

# Immaculate Heart ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2020  
VOL. 36, NO. 1



Scene Around IHA | Winter Sports Wrap-Up | Class Notes

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

17

Anna Salewycz'21  
Awarded with Treta Proba

18

Sisterhood Cycle



4

26

Valentine's  
Day of  
Giving

33

Scholastic  
Art Award  
Winners



**Cover Shot:** Immaculate Heart Academy  
Class of 2020

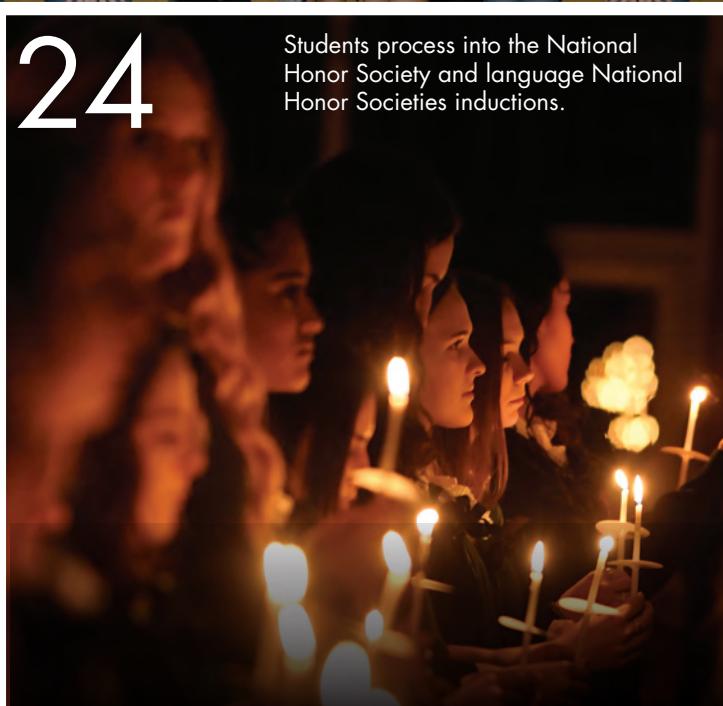
Students celebrate  
IHA's Family Mass  
together and with  
their loved ones on  
January 11, 2020.

24

Students process into the National  
Honor Society and language National  
Honor Societies inductions.

## 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.





Mr. and Mrs. David and Sue Smith P'10, '20; Daniella Smith '20; and Ms. Megan Moser, English teacher, at the second Soaring Eagle Awards of the year.

# Immaculate Heart ACADEMY

PRESIDENT	Patricia Molloy
PRINCIPAL	Jason Schlereth
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF	Tara Hopfenspirger
CONTRIBUTORS	John Downey
PHOTOGRAPHY	Mike Hamlett Photography, Lisa Encke, Beth DiCiancia Garrigan '76, Tara Hopfenspirger, and Patrizia Tersigni
DESIGN	Peapod Design, Norwalk, CT

500 Van Emburgh Avenue  
Township of Washington, NJ 07676  
201.445.6800 • [WWW.IHANJ.COM](http://WWW.IHANJ.COM)



Emma Dowden '14 is one of five IHA graduates to speak to St. Brigid Society students during this year's Alumnae Career Panel.

28



IHA Beefsteak Committee members, Janine Priolo P'17, '19, '22; Beth DiCiancia Garrigan '76 P'06; Michele Verrone Manning '88 P'21, '24; Mary Ann Maurer P'22; and Tosha Daugherty P'19

30

03	President's Corner
09	Scene Around IHA
12	Did You Know That...
36	Winter Sports Wrap-Up
42	Class Notes
49	In Memoriam



This year's Tri-M Music Honor Society seniors, Allison Sandt '20, Jenna Clover '20, Meghan McNerney '20, Isabella Sabino '20, Kathryn Stathakis '20, Kaitlyn Murad '20, Sabrina Isabel Figueiroa '20, Adrianna Kearney '20, and Carmela Icarangal '20

23



Mr. Jason Schlereth presents Gracelee Fasanella '21 with the World Language Soaring Eagle Award for her work in Mandarin.

# President's Corner



Dear friends,

It seems that every day new questions arise as to what will happen in the coming days. Will schools reopen soon, what about graduation, will I contract the virus, will I lose a loved one, and so many other concerns with which everyone in our community is struggling. Parents are worried about job losses or lay-offs, businesses are struggling, and social distancing is taking a toll.

We incline to focus on the difficulties that this uncertain time presents. I hope that this issue of our newsletter will give you a sense of how the IHA community is emphasizing the positive and working hard to navigate through this uncertain time. The dedication of our faculty and staff, the support of our parents, and the flexibility of our students are making all the difference.

Our students are learning a crucial lesson. They now know that, even in the worst of times, they have the skills, the confidence, and the faith to face the world. They are women of valor...they are empowered women...they are women of hope. May God bless you and keep you safe.

Sincerely,

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

Patricia Molloy  
President



Nicole Erik'21, Hanna Martin'21, Adriana Hotsko'21, Geri Tabbachino'21, Gabriella Haines'21, Valerie Hiemer'21, Lauren Turci'21, Sarah Zampino'21, and Gianna Stirone'21 are inducted into the Math and/or Science National Honor Societies on February 5, 2020.

# IHA Comes Together During Coronavirus Pandemic



As organizations, businesses, and schools worldwide faced extraordinary times with the onslaught of COVID-19, Immaculate Heart Academy was no exception. The combination of a well-prepared administrative leadership team, skilled and flexible faculty and staff members, and adaptable and patient students allowed us to face the challenges presented by the novel Coronavirus head-on and navigate this public health crises together. We have been humbled by the many inspiring ways our IHA community members lived our institution's values and helped each other, yet again proving the strong bonds of sisterhood for which we are known.

While dealing with Coronavirus has most definitely been an anxiety-inducing interruption that leaves our community with many unknowns, Immaculate

Heart has been able to respond quickly, appropriately, and thoughtfully. In the days and weeks leading up to a potential school closing, faculty and staff members prepared for the possibility of online learning. We had a comprehensive Continuation of Learning Plan in place that relied on the technology already available at IHA. Additionally, with the health and wellbeing of our school family always being top priority, steps were taken inside the building to ensure a clean and safe environment. As statewide directives and best practices were issued, IHA students and faculty made the transition to virtual learning in mid-March.

Over the weeks, teachers have been utilizing Google Classroom and PowerSchool to assign homework. They have held live virtual classes and recorded lessons using Zoom and Google Meet. The faculty has continued to do an outstanding job in making the online





The Student Council Executive Board members are regularly holding Zoom meetings to share ideas they can bring to the school community virtually. Top row, left to right, are Annalisa Diaz'21, cabinet member; Ava Poulin'20, president; and Jana Mucci'20, vice president. Middle row, left to right, are Isabella Sabino'20, cabinet member; Catherine Nixon'21, cabinet member; and Mia Grossman'21, secretary. Bottom row is Christine Ajao'21, treasurer.

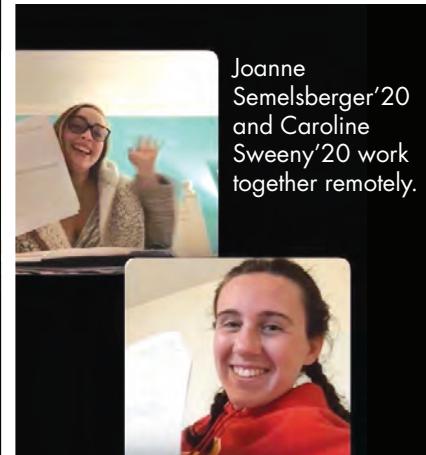
experience both positive and exciting and the administration has been exceptional in planning and coordinating every aspect of the daily operations of the school. Regular email updates from Mr. Jason Schlereth, principal, have served as encouraging reminders for students, parents, and faculty. He has thanked community members for their adaptability and shared his confidence that instruction would continue to meet IHA's high standards.



Mrs. Angelique Morelli, director of development, wears her hearts on her sleeve as she works from her home office.



Lauren Grae'23 and her dog, Shelby, working virtually.

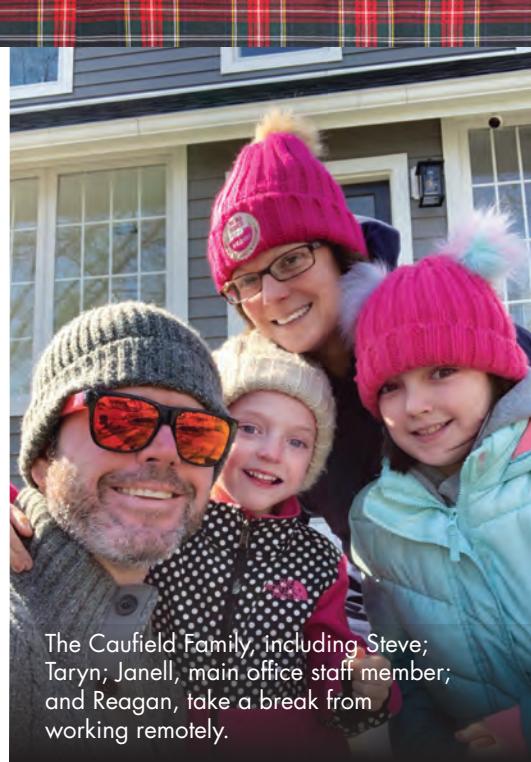


Joanne Semelsberger'20 and Caroline Sweeny'20 work together remotely.

**The combination of a well-prepared administrative leadership team, skilled and flexible faculty and staff members, and adaptable and patient students allowed us to face the challenges presented by the novel Coronavirus head-on and navigate this public health crises together.**

Our need for faith has been greater than ever during this time. As the weeks have passed, we have made sure to give our students various outlets to stay spiritually connected. Morning prayers and reflections led by our director of formation have been posted daily on IHA's Instagram account, the Class of 2020 has connected on Zoom for Senior Sisterhood Social Distancing chats, and our popular Small Christian Communities have continued for IHA sisters to virtually pray together and share

their concerns. The Christian Service executive board led a virtual Stations of the Cross and live streamed it for our community. Faculty, staff, and coaches made a video of messages and well wishes for our students. Our Made With Love Club has been making greeting cards for those who are lonely and need a smile. Counselors in both the Guidance and College Counseling departments have kept in close contact with students and made themselves available via email, phone, and live video chats.



We have been especially aware of the needs of members of the Class of 2020, sensitive to the fact that this is not how they pictured ending their senior year at IHA. Although we have been dealing with many uncertainties in this ever-evolving situation, we have pledged to our seniors that we would do everything possible to make their last year at IHA a memorable one. We have promised to maintain a continuity of instruction with as little disruption as possible and to have many creative alternatives to traditional senior class events should the closure continue through the end of the academic year.

Realizing that most people were staying home for weeks to keep each other safe and healthy, we knew many would be on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to pass the time and stay connected. We have been posting regularly on the school's social media accounts to lift everyone's spirits and remind them that physical distance cannot break our bond. Our STUCO executive board led a TikTok challenge to \*NSYNC's *Tearin' Up My Heart*, students and faculty posted photos of their home workstations with #theheartathome, and students made a special Thank You video to show gratitude for all those risking their own

**Left:** Melanie Harrigan '20, whose family owns Toast City Diner, helps deliver food from the diner, donated by the IHA Parents' Club, to local hospital staff members.

**Right:** Ana Cantarella '21 has been making face masks for the Bergen Mask Task Force. Ana, who suffers from Cystic Fibrosis and knows what it's like to not be able to breathe easily, felt compelled to use her sewing talent to give back to the doctors and nurses on the front lines.

The global spread of COVID-19 is impacting every one of us, ranging from mildly inconvenient to tragic and life altering. There is no mistaking the challenges of these times and the many sacrifices being made. Our heartfelt sympathies are with our Immaculate Heart Academy community members who have suffered illness or the loss of family members or friends. To our IHA sisters who have faced the worst of this crisis, please know we are always with you in faith and prayer.

health while keeping our communities safe. STUCO also hosted a Virtual Spirit Week in which our IHA family participated. Ms. Patricia Molloy, president, wrote reassuring notes to all community members to remind them how important it is in times like these to “cling to the things that we know are unwavering and constant—things like this wonderful community at IHA to which we all belong.”

“I do not know what the next few weeks will bring,” she said. “I do know that our excellent, dedicated faculty and staff will work diligently to ensure that we are doing our very best to deliver meaningful, effective instruction to our students. I know that our parents will

Sara Anderson, mother of Ms. Shemayne Williams, physical education teacher, prayed virtually with the IHA community during our Stations of the Cross live stream on Zoom.



continue to be supportive partners as we navigate the challenges that will present themselves. Most importantly, I know that our students will continue to meet and exceed any challenge that is presented to them during these uncertain times. I know that because I have seen our students consistently rise to the occasion in the face of adversity. They do it every day in our classrooms, on our athletic fields, and in their service to others. I have no doubt they will continue to do it at home.”

Mrs. Beth DiCiancia Garrigan '76, director of alumnae engagement, checked in with alumnae to ensure they knew they had their alma mater's support and to thank all of those on the front

“I know that our students will continue to meet and exceed any challenge that is presented to them during these uncertain times. I know that because I have seen our students consistently rise to the occasion in the face of adversity. They do it every day in our classrooms, on our athletic fields, and in their service to others. I have no doubt they will continue to do it at home.”

— Ms. Patricia Molloy, IHA president



The IHA Parents' Club donated food, provided by Toast City Diner, to staff members at Holy Name Medical Center.

lines during this global pandemic. We sent over boxes of gloves, respirators, and gowns we had at the school to The Valley Hospital, and the Parents' Club donated food from IHA family-owned establishments including The Market Basket (Chernalis Family '14, '16),

Toast City Diner (Harrigan Family '20, '22) and Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza (Shea Family '21) to staff members at Valley, Holy Name Medical Center, and Hackensack Meridian/Hackensack University Medical Center.

Thank you to our immediate Immaculate Heart Academy community—students, parents, and staff—for your flexibility, understanding, and commitment throughout this unprecedented time. Thank you to our government leaders and those in healthcare, public safety, social services, education, essential business, and law enforcement for keeping our communities safe. “We are a community of faith, a community of sisters,” Ms. Molloy wrote to conclude a note to the IHA family. “We are women of courage, competence, compassion, and confidence. We look to Mary, to her Immaculate Heart, to strengthen us and to keep us focused on the really important things in life.”

# SAVE *the* DATE

## IHA Hall of Fame September 13, 2020

Immaculate Heart Academy has rescheduled the 2020 **Hall of Fame Luncheon and Awards Ceremony** to **September 13, 2020** from **12-4 p.m.** at Seasons in Township of Washington.

The new deadline for ads and sponsorships is **August 28, 2020** and the new deadline to register is **September 4, 2020**.

**This year's Hall of Fame inductees include:**

### Alumna

Serena Bocchino '78

Mary Ellen Dooley Nye '87 P'21

### Educator

Barbara Fritsche

Lauretta Miller

### Parents

John and Lori Feery P'08

Richard and Mary Ellen Offer  
P'94, '96, '98, '01, '06

### Community Leader

Rev. Donald K. Hummel

More information is available on [www.ihanj.com](http://www.ihanj.com) and IHA's social media pages.

Please join us in honoring these special individuals!

# SCENE

---

## Around IHA



Through The Memory Project, with whom IHA has partnered since 2013, our Advanced Painting and Drawing students created portraits for students in Afghanistan. The Memory Project is a charitable nonprofit organization that invites art teachers, art students, and solo artists to help cultivate global kindness by creating portraits for children around the world who have faced substantial challenges such as violence, war, extreme poverty, neglect, and loss of parents. The IHA students created portraits for girls in programs supported by Malala's Yousafzai's network. Standing, left to right, are Loretta Borghi'20, Niamh Withers'20, Jennifer Ollmann'21, Claire Hoffmann'21, and Nicole Krumrei'20. Seated, left to right, are Jessica O'Neill'20, Lauren Lipari'20, Jillian Pursiano'20, Kaitlyn DeMicco'21, and Catherine DePalma'21.



Nine of IHA's STEM students, including several alumnae of the Academy of Saint Paul in Ramsey, and IHA engineering teacher, Mrs. Alice Nudelman, were judges at Saint Paul's annual STREAMS Fair on January 28, 2020. The IHA students also had the privilege of meeting Mrs. Pat Kehrberger, a trailblazer in the engineering field. She was the first woman to graduate from Manhattan College in 1969 as an engineer, five years before the school officially became co-ed. She went on to get her master's degree from the University of Michigan then worked for an environmental engineering company called Hydroscience where she stayed for the rest of her career. From left to right are Mrs. Pat Kehrberger, Olivia Costello'20, Kate Menake'23, Katherine Deane'23, Layla Libanan'23, Lauren Grae'23, Grace Calianese'22, Natalie Ursich'22, Mackenna Olsen'22, and Nicole Gysin'20.



Senior Class Officers with Mrs. Liz Kearns P'05, '08, '11, senior class moderator: Back row, left to right, are Jillian MacDonald'20, cabinet member; Isabella Gorsd'20, vice president; Mrs. Kearns; Lily Implicito'20, cabinet member; Emma Matesic'20, cabinet member; and Nicole Gysin'20, treasurer. Front row, left to right, are Gabrielle LaSala'20, cabinet member; Angeline Jacob'20, president; and Olivia Costello'20, secretary.



The Class of 2020's "Roaring through the 20s" Senior Dance was held Friday, January 31, 2020 in the IHA gymnasium. From left to right are Mary Patricia Sayre'20, Caroline Falotico'20, Bridget Sutton'20, and Joanna Rajkowsky'20. The seniors danced the night away to music provided by Golden Note. Entertainment and enjoyed time in the photo booth, also provided by Golden Note. Balloon decorations were provided by Elegant Balloons and food was catered from Chick-fil-A and Italian Touch. Thank you to the Senior Class Executive Board and Mrs. Liz Kearns P'05, '08, '11, senior class moderator, for planning the fabulous and memorable event for this special class!



Christine Ajao'21, Kelly Asiedu'20, and Adrianna Kearney'20 celebrate Black History Month in February 2020. Members of IHA's Black Culture Club, in its third year at IHA, and National Art Honor Society collaborated to display an exhibit of portrait artist, Amy Sherald's work in the main lobby.



Students celebrated Engineers Week through a variety of events held from February 10-14, 2020. On Thursday of that week, our Applied Engineering Club students sponsored IHA's annual Engineering Challenge where students were tasked with designing, building, and testing a scaled model of a catapult. The two winning teams launched their object the furthest and most accurately. Front row, left to right, are Kate Menake'23, Catherine Goldstein'23, and Sophia Rowell'23. Back row, left to right, are Elise Vergos'20, Molly Fitzsimons'20, Lauren Grae'23, Katherine Deane'23, Abigail Diehl'23, Mary Byrnes'23, Chloe McLees'23, and Madison Klak'23.



This year's Family Mass, presided by Fr. John Aherne, was held January 11, 2020 in the Immaculate Heart Academy Patricia Sollitto Performing Arts Center. Students and their families gathered together for a beautiful Mass that featured music by IHA's Praise, pictured above.



Members of the Class of 2022 enjoyed their Sophomore Day of Awareness on March 10, 2020. They made cards for hospice patients at Villa Marie Claire, put together care packages for patients via Hearts of Joy International, wished campers at Camp Acorn a good prom, and made toiletry kits for Midnight Run. From top left to right, Brigid Kearns'22, Grace Oates'22, Arabella Pastena'22, Katherine Webb'22, Jessica Boyd'22, Shannon LaMotta'22, and Grace Calianese'22 show off the care packages they made for the Hearts of Joy International organization.



**Left:** Two of Immaculate Heart Academy's biggest fans, Mr. Vince Herold, former teacher, and Ms. Patricia Molloy, president, cheer on IHA Basketball at the county finals.

# DID YOU KNOW THAT...

**Anna Morris'20** has been named the NJ Volleyball Gatorade Player of the Year for the second year in a row! Anna has become part of a 30+ year legacy that includes past winners such as Peyton Manning, Abby Wambach, Karl-Anthony Towns, Derek Jeter, and many other sports icons. The Gatorade Player of the Year program is proud to recognize the nation's most elite high school athletes for not only athletic excellence, but also for high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character. Roughly 5.7 million kids play the Gatorade Player of the Year sports and only six hundred and seven are named Gatorade State Player of the Year. Through the Gatorade Play It Forward initiative, Gatorade will donate \$1,000 to a sport-based organization of Anna's choosing. Additionally, the National High School Coaches Association (NHSCA) announced Anna as its National Senior Volleyball Athlete of the Year—the first athlete from New Jersey to achieve the honor! Anna had an amazing 2019 senior season with four hundred thirteen kills, ninety-one blocks, one hundred ninety-five digs, and fifty-six aces, which earned her First-Team All-State honors for the second straight season. The Athlete of the Year honorees will be displayed in the National High School Digital Sports Hall of Fame that is currently under development.



**The IHA Traffic Safety Squad** was the overall winner of the Hackensack University Medical Center's Fall Seat Belt Challenge. Ninety-eight percent of the IHA student population wore a seatbelt during the two checks this fall. IHA shared the first place honor with four other Bergen County Schools. Congratulations to Indian Hills, Immaculate Conception, Northern Highlands, and Park Ridge for also having ninety-eight percent of their students comply with the seat belt law.

**T**he late **Anthony LaRezza**, past IHA Softball coach, was inducted into the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) Hall of Fame on December 6, 2019. Joelle Della Volpe, who played travel ball under LaRezza, accepted on his behalf. The NFCA announcement stated, "LaRezza's Immaculate Heart squad was among the most successful high school programs

in the nation under his leadership. The Blue Eagles captured three state championship and numerous county titles to go along with their many state tournament appearances up until the time of his death. LaRezza passed away in February of 2016 due to complications from cancer treatment, his second battle with the disease."



Nathan Ryan Hopfenspirger, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kurt and [Tara Hopfenspirger](#), IHA director of communications, was born on January 14, 2020 at 4:40 p.m. Nathan was 8 lbs. and 20 inches long. Big brother, Braden, was thrilled to welcome him to the family!

**D**r. Sue Kenney, social studies teacher, was recently awarded an Alfred Lerner Fellowship by the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous (JFR). Through the fellowship, the JFR is sponsoring Dr. Kenney's attendance at a JFR Summer Institute for Teachers at Columbia University focusing on teacher education in Holocaust studies, as well as a JFR European Study Program in Germany and Poland, a two-week intensive learning program in which teachers from around the world participate. Stanlee Stahl, the executive vice president of the JFR, chose Dr. Kenney as an Alfred Lerner Fellow, and Yolanda Kunz P'92, '94, GP'20, '21, '23, called her personally to inform her of the honor. Dr. Kenny said Yolanda was "spectacularly supportive throughout the whole nomination and application process."



Both the IHA Mock Trial defense and prosecution teams won their first trials on January 7 and 8, 2020. Congrats on two in a row! The IHA team advanced to the semifinal round and finished in the top eight in the county. Senior team members included, left to right, Ava Poulin '20, Isabella Lucero '20, and Hannahmia Lauricella '20.



Congratulations to [Katherine Conway '21](#) for receiving a Silver Key in the 2020 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards with Newark Public Library for her poem, "The Stars."



Mrs. Renee Thunell, IHA English teacher, and her husband, Michael, welcomed their second son, Owen Paul Thunell, on February 8, 2020 at 9:48 a.m. He was 8 lbs, 6 oz and 20 inches long. He joins big brother, Gavin.



Our Lady of Mercy (OLM) Academy named **Kiera Stevenson'24** as its Archdiocese of Newark Outstanding Graduate of the Class of 2020. Kiera serves Mass at St. Andrew's Parish in Westwood and is one of the parish's two co-lead altar servers and a new altar server trainer. She is a dedicated student who has achieved principal's honor roll status every trimester since fifth grade. As early as grade three, she demonstrated strong writing skills when she was named the New Jersey State winner for the American Legion's Americanism Essay Contest. Kiera is currently a Teen Zoo volunteer for Bergen County Zoo and her extracurricular activities at OLM have included Girl Scouts, basketball, volleyball, chorus, bell choir, the art and literary magazine and drama. This year, Kiera also serves as the eighth grade yearbook editor. She has been accepted as a member of the Class of 2024 at IHA, where her mother, Eileen Conrad Stevenson, graduated in 1987!

**Hannah Specthrie'21**, currently going through RCIA, visited St. John's Cathedral in Paterson with Bishop Arthur Serratelli of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Paterson to participate in the Rite of Election on March 1, 2020. Hannah's sponsor, Ms. Allison Oblen, IHA religious studies teacher, joined her. According to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, "The Rite of Election includes the enrollment

of names of all the Catechumens seeking baptism at the coming Easter Vigil. Typically, on the first Sunday of Lent, the Catechumens, their sponsors, and families gather at the cathedral church. The Catechumens publicly express their desire for baptism to the diocesan bishop. Their names are recorded in a book and they are called the Elect."



The **2018-19 publication of *Orb*** achieved a ranking of Excellent from the REALM program (Recognizing Excellence in Art and Literary Magazines) run by the NCTE (National Council of Teachers of English). Pictured are *Orb* members and Dr. Sue Kenney, moderator.

# Therapy Dogs Visit IHA

## Guidance Department Hopes to Relieve Students' Anxiety

On Thursday, January 16, 2020, the IHA Guidance Department welcomed seven therapy dogs to Immaculate Heart. Six of the dogs and their handlers were from Therapy Dogs of Tenafly and one was from the Bright and Beautiful organization. The students had the opportunity to visit with the dogs during both lunch periods. Their visit came the week before midterms; guidance counselors hoped the dogs would help alleviate students' stress and anxiety as they prepared for exams. Ms. Ellen Donoghue '76, the guidance counselor who brought the idea to IHA, said the girls loved it and the "expressions on their faces were priceless."

Thank you to Isabel Almonte and Louie, Susan Smith and Leo, Margaret Hliboki and Jasper, Jessica Gotthold and Tonka, Pamela Marzano and Charlie, and Karen Koehler and CJ, all of Therapy Dogs of Tenafly, and Susan DiGregorio and Rosie of Bright and Beautiful.

**Bottom Left:** Lauren Ficon '23 and Emma Hanlon '23 give Jasper some love.

**Bottom:** Members of IHA's Guidance and College Counseling departments pose with all the visiting therapy dogs and their handlers.



Students gather around Leo and his handler, Susan.



# St. Brigid Society Students Hear from IHA Alumnae

**O**n the afternoon of February 3, 2020, five IHA alumnae visited members of the St. Brigid Society, moderated by Ms. Ellen Donoghue'76, guidance counselor, for a special career panel presentation. We were thrilled to welcome back Meghan Kehoe'04, director of publicity at RCA Records; Meaghan Rogers'07, a licensed clinical social worker; Emma Dowden'14, a second-year analyst at J.P. Morgan Asset Management; Kelly Venardos'85, producer/senior producer for *NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt*; and Kyla Heinz'08, dance teacher, choreographer, performer, and judge.

Over the eleven plus years **Meg Kehoe'04** has been at RCA Records, she has worked on the media campaigns for some of today's biggest superstars including P!NK, Kelly Clarkson, Justin Timberlake, G-Eazy, Pentatonix, Cam, Backstreet Boys, and so many more. She began her career at RCA Records after interning at Jive Records her senior year at Fordham University in 2008.

As the primary therapist at GenPsych Adolescent Partial Program, **Meaghan Rogers'07** works with teens who are recently out of the hospital or unable to be in school due to mental health issues. She works with youth and adolescents individually in therapy, facilitating group therapy, and incorporating families into treatment. She assists her clients in identifying goals and helps them get back to school successfully.

**Emma Dowden'14** has been employed at J.P. Morgan Asset Management since 2018 as a member of the Funds Management rotational program, where she has held roles in Subadvisory, Retirement Business Management, and most recently, the Global Strategic Relationships team. She is responsible for supporting a group of relationship managers who sell mutual funds to



JPMAM's home office clients. Her everyday work includes attending client meetings, creating sales analyses, and working with various investment and due diligence teams to improve client relationships.

**Kelly Venardos'85** has been at NBC since 1993, where she first worked as an associate producer at a newsmagazine show called *Now, with Tom Brokaw and Katie Couric* and then as an associate producer and field producer at *Dateline NBC* where she worked on both breaking-news and longer-term stories. After nearly five years at *Dateline*, she moved to *NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw*. She has worked under three anchormen at *Nightly News* (Tom Brokaw, Brian Williams, and Lester Holt) and nine different executive producers in the course of her tenure. Kelly has won six News Emmy's, two George Foster Peabody Awards (University of Georgia), and two Columbia University Alfred I. DuPont Awards.

During the school year, **Kyla Heinz'08** teaches at two dance studios and choreographs multiple studios' solos, duos, trios, and small group and large group numbers of all genres including tap, jazz, acro dance, lyrical, musical theater, and more. She judges dance competitions around the tristate area on the weekends. During the spring and summer, Kyla teaches master classes at conventions such as Rock the City and Mind Body Sole, and at smaller dance camps at private studios. She is constantly auditioning and submitting for performance work. This past year, she performed in *Nice Work If You Can Get It* at the Count Basie Theater in Red Bank and at YouTube's Brandcast Event at Radio City Music Hall. Kyla was also the lead female tap dancer in two runs of *Celtic Fyre* at Busch Gardens in Williamsburg, Virginia.

# Anna Salewycz'21

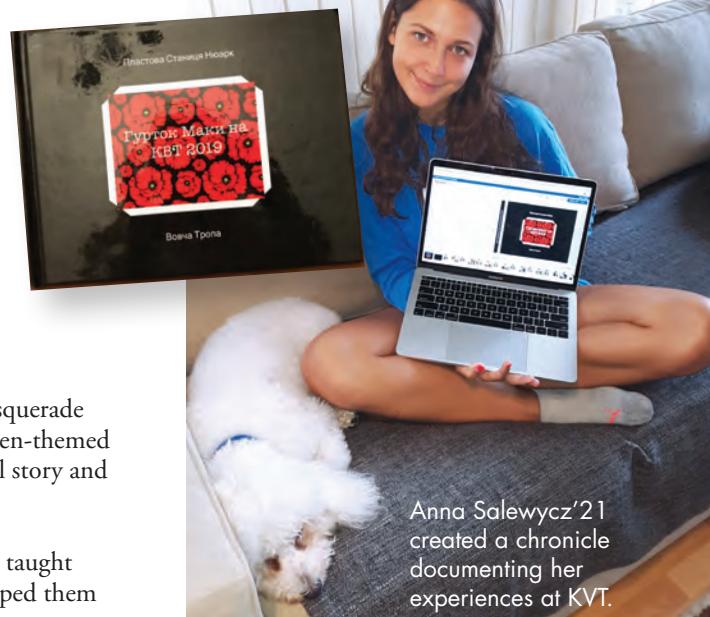
Awarded with Treta Proba

**A**n avid member of Plast, a Ukrainian Scouting Organization, Anna Salewycz'21 was awarded with Treta Proba (Трета Проба) on February 24, 2020. In order to be awarded this great honor, Anna had to complete nine substantial service-oriented projects covering a variety of topics within specific categories. These categories highlight the foundational values of Plast and all projects are prepared, written, and conducted in the Ukrainian language. If Treta Proba, the equivalent to the Boy Scout Eagle Scout or Girl Scout Gold Award, is attained, one receives the prestigious rank of "plastun skob" (пластун скоб) for males or "plastunka virlytsia" (пластунка вирлиця) for females.

Anna has been a member of Plast since she was four years old, which totals almost fourteen years of her life. Treta Proba projects must be completed between the ages of 15-18 years old; it took Anna about eight months to execute all nine of her projects:

1. Anna led Hahilky (traditional Ukrainian Easter Dances) after the first basket blessing at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church on Holy Saturday 2019. She taught the children the dances and songs prior throughout four rehearsals.

2. She organized and ran a Masquerade celebration with six Halloween-themed stations following an original story and a Trunk or Treat at the end.
3. Anna organized and ran an Iconography Workshop. She taught children about icons and helped them make one of their own.
4. She has been volunteering as a troop leader at her Whippanny Junior Service Unit for the past five years. In July 2019, she also volunteered as a sleep away camp counselor for six and seven year olds at Plast Camp Vovcha Tropa in East Chatham, New York.
5. Anna interviewed Mr. George Huk, the head of Plast for all of America. With the help of Mrs. Lorraine Mongelli and Ms. Jessi Shaheen at IHA, she recorded her interview in IHA's own heartTV Studio.
6. In August 2019, Anna and four of her fellow Whippanny Service Unit troop members attended Krayovy Vyshkilny (KVT), a one-week specialized camp for experienced Plast scouts working to complete Treta Proba. It gave them an opportunity to complete at least two of their projects. Anna created a chronicle documenting their experiences, hoping to inspire others to embark on their own Treta Proba journey.
7. During her time at KVT, she held a memorial and planted a tree to commemorate all those who have contributed to the upkeep of the beautiful Plast Camp Vovcha Tropa.



Anna Salewycz'21 created a chronicle documenting her experiences at KVT.

8. Anna ran the singing portion of the 2019 Novatske Svyato Vesny. After teaching the children seven classic Plast songs, she helped them make cards for boys and girls in Ukraine, which she mailed out later in the week.
9. Anna attended Novatskiy Vyshkil in June 2019. After passing the counselor training camp as salutatorian, Anna used her newfound knowledge to teach her peers at KVT how to properly run a campfire for little children and then actually executed one.

Anna will be physically receiving the Treta Proba award at her Whippanny Service Unit's End of Year Closing Ceremony in the summer of 2020. "When I found out that I achieved Treta Proba, I felt a sense of accomplishment and honor to be recognized for my service efforts," Anna said. "Throughout my journey, I found so much personal satisfaction in the intimate connections I made with others, leadership skills I cultivated, and service I did for my Ukrainian community. It was truly such a rewarding and humbling experience that I wouldn't trade for anything in the world."



Anna leads Hahilky at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church.



Mr. George Huk, the head of Plast for all of America; Ms. Jessica Shaheen, Communications teacher; Mrs. Lorraine Mongelli P'94, Communications Department chairperson; and Anna Salewycz'21

# Ride Like an Eagle!

## IHA Celebrates its Inaugural Sisterhood Cycle Event

On Saturday, February 8, 2020, almost forty Immaculate Heart Academy ladies, comprised of alumnae and current parents, took a ride for IHA's first-ever Sisterhood Cycle fundraiser at CycleBar Montvale. The event raised more than \$1,400, which went toward IHA's second annual Valentine's Day of Giving held on February 14, 2020.

"The success of this inaugural Sisterhood Cycle wouldn't have happened without the dedicated efforts of the event chairs, Jill Werner-Simms'94 and Gina Nikola'99," said Mrs. Angelique Morelli, director of development. "I truly cannot thank them enough. Their spirit and creativity made for an incredible afternoon filled with spinning and, best of all, sisterhood!"

Gina, who is a CycleStar (an instructor) at CycleBar Montvale, donated her time to teach this special class. We are so grateful that she gave of her time and talent. Thank you to all who attended and to Carin Karolin-Zellman, owner of CycleBar Montvale, for hosting us!



Alumnae and parents are all smiles post-workout!



Megan McCarthy'94,  
Gena Caputo DeVirgilio'94 P'23,  
and Karen Gassert Poznanski'94

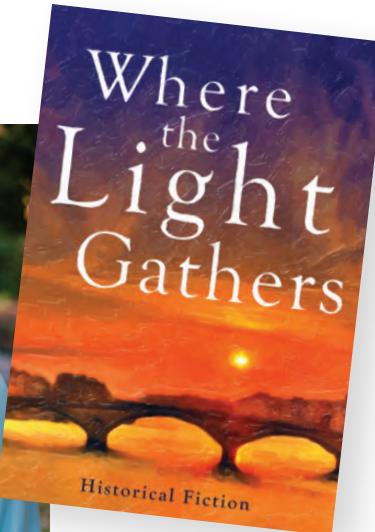
Attendees sweat it out at IHA's first-ever Sisterhood Cycle.



# Alumnae Authors

This special section of our newsletter has become ongoing, as IHA alumnae continue to blow us away with their writing talents. In this issue, we highlight two alumnae published authors: one whose most recent work is a historical fiction and the other, a children's book. Please write in if you are an alumna author, as we would love to continue this section in upcoming newsletters!

**Donna Lippiello Pressman'73** published her historical fiction, *Where the Light Gathers*, in October 2019. A longtime lover of books and art, Donna combined her two passions to tell a story about legendary Renaissance painter, Filippo Lippi. If you like historical fiction, art history, political intrigue, and exploring the psychological motives of real-world figures, you will love this novel. After receiving an MFA in fiction writing from Vermont College of Fine Arts, Donna worked for more than thirty years as an editor, writer, and writing instructor.



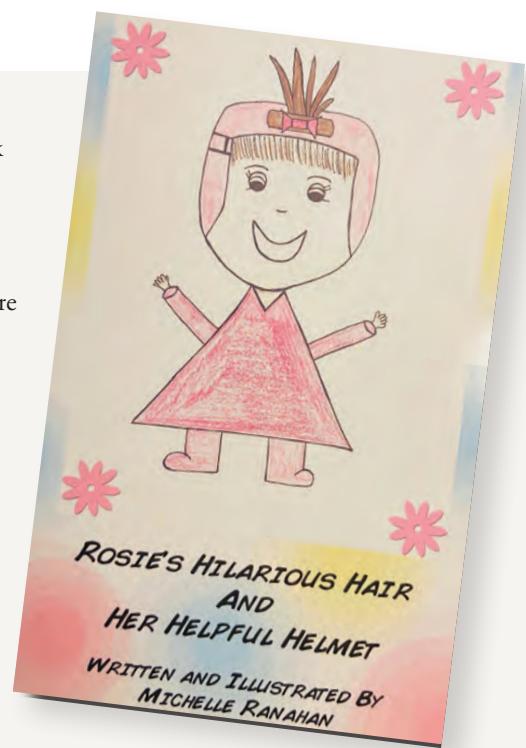
Donna Lippiello Pressman'73

While she has published magazine articles about artists and other topics of cultural interest and poetry in literary journals, Donna now devotes herself full time to writing novels. She lives in New England with her husband and two dogs.

To purchase *Where the Light Gathers*, visit Amazon, Barnes & Noble, or Apple Books. For more information about Donna and her other works, visit [www.dkathrynpressman.com](http://www.dkathrynpressman.com).

**Michelle Hoeppner Ranahan'99** recently wrote and illustrated her first children's book entitled *Rosie's Hilarious Hair and Her Helpful Helmet*. The book tells the story of Michelle's journey with her daughter who wore a helmet to correct plagiocephaly, also known as flat-head syndrome. "I wrote it to educate young children in what it means to 'look different' from others," she explained. "The storyline also focuses on sibling relationships and the unconditional love siblings have for one another. In addition, I try to convey the message, 'it's truly on the inside that counts.'" Michele participates in library presentations, which include a book reading and reviewing discussion questions that are in the back

of the book, a related activity, and a book signing. Michelle said her goal for the book, also an excellent tool for school settings, is to make a difference and to help teach people of all ages to refrain from judging others so quickly. Read more about Michelle in our Classnotes section on page 44. *Rosie's Hilarious Hair and Her Helpful Helmet* is available for purchase by emailing [Michelle.Ranahan@gmail.com](mailto:Michelle.Ranahan@gmail.com).



# Alumnae in the Arts Visit Their Alma Mater

Recent IHA Graduates Discuss Education and Careers in The Arts



Alumnae visit their alma mater to talk about studying the arts after IHA. Back row, left to right, are Caroline DePhillips'18, Lindsey Carpenter'15, Callahan Rasnake'16, Haley Thimmel'16, Julia Bertussi'18, and Katherine Evans'18. Front row, left to right, are Tara Daly'19, Samantha Scian'18, Riley DeRosa'18, Nila Nejad'16, and Olivia Cantarella'18.

**O**n the afternoon of January 9, 2020, eleven alumnae came back to IHA to share their experience in the arts with students in the National Art Honor Society. The alumnae took part in a panel discussion about art majors and careers in art and related fields and also displayed examples of their work. Thank you to our talented alumnae artists who shared their experiences with IHA NAHS students, including:

**Julia Bertussi'18** (Ithaca College – Art Education)

**Olivia Cantarella'18** (Bergen Community College – Social Work)

**Lindsey Carpenter'15** (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute – Architecture)

**Tara Daly'19** (Loyola University Maryland – Marketing)

**Caroline DePhillips'18**  
(Boston College – Finance)

**Riley DeRosa'18** (St. Thomas Aquinas College – Biology)

**Katherine Evans'18** (University of Dayton – Art Education)

**Nila Nejad'16** (Syracuse University – Communication Design)

**Callahan Rasnake'16**  
(Marist College – Fashion)



Lindsey Carpenter'15 shows off some of her work.

**Samantha Scian'18** (The Catholic University of America – Architecture)

**Haley Thimmel'16** (Seton Hall University – Graphic Design)

# National Honor Society Seniors Honored

Four Members Receive Special Awards



Grace Mendolia'20, Julianna Carrozza'20, Ava Sciubba'20, and Kerri Woolley'20

Traditionally, Immaculate Heart Academy seniors in the National Honor Society are recognized for living out the main characteristics of the central pillars of the National Honor Society—Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character. While all NHS members are expected to uphold these qualities, these four students have gone above and beyond and were honored during the first semester. Congratulations to Grace Mendolia'20 for receiving the award for Scholarship, Julianna Carrozza'20 for receiving the award for Service, Ava Sciubba'20 for receiving the award for Leadership, and Kerri Woolley'20 for receiving the award for Character.

## SCHOLARSHIP

**Grace Mendolia'20** is a true scholar in all aspects. From asking questions that advance the level of learning in the classroom to participating in numerous honor societies and tutoring, Grace is able to not only further her education, but assist in helping those around her.

## SERVICE

**Julianna Carrozza'20**, through her service to her community as well as IHA, puts her faith into action by ministering to people in need. As an Eagle Ambassador and an altar server, she gives significant amounts of time to serving others. Julianna applies her Catholic Christian values by practicing them in projects that expand her fellow students' awareness of God, others, and themselves.

## LEADERSHIP

**Ava Sciubba'20** perfectly embodies the National Honor Society value of leadership. She shows true commitment and devotion to her teammates as the captain of the cross country team and to the IHA community as president of the French Club. She is dependable and always willing to sacrifice her time to help guide and lead others.

## CHARACTER

**Kerri Woolley'20** is a role model to anyone she encounters. She has a positive attitude and always greets others with a smile. Kerri is reliable, kind, and friendly and is constantly supporting other students. These qualities and her deep concern for her peers prove that her character aligns with NHS values.

# Math and Science Students Inducted into Honor Societies

At Immaculate Heart Academy, mathematics and science are two of numerous subjects in which students excel. To honor the hard work, dedication, and passion IHA students show for the two areas of study, we hosted an induction ceremony and reception on the evening of February 5, 2020. We were proud to welcome inductees and families to this year's induction ceremony of The Science National Honor Society, founded at IHA in 2016, and Mu Alpha Theta, the National Mathematics Honor Society, founded in 2018.

Congratulations to the twenty-one newly inducted SNHS members including Abigail Auty'21, Alexandra Betsy'21, Loretta Borghi'20, Angelina Casale'21, Katherine Conway'21, Bianca D'Costa'21, Valerie Hiemer'21, Julia Kapitan'21, Niamh Keegan'20, Cailee LaFrance'21, Jennifer Lawrence'21, Katherine Mackey'21, Daniela Makowka'21, Julia Marotti'21, Hanna Martin'21, Clare McGowan'21, Allison Monroe'21, Freya Nair'21, Geri Tabbachino'21, Lauren Turci'21, and Sarah Zampino'21.

Congratulations to the fifteen newly inducted members of Mu Alpha Theta including Jennifer Ahn'21, Abigail Auty'21, Alexandra Betsy'21, Angelina Casale'21, Bianca D'Costa'21, Nicole Erik'21, Gabriella Haines'21, Valerie Hiemer'21, Adriana Hotsko'21, Jennifer Lawrence'21, Hanna Martin'21, Freya Nair'21, Elizabeth Spizzo'21, Gianna Stirone'21, and Lauren Turci'21.



Members of Mu Alpha Theta



Newly Inducted members of the Science National Honor Society



Alexandra Betsy'21 receives her SNHS induction certificate from Mrs. Lauren Tereshko, moderator and teacher, as Olivia DuBois'20 looks on.

# Student-Artists Inducted into Three Art Honor Societies

**O**n the evening of March 4, 2020, a number of talented IHA student-artists were inducted into the National Art Honor Society, the Tri-M Music Honor Society, and the International Thespian Society. Congratulations to all of the new members!



John Cannon P'19, '21; Blathnat Cannon'21; and Barbara Reeves P'19, '21

## NAHS

Maeve Duffin'20  
 Carmela Icarangal'20  
 Adrianna Kearney'20  
 Shoshana Ronen'20  
 Elise Vergos'20  
 Kaitlyn DeMicco'21  
 Isabella Garzon'21  
 Claire Hoffmann'21  
 Jennifer Lawrence'21  
 Barbara Mattura'21  
 Jasmine Otazu'21  
 Cameron Rasnake'21  
 Keara Skae'21  
 Hannah Specthrie'21  
 Geri Tabbachino'21  
 Grace Capeless'22  
 Ava Kazias'22  
 Shannon LaMotta'22

Rhea Mittal'22  
 Laura Rickli'22

## ITS

Elizabeth Encke'20  
 Emma Patton'20  
 Caroline Dyson'21  
 Julia Frengul'21  
 Anja Kranenburg'21  
 Clare McGowan'21  
 Anna Salewycz'21  
 Grace Capeless'22  
 Alyssa Darella'22  
 Britney Lyons'22  
 Kaitlyn DeMartini'23  
 Samantha Landolfi'23  
 Carolyn Sandt'23  
 Mary Stoker'23

## Tri-M

Adrianna Kearney'20  
 Angelina Daniel'22  
 Alyssa Darella'22  
 Jessica Kielur'22  
 Alexis Mason'22



Members of Tri-M with moderator and teacher, Mrs. Barbara Donatacci



Members of ITS



Members of NAHS



# 100+ Students Inducted

into National Honor Society and National Foreign Language Honor Societies

More than one hundred Immaculate Heart Academy students were inducted into the National Honor Society and three different national foreign language honor societies on Wednesday, January 29, 2020.

Eighty-nine students were inducted into the IHA National Honor Society, eight into the National French Honor Society, ten into the National Spanish Honor Society, and six into the National Chinese Honor Society. Thank you to our administration including Ms. Patricia Molloy, president; Mr. Jason Schlereth, principal; Miss Kerry Carroll'04, assistant principal of faculty and instruction; Mrs. Jo-Ellen DeSanta, assistant principal of academics and curriculum; and Mrs. Alice Rogers, assistant principal of students; Mrs. Melissa O'Sullivan, director of college counseling and IHA NHS moderator; and students on the NHS Executive Board for running a beautiful and meaningful induction. Additionally, thank you to the foreign language NHS moderators, Ms. Ana Echeverría (Spanish), Mrs. Tracy Hong Syz (Chinese), and Dr. Arta Boutilcher (French). Congratulations to the newest inductees:

**Below:** Members of IHA's National Honor Society



Members of the National Spanish Honor Society with Ms. Ana Echeverría, Spanish teacher and moderator



Members of the National French Honor Society with moderator and teacher, Dr. Arta Boutilcher



## National Honor Society

Vanessa Geerlof'20  
 Niamh Keegan'20  
 Juliana Najjar'20  
 Allison Sandt'20  
 Jennifer Ahn'21  
 Alyssa Amico'21  
 Jessica Arriaga'21  
 Abigail Auty'21  
 Emma Bassett'21  
 Alexandra Betsy'21  
 Angelina Boris'21  
 Angelina Casale'21  
 Savannah Cece'21  
 Kayleigh Cicala'21  
 Ariana Contes'21  
 Katherine Conway'21  
 Katherine Cottrell'21  
 Olivia Coughlin'21  
 Emily Cuttita'21  
 Bianca D'Costa'21  
 Emmersen Dabal'21  
 Madeleine Dahl'21  
 Olivia DeMartini'21  
 Elizabeth DePhillips'21  
 Taylor DiLisi'21  
 Anais Erik'21  
 Nicole Erik'21  
 Isabella Estevez'21  
 Gracelee Fasanella'21  
 Alexandra Fassett'21  
 Alexandra Festa'21  
 Casey Forcellati'21  
 Jordan Gaffney'21  
 Lea Gagnon'21  
 Jordan Gehrig'21  
 Mia Grossman'21

Claire Hoffmann'21  
 Giana Homan'21  
 Adriana Hotsko'21  
 Arielle Jacus'21  
 Janine Jbeili'21  
 Caroline Kane'21  
 Julia Kapitan'21  
 Anja Kranenburg'21  
 Cailee LaFrance'21  
 Olivia Landolfi'21  
 Jennifer Lawrence'21  
 Alyssa Longo'21  
 Alyssa Lowther'21  
 Kayla Luna'21  
 Katherine Mackey'21  
 Daniela Makowka'21  
 Michelle Marino'21  
 Brooke Marotti'21  
 Julia Marotti'21  
 Hanna Martin'21  
 Emmy Mazzacano'21  
 Sherry McCarthy'21  
 Clare McGowan'21  
 Danielle Minnetian'21  
 Lauryn Mockler'21  
 Allison Monroe'21  
 Lauren Montgomery'21  
 Freya Nair'21  
 Daniella Navia'21  
 Catherine Nixon'21  
 Madelyn Novelli'21  
 Mary Virginia Nye'21  
 Riley O'Toole'21  
 Lauren Ohmacht'21  
 Jennifer Ollmann'21  
 Mariel Persico'21  
 Elizabeth Pinto-Shaw'21  
 Amanda Potenza'21  
 Kathleen Quinn'21  
 Brianna Romano'21  
 Anna Salewycz'21  
 Hanna Scott'21

Elizabeth Spizzo'21  
 Gianna Stirone'21  
 Geri Tabbachino'21  
 Isabella Torres'21  
 Isabella Tricarico'21  
 Lauren Turci'21  
 Taylor Whang'21  
 Annie Kate White'21  
 Kyra Whiteman'21  
 Sarah Zampino'21  
 Alexandra Zitelli'21

## National French Honor Society

Sabrina Isabel Figueroa'20  
 Kelsey Galiger'20  
 Grace Mendolia'20  
 Isabella Osorio'20  
 Sophia Ruggier'20  
 Joanne Semelsberger'20  
 Julia Frengul'21  
 Lea Gagnon'21

## National Spanish Honor Society

Brittney Holguin'20  
 Niamh Keegan'20  
 Emma Kramer'20  
 Kelly McDermott'20  
 Jessica O'Neill'20  
 Emma Patton'20  
 Ariana Alexay'21  
 Abigail Auty'21  
 Isabella Estevez'21  
 Allison Monroe'21

## National Chinese Honor Society

Catherine DePalma'21  
 Gracelee Fasanella'21  
 Casey Forcellati'21  
 Jennifer Ollmann'21  
 Karleena Pineda'21  
 Isabella Tricarico'21

# HONOR SOCIETY PLEDGE

I pledge myself  
 to always seek the light of truth,  
 to give unsparingly of my time and  
 energy toward the promotion of all  
 school activities,  
 to strive for excellence in academics,  
 to engage in worthy service,  
 and to lead forward in all things  
 that shall advance the welfare of  
 this school.

I pledge myself  
 to uphold the high purposes of this  
 society to which I have been elected,  
 striving in every way by word and deed  
 to make its ideals the ideals of my  
 school and life.



Members of the National Chinese Honor Society with moderator and teacher, Mrs. Tracy Hong Syz

# Love Strikes Twice at IHA

Goal Exceeded for Second Annual Valentine's Day of Giving

**O**n February 14, 2020, Cupid's aim was right on target as Immaculate Heart Academy raised more than \$100,000 for its second annual Valentine's Day of Giving, about double the amount of what was raised last year.

"I was speechless," said Mrs. Angelique Morelli, director of development. "To not only reach but exceed our goal of \$100,000 for the day is a testament to how invested the IHA community is in our school."

Giving Day fundraising began with an inaugural Sisterhood Cycle event on February 8, 2020 at CycleBar Montvale, which raised more than \$1,400 to support Giving Day. Throughout the week leading up to February 14, students, faculty, and staff were bringing in a minimum of \$5 to support the fundraiser. For the second year in a row, Ms. Patricia Molloy, president, was so overwhelmed by the generosity of our students, faculty, and staff, that she granted a day off of school to say "thank you" before Giving Day was over.

The success of Giving Day is due in large part to the volunteers. This year, Mrs. Morelli recruited a host of **Giving Day Ambassadors**, which included faculty and staff, students, alumnae, one parent, and one grandparent to help her spread word and encourage people to give on Giving Day. Their efforts garnered almost one thousand donations, many of which were from our students, faculty, and staff.

In addition to the amazing volunteer efforts, there were also very generous **Giving Challenge Donors** who were instrumental in helping IHA hit its goal. Each donor pledged a major gift, which, combined, equaled \$31,000. The challenge? If we raised \$50,000, these donors would fulfill their pledge. By noon, we had exceeded \$50,000 and were able to retrieve these special gifts!



Gianna Niece '21 and Skylar Scasserra '21 showed their love to IHA on Giving Day 2020!



Love strikes twice for Mia Grossman '21 and Angelina Boris '21.



Samantha Mullins '22, Samvi Bhatnagar '22, and Gabrielle Montegari '22



Isabella Sabino '20; Ava Poulin '20; Mrs. Angelique Morelli, director of development; Amber Estevez '23; and Isabella Estevez '21 worked hard together to make our second annual Valentine's Day of Giving a success.



Samantha Manning '21, Melissa Pierpont '21, Jillian Shea '21, Carina Parker '21, and Vanessa Pecora '21 show their love for IHA.

The excitement around the day began about a month before the event, with a series of videos that starred IHA senior, Allie Sandt '20 as IHA's cupid, Valentina. Valentina flew around IHA to keep an eye anyone who was hesitant about making a gift on Giving Day. The episodes, that also featured students, faculty, and staff, were posted on our social media pages along with a finale episode that played to a different tune.

"My student Giving Day Ambassadors came up with the idea to do a music video for the last promo," explained Mrs. Morelli. "With Allie's musical prowess, I knew I could count on her to not only sing a song, but write an original piece." Allie wrote the lyrics, composed

the music, and sang *Twice the Love (for IHA)*, an original song about Giving Day.

Allie said that being a part of Giving Day was a great way to start wrapping up her senior year. "I could not be happier to write a song for my school and I was honored to have been asked to help out with the entire project," she said, "especially since the result demonstrated how involved all students are in the IHA community."

Mrs. Morelli sends a very special thanks to all who donated and for being our valentine for the second time! Your generosity and love is greatly appreciated.

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR 2020 GIVING DAY AMBASSADORS:

### Students:

Amber Estevez '23  
Isabella Estevez '21  
Emma Hawryluk '22  
Aimee Mockler '20  
Jana Mucci '20  
Kate Nixon '21  
Ava Poulin '20  
Isabella Sabino '20  
Brianna Washburn '23  
Margaux Yannacci '22

### Faculty and Staff:

Paula Horne P '13, '15, '18  
Maureen McNulty  
Melissa O'Sullivan  
Jill Pecora P '21, '23  
Kelly Oberle Tweed '93

### Alumnae:

Jeannine Boyajian Barry '94  
Veronica Violante Degiardi '94  
Laura Coti Garrett '75 CB  
Sarah McCrudden '94  
Karen Gassert Poznanski '94  
Jeanne Erdman Pursiano '90 P '20  
Jill Werner-Simms '94

### Parent:

Benita Raia P '19, '22, '24

### Grandparent:

Janet Martin '22

### Thank you to our 2020 Giving Challenge Donors:

Chris & Jeannine Boyajian Barry '94 P '24  
Gene & Erin Napolitan P '90, '93 GP '15, '18  
Sam and Benita Raia P '19, '22, '24  
David and Joni Sanzari P '99, '02

# Soaring Eagle Awards II

Student Standouts Honored during 2019-20 Academic Year

**O**n January 29, 2020, ten dedicated and driven students were honored by Mr. Jason Schlereth, principal, with IHA Soaring Eagle Awards. These distinct awards are presented four times a year to teacher-nominated students who demonstrate excellence and determination and who work to the best of their ability in a particular subject area. The award winners were also recognized by other members of the administration including Ms. Patricia Molloy, president, and Mrs. Jo-Ellen DeSanta, assistant principal of academics and curriculum.



Mr. Phil Bernardi, Natalia LoCurto '23, and Lorraine and Peter LoCurto P'23



Mr. Jason Schlereth, principal, gives the Soaring Eagle Award for Music to Alyssa Longo '21.



Congratulations to: standing, left to right, Anna Gehres '22 (Physical Education – Mrs. Terry Skjold P'11), Rianne Kelleher '22 (Social Studies – Ms. Trish Carleton), Charlotte Helson '22 (Computer Programming – Mrs. Theresa Seymour Dolan '95), Caroline Wright '20 (Religious Studies – Ms. Lynn Gansley), Juliana Matina '23 (Biology – Ms. Genelle Diaz-Silveira), Alyssa Longo '21 (Music – Mrs. Barbara Donatacci P'19), and Gracelee Fasanella '21 (World Language – Mrs. Tracy Hong Syz). Seated, left to right, are Daniella Smith '20 (English – Ms. Megan Moser), Natalia LoCurto '23 (Communications – Mr. Phil Bernardi), and Katharine O'Connor '20 (Mathematics – Mrs. Liz Kearns P'05, '08, '11).



Maryann and Antonio Matina P'23, Juliana Matina '23, and Ms. Genelle Diaz-Silveira



Robert Wright P'20, Caroline Wright '20, Ms. Lynn Gansley, and Mary Wright P'20

# First Semester Distinguished Scholars

Congratulations to the following students who have been named Distinguished Scholars by earning an average of 95 or better for the first semester of the 2019-20 academic year:

## Freshmen

Marie Baldwin  
Grace Cassin  
Isabella Conde  
Ryley Dargan  
Katherine Deane  
Emma Dillane  
Sofia Doblosky  
Caitlin Fritz  
Isabella Galan  
Madeleine Gilson  
Lauren Grae  
Noelle Haskell  
Samantha Landolfi  
Layla Libanan  
Natalia Maglicic  
Kate Menake  
Meghan Minogue  
Johanna Murphy  
Gracyn Pisa  
Erin Shepler  
Jessica Sundlin  
Mary-Kathryn Sweeney  
Olivia Tacconi

## Sophomores

Alyssa Darella  
Kylie Galiger  
Katherine Mahoney  
Ashley Mariscal  
Riley McGovern  
Sophia Miller  
Elizabeth Muzilla-Fullem  
Jenna Savino  
Sydney Severini  
Sarah Vella  
Margaux Yannacci  
Katherine Young

## Juniors

Abigail Auty  
Angelina Casale  
Katherine Conway  
Bianca D'Costa  
Catherine DePalma  
Jordan Gaffney  
Valerie Hiemer  
Gabriella Karcz  
Mary Rose Kelly  
Gabriella Kittaneh  
Cailee LaFrance  
Brooke Marotti  
Julia Marotti  
Lauren Montgomery  
Freya Nair  
Madelyn Novelli  
Jennifer Ollmann  
Lauren Turci  
Emma Viggiano  
Taylor Whang  
Sarah Zampino

## Seniors

Logan Applin  
Vanessa Geerlof  
Bianca Kalaj  
Niamh Keegan  
Yoona Kim  
Emma Matesic  
Meghan McGuire  
Grace Mendolia  
Katharine O'Connor  
Jessica O'Neill  
Gabrielle Peko  
Kang Hyun Ryu  
Sophia Scian  
Ava Sciubba  
Emily Soranno

# CSW Diaper Drive



Traditionally, during IHA's celebration of Catholic Schools Week, we participate in a school-wide drive as a way to honor our mission. This year, we collected diapers of all sizes to benefit the St. Joseph Care Corner (SJCC) – Helping Hands for Health and Home. The Care Corner is focused on stocking items for different charitable organizations that are not easily obtained through food pantries and stamps. We were asked to donate diapers, as they are currently in high demand by their clientele.

**Thank you to all those  
who donated!**

# 2020 Beefsteak

Community joins together to support IHA Athletics

Blue Eagle parents, coaches, and faculty and staff gathered together at this year's Beefsteak on January 25, 2020 to celebrate IHA Athletics! Thank you to members of the Development Department, especially Beth DiCiancia Garrigan '76 P'06; event chairs, Grace King P'16, '19, '22 and Mary Ellen Sayre P'20, '23; and basket chair, Janine Priolo P'17, '19, '22, for all of their dedication and hard work in making this event a success and favorite among our community!

## Congratulations to big prizewinners:

**Alumnae Basket Winner:**  
Kathleen Gaggin Byrne '84

**Mega 1 Winner (Gas Grill):**  
Christopher Pierpont P'21

**Mega 2 Winner (Billy Joel Tickets):**  
Eric Pfeifer C



The late Jeff Carpenter P'12, '15 attends his last and favorite IHA event, our Beefsteak.



Eric Pfeifer, IHA Varsity Soccer coach and winner of the Billy Joel tickets

**Top:** Standing, left to right, are Patty and Chris DePhillips P'19, '21; Brian Sayre P'20; and Toby Bizub P'21. Seated, left to right, are Stacey Siffringer P'20, Katie Bizub P'21, Mary Ellen Sayre P'20, and Christine and John Toohey P'23.

**Middle left:** Karen Nurminen P'21, '23

**Middle top right:** Rosemarie Kuchenmeister P'16, '22; Jacqueline Galano Woods '87 P'22; and Gina Carbone P'21

**Middle bottom right:** Tiffany and TJ Spizzo P'21

**Bottom:** Standing, left to right, are Giuseppe Gonzalez P'22; Janine and Vincent Priolo P'17, '19, '22; Grace King P'16, '19, '22; and John Daugherty P'19. Seated, left to right, are Carol Gonzalez P'22; Stacey Rossicci-Vale '92 and Andrew Vale P'19, '22; and Toshia Daugherty P'19.

# Kunz Family Honored

## Yolanda and Raymond Kunz Receive JFR Recognition of Goodness Award

This year's Jewish Foundation for the Righteous benefit acknowledged two IHA mainstays, Yolanda and Raymond Kunz, former IHA Consultative Board member, P'92, '94, GP'20, '21, '23, for their efforts helping victims of the Holocaust.

On November 25, 2019, they were honored with the JFR's Recognition of Goodness Award for their dedicated work within the organization over the past thirty years. In addition to their families, a group of eleven students and faculty/staff members from Immaculate Heart Academy attended The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous Annual Benefit to support Yolanda and Raymond Kunz.

Family members who attended the event, which was held at the New York Public Library, included daughters, Yolanda Kunz Semelsberger'92 P'20 and Raelene Kunz McKay'94 P'21, '23; granddaughters, Joanne Semelsberger'20, Kaylee McKay'21, and Madison McKay'23; and their families. IHA community members who attended the benefit included Ms. Patricia Molloy, president; Mr. Jason Schlereth, principal; Mrs. Beth DiCianca Garrigan'76, director of alumnae engagement and special events; Mrs. Alice Nudelman, information management specialist; Dr. Sue Kenney, history teacher; Grace Giordano'20; Isabella Estevez'21; Gabriella Salazar'20; Nicole Krumrei'20; Isabella Lucero'20; and Jessica Boyd'22. The students in attendance have taken the Holocaust and Genocide and/or the Global Issues courses at IHA.

Event guests viewed a screening of the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous' latest documentary, *Village of Angels*, which tells the story of Melpomeni Gianopoulou Dina and how she and



John Semelsberger P'20; Yolanda Kunz Semelsberger'92 P'20; Joanne Semelsberger'20; Matt Semelsberger; Raymond and Yolanda Kunz P'92, '94, GP'20, '21, '23; Madison McKay'23; Raelene Kunz McKay'94 P'21, '23; Kaylee McKay'21; and George McKay P'21, '23

her sisters saved the Mordechai family in Greece. Ray and Yolanda then spoke to accept the Recognition of Goodness Award. According to the JFR, Yolanda said, in part, "We always admired the courage, resilience, hope and love of both the rescuers and survivors. After every JFR dinner, Raymond and I would ask each other, could we ever do what they did? What will be our answer after we leave tonight's viewing of the documentary? How will this reunion and their story affect a change in us? How will our legacy be defined? I would like to quote Melpomeni's remark when she recently met the family of the Holocaust survivors that she had rescued: 'I can die quietly,' words that underscore her immense satisfaction. Melpomeni and all the rescuers said 'yes' when faced with the challenge and opportunity to help save lives—at great risk to their own lives. Both rescuers and the survivors shared courage, faith, hope, and charity. They are perfect role models for all of us. It's all about choices."



Standing, left to right, are Grace Giordano'20, Isabella Estevez'21, Isabella Lucero'20, Jessica Boyd'22, Nicole Krumrei'20, and Gabriella Salazar'20. Seated, left to right, are Dr. Sue Kenney, history teacher; Mr. Jason Schlereth, principal; Ms. Patricia Molloy, president; Ms. Alice Nudelman, information management specialist; and Mrs. Beth DiCianca Garrigan'76, director of alumnae engagement and special events.

# Personal Trainer Certification Course Takes Off

In the fall of 2019, IHA introduced a unique elective course to our seniors called Personal Trainer Certification. In this semester course taught by Mr. Tommi Paavola, IHA fitness and performance coach, students learn about the essentials of personal fitness training through the rigorous National Academy of Sports Medicine (NASM) certification curriculum. At the completion of the course, students take the off-site certification exam as a class; a passing grade enables students to work as certified personal trainers, or at college or private fitness centers.

Throughout the course, students are introduced to the human movement system; the Optimum Performance Training (OPT) Model; and to basic exercise science, assessment, program design, nutrition, and client relations. Exercise technique, training instruction, behavioral coaching, and professional conduct are also covered.

Coach Paavola said he had always wanted to add a personal training course to the curriculum, but he was not aware of a certification that would allow high school students to take the national exam. "Then I spoke to a colleague of mine from Passaic High School, Coach Tom Galan, who told me that the National Academy of Sports Medicine was offering a Personal Trainer Certification curriculum to high schools," he explained. "NASM is one of the most known and well-respected certifications in the field, so I immediately spoke to our administration as well as with NASM to get things started."



Coach Tommi Paavola in the Vincent Herold Fitness Center

The elective course is made up of seventy-five percent classroom instruction and twenty-five percent practical learning while utilizing the fitness center. Throughout the duration of the course, students prepare for the national exam through quizzes and tests like any other academic course. While there are no academic prerequisites to take the Personal Trainer Certification course, Coach Paavola explained, "much of the content is anatomy, physiology, and sport medicine. The science subjects are certainly helpful, as well as a true interest in exercise science, physical therapy, and/or the medical field is recommended." Coach Paavola estimates it should take three to four months of focused studying to do well on the challenging 120-multiple-choice-question exam. One has to achieve eighty percent correct in order to pass and become certified; the national average for passing the exam is sixty-five percent.

After running a successful course enjoyed by thirty-three seniors in its first year, IHA is looking forward to offering Personal Trainer Certification again in the fall of 2020. Tommi said that while staying healthy, fit, and energetic should be an important focus for everyone, he finds it exciting that someone can study it and even make it his or her profession. "By passing the certification exam, you are actually graduating high school with a vocation," he said. "While you study a lot about the human body, ultimately it comes to building strong relationships. You need to know the science, but it's all about serving the people with whom you have a chance to come in contact."



# Seven Student-Artists Receive Prestigious Awards

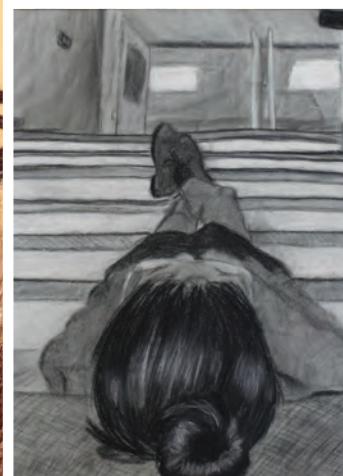
The Montclair Art Museum recently announced the 2020 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards winners and seven IHA student-artists made the list. Since 1923, the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards have recognized some of America's most celebrated artists while they were teenagers including Andy Warhol, Zac Posen, Idelle Weber, Ken Burns, Luis Jiménez, and Kay WalkingStick. A jury of professional artists, curators, and arts educators spent more than thirty hours reviewing three thousand five hundred seventy works of art submitted by one thousand three hundred thirty individual student-artists from across northern New Jersey. The IHA students' work was selected as part of the top thirty percent of the most outstanding work submitted among their peers. An awards ceremony and opening reception was held on February 27, 2020 and Gold Key award winners were on display at the Montclair Art Museum through February and March. Congratulations to:

**Bottom Left:** *The Flow of Time*

**Middle Column Top:** *Self-Portrait*  
(Catherine DePalma'21)

**Middle Column Bottom:** *An Ant's Point of View*

**Right Column Left:** *Silverware*



## Gold Key

**Sophia Scian'20** – *Silverware* (Painting)

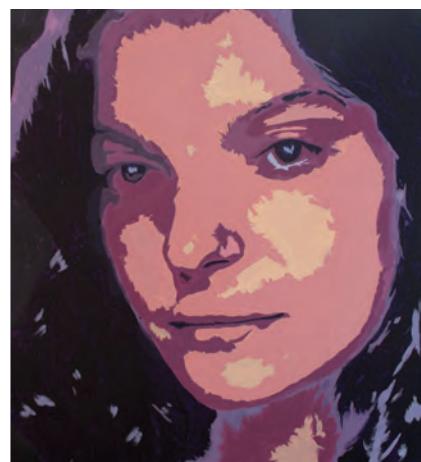
**Kang Hyun Ryu'20** – *Storage Love*  
(Painting)

**Kang Hyun Ryu'20** – *The Flow of Time*  
(Painting)

**Kang Hyun Ryu'20** – *Time and Memory*  
(Portfolio)

## Silver Key

**Kang Hyun Ryu'20** – *Pumping*  
(Painting)



## Honorable Mention

**Jessica O'Neill'20** – *Montenegro*  
(Drawing & Illustration)

**Barbara Mattura'21** – *Sunrise on Ferry Heights*  
(Drawing & Illustration)

**Sophia Scian'20** – *An Ant's Point of View*  
(Drawing & Illustration)

**Gabriella Peko'20** – *Foreshortened Figure*  
(Drawing & Illustration)

**Elise Vergos'20** – *Self-Portrait* (Painting)

**Catherine DePalma'21** – *Self-Portrait*  
(Painting)

**Kang Hyun Ryu'20** – *Step to the American Dream* (Painting)

Additionally, **Kang Hyun Ryu'20** won a National Gold Medal for her painting, *The Flow of Time*, an incredibly prestigious achievement.

**Above:** *Sunrise on Ferry Heights*

**Left:**  
*Foreshortened Figure*



# Summer@theheart

Two Full Sessions and Three Mini Sessions

**July 6 – 30, 2020**  
**Monday – Thursday**  
**9 a.m. – 12 p.m.**



Join us for **Summer@theheart**, IHA's co-ed summer enrichment program for 7th through 12th grade students. Registration begins March 2, 2020.

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



## A GLIMPSE OF COURSES BEING OFFERED:

Creative Writing  
Essay Writing  
Intro to Algebra  
Algebra II

Intro to Broadcasting  
Intro to Calligraphy  
Intro to Geometry  
Intro to Oil Painting

Find out more at [ihanj.com](http://ihanj.com) or call 201.445.6800.

500 Van Emburgh Avenue, Township of Washington, NJ 07676

 @theIHAJN  @attheheart  ImmaculateHeartAcademy

The logo for Immaculate Heart Academy. It features a stylized heart shape with a cross inside it. The text "Immaculate Heart ACADEMY" is written in a serif font, with "Immaculate" and "Heart" stacked above "ACADEMY".

# Two IHA Teams Compete in M3 Challenge

**O**n February 29, 2020, two independent teams of five seniors each represented Immaculate Heart Academy in the MathWorks Math Modeling (M3) Challenge. This rigorous, fourteen-hour competition is unlike any other high school competition in mathematics, pushing students to the limits of their math knowledge, analyzing data, researching unfamiliar problems, and testing their ability to work together as a team to come up with a solution to a multi-faceted and authentic problem using mathematical modeling. Seniors representing IHA, all members of the STEM@theheart program and Mu Alpha Theta honor society, included:

## TEAM 13241

Ella Parker'20  
Jessica O'Neill'20  
Emma Matesic'20  
Lily Implicito'20  
Isabella DeCurtis'20

## TEAM 13242

Angeline Jacob'20  
Meghan McGuire'20  
Elise Vergos'20  
Grace Mendolia'20  
Kang Hyun Ryu'20  
Sophia Scian'20 - Alternate

This year's challenge required students to use mathematics to gain insight into a problem we face today: converting diesel gas to electric vehicles within the trucking industry. The Challenge: "Model a complete turnover from diesel to electric



Back row, left to right, are Meghan McGuire'20, Kang Hyun Ryu'20, Isabella DeCurtis'20, Lily Implicito'20, Emma Matesic'20, Jessica O'Neill'20, and Sophia Scian'20. Front row, left to right, are Angeline Jacob'20, Ella Parker'20, Grace Mendolia'20, and Elise Vergos'20.

trucks; analyze infrastructure, economic, and environmental implications of such a conversion."

Working to very specific standards, participating teams prepared a technical report of no more than twenty pages. Each report presented the problem and proposed a unique solution based on various mathematical models the teams developed. Team members provided a "sensitivity analysis," exploring the strengths and weaknesses of their models, and explained what they learned.

Mrs. Liz Kearns, Mathematics Department chairperson and Mu Alpha Theta advisor, structured both teams to maximize the participants' unique strengths and talents and coached them. Immaculate Heart Academy's teams represented gifted mathematicians, researchers, writers, critical thinkers, and, of course, problem solvers. Each team worked independently for fourteen continuous hours analyzing data, doing cost/benefit analysis, and researching

important elements of the problem. The challenge was all done under the pressure of strict time constraints and mandated guidelines. Congratulations to Team 13242 for making it to the second round of judging!

"I am so proud of my students and all they have achieved," Mrs. Kearns said. "I commend the team members for the courage and grit it took to compete against some of the top schools and most talented math students in the country. I am always excited by the opportunity the challenge offers my students for growth."



Grace Mendolia'20 and Elise Vergos'20



Ella Parker'20 and Emma Matesic'20

# WINTER | sports wrap-up

The IHA Swim Team is named state champion!



2019-20 Varsity Swim Team with assistant coach, Ms. Alexis Fatigati'07, far left, and head coach, Ms. Lia Kunnapas'09, far right





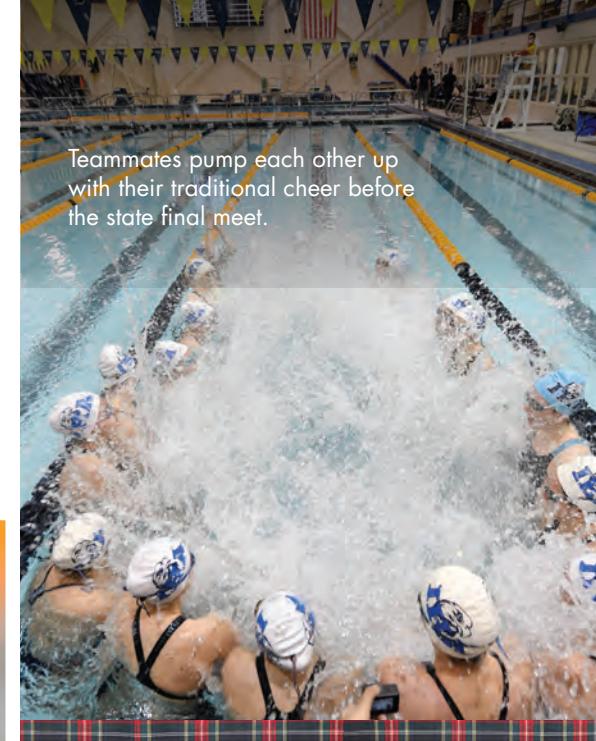
Emma Dillane'23



## SWIM TEAM

The IHA Swim Team had another successful season in 2019-20, finishing with a 10-1 record after swimming against some of the best teams in the state. The team captured its twenty-ninth consecutive league title, and its twenty-second Bergen County title. In the NJSIAA State Tournament, Immaculate Heart Academy defeated Bishop Eustace 108-62 in the semifinals and Mount St. Mary's Academy 96-74 in the finals to capture its thirteen consecutive state title, surpassing the team's own win streak of twelve. At the NJSIAA State Individual Championship, five swimmers competed against the best in New Jersey. The 200

medley relay team of Taylor Whang'21, Sydney Severini'22, Kelly McDermott'20, and Emmy Mazzacano'21 placed ninth; and the 400 freestyle relay team of Giavanna Baquerizo'20, Taylor Whang'21, Kelly McDermott'20, and Emmy Mazzacano'21 placed twelfth. Additionally, Sydney Severini'22 placed thirteenth in the 200 individual medley and ninth in the 100 breaststroke, Emmy Mazzacano'21 placed sixteenth in the 200 freestyle and nineteenth in the 500 freestyle, and Taylor Whang'21 placed nineteenth in the 200 individual medley and twentieth in the 100 breaststroke.



Teammates pump each other up with their traditional cheer before the state final meet.

### Big North Conference All-League Honors

#### First-Team

Giavanna Baquerizo'20, Kelly McDermott'20, Ella Parker'20, Chloe Pielka'20, Emmy Mazzacano'21, Daniella Navia'21, Taylor Whang'21, Sydney Severini'22, and Madison Klak'23

#### Second-Team

Ella Parker'20, Chloe Pielka'20, Camelia Achury'21, Claire Hoffmann'21, Sydney Severini'22, Natalie Ursich'22, Emma Dillane'23, and Madison Klak'23

#### Honorable Mention

Kristina Organista'20

### Big North Conference Coach of the Year

Lia Kunnapas'09

### BCWCA All-County Honors

#### First-Team

Giavanna Baquerizo'20, Kelly McDermott'20, Emmy Mazzacano'21, Daniella Navia'21, Taylor Whang'21, Cleo Kepka'22, and Sydney Severini'22

#### Second-Team

Kelly McDermott'20, Emmy Mazzacano'21, Daniella Navia'21, Taylor Whang'21, Cleo Kepka'22, and Sydney Severini'22

#### Third-Team

Giavanna Baquerizo'20 and Taylor Whang'21

#### Honorable Mention

Daniella Navia'21

## BASKETBALL

The IHA Basketball team completed another outstanding season, ending with a record of 27-2. The girls finished 6-0 in league play, capturing the Big North United Division Crown. The team also reached the final of the Bergen County Tournament for the second year in a row. The season was highlighted by exciting wins in Elite College showcases vs. Lincoln Prep of Canada and Putnam Science



This year's senior members of IHA Basketball

### Big North Conference All-Division Honors

#### First-Team

Brittany Graff'20, Emma Matesic'20, Anna Morris'20, Samantha Rinaldi'20, and A'Nyah Barker'21

#### Second-Team

Gina Gaccione'22

#### Honorable Mention

Eden Plescia'20

### Big North Conference Player of the Year

Anna Morris'20

Academy of Connecticut. The team also captured the prestigious Joe Poli Holiday Tournament championship. The season ended with a convincing win vs. Hudson Catholic in the Non-Public A North State Championship, the program's ninth consecutive section championship victory. A date with New Jersey's #1 Saint John Vianney was waiting in the state final.



Brittany Graff'20



Emma Matesic'20

### Big North Conference Team of the Year Immaculate Heart Academy

#### BCWCA All-County Honors

##### First-Team

Brittany Graff'20, Anna Morris'20, and A'Nyah Barker'21

##### Third-Team

Emma Matesic'20 and Samantha Rinaldi'20

##### Honorable Mention

Gina Gaccione'22

#### NJ.com All-Non-Public Honors

##### First-Team

Anna Morris'20

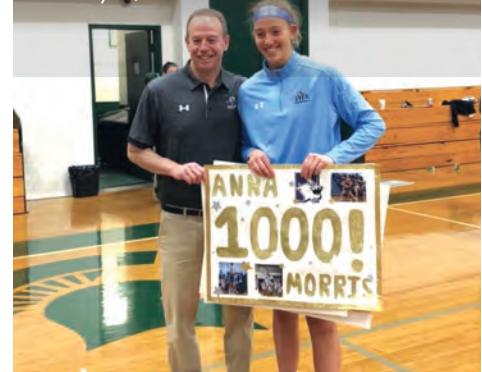
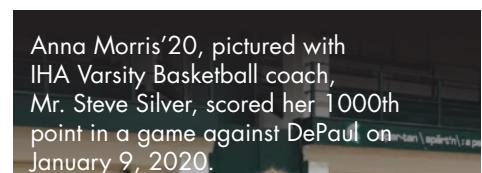
#### NJ.com All-State Honors

##### Second-Team

Anna Morris'20

### Final North Jersey Ranking - #2

### Final New Jersey State Ranking - #5



# BOWLING

The 2019-2020 season was truly an amazing one for IHA Bowling. The team was made up of eighteen girls, the most ever. As always, team members were focused and determined and they persevered to achieve second place in the league. An even more impressive feat was the team coming in third place in its group at the State Sectional Tournament. Additionally, Gianna Stirone'21 was one of only thirty-six girls in Bergen County chosen to be in the Girls Individual State Sectionals. This year's two graduating seniors, Stella Farrell'20 and Roseanne Tauber'20, were talented assets to the team and will be greatly missed.



Blathnat Cannon '21

2019-20 Varsity Bowling Team



## Big North Conference All-Division Honors

### First-Team

Gianna Stirone'21 and Mackenzie Keelen'22

### Second-Team

Skylar Scasserra'21 and Olivia Seitter'23

### Honorable Mention

Blathnat Cannon'21

## BCWCA All-County Honors

### Honorable Mention

Gianna Stirone'21



Skylar Scasserra '21

# DANCE TEAM

IHA Varsity Dance showed itself to be an established stronghold in its fifth season with a young team and new coaches. The team brought home a New Jersey State Dance Championship title in the J.V. Jazz division and finished second in the state in Varsity Pom, a brand new category for the team. IHA Varsity Dance saw much success this season including first place finishes at Montclair State and DTU's

Regional Competition in the Varsity Jazz division, as well as many close second place finishes. J.V. Jazz brought home many first place finishes, as well as the DTU Regional Championship title. The team was led by senior captain, Isabel Bolado'20; junior captain, Elizabeth DePhillips'21; and sophomore captains, Madison Stewart'22 and Brooke Muller'22.

## 2019-20 Varsity Pom Team



Members of the Varsity Jazz team perform their routine.

## New Jersey State Dance Championship

J.V. Jazz – First Place

Varsity Pom – Second Place

## Montclair State Competition

Varsity Jazz – First Place

## DTU Regional Competition

Varsity Jazz – First Place

J.V. Jazz – First Place



2019-20 Winter Track Team

## WINTER TRACK

IHA Winter Track had one of its finest seasons in recent history, winning the league championship for the first time since 2014 and the Bergen County Relays for the second consecutive season and third time in four years. The team also performed extremely well at the Spike Shoe Invitational and the Ridgewood Winter Games 2. Madelyn Novelli'21 was selected First-Team All-County and several school records were established with Emma Viggiano'21 tying the pole vault record and Nicole Gysin'20 setting the school mark in the Pentathlon. The 4x55 shuttle team of Maegan Feeney'22, Nicole Gysin'20, Olivia DuBois'20, and Madison Libby'21 won the County Relays, shattering the school record. Additionally, Maegan Feeney'22, Madison Libby'21, Nicole Gysin'20, and Savannah Cece'21 set the school mark in the 4x51 shuttle hurdles. Christine Ajao'21 catapulted to number three in school history in the shot put, and the freshman quartet of Noelle Haskell'21, Olivia Tacconi'23, Grace Kelleher'23, and Ella Eitner'23 won the 4x400 relay in the Bergen County Freshman Race.



Nicole Gysin'20

<b>Big North Conference All-Division Honors</b>	<b>Big North Conference Coach of the Year</b>
<b>First-Team</b>	<b>Matt Joyce</b>
Nicole Gysin'20, Christine Ajao'21, Savannah Cece'21, Daniela Makowka'21, Madelyn Novelli'21, Geri Tabbachino'21, Emma Viggiano'21, Maegan Feeney'22, Rianne Kelleher'22, Camryn King'22, and Grace Kelleher'23	
<b>Second-Team</b>	<b>Honorable Mention</b>
Olivia DuBois'20, Mary Patricia Sayre'20, Madison Libby'21, Danielle Minnetian'21, Grace Olear'21, Kylie Galiger'22, Noelle Haskell'23, Leanna Johnston'23, and Grace Kelleher'23	Taylor DiLisi'21
<b>BCWCA All-County Honors</b>	
<b>First-Team</b>	<b>Madelyn Novelli'21</b>
<b>Second-Team</b>	<b>Madison Libby'21</b>
<b>Third-Team</b>	<b>Nicole Gysin'20</b>



Madelyn Novelli'21, Keara Skae'21, Rachel Bell'20, and Geri Tabbachino'21

IHA wins 95-69 over Academy of the Holy Angels at the league championships in Staten Island, New York.





## ICE HOCKEY

IHA Ice Hockey finished the season 9-5. The team was made up of ten skaters and two goalies for a total of twelve players on the IHA roster; finishing with a winning record for that small of a team is incredibly impressive. IHA Ice Hockey is a growing program and getting better every year. The team went 1-1 in the State Tournament beating Westfield and losing a hard-fought battle to Morristown Beard in the N.J. State quarterfinal.



### Selected to NJ High School

#### All Star Game

Meghan Mc너ney '20,  
Logan Siffringer '20, Quinlyn  
Maloney '21, and Caitlin Pierce '23

### Senior Stats

Meghan Mc너ney '20:  
9 goals, 11 assists - 20 points

Logan Siffringer '20:  
22 goals, 10 assists - 32 points

Jillian Pursiano '20:  
134 saves

### Point Leader

Quinlyn Maloney '21:  
26 goals, 14 assists - 40 points

### Most Blocked Shots

Cara Kochakian '22: 26 blocks



## SKI TEAM

IHA had a solid year, finishing 17-8 in the regular season and qualifying for the State Championships, finishing in eighth place. Charlotte Helson '22, Mary Grace Maurer '22, and Brianna Washburn '23 all qualified for the Individual Championship Race (ROC), which was ultimately won by Brianna.



### NJISRA Liberty All-League Honors

Charlotte Helson '22, Mary Grace  
Maurer '22, and Brianna Washburn '23

### NJISRA All-State Honors

#### First-Team

Brianna Washburn '23

### State Champion

Brianna Washburn '23



# CLASS notes

**'66**

**Rose Ganguzza**, CEO and Founder of Rose Pictures LLC, recently produced her latest feature film, *FATIMA*.

The nationwide release date of *FATIMA*, which has the same distributor as *THE PASSION*, is planned for August 14, 2020.



**'69**

**Eileen Weimerskirch Wright** says, "When I was reading through the Spring 2019 IHA Newsletter, I noted a

picture of Briana Gorman '12 in front of a Navy jet she flies. This was thrilling for me, as I was a medical officer in the Navy and privileged to fly in A4s, but only as a passenger because, at that time, women were not eligible to train as jet pilots. We weren't even allowed to overnight on an aircraft carrier. It is so wonderful to see how things have changed and to see IHA graduates out there facilitating that change! I was so impressed with the evolution of IHA when I attended the 1969 50th class reunion. It is inspiring to see what is now available to enhance education and experience in preparation for adulthood. A solid foundation physically, emotionally, and spiritually is truly necessary to navigate our paths in

a world that becomes more challenging with every passing year. It is impressive that IHA continues to provide such foundation."



Eileen Weimerskirch Wright '69

**'86**

Rockland District Attorney Elect Tom Walsh announced his executive staff as he officially took office January 1, 2020. The key positions include the Chief

District Attorney, two 1st Assistant District Attorneys, Chief of Detectives, and the Director of the Narcotics Task Force. **Barbara Gionta-DeStefano**, 1st Assistant District Attorney, is a former county court judge in Rockland, and was a Rockland County senior assistant district attorney, where she was in charge of domestic violence prosecutions. She is also a former assistant public defender, and is currently a deputy town attorney for Orangetown, New York. She is a former director of the Rockland County Women's Bar Association, and currently a representative for that organization's Judiciary Screening Committee. She has also served as the chairperson for the Family Law Committee of the Rockland County Bar Association. Barbara is married to Ken DeStefano and they have two children, Jake and Gillian. They reside in Pearl River, New York.



His Royal Highness, the Duke of Cambridge meets Claudia Bertolino Atkinson '94 and other attendees at London's Air Ambulance 30th Anniversary Gala in London.

**'94**

**Claudia Bertolino Atkinson**, managing director, global head of business development, Citco Fund Services

(USA) Inc., was named by The Hedge Fund Journal as one of the *50 Leading Women in Hedge Funds 2019*. The article reads, in part, “Claudia Bertolino’s broad-ranging role is responsible for securing new fund services mandates for all lines of business, which include hedge funds, private investments, real assets, trusts & foundations, and family offices as well as leading on marking the entire

proposition. She assumed her current role in 2017 and has helped the firm reach its long-term goal of \$1trn in assets under administration in 2018.” Claudia is also very active in the 100 Women in Finance organization, which recently had her collaborating with the Royal Family in England. She attended the London’s Air Ambulance 30th Anniversary Gala 2019 at the Rosewood Hotel, London on November 19, 2019. “Citco was a sponsor of the event, as we are always keen to support worthy charitable causes, and I was there as a representative of the company,” she explains. At the event,

she met His Royal Highness, the Duke of Cambridge, Prince William, who is the Patron of London’s Air Ambulance Charity. This charitable organization provides pre-hospital emergency medical services to victims of major trauma throughout London. “In 2019, the Duke took part in the charity’s anniversary campaign, during which he flew with the crew and met staff and patients from the service,” Claudia writes. “Through this experience and his own work as an air ambulance pilot, the Duke saw first-hand the impact of rapid response treatment for the most critically ill patients.”

**'96**

**Allison Katen Lim** was the guest presenter at the Bergen County Professional Women’s Network (BCPWN)

luncheon on February 7, 2020 at Savini in Allendale. Allison presented on “mindfulness and movement through the practice of Qigong—a centuries-old system of coordinated body-posture and movement, breathing, and meditation used for the purposes of optimal health and spirituality.” In addition, **Lisa DiGuglielmo Pisano '96** and **Liza Porcelli Fonti '96** are consultants for BCPWN, handling communications/marketing and social media, respectively.



From left to right are Sharon Ventricelli Marigliani '73, Beth DiCiancia Garrigan '76, Allison Katen Lim '96, Lisa DiGuglielmo Pisano '96, and Mary Ellen Dooley Nye '87 P'21 at the BCPWN luncheon on February 7, 2020.

'99

**Michelle Hoeppner Ranahan** writes, "I graduated from Immaculate Heart Academy in 1999, the last class of the millennium. After graduating from LeMoyne College, I entered a career in finance, obtained a master's degree in elementary education, and taught fourth grade. I am now fortunate, for the time being, to stay home with my two children, ages five and three. I recently wrote and illustrated my first children's book, *Rosie's Hilarious Hair and Her Helpful Helmet*, a book about the journey with my daughter who wore a helmet to correct plagiocephaly, otherwise known as flat-head syndrome." *Read more about Michelle's newly published book in our Alumnae Authors piece on page 19.* "At IHA, I started to feel a sense of leadership," Michelle continues. "I played on the basketball team, served as a sports editor of the yearbook, and was also Student Council vice president. It was a place where I gained confidence to stand up for myself, and put my trust in the Lord to reveal my future path."

'03

**Lauren Dietz Gartiser** and her husband, John, welcomed Madeline Rose Gartiser to the world on November 29, 2019 at 2:25 p.m. She was 6 lbs, 12 oz and 19.5 inches long.



Madeline Rose Gartiser

**Lauren Quirolgico Rygiel** and her husband, Ian, are delighted to announce the birth of their first son, Finnegan Edward Rygiel, born December 15, 2019 at 9:32 a.m. in New York City. Finnegan was 6 lbs, 4 oz and 19.5 inches long.



Finnegan Edward Rygiel

**Lauren Galasso** writes, "I'm extremely ecstatic to announce that our baby boy, Noah Bryce Torres, was born on December 22, 2019 at 7:09 p.m.! He weighed 7 lbs, 10 oz and was 21.25 inches long. My husband, Jorge, and I are totally over the moon and in love with our sweet little man."



Noah Bryce Torres

'05

**Brielle Kane Nagy'05** writes, "James Kane Nagy was born October 1, 2019 weighing 7 lbs, 13 oz and measuring 21.5 inches long. He came into the world three weeks early—he was ready!"

**Tahirah Guice** and her husband, Abdul, welcomed Norah Rivka Guice to the world on December 18, 2019 at 4:09 p.m. She weighed 6 lbs, 8.8 oz and was 20.5 inches long. The meaning of her name is "the light of God's servant soul," Tahirah writes. "My husband's name is Abdul, which means servant of God."



Norah Rivka Guice

**Kelly Kearns Dickow** married Jared Dickow on October 12, 2019 at the Church of St. Paul the Apostle in New York City. The ceremony was followed by a reception at the JW Marriott Essex House. The couple traveled across the world to Vietnam for their honeymoon and spent two weeks exploring the beautiful country. Kelly's sisters, Amy Kearns-Tweddell'08 and Brittany Kearns'11, were maids of honor and her cousin, Hayley Rieman'16, was a bridesmaid. Kelly's mom is Mrs. Liz Kearns P'05, '08, '11, IHA Mathematics Department chairperson. The couple, pictured at right, lives and works in New York City.

# '06

Emma Grace Newman, daughter of **Samantha McGuire-Newman** and William Newman, just turned one year old on March 10, 2020. "My friend, Giovanna Vitamia'06, had this shirt made for my daughter for her birthday!" Samantha writes, "I can't wait for her to go to IHA!"



Emma Grace Newman

**Allison O'Rourke Windels** writes, "2017 and 2018 were busy years. After finishing my chief residency, I was lucky enough to stay on as faculty in the Department of Internal Medicine at Medstar Georgetown University Hospital. I love being able to see my own primary care patients and teach residents every day. My husband and I moved across the Potomac to Alexandria, Virginia in early 2018, and welcomed a baby boy, Nicholas Kevin, on November 27, 2018. He is now a giggly one-year-old who loves 'reading' books and FaceTiming with his Aunt Susie'08."



Nicholas Kevin Windels

# '07

# '07

**Stefanie Rutigliano-Miletic** and her husband, Tom Miletic, welcomed their baby girl, Liliana Rose, on November 2,

2018. She was 6 lb, 13 oz. and is IHA-ready!



Jared and Kelly Kearns Dickow'05



Liliana Rose Miletic

'08

Marissa Quinn Donahoe and her husband, Jerry, welcomed to the world their baby boy, Aedan George, on November 29, 2019 at 5:55 p.m. Aedan was 7 lbs., 7 oz and 21 inches long.

Aedan George Donahoe



Cole James Tweddell was born on February 29, 2020 (a leap day baby!) at 12:51 p.m. to Zachery and [Amy Kearns-Tweddell](#). He weighed 7 lbs, 1 oz and was 20 inches long. Cole is the first grandchild for IHA Mathematics Department chairperson, Mrs. Liz Kearns P'05, '08, '11.

Cole James Tweddell



[Margaret Meyers Blake](#) was featured this past March as an MSNBC *Live with Stephanie Ruhle* #heroofttheday. Maggie, a nurse at Jersey City Medical Center, bought her team pizza with a generous Venmo donation as they worked endlessly caring for COVID-19 patients. She wanted to pay it forward, so she matched

the leftover money and sent it to colleagues at different hospitals. Maggie inspired an entire food train effort to help medical professionals and local businesses. A Venmo account, @COVIDHeroesFoodTrain, was opened up to collect donations to keep the food train going.

## Three IHA alumnae discovered each other at the NBC Englewood Cliffs location!



From left to right are Natasha Dunkin'12, Global Media Operations technician; Gabriella Natile'13, post prep technician; and Christina Scully'10, Global Media Operations supervisor.

# '09

In June, [Erin Fasanella Tietjen](#) was awarded an "Excellence in Education" award for her outstanding teaching and commitment.

Erin teaches first grade at School #2 in Clifton. She and her husband, Chris, live in Upper Montclair with their two-year-old son, Sawyer Jacob.

# '10

[Courtney Graetzer](#), Muhlenberg College class of 2014, was featured in Muhlenberg's alumni news for her hard work

as a registered nurse in the medical ICU at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee during the coronavirus pandemic. The ICU has become the COVID-19 unit. The article reads, in part, "Despite the uncertainties of this pandemic and not knowing whether she has been exposed to the virus, Graetzer loves her job and continues to appreciate the support from her coworkers." Courtney said in the article, "Nobody is invincible [to COVID-19], which is really sad. You don't feel symptoms for a week or so, and if you go about your daily life you could be spreading it to people who might have COPD or asthma, and that can really affect their lives," she says. "Don't be selfish. Staying at home isn't just for you. It's for everybody else."

# '13

[Caroline Morano Gaudreau](#) married Will Gaudreau on December 28, 2019 in Ridgewood. Caroline's bridesmaids

included some of her longtime IHA best friends including Linda Morris'13, Katherine Fayan'13, and Christine Bohlin'13. From left to right in the photo at right are [Linda Morris'13](#), [Mikayla Dudas'13](#), [Christina Russo](#), [Caroline Morano Gaudreau'13](#), [Erin Maguire'13](#), [Katie Fayan'13](#), and [Christine Bohlin'13](#).



# '12

Elizabeth Barry became engaged to Dillon Lowe of Knoxville, Tennessee in January 2020. Dillon proposed to Liz on a weekend trip to the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina.



**’15**

**Maria Mouridy** has qualified for the spring 2019 dean's list at Seton Hall University.

**’16**

**Katharine Ustorf** was inducted into Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology, at the University of Connecticut. In order to meet the requirements to be inducted into Psi Chi, one must earn a cumulative GPA that places you in the top thirty-five percent of your class in the entire university, and have a minimum 3.0 GPA average for psychology courses. She also recently accepted admission to the University of Saint Joseph's Clinical Mental Health Counseling M.A. program and will be attending in the fall.

**Mackenzie Robertson** was recently awarded the John D. Sharkey award at Montclair State University. This award, for which she was nominated by her professors, is presented to an outstanding student showing professional promise within the School of Communication & Media. Mackenzie interned in Key West, Florida on a travel journalism assignment and served as a freelance and internship videographer for NJCDC. She also interned at Long Shot Productions. Mackenzie continues as the managing editor for the *Montclarion* at MSU and is currently working on a social justice documentary film in Philadelphia, for now titled *27 Years*, which was recently accepted into the Montclair Film Festival as a short. This year, she and the editor-in-chief led the *Montclarion* in winning

ten state awards in college journalism from the New Jersey Press Foundation. Of those ten awards, seven of them were for first place. Of those first place awards, Mackenzie was personally awarded a first place for the "Online Video" category for a video she produced on a student-artist attending Montclair State who has Moebius Syndrome.

**Rebecca De Rosa** was named a captain of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) lacrosse team. A midfielder, Rebecca appeared in all fourteen games for the Engineers in 2019, including thirteen as a starter. She netted two goals with one assist for three points. Through forty-four career games with the Engineers, she has nine goals and ten assists for nineteen points.

**Cortney Muller**, an international business major, was named to the dean's list at James Madison University for the fall 2019 semester by earning a GPA between 3.5 and 3.899.

**Brianna Alonso** and **Kelly Lyons** were named to the dean's list for the fall 2019 semester at Loyola University Maryland.

**Meghan Allen** was named to the dean's list at Muhlenberg College for the fall 2019 semester.

**Lauren Gallagher, Laura lobst, Erin Palermo, and Julie Weismiller** all earned dean's list at the University of Scranton for the fall 2019 semester.

**Courtney King** was named to the dean's list at The University of Alabama for the fall 2019 semester.

**’17**

**Lily Polster** was named to the dean's list in the University of Notre Dame's College of Engineering for outstanding scholarship during the Fall 2019 semester.

**Julianne Shrekast** achieved dean's list at Cornell University for the 2019 spring and fall semesters with a GPA greater than 4.0.

**Emily Bernard** and **Alyssa Pawlowski** earned dean's list at the University of Scranton for the fall 2019 semester.

**Caitlin Campbell** was named to the president's list at The University of Alabama for the fall 2019 semester.

**’18**

**Erin Jackson**, a student at Fairleigh Dickinson University's Metropolitan Campus in Teaneck, has been named to the honors list for the Fall 2019 semester.

**Gabriela Russo** was named to the dean's list for the fall 2019 semester at Loyola University Maryland.

**Daniella Cangelosi** and **Reilly Medzadourian** earned dean's list at the University of Scranton for the fall 2019 semester.

**Jada Gotay** and **Brianna Wynne** were named to the dean's list at The University of Alabama for the fall 2019 semester.

**Tori Buckman** was named to the president's list (an academic record of 4.0) at The University of Alabama for the fall 2019 semester.

**Julia Jureidini** was featured in *Villanova Magazine* as one of only seven recipients of the O'Toole Family Presidential Scholarship currently enrolled at Villanova University. Julia, who is majoring in accounting, was quoted in the magazine saying, "I always wanted to be that person—for other O'Toole Scholars—who's approachable, who's visible, who's available, who can show them the way."

## Would you like to be featured in IHA's Class Notes?

Please send your life update to **Mrs. Tara Hopfenspirger**, director of communications, at [thopfenspirger@ihanj.com](mailto:thopfenspirger@ihanj.com).



# IN MEMORIAM

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

**Eileen Kelly Dachelet, Class of 1967**

January 14, 2020

**Nancy McNamara DiPietro, Class of 1990**

January 16, 2020

**Mary Colleen McGahey Koscuiszka, Class of 1976**

February 19, 2020

*Sister of Mary Patricia McGahey'81 and Mary Katherine McGahey Kenny'84 and aunt of Kirstin McGahey'19*

**Judy Lisi, Class of 1990**

March 19, 2020

**Mary Casey**

November 22, 2019

*Mother of Patricia Casey'74*

**Joan Blake**

December 1, 2019

*Mother of Kathryn Blake'84*

**Jessica DeSanta**

December 6, 2019

*Former faculty member; daughter of Jo-Ellen DeSanta, IHA assistant principal; and sister-in-law of Genelle Diaz-Silveira, IHA faculty member*

**Alix Moriss**

December 7, 2019

*Former faculty member and mother of Patricia Moriss Martini'81*

**Sr. Catherine Duignan, CSJP**

December 23, 2019

*Former faculty member*

**Josephine Theresa Delaney**

January 10, 2020

*Mother of Jeanne Delaney Bessel'78 and Lynne Delaney Peabody'81 and grandmother of Caitlin Delaney Stoekler'04*

**Joseph Lombardi, Jr.**

January 10, 2020

*Father of Barbara Lombardi Bragg'75, Maria Lombardi McKernan'80, and Michele Lombardi-Younes'82, and grandfather of Ashley McKernan'12 and Danielle McKernan'18*

**Lesley Knapp**

January 16, 2020

*Mother of Jeffrey Knapp, former faculty member*

**Paul D'Arpa**

January 21, 2020

*Father of Elena D'Arpa'22*

**Mary Higgins Clark**

January 31, 2020

*Mother of the Honorable Marilyn Clark'68, Carol Higgins Clark'74, and Patricia Clark'76; grandmother of Elizabeth Higgins Clark'02; IHA Hall of Fame Class of 2000; Honorary Co-chair of Let Us Go Forward Capital Campaign*

**Joseph Meiman**

February 6, 2020

*Father of Mary Beth Meiman Remy'84 and Ann Meiman Corbett'86*

**Robert Brunett**

February 14, 2020

*Husband of Carol Wagner'65 and brother-in-law of Maryann Phipps'75*

**Joseph Lauricella M.D.**

February 19, 2020

*Husband of Mary Diverio Lauricella'74 and brother-in-law of Irene Diverio Crum'71 and Joan Diverio Rider'73*

**Nicholas George Stathakis**

February 20, 2020

*Husband of Christine Conrad'78 and father of Kathryn Stathakis'20*

**Mary Woolley**

February 21, 2020

*Mother-in-law of Mrs. Jeannine Woolley, IHA faculty member, and grandmother of Kerri Woolley'20*

**Jeffrey Carpenter**

March 2, 2020

*Father of Amanda Carpenter'12 and Lindsey Carpenter'15 and owner of American Beauty Landscape Design, Immaculate Heart Academy landscape designer*

**Vera Scanlon**

March 8, 2020

*Mother of Debbie Scanlon, former faculty member*

**Joan Pagano**

March 21, 2020

*Grandmother of Gina Pagano Magrogan'05 and Jennifer Pagano'13, faculty member*

**Loretta Ennico**

March 27, 2020

*Mother of Laurie Ennico Bauman'89 and Kimberly Ennico Smith'90*

**Judge John A. Conte, Sr.**

March 30, 2020

*Father of Meryl Conte Clayton'75, Maria Conte Benedict'79, and Jennifer Conte Passerino'84; father-in-law of Donna Tiner Conte'77; and grandfather of Jenna Passerino'13*

**John Paul "Bucky" Pizzarelli**

April 1, 2020

*Father of Anne Pizzarelli Hymes'73 and Mary Pizzarelli'75*

**Diane Thompson**

April 1, 2020

*Mother of Kaitlin Thompson'09 and Erin Thompson'11*

**Dr. David Landers**

April 2, 2020

*Father of Cassie Landers'72 and grandfather of Alexandra Landers'09, Grace Landers'13, and Isabelle Landers'15*

**Dorothy Hofmann**

April 5, 2020

*Mother of Marigrace Hofmann'73 and Elizabeth Hofmann Buffin'78*

**Paul Camella**

April 10, 2020

*Father of Anne-Frances Camella Hveem'03*

# IHA Mourns the Loss of Three Mainstays

This school year has been extremely difficult for our IHA family, due to the loss of three vital members of our community. While they all played very different roles, these three special individuals have touched countless lives at IHA and beyond, and they all have been and will continue to be deeply missed.



## Mary Higgins Clark

January 31, 2020

Mary Higgins Clark may have been known as a world-renowned author to many, but to the Immaculate Heart community, she was much more. She is the mother of three IHA alumnae, the Honorable Marilyn Clark'68, Carol Higgins Clark'74, and Patricia Clark'76, and grandmother of Elizabeth Higgins Clark'02. She truly loved the fact that her daughters and granddaughter attended IHA and proudly watched from the audience when Elizabeth gave the Commencement Speech at the Class of 2017 Graduation. Mary was a

huge proponent of Catholic, single-sex education and a member of IHA's Hall of Fame Class of 2000. For many years, she would generously give of her time as a prize for our *Treasures of the Heart Auction*. Winners would have lunch with her, where she shared stories of her personal life and they were gifted signed copies of her latest novel. Mary truly lived by a quote that she so often shared with her fans: "If you want to be happy for a year, win the lottery. If you want to be happy for life, love what you do."

Mary was a major benefactor for IHA's first Capital Campaign and honorary co-chair for the *Let Us Go Forward* Capital Campaign in 2010. The Mary

Mary truly loved the fact that her daughters and granddaughter attended IHA and proudly watched from the audience when Elizabeth gave the Commencement Speech at the Class of 2017 Graduation. Mary was a huge proponent of Catholic, single-sex education and a member of IHA's Hall of Fame Class of 2000.

Higgins Clark Writing Center, which sits on the balcony of our beautiful Information Commons, was named for her in 2006. The bestselling "Queen of Suspense" published her first novel, *Where Are the Children?* in 1975, followed by about forty more books, including some written with her daughter, Carol. Mary Higgins Clark passed away at the age of 92 surrounded by family and friends. She leaves behind five children, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.



## Jessica DeSanta

December 6, 2019

Jessica DeSanta, former IHA faculty member and daughter of Jo-Ellen DeSanta, IHA assistant principal of academics and curriculum, passed away

at the age of 37 after a valiant three-year battle against breast cancer. In addition to her parents, Jo-Ellen and Richard DeSanta, she leaves behind her husband, Paul Samouilidis; her sister, Meghan DeSanta Brown; brother-in-law, Kenneth Brown III; brother, Timothy R. DeSanta; sister-in-law Genelle Diaz-Silveira, IHA faculty member; her mother and father-in-law; her beloved King Charles Cavalier, Maple; and beloved nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

After receiving a master's degree in literature from the University of St. Andrew's, Scotland, Jess began her teaching career at IHA, working full time at the school for two years. She taught juniors' English and Honors English courses at IHA, in addition to Creative Writing. She ran our Mary Higgins Clark Writing Center, working individually with students during their study periods, before and after school, and during lunch. Her mother, Jo-Ellen, recalls her helping many with their senior college essays. As she continued to complete

doctoral dissertation work with St. Andrew's, Jess accepted a position in the English Department at Newark Academy. In 2015, she became the first person in her family's history to earn a Ph.D. While she loved her time at IHA, it quickly became clear that she was also incredibly loved by her students. One Class of 2010 graduate wrote, "Not only did she provide lessons in literature, but in life as well. We could talk about literature and life, being met with warmth, insight, and understanding. She was one of my favorite teachers." Another 2010 alumna wrote, "To say she was a great teacher is an understatement...I pursued a degree in literature because of her influence... Dr. DeSanta was incredible in so many ways, and the many memories I have of her will always bring me joy." Jo-Ellen said Jess did not let her cancer define her; she continued to "take a big bite out of life—and took her friends, family, students, and colleagues along for the journey, ever smiling and laughing and thankful for each moment."



## Jeffrey Carpenter

March 2, 2020

Jeff Carpenter wore many very important hats over the years at IHA—from

landscape designer to parent to long-time friend to alumnae parent. The father of Amanda Carpenter '12 and Lindsey Carpenter '15, Jeff was the co-founder and owner of American Beauty Landscape Design (ABLD), Paramus. Since IHA hired ABLD in 2010, Jeff and his brother and co-founder, Greg, were extremely generous with donating their time, treasure, and talent to Immaculate Heart Academy. Jeff, a visionary in his field, spearheaded the incredible *Soaring to New Heights* field renovation at IHA over the past year. He was a dedicated, creative, and innovative leader who truly loved his work.

Jeff was a member of the NJLCA, NCMA, ICPI, and SIMA and a parishioner of Our Lady of Mount Carmel R.C. Church, Ridgewood. The cherished husband of the late Kim Carpenter, Jeff passed away at the age of

58, leaving behind his daughters, four brothers, and four sisters-in-law. Jeff was also a beloved uncle and Godfather, predeceased by his brothers, Frederick and Kirk Carpenter. Showing his love for Immaculate Heart to the very end, it was requested that memorial contributions be made in his name to the IHA Scholarship Fund. His daughter, Amanda, shared her thoughts on her father's time and connection to Immaculate Heart Academy. "I don't have a name for whatever happens in the halls of IHA, but whatever it is, it's working," she said. "Lindsey and I knew it and our dad knew it too. He loved working there, and he was so proud to be part of the IHA community. I can't tell you how many people came up to me at his wake and said 'My daughter goes to IHA because of your dad.' Lindsey and I are so grateful for the community IHA has created."

# Alumnae Sisters SAVE THE DATES!

## Reunion Weekend 2020

November 6-7, 2020

For anniversary classes of '75, '80, '85, '90, '95, '00, '05, '10, and '15

### Handbag Bingo

Friday, November 6, 7 p.m.

### 5K Run/Walk/Crawl

Saturday, November 7, 10 a.m.

### Memorial Mass

Saturday, November 7, 5 p.m.

IHA Sisters' Chapel

### Alumnae Cocktail Reception

Saturday, November 7, 6 p.m.

## CLASS OF 1970 50TH REUNION

November 14-15, 2020

### Reunion Luncheon

Saturday, November 14, 12-4 p.m.

Bacari Grill

### Mass & Brunch

Sunday, November 15, 10 a.m.

Mass in the IHA Sisters' Chapel with brunch immediately following in the Information Commons

Class of 1970 alumnae, please direct all questions to the Reunion Committee at [ihaclassof70reunion@gmail.com](mailto:ihaclassof70reunion@gmail.com).

### ATTENTION CLASS OF 1971!

The 50th anniversary of your graduation from IHA is next year! We are looking for a few of you to spearhead the planning of this jubilee celebration. Several classmates have reached out asking for a date, as flight reservations need to be made. Members of the Class of 1971 who are willing to work on the committee, please contact Beth DiCiancia Garrigan'76 at [bgarrigan@ihanj.com](mailto:bgarrigan@ihanj.com) or 201.445.6800, ext. 182.

# WELCOME

## Class of 2024 Legacies!

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

On **February 8, 2020**, IHA held Registration Day for the **Class of 2024**. The extraordinary class members were selected from almost five hundred applicants.

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

The incoming Class of 2024 includes thirty-four sisters of present and/or past students, and twelve daughters of alumnae, who will one day share the title of “IHA alumna” with their moms!

We look forward to the upcoming school year and cannot wait to welcome our new students and their families into our sisterhood.

The following members of the Class of 2024 are daughters of alumnae:

**Marisa Arone**, daughter of Pamela McKenna Arone, Class of 1990  
**Alexandra Barry**, daughter of Jeannine Boyajian Barry, Class of 1994  
**Emily Caton**, daughter of Julie Wilson Caton, Class of 1994  
**Natalie Deegan**, daughter of Maura O’Halloran Deegan, Class of 1986  
**Madison Fasolo**, daughter of Andrea Pitot Fasolo, Class of 1993  
**Grace Gebhardt**, daughter of Michelle McMenamin Gebhardt, Class of 1991  
**Julia Haemmerle**, daughter of Phyllis Ventimiglia Haemmerle, Class of 1989  
**Mary Hahn**, daughter of Eileen Barnes Hahn, Class of 1985  
**Maura Hesler**, daughter of Kerry Finnegan Reasoner, Class of 1997  
**Alyssa Mack**, daughter of Christina Ecal-Mack, Class of 1987  
**Madeline Manning**, daughter of Michele Verrone Manning, Class of 1988  
**Kiera Stevenson**, daughter of Eileen Conrad Stevenson, Class of 1987



500 Van Emburgh Avenue  
Township of Washington, NJ 07676  
Change Service Requested

PLEASE NOTE, ALL SCHEDULED EVENTS LISTED IN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON THE CURRENT RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES.

# UPCOMING

## 2020 Special Events

SEP  
13

### 2020 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 Community Leader.

OCT  
01

### Blue Eagle Open

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

OCT  
11

### Traveling Plaid Reunion

**South Bend, Indiana**  
Brunch event; details to follow.

OCT  
12

### Traveling Plaid Reunion

**Chicago, Illinois**  
Luncheon hosted by Carol Post '76

OCT  
25

### Open House

**11 a.m.-2 p.m.**  
Tour the state-of-the-art building;  
meet faculty, staff, and coaches; and ask  
questions of our knowledgeable student  
Eagle Ambassadors

NOV  
6-7

### Reunion Weekend

**Anniversary classes of '75, '80, '85, '90, '95,  
'00, '05, '10, and '15**  
Please join us! Reunion Weekend features a Friday  
night Handbag Bingo, a Saturday morning 5K Run/  
Walk/Crawl, and a Saturday evening Memorial  
Mass at 5 p.m. followed by an Alumnae Cocktail  
Reception at 6 p.m.

NOV  
22

### Fashion Show

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