

Immaculate Heart Academy

NEWSLETTER | WINTER 2021
VOL. 36, NO. 3



Scene Around IHA | Did You Know That... | Class Notes

TABLE OF CONTENTS

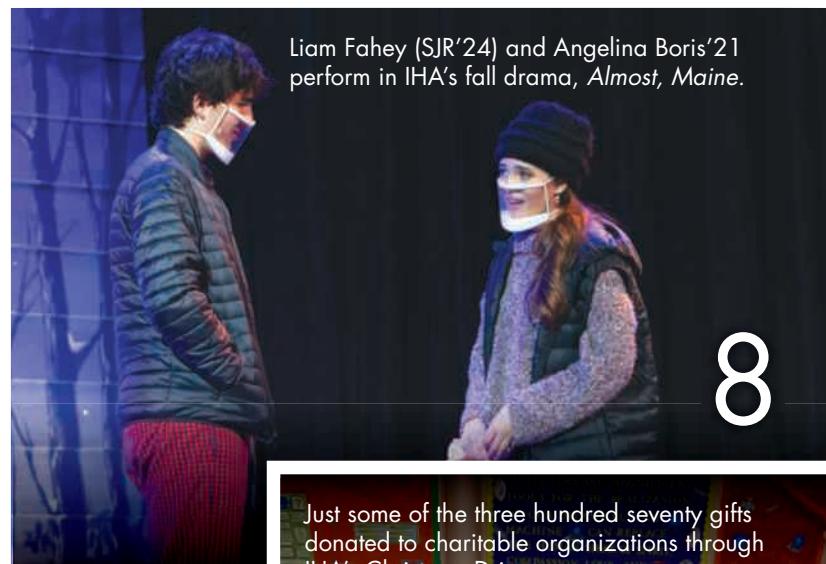
4 IHA Reopening

14 Honors Convocation

23 Fall Signing Day

28 AP Scholar
Designation

Cover Shot: Sophie Morales'24, Sophia Salewycz'24, and Cassandra George'24



8

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.

Just some of the three hundred seventy gifts donated to charitable organizations through IHA's Christmas Drive.



25

12



Hannah Specthrie'21 with sponsor, Ms. Alison Oblen, and Julia Whitney'21 with sponsor, Mrs. Rita Whitney GP'21, at the 2020 Family Mass where the two seniors were fully initiated into the Catholic Church.

21



Michael Powers (Bergen Catholic'91) and Danielle Garrigan'06 led a virtual mixology class for alumni from both schools to attend.

03

President's Corner

22

Scene Around IHA

24

Did You Know That...

40

Class Notes

46

In Memoriam



PRESIDENT

Patricia Molloy

PRINCIPAL

Jason Schlereth

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Tara Hopfenspirger

CONTRIBUTORS

Beth DiCiancia Garrigan'76,
Isabella Estevez'21

PHOTOGRAPHY

Mike Hamlett Photography,
Paul Burns, Ashley Brombauer'21,
Sarah Hill'07, Joe Haemmerle,
Allison Shelley/NPR, student
and alumnae photo submissions

DESIGN

Peapod Design,
Norwalk, CT

500 Van Emburgh Avenue
Township of Washington, NJ 07676
201.445.6800 • WWW.IHANJ.COM



Mary Stoker'23 volunteers at the 2020 Blue Eagle Open.

27



A festive autumn display welcomed visitors to IHA's Fall Open House for personal tours.

President's Corner



Dear friends,

As we move into 2021, many of us feel a sense of hope in spite of the challenges we still face. As a community, we have overcome disappointments and then marveled at our resilience and perseverance. 2020 tested us for sure; there were losses and setbacks, but as we look back, the year also showed us our strength. At IHA, getting back to normal means getting better, getting stronger, and getting more confident in our ability to deal with difficulties. Our confidence is based on our faith in an all-loving God who "holds us in the palm of His hand."

The Class of 2021 will complete their IHA education with the knowledge that a loving and supportive community enabled their growth and assured their competence through a truly excellent Catholic education. Our juniors, sophomores, and freshmen have benefitted from the outstanding example of the senior class...their "big sisters" showed them the way.

As spring approaches, the season of new growth, of new life, we are hopeful. The ease with which our students adapted to the adjustments needed in the school day assures us that we will be able to provide a quality educational experience for our students.

We send our heartfelt thanks to all those who have worked so hard during these past few months. Our administrators, faculty, staff, parents, and especially our students have made these past months a joy, in spite of the clear challenges.

With my best wishes for a healthy and happy new year, may God bless you and your loved ones.

Sincerely,

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

Patricia Molloy
President

* IHA president, Ms. Patricia Molloy, announced her retirement to the IHA community in mid-December. More information about her retirement, effective June 2021, will be in our next newsletter.



Mr. Jason Schlereth, principal, and Ms. Alexis Fatigati '07, director of admissions, at our 2020 Fall Open House



Student Council Open House volunteers, Samantha Raia '24; Arianna DeMarco '23; Ms. Patricia Molloy, IHA president; and Lauren Hroncich '24 at IHA's Fall Open House

IHA Reopens Safely with Hybrid Model of Instruction



After months of careful and diligent planning by Immaculate Heart Academy's Reopening Committee and administration, IHA officially reopened campus to students on September 9, 2020. Our comprehensive reopening plan was created to keep with the mission of the school while providing students and staff the safest and healthiest environment possible.

Blathnat Cannon '21 retrieves a paper towel at the beginning of class to wipe down her desk.



Students work diligently on their MacBooks behind their desk shields.

The hybrid model of in-person and virtual instruction introduced a three-cohort, rotational schedule that permits approximately two-thirds of the student body to be on campus each day for in-person instruction. Students in the rotating at-home cohort are required to sign into their classes virtually via Zoom, following along in real time. Additionally, families were able to opt-in to an all-remote cohort where students follow their full class schedule via Zoom. This gives students who are working/studying from home the ability to remain engaged with their teachers and classmates and stay current on all schoolwork while reducing their potential exposure to COVID-19.

There have been many upgrades, additions, and changes to our campus to allow staff, students, and families to

“So much hard work went into IHA’s reopening and that hard work continued as we navigated the past few months of school. Our students have been very cooperative and compliant with all the new procedures, and I believe it’s because they really want to be back at IHA. We are truly blessed to have community members who take seriously the health and safety of themselves and others. **”** – Mr. Jason Schlereth, principal

feel as safe as possible and to reduce the impact of COVID-19 conditions. One of the most impressive upgrades is the installation of a **Bipolar Needlepoint Ionization Air Purification** system in each classroom ventilator unit, as well

as in central HVAC units for larger common areas. After extensive research on various systems that can provide a safer environment at IHA, this system was installed over the summer. Bipolar ionization kills viruses, including



Eagle Ambassadors, Kathleen Quinn '21, Lauryn Mockler '21, and Michelle Marino '21, safely lead personal tours at our 2020 Open House.



An Eagle Ambassador gives an Open House tour to a potential future Blue Eagle.

COVID-19, that are spread through droplets from coughing and sneezing, as well as the germs that live on surfaces where an infected person has made contact. It is incredibly effective in removing particulate matter from the circulating air.

Additionaly, students' and staff members' temperatures are checked every morning at all assigned entry points and anyone with a temperature at or above 100.4°F is not permitted into the building. Everyone on IHA's campus is required to wear face masks at all times and face shields can be worn as additional protection. Students' desks are spaced six feet apart in socially distant rows, and all teacher desks are equipped with plexiglass shields. Students travel with personal desk shields throughout the day that are then left in their last period class every day for disinfection.

Every classroom and entry point is equipped with a touchless hand sanitizer dispenser. Custodians disinfect high-touch areas numerous times throughout the day and perform a more intense disinfecting routine every afternoon. As students enter the classroom for each class, teachers spray disinfectant on the students' desks and chairs. Students are required to wipe their desk and chair with a paper towel from a wall dispenser, and then use hand sanitizer before sitting down. Additionally, hallways and stairwells are one-directional; floor markings and signage indicate traffic flow. Homeroom, locker break, and lunch have been eliminated from the schedule, allowing for a shortened school day that concludes at 12:45 p.m. Within the six-day rotating schedule, there is a 10-minute break daily at the end of Period 5 when students and teachers may remove their masks to eat a snack brought in from home. They must remain in their seats and behind their desk shields while eating. Students are not permitted to congregate in hallways, stairwells, or at lockers at any time throughout the day.

All families were required to sign and return Immaculate Heart Academy's Social Contract before the start of school.



Students travel from class to class with personal desk shields that are disinfected at the end of every school day. Everyone on IHA's campus must be wearing face masks at all times.

“IHA has done a wonderful job to ensure we returned to school safely and I am so happy that we had a successful return. Although things may be different this year, being in school and seeing my friends and teachers brings a sense of normalcy back into my life! **”** – Mia Grossman'21



Students participate in a hybrid learning model on a rotating schedule, with two cohorts learning in-person and one cohort logging in from home. Families could also choose the all-remote option for the semester.

Additionally, parents/guardians view a questionnaire every weekday morning and must notify the office and keep their daughter home if there is an affirmative answer to any of the COVID-19 symptom-related questions. The overall feeling on campus is that Fall 2020 at Immaculate Heart went exceptionally well. The resilient young women that make up IHA's study body and the dedicated administration, faculty, and staff members continue to adjust as needed.

"I am so incredibly grateful for the flexibility, understanding, and adaptability our students and staff have shown as we reopened our campus," said Mr. Jason Schlereth, principal. "So much hard work went into IHA's reopening and that hard work continued as we navigated the past few months of school. Our students have been very cooperative and compliant with all the new procedures, and I believe it's because they really want to be back at IHA. We are truly blessed to have community members who take seriously the health and safety of themselves and others."

Mia Grossman'21, Student Council president, said she feels very fortunate to be able to attend her last year of high school in-person so far. "IHA has done a wonderful job to ensure we returned to school safely and I am so happy that we had a successful return," she said. "Although things may be different this year, being in school and seeing my friends and teachers brings a sense of normalcy back into my life!"

Members of the faculty and staff have also been thrilled to be teaching in-person, even with the challenges of teaching virtually at the same time. "I can't tell you how happy I am to be back in the classroom!" said Mrs. Helen DeMartini P'21, '23, science teacher. "I have been so impressed with the way the girls have handled themselves during this unique start to the school year. I know it's not always easy, but I feel very lucky that we are able to be together safely."



Students work behind their desk shields at work stations spaced six feet apart.

IHA Presents *Almost, Maine* as 2020 Fall Drama

RJ Buscher (SJR'24) and Olivia DeMartini'21

Amanda Potenza'21 and Quinn Burns (SJR'21)

Quinn Burns (SJR'21) and
Mary Virginia Nye'21

Maeve Murray'24, Madeline Heinimann'24, Kaitlyn DeMartini'23, Arianna DeMarco'23, Caroline Dyson'21, Mary Virginia Nye'21, Nora-Lise Hamre'21, Olivia DeMartini'21, Angelina Boris'21, and Amanda Potenza'21

The show must go on...and IHA's fall drama did just that! Despite the challenging circumstances presented by COVID-19, cast and crew members from IHA and St. Joseph Regional High School, along with the production and directorial teams, endured to deliver a beautiful rendition of *Almost, Maine* on November 13 and 14, 2020. Socially distanced and masked audience members enjoyed two performances of the drama that explores love and loss in a remote and mythical almost-town.

Madeline Heinimann'24 and RJ Buscher (SJR'24)





This year's drama featured a talented cast who impressed audiences with their outstanding performances. Amanda Potenza'21 played Ginette; Quinn Burns (SJR'21) was Pete, Steve, Phil, and Dave; and Angelina Boris'21 played both Glory and Hope. Liam Fahey (SJR'24) was East, Chad, and Daniel; RJ Buscher (SJR'24) was Jimmy and Lendall; and Madeline Heinemann'24 was Sandrine. Maeve Murray'24 played the Waitress, Nora-Lise Hamre'21 was Marvalyn, Olivia DeMartini'21 was Gayle, and Caroline Dyson'21 was Randi. Marci was played by Mary Virginia Nye'21, Suzette was played by Kaitlyn DeMartini'23, and Rhonda was played by Arianna DeMarco'23. Especially impressive was the cast member's ability to shine on stage while wearing ClearMasks™, fully transparent class II surgical masks.

Ms. Maureen McNulty, director of the performing arts, was the artistic director for *Almost, Maine*; set design was by Vincent Gunn, lighting design by Declan Moore, and sound design by Matthew Morgan & Concert Studio. Mia Grossman'21 was an amazing assistant producer and Clare McGowan'21 was an incredible stage manager. Thank you to

members of the Theater Production class for managing costume design and to our many students who worked hard behind the scenes including the Wardrobe Crew, Lighting Operators, Sound Operators, Production/Design Team Members, Backstage Crew Members, and Prop Crew Members. Special thanks to

Catherine DePalma'21 for designing the Playbill cover and poster for this year's fall drama. Ms. McNulty said she is grateful for the perseverance shown during a fall season filled with challenges and setbacks that no one could have predicted. "Thank you to my students for not giving up hope that we could make

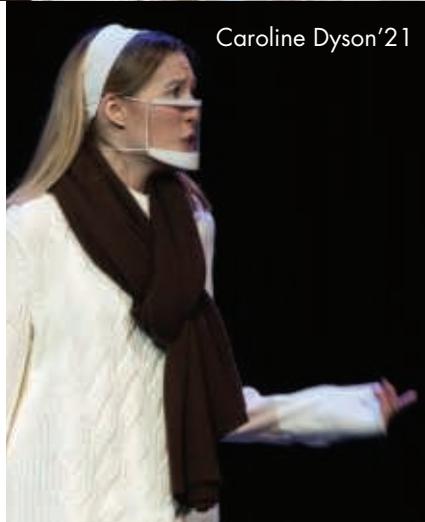
Angelina Boris'21 and Liam Fahey (SJR'24)





Maeve Murray '24

this production happen, even if it's not the way we ever imagined the fall drama happening; thank you for filling me with hope each day you came to rehearsal and continued to give your all and show your love of theater and the arts. It has truly been an honor and a privilege to work with you all," she said. "Thank you to the IHA administration for allowing us to put on a production when so many other schools have given up on the arts this year all together. Your faith and support is not unnoticed and is certainly not unappreciated."



Caroline Dyson '21



Liam Fahey (SJR '24) and Caroline Dyson (SJR '21)



Arianna DeMarco '23 and Quinn Burns (SJR '21)



Inaugural Outdoor Family Mass

Two Seniors Fully Initiated into the Catholic Church

Hundreds of IHA community members joined together in a bit of an untraditional way to celebrate the 2020 Opening Family Mass. On the evening of Saturday, September 19, 2020, two hundred cars gathered in the IHA parking lot for the school's first-ever outdoor Family Mass. Attendees had the choice to listen to the beautiful liturgy, celebrated by Fr. John Aherne, OFM and Decon Marc Mackin, through their car radios or via loud speakers set up outside. The Mass was projected live on a jumbo screen kindly provided by Demarest Farms, Hillsdale.

This was a particularly special celebration, as Hannah Specthrie'21 and Julia Whitney'21, two seniors and RCIA candidates at St. Mary's Parish, Pompton Lakes, were fully initiated into the Catholic Church during the liturgy. Hannah and Julia, who had been catechumens, were originally scheduled to be initiated at the 2020 Easter Vigil, which was unfortunately cancelled due to COVID-19. At the IHA Family Mass, they received the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and first Eucharist, surrounded by their sponsors, families, and the IHA community. Hannah's sponsor was Ms. Allison Oblen, IHA religious studies teacher, and Julia's sponsor was her grandmother, Mrs. Rita Whitney GP'21.

Thank you to everyone who brought our 2020 Family Mass to life, especially members of the IHA administration; Mrs. Sarah Shutrop, director of formation; Kaylee McKay'21, lector; and Aniela Sanders'22, cantor. Mrs. Shutrop



Hannah Specthrie'21 is baptized by Fr. John Aherne as Hannah's sponsor, Ms. Allison Oblen, IHA religious studies teacher, proudly looks on.

said she is thrilled that IHA was able to innovatively make the Family Mass work.

“Even though this year may have looked different, our Family Mass was an important reminder that, even in the midst of adversity, IHA is who it claims to be—a Catholic community forming young women to see themselves as God sees them,” Mrs. Shutrop said. “Our legacy echoed through the IHA parking lot that Saturday night, and I’m so grateful that we were able to be back together safely worshipping as a community of faith. It was a perfect commissioning for the start of what continuously proves to be a unique school year.”

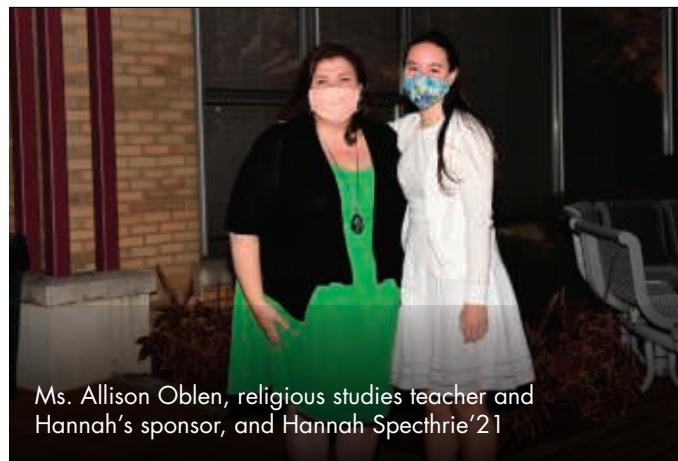
The entire IHA community congratulates Julia and Hannah and thanks them for their witness of faith in action to the rest of the IHA sisterhood. Thank you to all those who safely attended and celebrated in a way that reminded the IHA community how good it feels to be together.



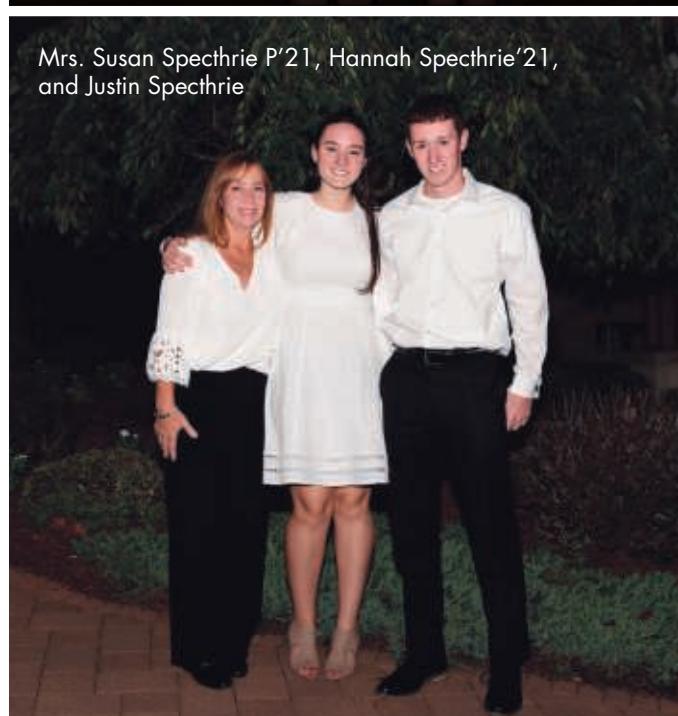
Fr. John Aherne baptizes Julia Whitney'21, who is accompanied by her sponsor and grandmother, Mrs. Rita Whitney GP'21.



Mrs. Jill Whitney P'21; Julia Whitney'21; Mr. Nicholas Whitney P'21; David Whitney; and Mrs. Rita Whitney GP'21, Julia's sponsor



Ms. Allison Oblen, religious studies teacher and Hannah's sponsor, and Hannah Specthrie'21



Mrs. Susan Specthrie P'21, Hannah Specthrie'21, and Justin Specthrie

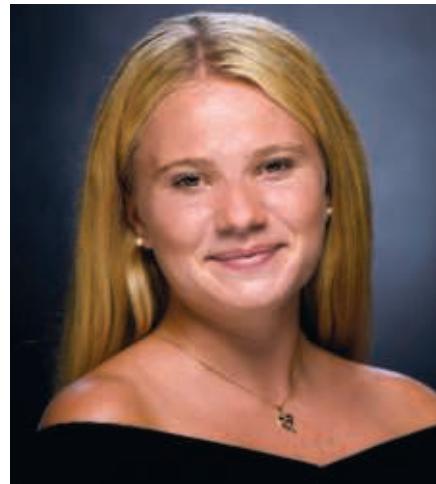


Honors Convocation 2020

On December 16, 2020, our Honors Convocation Ceremony was presented virtually to recognize students who achieved academic success in the 2019-20 school year. After a heartfelt introduction from Bianca D'Costa'21, National Honor Society president, Mr. Jason Schlereth, principal; Miss Kerry Carroll'04, assistant principal for faculty and instruction; and Mrs. Alice Rogers, assistant principal of students, announced students who earned Honors and Distinguished Honors, in addition to those students who won a variety of special awards. Ms. Patricia Molloy, president, closed the video presentation with sincere congratulations and thanks to those who worked so hard over the last academic year.

During the 2019-2020 academic year, forty-nine students made Distinguished Honors each semester by earning averages of 95% or better and two hundred fifty-nine students made Honors each semester by earning averages of 90% or better. These outstanding students deserve recognition for their academic achievements, especially as they endured the challenging circumstances COVID-19 presented in the spring.

Additionally, congratulations are extended to the following students who were recognized with book awards distributed by various colleges and universities in addition to IHA's 2020 Promising Young Scientist Award and Mary Ellen Offer'06 Memorial Award.



The St. Michael's College Book Award for Academic Achievement with a Social Conscience recognizes an outstanding student and member of the National Honor Society who demonstrates a strong commitment to volunteerism and leadership in her community.

Hannah Delfico'21



The University of Rochester's Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony Award is named in honor of two of Rochester's most significant pioneers of social justice. This award, given in recognition of outstanding academic achievement and superior intellectual promise in the humanities and social sciences, honors a student committed to understanding and addressing difficult social issues. Recipients who apply and are accepted to Rochester will receive a minimum scholarship totaling \$40,000.

Christine Ajao'21



The George Washington University School of Engineering and Applied Science awards a student who has demonstrated excellence in the application of mathematics and science. This is awarded to the student who has achieved the highest cumulative grades in the fields of mathematics and science in her class.

Angelina Casale'21



The University of Rochester's Bausch and Lomb Honorary Science Award is given each year in recognition of outstanding academic achievement and superior intellectual promise in the field of science. Recipients of the award must have achieved high PSAT or SAT Math scores and must make positive contributions to their school and their community. Recipients who apply and are accepted to Rochester will receive a minimum scholarship totaling \$40,000.

Abigail Auty'21



The University of Rochester's George Eastman Young Leaders Award is given in recognition of outstanding academic achievement and leadership both in and out of the classroom. Recipients of this award must additionally demonstrate extensive involvement in extracurricular activities. Recipients who apply and are accepted to Rochester will receive a minimum scholarship totaling \$40,000.

Mia Grossman'21



The Saint Anselm College Book Award is presented to a student who demonstrates academic success and exceptional leadership qualities in the area of civic engagement. The recipient should also embody the values inherent in the college's Benedictine tradition.

Kaylee McKay'21



The University of Rochester's Xerox Award is given in recognition of outstanding achievement in the pursuit of innovation. Recipients of this award must demonstrate a flair for creativity and an appreciation for the possibilities of technology. Recipients who apply and are accepted to Rochester will receive a minimum scholarship totaling \$40,000.

Freya Nair'21



The Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Medalist Award

recognizes a student who has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement in math and science. Medalists who apply and are accepted to Rensselaer will receive a minimum yearly scholarship of \$25,000.

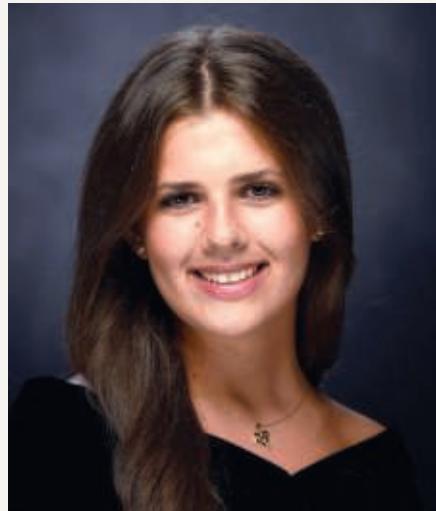
Elizabeth Spizzo'21

Honors Convocation 2020 Continued



The Promising Young Scientist Award recognizes an outstanding student who, after her sophomore year, had the highest cumulative GPA in science and has expressed an interest in continuing her study of science at the university level.

Madelyn Panebianco '22



The Mary Ellen Offer '06

Memorial Award is presented in memory of Mary Ellen "Molly" Offer, a graduate of IHA's class of 2006 and the youngest of five sisters who are all IHA graduates. The memorial scholarship was established by her parents and sisters, and it is the intention of the family that the award is presented to a student who typifies the qualities the so loved in Molly: a student who loves art and design, has a deep love for family and is willing to share compassion, spiritual values, and love of life with everyone she meets. This year's recipient is an active member of the National Art Honor Society, an Eagle Ambassador, and a member of Christian Service Board. Like Molly, she is sharing her IHA experience with her sister. She has excelled in her art classes and, true to the spirit of the award, she is someone who is always willing to lend a hand.

Emmersen Dabal '21

IHA to Present

Please join us for IHA's spring musical production of *Godspell*, to be presented from March 26-28, 2021. "A small group of people help Jesus Christ tell different parables by using a wide variety of games, storytelling techniques, and a hefty dose of comic timing. An eclectic blend of songs, ranging in style from pop to vaudeville, is employed as the story of Jesus' life dances across the stage. Dissolving hauntingly into the Last Supper and the Crucifixion, Jesus' messages of kindness, tolerance, and love come vibrantly to life." — MTI



Led by the international hit, "Day by Day," *Godspell* features many beloved songs including "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord," "Learn Your Lessons Well," "All for the Best," "All Good Gifts," "Turn Back, O Man" and "By My Side."

Spring Musical Slated for March 26-28, 2021

IHA's production of *Godspell* will be produced by Ms. Maureen McNulty, director of the performing arts; directed by Jodi Capeless P'22; musically directed by Ed Ginter; and choreographed by Kimberly Galberaith P'22. Vincent Gunn is the set designer, Declan Moore is the lighting designer, and Matt Morgan is the sound designer. Visit www.ihatheater.com to purchase tickets and for more information.

Mrs. Victoria Cecilione Retires

IHA Welcomes Three New Staff Members This Fall

This December, Mrs. Victoria Cecilione P'05 officially retired as director of business after more than twenty-one years of dedicated service to Immaculate Heart Academy. Vicky began working in the Business Office in August of 1999, and she quickly became known among her colleagues as a devoted worker, a caring friend, and a kindhearted woman, wife, and mother.

“When I think of Vicky, I cannot imagine a person more generous, kind, and competent,” said Ms. Patricia Molloy, IHA president. “She is the personification of patience, gentleness, and professionalism. Vicky is truly one in a million and I will miss her warm smile. I pray that she enjoys a wonderful retirement and much happiness.”

Vicky is excited to enjoy more time with her family including her husband, Rich; her son and daughter-in-law, Ricky and Jillian; her daughter and son-in-law, Kathryn Cecilione Pennacchio'05 and Scott; her grandson, James, and his little brother who is on the way.

“After 21 wonderful years at IHA, I am looking forward to retirement and to spending more time with my family, especially my grandchildren,” Vicky said. “I am grateful to everyone who has helped make my career so rewarding, and I will always cherish the friendships I’ve forged along the way. I wish all of the IHA students, parents, faculty and staff great success and good health in the future. I will miss you all.”

Mrs. Kitty Kelly P'95, former IHA guidance secretary and long-time friend of Vicky, noted that this is truly a loss for IHA and she will be missed by all. “I enjoyed my many years working with Vick, sharing our lunchtime,” said Kitty. “I have always admired her patience



Mrs. Kitty Kelly P'95 FF; Mrs. Victoria Cecilione P'05, retiring director of business; and Mrs. Brenda Coppola P'09, comptroller, at IHA’s end-of-the-year faculty and staff luncheon in 2019.

and professionalism when interacting with parents and members of the IHA community. She is one of the kindest and most thoughtful people I know and I’m honored to call her my friend. We have enjoyed celebrating many family milestones together and look forward to many more in the future.”

Mrs. Brenda Coppola P'09, IHA comptroller, said it’s been an absolute joy to work with Vicky. “Integrity and hard work are ideals Vicky constantly promotes,” Brenda said. “Her demeanor at work is always professional and she is kind, thoughtful, funny, and always willing to offer a helping hand. All

of these qualities have made a lasting impression on both the IHA community and me personally. It’s no wonder that, besides being a colleague, many of us call her our friend.”

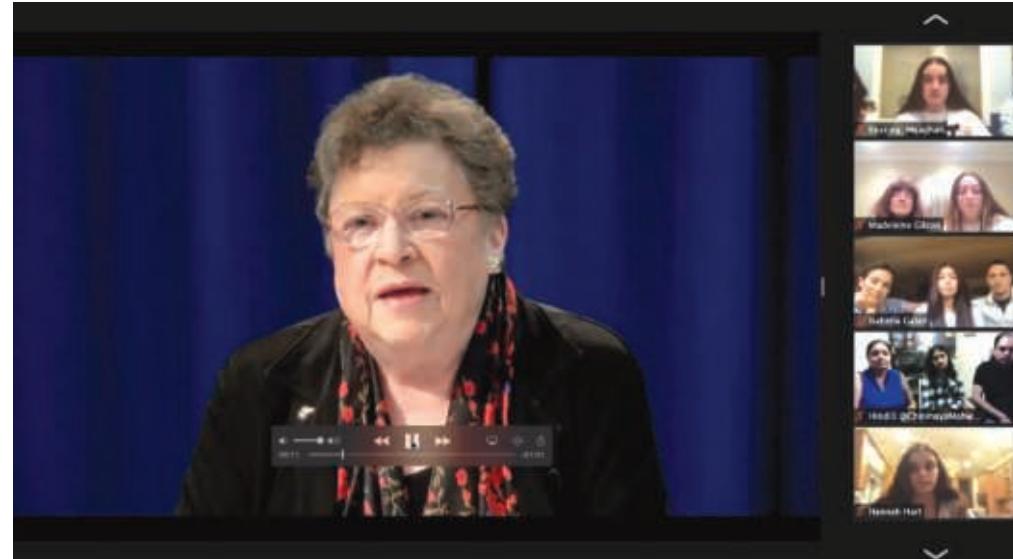
As one mainstay leaves Immaculate Heart, we are happy to extend a warm welcome to three new staff members. This fall, we welcomed our new director of business, Ms. Danielle Buldo Molta'91 (B.A., M.B.A., Pace University); Ms. Sarah Hill'07 (B.A., University of Scranton), director of development; and Mrs. Marie Heinemann P'24, main office staff member.

More than Fifty Underclassmen Inducted into St. Brigid Society

The St. Brigid Society exists to recognize and promote academically gifted freshman and sophomore students. It seeks to foster continuous academic excellence by providing engaging opportunities for learning and growth. Students are invited to participate in enrichment programs designed to prepare them for college and career readiness. On November 10, 2020, thirty-four freshmen and seventeen sophomores were inducted into the St. Brigid Society in a virtual ceremony.

The ceremony began with the Prayer of St. Brigid, led by Natalia Maglicic '23, and a welcoming address by Ms. Patricia Molloy, IHA president. Ms. Ellen Donoghue '76, St. Brigid Society moderator and guidance counselor, boasted that the students being honored were talented young women, both in and out of the classroom. "Tonight is about honoring a select group of students who consistently shine in all academic areas," she said. "In addition to doing very well in school and performing well on standardized tests, you also show a great deal of promise and will no doubt be the future leaders of Immaculate Heart."

Ms. Donoghue continued on to explain that if St. Brigid, the Patron Saint of Scholars, was in attendance that evening, she would tell the students that as long as they work hard and do their best, they should be proud. "We ask the same of you," she said. "Work hard and do your best—we will be equally proud of you. We have two mottos in the society. The first is 'Knowledge is Power' and the second is 'It's cool to be smart.' Your intellect is a gift to be used throughout your lifetime." Mr. Jason Schlereth, principal, offered congratulatory closing remarks after each student was officially recognized and inducted.



Ms. Patricia Molloy, president, gives the welcoming address at the 2020 St. Brigid Society Virtual Induction.



Thirty-four freshmen and seventeen sophomores were virtually inducted into the society this year.

Congratulations to members of the Class of 2024:

Samantha Anderson'24
 Angela Avolio'24
 Madyson Ayers'24
 Anvi Batra'24
 Ella Bosse'24
 Mina Coccia'24
 Ella Crane'24
 Natalie Deegan'24
 Victoria DellaCroce'24
 Evelina Drelich'24
 Isabella Falletta'24
 Karina Folwarski'24
 Giana Fontanetta'24
 Alexa Gentile'24
 Julia Grzybowski'24
 Hannah Hart'24

Lauren Hroncich'24
 Meaghan Keating'24
 Ellie Kim'24
 Grace Loftus'24
 Rose Martin'24
 Darcy Moore'24
 Gabriella Napolitano'24
 Elizabeth Ogden'24
 Reagan Pace'24
 Isabella Pizzi'24
 Eleanor Quinn'24
 Lily Schwedhelm'24
 Kiera Stevenson'24
 Alyssa Torres'24
 Gina Totera'24
 Adrianna Uykan'24
 Lila Vitti'24
 Marta Weglarz'24
 Eileen Wynne'24

Congratulations to the following members of the Class of 2023 who achieved Distinguished Honors and Honors for the 2019-2020 school year:

Grace Cassin'23
 Isabella Conde'23
 Olivia Dabal'23
 Ryley Dargan'23
 Lauren Dunnigan'23
 Isabella Galan'23
 Madeleine Gilson'23
 Norah Homa'23
 Samantha Landolfi'23
 Natalia LoCurto'23
 Madison McKay'23
 Gracyn Pisa'23
 April Ramsey'23
 Erin Shepler'23
 Jessica Sundlin'23
 Mary-Kathryn Sweeney'23
 Olivia Tacconi'23



Above: Parents and students attended the virtual induction ceremony on the evening of November 10, 2020.

Right: Congratulations to all of the newest St. Brigid Society members!



Rho Kappa Virtually Inducts Newest Members

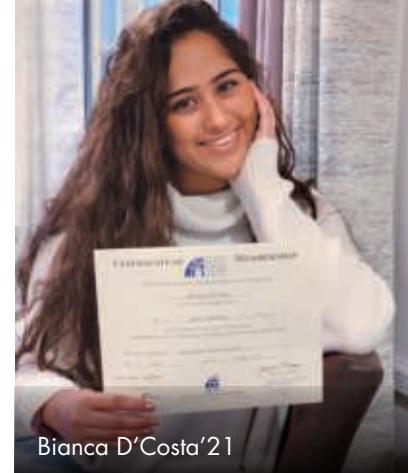


This fall, forty-two new seniors were virtually inducted into IHA's Silent Sentinel Chapter of the Rho Kappa Social Studies Honor Society.

On October 19, 20, and 21, 2020, IHA held induction ceremonies for the Silent Sentinel Chapter of the Rho Kappa Social Studies Honor Society. Rho Kappa made history as the first IHA honor society to hold a virtual induction ceremony in May as they inducted seniors from the Class of 2020. This October, they welcomed forty-two seniors from the Class of 2021 into the society.

IHA's Rho Kappa executive board members, Isabella Estevez'21, president;

Claire O'Byrne'21, vice president; Emmersen Dabal'21, communication officer; Katherine Conway'21, communication officer; and Emma Viggiano'21, treasurer; and faculty moderators, Ms. Linda Chelotti'76, social studies department chairperson, and Dr. Sue Kenney, social studies teacher, planned the beautiful ceremonies to honor the inductees. One member of the administration joined each night to give remarks following Isabella's leading of the Oath of Induction. Thank you to Miss Kerry Carroll'04, assistant principal for



Bianca D'Costa'21



Anna Salewycz'21

faculty and instruction, for attending on Monday evening; Mr. Jason Schlereth, principal, for attending on Tuesday; and Mrs. Alice Rogers, assistant principal of students, for attending on Wednesday.

In addition to being the first Honor Society to hold an induction ceremony over Zoom in May, the Rho Kappa Honor Society left its mark on IHA by creating a bulletin board encouraging eligible students to vote, pictured below.



Congratulations to the newest members of IHA's Silent Sentinel Chapter of the Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society:

Christine Ajao'21
Alyssa Amico'21
Abigail Auty'21
Emma Bassett'21
Alexandra Betsy'21
Margaret Bizub'21
Savannah Cece'21
Kayleigh Cicala'21
Katherine Cottrell'21
Bianca D'Costa'21
Hannah Delfico'21

Annalisa Diaz'21
Caroline Dyson'21
Alexandra Festa'21
Casey Forcellati'21
Jordan Gaffney'21
Elizabeth Granholm'21
Gianna Grigliunas'21
Claire Hoffmann'21
Adriana Hotsko'21
Fiona James'21
Caroline Kane'21

Gabriella Karcz'21
Mary Rose Kelly'21
Olivia Landolfi'21
Alyssa Longo'21
Brooke Marotti'21
Julia Marotti'21
Emmy Mazzacano'21
Sherry McCarthy'21
Daniella Navia'21
Madelyn Novelli'21
Mary Virginia Nye'21

Grace Olear'21
Jennifer Ollmann'21
Mariel Persico'21
Anna Salewycz'21
Hanna Scott'21
Gianna Stirone'21
Mary Stose'21
Isabella Torres'21
Sarah Zampino'21

Virtual Book Club with Mary Beth Keane'95

On the evening of November 5, 2021, thirty-seven IHA alumnae joined a Virtual Book Club Zoom session with IHA author, Mary Beth Keane'95, to discuss her latest novel *Ask Again, Yes*. After a brief introduction and welcome by director of alumnae engagement, Beth DiCiancia Garrigan'76 P'06, a Q&A took place about the characters, storyline, background information, and details regarding the book.

When asked about her IHA influences, Mary Beth highlighted the late Ms. Marilyn Rich, former English teacher. "Ms. Rich, my junior and senior year English teacher, had an enormous impact on my life," she said. "She taught me how to make an argument, how to support it, how to research properly. But more importantly (to me), she taught great literature, and though she seemed



conservative—she was never effusive, and some girls were certainly intimidated by her—the years have shown me that she encouraged us to think whatever we wanted about the literature at hand and to draw our own conclusions. That was a gift."

Mary Beth Keane'95, author of *Ask Again, Yes*, answers questions about her novel during our inaugural Virtual Book Club event.

Thank you to Yolanda Kunz Semelsberger'92 P'20 for the Virtual Book Club idea and to all who attended the inaugural event. We look forward to our next meeting in the upcoming winter months.

IHA Hosts Virtual Holiday Mixology Class with Bergen Catholic

Guests (21+) joined together on Zoom for a Bergen Catholic and IHA Virtual Mixer on Thursday, Dec. 3, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. Cousins, Michael Powers (BC'91) and Danielle Garrigan'06 showcased several holiday cocktails during the online mixology class. Attendees learned how to create a Peppermint-Chocolate Martini, a Poinsettia champagne/vodka/cranberry drink, Mistletoe Margaritas, a Merry Merry Bloody Mary, and Holiday Sangria. Thank you to all guests who joined in the fun!



Mixology class attendees enjoy learning how to make a variety of holiday cocktails.

IHA Students Honored in National Merit® Scholarship Program

Immaculate Heart Academy is thrilled to announce that one senior was named a National Merit® *Semifinalist* and eight seniors were named National Merit® *Commended Students* in the 2021 National Merit® Scholarship Program. Congratulations to IHA's *Semifinalist*, Katherine Conway'21, and to our *Commended Students*, Abigail Auty'21, Angelina Casale'21, Katherine Mackey'21, Daniela Makowka'21, Freya Nair'21, Mary Virginia Nye'21, Elizabeth Spizzo'21, and Sarah Zampino'21.

In September 2020, National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) officials announced the names of approximately sixteen thousand *Semifinalists* in the 66th annual National Merit® Scholarship Program who earned a national Selection Index qualifying score of at least 220.

These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some seven thousand six hundred National Merit® Scholarships worth more than \$30 million that will be offered next spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship® award, *Semifinalists* must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition. More than 90 percent of the *Semifinalists* are expected to attain *Finalist* standing, and more than half of the *Finalists* will win a National Merit® Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar® title.

More than 1.5 million juniors in about twenty-one thousand high schools entered the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2019 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®),

which served as an initial screening of program entrants. The nationwide pool of *Semifinalists*, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state. Congratulations to Katherine Conway'21 for earning this prestigious honor.

About thirty-four thousand of the fifty thousand high scorers in each annual National Merit Scholarship® program are named *Commended Students* based on a national Selection Index qualifying score. This year, that score was 209. Congratulations to our eight outstanding seniors who received official Letters of Commendation!

Right: Katherine Conway'21,
National Merit®
Semifinalist



Fall 2020 Signing Day

Congratulations to five senior athletes for officially signing to their colleges and universities on the afternoon of Thursday, November 12, 2020. Seated, left to right, are Taylor Whang'21 (Columbia University – Barnard College – Swimming), Brooke Marotti'21 (Fairfield University – Lacrosse), and Ashley Lamond'21 (UMass Amherst – Soccer), and standing, left to right, are Gianna Grigaliunas'21 (Bryant University – Volleyball) and Emmy Mazzacano'21 (The College of the Holy Cross – Swimming).



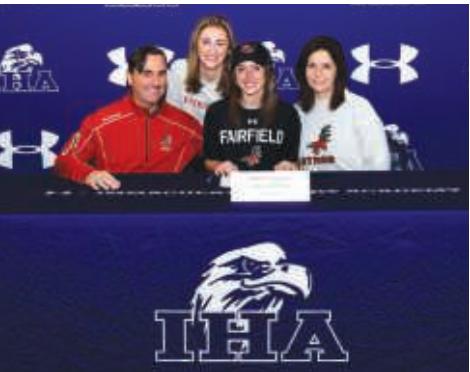
Steven Grigaliunas, Gianna Grigaliunas'21 (Bryant University – Volleyball), Alexa Grigaliunas'23, and Jill Grigaliunas

Right: Edward Mazzacano, Emmy Mazzacano'21 (The College of the Holy Cross – Swimming), Andrew Mazzacano, and Kerry Mazzacano

Far Right: Inn Young Whang, Taylor Whang'21 (Columbia University – Barnard College – Swimming), and Sun Young Whang



Keith Lamond, Ashley Lamond'21 (UMass Amherst – Soccer), Gavin Lamond, and Megan Lamond



Peter Marotti, Julia Marotti'21, Brooke Marotti'21 (Fairfield University – Lacrosse), and Suzanne Marotti



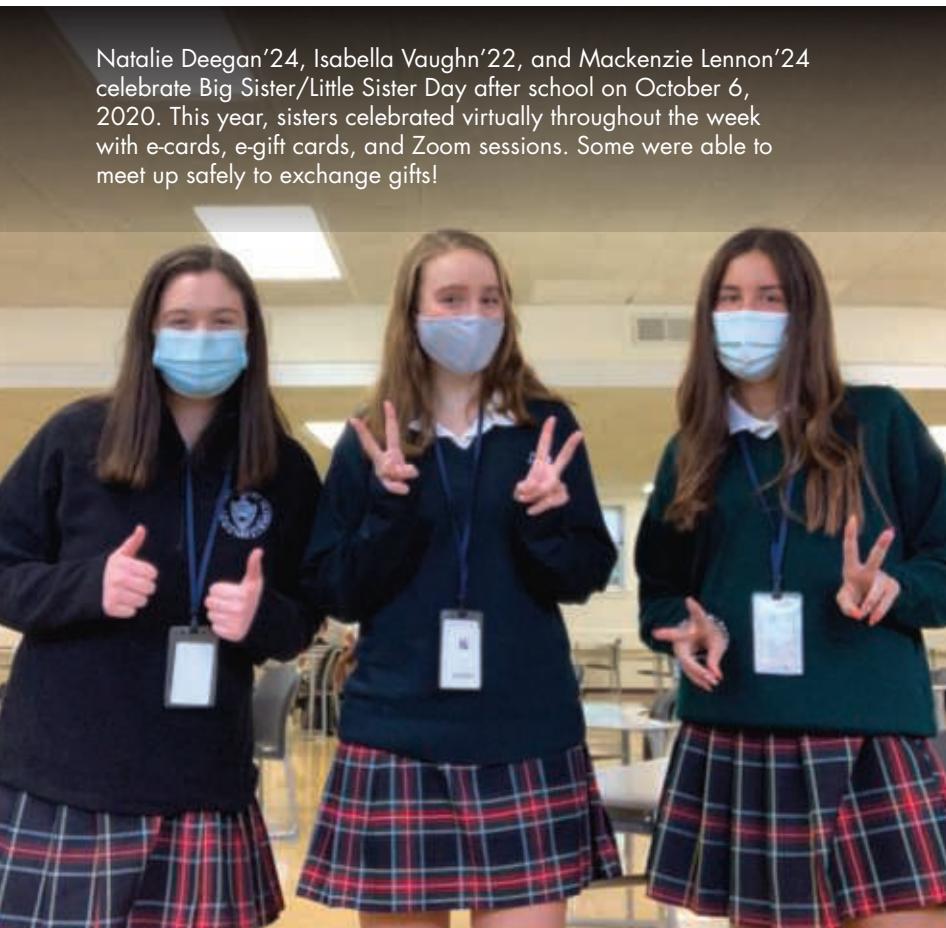
SCENE

Around IHA

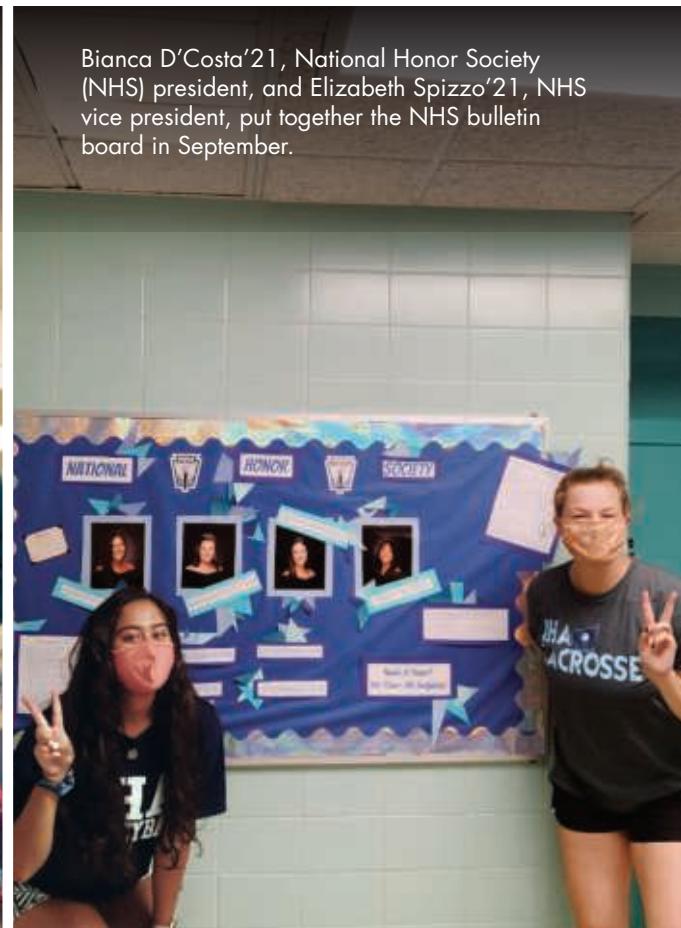


On March 9, 2020, artists in Honors Studio from the Class of 2020 began working on a mural for the IHA gymnasium as their final project. They were to paint two words in IHA's Alma Mater on the gym balcony walls: "Let us go forward with COURAGE to do..." and "Alma mater, O lead us to VICTORY sublime, to victory sublime." In September, National Art Honor Society students picked up their brushes to finish what their sisters started prior to quarantine.

Natalie Deegan '24, Isabella Vaughn '22, and Mackenzie Lennon '24 celebrate Big Sister/Little Sister Day after school on October 6, 2020. This year, sisters celebrated virtually throughout the week with e-cards, e-gift cards, and Zoom sessions. Some were able to meet up safely to exchange gifts!



Bianca D'Costa '21, National Honor Society (NHS) president, and Elizabeth Spizzo '21, NHS vice president, put together the NHS bulletin board in September.



Our Peer Mentors led members of the Class of 2024 in their 2020 Rookie Camp activities. Front row, left to right, are Kaylee McKay'21, Geri Tabbachino'21, Grace Olear'21, Grace Faenza'21, and Alexandra Kaspar'21. Back row, left to right, are Lauren Ohmacht'21, Cameron Rasnake'21, and Simone Amerio'21.



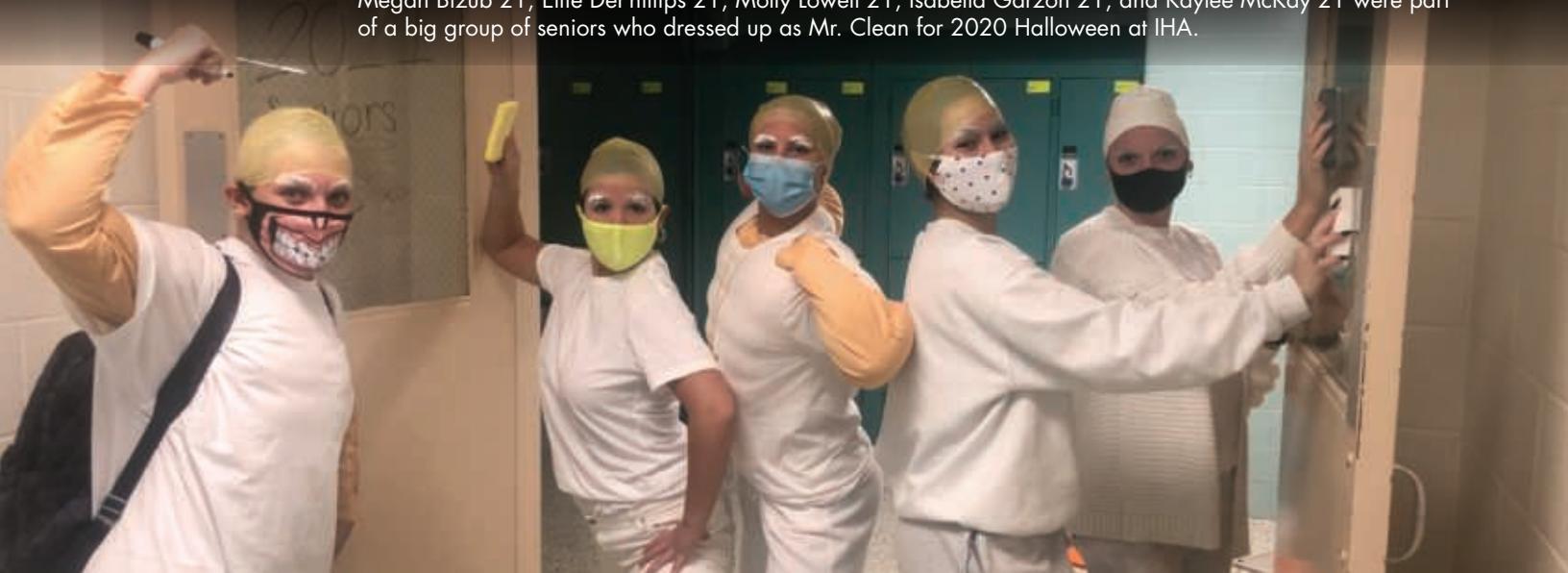
Natalia Maglicic'23, Olivia Tacconi'23, and Carolyn Sandt'23 wear pink for Breast Cancer Awareness on October 16, 2020.



Geri Tabbachino'21 and Emma Viggiano'21 lead their Rookie Camp group in an outside activity.

The generosity of IHA never ceases to amaze! Our IHA family donated three hundred seventy gifts through our Christmas Drive to the community members of Sacred Heart School, Jersey City; Youth Consultation Services; and Strengthen Our Sisters Shelter, Wanaque. Similar to many things this year, our collection and deliveries looked a little different. Thank you to Mrs. Sarah Shutrop, director of formation, for leading the charge, and to Mrs. Alice Rogers, assistant principal of students; Ms. Gerri Boland, director of guidance; Mr. Jim Foote P'17, pictured above; and Lauren Foote'17 for all of their help at the contactless drive-up drop-off at IHA.

Megan Bizub'21, Ellie DePhillips'21, Molly Lowell'21, Isabella Garzon'21, and Kaylee McKay'21 were part of a big group of seniors who dressed up as Mr. Clean for 2020 Halloween at IHA.



DID YOU KNOW THAT...

Dr. Sue Kenney, social studies teacher, recently won the 2020 HREC Educator Award for Holodomor Lesson Plan Development, an international competition for educators. The Holodomor Research and Education Consortium (HREC) panel of judges selected Dr. Kenney's lesson plan, entitled "Imperial Famines: America's Response to the Holodomor," which is from her Genocide and Film course at IHA. "The Holodomor is a genocide that Stalin perpetrated against the Ukrainian people, and it was done by brutality and mass starvation," Dr. Kenney explained. The Holodomor is one of the genocides

IHA students study in the Genocide and Film course. The official HREC Education announcement stated that Dr. Kenney's winning lesson plan for grades 11 and 12, "takes a unique look at how firsthand accounts from survivors raise profound questions about the U.S. response to the Holodomor and invites students to envision alternative responses. The purpose of the lesson is for students to develop a heightened sense of global responsibility in the face of injustice."

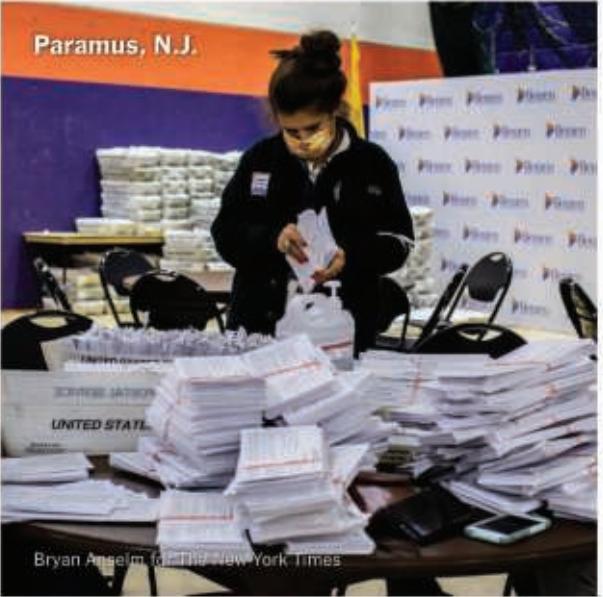
Dr. Kenney was awarded \$2,000 and her winning lesson plan was posted on the HREC Education website.



nytimes.com

Tuesday, November 3, 2020 [SUBSCRIBE NOW](#)

Nation Watches Anxiously as Race Comes to Furious End



Paramus, N.J.

Bryan Anselm for The New York Times

Early Vote Shatters Records Despite Pandemic and Legal Wrangling

Emmersen Dabal'21 was pictured on the homepage of nytimes.com on Election Day, November 3, 2020, while working with the election team at Bergen Community College. In the featured photo taken by Bryan Anselm, Emmersen is double-checking opened envelopes for any missed ballots. On other days, she had the job of separating the local and presidential mailing ballots into piles for officials to run through the scanner.

"I initially got involved through my mother," Emmersen explained. "My mom is the mayor of my hometown of Wallington and, before that, she was a councilwoman. I love watching her tireless involvement in our community year after year. This is what ultimately led to my interest in working with the election team at Bergen Community College. I wanted to help in any way that I could for this presidential election."

Mrs. Lisa Encke P'20, director of the arts, was recently named a recipient of the 2020 National Art Honor Society Award by the executive board of the Art Educators of New Jersey (AENJ). This award was established to recognize the dedication of an AENJ member who sponsors an outstanding NAHS Chapter. Mrs. Encke received the award on Saturday, October 24, 2020 at the AENJ Annual Conference held via Zoom, and was featured in *Artbeat*, the official AENJ publication. The feature in *Artbeat* read, "Lisa is a graduate of Parsons School of Design, and has an MSED in Visual Arts Administration from the Bank Street College of Education in New York. She is a member of both AENJ and NAEA. Not only has Lisa been an educator for over thirty years, she is also an accomplished artist and has participated in a long list of shows and exhibits in New York and

New Jersey. She's a wonderful example of excellence to the students in her Immaculate Heart Academy NAHS chapter, demonstrating commitment, skill and leadership on a daily basis. Lisa has expressed gratitude to work in a community that is rooted in tradition while also having a vision for the future. She says, 'As an art educator, it is my goal to reflect the national standards and teach our students to respect others, start a dialogue, experiment, observe, find their voice, self-evaluate, clean up, reflect on their work, embrace diversity, persevere, appreciate beauty, break away from stereotypes, envision solutions, value aesthetics, see another point of view, and innovate. These skills will translate well into all aspects of their lives. I am fortunate to work in an environment that supports these goals.'"



National Art Honor Society Award

Lisa Encke, Director of the Arts at the Immaculate Heart Academy, in the Archdiocese of Newark

Premiere Stages, the professional theater company in residence at Kean University, named **Olivia Landolfi'21** as an honorable mention award winner in the high school category of the Premiere Senior Endeavor Awards, a new playwriting initiative established in response to the challenges of COVID-19.



Mrs. Lauren Tereshko, science teacher, and her husband, Christopher, welcomed their daughter, Caroline Grace Tereshko, at 9:26 a.m. on Saturday, September 19, 2020! Caroline was 8 lbs, 5 oz and 20.5 inches long.

Caroline Grace Tereshko



Gianna Niece '21

As an active member in the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Teaneck Composite Squadron, United States Air Force Auxiliary, **Gianna Niece '21** was recently permitted to fly a plane. CAP has three missions: Aerospace Education, Cadet Programs, and Emergency Services. As part of Aerospace Education, cadets are allowed to pilot five powered and five not powered flights. Cadet Master Sergeant Niece, instructed by a pilot, flew for the first time in October 2020. Also through CAP, she attended Civil Air Patrol Basic Encampment in the summer of 2019 and was given the opportunity to work at the Atlantic City Air Show. Every week, Gianna leads cadets in Drill and teaches

and presents to them in the classroom, both in-person and on Google hangouts. CAP embodies the four core values of Integrity, Volunteer Service, Excellence, and Respect. "In the program, we break each one down and give simpler/relevant examples of how to use those and incorporate them into everyday life," Gianna explained. The CAP program is for young men and women ages 12-21; Gianna joined in April 2019 when she was 16 years old. She first learned about CAP through her brother, Joseph (BC'15), who was in the program and is now an Officer in the United States Army. "Because my brother is in the Army, I was curious what it was like to

“I suggest CAP to anyone who has interest in any branch of the military,” she continued, “as it gives structure, leadership, and shapes you into a better person overall.”

be in the military,” she said. “CAP gives younger students a great introduction and a taste of what it would be like, especially for those interested in joining the Air Force,” she explained. “I loved it from the minute I started. My only regret is I wish I joined earlier.” Gianna is considering applying for an Army ROTC program in college and she recently applied for the ROTC national scholarship. “I suggest CAP to anyone who has interest in any branch of the military,” she continued, “as it gives structure, leadership, and shapes you into a better person overall. I would love to talk to anyone who has questions about the program; feel free to email me at 21nieceg@ihanj.com.”



Lauren Grae '23 recently received Honorable Mention for her oil painting “Changing Lights” in the New Jersey State Bar Foundation (NJSBF) Ninth Annual Art Show. The statewide contest is for those with law-related jobs, and Lauren’s part time work as a paralegal for her dad’s firm qualified her. She was the only minor in the show; all of the other artists were adults. A virtual reception was held for the honorees on November 4 and Lauren’s piece was displayed in a virtual gallery with all of the other artwork.

Lauren Grae '23 with her painting, “Changing Lights”

Golfers Support IHA at 2020 Blue Eagle Open

Thank you to everyone who came out to support Immaculate Heart Academy at our Blue Eagle Open on October 1, 2020! It was a beautiful day for golfers to hit the links at Forest Hill Field Club, home course of the IHA Golf team. We are grateful for our student golfers, Angela Lee'22, Reagan Mertz'22, and Mary Stoker'23, for taking part in the Student Challenge and volunteering at the outing, and for the many parent volunteers for helping throughout the day. Special shout out to Mrs. Beth DiCiancia Garrigan'76 P'06, director of alumnae engagement and special events; the IHA administration; and members of the Development Department for making this special event happen. Thank you to Brix City Brewing for hosting a tasting on hole 12 and to our many generous sponsors, listed at right.

Congratulations to all of the winners of the day:

First Place (Men)

Larry Ayers P'24
Kevin Sullivan P'24
Tim McGee P'24
Rich Urban P'24

First Place (Women)

Liz Kearns P'05, '08, '11 F
Pat McDonough FF CB
Carol McDonough
Mary Reiman

Dan Kelly; Frank Cox P'09, '12, '16;
Kevin Kelly P'18; and Jason Schlereth,
IHA principal



Most Honest

Gina Nichols Collins'78
Therese Collins'75
Patricia Dugan'78
Meg McCrimisk'78

Longest Drive

Men – Akeen Atanda
Women – Lauren Rhein'09 C

Closest to the Pin

Men – Larry Ayers P'24
Women – Kathy O'Halloran'76

We could not have hosted such a successful and enjoyable event without the generosity of our many tee sponsors and major sponsors:

Premier Event Sponsors

Block O'Toole & Murphy, LLP/Dan and Claire O'Toole P'17, '21
Hackensack Meridian Health

Event Sponsors

D&B Building Solutions/Dan and Maureen Daniello P'15
IGEA Brain and Spine/Dr. Ciro Randazzo P'23, '24

Lunch Sponsor

Bergen Catholic High School

Cart Sponsor

Orthopaedic Surgery and Sports Medicine LLC/Michael Betsy, MD P'21 and Cheryl Spinella Betsy'91 P'21
Gem Electrical Contracting LLC/Jose Moreno P'24

Beverage Sponsor

FieldTurf



Lauren Rhein'09,
IHA Golf coach,
plays at the 2020
Blue Eagle Open.

Scholarship Sponsors

Isabella Estevez'21 and Amber Estevez'23
James E. Hanson Management Co./
Enn Kunnapas P'09, '11, '13, '16
Holy Name Medical Center
Ridgewood Orthopedic Group LLC/
Dr. Anthony Delfico P'21

Sponsor-a-Faculty Foursome

The Raia Family P'19, '22, '24

Sponsor-a-Student Foursome

S&T Charters LLC

Hole-in-One Sponsor

Jeffrey Knapp FF

Corporate Sponsor

The DeSantis Family P'15, '18
Don Bosco Preparatory High School
Office Management Systems/
Michael McGreary P'19
The O'Halloran Family



Left: Julia Granatell P'24; Paula Horne P'13, '15, '18 F; Beth DiCiancia Garrigan'76 P'06 F; Barbara Reeves P'19, '21; Gerri Boland F; Sharon Scimeca P'15, '22; Amy Rose Taylor P'22; and Jaclyn Budka P'24

Students Earn AP® Scholar Designation

Forty-nine students in the classes of 2020 and 2021 earned the designation of AP® Scholar by the College Board in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the 2020 AP® Exams. The College Board's Advanced Placement® Program offers students the opportunity to take challenging college-level courses while

still in high school, and to receive college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the end-of-course AP® Exams. Students took online AP® Exams in May 2020. In order to be designated as an AP Scholar by the College Board, a student must earn a score of 3 or higher on the AP scale of 1-5.

Kang Hyun Ryu'20, the Class of 2020 salutatorian now at Princeton University, achieved **National AP Scholar** status by “achieving scores of 4 or higher on at least eight AP exams” and “whose average AP exam grade is at least a 4.0.” Twenty-four students earned AP Scholars with Distinction, ten were named AP Scholars with Honor, and fifteen students were designated AP Scholars.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

AP® Scholar with Distinction Award Recipients

An average score of at least 3.5 on all AP® Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams:

Abigail Auty'21, Isabella DeCurtis'20 (Boston College), Maryannette Diaz'20 (Arizona State University – Tempe), Olivia DuBois'20 (University of California – Los Angeles), Molly Fitzsimons'20 (New York University), Isabella Gorsd'20 (University of Michigan – Ann Arbor), Hannah Gurney'20 (University of California – Santa Barbara), Lily Implicito'20 (Bucknell University), Angeline Jacob'20 (Siena College), Emma Matesic'20 (Villanova University), Kelly McDermott'20 (California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo), Meghan McGuire'20 (North Carolina State University at Raleigh), Grace Mendolia'20 (Dartmouth College), Jessica O'Neill'20 (University of Notre Dame), Kristina Organista'20 (New York University), Ella Parker'20

(Emory University), Gabrielle Peko'20 (Wake Forest University), Tierney Piercy'20 (George Washington University), Joanna Rajkowsi'20 (Clemson University), Sophia Ruggier'20 (Northeastern University), Kang Hyun Ryu'20 (Princeton University), Ava Sciubba'20 (University of Notre Dame), Elizabeth Spizzo'21, and Elise Vergos'20 (Cornell University)

AP® Scholar with Honor Award Recipients

An average score of at least 3.25 on all AP® Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams:

Angelina Casale'21, Stephanie Doyle'20 (Bentley University), Hannahmia Lauricalla'20 (New York University), Jennifer Lawrence'21, Daniela Makowka'21, Hanna Martin'21, Allison Monroe'21, Freya Nair'21, Raghavi Patel'20 (University at Albany, SUNY), and Joan Tejera'20 (University of Connecticut)

AP® Scholar Award Recipients

A score of 3 or higher on three or more AP® Exams:

Katherine Conway'21, Olivia Costello'20 (Boston College), Caroline Freeburn'20 (Fordham University), Nicole Gysin'20 (St. Thomas Aquinas College), Emma Kramer'20 (Fairfield University), Anna Mullens'20 (Providence College), Juliana Najjar'20 (University of Rochester), Mary Virginia Nye'21, Katharine O'Connor'20 (Boston College), Emma Patton'20 (Wake Forest University), Sophia Scian'20 (American University), Emily Soranno'20 (Fairfield University), Lauren Turci'21, Kylie Waskas'20 (University of Richmond), and Alexandra Zitelli'21

WE
SHINE *brighter*
TOGETHER

JOIN US FOR
IMMACULATE HEART ACADEMY'S
THIRD ANNUAL

*Valentine's
Week of Giving*

FEBRUARY 8 - 14, 2021

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT
IHA'S ANNUAL FUND

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
SARAH HILL '07, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT,
AT SHILL@IHANJ.COM OR 201.445.6800, EXT. 185.

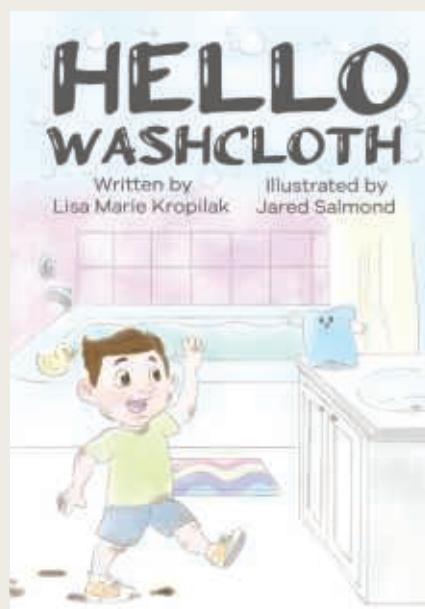
Alumnae Authors

The Alumnae Authors section of our newsletter endures, as IHA graduates continue to blow us away with their talented writing. In this issue, we highlight three alumnae published authors—one who wrote a children's book, one who writes romance novels, and another whose first book can be found in the History/Biographies section. Please contact us if you are an alumna author so we can feature you in an upcoming newsletter!



Lisa Marie Domingo Kropilak '99 recently wrote and published her first children's book titled *Hello Washcloth*. The book was inspired by her identical twin boys, Jack and Andrew, who she said "love the bath but never seem to get the washing part done!" *Hello Washcloth* is an adorable introduction to the sequence of bathing, demonstrated by the cutest character and the washcloth. With playful rhymes, new vocabulary, and an educational page that labels parts of the body, this book is a fundamental part of helping children learn and remember what to do when it's bathing time.

After she was furloughed from her travel agency job in early 2020 due to COVID-19, Lisa quickly realized she was fortunate to be able to fully support her boys with homeschooling and she decided she didn't want to take her precious time

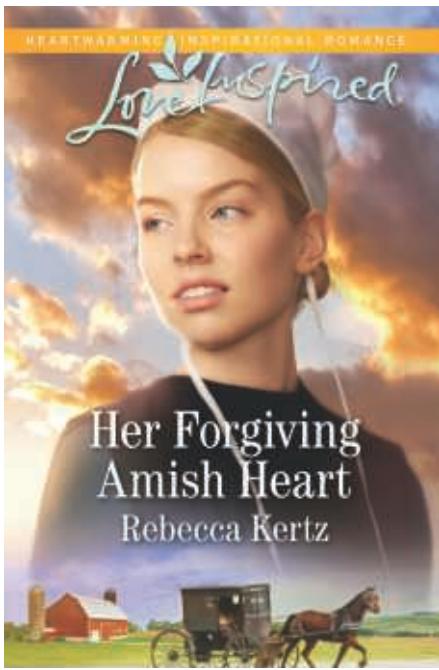


for granted. "This extra time taught me to be genuinely 'in the moment,' and freed my mind, revealing a world of creativity," she explained. "The end result was that I was able to accomplish something I have always wanted to do—write a children's book! Lisa said teaching her sons to wash independently was quite the task. "One day, my son Jack was talking to his washcloth and telling it what to do," she remembered. "I thought it was adorable. That was the beginning of *Hello Washcloth* and my writing journey began. My hope is that this book becomes a fundamental part of helping all children take on the task of washing independently as well as a teaching tool for parents. To check out *Hello Washcloth* for your little ones, especially children six years old and younger, visit www.amazon.com.



Candace Meier McCarthy '73 is an avid reader who liked to write poetry, song lyrics, and an occasional story when she was a child. She moved to Delaware with her husband, Kevin, as a young newlywed more than forty-five years ago. It wasn't until a few years later, after her son was two that she decided to write a book. After reading a romance novel that made her burst out laughing, she thought, "How wonderful to be able to do this for others!" She grabbed a pen and notebook and started to write. Later, she typed up what she wrote on an old manual typewriter. "There is something wonderful in allowing a reader to escape into a happily-ever-after story for a while."

Candace has written and published more than thirty books, using her own name and a number of pennames. She currently



writes Amish romances for Harlequin Books' Love Inspired® line under the name Rebecca Kertz. In January of 2020, her novel, *Finding Her Amish Love* was released. She also had two rereleases this year in books with other authors. In October of 2020, her Christmas story, *Her Amish Christmas Gift* was released again with author Carrie Light's *Her Amish Holiday Suitor*. She will have a new release in 2021, *Loving Her Amish Neighbor*. Her books come out in paperback in both regular and large print and are also published in e-book format.

Candace said she learns something from every manuscript she writes. "If you want to publish, then write and write and write. There is no secret to publishing except perseverance and hard work." Candace was determined to publish a book even if it took her the next twenty years to do it. It took six years and three full manuscripts before she sold her first book on proposal to Dell Publishing. "Writing is a huge part of who I am," she said. "I don't feel like myself when I'm not writing." A number of her Amish books have made the *Publisher Weekly's* mass-market bestseller list. She is represented by the Evan Marshall Agency. You can find her free online short story, *His Amish Bride*, at www.harlequin.com in the Online Reads section under Rebecca Kertz. Visit her on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @rebeccakertz and an her website, www.rebeccakertz.com.



Pam Fessler'71 recently wrote and published her first book entitled *Carville's Cure: Leprosy, Stigma, and the Fight for Justice* (Liveright, July 2020). Pam's book tells the story of the only leprosarium in the continental U.S., where thousands of patients were isolated, often against their will and until they died. "For much of the 20th century, the patients were treated more like inmates than people who were ill. They lost not only their freedom, but their identities and rights, including the right to vote. They were torn away from families and friends or, in many cases, abandoned by them. In reality, leprosy is one of the least contagious diseases there is. The patients were more the victims of stigma, ignorance, and prejudice than they were of a germ. At Carville, the patients eventually banded together and successfully fought to regain their rights, with the help of the Daughters of Charity sisters who cared for them."

Pam wrote this book after her father-in-law revealed a secret he had kept for more than sixty years—his father had leprosy and was taken away by public health officials and brought to a leprosarium in Carville, Louisiana, where he died three years later. Pam's father-in-law, who was fifteen at the time, never saw or spoke to his father again and didn't know where he had been taken. "He knew his father had leprosy, but his mother told him and his siblings never to tell anyone because the stigma was so great and it might ruin the family," Pam explained. "So my father-in-law kept that secret until he was seventy-eight years old. We investigated and discovered where his father had been taken. We then took my father-in-law to visit Carville and I learned that his family was one of thousands with similar stories and that through much of the 20th century, the U.S. government took those with leprosy away from their homes

CARVILLE'S CURE

LEPROSY, STIGMA,
AND THE FIGHT FOR JUSTICE

PAM FESSLER



and confined them at the hospital against their will. I decided that this was a story that needed to be told, and this was the genesis of my book."

Pam has been a journalist all her life, so writing and telling stories is what she does. She was an editor on the IHA newspaper and went on to be the editor-in-chief of the newspaper at Douglass College at Rutgers. She then worked as a reporter for *The Record* in Hackensack before moving to Washington where she was a reporter for *Congressional Quarterly* magazine and now a correspondent at NPR. "I've always covered mostly government and politics, as well as poverty, but never health or medical issues," she said. "So this story about Carville was completely new to me, and I had to learn a lot about medicine and public health policy."

More information can be found at www.pamfessler.com and *Carville's Cure: Leprosy, Stigma, and the Fight for Justice* can be purchased at www.amazon.com and anywhere books are sold.

SPORTS REPORT

Fall 2020 Sports



Ashley Lamond'21



Alexandra Zitelli'21

SOCCKER

On and off the field, the IHA Soccer program had an incredible season. The Freshman team finished with a record of 4-5, while the J.V. team finished back-to-back undefeated seasons with a 10-0-1 record. At the Varsity level, the team finished second in the league with a 4-2 record. During a grueling out-of-conference schedule, the girls turned it on with notable wins over rivals, Northern Highlands and Ramapo, en route to a final regular season record of 8-4-2. Capping an outstanding run at the end of the season, the varsity soccer athletes won their State Sectional Title against Montclair Kimberley (4-3 in penalty kicks)! Amongst the team accomplishments were several individual accolades at the league, county, state, and regional levels. Alexandra Zitelli'21 was nominated by the United Soccer Coaches

with All-American Honors. IHA Varsity Soccer coach, Eric Pfeifer, was also honored by the United Soccer Coaches with the title of New Jersey Private/Parochial Coach of the Year. While navigating the unusual circumstances of 2020, the coaches are incredibly proud of the players in making the most of their season.



Casey Forcellati'21

Big North Conference All-League Honors

First-Team

Ashley Lamond'21, Alexa Schouten'21, Alexandra Zitelli'21, and Alexandra Barry'24

Second-Team

Arielle Jacus'21, Lauryn Mockler'21, Alexa Aranias'22, Kayla Arone'22, Natalie DiLorenzo'22, and Lindsay Ford'23

Honorable Mention

Casey Forcellati'21

BCWCA All-County Honors

First-Team

Alexandra Zitelli'21 and Alexandra Barry'24

Second-Team

Ashley Lamond'21, Alexa Schouten'21, and Natalie DiLorenzo'22

Third-Team

Alexa Aranias'22

Northjersey.com All-County Honors

First-Team

Alexandra Barry'24

Second-Team

Alexandra Zitelli'21

NJGSCA All-State Honors

Top 20 Players - North I Section
Alexandra Zitelli'21

Top 20 Players - Entire State of NJ

Alexandra Zitelli'21

NJ.com All-Non-Public Honors

First-Team
Alexandra Zitelli'21

Second-Team

Lauryn Mockler'21, Natalie DiLorenzo'22, and Alexandra Barry'24

United Soccer Coaches (USC)

East Regional All-American
Alexandra Zitelli'21

2020 High School New Jersey Private/Parochial Coach of the Year
Eric Pfeifer

2020 High School East Region Private/Parochial Coach of the Year
Eric Pfeifer

CROSS COUNTRY



2020 Cross Country seniors

The Cross Country team had a stellar year finishing the regular season undefeated in the Division, winning the League Championship, the Brett Taylor Invitational, and the Garret Mountain Invitational. In the championship season, IHA Varsity Cross Country finished second in the North Jersey Finale and won the NJSIAA North Sectional Non-Public A Championship. Seniors, Taylor DiLisi'21, Adriana Hotsko'21, Daniela Makowka'21, Madelyn Novelli'21, Jillian Shea'21, Keara Skae'21, and Geri Tabbachino'21, all played a part in the team's successful season. Through their efforts, along with sophomores, Leanna Johnston'23 and Grace Kelleher'23, and juniors, Kylie Galiger'22 and Camryn King'22, the team ended the season as one of the best not only North Jersey, but in the entire state. The J.V. team dominated and won both the Brett Taylor invitational and the Garret Invitational with nearly perfect scores. IHA J.V. Cross Country also placed second at both the St. Dominic Invitational and the Doc Braver Championships. The Freshman team had an outstanding season, placing first in the St. Dominic Academy Invite, the Brett Taylor Invite, The Garrett Mountain Invite, and the Doc Braver Invite and second in the North Jersey Finale and North Jersey Championships.

Big North All-Conference Honors

First-Team

Adriana Hotsko'21, Madelyn Novelli'21, Keara Skae'21, Jillian Shea'21, Geri Tabbachino'21, Leanna Johnston'23, and Grace Kelleher'23

Honorable Mention

Taylor DiLisi'21

BCWCA All-County Honors

First-Team

Leanna Johnston'23

Third-Team

Madelyn Novelli'21, Jillian Shea'21, Geri Tabbachino'21, and Grace Kelleher'23

northjersey.com All-North Jersey Honors

Second-Team

Leanna Johnston'23

NJ.com All-Non-Public Honors

First-Team

Leanna Johnston'23



IHA leads the pack.



Carson Bielen'24



TENNIS

IHA Varsity Tennis ended its season with a record of four wins and six losses, doing very well considering the challenging competition this year. The team placed second in its league matches with a league record of three wins and two losses. All players demonstrated a high level of skill, determination, and character throughout the season. The varsity team was led by senior captains, Fiona James'21 (first singles), Simone Amerio'21 (second singles), and Freya Nair'21 (second doubles). These girls used their leadership skills, mature nature, and strong ambition to bring their team together and make it a successful and memorable season!



Big North Conference All-League Honors

First-Team

Fiona James'21,
Cameron Rasnake'21, and
Sophie Mendolia'23

Second-Team

Simone Amerio'21, Freya Nair'21,
Madelyn Panebianco'22,
Josephine Amerio'23, and
Madison McKay'23

Honorable Mention

Ava Hayes'21



Freya Nair'21



Simone Amerio'21

IHA Celebrates 60 Years and First Freshman Class

The 2020-2021 school year marks the 60th anniversary of Immaculate Heart Academy. The pioneers of the Class of 1964 actually began their IHA education in Paramus before coming to Township of Washington their sophomore year. IHA was led by Sr. Louise (Ann McConnell Bishop), who employed a relatively small group of faculty and staff in the first years, pictured at right.

Sue Derrick Butler '64, a member of the first graduating class and former IHA faculty member, recalled that her class used four classrooms at Our Lady of Visitation in Paramus their first year and that the teachers changed rooms, not the students. She also remembered that since there were so few students, the bus routes were very long; those bus rides became their main form of socialization.



A photo of the faculty in the early years of IHA. Back row, left to right, are Sr. Carole, Sr. Janet, Sr. Martha, Sr. Louise, Sr. Annette, Sr. Theresanne, and Sr. Rosita. Middle row, left to right, are Mrs. Ma, Mrs. Helen Prine, Mrs. Marie McLaughlin, Mrs. Barbara Yentzer Cleary, and Mrs. Acela Silva. Front row, left to right, are Ms. Betty Johnson, Miss Vivian Messineo Dick, Mrs. Dorothy Solomon Garlick, Mrs. Marie Sarabian, Mrs. Ellen McGee, Mrs. Anna O'Dea Morris, and Mrs. Patricia Provak.

The strong young women who made up the Class of 1964 instituted many of the traditions we hold dear today at Immaculate Heart Academy; we are most thankful for their ingenuity, foresight, and compassion for their alma mater.



This photo of the members of the first freshman class was taken at Our Lady of the Visitation in Paramus before the Township of Washington campus was opened.

The students didn't have uniforms the first year, and Sue said it was such a treat for her to wear civilian clothes after eight years of wearing uniforms. They moved to Van Emburgh Avenue at the beginning of her sophomore year, but only the left side of the building was finished. The freshmen were on the top floor and the big sister sophomores were on the first floor; the cafeteria was used for Physical Education classes.

"The principal, Sr. Louise, was determined to make ladies out of us and she was strict, but a warm and caring

person underneath," Sue said. "I felt that since we were the first graduating class, she thought we were the ones who were shaping the reputation for the school so we had to be good representatives. Looking back now, I admire how she took on the challenge of principal, English teacher, and disciplinarian, among other responsibilities I'll never know about. She was a good role model of a competent female leader. My years at IHA had a profound effect on the person I have become. I am so thankful to my parents for sending me to IHA."

The strong young women who made up the Class of 1964 instituted many of the traditions we hold dear today at Immaculate Heart Academy; we are most thankful for their ingenuity, foresight, and compassion for their alma mater. IHA is proud to be sixty years strong and we look forward to carrying on our traditions for many more years to come!

Planned Giving – Help Keep IHA's Traditions Alive

The Immaculate Heart Academy *1960 Society* was created to honor the spirit that has nurtured and sustained IHA for the past sixty years. It recognizes those individuals who have thoughtfully included a gift to IHA in their estate plans through a will, trust, retirement plan, life insurance policy, or life-income gift such as a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust. Planned gifts create extraordinary opportunities to ensure that resources will be available to support IHA for another sixty years and more, preserving and advancing our traditions and our mission of offering young women a college preparatory education and instilling in them "a sense of responsibility, confidence, justice, peace, and compassion."

While the primary purpose of a planned gift is to help a favorite charity, these gifts also allow individuals to enjoy financial benefits. Donors who choose planned giving can feel secure about the future of their loved ones, maintain control of assets for life, receive substantial tax benefits, and give more than they ever thought possible.

In celebration of our sixtieth year at Immaculate Heart Academy, we ask you to consider joining the many alumnae and friends who have become a part of the *1960 Society* and included IHA in their planned giving. For more information, please contact Beth DiCiancia Garrigan'76, director of alumnae engagement, at bgarrigan@ihanj.com.





CLASS notes

'72

Rosemary Flannery has recently gotten back into creating portrait drawings on commission. "I've always loved the study of faces and personalities, and expressing them through my art," she writes. "My artistic training began in my hometown of Bergenfield and continued in New York City. I am a graduate of Columbia University with a B.A. degree in French language and literature. While pursuing a career in media and in the French fashion industry, I took classes part time at the Art Students League. After moving to France in 1989, I was able to embrace my love of art more fully, copying masters' paintings at the Louvre, and studying Renaissance and 18th century techniques at the Atelier St Luc. The beautiful art of da Vinci, Fragonard, and Watteau is a great inspiration to me. Represented for my portrait drawings at the Galerie des Saints-Pères in Paris from 2000 until its closing in 2006, I became the titular portrait artist for the Bar Association of the Marne Valley. I've also had the honor of creating portraits for members of the American Embassy in Paris. I love living in Paris and have worked as a tour guide, specializing in museum and architecture tours. This passion led to the creation of my book, *The Angels of Paris*, an Architectural tour through the history of Paris. The current health situation and its subsequent lockdown has ironically been a very creative time for me. Concentrating on my work more wholly is a real joy. Although I sometimes

create portraits from life, mostly they are done from photos, so I'm happily busy at my easel. A portrait is a gift of love, a work of art passed down through the generations and now, more than ever, people appreciate its timelessness. I work in my Paris studio and each portrait involves a conversation with my clients—by phone or via Zoom—in which we can get to know each other and discuss all the details of format and technique for each portrait." Check out Rosemary's work on her new website, www.portraitsbyrosemary.com.



Rosemary Flannery '72



The Three Sisters, pastel on tan paper,
by Rosemary Flannery '72

'76

Eileen Ronner Kulha and **Ann Marie Mortillo Okoniewski** reconnected during an outdoor dinner reunion in Long Branch this past August!



Eileen Ronner Kulha '76 and Ann Marie Mortillo Okoniewski '76

'90

On Saturday, November 7, 2020, fourteen members of the IHA Class of 1990 met virtually once their 30-year reunion scheduled for that very night was postponed due to COVID-19. Present on the Zoom reunion were organizers, Penny Rodrick-Williams '90 and Rita Kondoleon '90, along with Kimberly Ennico Smith '90, Denise Shaver '90, Jennifer Gilleece Sulzer '90, Michelle Ray Barry '90, Christina Houghton



'97

Cristin Keegan married Kate Disare on November 30, 2019 in Washingtonville, New York. "We were fortunate enough to have several IHA alumnae join us for the celebration, with my sister, Maura Keegan Mauch'94, as matron of honor, and Jennifer Allen'97, who I met in Sr. Anne's freshman year algebra class, as my bridesmaid," Cristin said.

From left to right are CJ Mauch, Hudson Disare, Jeremy Disare, Matthew Disare, Kate Disare, Cristin Keegan'97, Maura Keegan Mauch'94, Alexa Mauch, Taryn Mauch, and Jennifer Allen'97.

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.



Members of the Class of 1990 gather together at a Zoom reunion.

Sollecito'90, Jamie Fazio Menake'90, Anne Monaghan-Baker'90, Leslee Martin'90, Teresa Civitano Swanzey'90, Lisa Ann Meola Veit'90, Maria Aranda San Andres'90, and Joanne Puchalik Tompkins'90. The alumnae chatted for almost three hours about their IHA memories of teachers, classes, and schoolmates. They shared what they are all doing now in their career and their family lives and how everyone was

managing under the pandemic. The women reflected on the recent loss of their two classmates, Nancy McNamara DiPietro'90 and Judy Lisi'90, and they are taking up a collection for an IHA Memorial Brick in their names. Please contact Rita Kondoleon'90 via Facebook private message if you are interested in contributing. The Class of 1990 alumnae happily suggested doing another virtual gathering again soon.

'97

Kelly Foley DeCongelio was named principal of Bogota Junior Senior High School in July of 2018. This makes her one of the youngest females to ever be named as a high school principal in New Jersey. Kelly lives in Bergen County with her sons, Rylan John DeCongelio, eleven, and Jack Sullivan DeCongelio, nine.

'98

Elizabeth Keohane-Burbridge writes, "In October 2020, *Independent Scholar Meets World: Expanding Academia beyond the Academy*, a book I co-edited and contributed to, was published by the University Press of Kansas! In 2013, I started producing Footnoting History, a history podcast with over two hundred episodes and two million downloads. In 2016, I graduated from Fordham University with my doctorate in medieval history. In this book, I am able to address my experience doing both. I am in my fifth year of teaching at Woodward Academy outside Atlanta.

I teach Modern World History, US History, and Multi-Ethnic and Diversity Studies. I also coach our middle school debate team and am the club adviser for WA Eagle Exchange, our school podcast, and the Intersectional Feminist Club."

'99

Lisa Marie Domingo

Kropilak writes, "Twenty-one years later and I still enjoy reading through the IHA newsletters! I wanted to share some great news with the IHA family. First, my family and I made a big decision to move out of New Jersey and start a new adventure in Raleigh, North Carolina. It was a big move but we are enjoying the slower pace and amazing weather. If there are any alumnae in the area, feel free to connect with me! Secondly, I wanted to share that I wrote and published my first children's book titled *Hello Washcloth*. It was inspired by my identical twin boys, Jack and Andrew, who love the bath but never seem to get the washing part done!" Read more about Lisa Marie Domingo Kropilak's *Hello Washcloth* in our Alumnae Authors section on page 32. "I also wanted to take this opportunity to acknowledge all of the brilliant IHA authors out there. I have always wanted to write a children's book and you have all been so inspiring. If there are any aspiring writers out there, go for it!"



Lisa Marie Domingo Kropilak'99 with her sons, Jack and Andrew

Gina Nikola writes, "Hello Sisters! I had the pleasure of connecting with so many of you during our Sisterhood Cycling event this year where we raised \$1,400 for IHA's Day of Giving. Since we last saw each other, I have made some exciting career moves. While teaching fitness classes will always be an integral part of my life, real estate has been in my blood since I was a little girl working alongside my father in New York. I am happy to share that I am now a licensed realtor in New York and New Jersey and have just transferred over to our local Keller Williams branch in Woodcliff Lake. My fellow sisters can find me Facebook and Instagram @gina.nikola to ask a question or just say hi! I'm looking forward to connecting with my IHA sisters for the 2021 Day of Giving!"



Gina Nikola'99

'00

Jessica Mischik Quinlan and her husband, Kelly, recently welcomed a baby boy, Beau Alexander Quinlan. Beau was born February 22, 2020 at 7:29 p.m. weighing 8 lbs, 14oz.



Beau Alexander Quinlan

'02

Clarissa Barbon Vogel and her husband, Marc Vogel, welcomed Viviana Barbon Vogel on August 28, 2020. The new family of three resides in Woodcliff Lake.

Samantha Cordova Sanderson writes, "Since graduating a lot has changed! I am married to a wonderful man, have two children, my master's degree, and am the senior director for digital channel management at The College Board. I wanted to share this picture of my daughter, Mackenzie, who is a kindergarten student at St. Matthew Catholic School in Charlotte, North Carolina. As you can see, the apple doesn't fall too far from the tree!"



Mackenzie in St. Matthew Catholic School/IHA plaid!

'05

Jenna Saoud Hennessy writes, "On July 18, 2020, my husband, Daniel, and I were blessed with our third child, Zachary Daniel Hennessy. He was welcomed home by his proud big sister, Reese, five, and big brother Raymond, two."

Megan Picinic Bliss and her husband, Jeff, welcomed their second baby girl, Riley Payton Bliss, on June 4, 2020. She weighed 7 lbs, 14 oz and measured 20 inches long. Riley's big sister, Layla, is loving her new role!



Riley Payton Bliss with big sister, Layla

'09

Taryn Tonelli recently launched a new business called *Hello Creatives*, an online studio created for connection, community, and creative critical thinking for high school students in the performing arts. "My goal with the studio is two-fold," Taryn explained. "1. To create community and connection. We are experiencing unprecedented times. There is a need for a safe space where teens can unpack the heavy events of the world, express themselves, and think critically. My goal is to create that space for them in an inclusive, artistic environment. 2. To emphasize the value of being a creative being. To be human is to be creative. It's built into our very nature. Whether that creativity is applied long term to a career in business, law, the arts, or science—I am striving to provide the tools to face any challenge with a thoughtful, creative mindset." To learn more, visit www.hello-creatives.com.



Taryn Tonelli'09

'09

Stephanie Cruz recently opened a Kumon Math and Reading Center in Mount Pleasant - Laurel Hill, South Carolina.

"As an extensively trained and certified professional instructor, I serve as a mentor who guides children through their work while also providing direction, support, and encouragement. I create an at-home study plan in addition to monitoring classroom assignments, and I emphasize the importance of accurately completing each assignment within a designated time frame. This has helped many of my students increase self-confidence, thus becoming more self-reliant. Like all Kumon Instructors, I have a true passion for education and an earnest desire to help children succeed." After a career in software engineering, a conversation with a family friend prompted Stephanie to look into becoming a Kumon Instructor when she spoke about the hard work but rewarding experience her friend had being an Instructor for so many years. The more she learned about the Kumon Method, the more she saw how much her own values of self-learning, confidence, and interdependence lined up with Kumon's values. She felt it was time to give back to



Stephanie Cruz'09

the families in her community through Kumon. "As a former collegiate volleyball player and youth coach, I often found that the most rewarding part of my days involved working with the young athletes. Watching them learn and feel a sense of accomplishment when they overcame obstacles to reach their goals brought a sense of pride for the both of us. Becoming a Kumon Instructor has allowed me to get back to my roots and what's important to me in order to help my students reach their full potential." Learn more about Stephanie's Kumon Center by visiting www.kumon.com/mt-pleasant-laurel-hill.

'10

Krista Kaspar recently became engaged to her high school sweetheart of twelve years, Joseph Calzaretta, Don Bosco Prep Class of 2010. Joe proposed to Krista on a beautiful summer day in August at Laurita Winery in New Jersey. Earlier that week, Krista took the biggest test of her life—the Optometry National Board Exam. After months of rigorous studying, she was looking forward to her first "fun" weekend that did not involve ten plus hours at the library. Joe, being a pharmacist, knows the sacrifices it takes to pass an exam like that, and he made sure to give her a post-test celebration she would never forget! He proposed that weekend and the two celebrated their forever love for

one another. Since then, Krista received the news that she passed her Board Exam and is well on her way to becoming a doctor!



Joseph Calzaretta proposes to Krista Kaspar'10.

’15

Samantha Glennon graduated with a B.A. degree in Visual Arts from Montclair State University in May 2020.

’16

Caitlin Buchanan was named to the 2020 dean's list at Union College. Caitlin is a member of the Union College Class of 2020 and majored in organizing theme.

Juliana Costanza was named to Montclair State University's spring 2020 dean's list. Juliana, a psychology major, excelled during an unprecedented semester including a transition to online learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To qualify for the dean's list, students must earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher. Juliana graduated with a B.A. degree in May 2020.

Julie Weismiller graduated magna cum laude from the University of Scranton with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing in May 2020. "I recently passed my National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) and am now a Registered Nurse. I am hoping to secure a nursing position in a hospital in the northern New Jersey area."

Melissa Mendizabal recently graduated from Yale University with a B.S. degree in environmental science and will be joining AmeriCorps' Teach For America to work as a teacher in low-income/high need schools.

Ashley Marino writes, "This fall I will be entering my fifth year (out of six) in my accelerated Doctorate of Physical Therapy program at Northeastern University. I will be graduating in May 2021 with my bachelor's degree in rehabilitation science with a minor in psychology. Then I will complete my clinical rotations before finishing my program in May 2022."

Mackenzie Robertson recently directed, produced, wrote, and edited a documentary film that focuses on "juvenile lifers in Philadelphia" entitled *Life Without Parole: The Sammy Gladden Story*. "I ended up pursuing this topic because of what I learned in a Juvenile Delinquency course at Montclair State University," she said. *Life Without Parole: The Sammy Gladden Story* was accepted as an Official Selection for the Montclair Film Festival in Montclair, New Jersey; the Indie Short Fest in Los Angeles, California; the Venice Shorts Awards in Venice Beach, California; and the Venice Film Awards in Venice, Italy. Mackenzie's film won the Audience Award for Best Short Film (Montclair Film Festival), was nominated for Best First Time Director (Female) and Best Sound Mixing (Indie Short Fest), won the Award for Best U.S. Documentary Film (Venice Shorts Awards), and won honorable mention for Best First Time Director (Vince Film Awards.) Additionally, Mackenzie was named to Montclair State University's spring 2020 dean's list as a television and digital media major and graduated with a B.A. degree in May 2020.

Katherine Whalen graduated summa cum laude from Providence College in May 2020 with a dual Bachelor of Science degree in accountancy and finance. Katie was the recipient of the John J. Gula '59 Award, given to the highest-ranking senior across all disciplines within the School of Business. She also received the Highest in Accountancy Concentration Award as well as the Highest in Finance Concentration Award. In addition, Katie received the distinction of being inducted into the Business School Honor Society, Beta Gamma Sigma, and the Philosophy Honor Society, Phi Sigma Tau. As a four-year student-athlete, Katie was a flyer on the Providence College Cheer team. Before beginning her employment with Ernst and Young in 2021, Katie is returning to Providence College to complete her M.B.A.



Katherine Whalen '16

’17

Samantha Allen was awarded a bachelor's degree from St. Lawrence University in May 2020. Samantha majored in environmental studies-biology.

Lily Polster became a member of Chi Epsilon, the Civil Engineering Honor Society, in March 2020 at University of Notre Dame. Lily was also named to the dean's list for the 2020 spring semester with a GPA of 4.0. She had a summer internship with Aon's Chicago office as a Catastrophe Modeling intern and is happy to be back on campus for her senior year.

Dina Mulroy has been named to the spring 2020 dean's list at Loyola University Maryland.

'18

Giuliana Zaza was named to Ohio State University's spring 2020 dean's list and is majoring in neuroscience and minoring in global public health. Giuliana is officially a published co-author in *Brain Pathology*, the medical journal of International Society of Neuropathology, with recent article "Neonatal apneic phenotype in a murine congenital central hypoventilation syndrome model is induced through non-cell autonomous developmental mechanisms."

Caroline Frey and **Annie Walsh** were named to Montclair State University's spring 2020 dean's list. Caroline, a television and digital media major, and Annie, a business administration major, both excelled during an unprecedented semester including a transition to online learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To qualify for the dean's list, students must earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Catherine Petretti was named to Villanova University's dean's list for the fall 2019 and spring 2020 semesters. In the summer of 2020, she participated in a REU (Research Experience for Undergraduates) funded by the National Science Foundation and hosted by the Haystack Observatory at MIT. Her research project was called "Observing Black Holes with the Event Horizon Telescope (EHT)" and involved using imaging techniques to simulate observations of M87 in order to examine the effects of how adding satellites to the EHT improves resolution and image quality. This research is a crucial selling point in the possibility of adding satellites to the EHT in the future to obtain clearer images of black holes, an important component to test our current scientific theories about the Universe. Catherine will present her research at the 237th American Astronomical Society (AAS) meeting in 2021.

Michelle Eckert writes, "I currently attend SUNY Maritime College where I am pursuing a B.E. degree in marine engineering and a United States Coast Guard 3rd Assistant Engineer's license. Recently, I completed the first milestone toward my license, a fifty-day sea term aboard the TS Empire State (the school's training ship). The voyage began in New York City and we embarked to Baltimore, Maryland; Reykjavík, Iceland; and crossed into the Arctic Circle before returning to our homeport. This semester, I was appointed Cadet Honor Guard Commander, a 1/C (senior) position I was able to attain as a 2/C (junior). Last semester, as part of the Honor Guard, I was selected to be a member of a color guard that performed at the Yankee's second playoff game."



Michelle Eckert '18

Sarah Persico was named to the president's honor list at the University of South Carolina for achieving a 4.0 in the spring 2020 semester where she is majoring in criminal law.

Gabriela Russo was been named to the spring 2020 dean's list at Loyola University Maryland.

Right: Gabrielle Peko '20, left, and Gianna Peko '17, right

'19

Rebecca Nadler recently started a non-profit called The Invizibles, which "focuses on raising awareness for invisible illnesses, including chronic, rare, and mental health issues, as well as fundraising for research." Find out more at www.theinvizibles.org and on Instagram @theinviziblesorg. Rebecca transferred to the University of Pennsylvania this fall.

'20

Gabrielle Peko and her sister, **Gianna Peko '17**, have joined forces to do their part in the fight against childhood cancers. Last spring, the two IHA alumnae planned to run the 2020 United Airlines NYC Half Marathon to raise money in support of pediatric cancer research and to help Tackle Kids Cancer (TKC). The race was unfortunately cancelled due to COVID-19, but the Peko sisters were still able to raise \$13,195 to benefit the Children's Cancer Institute at Hackensack Meridian Health, where Gabrielle used to be a patient. At five months old, Gabrielle was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. "Due to the support my family and I received from the Children's Cancer Institute, I am now a happy and healthy 18-year-old girl, and I want to pay it forward," she wrote on her TKC fundraising page. "I am running to support every survivor and patient, and to show that you can achieve anything you set your mind to, even if that's a half marathon! This is only one step on my journey in the battle against cancer. I plan to continue my academic career in the field of medicine, ultimately helping cancer patients as a physician." Both Gabrielle and Gianna hope to run in 2021 and will continue to raise funds for Tackle Kids Cancer.



IN MEMORIAM

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

**Margaret "Peggy" Busund Grace,
Class of 1965**
August 25, 2020

**Mary Beth Lombardi-Jones,
Class of 1975**
September 11, 2020

Patricia Higgins, Class of 1969
October 10, 2020
Sister of Kathleen Higgins Butler'65 and Mary Higgins Fougere'74

Susan Malewit Horn, Class of 1967
October 30, 2020

**Constance Baczewski MacFadyen,
Class of 1969**
October 31, 2020
Sister of Barbara Baczewski Gage'68 and Joanne Baczewski Gibson'72 and cousin of Christine Baczewski'67 (Xtine Baczevska) and Mary Elizabeth (Mimi) Baczewski'68 (Mosa Baczevska)

Jennifer Orlando, Class of 1994
November 15, 2020

Patricia Clark, Class of 1976
December 21, 2020
Daughter of Mary Higgins Clark P'68, '74, '76, GP'02; sister of Marilyn Clark'68 and Carol Clark'74; and aunt of Elizabeth Clark'02

Louis John Gambaccini
August 18, 2018
Father of Beth Gambaccini Dumblis'75

Louis Sorrentino, Jr.
March 6, 2020
Father of Anne Sorrentino Russo'73 and Nancy Sorrentino Murphy'76

John Paul Dumblis
March 30, 2020
Husband of Beth Gambaccini Dumblis'75

Pauline Pekmezian
August 4, 2020
Mother of Joan Pekmezian Lyons'81

Brother Ralph Darmento
August 14, 2020
Long-time employee of the Archdiocese of Newark Education Office

Irene Diverio
September 2, 2020
Mother of Irene Diverio Crum'71, Joan Diverio Rider'73, and Mary Diverio Lauricella'74

Kevin Clayton (KC) Jones
September 6, 2020
Son of the late Mary Beth Lombardi-Jones'75

Gerard Maughan
September 8, 2020
Father of Lauren Maughan Denklau'03

Robert Pash
September 12, 2020
Father of Jennifer Pash'12

Blase Sacus, Sr.
September 23, 2020
Father of Jenifer Sacus Smyth'89

Octavius Orbe
September 26, 2020
Father of Marianne Orbe Donahue'69

Richard (Dick) Lewis
September 27, 2020
Father of Brigid Lewis Dickson'82

Niva Donohue
September 28, 2020
Mother of Julia Donohue'89

Julia Stanic
October 2, 2020
Mother of Janet Stanic Campos'88

Connie Feeney
October 19, 2020
Mother of Gloria Feeney Chang'68 and Mary Feeney'70 and former faculty member

Brendan Leahy
October 20, 2020
Son of Virginia Burns Leahy'67

Edward McCabe
November 17, 2020
Father of Kathleen McCabe'76

William A. Bocchino
November 24, 2020
Father of Willa Bocchino Millett'74 and Serena Bocchino'78

James Shepard
November 30, 2020
Father of Jennifer Shepard Moroz'93

Carmine Franco
December 7, 2020
Father of Lucille Franco Conzo'79 and grandfather of Gabrielle Conzo'14

Tammy Medzadourian
December 27, 2020
Mother of Kaily Medzadourian'15, Reilly Medzadourian'18, and Joni Medzadourian'19

Minerva Echeverría
December 29, 2020
Mother of Ms. Ana Echeverría, IHA faculty member, and grandmother of Frances Felske'05

CLASS OF 1970 50TH REUNION

NEW SAVE-THE-DATE

Attention Class of 1970 alumnae! Please save the NEW dates for your class reunion:

October 2, 2021

Luncheon at Ramsey Golf & Country Club

October 3, 2021

Memorial Mass in IHA Sisters' Chapel and Brunch

We have great hopes that, by then, we will be able to move forward with our 50th (now 51st) reunion. We will stay in touch as things develop, but know we are still meeting and planning and we will find a way for us to gather together, reconnect, and celebrate.

— Class of 1970 Reunion Committee

For more information, please email ihaclassof70reunion@gmail.com.

CLASS OF 1971 50TH REUNION

SCHEDULED

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!

October 9, 2021

Memorial Mass in IHA Sisters' Chapel followed by a dinner at Bacari Grill, Township of Washington, from 6-10 p.m.

For more information, please email ihaclassof71reunion@gmail.com.



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

If this is not you or if your daughter no longer lives at home, please let us know. Reach out to Beth DiCiancia Garrigan'76 P'06 at 201.445.6800, ext. 182 or bgarrigan@ihanj.com with updated information.

PLEASE NOTE, ALL SCHEDULED EVENTS LISTED IN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON THE CURRENT RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES. ALL NEWS IS CURRENT AND UP-TO-DATE AS OF DECEMBER 2020 WHEN THIS ISSUE WAS PRINTED.

REUNION WEEKEND

Save the Dates

Members of the Class of 1990 at their reunion in 2015.



As our 2020 Reunion Weekend unfortunately had to be cancelled due to the pandemic, we have combined the celebration of this year's and next year's anniversary classes. Reunion Weekend in the fall of 2021 will welcome the anniversary classes of '75, '76, '80, '81, '85, '86, '90, '91, '95, '96, '00, '01, '05, '06, '10, '11, '15, and '16.

Please save the dates: November 5 and 6, 2021