

Immaculate Heart ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER | WINTER 2019
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Cover Shot: Logan Applin'20, Allison Sandt'20, and Tierney Piercy'20 show their class rings.

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.



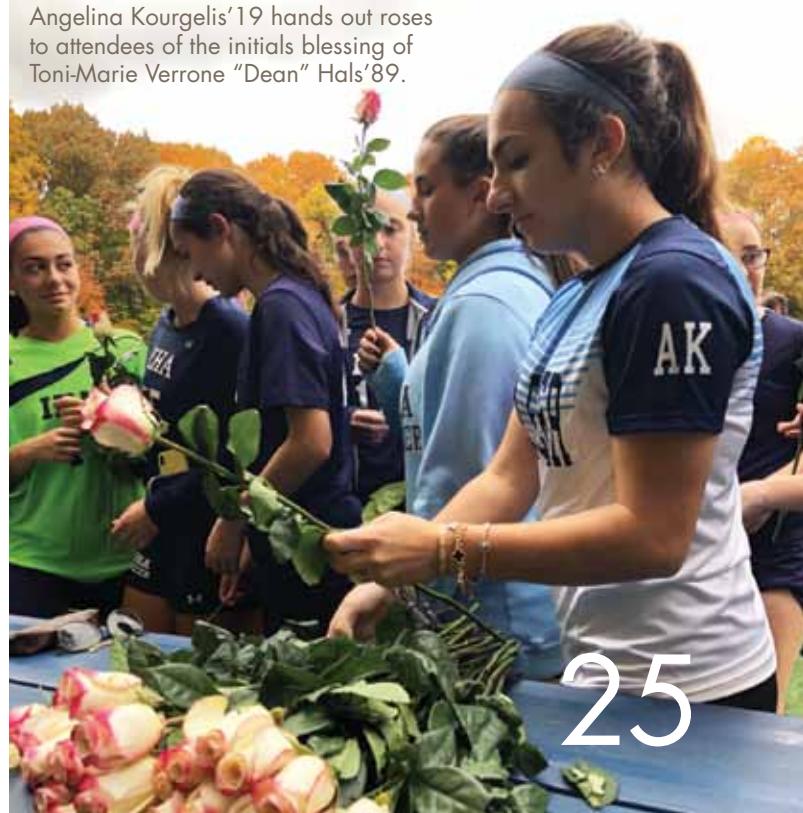
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Kathleen Molloy '65; Laura Coti Garrett '75, Consultative Board member; and Lourdes Silva Sinkovitz '75 P'05, '10, former faculty member, at our 2018 Dinner of Gratitude.



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Alumnae from the Class of 1988 enjoy the photo booth at the Reunion Weekend Cocktail Reception.



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Mary Curry
Narayan '68 and
Joanne Piscetta
Guarriello '68
display yearbooks
at their 50th
jubilee reunion.

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Immaculate Heart ACADEMY

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John Stewart P'22; Madison Stewart '22; Kyra Toskos '22;
Gregory Toskos P'22; Olivia Raia '22; Samuel Raia P'19, '22;
Ted Podest P'14, '22; Molly Podest '22; Valerie Vivas '22; and
Michael Vivas P'22 at the 2018 Father/Daughter Dance.

2018 Fashions of the Heart



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Members of the cross country team take a break.



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Regina Garvey '19 leads the way at the 2018-19 Opening Mass.

President's Corner



As we move through the dreary days of January, we are in *media res*, so to speak. When I taught English literature, that phrase was used to indicate that the author was initiating the plot in the middle of things. Aren't we always in the middle of things? The middle of our academic year, the middle of a phase in our lives, the middle of our life itself. Since we are not at the beginning nor at the end, we would be wise to focus on the middle—on now, the present, the immediate moment.

Here at Immaculate Heart Academy, the present moment is filled with so many good things...academic achievement, athletic success, creative expression through the arts and, most importantly, active and effective living out of the Gospel message through prayer and service to others. As a school, we try to focus, not on past successes or failures, nor on the bright and hopeful future ahead, but on what we do every day as we live our lives as followers of Jesus.

As you read this newsletter, you will have the opportunity to glimpse some of the truly exciting experiences that our students have each day; you will read of the successes of our alumnae, and you will sense the ongoing and faithful support of our parents, friends, and generous benefactors.

So as 2019 commences, we pray for each of you, your families and loved ones, that God will grant you all good things in the coming months. We thank you for your enthusiastic support of the mission of IHA...to form young empowered women who will change the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat Molloy".

Patricia Molloy
President



Cassidy Tucker '19, Vanessa Geerlof '20, Caroline McKee '21, and Elizabeth DePhillips '21 serve as Eagle Ambassadors at our Fall Open House.



Victoria Donatacci '19, Sean Moran
(SJR '19), Zach Mackiewicz (SJR '20),
Alex Costabile (BC '21), and
Amanda Potenza '21

IHA PRESENTS

The Matchmaker

Cast and Crew
Shine in Inaugural
Fall Drama



THE TALENTED CAST AND CREW of our inaugural fall drama, *The Matchmaker*, delighted audiences from November 16-18, 2018. This farce about love and money stars “the irrepressible busybody, Dolly Gallagher Levi, who inspired the Broadway musical, *Hello, Dolly!* Through Dolly’s subtle machinations, several unlikely couples come together to find happiness in 19th-century New York.”



Amanda Potenza'21, Zach Mackiewicz (SJR'20),
Jenna Clover'20, Angelina Boris'21, and Brendan
Moran (SJR'21)

Mary Virginia Nye'21 was wonderful as Gertrude, while Sean Moran (SJR'19) played Horace Vandergelder, Alex Costabile (BC'21) played Ambrose Kemper, and Michael Bloom (SJR'20) played Joe Scanlon. Zach Mackiewicz (SJR'20) was Cornelius Hackl, Olivia DeMartini'21 was a great Ermengarde, and David Zarusinski (PC'19) showed his talent as Malachi Stack. Allison Sandt'20 was amazing as Dolly Levi, Brendan Moran (SJR'21) was a great Barnaby Tucker, and Angelina Boris'21 brilliantly played Irene Molloy. Minnie Fay was adorably played by Amanda Potenza'21, Cabwoman was done hilariously by Nora-Lise Hamre'21, and Rudolpha was artfully played by Jenna Clover'20. Mary Farlese'20 was scene stealing as Augusta, Victorian Donatacci'19 shined as Flora Van Huysen, and Katherine De Rosa'19 fantastically played the Cook.

Thank you to our behind-the-scenes rock stars including Isabella Cross'19, assistant director, and Emily Ash'19 and Samantha

Gonnello'19, co-stage managers. Production/Design Team members were Logan Applin'20, Katherine De Rosa'19, Victoria Donatacci'19, Mary Farlese'20, Regina Garvey'19, Anyssa Merlini'19, Aimee Mockler'20, Sofia Trubiano'21, and Kerri Woolley'20. Crewmembers included Madeleine Cavanaugh'21, Caroline Dyson'21, Elizabeth Granholm'21, Mia Grossman'21, Elise Hakula'20, Brittney Holguin'20, Jennifer Lawrence'21, Hannah Lynch'19, Lauren Plastina'22, Taylor Terry'22, and Kyra Whiteman'21.

Ms. Maureen McNulty, IHA English and performing arts teacher, was the artistic director, while set design/construction was done by Eric, Shelley, and Morgan Knight. Lighting and sound design was done by Matthew Morgan, and the fabulous costumes were crafted by Ms. McNulty and members of the IHA Theater Arts class.

"These talented and dedicated students who gather in this space do so to share with you their gifts (of



Katherine De Rosa'19, Olivia DeMartini'21, and Alex Costabile (BC'21)

which they have many)," Ms. McNulty said in her Playbill note to audience members. "As Arthur Miller said, 'The mission of the theatre, after all, is to change, to raise the consciousness of people to their human possibilities.' Despite having previously directed on the college level, I must say that these actors you will see tonight are certainly some of the best performers with whom I've ever had the pleasure of working."



The cast of *The Matchmaker* takes a final bow.

Class of 1968 Celebrates 50 Years

The Class of 1968 held its 50th Jubilee Reunion the weekend of September 22 and 23, 2018. Classmates joined together at a celebratory

luncheon on Saturday at Ramsey Golf & Country Club and then on Sunday for a Memorial Mass & Brunch at IHA. Thank you to reunion co-chairs, Nancy

Walsh Burlage'68 and Jo Ann D'Elia Gassner'68; Ramsey Golf & Country Club for hosting the luncheon; and The Brownstone for catering brunch.



Alumnae Women in Business Panel

Eight impressive alumnae visited IHA to sit on our Women in Business Panel on November 28, 2018. Thank you to our alumnae for taking the time to talk to the Immaculate Heart Academy student body!

Students heard from, front row, left to right, Stephanie Dolce'94, owner of Sassy Productions, social media management for businesses, and Kelly Walsh Downey'81, VP of Transformation at Unilever North America. Middle row, left to right, are Christine Williams Matthews'07, finance manager at FOX News and FOX Business Network; Thea Rodgers'05, advertising/marketing at Pinterest and formerly at Spotify; and Marissa Finnegan McCloskey'05, founder of Love Corn, a delicious crunchy corn snack. Back row, left to right, are Jennifer Shepard Moroz'93, CPA and partner in an accounting firm; Patricia Mulcahy'73, P&L and revenue/contribution margin growth for global solutions at Conduent; and Amy Giacobone Healey'00, institutional sales for BlackRock.



IHA CLASS OF 1969

**Save the Date
for your 50th Reunion!
May 17-19, 2019**

Events Schedule

Friday – Meet & Greet at Palmer's Crossing at Clinton Inn, Tenafly

Saturday – Class Luncheon at Knickerbocker Country Club, Tenafly

Sunday – Mass and Brunch at IHA

A block of rooms has been reserved at Clinton Inn, Tenafly at a discounted rate. Continuing the IHA tradition of establishing a scholarship for a deserving student, the Class of 1969 is setting up a fund for this worthwhile cause. Your donation will be gratefully accepted.

Email Kathy Dennen Morris'69 at kathymorris513@gmail.com or ihaclasseof69reunion@ihanj.com with your mailing address and phone number to receive updates. More details to come!

Reunion Weekend 2018

The Classes of '73, '78, '83, '88, '93, '98, '03, '08, and '13 joined together this November to celebrate 2018 Reunion Weekend at IHA! The weekend kicked off on Friday evening with an alumnae Sip n Paint with instructor Betty Hofmann Buffin'78. On Saturday morning, alumnae enjoyed an inaugural "Get Fit with Shemayne" fitness class in our gym, followed by a Run/Walk/Crawl around the school. The largest crowd reunited at the Alumnae Cocktail Reception on Saturday evening, which featured heavy hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, an open bar, dancing music, and photo booth pictures. Alumnae who we have lost and community members who have passed away over the last year were remembered at a beautiful Memorial Mass & Brunch on Sunday, November 4, 2018 in the Sisters' Chapel.

Thank you to our Development Office, especially Beth DiCiancia Garrigan'76, director of alumnae engagement and special events, for a fantastic weekend for our many IHA graduates! We love welcoming our alumnae home @theheart.



Aileen Daniels'08 and Bonnie Smith'78



Heather Bradley'98, Shirley Hanna'98, Jennifer Jose Wilkins'98, Gloria Seo'98, Nicole Cestola Crocker'98, and Meredith LaParle'98



Alumnae and a former teacher reunite after Mass. Back row, left to right, are Marie Anlian Casazza'73, Diane Tizio Felt'73, and Barbara Carlson McLarnan'73. Front row, left to right, are Joan Diverio Rider'73, JoAnne Cagney Prorok'73, Mary Ellen Partel Vitti'73, and Tom Schwenke, former faculty member.



2018 Reunion Weekend Sip n Paint attendees

Calling all alumnae who are Florida residents or snowbirds!

The next Traveling Plaid reunion will be held in **Naples, Florida** on **Saturday, February 23, 2019**. Thank you to Kate McPartland Kearns'76 for graciously hosting this Traveling Plaid event.

Email Beth DiCiancia Garrigan'76 at bgarrigan@ihanj.com for more information or to let us know if you'll be in Florida in February!

Diana Mastellone'19 Studies Russian and Ballet in Moscow

STEM Student Awarded NSLI-Y Scholarship

This past summer, Diana Mastellone'19, a senior in the STEM@theheart program, was awarded a 2018-19 National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) scholarship by the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Through this scholarship, Diana spent six weeks in Russia learning its culture and language, immersing herself in everyday life of modern-day Moscow, and studying ballet at the world-renowned Moscow Bolshoi Ballet Academy.

Diana has danced ballet for fifteen years, with the first twelve at the New Jersey School of Ballet training in classical ballet, character dance, and pointe. She then moved to Valentina Kozlova Dance Conservatory in New York City for two years, and presently attends Petrov Ballet School in Waldwick. Every summer she continues her ballet training at various programs across the country.

NSLI-Y scholarships are administered by American Councils for International Education in cooperation with AFS-USA, American Cultural Exchange Service, AMIDEAST, iEARN-USA, the Russian American Foundation (RAF), Stony Brook University, University of Delaware, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and University of Wisconsin. The New York-based RAF welcomed Diana as one of thirteen American high school ballet dancers who returned as ambassadors and finalists of the NSLI-Y Russian Language & Culture, RAF and Bolshoi Way, a U.S. Department of State full scholarship program in collaboration with the RAF and the Bolshoi Ballet Academy. RAF's NSLI-Y Program is unique due to its combination of cultural and linguistic immersion with pre-professional ballet training.

Diana, competitively selected out of more than thirty-three hundred applications from across the United States, was one of approximately six hundred seventy students chosen to study Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Korean, Persian, Indonesian, or Russian overseas this year. Prior to their departure, Diana and the other ballerinas spent three weeks in intensive ballet training in New York City as part of the Bolshoi Ballet Academy Summer Intensive Program, organized by the RAF. Diana explained that the application process included a ballet audition,

answering multiple essay questions, and submitting her academic record.

"If selected to advance to the semi-finalist stage, candidates went through a lengthy interview in which they asked about my knowledge of current events, the U.S. State Department, and my preparedness to spend six weeks in a foreign country," Diana said. "If chosen, I was then considered a finalist until a successful completion of the program in Moscow and the post-program language proficiency test."



While in Russia, before which she had never visited, Diana received formal language instruction, lived with a host family, and experienced the local culture as part of an immersion environment. She began weekdays with a traditional Russian breakfast at the Bolshoi Ballet Academy, followed by a two-hour ballet technique class and a second two-hour class in character, stretch, or repertoire.

"I studied Russian language for four hours a day, five days a week," she said. "We would begin with a daily quiz on vocabulary words, move on to Russian grammar, and end class with new vocabulary and a reading on Russian culture and history."

On Friday nights, scholarship recipients packed their bags and were picked up by host families to stay at their home for a

weekend of sightseeing and practicing Russian. "I had two different host families over the course of the six weeks; neither of them spoke much English so it gave me an opportunity to practice the Russian skills we learned in our classes over the week," Diana said. "Some of the trips I took included visits to St. Basil's Cathedral in Red Square, Izmailovsky market, Tretyakov Gallery, the Pushkin Museum, and the Bolshoi Theater."

Diana plans on majoring in physical therapy and continuing to dance at a ballet school or with a company when she heads off to college next fall. She said she is incredibly thankful to the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and the RAF for funding this opportunity. "One of the main aims of the trip was to correct stereotypes Americans have toward Russians and



The thirteen finalists of the NSLI-Y Russian Language & Culture Scholarship Program pose in front of the Bolshoi Ballet Academy.

to represent America in a positive way abroad," Diana said. "I returned from my trip with a better understanding of the importance of global exchange and hope to return to Moscow soon. The Russians that I encountered, from my teachers to my host families and people we met in the city, were curious and open to American culture and excited to learn about life here, despite the relations between our countries."

IHA to Present Beauty and the Beast

Inaugural Spring Musical to be Performed April 5-7, 2019

Please join us for this year's inaugural spring musical, *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*! This classic story tells of Belle, a young woman in a provincial town, and the Beast, who is really a prince trapped under an enchantress' spell. If the Beast can learn to love and be loved, the curse will end and he will be transformed into his former self. But time is running out! If the Beast does not learn his lesson soon, he and his household will be doomed for all eternity.

The 2019 production will run April 5 and 6 at 7:30 p.m. and April 6 and 7 at 2 p.m. Character Meet & Greets will follow both afternoon matinee performances. Grandparents Day will be Sunday, April 7, 2019. The show is produced by Ms. Maureen McNulty, coordinator of the Performing Arts; directed by Jodi Capeless P'22; musically directed by Ed Ginter; and choreographed by Kimberly

Galberath P'22. Tickets are \$15 and available for pre-purchase at ihatheater.com. Any questions can be sent to Ms. McNulty at mmcnulty@ihanj.com.

Calling all cast and crew members, from both IHA and area boy schools, of the 2008 production of *Beauty and the Beast*!



To celebrate ten years since IHA's first production of the show, we invite you to a special alumnae reception before the Saturday evening performance at 6:30 p.m. Reunite with your fellow 2008 *Beauty and the Beast* stars before enjoying this year's performance! RSVP for the alumnae event to Beth DiCiancia Garrigan'76, director of alumnae engagement and special events, at bgarrigan@ihanj.com or 201.445.6800, ext. 182.

The IHA Music Department is asking for your help!

During the Class of 1968 Reunion school tour, multiple alumnae suggested that we send out a request for instrument donations since many are downsizing and may no longer have the room. If you have an instrument you're willing to donate, please contact music teacher, Mrs. Barbara Donatacci P'19 at bdonatacci@ihanj.com.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

In June 2018, [Nicole Gysin'20](#) attended the inaugural women's Open Decathlon Championships in Grass Valley, California. Nicole was the youngest competitor, traveling all the way from Waldwick. She finished eleventh overall with a final score of three thousand four hundred forty-one points. Nicole ran 14.42 in the 100m, 1:14.66 in the 400m, 20.12 in the 100m hurdles, and 6:25.68 for the 1500m in the track portion. She completed the field events with a leap of 4.13m in the long jump, 1.42m in the high jump, a throw of 6.65m in the shot put, 19.76m in the discus, 18.29m in the javelin, and vaulted a height of 2.30m. Nicole's two highest scoring events were the 100m and high jump with five hundred forty and five hundred thirty-four points, respectively.



[Katherine Mackey'21](#) and [Lauren Montgomery'21](#) were awarded bronze medals in the 2018 Le Grand Concours National French Exam. They were both students in the French I Honors course during the 2017-18 school year.

This summer, [Angeline Jacob'20](#) led a group of thirteen parishioners on a mission trip to Cap-Haïtien, Haiti to volunteer with the Missionaries of the Poor. During the mission, the group assisted the Brothers that live there with daily tasks such as feeding, bathing, clothing, cleaning, and playing with the children. Their mission has four buildings, each of which houses a different group of individuals: one for active school children, another for the elderly, a third for physically and mentally disabled children, and a fourth for HIV positive patients.



The [IHA Softball](#) team presented a check for \$6,892 to Tackle Kids Cancer, a philanthropic program benefitting the Children's Cancer Institute at the Joseph M. Sanzari Children's Hospital, Hackensack University Medical Center. The proceeds are the result of a fundraiser that the softball team members held in memory of their coach, the late Anthony LaRezza, who passed away of cancer in



February 2016. The team hosted the third annual Anthony LaRezza Softball Invitational with proceeds benefitting Tackle Kids Cancer, in addition to creating an online fundraising page to solicit donations from families, friends, and the community.

This past summer, [Casey Conniff'19](#) and [Bernadette Goratowski'19](#) traveled to Gettysburg College to begin work on IHA's 2019 yearbook!



[Olivia DuBois'20](#) was recently selected as NJSIAA Student Ambassador for the 2018-19 school year. Olivia, a three-sport athlete who competes in cross country, winter track, and lacrosse, was one of only thirteen student-athletes chosen in the North section. Statewide, thirty-one ambassadors were selected out of one hundred fifteen applications.

[Jocelyn Moody'22](#) designed and 3D printed an IHA-NJ object as part of the Applied Engineering club. Members were exploring how to use the TinkerCad app to design then 3D print a project. Jocelyn added the letters and heart to a backdrop of New Jersey in TinkerCad. The object was then exported into a 3D format and printed on our school's MakerBot printer. The club members design the 3D print objects that can be used both at IHA and also as part of a community service project.

Ms. Jennifer Bednarek, IHA physical education teacher, was ranked as the number one top athlete of all time from Paramus Catholic High School in NJ.com's "Mount Rushmore" poll. The poll results read, "No. 1 vote-getter: Jen Bednarek, Basketball/Softball, Class of 1976: Bednarek was a four-year varsity letter winner in basketball and softball, leading the basketball team in scoring all four varsity seasons, including averaging 28 points per game her senior year. She was a first-team All-County selection in 1975 and 1976. Bednarek set the single-game scoring record of 38 points in the 1976 championship game of the Bergen County Tournament against Cliffside Park. Continuing her education on a full scholarship at Penn State University, where she became the program's first 1,000-point scorer, Bednarek remained in basketball and moved on to become the assistant women's basketball coach at the University of Maryland."



Elizabeth Encke'20, Raghavi Patel'20, and Loretta Borghi'20 were chosen as IHA's Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) Ambassadors this year. Over the summer, the three IHA students attended the HOBY New Jersey leadership seminar at Kean University with three hundred other outstanding high school sophomores.



Ms. Jessi Shaheen, IHA communications teacher, and her husband, Kevin, welcomed their son, Henry Joseph Aurilio, to the world on August 22, 2018, at 4:25 a.m.—four days past his due date. He was 7 lbs, 7 oz and 20 1/2 inches long.



Victoria Donatacci'19 participated in a summer abroad program where she lived in Toulouse, France; took French classes every day at a local college; and lived with a French host family.



Mrs. Kelly Duby Falcon'03, IHA science teacher, and her husband, Mark, welcomed Gabriel "Gabe" Kenneth Falcon on September 5, 2018 at 6:59 p.m. He weighed 7 lbs, 7 oz and was 19 3/4 inches long. The Falcon Family, including big sister, Noelle, is in love with the newest addition!

Emma Hawryluk'22 was named a Freedom Scholar by the Tri-County Scholarship Fund. She was awarded \$5,000 to attend Immaculate Heart Academy.

As **Olivia Magno'19** works to complete her Girl Scouts® Gold Award Leadership Project, she created "A Cart for a Cause," an activities cart filled with games and small care packages available to local nursing homes. Her goal is to work toward ending elderly depression. She donated the cart to a nursing home in Hackensack and hopes to encourage others to get involved with preventing depression among the elderly population.



More than two hundred high school ice hockey captains were in attendance at the N.J. Devils High School Ice Hockey Ceremony on October 16, 2018 at the Prudential Center. IHA Ice Hockey captain, **Fionah Lynch'19**, and coach, **Doug Brown**, proudly represented Immaculate Heart Academy.



Isabella Garzon'21, and her friend recently created "The Cause," a charitable venture meant to motivate young people to be actively involved in giving back. Isabella has been making and selling scrunchies and t-shirts to fundraise for a variety of needs. She raised and donated more than \$200 to the Lustgarten Foundation Pancreatic Cancer Research Walk this fall by selling scrunchies. Visit The Cause at www.thecausecreations.com and on Instagram @thecause_.

IHA Volleyball coach, **Mrs. Maria Nolan**, achieved her 1000th career win on October 28, 2018. This milestone victory coincided with the IHA Varsity Volleyball team winning the Bergen County Championships for the second year in a row. Congratulations to Coach Nolan and the team!

Elizabeth Nocera'19, Angeleisa Russert'19, and Isabelle Arevalo'19 were named scholars in the Class of 2019 National Hispanic Recognition Program.

Hallie Gastelu'19 recently received the Youth Discipleship Award for Saint Joseph Parish of Oradell. The Discipleship Award is presented to a youth who responds to the call to discipleship through service or ministry to their parish or school community. Hallie has a long-standing record of service at her parish. The award was presented to Hallie at a ceremony at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark on November 18, 2018.

Junior Ring Ceremony and Reception

Congratulations to the members of the Class of 2020 for receiving their class rings at this year's ceremony, held December 6, 2018. After Fr. Francisco Rodriguez presided

over a beautiful Junior Ring Mass, students and their parents joined together in the cafeteria for a celebratory reception in honor of the special tradition.



Aimee Mockler'20 and her mother, Kathleen Moriarty Mockler'84



Lauren Lipari'20 and Ashley Lipari'20



Julianne Carrozza'20 receives her ring from principal, Mr. Jason Schlereth.



Beautiful new class rings!



Vanessa Geerlof'20, Isabella Grey'20, Raquel Fiscella'20, Kelsey Galiger'20, Jenna Clover'20, and Katharine O'Connor'20

2018 Fashions of the Heart

Models, Escorts, and Mini Models Grace the IHA Runway

Close to four hundred friends and family enjoyed the 2018 Fashions of the Heart Fashion Show & Luncheon on the afternoon of Sunday, December 2, 2018. The Estate at Florentine Gardens hosted a beautiful brunch reception where guests tried their luck at winning various basket prizes and three bigger raffles. Congratulations to our raffle winners:

Alumnae Raffle

Paula Horne P'13, '15, '18

Mega Raffle (Louis Vuitton)

Frances Santos

50/50 Raffle

Beth DiCiancia Garrigan'76 P'06

Students, faculty, staff, and mini models then walked the runway sporting a combination of holiday evening attire and cozy winter wear. The models' clothing was generously provided by Lord & Taylor and Kristin Dahl Boutique, owned by Kristin Dahl P'21. Biltmore Tuxedos of Ridgewood provided the tuxedos for the boys from area schools who escorted our students down the runway. Special thanks to our DJ, Zak Magic Entertainment, and faculty member, Mrs. Terry Skjold, for being the show MC.

We are so grateful to all those volunteers and IHA staff who donated their time, treasure, and talent to make our Fashions of the Heart event a success. Thank you to event chairs, Cathy Persico P'18, '21; Yolanda Kunz Selemsberger'92 P'20; Kipp Yapaola P'16, '19; and Beth DiCiancia Garrigan'76 P'06, director of alumnae engagement and special events. Special thanks to Melody Sanchez P'17 for designing and creating the beautifully dressed mannequin that displayed all of the members of the Class of 2019.



Katherine Vale'19 walks the runway.



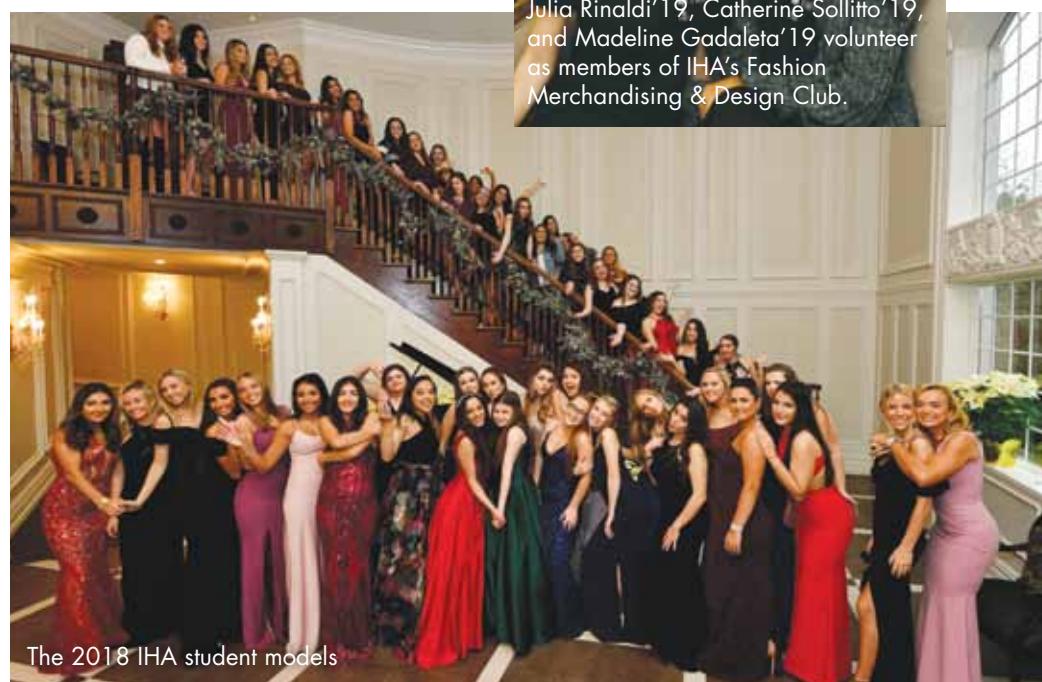
The 2018 Fashions of the Heart mini models



Julia Rinaldi'19, Catherine Sollitto'19, and Madeline Gadaleta'19 volunteer as members of IHA's Fashion Merchandising & Design Club.



Standing, left to right, are Marsha Keenan; Jacqueline Gradel'84; and Valerie Gradel Keenan'76 P'14, IHA Consultative Board Chair. Seated, left to right, are Lucille Gradel P'74, '76, GP'14; Sarah Keenan; and Kerianne Keenan'14.



The 2018 IHA student models

Mission Trip 2018

IHA Students Learn to be “Eshet Chayil” – Women of Valor

Sixty-eight of our kind-hearted, generous IHA students attended this year's Mission@theheart trip. From July 30-August 1, 2018, students worked with campers at Camp Acorn in Allendale, delivered food and other necessities to the homeless on a Midnight Run, helped build houses and picnic tables through Habitat for Humanity, and volunteered to spend time with children at The Nurturing Place in Jersey City.

The IHA students participated in a discussion about social justice and systemic problems/solutions. They also had the opportunity to take part in prayer, Mass, confession, and adoration. Chaperones included IHA faculty and staff members,



Bianca Kalaj '20 reads to a new friend at The Nurturing Place.



Julianna Carrozza '20, Emma Viggiano '21, and Sophia Scian '20 walk to a local park in Jersey City.

Mrs. Sarah Shutrop, director of campus ministry; Ms. Maureen McNulty, English and performing arts teacher; Mr. Matthew Sartori, history teacher; Ms. Megan Moser, English teacher; Ms. Lia Kunnapas '09, history teacher; Ms. Alexis Fatigati '07, director of admissions; Mr. Paul McGinnis, guidance counselor; and Mrs. Jacklyn Kruk, religious studies teacher.

Mrs. Shutrop said she did something she has never done before on the first day of this year's Mission@theheart trip—she offered a teaching and reflection on Proverbs 31. “This scripture passage most are familiar with is about a ‘wife of noble character,’” she explained. “I taught the girls that in the original translation, the term wasn't a ‘noble wife,’ but ‘eshet chayil,’ which translates to ‘woman of valor.’ We discussed why it was important that we be women of valor as we served on this trip. Before I knew it, I was hearing, ‘eshet chayil!’ chanted down the hallways like a battle cry. The girls adopted this

mantra as they went forward to serve God's people, and bring good news to those struggling. The young women at IHA are certainly eshet chayil, and their valor and enthusiasm for the Gospel should give all of us hope for the future.”



Our IHA girls pray together on the Mission Trip.



Meghan McNerney '20, Stella Farrell '20, Grace Whittam '20, Danielle Velez '19, Olivia Costello '20, Amanda Molloy '20, and Emily Pecoraro '19 successfully build a picnic table.

Class of 2022 Celebrates Freshman Day of Sisterhood

The theme for our 2018 Freshman Day of Sisterhood for the Class of 2022 was "cutting competition." The goal of Mrs. Sarah Shutrop, director of campus ministry and freshman class moderator, was to encourage students that there is enough success to go around for all women and how constant competition is simply superfluous.

The Mission Trip theme of eshet chayil, translated to woman of valor, was carried into the Freshman Day of Sisterhood as a way to remind our new freshmen what kind of community we are aiming to be here at IHA. By making "women of valor" the benchmark by which our students measure themselves, the hope is that IHA cultivates a community that cheers for one another's successes, spurs on each other's gifts, and supports our sisters in a way only a community of women can.



Grace Capeless '22 and Taylor Terry '22

Members of the Class of 2022 celebrated sisterhood by creating a mission statement that now hangs in their class' hallway. They wrote letters to their "senior selves" and heard from Mr. Jason Schlereth, principal, and four upperclassmen about what "The Sisterhood" means to them. Finally, the freshmen listened to a panel of teachers who discussed their own experiences of the culture of competition



The Class of 2022 Mission Statement

that faces women today. Thank you to the many faculty and staff members who made this day a memorable one for our freshman students.

Soaring Eagle Award Recipients

Student Standouts Honored at November Reception

Mr. Jason Schlereth, principal, presents the Soaring Eagle Award four times a year to students who demonstrate excellence and work to the best of their ability in a particular subject. After being nominated by their teachers, the first group of 2018-19 Soaring Eagle Award recipients was recognized at a special reception on November 27, 2018.



Congratulations to, standing left to right, Lily Valentin '22 (Social Studies – Mr. Justin Zelenka), Madelyn Panebianco '22 (Physical Education – Ms. Jennifer Bednarek), Angeline Jacob '20 (Science – Dr. Ryan Brennan), Kristina Arriaga '19 (World Languages – Ms. Ana Echeverría), Elizabeth Rattazzi '19 (Communications – Mr. Phil Bernardi), Yoona Kim '20 (Mathematics – Mrs. Christine Cabrera Capizzi '89), and Maeve Duffin '20 (Technology – Mr. George Hotz). Seated, left to right, are Alexis Mason '22 (The Arts – Mrs. Barbara Donatacci), Gabrielle LaSala '20 (Religious Studies – Ms. Lynn Gansley), and Julia Whitney '21 (English – Ms. Kerri Kearney).

Two Seniors Named Bergen County Junior Commissioners

Victoria Donatacci'19 and Clare Donnelly'19 Chosen to Serve on the Bergen County Commission on the Status of Women



Two of our remarkable seniors were recently named Junior Commissioners in the Bergen County Commission on the Status of Women (COSW). This September, Victoria Donatacci'19 and Clare Donnelly'19 were two of only twenty-one young women chosen from throughout the county for this highly sought-after internship.

The Bergen County COSW was founded in 1975 and serves as a bridge between

government and community, studying the needs of women, and promoting the expansion of women's rights in areas such as domestic violence, child care, and elder care. To offer young women the opportunity to become involved with these and other issues, the Junior Commission was established in 2000. Former Junior Commissioners have reported that this one-year of service has become an important part of their college application.

During their term of office from September through June, Victoria and Clare will be charged with researching a topic relevant to their peers and will be given the opportunity to participate in various COSW activities.

Clare said she was overjoyed when she found out she was nominated and then appointed. "I knew the internship was extremely competitive and I was very happy to have been recognized as a potential candidate," she said. "I feel honored to have been appointed. To work with other young women who are equally as passionate about women's rights is empowering. I am very thankful to have the ability to advocate with my fellow Junior Commissioners!"

Victoria felt honored to have been nominated among so many other confident and intelligent young women at IHA. She was elated when she found out she was appointed. "My parents were so proud; they beamed as I read the letter," she said. "Along with excitement, I started to feel the responsibility of representing women in a greater environment and voicing my thoughts and feelings on such important topics."

The Junior Commissioners meet monthly at the Bergen County Court House in Hackensack. Victoria said the Commission "does not only look to improve the lives of women, but all people, which leaves potential for any social service activity." This year, the group is researching women from the county who are champions of peace and nonviolence; they will then nominate twelve women to be honored this spring.

Clare said she is looking forward to "creating long-lasting change that will enable all women with opportunities to prosper and thrive." Victoria shared that discussing with like-minded young adults the treatment of women and how certain conditions can be improved "is empowering, to say the least. I think that a year of discussion and innovation with one another will truly cause a change in each of our environments and in society as a whole."

“I feel honored to have been appointed. To work with other young women who are equally as passionate about women's rights is empowering. I am very thankful to have the ability to advocate with my fellow Junior Commissioners! ”

Elizabeth Encke'20 Accepted to HOBY World Leadership Congress

International Conference Features Renowned Speakers, Educational Sessions, and Service-based Programs

Elizabeth Encke'20 was chosen to attend the 2018 Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) World Leadership Congress (WLC). Lizzy joined more than four hundred twenty-five international students representing fifteen different countries for the weeklong seminar held in July 2018 at Loyola University Chicago's Lakeshore Campus. Founded in 1958, HOBY is the nation's foremost nonprofit youth leadership development organization.

After being one of three IHA students chosen to attend the HOBY state conference this year, Lizzy decided to apply to the WLC. She was told that her experience at the World Leadership Congress would be "like that of the state seminar, x100."

"After being chosen, I was really excited and I could not wait," Lizzy said. "My brother had attended the World Congress six years before me, and he still talks

about how great his experience was. I was hopeful that I was going to have a great time and make many memories."

Now in its fiftieth year, the World Leadership Congress is a dynamic leadership program that brings together students from the U.S. and abroad. WLC attendees had access to a distinguished group of leaders from a variety of backgrounds including business, government, international affairs, science and technology, medicine, media, and education. The weeklong program included interactive and dynamic educational sessions, collaborative workshops, leadership exercises, community service projects, and individualized training.

Lizzy said she truly enjoyed meeting so many people from all over the world and learning about their cultures. "My roommate was from Hong Kong, so I stayed up late many nights just talking



Elizabeth Encke'20 poses in front of Cloud Gate in Chicago.

to her about the differences between our cultures," she said. Lizzy enjoyed serving with the Glamour Girls organization at a local nursing home during the WLC, and her favorite speaker was Carla Hall, who talked about how to be a leader and make a difference in the world.

"The students attending the WLC have demonstrated outstanding character, leadership, and determination," said Javier LaFianza, president and CEO of HOBY Leadership. "Every single HOBY WLC volunteer can attest to this group's ability to create a positive change in the world."

2018 Father/Daughter Dance

Immaculate Heart Academy students and alumnae joined their dads at a special celebration of IHA's 10th Annual Father/Daughter Dance! Thank you to The Venetian for hosting, Elite Rhythms Entertainment for the great music, and Mike Hamlett Photography for capturing memories that will last a lifetime.



All of the dads at the 2018 Father/Daughter Dance

Left: Sydney Lombardi'21; Ralph Lombardi P'12, '21; and Cassandra Lombardi'12

Thirty-seven IHA Students Named AP® Scholars

An extraordinary thirty-seven IHA upperclassmen earned the designation of AP® Scholar by the College Board in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the AP® Exams. The College Board's Advanced Placement® Program offers students the opportunity to take challenging college-level courses while still in high school, and to receive college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the end-of-course AP® Exams. Students took AP® Exams in May 2018.

The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on the number of yearlong courses and exams, or their equivalent semester-long courses and exams. At Immaculate Heart Academy, we are incredibly proud to announce:

- Thirteen students were recognized with the *AP® Scholar Award* by receiving a

score of 3 or higher on three or more AP® Exams. Congratulations to Kelsey Agnew'18, Jessica Ahearn'18, Julia Bertussi'18, Kathryn Costello'18, Kate Della Pietra'18, Bridget Dimaano'18, Sarah Horne'18, Charlotte Stanton Irizarry'19, Maeve Kelly'18, Julia Mancuso'18, Adrianna Oliver'18, Samantha Scian'18, and Alexa Trubiano'19.

- Fourteen students earned the *AP® Scholar with Honor Award* by receiving an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP® Exams, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. Congratulations to Isabella Arevalo'19, Kaitlyn Brown'19, Myra Chaudhry'19, Kristen Egan'18, Katrina Fett'19, Emma Hammer'18, Morgan Honor'18, Emily Koehne'18, Olivia Pavin'19, Emily Pecoraro'19, Miranda Perez'18, Fiona Ralph'18, Megan Rice'18, and Neha Wadhwana'18.

- Ten students received the *AP® Scholar with Distinction Award* by earning an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP® Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. Congratulations to Marissa Amen'18, Heather Farrell'18, Cassandra Mitsinikos'18, Mary Moskowitz'18, Rebecca Nadler'19, Josephine Oshodi'19, Dana Padilla'18, Catherine Petretti'18, Caroline Quill'18, and Theresa Szydlik'18.

- Three students were named *National AP® Scholars* by receiving an impressive average score of at least 4 on all AP® Exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams. In 2018, our National AP® Scholars were Heather Farrell'18, Cassandra Mitsinikos'18, and Theresa Szydlik'18.

Hearts of Hope Delivered to Valley Infusion Patients

For IHA's first Hearts of Hope (HoH) kick-off event of the 2018-19 school year, IHA HoH cofounders, Vanessa Pecora'21 and Madison DeStefano'21, chose to deliver hearts to infusion patients at The Robert and Audrey Luckow Pavilion of Valley Hospital in Paramus. IHA students painted fifty hearts, which Vanessa and Madison delivered on October 22, 2018.

During the delivery, students visited with patients undergoing chemotherapy

treatment for cancer and other diseases. The patients not only appreciated the gift but also the opportunity to speak with our girls. "Treatments can be long, and the patients welcomed the opportunity to converse with Vanessa and Madi," said Mrs. Jill Pecora, HoH faculty moderator and IHA English teacher. "In fact, the conversations led to the realization that many of the patients had direct connections to IHA. Some were parents of alumnae, and others were alumnae themselves!"



*This Valentine's Day,
we don't want flowers or candy.
Instead, let's make a date for*



**IHA's Valentine's Day of Giving will begin at
midnight on February 14, 2019.**

Our goal is to receive 100 gifts in 24 hours.

*Nothing says **love**, like a gift to the Annual Fund!*

All donations will benefit IHA's Annual Fund which supports academics, the arts, athletics, service programming, scholarships, and financial aid.

Make your gift online by clicking the
GIVE NOW button on the homepage of ihanj.com.



#showlovetoiHA #iheartIHA

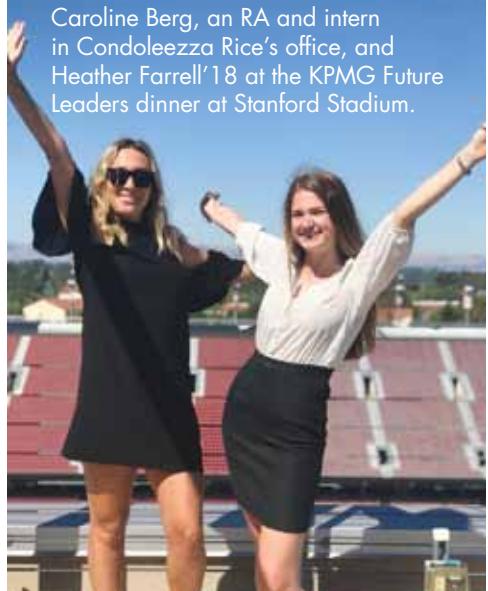
Heather Farrell'18 Named to KPMG Future Leaders Program

Notre Dame Freshman Attends Retreat with Condoleezza Rice

This past summer, IHA alumna and University of Notre Dame freshman, Heather Farrell'18, was chosen as a scholarship recipient of the KPMG Future Leaders Program. This program, a charitable initiative announced by KPMG LLP, is funded by proceeds from the KPMG Women's PGA Championship and KPMG Women's Leadership Summit. The Future Leaders Program affords top female high school seniors across the country the opportunity to enhance their personal growth through college scholarships, a leadership development retreat at Stanford University, a mentoring relationship with a woman business leader, and an introduction to golf. The firm also named sixty-sixth U.S. Secretary of State, Miss Condoleezza Rice, as its ambassador to help facilitate the program.

Heather learned about the program through Girl Scouts® of Northern New Jersey, who emailed Gold Award winners with the opportunity. She wrote three essays that covered her background information, any challenges she's faced

Caroline Berg, an RA and intern in Condoleezza Rice's office, and Heather Farrell'18 at the KPMG Future Leaders dinner at Stanford Stadium.



and how she has overcome them, and various activities and leadership positions she has held. Heather was told in May that she was one of twenty young women chosen out of hundreds of applicants.

KPMG flew Heather out to California to attend the leadership retreat at Stanford University from July 15-18, 2018. Attendees were welcomed by KPMG CEO, Lynne Doughtie, and then they heard from a Stanford faculty member who spoke about first-generation, low-income students. Sunday ended with a meeting with Miss Rice, and then a tour of Stanford. On Monday, attendees received golf lessons from PGA and LPGA professionals, including Ms. Mariah Stackhouse, an LPGA golfer and KPMG ambassador, and Mrs. Suzy Whaley, the first woman President of the PGA of America. KPMG bought all retreat members their own set of Callaway golf clubs.

The conference continued with sessions on leadership, body language, negotiating, and goal setting. Heather's program mentor, Senjal Gross, works for Citibank and lives in Chicago, about a two-hour drive to Notre Dame. "Our mentors have interests similar to our own, and we are required to have four sessions (in person or online) with them throughout the year," she explained. "I was very happy with mine because it's convenient to meet with her when I am at Notre Dame!" The young women ended their trip with dinner at Stanford Stadium, taking part in Stanford's "fountain hopping" tradition, and attending a bonfire with the RAs.

Heather, who was the salutatorian of her IHA Class of 2018, said she learned



Heather Farrell'18 takes part in Stanford University's fountain hopping tradition.

many things at the retreat that she can apply in her life. "I learned a lot about body language and how we should/shouldn't stand," she said. "I also learned about how to negotiate and get what I want in a deal. It was great to hear from Condoleezza Rice and learning that she went to graduate school at Notre Dame! She is compassionate and I knew she really cared about us."

Heather is very happy at Notre Dame and stated that she's convinced "it's one of the best places on earth." She's currently studying mathematics but is also exploring engineering. "There is really nowhere else like it; every day, I fall more in love with it and realize how lucky I am to be here."

As an alumna one year out of Immaculate Heart Academy, Heather said she felt IHA definitely prepared her very well for college and beyond. From handling professional interactions to arming students with the confidence and communication skills needed, Heather said she is grateful to have attended IHA. "A lot of my classmates now have been so overwhelmed with everything that comes along with college, but I feel IHA saved me from that stress—I've experienced it all already!" she said. "Interestingly enough, a lot of students at N.D. never took notes in high school and have been really struggling with that. I always took notes at IHA. I've actually been using them to help me with my classes now. IHA just didn't prepare me well for what to wear every day!"

ACIS Young Women's Leadership Trip Abroad

Students and Teachers Travel to Italy

In Summer 2018, thirty-nine students and six teachers from Immaculate Heart Academy traveled to Italy on an ACIS Young Women's Leadership trip. This unique opportunity brought our girls to Rome to study women in education, community service, and politics and to Tuscany to learn about woman leaders in agritourism. In Milan, students met with a female mayor to discuss the achievements and challenges faced by women in Italian politics. They then met with a member of the 30% Club at Milan University, which runs initiatives to broaden professional growth opportunities for women across all industries.



Elise Visser'20, Olivia Costello'20, and Sofia Nouges'20

Every program in which the students participated during this trip was cross-curricular in some way. In Tuscany, students applied their IHA Environmental Science course knowledge to learn about how sustainable agriculture seeks to incorporate a healthy environment, economic profitability, and social and economic equity. In Rome, students engaged in a workshop with a female member of the Italian Parliament to compare composition, functions, and legislation of the Italian Parliament and the United States government—a topic

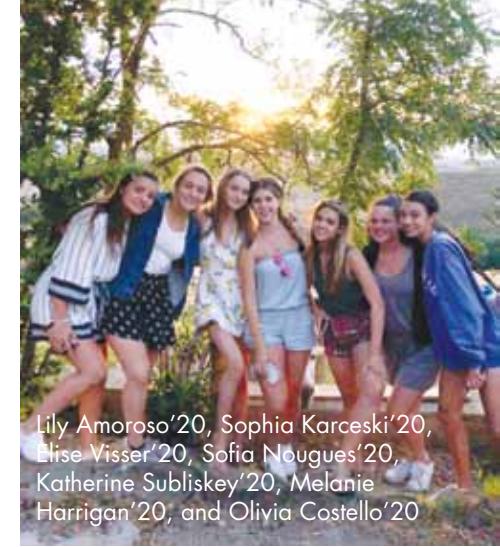
studied in our AP U.S. Government course. Students viewed artistic and architectural masterpieces in Rome, Florence, and Milan that they've studied as part of IHA's art curriculum.

Community service is a primary theme both of the Young Women's Leadership trip and at IHA. Through the ACIS Global Exchange Program, our students, five of whom are active Girl Scouts®, had the chance to speak with Italian Girl Scouts® and participate in service activities together. Additionally, the group visited a migrant elementary school in Rome. They witnessed first-hand how



Julia Bertussi'18, Katherine Evans'18, and Regina Garvey'19

Italian and refugee women volunteer to teach migrants how to interact with local communities and with school systems for their children, and how to learn the Italian language while maintaining their own. Ms. Ana Echeverría, World Languages teacher and group leader of this trip, said she appreciated seeing how an interdisciplinary classroom can actually work. Kirstin McGahey'19 said adding the women's leadership component to the IHA Europe Trip "really enhanced the experience to be one beyond a simple tourist excursion."



Lily Amoroso'20, Sophia Karceski'20, Elise Visser'20, Sofia Nouges'20, Katherine Subliskey'20, Melanie Harrigan'20, and Olivia Costello'20

"IHA is constantly trying to build the next generation of women leaders, and this trip exposed us to leadership outside of our own bubbles," Kirstin said. "I encourage any IHA student with an interest in travel and culture to get more information about upcoming Europe trips because these experiences truly have the ability to change your life."

Erin Jackson'18, presently a freshman at Providence College, said she loved meeting so many influential women who are changing how Italy is viewed on a global scale. "Even though each province had its own distinct qualities,



Erin Brockmeier'19 and Victoria Bertussi'19

one common similarity between all of them was the overwhelming amount of pride being Italian," she said. "This also held true for the women migrants we met who had earned their citizenship, becoming Italian by choice. The connections I witnessed were not just exclusive to the locals though. While on the trip, I not only made new friends with girls I would have otherwise never met, but I also bonded even more with my own friends. I know for a fact we have all made memories to last us a lifetime."

Dinner of Gratitude

IHA Thanks Leadership-level Donors

In the spirit of the Thanksgiving season, the Office of Advancement expressed their deepest appreciation for Immaculate Heart Academy's leadership-level donors at the Dinner of Gratitude. On November 8, 2018, sixty of the school's most generous benefactors gathered together in the Information Commons for dinner and celebration. During cocktail hour, guests were treated to a beautiful performance by the talented students of Voices and IHA's Orchestra, conducted by faculty members, Mrs. Barbara Donatacci P'19 and Mr. Joseph Martorano P'09.

"IHA is blessed to have such a supportive community of donors," said Mrs. Angelique Morelli, director of development. "Their kindness, coupled with their fervor for an IHA education, is illustrated by their continued generosity. It was an honor to pay tribute to them."

The evening's program included remarks by Ms. Patricia Molloy, president; Mr. Jason Schlereth, principal; Mrs. Morelli; and Cristina Lenoci'19. In Cristina's moving remarks, she shared a story about the Mission@theheart trip she took this past summer. During the trip, she and her classmates were challenged to be "eshet chayil," or "women of valor."

"Whether it was building the foundation of a house, or trying to build picnic tables, we did everything with passion and drive," said Cristina. "But it was more of the impact it had on us afterward that really amazed me. When I got back to school in September, the phrase 'eshet chayil' was radiating through the halls...we even centered an entire day around it for the freshmen to learn that the culture of IHA was to be women of valor, and to embrace the sisterhood IHA has given us."

Cristina concluded by saying that this experience and so many others would not be possible without the generosity of donors. "The gifts you give to us have supported our sports, clubs, activities, and even how we serve others," she said. "The impact all of you have on so many girls' lives here is so substantial...but the biggest impact of all is through your generous donations to the Financial Aid Fund. Financial aid is distributed every year to students in need and, without it, many of us wouldn't be able to experience the sisterhood of IHA or learn how to be women of valor in all aspects of life."

Mrs. Morelli then shared details about *Soaring To New Heights*, the campaign to renovate IHA's athletic field complex. A sneak preview of the artistic renderings for the project was also displayed at the event, which showcased the brand new turf field, walkway, and spectators' patio.

"This renovation will not only be beautiful, but safer for both our athletes and fans," explained Mrs. Morelli. "The walkway and patio will be ADA compliant so that all fans can safely access the athletic complex to cheer on our teams." The project will break ground in June of 2019.

Thank you, again, to all who attended the Dinner of Gratitude, and to our amazing student performers for sharing their talent.



Ken Lenoci P'13,'19, Cristina Lenoci'19, and Sharon Lenoci P'13,'19



Jay Oliveira, Levi Rickli, Luke Rickli, Laura Rickli'22, Janet Martin GP'22, and Albert Geis



Maria Nolan P'08, IHA Volleyball coach; Ted D'Amico P'11; Paula D'Amico P'11; Kathleen Martorano P'09; and Thomas Nolan P'08



Daniel Daniello P'15, Consultative Board member; Patricia Molloy, president; and John O'Neil P'06, Consultative Board member



Daniel O'Toole P'17, '21; Charles Rogers P'07, '09, '13; Christopher Gaster P'13, '19; Kim Gaster P'13,'19; Alice Rogers P'07, '09, '13, assistant principal; and Claire O'Toole P'17, '21

Installation and Blessing of TMH Initials

Toni-Marie Verrone "Dean" Hals'89 Forever Remembered at IHA

On the afternoon of Friday, November 2, 2018, approximately one hundred people joined together on Immaculate Heart Academy's turf field for a special celebration of our beloved Toni-Marie Verrone "Dean" Hals'89. Toni-Marie passed away after a courageous six-year battle with ovarian cancer on November 17, 2012. Her initials, "TMH," were painted on the spot on the soccer field where she spent much of her time coaching soccer and mentoring her IHA girls.

After IHA Varsity Soccer won the second round of the state tournament, friends, family, coaches, teammates, alumnae, students, and colleagues gathered on the field to witness Fr. Bob Ulak's blessing of Toni-Marie's initials. Ms. Patricia Molloy, president, welcomed guests and Toni-Marie's long-time friend and fellow coach, Steve Silver, spoke to the crowd, touching on the fond memories they shared. Members of the IHA soccer team surprised attendees by processing with roses and laying them beautifully around the painted TMH. After Mrs. Angelique Morelli, director of development, closed the ceremony, guests joined together in the Information Commons to reunite, catch up, and celebrate Toni-Marie and her everlasting support of Immaculate Heart Academy.

Mrs. Morelli said that the love that was shown for Toni-Marie was an incredible example of what it means to be a community and family. "I was praying to Toni-Marie for weeks about giving us great weather," she said. "It was cloudy all day, and I was so worried about the rain...but it held out. When the ceremony was over, I saw the clouds part and there was the sun shining through. I know it was Toni-Marie smiling down."

We will be replacing our current turf with a brand new field as part of the school's campaign, *Soaring to New Heights*. This fundraising initiative will support IHA's new athletic field complex renovation. One of the permanent highlights of this project will be Toni-Marie's initials, which will be stitched into the turf in the very spot they are presently painted.

In a thank you to all who attended the event, Mrs. Michele Verrone Manning '88 P'21, IHA development assistant, explained the many roles that Toni-Marie played at Immaculate Heart Academy—from athletic trainer, physical education teacher, and coach to athletic director, dean of students, assistant principal, and vice principal.

"Toni-Marie was the face and the fabric of IHA for many years and she loved her soccer team," Michele said. "Many of her former players came to the blessing, as well as our very first IHA Soccer coach, Jeff Hackett, and a few of our former teammates from the 1988 championship team—some of whom are also current IHA parents like me. How proud I am to have my daughter, Sam, as part of this amazing legacy of sisterhood."

Michele also thanked the many contributors that made this event happen for her sister. "The Verrone and Hals families would like to express their gratitude to IHA, Angelique Morelli, IHA Soccer, the Chernalis/Buchanan Family, the Neumann Family, the Didio Family, all those in attendance, and those who were there in spirit for this amazing event," Michele said. "I have no words to express how deeply touched I am by your thoughtfulness and generosity. I am truly humbled and I love this soccer community so very much!"



Standing, left to right, are Ian Hals; Kathy Hals, IHA office manager; Dawn Faulkner; and Thomas Hals. Seated are Sabrina Irvolino and Shannon Faulkner with baby Abel.



Chris Manning P'21; Samantha Manning '21; Michele Verrone Manning '88 P'21, development assistant; Tony Verrone P'88, '89, GP'21; Anthony Hals; Ian Hals; Thomas Hals; Rita Verrone P'88, '89, GP'21; Tiziana Verrone; Lee Verrone; and Madeline Manning remember their daughter, sister, aunt, wife, and mother.

IHA Boasts Two National Merit® Semifinalists, Eight Commended Students

National Merit Scholarship Corporation Announces 2019 Winners

This fall, **Myra Chaudhry'19** and **Regina Garvey'19** were named *National Merit® Semifinalists* in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program. Additionally, eight IHA seniors were named *National Merit® Commended Students*: **Isabelle Arevalo'19**, **Kaitlyn Brown'19**, **Casey Conniff'19**, **Katrina Fett'19**, **Diana Mastellone'19**, **Rebecca Nadler'19**, **Josephine Oshodi'19**, and **Olivia Pavin'19**.

The National Merit® Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. High school students enter the National Merit® Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®)—which serves as an initial screen of approximately 1.6 million entrants each year. The National Merit® Scholarship Program honors individual students who show exceptional academic ability and potential for success in rigorous college studies.

In September 2018, about 34,000 of the approximately 50,000 high scorers on the PSAT/NMSQT® received Letters of Commendation in recognition of their outstanding academic promise. Then, on September 12, the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) announced the names of approximately 16,000 *Semifinalists* in the 64th annual National Merit® Scholarship Program.

The *Semifinalists* have an opportunity to continue in the competition for about 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$31 million that will be offered next spring. IHA seniors,

Myra and **Regina**, achieved *Semifinalist* status by scoring among the highest scores on the PSAT. Each state is assigned a Selection Index cut-off for this honor, and New Jersey has one of the highest Selection Index Scores in the country.

Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the *Finalist* level of the competition. More than ninety percent of the *Semifinalists* are expected to attain *Finalist* standing, and about half of the *Finalists* will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar® title.



Myra Chaudhry'19 and Regina Garvey'19, 2018 National Merit® Semifinalists



2018 National Merit® Commended Students are, back row, left to right, Kaitlyn Brown'19, Isabelle Arevalo'19, Katrina Fett'19, and Josephine Oshodi'19. Front row, left to right, are Rebecca Nadler'19, Diana Mastellone'19, Casey Conniff'19, and Olivia Pavin'19.

Alumnae Authors

Since our first graduates in the Class of 1964, several IHA alumnae have continued on to become successful published authors. These writers have

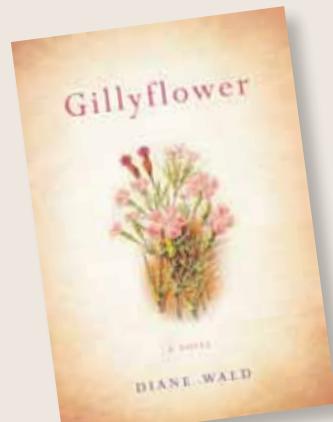
touched on an array of genres, from fiction and non-fiction to children's books, poetry, and beyond. Three of these talented writers are featured below.

Please inform us if you are an alumna writer, as we would love to continue the "Alumnae Authors" piece in upcoming newsletters!



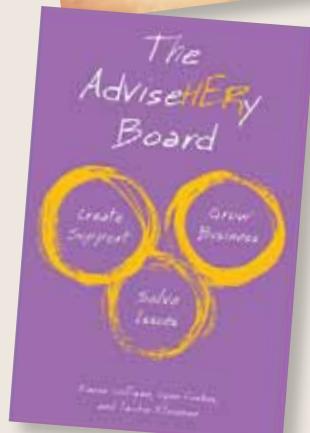
Diane Wald'65

Diane Wald'65 is publishing her first novel entitled *Gillyflower*, forthcoming in April 2019. The novel, set in Boston, 1984, is described as "a book about everyday magic, crystalline memory, and the details that flow through time and space like an electrified mist. It's a detective story, a love story, and a coming-of-age story for the never really young and for the almost old." *Gillyflower* is available for pre-order on Amazon now, where you can also view Diane's author's biography. Additionally, Diane has published three full-length volumes of poetry and hundreds of poems in various literary magazines.



Karen Colligan, Lynn Forbes'73, and Jackie Kleinman

Lynn Forbes'73 published a new book for women entrepreneurs entitled *The AdviseHERy Board: Create Support, Solve Issues, Grow Business*. She writes, "My two co-authors and I wrote the book to show women how we created our own personal board of directors to grow our businesses and feed our souls. We share our journey and show how you can create a circle of growth and accountability that will impact the way you operate and think about your business and a whole lot more. This has been on my bucket list for quite a while, so I'm thrilled." The book is available now on Amazon and Lynn can be reached at lynnfrbs1@yahoo.com.



Jennifer Murray Montague'91

Jennifer Murray Montague'91 released a children's book series this past spring called "Muriel's World." It is based lightly on adventures with Jennifer's Irish grandmother, Nannie Muriel. The titles include: *Muriel's Robin*, *Muriel's Garden*, and *Muriel's Christmas*. The series is available on Amazon and Audible, and the books are written for children in preschool through the younger elementary years. Jennifer was also recently in Los Angeles for the premiere of the feature film that she is in entitled *BULLY*, in which she plays the mother of the main character. "The film has won various film festival awards across the country, and will be released soon," she said. "I also completed filming another film called *A Case Of Blue*." Jennifer lives in New Jersey with her husband, Mark, and their four children.



Shannon Quiles'19 Earns Don Bosco Prep Varsity Letter



Shannon Quiles'19

IHA senior, Shannon Quiles'19, is the first female athlete to receive a varsity letter on a co-ed team in the one hundred and three-year history of Don Bosco Prep. Shannon is not only a captain of Don Bosco's Varsity Mountain Biking team, but last season, she was the team's overall points leader and won every race in her series.

Shannon, who is also the IHA Ski Team captain, was approached by Phil Godwin, Don Bosco Prep Mountain Biking Team coach and Ski Team coach, while at the High School Ski Racing Finals her sophomore year. He informed her of his plan to start a mountain biking team within the National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA), and how

the team would need both girls and boys to score full points. All of the IHA girls agreed to join, but Shannon was the only one who went through with it; she is now the sole female rider on the team.

Shannon also successfully brought a Cycling Club to Immaculate Heart Academy this past fall. Shannon is the president of the new club; her classmate, Hannah Lynch'19, is the vice president; and Mr. Justin Zelenka, history teacher, is the faculty moderator. Outdoor rides will begin this spring, and the girls are participating in a skills clinic, spin classes, and nutritional meetings over the winter months. Shannon said she hopes to continue cycling and skiing in college, most likely at the club level.

Two Senior Athletes Commit to College

Congratulations to our two senior athletes who signed to their colleges on November 14, 2018! Jane DiLauro'19 is heading off to

University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) for crew and Angelina Kourgelis'19 will be attending University of Tampa for soccer.



Jane DiLauro'19 and Angelina Kourgelis'19



Jane Coyle GP'19; Christian Kennedy, Jr.; Christian Kennedy; Colleen Coyle P'19; Jane DiLauro'19; and Andrew DiLauro P'19



Michael Kourgelis P'19, Angelina Kourgelis'19, Kiki Kourgelis GP'19, and Margaret Kourgelis P'19

2018 Blue Eagle Open

Once again, Forest Hill Field Club served as our generous host for the 2018 Blue Eagle Open. On October 4, 2018, IHA golfers hit the links and then enjoyed a dinner reception that featured a variety of sought-after raffle and silent auction prizes. Thank you to Hackensack Meridian Health and Block, O'Toole & Murphy, c/o Dan and Claire O'Toole P'17, '21 for being our co-premier sponsors. We are also grateful to Lunch Sponsor, Bergen Catholic High School; Cart Sponsor, Orthopaedic Surgery and Sports Medicine LLC; and Scholarship Sponsor, Oritani Bank Charitable Foundation. Finally, thank you to the many committee members who helped to make the 2018 Blue Eagle Open an event enjoyed by everyone. Congratulations to our winning golfers:

Men's Foursome Winners: Rick Garrigan P'06, Sean Powers, Dennis Spiegel, and Gary Vinci

Women's Foursome Winners: Isabella Cross'19, Regina Garvey'19, and Angela Lee'22

Most Honest Foursome: Patrick Conroy; Kevin Doerr P'06; Charlie Rogers P'07, '09, '13; and Colin Rogers

Longest Drive: Mike McGovern (Men) and Lauren Rhein'09 (Women)

Closest to the Pin: Rick Garrigan P'06 (Men) and Kathy Vinci P'15 (Women)



Colin Rogers; Kevin Doerr P'06; Charlie Rogers P'07, '09, '13; and Patrick Conroy



Regina Francisco O'Neill'88 P'20, Jill Johnson, Marie Waterhouse, and Mary Ellen Langbein



Steve Ferro, assistant basketball coach; Lauren Rhein'09, golf coach; Shemayne Williams, physical education teacher; and Steve Silver, basketball coach



Maura O'Halloran Deegan'86; Patricia Molloy, president; Kathy O'Halloran'76; and Sheila O'Halloran Kenney'78



Debbie Daly P'19; Michele Verrone Manning'88 P'21, development assistant; Barbara Reeves-Cannon P'19, '21; and Vaughn Cavanagh P'18, '21



SCENE

Around IHA

Below:

Catherine Nixon'21 and Freya Nair'21 represent the Applied Engineering Club at the 2018 Activities Fair.



Above: Danielle Esposito'19, Victoria Yapaola'19, Katherine Posillico'19, and Josephine Oshodi'19 are commissioned as Eucharistic Ministers at the school's Opening Mass.

Left: Isabella Vaughn'22 attends IHA's Family Mass on September 22, 2018. Standing, left to right, are AnneMarie Vaughn P'22, Isabella Vaughn'22, and Michael Vaughn P'22. Seated, left to right, are Gabriella Vaughn, Theresa Cocozza GP'22, and Edmund Cocozza GP'22.



Left: Pete Woolley, Kerri Woolley '20, and Chris Woolley at the Senior Citizens Thanksgiving Dinner

Below: Alyssa Quiccosa '19 is all made up for Halloween @theheart.

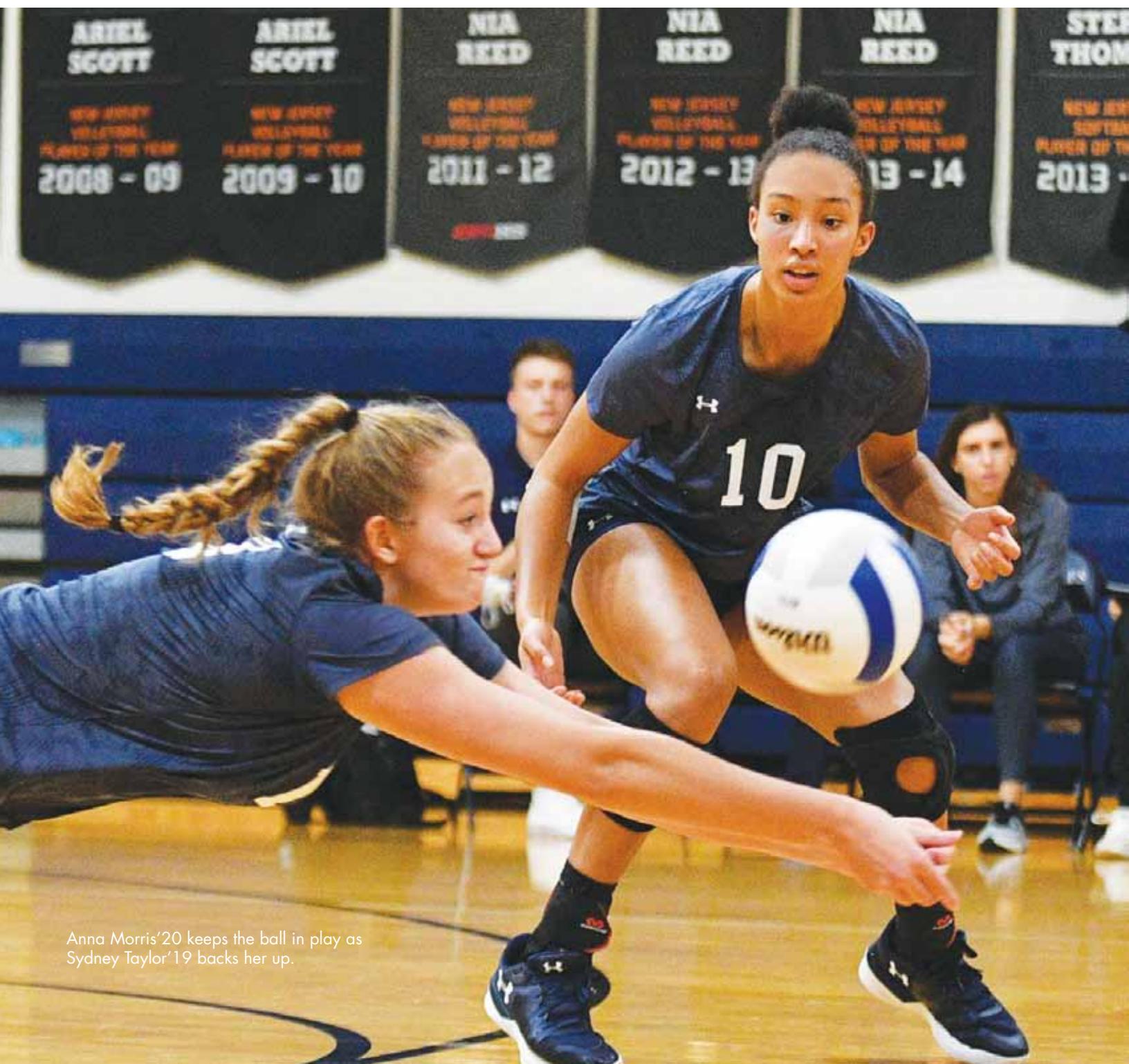


Jessica Sabino '22 and Nicole Gysin '20 enjoy Big Sister/Little Sister Day together!

The IHA vocal ensembles on stage at the 2018 Christmas Concert



FALL | sports wrap-up



Anna Morris '20 keeps the ball in play as Sydney Taylor '19 backs her up.



Gianna Grigaliunas'21



VOLLEYBALL

Congratulations to IHA Varsity Volleyball for being named #1 in the state! The accomplishments of the 2018 team were remarkable, considering it was a very young team with only one senior. Ranked #1 in New Jersey the entire season, this year's team continued where the 2017 team left off by defeating all opponents in the state. IHA won both the Jersey Classic and the Bergen County Tournament for the second straight year. Additionally, IHA Volleyball won IHA's Garden State Challenge for the second time in the tournament's history. The varsity team also captured NJSIAA's Non-Public Sectional and State titles. IHA finished the season by winning the Tournament of Champions and set two new NJSIAA records by breaking its former Most Consecutive State Titles with twelve and Most Tournament of Champions Titles with nine.

Big North All-League Conference (United Division) Honors

First-Team

Sydney Taylor'19, Maeve Duffin'20, Anna Morris'20, Elizabeth Patterson'20, and Olivia Coughlin'21

Second-Team

Julia Ficon'20, Gianna Grigaliunas'21, and Alyssa Lowther'21

Honorable Mention

Erin Meaney'20

Sportsmanship Award (United Division)

Immaculate Heart Academy

Coach of the Year (United Division)

Maria Nolan

BCWCA All-County Honors

First-Team

Sydney Taylor'19 and Anna Morris'20

Second-Team

Elizabeth Patterson'20 and Olivia Coughlin'21

Third-Team

Maeve Duffin'20

The Record All-North Jersey Honors

First-Team

Sydney Taylor'19 and Anna Morris'20

The Star-Ledger All-Non-Public Honors

First-Team

Sydney Taylor'19, Anna Morris'20, and Elizabeth Patterson'20

Second-Team

Maeve Duffin'20 and Olivia Coughlin'21

The Star-Ledger All-State Honors

First-Team

Sydney Taylor'19 and Anna Morris'20

Second-Team

Elizabeth Patterson'20

The Star-Ledger 2018 Team of the Year

Immaculate Heart Academy

The Star Ledger New Jersey Player of the Year

Anna Morris'20

UnderArmour All-American

Third-Team

Sydney Taylor'19

American Volleyball Coaches Association Regional Coach of Year

Maria Nolan

Athletes of the Week (northjersey.com)

Sydney Taylor'19 and Elizabeth Patterson'20

Prepvolleyball.com Player of the Year

Anna Morris'20



2018 Varsity Tennis Team



Patricia Durante'19

Big North Conference All-League Honors

First-Team

Fiona James'21

Second-Team

Gianna Carbone'19, Alexa Trubiano'19, Jillian Pursiano'20, Katherine Subliskey'20, Joan Tejera'20, and Simone Amerio'21

Honorable Mention

Patricia Durante'19

TENNIS

IHA Tennis finished with a record of 5-9-1 this season, doing well despite the tough competition in its league. The team's second singles player, Fiona James'21, earned the respect of her opponents along with a First-Team All-League Honor for her position. The rest of the starting lineup earned Second-Team All-League Honors for its performance throughout the season. This includes first singles (Gianna Carbone'19), third singles (Alexa Trubiano'19), and both the first doubles team (Simone Amerio'21 and Katherine Subliskey'20) and second doubles team (Jillian Pursiano'20 and Joan Tejera'20). The girls worked hard to develop their skills throughout the season, challenging and/or defeating opponents both inside and outside their league. Patricia Durante'19 earned an Honorable Mention All-League award for her commitment, effort, and enthusiasm throughout the season. With her help, and the help of senior captains, Gianna Carbone'19, Alexa Trubiano'19, and Victoria Lagana'19, IHA Tennis players developed a passion for the game and a commitment to their teammates that they plan to carry with them into next season.

CROSS COUNTRY

IHA Cross Country continued to improve from last year and make great strides forward. The team finished the season with a 2-1 record, winning the Newark Academy Invitational as well as the League Championships. IHA finished second in the County Groups and second in the Disney Cross Country Classic. Congratulations to the freshman and J.V. teams, who won the league championship. Senior co-captains Erin Brockmeier'19, Tinamarie Dadic'19, and Grace O'Neill'19 led the varsity team.



IHA leads the pack.



Jillian Shea'21, Geri Tabbachino'21, and Erin Brockmeier'19



Olivia Magno'19

Big North Conference All-League Honors

First-Team

Erin Brockmeier'19, Tinamarie Dadic'19, Madelyn Novelli'21, and Geri Tabbachino'21

Second-Team

Rachel Bell'20, Joanna Rajkowsky'20, and Jillian Shea'21

Honorable Mention

Ava Scuibba'20

Coach of the Year

John Downey

BCWCA All-County Honors

Third-Team

Madelyn Novelli'21

Honorable Mention

Erin Brockmeier'19, Tinamarie Dadic'19, Rachel Bell'20, Jillian Shea'21, and Geri Tabbachino'21

SOCCER

IHA Soccer had a great season, finishing with an 11-5-1 record. After a 0-2 start, the varsity team went on to lose only one game in regulation for the remainder of the season. With a great mixture of experience and youth, the team landed nine players with All-League honors, three with All-County honors, and three with State honors through the New Jersey Girls Soccer Coaches Association.



Angelina Kourgelis'19



Ashley Lamond'21 scores an incredible goal.

Big North All-League Honors

First-Team

Angelina Kourgelis'19, Mikela Florio'20, Jana Mucci'20, Ashley Lamond'21, and Alexandra Zitelli'21

Second-Team

Emma Bruno'19, Ava Wilson'19, and Emma Zabransky'20

Honorable Mention

Caitlin Browning'19

BCWCA All-County Honors

Second-Team

Alexandra Zitelli'21

Third-Team

Jana Mucci'20 and Ashley Lamond'21

NJGSCA Honors

Angelina Kourgelis'19, Jana Mucci'20, and Alexandra Zitelli'21

The Star-Ledger All-Non-Public Honors

Second-Team

Jana Mucci'20

Third-Team

Alexandra Zitelli'21

2018 Varsity Soccer Team



Immaculate Heart ACADEMY

'69

Anna Looney (Jane Raring) writes, "I'm excited to say I've settled happily in Oregon. I've been really enjoying the freedom to do things I never had time for when I was working full time. I'm teaching one sociology class a quarter at Oregon State University, I'm a hospice volunteer, and I'm facilitating workshops to teach Mind Body Medicine self-care skills. Recently, I registered myself in this capacity and am the founder member of Insight Journeys LLC. I'm sharing these skills with the community, with hospice staff and at the Cancer Center, as well as at my UU church. It's been wonderful, with more to come!"

'79

Linda Webster-Cennerazzo writes, "I am honored to be a character in the new Mary Higgins Clark book, *You Don't Own Me*, which was released on November 6, 2018."



Mary Higgins Clark P'68, '74, '76, GP'02 and Linda Webster-Cennerazzo'79

'78

Although she left her senior year at IHA, the classmates of Lynn Kondratick Palka still consider her as part of her class' history. Lynn passed away on October 13, 2018.

CLASS notes

their sophomore year. Five years later, he popped the question and she said yes. The happy couple has planned a June 2019 wedding at the church on campus, Our Lady of Mercy, with a reception to follow at the picturesque Salve Regina. "We will be celebrating our thirtieth anniversary two days later!" Lisa continues. "Our ambitious daughter, Christa, is currently working on her degree in nursing and, at the same time, working in a hospital and loving it. Our youngest son, Patrick, is in his first year of college at Salve Regina. He is loving college life, football (Go Seahawks!), friends, and freedom. We are all so happy to spend another four years at this special 'City by the Sea.' We are truly blessed to have such amazing children and are excited to see our family grow. Sending a warm hello to all my IHA sisters! Keep in touch ladies; I enjoy reading up on everyone. There are only two and a half years until our fortieth high school reunion—WOW!"

'94

During the month of August, an exhibit of **Jessica Bowen's** photography was displayed at Piermont Public Library, where she has served as the director for the past ten years. The fundraising exhibition was entitled *Amusements: Digital Photography by Jessica Bowen*. "My show, *Amusements*, is a celebration of summers in New Jersey and New York," Jessica explains. "Subjects include New Jersey beaches and boardwalks, amusement park rides,

'81

Lisa Minimi-Keyzer and her husband, Rin, are happy to announce the engagement of their son, Matthew, to his college sweetheart, Hayley Maxwell. They first met at Salve Regina University in Newport, Rhode Island the end of

traveling carnivals, and fireworks. The pieces created for this show are digital photographs printed on wood wall panels. Some have true-to-life colors and glossy finish. Others are printed on maple, creating a warm, sepia-like effect that is well suited to the beach and boardwalk subjects." [Kathryn Mayurnik Sein'94](#), [Christina Seo, M.D.'94](#), and [Lauren Petrosino Vitkovsky'94](#) attended the Artist's Reception on August 5, 2018 to show their support for Jessica.



Christina Seo, M.D.'94, Jessica Bowen'94, Joe Cutolo, Lauren Petrosino Vitkovsky'94, Rob Sein, Charlotte Sein, and Kathryn Mayurnik Sein'94



Digital photography by Jessica Bowen'94

'97

[Erin Shamroth Bowen](#) writes, "On October 25, 2016, our happy and healthy son, Conor, passed away at seventeen months of age. His cause of death was undetermined, falling into a category of death called SUDC (Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood), which affects more than four hundred children annually, but has limited awareness. Despite being a pediatrician, I was unaware of it until

Conor's death. Conor was always smiling and blowing kisses. It was impossible to spend a day with him and not fall in love. In an effort to raise awareness and honor Conor's loving nature, we encourage acts of kindness in Conor's name. We ask that you give a Kisses for Conor card to the recipient of your act of kindness and post your act on ([facebook.com/kissesforconor](#)) or on your social media and #kissesforconor and #sudcawareness. To print your own cards or learn more, please visit [kissesforconor.com](#). Learn more about SUDC at [sudc.org](#)."



Erin Shamroth Bowen'97 and her son, Conor

'98

[Dierdre Friel](#) is an actress who plays Ella, on NBC's new drama series, *New Amsterdam*. She also co-starred alongside Jennifer Lopez in the movie *Second Act*, which opened this past Christmas.

'99

[Michelle Spadaro](#) writes, "I am the owner of Baby's Premiere 3D/4D Ultrasound Studio ([www.babyspremiereultrasound.com](#)) in Maywood, as well as a fulltime realtor with Keller Williams Village Square in Ridgewood—the number one sales office on the entire New Jersey Multiple Listing Service. I sold over three million dollars in my first full year to date with approximately an additional two million dollars in pending sales."

I am also a wife and mom of three children, Michael, age 10; Ava, age 9; and John, age 6. I am very involved in my community as well as with the PTA, Girl Scouts®, and the various recreation sports teams. It is with great pride that I can honestly say that I owe much of who I am and my success to the strong foundation that I received at IHA."

'03

[Erin McManus Guadagno](#) writes, "My husband, Andy, and I welcomed our first child, a little boy named William

Michael, 'Liam,' on July 20, 2018. Liam weighed in at a solid 9 lbs, 15 oz and was 22 inches long. He took his sweet time coming into the world nine days late, but was well worth the wait. We are so crazy in love with this little man."

[Caitlin Carroll Knappenberger'03](#) and [Chrissy Scrudato Priore'08](#) show off a homemade IHA garter at Chrissy's wedding on October 4, 2018! The garter is made from the IHA kilt and has been worn by numerous IHA alumnae brides including [Amanda Cimiglia McCrimisk'03](#) at her 2017 wedding, [Tatiana Gallego'03](#) at her 2016 wedding, and [Caitlin Carroll Knappenberger'03](#) at her 2015 wedding.



Caitlin Carroll Knappenberger'03 and Chrissy Scrudato Priore'08

'05

Tahirah Williams Guice announces the birth of her daughter, Cordelia Lee Guice, born June 20, 2018 at 9:33 p.m. She was 7 lbs, 12oz and 21.5 inches long.



Cordelia Lee Guice

Brielle Kane Nagy writes, "I'm happy to share that I was married to my sweetheart, James Nagy, on September 9, 2017; we had the best day! We traveled to New Zealand this past November for our honeymoon. I'm also extremely excited and proud to share that I am now a third generation owner of my family's insurance agency, Donnelly & Sproul, Inc. in Glen Rock. We've been in business for over ninety years!"

Jessica Krakowski Brown and her husband, Alex, welcomed Theodore "Teddy" Jesse Brown on September 19, 2018. He was 21 inches and 9 lbs, 8 oz. Big sister, Charlotte, loves her new baby brother and showers him with hugs and kisses.



Teddy and Charlotte Brown

'08

Kayla Kaspar became engaged to Joey Simone on October 6, 2018 at The Plaza Hotel in New York City. Following their engagement, they enjoyed a horse and carriage ride through Central Park and then went to dinner in the city.

'09

Alicia Vitale recently became engaged to Joshua Delaney of Dolgeville, New York. Alicia graduated from the Boston Conservatory at Berklee College of Music with a Bachelor of Music degree in 2013 and a Master of Music Education degree in 2015. She is presently employed as a music teacher and maintains a voice performance studio in the area. Joshua is a 2011 graduate of Oneonta College, where he earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. He is presently Director of Operations with ASPYR corporation. A July 2019 wedding is planned.

Darcy Schneider DiGiacomo married her college sweetheart, Louis DiGiacomo, in Villanova's Chapel on June 30, 2018. Fellow IHA alumnae, **Brittany Longobardo'09** and **Jennifer Pierre'09**, served as bridesmaids. Additionally, Darcy was named as one of suburban Philadelphia's "Top Teachers" and appeared in *Main Line Today* magazine in August.



Jennifer Pierre'09, Darcy Schneider DiGiacomo'09, and Brittany Longobardo'09

Casey Gallagher recently became engaged to Dr. Ryan Pines. The future bride received a degree in fine arts from The College of New Jersey in 2013 and is presently employed at DW Designs in Glen Ridge. The future groom received

his undergraduate degree in biology from The College of New Jersey in 2011 and completed his doctorate in dental surgery from New York University in 2015. He currently practices at Pines Dental in Mahwah. The happy couple will be married in October 2019.

'10

Athena Garbarino is a Labor and Delivery nurse at McLaren Greater Lansing in Lansing, Michigan.

Jaimie Brogan recently became engaged to high school sweetheart, Nick Lavender, while vacationing in Europe. Having graduated from Fordham University summa cum laude, the bride-to-be is now a supervisor at the Bergen County Courthouse. Her fiancé, an NJIT graduate with a master's degree from TCNJ, is a technology education teacher at Randolph Middle School, as well as the head coach for the Randolph High School boys' basketball team. The couple is set to wed November 2019.



Nick Lavender and Jaimie Brogan'10

Tess Quinlan writes, "After a couple years in Washington, D.C., I moved back to the tri-state area and now work at NBC Sports in Stamford, Connecticut. The last eighteen months have been incredible: I've worked on the Super Bowl, the Winter Olympics, the Triple Crown, the Stanley Cup Final, won an Emmy, and got promoted to senior editor for our Digital Editorial team. I always think back to my time at WIHA fondly and realize how much of an advantage that gave me in this industry. It even followed me to NBC, when I ran into fellow IHA alumna, **Gabby Natile'13**, in the kitchen and she said, 'You're Tess with the Teams!' My coworkers were confused, to say the least, but loved how enthusiastic we both were about being IHA alumnae. Eagles fly higher!"

’11 **Alyssa Kaye Dawson** recently became the youngest female in public office in the State of New Jersey. At the age of twenty-four, she was sworn in as a councilwoman in Westwood to succeed Councilman Peter Grefrath

after his resignation in May. After graduating summa cum laude from Concordia College, Alyssa landed a job in Trenton where she worked first for Gov. Christie and then for Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno during her campaign for governor. She was sworn-in by Guadagno in the Westwood Council chambers. "Youth is an incredible strength, as it allows me to connect with the younger demographic in Westwood," Alyssa told *Insider NJ*, "and to be its voice as we work together to shape the future and continue the incredible successes of the rest of the governing body." Alyssa ran for a full three-year term this November and, while the results did not go her way in a very tight election, she is motivated, energized, and looks forward to the next opportunity of pursuing public office. Alyssa now serves as the chair of her town's Stigma Free Committee, and plans to use this position to reduce the negative stigma around mental health problems in her community and beyond. Alyssa also has taken on a new job as Chief of Staff for Assemblywoman Holly Schepisi (NJ-39), and looks forward to returning to the field of public service.



Alyssa Kaye Dawson'11 is sworn in as a Westwood councilwoman.

After completing four years on IHA's varsity soccer team, **Gabriella Cuevas** was awarded a five-year soccer scholarship to the University of Connecticut. Gabby graduated with two degrees, but, due to injuries while playing for UConn, she was granted two more Red Shirts, enabling her to play soccer for another two years. Gabby was fortunate to receive another scholarship offer to play at Monmouth University where she successfully completed a master's degree in social work and her college soccer career, which led her team to two championships.

’13 **Sara Tibbets** was named to the dean's list for the spring 2018 semester at Rochester Institute of Technology, prior to graduating with a B.S. degree in computer engineering.

’14 **Kathryn DeSimone** was named to the dean's list for that spring 2018 semester at Loyola University Maryland. She received a B.B.A. degree in business administration at Loyola's 166th Commencement Exercises on May 19, 2018.

Amanda Emmer and **Jaina Sharma** graduated from Ithaca College in May 2018. Amanda earned a degree in integrated marketing and Jaina earned a degree in exercise science.

Julia Brodley graduated summa cum laude with a degree in communication sciences & disorders from James Madison University during commencement exercises May 4, 2018.

Jordan Stefanacci was placed on the Gettysburg College dean's honor list for outstanding academic achievement in the spring 2018 semester.

Anne Kitz was one of fifty-eight students inducted last spring into the Muhlenberg College chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the oldest and most prestigious honorary society in America. She was also named to the dean's list for the spring 2018 semester. Anne graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in dance and media & communication.

Andrea D'Arco was named to the dean's list for the spring 2018 semester at Ithaca College. Andrea, who majored in acting, graduated from Ithaca in May 2018.

Alyssa Boman earned a spot on the spring 2018 dean's list at University of Dayton. She also was among the record one thousand five hundred ten undergraduates who received degrees from the University of Dayton during the spring commencement ceremony on May 6, 2018.

Genevieve Riccardelli was named to the dean's list at Siena College for the spring 2018 semester.

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

Daniela Crowley received a B.S. degree in human environmental science from The University of Alabama during spring 2018 commencement.

Samantha Arnold writes, "This past May, I graduated from Lafayette College with a B.A. degree in women/gender studies and government and law. Since graduating, I have accepted and started in my new role as the director of programming and outreach for The Locus Initiative. Locus is a certified 501(c)(3) startup nonprofit dedicated to connecting and mobilizing the next generation of givers. Our members join the network by taking a pledge. The pledge is a sliding scale with at least one percent of annual income on one end and at least one percent of annual working time, which averages to about thirty hours per year, on the other. Based on individual preferences and lifestyles, members slide the scale to create a combination of money and time that best suits each member personally. They then take the pledge to one of our causes: education, poverty, and health. By joining the network, members have access to a social and professional community, providing many opportunities both tangible and intangible. These include

private networking events, opportunities to speak with and be mentored by seasoned and highly reputable professionals in a range of industries, and social events at venues like Citi Field and other exclusive spaces."

Breanna Gillen and **Emily Natt** graduated from the University of Rhode Island in May 2018.

'15 **Holly Stoker** was named to the dean's list for the spring 2018 semester at Ithaca College.

Marissa Mattia was named to the dean's list for the spring 2018 semester at Muhlenberg College.

Kristin Ludwicki was named to the dean's list at Siena College for the spring 2018 semester.

Allegra Berg graduated with a B.S. degree in December 2018 in diplomacy and international relations, with a double major in Spanish. In January 2019, she is moving to Washington, D.C. to attend Johns Hopkins University for the master's program in global security studies and a certificate in intelligence.

Gabrielle Pielka was named to the spring 2018 dean's list at Roger Williams University.

Caitlin Boswell and **Grace Slicklen** were named to dean's list at Loyola University Maryland for the spring 2018 semester.

Colleen Buckley, a senior at Bucknell University, was featured in the school's Summer 2018 magazine as a successful long distance runner and student with a future career working with animals. She is currently studying within the Animal Behavior Program. The article reads, in part, "Buckley splits her time between running and working hands-on with animals as a research assistant at the primate lab. She also studies the impulsivity of dogs belonging to

Lewisburg residents and Bucknell professors for her Research Methods in Learning course." During her running career, Colleen has earned seven career All-Patriot League citations, two All-East designations and has been voted to the Academic All-Patriot League Team. In April 2017, she broke the school record in the 5,000 meters with a time of 16:29.83. She is the fastest in Bucknell's history in the 10K outdoors and second-fastest in the 5K outdoors and 3K and 5K indoors. And her professional ambitions are as lofty as those on the track. "I've always wanted to be a vet, but since I've been here, I've been exposed to the research side of animal behavior and animal cognition," Colleen said in the article. "I've started to explore more paths that aren't medical school, although that's definitely not off the table." For the past two summers, Colleen has been a zookeeper and a vet tech at the Bergen County Zoological Park, where she works with bison, elk, mountain lions, and more. She hopes to one day have a job that allows her to travel abroad to see unfamiliar wildlife.



Colleen Buckley '15

Monica Traupmann and her team of eight, Castle Point Rocketry, are presently working on her senior design project at Stevens Institute of Technology. The goal of the project is to be the first collegiate team to launch a rocket past the Karman line, 100 km above sea level. "Smaller payloads take a back-seat on traditional launch vehicles, prohibiting universities and small companies from innovating in space," Monica explains. "As companies begin to experiment with reusable, low cost, Low-Earth-Orbit capable rockets, our team is determined to show that space is attainable for colleges and small

companies." Monica's team is looking to push the bounds of collegiate rocketry by sending a rocket past the Karman line in one year, on a platform that is inexpensive and fully reusable. "Our team is seeking to design and build a rocket on a \$100,000 budget, powered by a liquid RP-1/LOX 3D Printed Inconel engine," she explains. "We spent last summer designing and reaching out to companies for sponsorships, and we've officially entered the manufacturing and testing phase of our project." The team raised seventy-five percent of its budget by September 2018, and hoped to raise the last twenty-five

percent with a crowdfunding campaign they held October 15-31, 2018. "Our crowdfunding campaign was a smash, amounting to an amazing \$32,000, and we've been fortunate enough to gain some fantastic help from industry advisors. We're continuing forward with iterative design and build, and have a rigorous timeline coming up for testing. We're set to launch at SpacePort America in mid-June so keep your ears out for updates as we race forward!" Visit castlepointrocketry.space, check them out on Facebook and Instagram @cprocketry, or email them at team@castlepointrocketry.space.



Monica Traupmann '15 and her Castle Point Rocketry team

16

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

Rebecca De Rosa made the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Women's Lacrosse academic honor roll for spring 2018 at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Members of the Class of 2016 studying abroad through various institutions met up in Paris, France to celebrate **Callahan Rasnake's** twenty-first birthday! From left to right are **Haley Thimmel** (Seton Hall University), **Mary Vermylen**

(Georgetown University), **Amy Lafrate** (New York University), **Patricia Cox** (College of the Holy Cross), and **Callahan Rasnake** (Marist College), having a picnic in front of the Eiffel Tower. Callie is studying fashion abroad at Mod Spe in Paris through Marist.



Class of 2016 alumnae picnic in front of the Eiffel Tower

Brianna Alonso and **Kelly Lyons** were named to dean's list Loyola University Maryland for the spring 2018 semester.

Lauren Gallagher was among the forty-three University of Scranton students who studied abroad during the Summer 2018 semester. Lauren, a journalism – electronic media major at Scranton, participated in the University's Travel Course "Ireland Study Abroad."

Erin Spillane, a junior at University of Connecticut, scored three goals and added one assist for Connecticut's women's soccer team as of mid-season. The former IHA standout has a team-high ten shots on goal.

’17

Gabriella Scolpino was placed on the dean's commendation list for outstanding academic achievement in the spring 2018 semester at Gettysberg College.

Caitlin Campbell was named to The University of Alabama president's list for spring 2018.

Olivia Luppino was named to The University of Alabama dean's list for spring 2018.

Allison Dudek earned a spot on the spring 2018 dean's list at University of Dayton, which honors undergraduate students achieving a minimum 3.5 GPA for the semester.

Christine Jacob was named to the dean's list for the spring 2018 semester at Siena College.

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

Nicole Booth took part in a twelve-week summer internship with Synergos on the Global Philanthropists Circle team. On her final day, she presented a pitch to the global staff at the annual Intern Pitchfest. Her pitch, entitled "Thought Leadership: A Strategy to Increase Synergos Brand Awareness and Donor Outreach to a Wider Audience," won first place among a panel of judges and will be implemented by the organization.

’18

Morgan Honor, enrolled at Colby College in Waterville, Maine, this fall. Before classes began September 5,

2018, Morgan took part in a weeklong orientation that included an introduction to academic and intellectual life at Colby, participation in an outdoor education trip, and an address by the Crawford Family Professor of Religion, Nikky-Guninder Singh, at Colby's 201st Convocation.

Kathryn Costello is a member of the Colgate University Class of 2022. Of the nine thousand seven hundred sixteen applications to Colgate last year, just twenty-five percent were accepted. The average high school GPA for accepted students was 3.8 out of 4.0. Colgate received applications from fifty states, Washington D.C., and one hundred thirty-three countries.



Class of 2017 mom friends gather together.

IHA students are not the only people who create lasting friendships at Immaculate Heart—parents do too! This group of alumnae mothers of girls from the Class of 2017 began having couples dinners once a season

in 2014, and then added just-the-girls and just-the-guys outings twice a year. Standing, left to right, are **Janine Priolo P'17, '19, '22**; **Jeanne Podest P'17, Patty Buonomo P'17, '20**; and **JoAnn Alkes P'17**. Seated, from

left to right, are **Frances Bozzetti P'17, '19**; **Debbie Cangelosi P'17, '18, '21**; **Kathleen DeMatteo P'17**; **Carla Candelmo P'17, '12**; and **Adrienne Lauer P'13, '17**.

Artwork by [Julia Bertussi](#) was displayed as part of an exhibit at the Belskie Museum in Closter through the month of September. The exhibit included pieces by students of Art & Design Studio of Rockland, located in Nanuet, New York.



Julia Bertussi '18

[Kaguya Okawa-O'Connell](#) was one of eleven students to win a 2018 Worldwide ERC® Foundation for Workforce Mobility Scholarship. This foundation was established in 2004 with a mission to energize the global community through charitable giving. The Foundation embraces and furthers its mission and vision in multiple ways and events throughout the year, including an annual scholarship program for high school students who have experienced mobility and assimilation into new places, schools, and cultures. Through a partnership with several Worldwide ERC®-recognized relational relation groups, the program invites qualifying students to submit essays outlining their personal stories, lessons learned, or advice for other teens. Kagi received \$1,000 and an excerpt from her essay was printed in *MOBILITY, The Magazine of Worldwide ERC®*. The excerpt reads, in part, “In June 2015, I found myself some 6,849 miles away from Abu Dhabi, the place I had grown to consider home over the previous eight years, trying to re-adjust to life in New Jersey. Leaving my multinational collection of friends in Abu Dhabi was the hardest for me. Growing up as a ‘third culture kid,’ surrounded by people from every corner of the earth in a city where the majority of residents are expats, helps one define relationships and views of the world beyond the city. There are two pieces of advice I would give teenagers who have to move during their high school years: strive to understand and learn to adapt.”

Former Faculty Member, Asela Silva, Passes Away

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Mrs. Asela Silva, former long-time Immaculate Heart Academy faculty member. Asela, 93, was born in Cruces, Las Villas, Cuba, and passed away on August 22, 2018.

Asela served as Spanish teacher, Foreign Languages Department Chairperson, and Europe Trip Moderator over her years at IHA from 1961-1987. She was inducted into IHA's Hall of Fame in 1996 and honored at our 50th Jubilee Gala in 2011. Asela is the mother of Alicia Silva Ritchie'65, and the aunt of Maria Silva Nolet'72 and Lourdes Silva Sinkovitz'75, former faculty member. Mass was celebrated on Friday, September 21, 2018 at St. Agnes Catholic Church in Key Biscayne, Florida.

Numerous former students and colleagues wrote in to share their fond memories of Asela, often described as a “wonderful woman” and a “great inspiration to many.”

“What an inspiration she was to her students,” Betty Denmark Runnalls'65, wrote. “My professional objectives were definitely set in motion with her influence. I remember thinking that not only was she a wonderful teacher, but she had such poise, elegance, and a quiet strength.”

Brenda Falcone'64 said she was truly touched by the announcement and photo informing alumnae of Mrs. Silva's passing. “She was always so very pleasant and kind,” she wrote. “Her picture and notice touched my heart and stirred my memory of her lovely, lovely smile and constant sweetness!”

Mrs. Silva inspired a love of Spanish in Jane Burch'65, which shifted the trajectory of her life. Jane said that Asela's



Mrs. Asela Silva

understanding of how to use the power of attraction made her a special teacher.

“From the first day, she invited us into the world of Spanish-speaking cultures,” Jane said. “From there, it was a natural segue into wanting to learn the language. She taught us so much more than verb conjugations, though she was a stickler about verbs!”

Jane remembers Asela as an excellent role model, one of few lay teachers in the early years at IHA who showed students “a different kind of elegance and grace and humor.” Jane continued on to major in modern languages at Fordham and was the first student to do a junior year in Madrid. She then entered a long career involved with Latin American affairs.

“Now as an attorney in Tucson, fluent Spanish has enabled me to work with the children border-crossers and, most recently, the immigrant families torn apart,” she said. “None of this would have been part of my life had it not been for Mrs. Silva's exceptional influence. Que en paz descanse.”

IN MEMORIAM

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

Loretta Oppelt Nokland, Class of 1965

October 30, 2018

Grandmother of Sarah Vella'22

Susan Dougherty Reimer, Class of 1974

October 31, 2018

Mary "Moira" Cella

November 3, 2017

Mother of Christine Cella Freeman'71 and Susan Cella'72

Joseph Tizio

February 8, 2018

Father of Diane Tizio Felt'73

Louis Servidio

July 18, 2018

Father of Devin Servidio O'Keefe'04 and Brittany Servidio'07

Caroline Paparozzi

July 27, 2018

Mother of Ellen Paparozzi'72

Ruth Lockwood

August 15, 2018

Mother of Sr. Carol Ann Lockwood, former faculty member

Asela Silva

August 22, 2018

Former long-time faculty member; mother of Alicia Silva Ritchie'65; and aunt of Maria Silva Nolet'72 and Lourdes Silva Sinkovitz'75, former faculty member

Elsie Tolan

August 23, 2018

Former basketball coach

Yvette Milowic

August 23, 2018

Mother of Karen Milowic Richardson'75 and Michelle Yvette Johnson'77

Donald Terrace

September 11, 2018

Father of Donna Terrace Caloia'79 and Deborah Terrace'81

Adam Scala

September 11, 2018

Brother of Elizabeth Scala Benducci'83

Frank Heffron

September 21, 2018

Father of Megan Heffron Fraser'78 and Sheila Heffron Rankowitz'80

Sr. Joan Steans, CSJP

September 23, 2018

Former faculty member

John Patrick Gilmartin

October 6, 2018

Father of Collette Gilmartin Wenzler'86, Maureen Gilmartin Gallagher'88, and Claire Gilmartin'93, and grandfather of Molly Gallagher'16

John Conheeney

October 8, 2018

Husband of Mary Higgins Clark; step-father of Marilyn Clark'68, Carol Higgins Clark'74, and Patricia Clark'76; and step-grandfather of Elizabeth Clark'02

James Patrick Moloney

October 13, 2018

Father of Margaret (Peggy) Moloney Davis'65 and Patricia Moloney Shelley'70

Robert Fleissner

October 27, 2018

Father of Laura Fleissner Kramer'89 and Teresa Fleissner Manning'93 and grandfather of Emma Kramer'20

Marion Doyle

November 3, 2018

Mother of Constance Doyle Osusky'83

Kathleen Hoyt Gomez

November 4, 2018

Mother of former faculty member, Moira Madonia, and grandmother of Lara Madonia Fabish'00

George H. Parsells, Jr.

November 19, 2018

Father of Katherine Parsells Bizub'82 and grandfather of Margaret Bizub'21

Vincent Sweatlock

November 22, 2018

Father of Donna Sweatlock Noctor'76

Jim Flynn

November 25, 2018

Father of Erin Flynn Jay'89

Kenneth Karole

November 26, 2018

Father of Katherine Karole'06

James F. Dineen, Sr.

November 27, 2018

Brother of Ursula Dineen Stimola'79 and uncle of Jacqueline Stimola'10

SAVE *the* DATE

IHA Hall of Fame April 14, 2019

Immaculate Heart Academy will be holding the **Hall of Fame Luncheon and Awards Ceremony** on **April 14, 2019** from **12-4 p.m.** at Seasons in Township of Washington.

This year's Hall of Fame inductees include:

Alumna

Valerie Gradel Keenan'76
Laura Coti Garrett'75

Educator

Susan Adamo
Sr. Joan Davis, CSJP

Parents

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Cali P'12, '14, '19
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Vrola P'94, '99

Merit

Julieanne P. Sees'97
Maria Nolan P'08

More information is available on www.ihanj.com and IHA's social media pages.
Please save the date and join us in honoring these special individuals!



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UPCOMING

2019 Winter/Spring Special Events

JAN 26	Blue Eagle Athletics Beefsteak 6:30 p.m., IHA Gymnasium Celebrate our Blue Eagle athletes with a delicious beefsteak dinner catered by The Brownstone.	APR 14	Hall of Fame 12 p.m., Seasons, Township of Washington IHA's Hall of Fame Luncheon and Awards Ceremony honors individuals in the categories of Alumna, Educator, Parents, and Merit.
MAR 19	Women in Communications Alumnae Panel 12:45 p.m., IHA PAC If you pursued a career in communications and would like to serve as an inspiration to aspiring young women, please join our Women in Communications Alumnae Panel. Contact Beth DiCiancia Garrigan'76 at bgarrigan@ihanj.com .	MAY 01	Spring Open House 6:30-8:30 p.m., IHA Register online for our Spring Open House. Meet faculty and staff, tour the building, and ask questions of our student Eagle Ambassadors.
APR 5-7	Spring Musical: Disney's <i>Beauty and the Beast</i> 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday; 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, IHA PAC Our inaugural spring musical is produced by Ms. Maureen McNulty, directed by Jodi Capeless, musically directed by Ed Ginter, and choreographed by Kimberly Galberraith. Cast Meet & Greets will be held after both matinee performances.	MAY 07	Spring Concert & Arts Festival 7 p.m., IHA PAC Family and friends are invited to view our art students' work and listen to the vocal ensembles and orchestra at the Spring Concert & Arts Festival.