

# JOTTINGS

The AIC / MHA Alumnae Newsletter | SUMMER 2021



## Letter from the Board

Greetings from the Academy Alumnae Board. We hope that this letter finds you well, safe, and in good health. 2020 proved to be a year of profound changes and challenges. As we look toward the future, we offer Prayers of Thanksgiving for both the obvious and the mundane. May we now see the ordinary, not just the extraordinary, as true Blessings of Christ. We want to know how you are doing, and how to contact you (email) as the year progresses. Please take this moment to update any and all information to the provided link here: [www.thedome.org/update-your-alumnae-contact-information/](http://www.thedome.org/update-your-alumnae-contact-information/), so that we can assure you are receiving the most up to date information as it becomes available. If you are unable to use the provided link, please email [memoriesoftheacademy@gmail.com](mailto:memoriesoftheacademy@gmail.com). We also want to focus on “the good” of the last year. Although there has been much death, there has also been new beginnings of life. Although there has been much insecurity, we have also gained much knowledge and wisdom in the appreciation of the ordinary. Therefore, we continue this publication in the spirit of optimism, of strength, of love and laughter, all things we were taught to embrace as students of “The Hill.”

Finally, we felt the pang of guilt rear up, and needed to confess to our fellow Academy sisters a realistic view. At this moment, a small group of surly Alumnae girls sit around a table at The Hampton Inn in Jasper, arguing over the use of commas vs semicolons, etc. Coffee cups littered about, questioning the choices we made in caloric intake at The Schnitzelbank just an hour prior. Yearbooks are scattered around, and what strangers walking by might interpret as a group of grown women arguing is actually just a litter of sisters, reverting to their primal mode of communication when they were teenagers at The Academy. We love you all, and know that only you will understand.

Blessings to all!  
The Academy Alumnae Board

## Did You Know?

Ever wonder where your favorite Sister is? What are they up to? What are their interests? What led them to join the Monastery? Great news, friends! You can find your Sister by doing the following:

- 1) Go to the [thedome.org](http://thedome.org)
- 2) Click on “About Us”
- 3) Go to “Find a Sister”
- 4) Click on her picture and Voila! Up pops a short bio and update!

## Alumnae Board

**Allison Walker Guide**  
President, Class of 1992

**Amy Lawson**  
Vice President, Class of 1993

**Sr. Pat McGuire**  
Class of 1960

**Sr. Anna O'Connor**  
Class of 1969

**Lynn Belli**  
Faculty 1986-2000

**Falisha Pierce**  
Class of 1990

**Mary Ellen Espy McCoy**  
Class of 1992

**Sonya Lackey**  
Class of 1989

**Kristi Bonilla**  
Class of 1990

**Elaine Robertson**  
Class of 1980

**Tina Dalton**  
Class of 1982

**Pamela Stamp**  
Class of 1982

**Elaine Baumgart**  
Class of 1959

**Sarah Tucker**  
Class of 1981



Dear Alumnae,

As we emerge from the pandemic, “we hope you’re well” has taken on a whole new, much deeper meaning. For each of you, we pray that you and all those close to you are truly well, safe and healthy.

If you’ve lost a loved one due to COVID-19, or if you or someone close to you is still struggling with the lingering effects of the virus or the economic impact it has had on so many, know that you are constantly in our prayers and in our thoughts. As always, we encourage you to share your prayer requests with us, so that the Sisters can lift your specific intentions up in prayer.

The good news? As always, there is light at the end of the tunnel: the pure light of God’s love for each of you, and a lightness that comes from seeing restrictions eased and being able to be with family and friends once again...to return to life and work and enjoy some version of “normal.”

While so many in our community are teachers, all of us are lifelong learners, and a blessing of this trying time has been the amount of learning we have all been able to do. Certainly, we’ve learned to use technology in new ways, whether meeting with Oblates via Zoom or helping young women along the discernment path using every tool from text messages to WhatsApp groups.

Perhaps more important, we’ve learned once again how to rely on one another and on our Creator. Through God’s providence, our community made it through the worst pandemic in more than a century with only a few minor cases among our Sisters. Now, we are all fully vaccinated, and slowly, cautiously reopening our doors to family members, volunteers and those on retreat.

We are so very grateful for your continued support and prayer. One of the great joys of this joyful community is knowing that so many of you who came through our classrooms remain connected with us in friendship and prayer. We look forward to seeing you in person in the not-so-distant future.

God bless you and yours.

*Sister Anita Louise Lowe, OSB*

Sister Anita Louise Lowe, OSB  
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## 2021 Academy Alumnae Reunion Cancelled

We are sorry to announce that due to the recent rise of COVID-19 infections caused by the Delta variant, we have decided to cancel the 2021 Academy Alumnae Reunion. The safety and well-being of the sisters at the monastery are of utmost importance to all alumnae members. Thank you all for your understanding, and may God bless and keep you and your family healthy.

# Past to Present

## Sonya Lackey aka “SLackey” Class of 1989

It was August, 1985. As I sat in the car with my parents and brother for the 8½ hour drive to Ferdinand, my mom kept trying to chat it up and convince me that the “new adventure” in my life would be fun and that it was for the best. According to her, a great education and chance to grow into an independent, young lady awaited me. I however, sat in the back seat, very upset and glaring at the back of her head for tearing me from my life back home. Why was I being sent away? I wasn’t a problem child! I towed the line and made good grades. So why ship me off?

That night, my family stayed at Kordes Hall and slept like babies. I, on the other hand, laid in a strange bed, scared to death, with a stranger sleeping 6 feet away from me. I refused to shed a tear though! The next morning, they joined me for breakfast. It took all I had in me to not break down and beg them to take me home. I asked once, and when told no, I sat in silence for the rest of the meal. Shortly afterwards, they got ready to head back home to Arkansas. Did they really think I was going to give them a big hug and kiss? Now come on! How in the world could they even think that was going to happen? At that time, they were lucky to get a forced hug and an “I love you” under my breath. I mean, they had just dumped me off in a foreign place “to get a good education and to become independent”. Well, that was all fine and dandy, but why did it have to be 8½ hours away? All was lost. There I was, stuck in Ferdinand, Indiana!

My parents drove up for the first parents’ weekend about a month later, and I barely spoke. I was still very bitter! I remember that there was some sort of activity going on in the parking lot outside the Art Building and Gymnasium. Rather than hang around with them, I went to see if there was anything going on inside the gym. Though I had already made some new friends, that was the moment I met who would become my Big Sis for life, Pam. She instantly became my saving grace and a good distraction from the “evil parents” that had dumped me off at boarding school. Pam and I spent a short time bumping a volleyball around and getting to know one another. She quickly took me under her wing, guided me, and helped me get through my freshman year, emotionally and academically. Thank goodness she did, because there were times that I really struggled with both.

**I had become part of the best, dysfunctional sisterhood a girl could have ever been a part of!**

My anger toward my parents ran so deep that when expected to travel back down south, my proctors had to literally tell me to pack my bags, because the van to the Evansville Airport was leaving with or without me. The problem was, I had found a new family that I wanted to stay with. A family of sisters that I’d learned to love, laugh with, cry with, and sometimes even fight with. I had become part of the best, dysfunctional sisterhood a girl could have ever been a part of! I’m sure you are wondering if I ever mended fences with my parents. Well, I gradually did. It wasn’t until years later, but it did finally happen, and for that I am grateful.

Fast forward to my adult life. Whenever I tell people that I went to an all-girls boarding school, I have to stop and explain that it wasn’t like the television show Facts of Life. So, what do I tell them? I tell them that I became part of a sisterhood that very few people will ever understand. That I learned a lot about myself, how to be a more loving and understanding person, and how to better serve and help others. I tell them that I received a great education all while learning how to be an independent, young lady. I tell them that it was the best experience of my life!

Since graduating from Marian Heights in May of 1989, I have earned my undergraduate degree as well as Master’s Degree from Xavier University, and have been teaching elementary students in an urban, public school district for 25 years now. Of course, I owe it all to my parents for making that tough decision to send their baby girl off to school. They made many sacrifices in order to send me to MHA. And to top it all off, they put up with me and my anger for years. They saw what I could have never seen...the bigger picture. But in the end, I know I have made them proud. I AM the well-educated, independent woman they always wanted me to be! Thank you, Mom and Dad! And thank you, Marian Heights Academy!

*Sonya Lackey attended Marian Heights Academy from 1985-1989. After graduating, she attended Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. While there, she earned a BA in Organizational Communications as well as her Master’s Degree in Elementary Education. Sonya has been teaching with Cincinnati Public Schools for 25 years. In her off time, she enjoys working on her home, the great outdoors, and pampering her four-legged baby, Bodie.*

# A Tribute to Sr. Mary Dominic Frederick, OSB

Ann McKinney Nagy, Class of 1972

On August 18, 2020, the world lost a great Advocate for Catholic-Christian education, Sr. Mary Dominic Frederick, OSB. In addition to serving as an educator in Evansville Diocesan schools, she shared her gifts and talents as a teacher and principal at the Academy Immaculate Conception/Marian Heights Academy in Ferdinand, Indiana for nearly 25 years.



Sr. Mary Dominic has had a profound impact on my life. As a student, I benefited from her prudent guidance, and later was blessed by her support while working as a teacher on her staff. She and the other Benedictine Sisters influenced me to choose to serve God and others as a Catholic educator.

Sister was a remarkable, prayerful, woman. At a time when Women's Liberation was professed, I viewed her as someone who was already liberated by faith. She was confident and unafraid. Deliberate, focused, and seemingly fearless, she was willing to state her beliefs. Despite opposition, she advocated for peace and social justice. Unconcerned with material wealth, she passionately fulfilled the Mission to which God had called her. While I was discerning my purpose in life, she actively pursued her commitments to God, her community, and to the betterment of each of her students.

John F. Kennedy said "Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other." Sr. Mary Dominic had an inspirational vision of Catholic education. The Academy was a diverse international college preparatory girls' boarding and day school.

Under her guidance and the Benedictine Sisters, we students learned how to respect differences of other races, religious affiliations, economic backgrounds, political parties, and cultures. Without judgement, we learned how to embrace our own unique differences and grew in understanding and tolerance from our interactions with our fellow classmates. We learned to look for the positive commonalities of life and formed lifelong and enduring friendships.

Sr. Mary Dominic was passionate about her role as a Catholic educator and Administrator. The opportunities she orchestrated for us, her students, to become faith filled, well educated, service oriented, and balanced young leaders were profound.

She was gifted with deep unconditional love and compassion for others. She saw our true potentials and helped us grow. Author Dr. David G. Benner describes God as being made of love. "Only when we live in love can we feel truly safe and strong enough to face our true strengths and weaknesses."

Her love was tough, challenging, inspiring, powerful, accepting, and life-giving, much like God's love for us. To her, educating youth was an extension of God's love.



Sr. Mary Dominic gifts Austrian Archduke Markus S. Habsburg with a cross.

She valued hard work but also enjoyed life. I recall her heartwarming smile as she recounted stories about driving the golf cart to the barn to feed the cats, attending weekly card parties, discovering a treasure in the Monastery archives, telling of former students' successes, and celebrating Cardinal Baseball victories.

Sr. Mary Dominic now rests in the loving arms of God, her lifelong friend and confidant. Thanks to her influence I have become a better person, a better educator, and a better Christian.

*Ann McKinney Nagy, the author of this tribute, is a Pre-K to Gr. 8 Music and Art Educator at Holy Trinity Catholic School. She is also a part-time Music Minister at Precious Blood Church in Jasper, IN. Ann attended the Academy Immaculate Conception from 1968-1972 and taught Religion and Music at Marian Heights Academy from 1985-1991. She is grateful for the guidance and ongoing influence of Sr. Mary Dominic Frederick and the Benedictine Sisters at the Monastery of Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand, IN upon her life and upon the lives of her students.*



# Alumnae Updates

## CLASS OF 1957

**Mary Ann Carter (Hartlage):** Generally retired but still work 2 days a week at Nursing Home as receptionist.

## CLASS OF 1960

**Carol "Sue" Mead (Reuber):** Widowed 23 years ago (1998). Traveled extensively to 40+ countries the last 20 years (until COVID).

**Sr. Patricia Ann McGuire:** Currently I am formation director of temporary professed sisters at the monastery and part time pastoral associate at St. Benedict Cathedral in Evansville. This past year I have loved the frequent contact with Academy classmates - especially since we missed our "60th" reunion.

## CLASS OF 1961

**Jane Pund (Berberuch):** Retired after working 48 years in music ministry. Worked in parishes in IL, IN, MI, FL & KY. I attribute this past career to my Benedictine education and my music teachers: Srs. Kathleen, Theresita and Mary Pierre (Mary Helen), and many other Sisters who taught me through their examples and their love of the liturgy. Still in close contact with some of my classmates and carry on like high school girls when together.

## CLASS OF 1964

**Kathleen Koch (Walter):** I am now a widow. My husband died on March 18, 2020.

**Martha Render (Koch):** Retired

## CLASS OF 1965

**Dorothea King (Seiler):** We are active in our neighborhood, creating community through love, care, and progressive activism. We are Oma and Opa to soon-to-be 5 lively, darling grandchildren. We are involved in our yard and organizations to advocate native plantings — bringing prairie back to Northern Illinois! Thank you, Alumni Association, for all your care and hard work, keeping us together. We need each other.

## CLASS OF 1966

**Ann Klem:** Creating with glass. Loving it!

## CLASS OF 1967

**Kathy Weyer (Lechner):** Busy with my family, and President of one company and office Manager of four others. Also serving on the Sisters ECA Board.

## CLASS OF 1970

**Linda Kiesler:** Worked 40+ yrs in nursing, 21 yrs of that as Women's Health Nurse Practitioner. Retired 5/2019. Married for 20 yrs. Have lived in Atlanta, GA since 1987.

**Karen Newton:** Retired

**Ann Emge Northern:** Raising grandsons

**Joyce Stenftenagel:** Semi retired. Live in Jasper.

**Melissa Taylor (Rouse):** RN case manager for long term care, hospice case manager for 20 yrs. Grateful and blessed.

## CLASS OF 1971

**Margaret Hill (Slaats):** Retired now, working part time as a substitute teacher.

## CLASS OF 1972

**Deborah Harris Burchard (Eaker):** I am a retired Family Nurse Practitioner, currently a Parish Nurse.

**Lesbia Luisa Cano Garza:** 2 children, 7 grandchildren. One of my best memories, is having been there in AIC.

**Susan Memmer (Loehr):** Retired and enjoying the extra time to spend with family and friends.

**Marye Pat Skinner (Maurer):** Retired Occupational Therapist. Work part time for my CPA husband and the Election Commission. Have 3 grandsons under the age of 2. Love to travel and do volunteer work with various organizations. Love keeping up with my classmates via Zoom and hopefully in person for our yearly gathering soon.

**Dorothy Wycoff (Dauby):** Retired after 40 years of running my daycare. Married to Charlie going on 47 years on August 3rd. 3 daughters, 3 son in laws and 6 grandsons!

## CLASS OF 1973

**Clara V. Meadors (Begle):** Retired 2019

**Honorata G. Geronimo:** Living a quiet, simple life.

## CLASS OF 1974

**Angela Butler:** I was an Area Supervisor over 6 Chicagoland Restaurants, now work-injury disabled, retired. Joyous Grandma of 4! Caretaker to my dear Mother. M.B.A., with concentrations in Economics, Marketing, Finance, and also a Professionally trained VoiceOver Actor! Active Member of Flossmoor Community Church! Much appreciative of my two years at MHA, graduating from MHA! Joyously brought my son there, when he was 6 - it was so amazing to be back, visit, stroll, and to see my son running and playing at a place I hold so dear in my heart!

**Marti Stumpp:** When I'm not delivering school buses, I fill my time reading, crocheting, knitting (not well), playing Animal Crossing & whining.

## CLASS OF 1975

**Doris A Begle:** Retired

**Katherine "Kathy" McDonley (Kline):** I have 2 kids, 4 grandchildren and now a great grandchild. Retired.

**Lusiesmit Martino:** Casada, tengo 2 hijos, 4 nietas. Trabajo en el área de Contabilidad en la empresa PETROPERU, siempre agradecida de las hermanas Benedictinas, me permitieron gozar de todos los privilegios en MHA, mediante una beca, los recuerdo con mucho cariño. Dios y la Virgen les bendiga a todos.

## CLASS OF 1976

**Barbara A Gunselman (Begle):** Retired

**Ramona Bieronski (Gough):** Coping with my husband's cancer first chemo 3 days 5 hour's each. Miss the friends that I had when we left. Doing well own our on home 30 years been together with David 32 years have twin daughters. I only wished I had kept closer contact with some classmates. Loved going to Marion, putting mail in the slots, walking down the hill, hearing older classmates from years ago telling us their stories.

**Leticia Buen-Abad:** After I returned from Marian Heights to my Country, I married, had 2 sons and a daughter. I divorced after 15 years of marriage, lived in Cancun for 20 years. Ten years ago I came back to Mexico City, where I actually live. I didn't remarry and I've been a Realtor for 30 years. I will love to visit Ferdinand, Indiana!

**Megan Godinez (Kennedy):** Full time RVing winters in Arizona.

## CLASS OF 1978

**Amy Abuasabeh (Greenfield):** I'm a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner with Meridian Health Services. Married with 2 daughters, one a junior at Notre Dame and the other is married, has a daughter age 8, and resides in Colorado Springs, CO. Thanks for the wonderful education that gave me the courage to pursue my dreams.

**Teresa Buehler (Lowe):** Married Greg on March 31, 2019 and moved back to Louisville, KY. I work part time as needed for the Archdiocese of Louisville filling in for the front desk receptionist. Since Covid-19, we have been helping our two young granddaughters (ages 6 and 7) with their virtual learning while their parents are working.

**Therese Walker:** Single

## CLASS OF 1979

**Nora Rodriguez:** Happy and healthy, married with two daughters.

**Alice Simonds Hebert:** After graduation in 1979, I traveled by myself to Alaska. There I met my husband Kevin and in 2020 we celebrated 40 years of marriage. We had 3 children. Our oldest son died in a plane crash in 2006 at the age of 25. His wife is raising their 13 and 15 year old sons. Our second son and wife of 11 years live in Golden, CO. He is a physicist at NIST. Our youngest, Jessica, is also an alum. She and her husband are raising their 2 young boys. As a history major, she hopes to return to teaching. In total, we have 6 grandsons (18 months to 15 years old). We have lived in 4 states: Alaska, Illinois, Arkansas, Florida and Michigan; and have counted 22 moves since 1980. I studied at a college while working full time and being a mom but earned just shy of an associates degree before moving again. I never settled on one career but had many fulfilling jobs, owned my own business, and traveled, which has given me an abundance of life experience. Kevin's juvenile diabetes has been a big part of our lives. He is a double transplant recipient (kidney and pancreas) and reminds me everyday how much I take for granted with my own health. We currently live one mile from our daughter and family, in West Bloomfield, MI. I am passionate about learning more about preserving the earth, being creative by re-purposing items and making things by hand. I am a volunteer with the monarch butterfly program at the University of Michigan. Having more free time and unemployed due to COVID, I spent all last summer raising over 20 monarch's, beginning at various stages, ensuring their survival to butterflies for release. I have reoccurring dreams about my time at the academy and many fond memories that shaped who I am today.

# Alumnae Updates continued...

**Tina Taylor (Long):** Currently I'm living in Douglasville, GA. I am married to Ken Taylor and have a son (Ryan Sims) and daughter-in-law (Tiffany). I have 3 grandchildren — Peyton, Turner and Knoa. Most of my career life was spent as a baker or a bakery manager. Unofficially retired but will become official when I turn 62 in December.

## CLASS OF 1980

**Elaine Robertson (Fromm):** Retired in December 2020 and enjoying the relaxing time.

## CLASS OF 1981

**Carolyn Day:** I'm working for a charitable organization in Louisville, KY and am a beekeeper.

## CLASS OF 1982

**Tina Dalton:** I have been teaching since 1989 in the early childhood education field. I live in Jasper having moved from the Chicago area in 2006. I have enjoyed being on the Alumnae Board since being in the area. It's such an honor to serve the Sisters in this manner. I love hearing and being involved with so many wonderful women from the Academy. I spend most of my time with my family and have some incredible nieces and nephews to spoil. I love to travel both in the Midwest and in other areas of the country. I can't wait to get back to normal and hope 2021 is a great year.

**Barbara Gazda (Graham):** It's my 18th year teaching high school. I have 2 boys Stuart, 20, and Graham, 18. My husband Mark works for General Motors and we live in Michigan, near Ann Arbor.

**Maria Arias (Solorzano):** Married with a Colombian but we live in Miami, FL and have 3 kids, ages 29, 22 and 20.

**Kristina Dalton:** I graduated in 1982. I am now teaching in the Early Childhood education field. I have been doing this since 1989. I moved from the Chicago area to Jasper in 2006 and have been serving on the Alumnae board since living in Jasper. I am honored to be a part of the board and working with the Sisters. I keep in touch with many of our wonderful Alumnae members.

## CLASS OF 1983

**Ann Umland (McConkey):** I have been married 26 years & have three adult children. I work in a school kitchen and I'm trying to get the courage to start writing a book.

**Prudence Bumpus:** Living in southern Georgia.

## CLASS OF 1984

**Anne Mathias (Bugg):** We are attempting to get back to normal since the death of our eldest son, Christopher.

**Michelle Shartran:** My daughter turns 30 this year. I live in Michigan with my partner Melissa, an IT Supervisor for the department of Commerce. Loved my years at MHA and think of it often. It was the experience of a lifetime!

## CLASS OF 1985

**Barbara Bovard (Nellessen):** I am a RN living in Effingham Illinois, married for 34 years to Charles R. Bovard with 5 Children Zachariah (32), Isaiah (31), Charlie (30), Erin (27), and Jeanette (19). We also have 6 grandchildren, 4 grandsons ages 10, 6, 4, 3, and 2 one year old granddaughters.

**Michelle Janowski (Smith):** I have colossally underachieved love the Academy more the older I get.

**Paty Tovilla (De la Rosa):** I'm a 4th grade teacher and married with 2 children. I would love to have a huge Alumni reunion!

**Karen (Karina) Quijano (Mexicano):** Hello, I'm from Mexico and was a foreign student in 84/85. It was the most amazing year I had. I got married 29 years ago and since then I been living here in the USA. I would love to go to the reunion if there's one this year. Please keep us updated! Thank you and blessings for everyone!

## CLASS OF 1987

**Alejandra Gámez:** Mother of six, living in Monterrey, MX and been married for 25 years.

**Jay "Bunny" Sorensen:** Single mom with one son and one cat. Foreign Service Officer currently assigned to DC and dying to get back overseas in 2022.

**Tricia Flores Smith (Rumble):** Currently working on my masters degree. Mother of 3 daughters and became a grandmother 3 months ago.

**Renee Vincel (Pfaff):** An ICU RN at Bloomington hospital, married to Troy for 25 years. I'm currently hobby training/racing Ironman triathlons.

## CLASS OF 1988

**Christine Manuel (Asuncion):** Working with in Special Education.

**Laura Riha (Smiar):** Married in 1997.

**Suzanne Rycroft (Kempinger):** I have been married for 23 years and have 2 kids. Zach is 18 and Emma is 15. I'm an RN and work at TCU (Texas Christian University).

**Tanya Tullos (Cooke):** Currently teaching 3rd grade at Tucker Elementary School, a Tribal School with the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

**Heather Parrish (Ross):** Married 25 yrs with 3 grown children and 2 grandkids. Love being a grandma and early retirement. Todd and I live in Bloomington, IN where we enjoy the lake and country living.

## CLASS OF 1989

**Amy Thompkins (Burnett):** Happily married for 28 years, have 1 son (24 years old), Practice Manager for Orthodontist (14 years), been living in Florida since 1991.

**Lorraine Hill:** This is my 27th year of teaching here in Louisville.

**Kristi Menke (w):** Working as a nurse. My Dad passed a away on 1-9-2021.

**Patricia O'Connell (Jalovec):** Product success manger, business owner, wife, and mother to 3 rescue dogs.

**Molly Wiltse:** I now live in southern Texas.

**Kelly Ransome (Rogers):** I am happy!

## CLASS OF 1990

**Katrina Acosta:** My family recently moved to FL for work. We have 2 active kids that play violin and golf.

**Elizabeth Churnesky (Darish):** Married for 23 years and have 1 child named Ava who is 13.

**Amy Andreas (Conrey):** I am open to any and all communication from the ladies on the hill. Text, email, regular mail, anything!

**Alejandra Del Valle:** I am married and have 3 sons and 1 daughter.

**Julia "Julie" Fabb-Jordan:** I work as a social worker at a short term detox and mental health stabilization crisis center. I just got approved to take my clinical social work exam to become an LCSW in Georgia. I am married and have two young adult step children. I enjoy gardening and reading.

**Karin Fujino-Umemura (Tanaka):** Married in 2010 and gave birth to my daughter in 2012.

**Ana Garcia-Moreno (Muñoz):** I'm married with two boys. We live in Houston.

**Cecilia Guerra de Pro (Guerra-Villarreal):** Estudie la carrera de Arquitectura, Maestría en Ciencias de la familia. Estoy casada desde hace 22 años y tengo 2 hijas y 1 hijo.

**Shannon Myers (Mattingly):** Happily married with 3 grown kiddos and the sweetest grand ever.

**Angelica Orozco:** Estudie Psicología, tengo 3 hijos y estoy divorciada.

**Jennifer Pierson:** I am a super busy small business owner, working in Senior and Specialty Move Management. My new hobby is sport climbing.

**Raffaella Romano:** Married with two sons — Henry is 15 and Frank is 13. I'm a Chicago Public School teacher and teach 8th grade reading, social studies, and civics.

**Monica White:** Attended 1986-1987 as a freshman and I'm still creating the best version of me!

**Elizabeth Churnesky (Darish):** Married with a 13 year old daughter named Ava.

## CLASS OF 1991

**Jennifer Cohn (Ellison):** This past year has been really busy with work since I oversee Virtual Care for my Health System. It has been very rewarding in such a difficult time. My oldest son is getting ready to start high school, my youngest will be starting middle school and my husband and I will celebrate our 20th wedding anniversary this year.

**Claudia Encinas:** Casada, 2 hijos adultos Artista plástica-profesión Jugadora de tenis.

**Itzel Eugenia Martinez:** Graduated in international business and mother of 3 kids.

**Jessica (Yessica) Matuk:** Casada, sin hijos, feliz! Saludos a todas, tengo los mejores recuerdos de mi adolescencia arraigados en MHA.

# May They Rest In Peace

## FACULTY/STAFF 2020

Andrea Eglloff, Duane Verkamp, Sr. Mary Dominic Frederick O.S.B.

## FACULTY/STAFF 2021

Sr. Ruth Ellen Doane S.P., Sr. Teresita Schenk O.S.B.

## ALUMNAE 2020

Judy (Dekemper) Feigert, '64; Sr. Mary Lucien (Doris Mae) Dippel O.S.B., '44; Sr. Mary Gilbert (Vera) Schipp O.S.B., '52; Col. Hiltrud G. Houle, Ret. '53; Shirley (Vonderheide) Stern, '54; Lucille J. (Hulsman) Shilling, '44; Sr. Marge (Margie) Sasse O.S.B., '52; Ruth Olga (Stippler) Rice, '38; Joan Pace '52; Sharon (Swain) Werner, '49; Dorothy (Dot) Linne-Hall, '49; Joyce (Boerste) Effinger, '55; Vera M. (Schwinghammer) Eckert, '52; Roseanne Brooks, '62; Loretta (Vieck) Holl, '50; Elizabeth (Vogel) Bridges, '60; Jo Ann Feldpousch, '45; Mary Jane Stemele, '65; Imelda (Meny) Balbach, '49

## ALUMNAE 2021

Sr. Jolinda (Marilyn) Nass '55; Mary Ann (Ryan) Hesler, '64; Alice Catherine Schroering, '48; Theresa M. (Kloeck) Wahl '48; Doraine E. (Whitcomb) Richard, '52



**SISTERS**  
OF ST. BENEDICT  
FERDINAND, INDIANA  
*Seek, Pray, Share.*

Find us online at [alumnae.thedome.org](http://alumnae.thedome.org)

802 E 10th St., Ferdinand, IN 47532-9239

**Luisa Alejandra Mondragón (Santos):** I'm married and have 2 children; Alejandra is 17 years old and Fernando is 5 years old. I'm an accountant and work at our family business.

**Diana Nasrallah:** I am married and have 2 children, a daughter who is 21 and a son 14 years of age. I enjoy cooking and reading. Attending MHA was one of the best things in my life.

**Melissa Reinhart (Derderian):** Living in Jordan, MN. My oldest daughter will be graduating this June and will attend the University of Minnesota-Duluth. My other daughter is finishing her sophomore year of high school. I am an elementary special education teacher and adjunct instructor at Minnesota State University in Mankato.

**Rochelle Riffle (Foss):** Married with 1 daughter (13) and a step daughter (21). Art director at a print house (BerylMartin)

**Lisa Barrow (McDaniel):** After graduating MHA in 1991, I attended St. Louis University and earned a BSN in 1995. I worked as a nurse in St. Louis for several years before going back for my MSN. I then got married and started working as a professor of nursing at a community college in my hometown and have been there now for 20 years. I am the mother of 3 children who are the absolute joy of my life. I always talk to them about MHA and the lifelong lessons I learned there. I tell my girls if MHA was still open I would've loved for them to attend! MHA made the difference in my life along with my grandmother. I give MHA credit for who I am today!

**Rory Gillingham:** I am currently the Associate Registrar at Mercyhurst University in Erie, PA, where I live with my dog, Mulligan. I love to travel and visit with MHA classmates whenever and wherever I can. I am in the process of buying a house, so I will update my address next month.

## CLASS OF 1992

**María D. Irvan (Herrera):** I attended MHA in 1988-1989 as a freshman international student to learn English as a second language. I have the best memories at MHA and meet some of my dearest friends. I moved from Mexico to Virginia in 2009, married and now have a 15 year old son. My family is in the restaurant industry and I run a staffing agency.

**Mary Ellen McCoy (Espy):** Foot loose and fancy free.

## CLASS OF 1993

**Ana Gabriela Celis:** Estoy casada tengo tres hijos.

**Jill Ebert-Lasher:** I have been married to my husband, Casey, for 14 years. Our daughter, Cora, is a sixth grader and our son, Joe, is a third grader at Chrisney Elementary School where I currently teach fourth grade. We spend most of our time playing cards or hiking with extended family, going to family sporting events, or staying home taking care of our animals. I miss my Highlander family.

**Maria Torres Labastida:** Soy mamá de 2 hijos. Casada muy feliz. Me dedico al ámbito inmobiliario.

## CLASS OF 1994

**Bridgett Yopp (Hildenbrand):** Married and working for a Non-Profit that serves adults with developmental disabilities.

**Shaily Gupta:** Married with 2 boys and living in FL.

**Susana Hayes (Lopez):** Married with two children (Stefan & Sabrina) and working in the pharmaceutical industry. I'm also a marathon runner.

## CLASS OF 1995

**Ana Paula Vázquez:** I've been teaching English to adults since 1998, 3 years after graduation.

## CLASS OF 1996

**Morris Blackwell:** Married to Chuck and mother to Charlie (12), Tori (10), Jack (8) and Lucy (5).

**Naisha Roberts (Russell):** I got married November 2020.

**Sergia Rodríguez (Perez):** Been married for 12 years and I have 2 beautiful boys.

## CLASS OF 1997

**Mariecruz Perez (Segura):** I'm currently teaching 7th grade English Language Art at Sunnybrook District 171 in Illinois. I have one 13 year old daughter who attends St. John Bosco school in Hammond, IN.

## CLASS OF 1998

**Liesl Facen (Hickman):** I currently work on The Hill. I divorced from my "high school sweetheart" in 2013. We had three children together. I remarried and my husband and I have a "Brady Bunch" family with his four and my four (I added one after my divorce). And I have a granddaughter with another on the way. My husband helps people make sure they have the best life insurance and provides them with Final Expense policies. My mom and dad (Mr. Hickman) live around the corner from me in Dale and are doing well. Life is anything but simple. We live in constant chaos but we are happy. God is good to us. My time at the Academy was priceless!

## CLASS OF 1999

**Esterina Gentilcore (Pericolosi):** We now have a daughter named Ava Lorenza (after my late father). She was born 11/18/2019. She is very sassy!

**Katherine Hawkins (Buchanan):** 18 years with Alcoa. Can't believe that because I'm not old enough for that to be true. Mother to an energetic and empathetic 6 year old son and a darlingly clever 1 year old daughter. Our house is full of joy...most days. We lost my dad at Thanksgiving and are all trying to adjust to life without his larger than life personality. He taught us to enjoy life and one another and we're taking comfort from all of our happy memories with him. Hard to put into words how important my time at MHA was, but everyone reading this will understand what I mean.

**Mary Dempsey:** Recorder of Deeds for St Charles County MO.



# JOTTINGS

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