minors in both aerospace engineering and mathematics, I took a full time job at Piasecki Aircraft Corporation in Essington, Pennsylvania. I have recently been promoted to project engineer where I am now leading a group of engineers on a design and analysis program, which will lead to an air vehicle build and flight test program. I am currently living in Philadelphia and enjoying the great opportunities I have had since my days at IHA!"

**'14** Stef-Hana Sopelsa graduated with magna cum laude honors in May 2018 from Rowan University. She majored in radio/TV/film, and was recognized as a President's Scholar of Excellence upon commencement. Stef is currently employed by CBS' *Inside Edition*, based in New York City.

Morgan Butler graduated from James Madison University in December 2018 with a degree in accounting.

Maria Mastropaolo writes, "I could not be more thrilled to share with IHA that in October, I was accepted into the Frank H. Netter, M.D. School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University and will begin to obtain my M.D. in August 2019. Additionally, my summer internship with Weill Cornell Medicine transcended into a full-time position as a research technician at the Institute for Precision Medicine. As a research technician, I have had the opportunity to learn further about the most innovative and interesting methods being used to treat many types of cancer. The skills that I learned in high school have no doubt



helped me achieve the success that I have achieved up to this point. As I work to become an M.D., I will constantly be thanking IHA for all the tools that it has provided me.”

**Nicole O’Brien** was among the thirty-eight University of Scranton students inducted into Chi Delta Rho, the University’s chapter of Chi Sigma Iota,

the international honor society for counseling. The society was established in 1985 to recognize outstanding achievement and service within the profession of counseling. Nicole is a graduate student at the Jesuit university.

**Erica Kelly** was named to the fall 2018 dean’s list in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Iowa State University.



Dana Scheffler ’14 teaches a little boy how to use her camera.

**Dana Scheffler** writes, “With a background in ecology, environmental science, and religion from Saint Michael’s College, I find myself constantly drawn to different ecosystems and social climates that embody them. I am currently living in Paro, Bhutan where I work for The School for Field Studies, an environmental field research center for college students. Photography is a medium I use to capture some of the rarer and purer moments that come across my way. I consider myself a hybrid photographer, in which I dabble

between film and digital photography. I am currently studying the connection between ecology and religion, as well as the ways sacred sites can be used as biodiversity drivers. Bhutan, the last Buddhist kingdom in the world, as well as the only carbon negative country, serves as a wonderful home to study these beautiful connections. I hope, through some of my photos and words, I provide a better understanding of the interconnectedness between humans and the environment.”

**15** **Kristin Kirwan** was among sixty-three University of Scranton student-athletes named to the Landmark Conference Fall Academic Honor Roll. The Academic Honor Roll recognizes student-athletes who have a cumulative grade point average of 3.2 or higher and are at least at a sophomore level academically. Kristin is a senior nursing major on the University’s women’s volleyball team. She was also named on the fall 2017 and 2016 Landmark Conference honor rolls.

**Colleen Buckley, Brielle Cenci, Sarah Cherian, Lena Kleinberg, and Jenna Laezza** were named to the dean’s list at Bucknell University for outstanding academic achievement during the fall semester of the 2018-19 academic year.

**Gabrielle Pielka** was named to the fall 2018 dean’s list at Roger Williams University.

**Margaret Horne** was named to the fall 2018 dean’s list at Hamilton College. Additionally, she spent a week of winter break in Kure Beach, North Carolina doing community service as part of Hamilton’s Alternative Break program. Along with eight other Hamilton students, Margaret participated in Hurricane Florence relief efforts to help the local community recover. Working with Community Collaborations International, they built a fence for a horse pasture, cleaned out flooded shelves, packed residents’ belongings prior to house renovations, and dug a trench to help with rainwater drainage.

**Marissa Mattia** was named to the fall 2018 dean’s list for her academic achievement at Muhlenberg College.

**Tara Tiernan** was named to the Emerson College dean’s list for the fall 2018 semester. Tara, who is majoring in media arts production, is a member of Emerson’s Class of 2019.

**Kailey Medzadourian** was named to The University of Scranton’s dean’s list for the 2018 fall semester.

**Caitlin Boswell, Stefanie Sciarra,** and **Grace Slicklen** were named to the fall 2018 dean’s list at Loyola University Maryland.



Sarah-Ashley Cervini ’15, Nicole Booth ’15, and Olivia Nelson ’15, participated in a Boston Cycle for Survival event to raise money for rare cancer research.

**Maria Mouridy** qualified for the fall 2018 dean’s list at Seton Hall University.

**Gabriela Mancuso**, an Emerson College student majoring in writing lit and publishing, and graduating in 2019, was recently awarded the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship to Colombia, an award devoted to increasing mutual understanding between the U.S. and the people of other countries. After graduating, Gabriela will travel to Colombia where she will teach English at National University. Scholarship recipients have their airfare paid, and receive a stipend for housing. Gabriela says she hopes to earn a graduate degree and “teach

poetry workshops and Latin American literature at Columbia University in New York City,” after she has completed the extraordinary experience.

**Jessica Timpanaro** graduated from Delaware Valley University in December 2018 with a Bachelor of Science degree in equine management.

**16** **Elizabeth Mathis** is serving as an emergency medical technician at Hamilton College this year. The Hamilton College Emergency Medical Service (HCEMS) is a New York State certified agency that is made up of twenty-five

student EMTs who provide 24-hour emergency service to the campus community during the academic year. Each NYS certified EMT volunteers 30-40 hours a week, and the EMTs respond to 50-60 medical emergencies on campus each semester.

**Mackenzie Robertson** has consistently made dean’s list each semester the last two years at Montclair State University, including this past fall. Mackenzie is enjoying being the video editor for the *Montclarion* and has completed a mini documentary on teen suicide. Additionally, Mackenzie was chosen as the managing editor for the Fall 2019 *Montclarion*. She also recently won a first place N.J. Press Foundation Award for her photo, “From Belmar to Team USA” and third place for her web project, “Student Artist Profile: Joe Baez.”

**Meghan Allen** was named to the fall 2018 dean’s list for her academic achievement at Muhlenberg College.

**Hayley Rieman** was named to the Boston College dean’s list for the fall 2018 semester. Hayley is also a sports and news writer for *The Heights*, a student-run newspaper at Boston College.

**Brianna Alonso** was named to the fall 2018 dean’s list at Loyola University Maryland.

**Rebecca Coronel** and **Carmela Stone** were named to the dean’s list at Rochester Institute of Technology for the fall 2018 semester.

**Samantha Allen** participated in a St. Lawrence University off-campus study abroad program at University of Otago in New Zealand during the Spring 2019 semester. A member of the Class of 2020, Samantha is majoring in environmental studies-biology. She was also named to the dean’s list for academic achievement during the fall 2018 semester.



Michelle Kaminski was placed on the dean's commendation list for outstanding academic achievement in the fall 2018 semester at Gettysburg College.

Katharine Ustorf transferred into UConn in the fall of 2018 and was inducted into Tau Sigma, a national honor society for transfer students.

**17** Lydia Anderson-Dearborn, a Delaware Valley University student, was selected as a Peer Mentor for the 2018-2019 academic year. Peer Mentors provide first-year students with academic, social, and personal encouragement as they navigate their first year at the University.

Caitlin Campbell and Olivia Luppino were named to The University of Alabama president's list for fall 2018.

Nicole Dibre was named to the fall 2018 dean's list at Loyola University Maryland.

Julianna Shrekgest made the dean's list at Cornell University for the past three semesters, including this fall with a 4.16 GPA. In March 2019, Julianna, a soccer player at Cornell, was inducted into the 400 Club, which honors student-athletes who achieve a GPA of 4.0 or higher during their varsity sport season.

Allison Dudek was named to the dean's list at the University of Dayton for achieving a minimum 3.5 GPA for the fall 2018 semester.

Logan Geisler was named to the dean's list at James Madison University for the fall 2018 session.

Nikki Santoro was named to the dean's list for the fall 2018 semester at Clemson University. Nikki is majoring in nutrition/dietetics.

**18** Isabella Roselli was named to the fall 2018 dean's list at Hamilton College.

Katherine Evans was named to the dean's list at the University of Dayton for achieving a minimum 3.5 GPA for the fall 2018 semester.

Tori Buckman, Jada Gotay, and Brianna Wynne were named to The University of Alabama dean's list for fall 2018.

Gabriela Russo was named to the fall 2018 dean's list at Loyola University Maryland.

Morgan Honor was named to the highly selective dean's list at Colby College in Waterville, Maine for outstanding academic achievement during the fall semester of the 2018-19 academic year.

Katherine Tuite was named to the dean's list at Miami University for the 2018 fall semester. Katie is majoring in sport leadership & management.

Kaguya Okawa-O'Connell was named to the dean's list at the New York Institute of Technology in Manhattan for having a GPA over 3.5. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Architecture degree.

Would you like to be featured in IHA's Class Notes?  
Please send your life update to Mrs. Tara Hopfenspirger, director of communications, at [thopfenspirger@ihanj.com](mailto:thopfenspirger@ihanj.com).

# Katharine O'Connor'20 Wins Seton Hall Essay Contest

Katharine O'Connor'20 won first place in the 2019 Seton Hall University Catholic Studies "How Does A Saint Inspire You to Live the Faith Today?" Essay Contest. The subject of Katharine's essay was Saint Katharine Drexel, after whom she was named. "She has been a prominent figure in my life ever since I was little," Katharine said. "I wrote about her works and how she was an example of how God calls us

to live. I also talked about how being named after her is a constant reminder of God's role in my life. When I found out I won, it was a nice validation of my faith." As the first place winner, Katharine was awarded a \$400 gift card and her essay will be published in *Arcadia: The Catholic Studies Student Scholarly Journal*, which is indexed in the libraries of colleges and universities across the United States.



Katharine O'Connor'20

# IN MEMORIAM

Your prayers are requested for the following members of the Immaculate Heart Academy community who recently passed away:

Joan Frederiksen Tumbas, Class of 1966  
October 12, 2018

Judith Vaughan Hardin, Class of 1966  
December 27, 2018

Geraldine Walter  
August 3, 2018  
Mother of Gayle Walter'69

Anne Tiner  
September 26, 2018  
Mother of Donna Tiner Conte'77 and Elizabeth Tiner Krapels'80

Louise Cavanaugh  
October 19, 2018  
Mother of Catherine Cavanaugh Morrow'74

Marie Moore Baczewski  
November 1, 2018  
Mother of Barbara Baczewski Gage'68, Constance Baczewski MacFadyen'69, and Joanne Baczewski Gibson'72, and aunt of Xtine Baczewska (Christine Baczewski'67) and Mosa Baczewska (Mary Elizabeth "Mimi" Baczewski'68)

James Feeney  
December 9, 2018  
Father of MK Feeney'83

Mary Bertani  
December 18, 2018  
Former faculty member, English Department chair, and guidance counselor; 1997 IHA Hall of Fame inductee, and grandmother of Marina Pellicciari'22

Donald Vogt  
December 20, 2018  
Husband of Julia Ciulla Vogt'75 and father of Hailey Vogt'13

Richard Rensing  
December 27, 2018  
Brother of Marion Rensing Pratt'73

Kim Carpenter  
December 28, 2018  
Mother of Amanda Carpenter'12 and Lindsey Carpenter'15 and wife of Jeff Carpenter, owner of American Beauty Landscape Design

Dolores Chewcaskie  
January 2, 2019  
Mother of Sheryl Chewcaskie Baxley'85

Patrick Murphy  
January 3, 2019  
Father of the late Margaret "Peggy" Murphy'70, Patricia "Patty" Murphy'73, and Geralyn Murphy'78, and grandfather of Kasey Murphy'13 and Kelly Murphy'17

Marie Tuttle  
January 13, 2019  
Mother of Suzanne Tuttle Granstrand'75

Robert McLaughlin  
January 20, 2019  
Father of Irene McLaughlin Nayden'75, Tammy McLaughlin Connell'77, and Mary McLaughlin Hughes'82, and grandfather of Irene Nayden'06 and Mary Nayden'08

Theresa Maisch  
January 31, 2019  
Mother of Peggie Maisch'80

Gaspar Rodriguez  
February 5, 2019  
Stepfather of Martha LoBianco, faculty member, and grandfather of Amanda LoBianco'15

Jeannette Vilma Mims-Loeffel  
February 9, 2019  
Mother of Dawn Mims'80

Robin Wilson  
February 9, 2019  
Mother of Shainna Wilson'06

John Casey  
February 17, 2019  
Father of Patrice Casey Cappello'84 and Erin Casey Quill'85 and grandfather of Caroline Quill'18

Raul Ramirez Sierra  
February 22, 2019  
Father of Rosa Bravo, maintenance staff member, and father-in-law of Miguel Bravo, head of maintenance

Richard Clark  
February 28, 2019  
Father of Alicia Clark'94

Eileen Sutherland  
March 3, 2019  
Mother of Maureen Sutherland'71 and Jill Sutherland Noda'76

Michelle Pin Seymour'77  
March 16, 2019  
Mother of Caitlin Seymour'06





## The Passing of **Mary Bertani**, Former IHA Faculty Member

**Mary Bertani**, beloved former faculty member, English department chair, and guidance counselor, passed away on December 18, 2018 at the age of seventy-seven. Mary, a daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend, passed after a long and courageous fight against endometrial cancer.

Mary was born on April 20, 1941 in New York City and moved to New Jersey when she was fourteen years old. She began her long teaching career at St. John's Cathedral High School in Paterson before moving on to an extended tenure at Immaculate Heart Academy. According to Ms. Patricia Molloy, president, "Mary was a pioneer in the growth of Immaculate Heart Academy. She initiated the Humanities and American Heritage programs during her years at the school from 1967-1981." Mary was inducted into IHA's Hall of Fame in 1997.

Many IHA alumnae wrote in to share their recollections of Mrs. Bertani. Joanne Stato'69 said her memories are "entirely entwined with her presence as one of the triad of teachers who pioneered the first Humanities class in fall of 1968, of which I was a lucky member."

"My most lingering memory of Mrs. Bertani concerns the day that a group of us were planning to perform a scene from the play, *Agamemnon*, by Aeschylus," Joanne continued. "We had rehearsed it for weeks after school. We had planned to stage it in the school auditorium with costumes and sound. However, on the scheduled morning, we discovered that

the auditorium was not available. We were mightily discouraged and ready to cancel the whole performance, but I can still see Mrs. Bertani's face as she told us, 'If it is worth performing, it shouldn't matter whether you are on the stage or in this classroom.' It was typical of her to be firm yet tactful."

Anna Looney (Jane Raring)'69 said being part of the experimental Humanities class in her senior year stands out as an academic highlight. "I had a school-girl crush on Mrs. Bertani; she was elegant and composed and modeled the consummate professional woman," she remembered. "In my mind's eye, I can visualize her masterful teaching; she held high expectations of us, and I believe we rose to meet them. Mary Bertani made a lasting impression on me. I'm deeply grateful to have been her student."

Following her time as an educator, Mary worked as a pastoral associate for the Archdiocese of Newark and a marriage and family therapist both for the Archdiocese at St. Peter's Parish in River Edge and also in private practice. "Mary later took as her ministry the spiritual formation of adults, retreat ministry, and marriage and family counseling," Ms. Molloy said. "She was an exceptional woman of faith."

Mary was married to her husband, Robert Bertani, for fifty-two years. She is the mother of Andrea Pellicciari and her husband, Carlo, and Scott Newell and his wife, Casey. Mary is the grandmother of Marina Pellicciari, a member of IHA's Class of 2022.

# WELCOME

## Class of 2023 Legacies!

Sisters of Present/Past Students and Daughters  
of Alumnae to Attend IHA

**On February 2, 2019, IHA held Registration Day for the Class of 2023.** The extraordinary class was selected from almost five hundred applicants.

The procedures for those seeking admission to IHA require more than simply completing an application. In addition to taking the HSPT exam in November, prospective students also submit their grades from the last three years of elementary school.

The incoming Class of 2023 includes thirty-four sisters of present and/or past students, and sixteen daughters of alumna, who will one day share the title of "IHA alumna" with their moms!

We look forward to the upcoming school year and cannot wait to welcome our new students and their families into our sisterhood. The following members of the Class of 2023 are daughters of alumnae:

**Maria Byrnes**, daughter of Dolores Martinez Byrnes, Class of 1990  
**Julia DeVirgilio**, daughter of Gena Caputo DeVirgilio, Class of 1994  
**Ella Eitner**, daughter of Shannon Gallo Eitner, Class of 1993  
**Lauren Grae**, daughter of Jacqueline Linares Grae, Class of 1987  
**Anabella Martino**, daughter of Linda LaVoie-Martino, Class of 1987  
**Madison McKay**, daughter of Raelene Kunz McKay, Class of 1994  
**Kate Menake**, daughter of Jamie Fazio Menake, Class of 1990  
**Meghan Minogue**, daughter of Margaret Coyne Minogue, Class of 1985  
**Olivia Morrison**, daughter of Eva Vidaic Signore, Class of 1988  
**Emma Portilla**, daughter of Kerry DePalma Portilla, Class of 1996  
**Dakota Seelinger**, daughter of Michelle Serafin-Seelinger, Class of 1988  
**Mary-Kathryn Sweeney**, daughter of Patricia English Sweeney, Class of 1992  
**Olivia Tacconi**, daughter of Brielle Boedart Tacconi, Class of 1990  
**Olivia Toohey**, daughter of Christine Adler Toohey, Class of 1985  
**Kiera Vicini**, daughter of Stefanie Streeter Vicini, Class of 1983  
**Lily Wilmot**, daughter of Dana Schuster Wilmot, Class of 1990