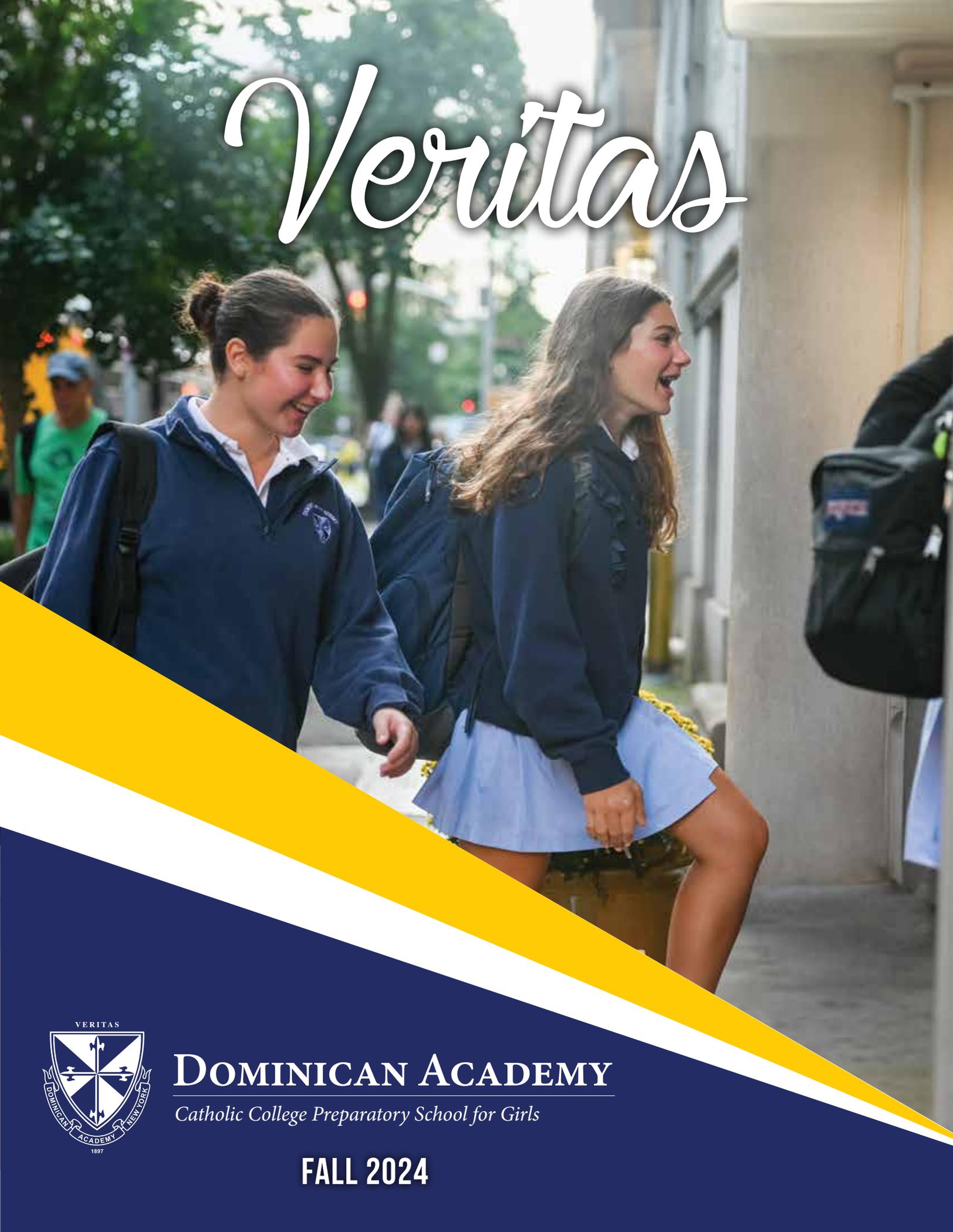


Veritas



DOMINICAN ACADEMY

Catholic College Preparatory School for Girls

FALL 2024



VERITAS MAGAZINE

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LETTER FROM THE *President*

DEAR PARENTS, ALUMNAE AND FRIENDS,

As I write this, we've just opened the doors to another exciting school year at Dominican Academy, after a summer that offered our community the chance for some much-needed rest and relaxation.

I was among the millions who were captivated by the summer Olympic Games in Paris, and I watched as much as I could. The Olympics are always a celebration of talent, athleticism, and perseverance, but there's something even more inspiring at hand: the values we see on daily display.

The friendship, excellence, and tradition embodied by global athletes transcends boundaries, supersedes differences, and connects generations. What an important source of hope for us all! At D.A., we look for every opportunity to emulate those values in our studies, in our service, and in our interactions with one another.

In June, two groups of students traveled the globe, immersing themselves in the culture, history, and traditions of China and Spain. Photos from these trips and a link to a piece by Ana Winston, '21 about the origins of the Ricci-Guangqi Young Scholars Program are included in this issue of Veritas. On both journeys, students took part in homestays, living with host families and creating authentic friendships with young people halfway around the world while visiting museums, racing dragon boats, touring city markets, and wandering beautiful gardens.

These pages also highlight the undeniable drive toward excellence at D.A. We see this not only in the accomplishments of our soccer and volleyball championship teams and our track medalists, but in the achievements of our graduating seniors, including Margaret S., '24, winner of the English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition New York City Branch State Final, and Audrey M., '24, who earned a scholarship from the St. Patrick's Day Foundation NYC for her essay on the legacy of St. Brigid, patroness Saint of Ireland.

And finally, amidst a changing world, we celebrate the way traditions of our own keep us closely connected, from our Father-Daughter Dance and our Mother-Daughter Luncheon, to alumnae reunions and our annual Spring Auction, which was a huge success. In August, as part of the celebration of St. Dominic, we announced a new sponsorship model under Dominican Veritas Ministries, which will sustain our Catholic identity for future generations and help us further animate the Dominican charism with which we were founded.

Your continued support and the bonds you nurture with the school and with one another are proof that the values we hold closely here on 68th Street will always be lasting. Thank you wholeheartedly for your continued involvement and care for our mission.

Please know that you are in my prayers, and please keep Dominican Academy in yours.

Peace and all good,

Alexandria M. Egler, Ph.D.

Alexandria M. Egler, Ph.D. P'10
President





CLASS OF '24 *Graduates*

THE MEMBERS OF D.A.'S CLASS OF 2024 COMMITTED TO ATTEND THE FOLLOWING COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES. THE GRADUATES EARNED CLOSE TO \$20 MILLION IN MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS.

Boston College*
 Boston University*
 College of the Holy Cross
 Dickinson College
 Elon University
 Fordham University*
 Georgetown University
 Indiana University Kelley School
 of Business
 John Jay College of Criminal Justice
 Macaulay Honors College at John Jay
 College of Criminal Justice
 Manhattan College*
 McGill University
 New York University

Pratt Institute
 Purdue University
 Rutgers University*
 Savannah College of Art and Design
 Sophie Davis School of Biomedical
 Education
 Syracuse University
 Texas A&M University
 The Catholic University of America
 The George Washington University*
 The University of Notre Dame
 Gateway Program
 Trinity College
 University at Buffalo
 University College Dublin*

University of Alabama
 University of Connecticut*
 University of Delaware
 University of Florida
 University of Louisville
 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
 University of St. Andrews*
 University of Washington Seattle
 Vanderbilt University
 Villanova University*
 Virginia Polytechnic Institute and
 State University
 Yale University

**Indicates multiple students attending*



DEMETRA EMILY C.
VALEDICTORIAN MEDAL



NELIA D.
SALUTORIAN MEDAL



KATHLEEN GRACE M.
MOTHER STEPHANIE AWARD
FOR CHARACTER AND
LEADERSHIP



IANNA KIM L.
ALL DOMINICAN GIRL
AWARD FOR INTEGRITY AND
CHARACTER



HALLIE CATHERINE M.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SERVICE AWARD



VICTORIA ELENA A.
SCHOLAR ATHLETE AWARD



AALEEAH STELLA M.
DEIB AWARD FOR DIVERSITY,
EQUITY, INCLUSION AND
BELONGING

Congrats!

THE D.A. CLASS OF 2024 INCLUDED TWO NATIONAL MERIT SEMI-FINALISTS: DEMETRA C. AND LAYLA S., AND THREE COMMENDED STUDENTS: NELIA D., IANNA L., AND KELIAH O.

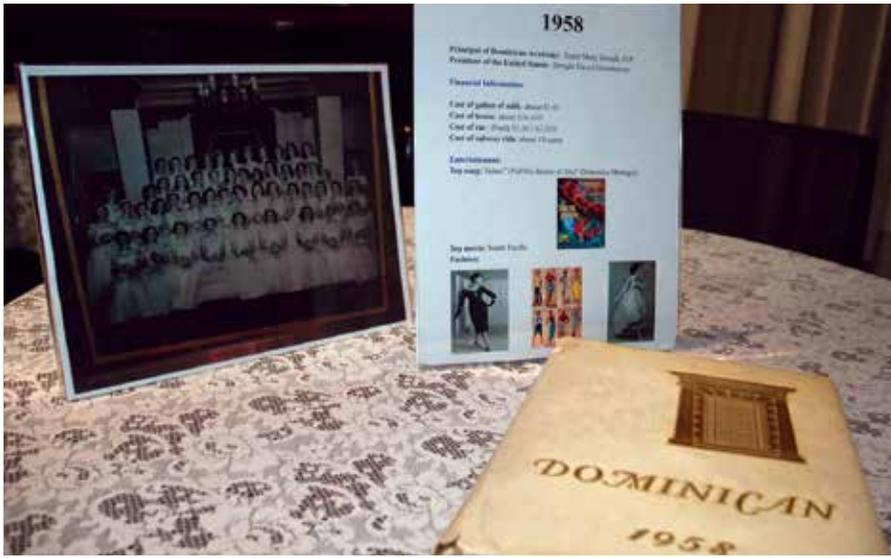
Year in Review



FATHER-DAUGHTER DANCE

On November 4, 2023, the Dominican Academy Parents' Association held the annual Father-Daughter Dance at The View at Battery Park. A wonderful tradition for students and fathers for the past 40 years, all enjoyed a wonderful dinner, beautiful views and dancing.





ALUMNAE REUNION —OCTOBER 2023

On October 21, 2023, Dominican Academy was thrilled to welcome back over 150 alumnae for the reunion for the classes ending in “3” and “8.” The event started with a Mass at D.A. presided over by Father Albert Paretsky, O.P. with current students providing the musical accompaniment and doing the readings. Then it was time to catch up with classmates, purchase spirit wear and tour the school. It was a wonderful day and great to see so many alumnae back at D.A. Please see Class Photos at the end of this section.



YOUNG ALUMNAE WELCOME BACK

D.A. was thrilled to have our Young Alumnae (Classes of '20, '21, '22, and '23) return to visit on December 20, 2023. It was great to see them and hear of their college experiences and plans for the future. The Alumnae gathered in the library for coffee and a light breakfast, and many joined us at the Christmas Mass and Glee Concert! Several of the Young Alumnae came back in January to share their college experiences with the Junior Class.

DAPA FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY

Christmastime is always a very festive time of the year at D.A. DAPA held its annual family Christmas party, where the Glee Club performed an array of Christmas carols. There were festive activities to participate in, especially gnome making, and an abundance of Christmas treats. Families were also able to design their own Christmas stockings. All had a great time!



CAREER DAY

On February 8, 2024, more than 20 alumnae, spanning the classes of 1976–2013, returned to Dominican Academy to share their life experiences with the junior class at Career Day. Some fields represented by alums included: accounting, engineering, STEM, entrepreneurship, medicine, and marketing. The day also included guidance for students with their resumes. Thank you to our presenters for taking the time to return to D.A. and share their career journeys.



WASHINGTON, D.C. ALUMNAE GATHERING

Dominican Academy hosted its first get-together in the D.C. area on February 5, 2024. It was a fun evening with alumnae making new connections, reviving old ones and getting to meet Dr. Alexandria Egler, president of D.A. Many thanks to Dr. Barbara Black, '58, for hosting.



CIVIL RIGHTS FIRESIDE CHAT

On February 12, 2024, Dominican Academy President, Dr. Egler, P '10, and three D.A. students had the privilege of attending a Black History Month fireside chat with civil rights leader and humanitarian, Mr. Martin Luther King III at St. Thomas Aquinas College in Rockland County. Mariel R., '26 who attended stated, "The talk was extremely influential and very uplifting despite the discussion of topics such as injustice in our world." Mr. King's profound words of hope and peace were inspiring.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION

For the second year in a row, Dominican Academy was proud to participate in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Students, staff, parents and alumnae marched up 5th Avenue behind the D.A. banner in their custom D.A. hats under beautiful blue skies! Many gathered afterwards at D.A. for a festive corned beef and cabbage dinner and some traditional Irish entertainment like step dancing. There was also festive singing and music performed on the tin whistle, harp and fiddle. It is always a fun day enjoyed by all!



ST. PATRICK'S SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

In July, Audrey M., '24, was named a St. Patrick's Scholar by the St. Patrick's Day Foundation NYC for her essay submission to their annual research scholarship contest. This year, high school students were asked to reflect on the lasting legacy of St. Brigid, patroness Saint of Ireland, as seen in Irish customs and traditions still practiced today. Audrey, who began studies at Boston University this fall, was one of 15 scholarship recipients chosen by an expert panel of judges.



D.A.'S PERFORMANCE OF "CLUE!"

D.A.'s Drama Club performed "Clue" at the end of March. Directed by senior Julia C., '24, "Clue" tells the story of six guests (and board game characters), each of whom has been invited to attend a party at the mysterious estate of Mr. Boddy. All 10 cast members did a terrific job bringing their characters to life, and the play was both suspenseful and funny. Congratulations to the students and D.A. Latin teacher, Ms. Lyla Cerulli, '13, the moderator of the club, for putting on an entertaining play.

SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION

On February 15, 2024, Dominican Academy student Margaret S., '24, won the 2024 English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition New York City Branch State Finals, on stage at the Morgan Library in Manhattan.

Margaret performed Sonnet 116 and a monologue from "Twelfth Night" in the role of Viola. She was the sole Catholic school competitor out of 10 NYC finalists. The dedicated student actor said the win could not have happened without the support received from her all-honors Catholic girls secondary school, Dominican Academy.

D.A. English Teacher Ms. Zoe Spelman helped to prepare her for the competition. Ms. Spelman said she was ecstatic to be there to support Margaret as she earned this prestigious honor. Ms. Spelman said, "One of the most beautiful moments of my 28-year teaching career was to hear Maggie recite her monologue and sonnet tonight. Even if she had not won, she was magic."

Margaret advanced to the Nationals held at Lincoln Center in April of 2024 and placed in the top 10.





2024 SPRING AUCTION & BENEFIT

On April 16, 2024, Dominican Academy celebrated the annual Spring Auction & Benefit at the New York Athletic Club in Manhattan. The theme was “Celebrating the Arts at D.A.,” and we honored our dedicated faculty members: Eleanor Bunker, 38 years as our dance teacher, and Gwyneth Mooney, 18 years as our music and drama teacher. The program for the evening included dance, drama, and music performances by our current students. Ianna L., '24, gave a moving and insightful speech about her time at D.A. We also had a very entertaining live auction led by our auctioneer, Jamie McDonald, and three items were auctioned off several times. A fun time was had by all, and we would like to thank all our guests, sponsors, students, and donors for making the night such a joyous success!



NAPLES, FLORIDA ALUMNAE GATHERING

Diane Donnelly Kenney, '66, hosted the third gathering in Naples, Florida for alumnae to get together and talk about the school and to meet with Dr. Egler, P'10. Thanks to all who attended.



JUNIOR RING DAY

The Junior Class gathered with their families and the whole student body of Dominican Academy to receive their rings in a special ceremony on April 26, 2024, at St. Vincent Ferrer Church. Father Peter Yungwirth blessed the rings and reminded the students of their commitment to the four pillars of a Dominican education: Study, Community, Service and Prayer.

During the service, Dr. Lauren Serpagli presented the Natalie Frankowski, '14 Award to Emilianna G., '25. Emilianna best embodies the characteristics of the award consisting of faith, humility and scholarship. Many teachers spoke of Emilianna's kindness, humility and dedication to her faith as evidenced by her devoted altar serving at D.A. Masses. Dr. Serpagli ended her speech with, "Emilianna, we know you will continue to have a positive impact on everyone you come in contact with, just as Natalie did."



MOTHER-DAUGHTER LUNCHEON

On April 28, 2024, mothers and daughters made their way to Tao Downtown for the D.A. Mother-Daughter Luncheon. After enjoying excellent food, everyone took to the dance floor and spent time on the various raffles with fabulous prizes. A much beloved D.A. tradition continues!



WALKATHON 2024

On May 3, 2024, Dominican Academy joined with Regis High School for the annual Walkathon, a school tradition dating back to 1987.

This year, the students met at Regis for a presentation by the Student Councils of both schools and fun with the school mascots, Dominic the Tiger and the Regis Owl. After traversing through Central Park, the students returned to Regis where there was a barbecue lunch to enjoy, and several fun activities like kickball, Coffeehouse and the always-popular dunk tank featuring several students and Dr. Michael Cagney!

The Walkathon was also a student fundraiser this year, and the students raised over \$20,000 which was used to install a refillable water bottle fountain and to purchase a new canopy for our rooftop space. Many thanks to all who participated and congratulations to the sophomore class for raising the most money!



NETWORKING NIGHT

Networking Night was started back in 2004 as a forum for all alumnae to meet and discuss careers. On June 6, 2024, Dominican Academy was delighted to revive the event and welcome back 11 alumnae who were part of a panel discussion. This was followed by a group question and answer session and then a mix and mingle which allowed for one-on-one discussions. We appreciate the panelists volunteering their time to engage with other alumnae about their career paths. It was also a great night to form new bonds or renew old ones.



Class of 1958



Class of 1963



Class of 1968



Class of 1973



Class of 1978



Class of 1983



Class of 1988



Class of 1993



Class of 2003



Class of 2008



Class of 2013



Class of 2018

Sports Roundup

SPIRIT TEAM

A valuable addition to the D.A. Sports program this year was Spirit Team. They notify the student body of upcoming games, cheer on the teams at their games and rally athletes to perform their best. At the heart of the Spirit Team is Dominic, our school mascot. Many thanks to our athletic director, Annie Sullivan, P'20, for helping to bring the Spirit Team to life.



SOCCKER

We are so excited to announce that our varsity soccer team won the CHSAA State A Championship in November 2023, after double overtime and heart-stopping penalty kicks! The team played with incredible determination and perseverance, never letting up. A big thank you to all the students, faculty and staff who once again showed their support and love for this team by cheering them on. Thanks as well to our dedicated coach, Patrick Frawley, P'19, and trainer Lev Rauchman, P'25. Go Tigers!





VOLLEYBALL

Congratulations to our varsity volleyball team on winning the CHSAA Championship against Monsignor Scanlan, 3–0! Thanks so much to Coach Regena Reyes for all her great work with the students.

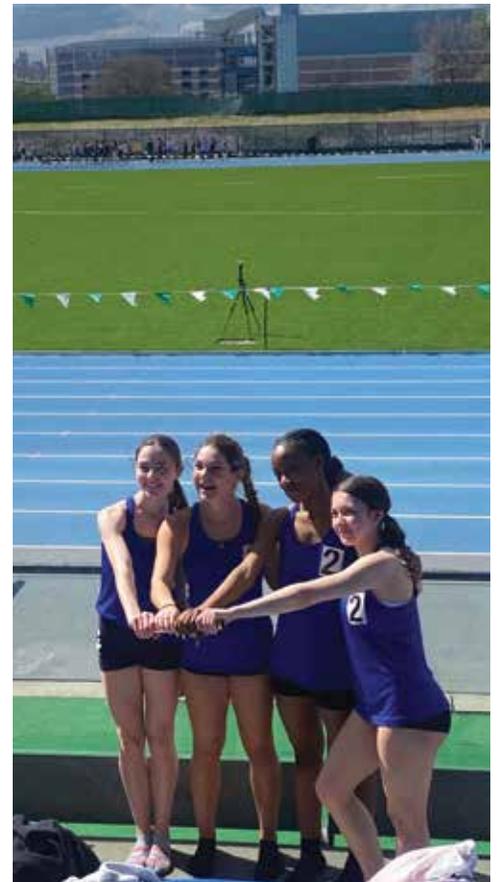


TRACK

Two of our D.A. Indoor Track runners Claire S., '25, and Caroline I., '25, medaled in the CHSAA NY/BQ Varsity Sectionals this past winter. Claire placed second in the 3000 meter and earned another Elite Performance. Caroline placed third in the 1000 meter.

Congratulations to the entire track team, many of whom achieved personal records and won their individual heats during this meet!

During the spring track season, the Outdoor Track team competed in the NY Relays. Our Freshmen Sprint Medley Team, consisting of Lucy S., Neena O., Enza C. and Amy W., placed third, receiving medals. These runners competed against teams from all over the state, and even a team from New Zealand. Congratulations, runners!





BASKETBALL

After last season's championship, the basketball team moved up a tier and faced stiff competition. Despite a tough season, the team consistently worked hard and developed strong bonds between the players. D.A. is proud of their fighting spirit and looking forward to next year! Here is a picture from Senior Night where the seniors are honored for their commitment to the team! Thanks very much to Coach Tom Tuffy, P'18, '21 and Assistant Coach Chris Wagner, P'25, '27.



SWIMMING

Swimming got off to a rough start this year but rebounded nicely at the A and B Championships in January. All D.A. swimmers swam their personal best and D.A. had its first-ever triple podium in the 100 yard freestyle when Isabelle S., '26, placed eighth, Anya R., '27, placed seventh, and Eliianna G., '25, claimed first with a time just three-tenths of a second slower than the league record. Thanks very much to our coach, Kristin Karabees Lamer, P'21, and Assistant Coach Brendan Doyle.



SOFTBALL

*Katherine B.
Student Prints Reporter*

After winning the Tier 3 championship last year, the Tigers found it tough going in Tier 2. Although it was a trying season, the Tigers are looking forward to next year with an impressive core of juniors and sophomores to anchor the team. A special shout out to freshman Natalie Y., '27, whose work as shortstop and home run hitter were vital for the team. She stated, "Team wise, I think we had a very special dynamic. We supported each other every game and that made us a stronger team." Thanks to Coach Chris Wagner, P'25, '27 and Assistant Coach Rodney Frederick.

Alumnae Spotlight



“ SURROUND YOURSELF WITH GOOD PEOPLE WHO ACCEPT YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU ARE AND WILL STILL CHALLENGE YOU TO BE YOUR BEST SELF. ”

ANNE DEL CASTILLO, '88

Dominican Academy was delighted to welcome back Anne del Castillo, '88, as the guest speaker for the 2024 graduation.

Anne del Castillo led the recovery of New York City's \$150B creative and nightlife economy through the COVID-19 pandemic. As Commissioner of the NYC Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment under two administrations, she oversaw an agency with over 90 staff across five divisions and an annual budget of \$20M. As Senior Policy Advisor for Creative Sector Strategy at the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, she is currently spearheading the development of a new mayoral initiative to safeguard

NYC's cultural and creative infrastructure. A distinguished executive with more than 20 years' experience in arts and entertainment, nonprofit administration and public policy, del Castillo is the recipient of the New York State Senate Woman of Distinction Award, the New York Foundation for the Arts Hall of Fame Honor, and the Association of Media and Entertainment Counsel Public Counsel of the Year Award. She graduated with honors from Dominican Academy (Class of 1988) and earned a BA and BS from Boston University and JD from Brooklyn Law School. A native New Yorker, she currently lives in Stuyvesant Town where she is raising her teen son.

Anne's speech offered the graduates very good advice for their careers and lives, and two points seemed to especially resonate with the audience: "Surround yourself with good people who accept you for all that you are and will still challenge you to be your best self" and "Be kind to yourself, trust your instincts and don't be afraid to step back when it may help launch you further than you imagined."

Thank you, Anne, for joining us at the graduation and for giving such an inspiring speech.



Global Immersion

EXPLORING CULTURE AND IDEAS

In late June, a group of Dominican Academy students traveled to Nanjing, China, for the culmination of a year's worth of cultural conversation through the Ricci-Guangqi Young Scholars Program, an innovative partnership between Dominican Academy, Regis High School, and Nanjing Foreign Language School.

The two-week itinerary included visits to cultural institutions and schools, and a homestay with the families of the Nanjing scholars, giving students – all of whom had studied Mandarin at D.A., – the opportunity to fully immerse in the language.

For Mairead P., '24, even though conversing in a second language posed some initial challenges, by the end of her homestay in Nanjing she wished she could stay longer.

"My host family was incredibly welcoming," she said. "They prepared dinners for me and helped me with my laundry. They also took me to a bustling night market, went shopping for traditional clothing with me, and I even made wontons with their grandparents."

Academic highlights of the trip included the Ricci Forum, a July 2 panel discussion between eight program participants and

undergraduate students at Duke Kunshan University that explored the technological decoupling between China and the U.S. Other cultural activities included multiple museums, a dragon boat race, a cooking class on Huaiyang cuisine, and visits to farmers markets and gardens.

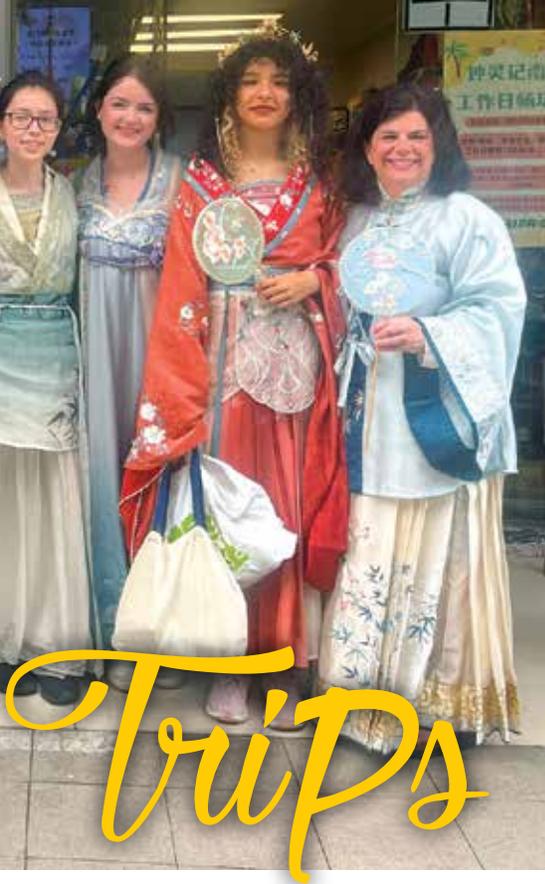
Each year, Dominican Academy students have the chance to take part in integrated coursework and immersive experiences that broaden their knowledge of the world. One trip brings students to Washington, D.C., to advocate for social justice at the Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice. A separate trip brought students to Madrid, Spain, this summer for sightseeing and a homestay, with an additional group headed to Paris during the 2024–25 academic year.

The disruption of travel due to the COVID-19 pandemic had prevented the prior cohorts of Ricci-Guangqi Scholars from traveling abroad, but Ana Winston, '21, who was part of the first cohort of Ricci-Guangqi scholars at D.A., was able to join the current scholars on their journey as a Ricci Scholars Fellow, thanks to a scholarship from the One Fund. This year's successful trip was hopefully the first of many, said Leslie Petit, Ed.D., P'14, '19, Dominican Academy principal and one of the trip organizers.



"Since 2020, our three schools have been collaborating, and as soon as we were able to secure visas we launched the trip," Dr. Petit said. "It is so important that we instill in this younger generation the importance of communication, friendship, and collaboration as they build relationships. We look forward to the Nanjing students visiting New York City in the future and finding the same generosity of spirit that we encountered there."

The Ricci-Guangqi Young Scholars Program takes its name from Matteo Ricci, a Jesuit priest, writer, and astronomer who completed a five-year journey from Italy to China, and his collaborator, the Chinese scholar Xu



ANA WINSTON, '21, WRITES ABOUT THE ORIGINS OF THE RICCI-GUANGQI YOUNG SCHOLARS PROGRAM



Guangqi.

Together, they made pivotal contributions to the cultural exchanges between China and the West in the 17th century. The impact of their relationship inspired the core beliefs of today's program: that personal connections and the exchange of ideas form the most reliable cornerstone of world peace, prosperity, and development, and that cross-cultural understanding at an early age lays the foundation for a more interconnected global community.

Throughout the course of the school year, students from all three schools connected with one another on international Zoom sessions on topics ranging from climate change and global conflicts to the perception of American-born Olympic athletes like Nathan Chen and Eileen Gu, who chose to compete for different nations. The course at D.A. was offered for credit and co-taught by Dr. Petit and the school's Mandarin teacher.

"The Ricci program taught me that feeling uncomfortable is okay," Mairead P. reflected. "It's a common human experience, regardless of background, and as a whole, taking part in the exchange of similarities and differences made the experience profoundly enlightening."



THROUGH THEIR EYES: DOMINICAN ACADEMY IN SPAIN

For 14 days, Dominican Academy juniors immersed themselves in the vibrant culture, history, and traditions of Spain, participating in an exchange program in Madrid. The trip, led by Sr. Joan Franks, OP, took place from June 15–29 and was a collaboration between D.A. and Regis High School, with students from both schools being paired with students and host families from Colegio Nuestra Señora del Recuerdo.

This year's trip included visits to the Museo Reina Sofía, the Museo del Prado, and the Monasterio del Escorial. In the fall, Recuerdo students travel to New York to stay with their counterparts in their homes and attend programs organized and hosted by Regis and D.A.

LEAVE A LASTING Legacy of Gratitude



BARBARA ONDERCHEK

Babs . . . quiet and calm in every situation . . . cherished member of the Glee Club's first sopranos . . . one of D.A.'s early birds . . . collegiate clad Army fan . . . "Miss Science and Mathematics" . . . plans a career in the medical profession . . . "L'Aimant" . . . an enormous appetite . . . refuses to add on a single pound . . . "April Love."



Dr. Eileen Boyle, '73, and Dr. Barbara Black, '58

By Barbara Ondercsek Black M.D.

As a freshman at Dominican Academy in September 1954, my life began a new chapter, and my love for D.A. has never wavered. D.A. became # 1 when I was in 8th Grade at Saint Nicholas of Tolentine School, Jamaica, NY, as I was deciding on Catholic Girls' High Schools because of its high academic standards and its commitment to Catholic values. And it remains #1, today! It is the foundation upon which my future was built.

My four years at 44 East 68th Street enabled me to grow spiritually, academically, and socially. This holistic growth was made possible thanks to the guidance and support of the Dominican sisters and priests, the dedication of the lay faculty, and the camaraderie of my fellow students. Their collective influence was more than just academic. It was

a nurturing environment that shaped my character and prepared me for the challenges ahead. I was more than adequately prepared to move on to Trinity College in Washington, D.C., majoring in Chemistry, and then on to Georgetown

“ D.A. IS THE FOUNDATION UPON WHICH MY FUTURE WAS BUILT! IT MAINTAINS ITS SPIRITUAL AND ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND GRADUATES INTELLECTUAL WOMEN. ”

University Medical School, one of eight women in my class of 111, graduating in 1966. Thus, I achieved my dream of becoming a physician that began while in elementary school. Two years of General Surgery and three years of Urology residency completed my training in 1971, followed by a private practice of Urology in Washington, D.C. until I retired.

The motto of Dominican Academy, Veritas (Truth), has been a guiding principle in my life. This commitment to truth, along with the values instilled by Trinity's motto, Scientia Ancilla Fidei (Knowledge the Handmaid of Faith), and Georgetown's Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam (to the Greater Glory of God), continues to give direction to my life.

As a member of the "Proud Class of 1958," I continue to be proud of my alma mater! I returned to D.A. over the past 66 years for reunions and many other events. This past February, I enjoyed the opportunity to host a cocktail reception at my home for local alumnae, with Dr. Egler in attendance. We had a fantastic time!

As a thank you for what D.A. has enabled me to achieve, I made the decision to become a member of the 1897 Legacy Circle by including D.A. in my estate plan so that Dominican Academy may continue to educate young women for another 125+ years.



MAKE AN IMPACT WITH YOUR YEAR-END GIVING



Your contributions **MAKE A DIFFERENCE** in the lives of Dominican Academy students, and affirm dedication to uphold the Dominican Pillars of **STUDY, COMMUNITY, SERVICE, AND PRAYER.**

For more information, please visit dominicanacademy.org or contact Leslie A. Lopez, JD, CFRE, Executive Director of Development at 212-744-0195, ext. 152, or llopez@dominicanacademy.org.

Dominican Academy is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, Federal ID #13-1635262.

Alumnae Notes

1954

Susanne Washburn sent in this update: I don't seem to have any family details to report just now, but I expect to finalize my StoryWorth book (a gift from my daughter-in-law) before the end of the year. It's a memoir, entitled *Terminal Moraine: Life Stories Left Behind*. And, in the book realm, I'm currently contributing captions to the Dorset Historical Society's upcoming Arcadia book of past photographs of Dorset (the Vermont town where I live). Also involved regularly as a volunteer docent at DHS.

1958

Barbara Black sends in this update: I'm doing well healthwise, thank goodness. Frank had an AV ablation and a pacemaker inserted in April for his chronic Afib. He is doing well. Our grandson Chris received his Master's in Structural Engineering from Virginia Tech in May and is now in Seattle working for Boeing. Needless to say, he has been enjoying some teasing about making sure to tighten bolts, and helping to improve the company. We look forward to visiting him in Seattle. Our granddaughter returns to the University of Delaware as a sophomore to continue her studies in Chemical Engineering.

Jo Ann Cardone continues to travel the globe: With a total knee replacement on the horizon, I decided to do "back-to-back" trips. I left for Morocco on March 20th and spent a fabulous month exploring all the ins and outs of this amazing country, especially the Roman ruins. On April 14th I flew to Rome to spend three days on my own in my "home town." I spent the days exploring on my own and then had dinner with a girlfriend and then my cousins. A perfect mid-trip break. On the 17th I flew to Palermo for three weeks in Sicily. This trip has to rank as one of the best. The food alone made it superb. After seven full weeks on the road, I got home on May 7 and headed off to get that new knee on the 14th. I have been recuperating ever since. It's been a lot

tougher than I expected but that's my fault because I think I'm 40, and should bounce back immediately from all adversity. I'm a very impatient patient! I'm praying that I'll be ready for Tuscany and Umbria in October.



This was taken at Atlas studios in Ouarzazate, Morocco where they filmed *Gladiator* and *The Jewel of the Nile*.



Lauretta Leddy writes in: My sister and I enjoyed a Viking River Cruise in Amsterdam and Holland in the spring. My granddaughter Kelly Midas invited me to tag along to view venues in Annapolis for her August '25 wedding. I'm looking forward to a Clancy reunion in Saratoga Springs, including a day at the races.

Marilyn Canty provided this update: Joe and I continue to hold down the fort here in South Florida. Due to his disabilities, we stay very close to home. Nonetheless, we have had an intermittent parade of visitors. It is always great to see family and friends. I've cut back on my activities but continue to keep active in several book discussion

groups. Reading, lunch with friends and a monthly Zoom with my nursing classmates from college are highlights of my life these days.

Sheila McArdle let us know what her family is up to: Our days have been filled with visits from our kids, and when we have a stretch of days without medical appointments, we escape to Cape Cod. Highlights for us were basketball victories by UCONN (three grandchildren went there) and the Boston Celtics! Our daughter Kristin is in Paris and is heavily involved in the management of the USA Welcome Center for the American family and friends of our athletes. She also hired her daughter on her team! Her son Jack is coming home August 1st after serving four years as an Army Medic. Jim and I happily celebrated our 60th anniversary with a week on the Maine coast where we spent our honeymoon. We are a blessed family.

Beth Dougherty writes in: I am keeping busy this summer with lots of time at my Vermont house. It beats the heat and humidity in the Big Apple. Spending three weeks near Los Angeles watching the animals while my son, Chris, Leeann and the two grandchildren fly to Japan on vacation. It will be nostalgic for Chris as he lived there outside of Tokyo for four years. I flew there twice to visit him, once on my way to China and Vietnam and the second when returning from India. Chris retires from the Air Force as a Colonel and Wing Commander in November and returns to United Airlines as a pilot. He was very nostalgic flying his last firefighting mission in July over the California National Parks. I keep out of trouble with my French and art lessons, chess, and playing the keyboard. Retirement after 40 years is wonderful!!!

Susan O'Shea is keeping busy with her book group, canasta and some painting while living in Connecticut. She is going for medical checks in August, so prayers and fingers crossed. One son and one granddaughter will be heading East to look at schools. She says it will be great to see them and she will be heading back to Vero in mid-October.

Jeanne McAnaney sent in this update:
 Last fall I went to Dublin with my daughter Ashling and the two remaining grandsons that Edward and I hadn't taken to meet the Irish cousins and a visit to London. While at dinner at Daphne's, our table was next to Mike Bloomberg's! Meeting the cousins went fine, but you never want to travel with Ashling; her flights are always canceled or diverted, probably to Toronto. Her return to CA took an extra 6 hours. I was fortunate to join my daughter Katie and her 14-year-old daughter, Ciara, for Easter break in the Cayman Islands. In the spring I joined friends for a very pleasant Rhine River cruise from Basel to Amsterdam. Come mid-July it was the usual two-week family holiday in Ocean City, New Jersey. And since then, I have been glued to the Olympics.



1967

In December, 2022, **Noreen Doyle** and **Joanne Lee** traveled to the Patagonia area, which is in both Argentina and Chile, along with Joanne's husband Bruce Kaplan. They said they had an amazing trip, starting in the beautiful city of Buenos Aires—with beautiful sights and great weather. “We saw glaciers, waterfalls, penguins, went horseback riding, and so much more. It was a great adventure. We were lucky to be in a small town in Argentina when they won the semi finals of the World Cup. What a celebration it was! And we joined right in.”

During our travels, we were on planes, cars, boats, buses, and ended with four nights on a small ship in the southernmost part of the Atlantic Ocean. On the last sea day, we were able to land at Cape Horn, which is the southernmost tip of South America. We took a Zodiac to the island, jumped off onto slippery wet rocks and climbed up 129 steps. From there we could explore the island. Only ships with Chilean registry are permitted to land there, (weather permitting) so we felt very privileged to be there. The entire trip was a fabulous experience, all the more special because we got to do it together.



Mary Ellen Colby Higgins and her husband Bill celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 13 with a Mass and vow renewal at St. Anthony's Church in Fairfield, CT. A luncheon followed at the Gaelic American Club. A long weekend in Maine with their sons, daughters-in-law and five grandchildren added to the joy!



Sally Coleman Sneff got together with **Gail Adams Seus**. Friends for over 60 years, Sally and Gail had a great time in NYC this summer. They did lots of walking, lots of talking and lots of laughing!



1965

After joining D.A. marching in the St. Patrick's Day Parade last March (great fun), **Suzanne Austin** joined a UCLA Alumni tour to Lapland. It was a fantastic trip including snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and mingling with a herd of reindeer, but the highlight was actually driving a dog sled!

Alumnae Notes



1968

Joan Mazzonelli shared the following with us: I've had the pleasure to direct several new plays/musicals in the last several months — for the Old Lady Project in Evanston IL, “The Bare Truth” and “Intrepid 3000” — two plays about sex in your sixties. For the Chicago WritersBloc — “Hearts in the Wood” (country bluegrass and Chicago romance), “Merry Widows” (a grief therapy group sings through their stories), How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Venezuelans (a southside Chicagoan learns a lot about herself while helping welcome immigrants to a sanctuary city).



1971

I currently live in Spartanburg, SC and retired in 2021. For many years, I have been fortunate to be a member of and participate in many community organizations and two that I hold most dear are the Spartanburg Lions Club, and ALTRUSA International of Spartanburg because there is nothing more rewarding than giving back through hands-on community service. Both organizations,

operate independently, so it was wonderful to be honored by both this year. Spartanburg Lions Club awarded me “Lion of the Year” and I received ALTRUSA'S Margaret P. Adams Award for community service.



1974

Sheila Corrigan wrote that she is the grandmother of two children under two and is quite busy enjoying time with them.



Mary Jane Driscoll writes in: The class of '74 celebrated our 50th reunion in style on April 19, 2024 at “Upstairs” at the Kimberly Hotel in midtown Manhattan. Twenty of us gathered for cocktails, dinner and beyond to reminisce and rekindle old friendships. Zoom calls and Kudoboard posts leading up to the reunion helped us include members of the class who could not attend in person. D.A. provided help with locating our classmates and a school tour in the afternoon before the party. What a remarkable class we are!



1975

Eileen Musso writes in: My husband Frank and I have been married for 43 years. We live in Argyle, NY on Lake Cossayuna. We are an hour north of Albany, NY and 30 minutes south of Saratoga. We have two sons who live in Brooklyn with their families. We have five wonderful grandchildren, ages one to seven. I am retired and my husband is close to retiring. We love living up here!



1977

Mary Jo Schneider-Bennett visited The Hague with her daughter, Fiona.

1982

Lisa Cesarani provided us with this update: Since graduating from Dominican Academy 42 years ago, a lot has happened. However, in brief, I left my job at NYU Florence after 22 years and decided to follow my interests and do independent research and academic scholarship. My former colleague at NYU Florence, Dr. Francesca Baldry, invited me

to collaborate and co-curate an exhibit about the Acton boys, Harold and William, the children of Arthur Acton and his wife Hortense Mitchell Acton. The boys grew up in the early 1900s at Villa La Pietra on the estate that is now NYU's Florence study away site. We worked with five amazing undergraduates to create the exhibit over the 2023-2024 academic year. My external research provided the local context to better understand the international community living in Florence in the early 20th Century. Check out this website that shows the virtual exhibit "Growing Up at the Villa" <https://lapietra.nyu.edu/project/growing-up-at-the-villa-1904-1922/>.



1984

Jeannie Hamilton Cruz, Dr. Domenic Guastaferrò (Music/Drama '77– '84), and **Cathy Gallagher** at choral concert on December 21, 2023 at St. Vincent Ferrer Church.



1985

Margaret Besheer wrote in: On June 8th, **Kristin Masturzo Cuddihy, Stacey Xanthos** and I were reunited at a baby shower

in Philadelphia for Kristin's daughter, Madeline. Maddy is also my goddaughter. She's expecting her first child, a boy, later this month! He will join cousin Tucker Alexander, as Kristin's second grandson!



Patricia Hillman Pender's daughter Erin graduated from Boston College in May with degrees in English and Biology. She will be working as a Science teacher in Boston.



Arianna Lee is delighted to share the joyous news of her middle son, Brennan, tying the knot with Madeleine Moroun. This union brings great happiness to Arianna, as it introduces a wonderful female presence into her previously all-male clan.

Sunny Cummings Hostin's daughter Paloma graduated from Fieldston High School and is headed to Cornell University in the College of Art, Architecture and Planning. Go Big Red!



1986

Melissa McAllister Wieler, '86, P'26 is excited to share that her son Walter graduated from Salesian High School this past spring and is currently a Freshman at the University of Florida studying Mechanical Engineering. Her daughter Emily is a Junior at D.A. Where has the time gone!?!?

1987

Sandy Colarossi Rooney wrote in: We are happy to be back in New York after living in Florida for a short time. There is no place like NY and being close to friends and family.



1989

Sarah Musho Gillen wrote in to let us know that her son, Peter, graduated Ithaca College with a BFA in Film, Photography and Visual Arts! Congrats!

Alumnae Notes



1990

Tatiana Serafin and **JoAnn Ort**, P'25, got to go see *The View* and to have a Meet and Greet with Sunny Hostin, '85 (a prize from the Auction & Benefit). A good time was had by all!



1994

Sarah Obraitis sent in the following update: During college, I followed sustainable agriculture and then agricultural economics and eventually I married a chef named Hugue Dufour! We opened a nifty restaurant called M. Wells in Long Island City in 2009, we then opened M. Wells Dinette in MoMA PS1, the contemporary art museum in LIC. Now we just have our mothership also in LIC and now we're almost 11 years old! Feel free to come and visit!



2000

Michelle Ruggieri married David Wenzel on April 13, 2024. To show what a small world D.A. is, David is also the cousin of alumna **Audrey Steinbrecher** ('08) who was in attendance! Michelle has been enjoying her work as a database analyst for a nonprofit and looks forward to settling into newlywed life at their home in Williamsburg, VA.

Doreen Lobelle earned her Doctorate in Education in May 2024. She is currently teaching at Hunter College Campus Schools where she also directs the school's summer enrichment program.

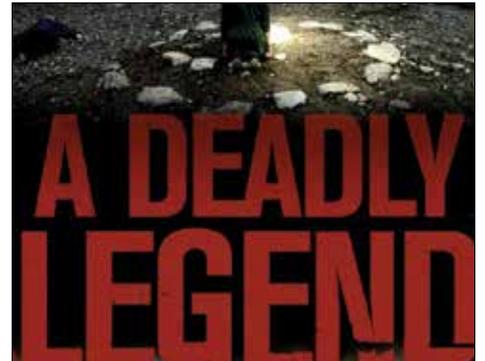
2008

Brianna Geary Monnet wrote in: My husband and I moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado in January — just in time for ski season! Enjoy the snow!



2009

Molly (Mary) Huerster is engaged to Thomas Landon Howard III. They live in Washington, D.C., and plan to marry in the fall of 2025. Congratulations!



2010

Tatiana Szpur sent this in: I graduated from the Columbia University School of Nursing in August. I was also recently interviewed about my role in the horror movie "A Deadly Legend" (free on Amazon Prime). The interview is available on the YouTube horror channel "Beyond the Veil." I am looking forward to working in healthcare and balancing it with my interest in the arts!

2011

Tess Cole Sorensen and family joyfully announce the birth of their third child, Lucy Agnes Cecilia! Proud big sisters Mary and Annie are especially excited to add another sister to the team.

2013

Mary Cacace has earned her Ph.D. in Chemistry in the Fall of 2023 from the University of Pittsburgh. She is currently a Postdoctoral Associate at UPMC-affiliated Magee-Women's Research Institute where she is investigating novel biological markers of and potentially innovative treatments for ovarian cancer.



Nina Gabriella Sparacio married Adam Rizkalla in August 2023 in Florence, Italy. They are both currently in the midst of medical residency training and are excited for what their future together will continue to bring.



2014

Emily Stewart graduated from Villanova University in May 2024 with her Masters degree in Human Resource Development with a concentration in Organizational Development. She also volunteered at Networking Night!



Congratulations to **Amber Bolden** who graduated Cum Laude from Notre Dame Law School.



2015

Katarzyna Jarog writes in: I graduated from the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine (VMD '24)—finally Dr. Jarog! Congratulations to Katarzyna!



2017

In October 2023, **Payton McHugh** graduated from the University of Cambridge with an MPhil in Architecture and Urban Studies (Pembroke College). She now lives and works in London.



2018

In Fall 2023, **Grace McGuigan** completed a six-week Himalayan mountaineering trek along the India-Nepal Border. Living completely out of her 50-pound backpack, and without phones or technology, her group of 10 navigated snow-capped peaks, harsh rivers, and beautiful valleys by compass and paper maps. The group summited 16,000' peaks with views of the Nanda Devi (25,650') a sacred Indian peak inaccessible to humans, and spent their days and nights alongside incredible wildlife, including monkeys, Indian buffalo, sheep, dogs, and even leopards. Grace loved learning new backcountry skills, seeing the breathtaking

Notes

Himalayan peaks, and an occasional home-cooked meal when passing through mountain villages. While she's sad she missed her five-year reunion because of her trip, she says it was well worth it!



2020

Three D.A. alumnae graduated from Villanova University in May. Congratulations to **Erin Haugh, Joanna Konopka** and **Erin Camas!**



2021

Brianna Cordero updated us with this news: In May of 2023 I traveled to Ireland and Northern Ireland. In my two weeks there I met with politicians and other prominent figures to discuss human rights. I also got to sign one of the peace walls and work on a portrait for the community. I had the very best time exploring these beautiful places. This summer I have served as the HR Intern at Lids. I've had the opportunity to meet with and present to senior leadership. I've worked on projects for training, upselling, and compliance. I also coordinated a service event for my fellow interns at New Hope of Indiana, where we got to spend time with disabled adults and set up for events throughout the morning. In the last year I also adopted a new fur-baby named Kobe!

Molly Hudson shared this news: I traveled to Lucca, Italy to attend the 13th Edition of Dance Italia, a month-long contemporary dance training program.

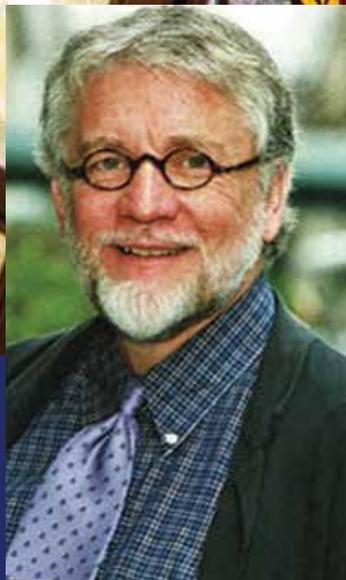


2022

Fiona McAllister is going into her junior year at Elon University with a major in Journalism and a minor in Sociology. For the upcoming 2024–2025 academic year she has been elected President of the Society of Professional Journalists (Elon Chapter) and will serve as Executive Producer for the Elon News Network. Along with working alongside the university's president on the very selective President's Student Leadership Advisory Council.

Her hard work in the Elon News Network sparked her application and acceptance for a summer internship at WCIV ABC News 4 in Charleston, S.C. She has worked alongside reporters, news anchors, and producers while being able to create her own content. Fiona was also the recipient of the Sam Chu Lin Internship Grant graciously given by the Asian American Journalists Association.

Fiona continues to serve as a student mentor for rising high school seniors as part of Elon's Emerging Journalists Program.



In Memoriam

LARRY WATKINS

Larry Watkins passed away on February 18, 2024. Mr. Watkins was a beloved history teacher at D.A. for 20 years. Dr. Serpagli, current STEM co-chair, said of Mr. Watkins, “Larry was a scholar, a philosopher, and a historian. He was a perpetual student and was always one to share his thoughts with others.” Jennifer Reardon-Muller, '98, current history chair, who had the privilege of having Mr. Watkins as a teacher and then collaborating with him as a colleague, said that as a teacher, “he was interested in educating and forming the whole person.”

The History Medal given out at Dominican Academy’s graduation ceremony will now be called the History Medal/Lawrence Watkins History Award in honor of a man who touched the lives of many D.A. students.

ALUMNAE

Margaret Wolfe Steeves, '47
 Marie Spellman Sherry, '48
 Adele Helen Sheffieck, '49
 Mary Jean Bobyak, '50
 Eileen Krak, '54
 Kathleen Dwyer Heed, '56
 Jean McDermott Clancy, '56
 Barbara Sullivan Ertel, '58
 Kathleen Heaney Hilpl '61
 Kathleen Krank Mooney, '64
 Marcella Ackert Specce, '67
 Donna Cahill Sibbach, '74
 Mairead McInerney McAteer, '02

FAMILY

Luke La Valle, H'61
 Margaret Loffredo, P'69
 Vincent Brana, P'83
 John Ziliani, P'84
 Marylou Moran, P'87, '90

Sustaining Our Future



DOMINICAN ACADEMY JOINS A NETWORK OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SPONSORED BY DOMINICAN VERITAS MINISTRIES

On August 8th, as part of the celebration of St. Dominic, the founder and patron of the Dominican Order, Dominican Academy announced a new sponsorship model under Dominican Veritas Ministries (DVM), which will sustain D.A.'s Catholic and Dominican identity for future generations.

This special bond follows the Dominican Sisters of Peace — the successors to the congregation of Dominican Sisters who founded D.A. in 1897 — who have been the canonical sponsors of our school for the last 15 years. The positive impact of this transfer will be felt quickly as D.A. joins a vibrant network of 13 participating elementary and secondary Catholic schools and gains new access to support and resources.

Dominican Veritas Ministries itself is governed by five Dominican Sisters who serve as Members. The sponsorship comes after careful dialogue and discernment, in collaboration with congregations of Dominican Sisters across the country, about the future of Dominican education and the changing demographics facing congregations of women religious.

“The sponsorship announcement on the Feast Day of St. Dominic reminds us of the lasting impact of his legacy,” said Dr. Alexandria M. Egler, Ph.D., P’10, president of Dominican Academy. “At D.A., we remain especially grateful for Sr. Joan Franks, OP, Ph.D., ’59, who is such a vital part of our community in and out of the classroom. It is

truly a gift to witness her vocation as a Sister of the Peace, and we take this opportunity to recognize her and the many others who have modeled their lives on the Gospels through the traditions of St. Dominic.”



Sr. Joan Franks, OP, Ph.D., '59





*You Are
Cordially Invited
to Attend*

DOMINICAN ACADEMY

Spring Auction & Benefit

Thursday, April 10, 2025, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

**The New York Athletic Club
180 Central Park South
New York, New York 10019**

**More information forthcoming.
dominicanacademy.org**



SAVE THE *Date*

- SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2024**
OPEN HOUSE FOR 7TH AND 8TH GRADERS
- WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2024**
MINI OPEN HOUSE FOR 7TH AND 8TH GRADERS
- SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2024**
REUNION FOR CLASSES ENDING IN "4" AND "9"
- TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2024**
DEO GRATIAS RECEPTION
- FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2024**
YOUNG ALUMNAE WELCOME BACK
- FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2025**
CAREER DAY
- THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2025**
ANNUAL SPRING AUCTION & BENEFIT