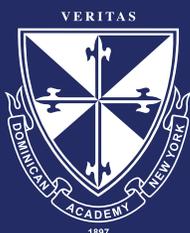


# Veritas

For alumnae and friends of the D.A. community. **FALL 2023**  
[dominicanacademy.org](http://dominicanacademy.org)



**DOMINICAN ACADEMY**

*Catholic College Preparatory School for Girls*



## ADMINISTRATION LIST

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

Leslie Poole Petit, Ed.D., P '14, P '19  
*Principal*

Elissa Weil, '81  
*Assistant Principal*

Brendan Doyle  
*Vice President of Finance*

Leslie A. Lopez, J.D., CFRE  
*Executive Director of Development*

Lauren Checo  
*Director of Admissions*

Brooke K. Keese  
*Director of Communications, Editor-in-Chief*

Patricia Hillman Pender, '85  
*Special Events and Alumnae Relations Manager*

Melissa McAllister Wieler, '86, P'26  
*Development Database Manager*

Helen Halis  
*Registrar, Exc. Assistant to the President*

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# LETTER FROM THE President

## DEAR DOMINICAN ACADEMY ALUMNAE,

Happy autumn!! I hope that as you begin to read this issue of Veritas that you are enjoying all the goodness and joy that this season offers.

It has been about two months since classes began at D.A. Just after Labor Day, we welcomed back our students and faculty beginning with our opening school Mass of the Holy Spirit and our annual 9/11 remembrance. It is now the beginning of our second quarter and there is so much to celebrate. Our incoming Freshmen, the Class of 2027 are beginning to settle and are still very excited to be here. Naturally our Seniors, the Class of 2024 are enthusiastic but with mixed emotions as they put the finishing touches on their college applications and experience many poignant "lasts" here at D.A. along with their Senior privileges. Of course we can't forget our Sophomores and Juniors and their dedication to their studies, sports and club activities. Many of the traditions that you might recall from your years at D.A. are still very much a part of the daily lives of our students today: class retreats, the Freshman/Senior Picnic, School in the City and the Thanksgiving Service Project to name a few.

We are excited to share this latest issue of Veritas with all of you. In it you will find a tribute to the Class of 2023 and the incredible colleges and universities that they were accepted into, with scholarships that totaled almost \$19 million.

I am pleased to report that we were officially accredited by NYS AIS (New York State Association of Independent Schools) at the end of the school year which offers us many opportunities to continue our work of excellence as well as a number of professional development opportunities for both faculty and staff. Many thanks again to all members of the Dominican Academy community who were instrumental in helping us achieve this membership.

We hope you enjoy the new look we are showcasing with the magazine. Be assured it is still filled with many of the articles and class updates that so many of you enjoy reading. I hope you'll take a moment to read about the 1897 Legacy Circle, current happenings at D.A. as well as a little piece about my pilgrimage in the footsteps of Saint Dominic that I had the privilege to make this past June to Fanjeaux, France.

Dominican Academy would not be the school that it is without all of you, our very talented and supportive alumnae. Your ongoing interest and care for your alma mater is quite meaningful to all of us, particularly our current students. They are always so excited to meet and hear your stories whether at Career Day, the Gala, or when you stop by for a visit. Your continued engagement and involvement are some of the important ways that D.A. thrives as a premier Catholic College Preparatory School for our students. Your lives and your ongoing commitment to D.A. are inspirational reflections of our Four Pillars.

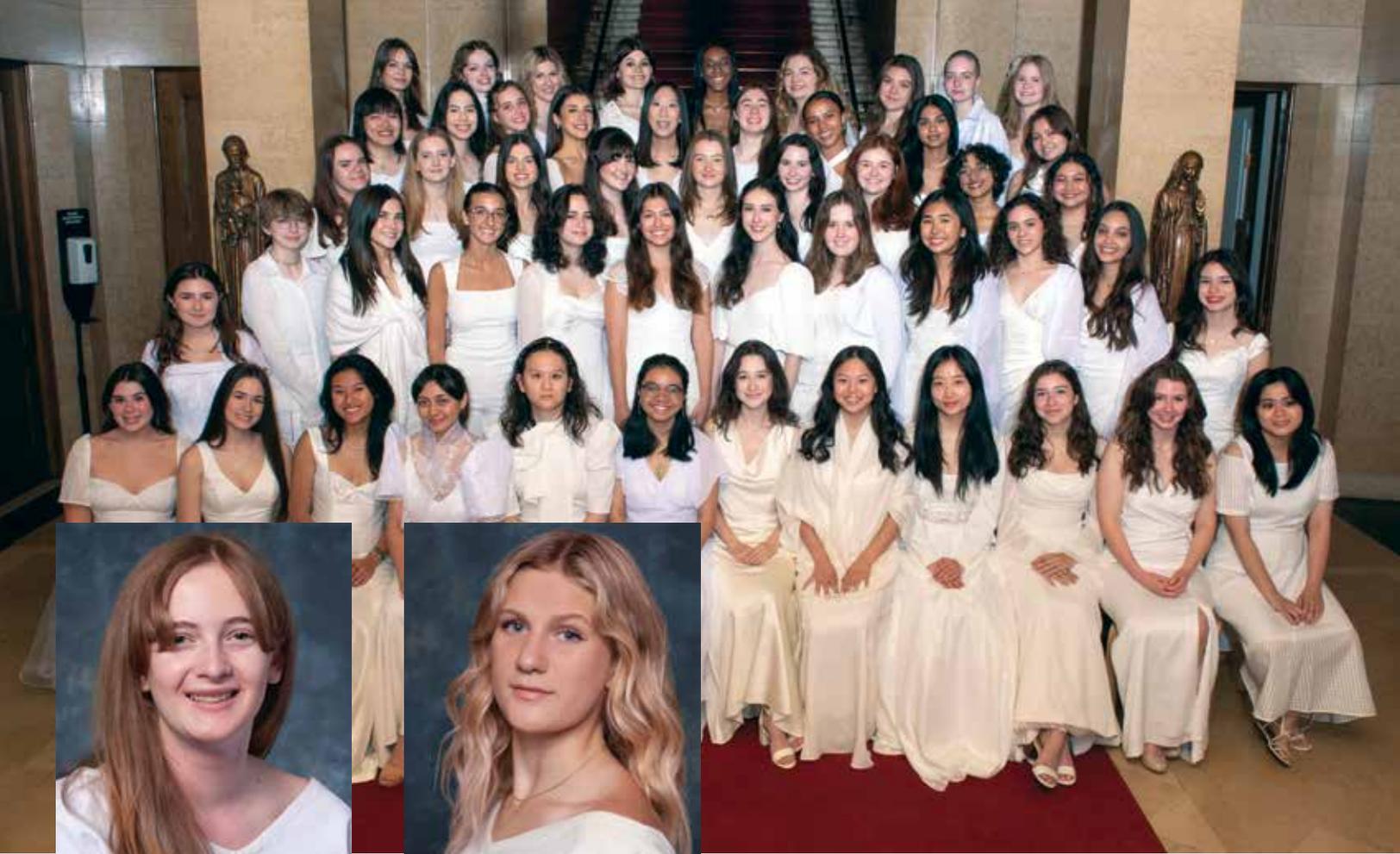
Each and everyone of you is in our prayers. Please keep Dominican Academy in yours.

Peace and all good,

*Alexandria M. Egler*

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





**ALANA P.  
VALEDICTORIAN**

**DAISY CAROLINE W.  
SALUTATORIAN**

# CLASS OF '23 *Graduates*

**THE CLASS OF 2023 EARNED CLOSE TO \$19 MILLION IN MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS. ALL 51 GRADUATES ARE ATTENDING FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES POST D.A.**

American University  
 Carnegie Mellon University  
 City University of New York Hunter College  
 Claremont McKenna College  
 Columbia University  
 Concordia University  
 Fairfield University  
 Fordham University  
 George Washington University  
 Iona University  
 Loyola Marymount University  
 Marquette University

Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
 McGill University  
 Northeastern University  
 Princeton University  
 State University of New York New Paltz  
 State University of New York Stony Brook  
 Stevens Institute of Technology  
 Syracuse University  
 The American University of Paris  
 Tulane University  
 University at Buffalo  
 University of California Irvine

University of California Los Angeles  
 University of Delaware  
 University of Florida  
 University of Notre Dame  
 University of Pennsylvania  
 University of South Carolina  
 University of Southern California  
 University of St Andrews  
 University of Vermont  
 University of Wisconsin  
 Villanova University

COMMENCEMENT AWARDS

2023



**MELANIE R.**  
MOTHER STEPHANIE AWARD  
FOR CHARACTER AND  
LEADERSHIP



**KATHERINE S.**  
ALL DOMINICAN AWARD FOR  
INTEGRITY AND CHARACTER  
AWARD



**KRYSTAL S.**  
DIVERSITY, EQUITY,  
INCLUSION & BELONGING  
AWARD



**CHRISTINA-PANAGIOTA T.**  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES SERVICE  
AWARD



**CAROLINE M.**  
SCHOLAR ATHLETE AWARD

*Congrats  
Grads!*

# Look Back



## ROOFTOP RECONNECTION

On Friday, September 14, 2023, dozens of alumni from the classes of 1958–2019 attended the first Rooftop Reconnection at Dominican Academy since the pandemic. The gathering began on the rooftop at the golden hour and continued long past sunset. It was a memorable evening and a fun way for alumni to reminisce and mingle with community members, friends, and their spouses. A special thank you to the student ambassadors who volunteered their Friday evening to help out.





## OPENING MASS

Dominican Academy's Opening Mass was held this year on Monday, September 11, 2023, at the Church of St. Vincent Ferrer. Students, faculty, staff, and community members came together to mark the start of their academic year with the celebration of the Mass of the Holy Spirit. At Mass they welcomed the incoming Class of 2027, and at the same time paused, and paid their respects to the thousands of lives lost on 9/11. Rev. Fr. Peter Martyr Yungwirth, O.P., presided over the Mass and congratulated the student body on beginning their upcoming year.



## COMMENCEMENT 2023

On Wednesday, May 24, 2023, the Class of 2023 was honored at a Commencement Ceremony held at the Church of Saint Vincent Ferrer. Congratulations to the 51 incomparable Dominican Academy graduates on their momentous achievements!

In keeping with tradition, seniors entered the church dressed in all white and carried red roses to signify the classes who came before them. After the ceremony ended, faculty and staff sent their students off with a clap out, for one last time, together as the Class of 2023.



## SPRING AUCTION & BENEFIT

On Friday, March 31, 2023, Dominican Academy celebrated the annual Spring Auction & Benefit at the Metropolitan Club in Manhattan. The 2023 honorees included Ms. Elissa Weil, '81, D.A. Assistant Principal, and Mr. Robert P. Brady of the Burns-Brady Insurance Agency.

Ms. Weil has been part of the teaching faculty in the English department for over 35 years, more recently moving into an administrative role serving as both assistant principal and chair of the English department. The evening also paid tribute to Mr. Brady for the care and generosity of the Burns-Brady Family to D.A. The Burns-Brady family has been the school's insurance agent since the 1930s.

A special thank you to all guests and sponsors for making the night such an enjoyable and joyous occasion. D.A. is blessed to be surrounded by a community with an abundance of love and kindness.

## NATIONAL FRENCH AWARD



Félicitations to Nelia D., '24, who is the Platinum Winner (highest honor) in the 2023 Le Grand Concours, The National French Contest! Nelia earned the top score in the nation for her level/division. D.A. is proud of her hard work.

A special thanks to French and Ancient Greek teacher, Sr. Joan Franks, O.P., Ph.D., for her continued dedication to D.A. students. Très bien fait!

## MOTHER-DAUGHTER LUNCHEON



On May 7, 2023, students, their moms, and family members gathered at Tao Downtown for the annual Mother-Daughter luncheon hosted by the Dominican Academy Parents Association (DAPA). The attendees enjoyed a memorable day of food, raffles, and dancing together.

# Look Back



## SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Way to go D.A. Tigers! Congratulations on bringing home a new title. On Tuesday, May 23, 2023, the varsity softball team clinched the Tier 3 Championship walloping Nazareth Regional High School with a final score of 13-3.



## CAREER DAY



On Friday, April 23, 2023, seniors and juniors gathered at St. John Nepomucene Church for the first in-person Career Day since 2019. D.A. was delighted to welcome back over a dozen alumnae in various fields including engineering, business, education, law, science, politics, and entrepreneurship. The students were able to listen to two group presentations and then break up into smaller groups to do a Q&A with alumnae. Both the students and alumnae enjoyed a day of networking and walking down memory lane together.



## BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Congratulations Tigers! In early March of 2023, the varsity basketball team captured their first-ever CHSAA Championship, defeating Sacred Heart High School, 47-27. A special shout-out to their dedicated fans for making the trip to Yonkers to support them as they took on the title.



## WALKATHON

On May 5, 2023, students at Dominican Academy and Regis joined forces again for the annual Walkathon. The Walkathon dates back to 1987 and has historically been a day for the two sibling schools to share in some fun and friendship together. A group of D.A. seniors were the first to complete the route down Park Avenue to 60th Street, and then back up Fifth Avenue. Dr. Petit cheered the students along the route and then joined them at Regis for an afternoon of bonding, post-walk.

This year, participants were graced with beautiful weather so that they could enjoy events outside in the Regis Quad after walking. Festivities included the ever-popular dunk tank and a BBQ.

# Look Back

## JUNIOR RING DAY

The Class of 2024 received their rings at a beautiful Mass celebrated on April 21, 2023, at the Church of St. Vincent Ferrer. Fr. Yungwirth, blessed the rings and reminded the students of their lifelong commitment to the four Dominican Pillars of Study, Community, Prayer, and Service. The students then gave the rings to each other, sharing in a practice of showing solidarity to members of their class. The joyous occasion was celebrated by the families of the Class of 2024 and the entire D.A. community.

In June 2014, the Dominican Academy community tragically lost Natalie Frankowski. Sadly, Natalie passed away just weeks after graduating from D.A. Before her passing, Natalie was awarded the Mother Stephanie Award for leadership and character at the 2014 D.A. Commencement Ceremony.

Natalie's family and friends believed that one of the best ways to honor her was to establish an award to be given to a rising senior who embodies faith, humility, and scholarship. While giving a speech in honor of Natalie, Dr. Lauren Serpagli, D.A. STEM Department Co-Chair, said that she had never met someone as faithful, humble, and dedicated to her studies as Natalie.

During the Junior Ring Mass in April 2023, this award was bestowed upon Aaleeah M, pictured in the photo above with Dr. Serpagli. Aaleeah has been called a role model for others. At Mass, it was noted how as a sophomore, Aaleeah would take it upon herself to mentor freshmen after school in the library on the importance of being kind to oneself and how to stay motivated in pursuing your goals.

The faculty and staff of D.A. are proud of the kindness and compassion Aaleeah shows for others. She truly embodies a quote from St. Catherine of Siena, one of the patron saints of D.A., to "Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire."





## ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

This year Dominican Academy made its inaugural appearance in the annual NYC St. Patrick's Day parade held on March 17, 2023. Numerous community members including students, alumnae, families, faculty, and staff, united to march up Fifth Avenue, proudly adorned in their finest black watch plaid. D.A. extends gratitude to those who enthusiastically supported the group from the sidelines or watched the live broadcast on NBCNewYork. Slàinte.



## ITALY TRIP

Ciao from Venice! There were smiles all around as more than two dozen Dominican Academy students, faculty, and staff members took on Italy during their spring break in April of 2023. The group made their Easter journey around the country from Venice to Florence and Rome. They also had day trips to Siena, Assisi, Pompeii, and Naples before returning home to celebrate with their families.



## NYSAIS

In June 2023, the New York State Association of Independent Schools (NYS AIS) Commission on Accreditation and the NYSAIS Board of Trustees voted to award Dominican Academy accreditation. The accreditation process included a week-long observational site visit in March of 2023 at D.A., by the NYSAIS Visiting Committee. The process for D.A. to become accredited began in 2018.

D.A. is excited to be a new member of the NYSAIS network of strong community schools. Thank you to the members of the Self-Study Committee: Ms. Jennifer Reardon-Muller, Dr. Michael Cagney, Dr. Leslie Petit, Ms. Elissa Weil, and Mr. Brendan Doyle, for all of their hard work.

# Pilgrimage in France

## DEEPENING OUR DOMINICAN SPIRIT

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

The story of the Dominican Order, founded by Dominic de Guzman over 800 years ago begins with Dominic's experience in the South of France. Originally from Spain, Dominic traveled to France with Diego, the Bishop of Osma. It was in France where Dominic met and came to know the Cathars, an anti-Catholic religious movement that viewed the world as evil and denied the Trinity and the divinity of Christ. Dominic spent a great deal of time with the Cathars, often under hostile conditions. Yet he came to respect them, engaging many in long and lively debates, where he listened, learned, and continually prayed for them as he preached the Gospel. These experiences led him to realize a need for a religious order committed to preaching.

This past June I had the privilege of entering into the story of St. Dominic and the Order of Preachers by making a pilgrimage to this area of France, in the village of Fanjeaux, where Dominic lived and earnestly preached the truth about God, at great personal peril, to the people there.

This particular pilgrimage was designed as an invitation to deepen a sense of Dominican life and spirituality. There were 30 pilgrims in our group, led by three Dominicans, two sisters, and one priest. Most pilgrims in the group were Dominican sisters and lay women and men who serve in various Dominican ministries around the United States. Our group quickly bonded over missed connections, lost luggage, the delicious French cuisine and wine, the breathtaking countryside, and of course, through sharing personal and professional experiences, and ultimately opening our hearts to one another.

As every good spiritual journey should, the pilgrimage balanced private and group prayer and reflection. Spirituality and congeniality were the two essential components to nurturing our souls. Every day began with a prayer, lesson, and discussion. During these meetings, we would gather together to learn the many elements of St. Dominic's mission and that of the Order. Some of the topics presented were "Dominic in Fanjeaux," "Dominic the Itinerant Preacher," "Dominic and Prayer," and "Art as a Means of Preaching in the Dominican Order." The conversations, connections, and insights raised important questions about our ministries, the communities we serve, and how our institutions connect with the history of the Order.

Staying in the hilltop village of Fanjeaux, was deeply meaningful. It is here where Dominic began to respond to the pull of God's invitation, and as pilgrims, it was an opportunity to reflect on God's presence in our lives. In Fanjeaux we visited Dominic's house—Maison St-Dominique. The chapel was once the primary room of the home and today features beautiful stained glass windows that depict scenes from Dominic's life.

Each day we made an excursion to a place significant in the story of the Dominican Order or life of St. Dominic. A short stroll through the village of Fanjeaux reveals a panoramic view, integral to the story of the origins of the Order. At this panoramic overlook in Fanjeaux, of the valley below, in 1206, on the Feast of St. Mary Magdalen, Dominic experienced the Seignadou, - a sign from God. This sign was a brilliant light that settled over the nearby Church of Sainte Marie de Prouilhe, which became the place for the first 12 Dominican nuns, of whom the majority were converts from Catharism. There is still a congregation of Dominican

nuns who live at Prouilhe. We were fortunate to have the opportunity to learn about their rich and challenging times in history. We prayed Vespers with the nuns in the church, creating once again links to our Dominican roots.

A day in the city of Toulouse was an integral part of understanding the formalizing of the Order. In Toulouse, Dominic became energized as he met and connected with people moved by his preaching. He saw that people were hungry to engage with the Church. His humility, charity, open heart, and genuine love for all he encountered was a new way of being and sharing the Gospel message. Through his interactions with Cathars and Catholics, Dominic developed a foundational formula for the Order: community life, study, apostolic service, and prayer.

In Toulouse, we also visited the Église des Jacobins—the Church of the Jacobins. This magnificent former home turned chapel was deconsecrated in the early 21st century, and turned into what is now a museum; if the famous palm tree pillars could speak, they would share the many iterations of what took place within the walls. The focal point of this church is the tomb of St. Thomas Aquinas. At the church, I had the honor of leading our group in prayer at his tomb. To stand in front of the reliquary of St. Thomas Aquinas' remains, a Dominican, a Doctor of the Church, and perhaps her most influential theologian, was a profoundly transformative moment.

The village of Sorèze offered an opportunity to learn more about a modern (19th century) Dominican, Fr. Henri-Dominique Lacordaire. Lacordaire was a prolific preacher, lawyer, savvy politician, and journalist. The Dominican Order was reestablished under Lacordaire in



France after the havoc and destruction of the French Revolution. Sorèze is where Lacodaire is buried and is also where he served as head of the Sorèze Abbey School, which opened in the 17th century and finally closed in 1991. As a royal military school under Louis XVI, the school was known for its innovative pedagogy and educated young men from around the globe.

The medieval, walled city of Carcassonne (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) gave our group a glimpse into what life was like in the Middle Ages. Dominic spent a great bit of time in this city. The majestic Basilica of St. Nazaire is located here in

Carcassonne, with its exquisite stained glass. Just inside the entrance is a plaque that reads, "The founder of the Friars Preachers, St. Dominic, preached the Lenten mission in this church in 1213." No pilgrimage is complete without a little time for souvenir shopping and a lunch of cassoulet, bread, and a glass of regional wine. Pilgrimage is always about food for both the body and soul!

Dominic was an educator and a scholar. Yet he never used his education or his faith as a weapon. He conversed and converted with intelligence, humility, and love. This ideology was his approach to changing hearts and minds.

To have the opportunity to spend time in prayer discerning what it means to be a Catholic Dominican educator was a gift. This trip was both religiously revelatory and educationally transformative. Dominican Academy is the fruit of Dominic's preaching and ministry. Through a circuitous but providential journey, the Dominican Sisters of Peace carried Dominic's vision to East 68th Street, recognizing that the education of our students is a continuous beacon of light, of truth—Veritas—that we are all called to carry.

Laudare, Praedicare, Benedicere.



*You Are Cordially Invited To Attend*

**DOMINICAN ACADEMY**

**Spring Auction & Benefit**

**Tuesday, April 16, 2024, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

**The New York Athletic Club  
180 Central Park S., New York, New York 10019**

**Details to come: [dominicanacademy.org](http://dominicanacademy.org)**



# Leave a Lasting Legacy of Gratitude

by Leslie A. Lopez .....

The 1897 Legacy Circle was established to pay tribute to alumnae, family, and friends who have included Dominican Academy in their estate plans, such as a trust, will, or insurance policy.

A planned gift to Dominican Academy has an impact that lasts far beyond your lifetime and supports future generations of excellence through the four Dominican Pillars of Study, Community, Service, and Prayer, and is actualized by countless core values, experiences, and traditions that characterize the D.A. community. We prepare our students to be intelligent people who can think strategically, act ethically, and attain leadership roles in our society. A legacy gift will help to ensure that future generations can benefit from the same transformative experiences of past generations of D.A. students.

Monica Lennon Golden, '59 has been a member of the 1897 Legacy Circle for many years. Ms. Golden recently shared

her thoughts on the importance of legacy giving, "I respect, admire, and LOVE Dominican Academy and I am more than willing to help D.A. become financially secure."

Monica was fortunate to receive a Dominican education at both the elementary and secondary levels. She was a 1955 graduate of St. Andrew Avellino Catholic Academy in Flushing, Queens, NY, and then was part of the Class of 1959 at D.A. She shared an additional statement in honor of the Dominican Sisters and the outstanding administrators, faculty, and staff at the school.

"For the past 126 years, D.A. has provided an excellent holistic education which includes, but is not limited to academic excellence, spiritual experiences, co-curricular activities, social graces, life-long friendships, and the awareness to be as close to Jesus Christ as possible and

“ Please ponder this membership opportunity because you can rest assured that the future generations of D.A. students will benefit from your commitment and generosity. ”

Monica Lennon Golden, '59

to illuminate the virtues of His Mother, Mary... We must prepare them [D.A. students] to the best of our ability... To do so we must have excellence regarding our Mission, Ministry, Management, and Mystery (the sacraments—especially the Holy Eucharistic). And to complete the alliteration there is a sine qua non which is essential for D.A.'s future and that is MONEY!"

Future legacy gifts play a crucial role in building D.A.'s endowment and annual fund which helps to cover everything from a portion of the yearly operating costs to major improvements that support and ensure students will have a safe environment of academic excellence.

If you are interested in remembering Dominican Academy in your will or other estate plans or have already made a planned gift that includes D.A. but hasn't allowed us to thank you, please contact D.A. Executive Director of Development, Leslie A. Lopez, J.D., CFRE at: [llopez@dominicanacademy.org](mailto:llopez@dominicanacademy.org), or (212) 744-0195.

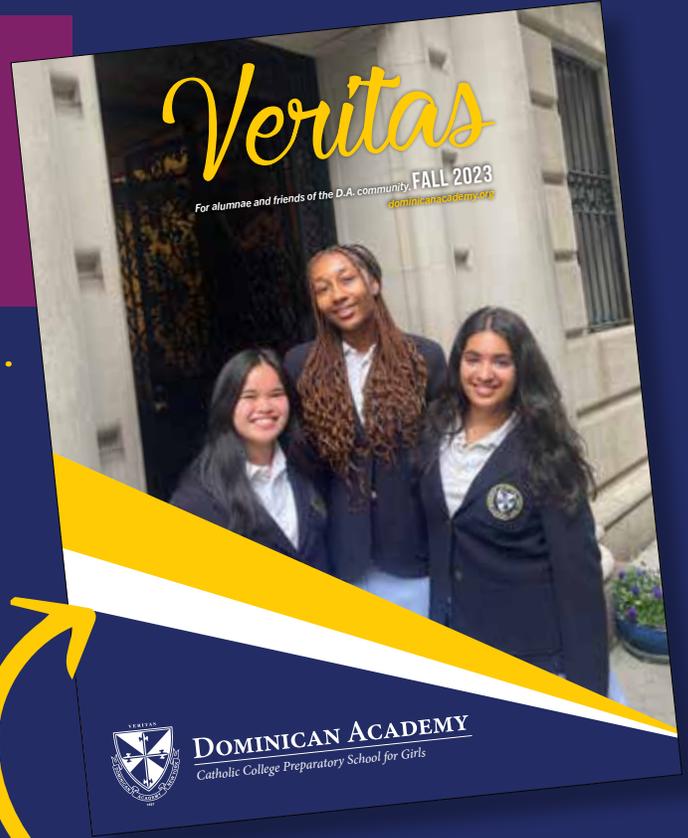
A note from our Editor-in-Chief, Brooke K. Keese...

Quotes from important members of our community are a staple in Veritas.



“ You, our students, and all the Dominican Academy graduates who have gone before you are the living embodiment of our pillars of study, community, service, and prayer. ”

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



The four Dominican Pillars of Study, Community, Service, and Prayer are the heart of ALL we do.

Study

Community

Service

Prayer

# Moving Veritas Forward in 2023-24



Here's what you can expect to see in *Veritas* as we look ahead: The creation of more formal publishing essentials like a masthead, tagline and dateline, on every *Veritas* cover; graphic ribbon in traditional D.A. brand colors used throughout each issue; the white, blue and yellow ribbons are meant to signify the strength, unity and bond shared by the D.A. community. These elements will be woven throughout the publication as a reminder of how special D.A. is to all.

Familiar graphics will continue to remind us of our Four Pillars.



Social media throwbacks: @dominicanacademy

# Alumnae



**1948** Rita Zipp Quinn came with her son, Kevin Quinn, to visit D.A. on their annual Christmas visit to New York City. This was the first time in many, many years that she had been back to the school. Mrs. Quinn graduated from D.A. in 1948 and has very fond memories of her time here. Dr. Egler spent some time with Mrs. Quinn and her son, walking around the building as well as looking at her yearbook. Mrs. Quinn also met some of the students and Sr. Joan Franks and had some nice conversations with them.



**1953** During July 2023, Dr. Leslie Poole Petit, P'14, '19, Principal was at the 95th birthday celebration of the grandmother of Alexa White Murphy, '10 when she encountered another D.A. graduate. The grandmother's cousin, Catherine White Rotanz, who graduated from D.A. in 1953, was in attendance. A fun fact that Catherine told Dr. Petit was that tuition used to be \$20 per month. Above is the picture of D.A. across the generations!.

**1958** Jeanne Glennon McAnaney provided the following updates:

Why we continue to be the Proud Class of '58! At the D.A. Spring Auction & Benefit, we were represented in the electronic souvenir journal that ran on a large screen with our ad saying, "With grateful memories for our years at Dominican Academy and in honor of our deceased classmates, The Proud Class of 1958!" Within 48 hours of our appeal, not only did we raise the \$500 to pay for the ad, we exceeded that by \$350 and have used that amount to establish the "Proud Class of '58 Award" to be offered to a student to help pay expenses for an advanced summer study program. Many thanks to all who contributed so generously. **Medical alert: Barbara Black** recently underwent successful rotator cuff repair surgery and her husband Frank had the same outcome from back surgery last November. On September 12, 2022, Susan O'Shea had successful surgery for a recurrence of the cancer she suffered 2 years ago. She was out of Stamford Hospital the next day with a positive result. Best wishes to all on this good news. **Susan O'Shea's** recovery from her July 2023 cancer procedure is a "slow going." Please keep her in your prayers. In May, your humble scribe commenced my Graduation Tour to Cincinnati, Denver and San Fran for 4 grandchildren's commencements. Happily 2 of these stops included the chance to catch up with **Jo Ann Cardone** and **Mary Fox** for laugh filled lunches. **Jo Ann** is planning to join the usual suspects for dinner and the D.A. Rooftop Reception on Sept. 15. I think it was in June that the usual suspects met for lunch with the always entertaining **Gerry Murphy Fiero**, visiting from her home turf of Advance, NC. She left the chickens in the good care of her husband Pat. Just for the record, the usual suspects are **Susan O'Shea, Beth Dougherty, Laretta Leddy, Dorothy Filoramo, Maureen Brokaw and yours truly.** We would be delighted to be joined by any classmates who might be in the area. I regret having to share the very sad news that **Jo Ann's** oldest son, **Paul Cardone**, passed away on Nov. 10, 2022 in Tempe, AZ at age 58. Paul was a bass guitarist and

was inducted into the Arizona Music Hall of Fame. January 6th was declared Paul Cardone Day and a group of 20 local artists gathered together to celebrate his life.

Sadly, **Laretta Leddy** recently lost two sisters, **Patricia Clancy Varley '53** and **Kathleen Clancy Billings '62.** They will both be in our prayers.

Here's to a mere 65 years since our D.A. graduation!

**Jeanne McAnaney** also wrote a personal note: My husband of 58 years, **Edward**, passed away on Christmas Eve. He was a dedicated supporter of Dominican Academy, having served on the board and attended just about every function involving our class including enjoying the 2022 gala. I am grateful to Dr. Egler and the faculty and staff as well as so many classmates who attended his funeral.

In addition to noting the passing of her devoted husband Edward, in December of 2022, Jeanne shared the sad news of another loss to the D.A. community in January. She said, "I am sorry to note the passing of **Jane Lamanna D'Agostino, '61,** the owner of Isle of Capri restaurant. Though not a member of our class, she was a generous hostess for several of our class celebrations. We share fond memories of happy evenings with Jane and send our sincere condolences to her family."



**Jo Ann Cardone** went on a camel ride in the Sahara during her North African Adventure this past April. Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco were absolutely amazing.

# Notes



On March 23, 2023, **Marilyn Reynolds Canty** had a wonderful lunch with **Alexandria Egler, Ph.D, P'10, President** of D.A. and **Sadhvee Hansraj-Pastine, '86**, member of the Board of Trustees, at Sea Watch on the Ocean in Ft. Lauderdale.

## 1959 Pam Keating

sent in this update: Our great teachers Sr. Mary Immaculate and Sr. Mary Austine made me a bit of a word nut, and I'll always be grateful. I've been working on a book for the last dozen years or so entitled "In the Beginning." It offers the etymologies the origins—of almost 900 words and quotes that use those words very well. I'd happily send it to any alums who'd like to have it. Just email me: pkeating1880@gmail.com. I've studied at Cambridge University in England, the University of Arizona, Trinity College in Dublin—but D. A. will always be the best school I ever went to. I'll always be grateful.



**1963 Regina Birkner Hartley** wrote in: I finally retired in 2022 as a Speech Therapist/Administrator/Grad student Trainer for a school district in Southern California where I've lived for the past 23

years after living in Marin Co, Northern CA. After all those years of walking to the subway in cold windy weather, I dreamed of a place where it was mild all year round. I found it in Laguna Beach! In family news, my daughter gave birth to a son, Flynn also in 2022, hence the retirement. This June, I finally attended the graduation of my last grandchild whom with her sister ( HS grad, 2022) I've been raising for the last 15 years. My younger son is an aerospace engineer, living in Seattle and formerly with NASA. My older son works in construction in Sonoma with his Architect dad.

Life is good. I still tap once a week and sing with our community chorus, LagunaTunes. We just celebrated our 20th Anniversary with a concert of our 'greatest hits': songs from Queen, ABBA, Tina Turner and The Beatles, complete with choralography.

I'm looking forward to our 60th Reunion with our class of '63 in October at D.A..



**1969 Cathy Myers, Maureen Fahy Grone, and Denise Midroy** continued their girls' trip tradition in May 2023 by gathering in Santa Fe, New Mexico, a favorite place. A highlight was their trail ride through Georgia O'Keeffe territory at Ghost Ranch! Great to see them all on horseback once again! Thanks Mid for hauling the helmets and boots from Denver!



## 1970 Stephanie Azzarone

wrote in: I'm over the moon that Fordham University Press has published my first book, "Heaven on the Hudson: Mansions, Monuments, and Marvels of Riverside Park." It's a labor of love about the history, architecture and people of my favorite New York City neighborhood. I also recently passed the test for my sightseeing license, so I can lead walking tours of the area, and am completing a second NYC book for the same publisher. So much for retirement!



**1974 Andrea Gribben Doherty** let us know that the **Class of 74** had a wonderful time at the 70's decade reunion! They posed for a great picture in front of Lady Wellesley!

**1976 Claire Sarrazin Rennell** updated us with sad news: "It is with a heavy heart that the class of '76 bids adieu to our dear friend, **Elizabeth Sheehan Bourke**, who passed away at the end of June. Liz, we will miss your humor, your boundless energy and your extraordinary heart!" On the following page is an excerpt from her obituary.

**Elizabeth “Liz” Sheehan-Bourke** was a loving wife, mother, daughter, sister, auntie, friend, and mentor. She sadly left us and went home to Heaven on June 26th at the age of 64, “the perfect 10” in the comfort of her home in Palm Coast, Florida.

“Momma Liz” as most called her, was born on March 30, 1959, to Patricia “Mopsey” Sheehan and Edward Sheehan in New York, New York.

In 1988 Liz met the love of her life George. They married in 1989, going on to have two beautiful children, Tara & Jade.

Liz was passionate about her family, helping people, attending daily mass, Coors Light and always taking care of those who needed help, especially children. Liz’s true passion and calling in life was being the director of Trinity Loving Care Early Education Center for 25 years. Liz impacted thousands of people over her wonderful life and will always be remembered for her positivity, generosity, and her tremendous loving personality.

**Carol Ann Quigley** shared the following news: I’m happily retired after 25 fun and challenging years of “following the money” as a Special Agent with the IRS Criminal Investigation Division. My home is still in the San Francisco Bay Area, with my siblings nearby. Since retiring, I’ve been working and volunteering with animals in shelters, which is really rewarding. I love to travel and have visited the seven continents. Many fond memories of D.A.!



**1977 Virginia Connor**, Chair of the Board of Trustees, **Noreen Doyle, ‘67**, Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees, and **Alexandria Egler, Ph.D, P’10, President** of D.A., had a planning session and get-together before the start of the new school year.



**1982 Kristin Shea** was happy to attend and do a reading at the wedding of her cousin, **Nicole DeFilippi, ‘10**, to George Smith on June 17th in New York City. Kristin’s daughter, **Sophia Pinter**, graduated from D.A. in 2019. Above is a photo of Kristin’s family with the bride and groom.



**1983 Maria C. Hermida** has a new role. In April, 2022, she became the General

Counsel of Accion International, a global nonprofit focused on creating a financially inclusive world.



**1984 Lisa Zaborowski** is celebrating the 20th anniversary of her voiceover company. Although she had been recording VO since the 90s (while working as a radio DJ), she made voice acting her full-time focus in 2003. Since then, Lisa Leonard Voiceworks has been helping companies with their commercials, training, phone systems, and events/awards announcements. Lisa remains grateful to D.A. for giving her opportunities to showcase her speaking skills. She loved making announcements over the school’s public address system, doing readings in church (photo from Junior Ring Ceremony at St. Vincent Ferrer), and narrating at the Glee Club’s holiday performance at the Plaza Hotel. Today, on Dominican Academy’s website, you can hear Lisa take viewers on a virtual tour of the school. Lisa can be reached at Lisa@LisaLeonardVoice.com.

**1985 Arianna Unger Lee** continues to work as a Senior Account Executive at Procter and Gamble. Her children are all embarking on new adventures in the coming months. Her oldest, Ryan, was recently engaged to a young lady he met at Boston College. He also just accepted a new job as VP of Asset Management at J.P. Morgan. Her middle son, Brennan, is about to take a hiatus from his consulting job at Bain Consulting to earn an MBA at Harvard

# Alumnae Notes

Business School. Her youngest Nolan, a rising junior at University of Richmond, will be studying in Madrid this fall.

**Mary McEvoy Hoag** is currently working as a customer success manager for a tech company. Mary lives in Florida around Orlando.

**Patricia Pender** was happy to reconnect with **Sharon Farrell** and **Tori Burnham Andrews** both of whom live on Long Island. Sharon is a lawyer living in Massapequa Park running a compliance division and Tori is in Levittown. Sharon's daughter, **Siobhan Ainsworth '07**, reconnected us after donating to the 2023 Spring Auction.



**Patricia Hillman Pender's** daughter, Siobhan, graduated from Boston College in 2022 and is currently working as an Environmental Consultant in Boston. Her daughter Erin is currently entering her senior year at Boston College and recently spent spring break touring Ireland with the Boston College Chorale Group.

On May 30, a memorial mass was held for **Margaret Crowley** in the D.A. chapel. Those in attendance included Margaret's husband, John, and her children John, Aiden, and Julia; Margaret's sisters: **Kathleen Hayden, '82**, **Bernadette Gina, '81**, Rosie Close and Elizabeth Crowley; classmates: **Arianna Lee, '85**, **Margaret Besheer, '85** and John's aunt, **Dorothy Filoramo, '58**. It was a wonderful tribute to Margaret.



**1986** While at the firm Zubatkin, **Suzanne Musho** led the project for the Richard Gilder Center for Science, Education & Innovation at the American Museum of Natural History for 5 years. During this time, she developed the design and managed the entire project team for the Museum. She also led the redesign of the Hall of Gems and Minerals Project. During the 2023 summer camp at D.A., Suzanne came back to share her artistic talents with the campers by speaking to them about "The Art of Surrealism: Dreams and Actions" and introducing them to the poet, Andre Breton and the artists: Rene Magritte, Salvador Dali, Pablo Picasso, Jackson Pollock and Joan Miro. The summer campers then created their own collages and spoke about them to the class.



**1989** **Loreley Villamide-Herrera** sent in an update: Our family has been busy this spring. My daughter, Sophia, graduated from Our Lady of Mercy Academy (Syosset, NY) and will be attending American University's School of Communications as a Journalism major in the fall. Sophia hopes to play club

soccer at AU and is busy training for tryouts this summer. My son, Gabriel, graduated St. Patrick's School (Huntington, NY) and will be attending Regis High School in the fall. It's a long commute but well worth the opportunity to attend Regis. My husband, Rob, and I are trying to squeeze out as much family time as we can this summer before all of the changes the fall will bring. A few random thoughts: I have to share how strange it is to be walking the halls of Regis as a parent after spending so much time there while I was a student at D.A. I am so grateful I had the opportunity to cross paths again with **Kerry O'Shaughnessy (1989)**—this time as moms. I am fortunate to be able to keep in touch with a small group of DA Class of 1989ers and lucky to have **Keri-Ann DeAngelo (Hart, 1991)** 10 minutes away. Lastly I am beyond grateful for family—my kids and **Ana (Diaz) Mock's** children have grown up together and consider each other cousins.



**1990** It may have taken 35 years, but **Christa Maley** is marrying her high school sweetheart, Craig Feltz. Craig accompanied Christa to her D.A. Junior & Senior Proms and now he will be accompanying her down the aisle. They have proven that "First Love Never Dies."

# Alumnae



**1991** Maria Peros wrote in: My friend and classmate, **Karin Edmondson**, was invited to teach a science class about plants to my class of eight exceptional adolescent students at The Riverview School! Karin taught my students all about plants, their parts, why they are so important to our planet AND we got to hear her succulent make its own music! Sharing this experience with my childhood friend was more special than I can put into words. I am grateful to D.A. for bringing us together 36 years ago.

**1993** Elizabeth Gorayeb is the Executive Director of the Wildenstein Plattner Institute, Inc., a non-profit foundation dedicated to publishing digital art historical archives and artists and catalogues raisonnés. Additionally, she is in private practice as an art advisor and appraiser. Her daughter, Genevieve Mechler, is currently a sophomore at Dominican Academy, class of 2026.

**1994** Christine Carney Conway started a new job as the VP for Finance at Loyola High School in Manhattan in June.



**1996** Dr. Vanessa Valdes is the Associate Provost for Community Engagement at The City College of New York. At the June 8, 2022 graduation, **Carina D’Urso, ‘18**, was recognized as valedictorian of Brooklyn College and **Vanessa, ‘96**, was serving as the Dean of Macaulay Honors College. Carina was a Macaulay Honors student at Brooklyn and today she’s a grad student at Harvard.



**1997** This past April, **Jenna Montemayor** ran a workshop at the annual NYSAIS The Office Conference at Mohonk Mountain House. She was on the planning committee this year, and she will co-chair this coming school year. This work is deeply personal and important to her. She is always looking for opportunities to work with people to better understand the DEIB+ landscape. Below is an excerpt from her presentation: **How to Move Confidently Toward DEI Work — Jenna Montemayor, Assistant to the Head of School (The Browning School)**

“It’s not always clear what role non-teaching staff have in DEI at their schools, but it’s important that we find out how we can help build a better and stronger community for everyone. Using a mix of self-assessment tools, participants will discover their

strengths and areas of growth so that they can feel empowered.”

On June 23, she completed the NYSAIS Justice, Equity and Diversity Institute. The Justice, Equity, and Diversity Institute aims to equip its participants to advance the work of justice, equity, and diversity in schools. It is designed to provide a comprehensive mid-level entry point into all aspects of equity work in independent schools, including specific topics related to identity and oppression, practices in the field, and strategic approaches to the work. The Institute harnesses the synergy of a cohort that explores these topics over a whole academic year, and provides access to participants to the networks available through past cohorts, the NYSAIS community, and the collective of diversity practitioners in the country.



**1999** Meredith Hill Chartier, her husband, Tom, and daughter, Margaux, welcomed Colette Christine on February 1, 2023.



**2002** Yelena Bogdan, MD and her husband Bradley J. Dunn, JD, MBA joyously announce the birth of their first child, Samuel Roman Dunn, born November 5, 2022. Dr. Bogdan was also promoted to Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery

# Notes

at the Albert Einstein School of Medicine in the Bronx, and received the prestigious “Attending of the Year” Teaching Award from the graduating class of Montefiore orthopaedic residents.

**2008** **Angelis Lau** will be graduating from a general surgery residency in June 2024 and starting a plastic surgery residency at Corewell Health in Michigan in August 2024.



**2009** Congratulations to **Kelle Patterson** who purchased her first property in Jersey City in May with her boyfriend of 4 years. In July, she got engaged while visiting her fiance’s home country, Ghana.



**2010** **Nicole DeFilippi** married George Smith on June 17, 2023, at Our Lady of Pompeii Church on Carmine Street followed by a reception at The Grove in New Jersey. Nicole and George both attended Fordham University. Several D.A. alumnae were there including: **Kristin Shea, '82, Sophia Pinter, '19, Madeleine Metzler, '07, Kathryn Hennessy, '08, Chelsea Marcus** (Maid of Honor), **'10, Lauren Femia Sheehy, '10,**

**Krystle Diaz, '10, Nicole Mahig Gelfand, '11, Jennifer Saad, '10, Alexa White Murphy, '10, Danielle Romano, '10, and Britny Auletti, '10.**



Another wedding for the class of 2010! **Alexa White Murphy** was married to her husband Brian Murphy on July 8, 2021. The wedding was postponed 3 times during Covid! Two classmates attended, her bridesmaid, **Nicole DeFilippi**—now **Nicole Smith, Dr. Jennifer Saad**, and family friend **Dr. Leslie Poole Petit P'14, 19, Principal**, Alexa is a nurse at Westchester Medical Center and Brian is a Yonkers Fireman.



**2011** **Nicole Gelfand (Mahig)** and her husband, Mitchell Gelfand, welcomed their son Chase to the world on January 17, 2023.



**2012** **Samantha Costanza** sent in an update: Hey there! Since I graduated 10 years ago, I have earned a BA in Art History from Hunter College and have since pursued a very gratifying career in Sports Broadcasting—a completely different field from art! I work as a freelance host, interviewer, commentator, and ring announcer for combat sports and pro-wrestling, and currently work on TV for Major League Wrestling as a backstage correspondent. I am proud to say that I love the work I do and I am one of the few women blazing a trail in this male-dominated field. Much love to D.A. for providing me with the knowledge, character, & leadership skills that have allowed me to survive and thrive in Sports Media!



**2013** **Isabel Losada** and her husband, Pablo, welcomed their second child, Sofia, on May 24. Her elder sister, Pilar, is adjusting quite well. They are a year and ten days apart.

# Alumnae Notes

**2017** **Casey Barton** presented her S. aureus and bacteriophage research at the ASM Microbe conference in Houston in June of 2023. She is starting a Biomedical Sciences graduate program at the Medical University of South Carolina in August 2023. She got engaged to Scott Staby while skiing in Utah in January 2023.



**2018** In May, **Carina D'Urso** graduated from the Harvard Graduate School of Education with a master's degree in education. This fall, she will begin a fellowship in K-12 museum education at the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art at Cornell University.



**2019** **Kayla Thomsen** provided us with this update: This May I graduated from Loyola University Maryland and received the Whelan Medal, an award to distinguish the highest academic average among my

graduating class. This summer, I will begin pursuing my Doctor of Dental Surgery degree at Columbia University's College of Dental Medicine. Additionally, I received a grant from Alpha Sigma Nu, the Jesuit honor society, who are sponsoring a trip to Spain and Portugal this summer to participate in MAGIS, an international conference for Catholic youth.



**Sally Petit** and **Beyonce King** graduated from Marquette University in the spring of 2023. Both women studied nursing and attended University College Dublin for their semester abroad. They were students together in Dr. Lauren Serpagli's AP Biology class. Beyonce was the recipient of the Natalie Frankowski award in 2019.



**2020** **Sophie Smith** sent in this news: As a student at Duke University and earlier in the academic year, I studied abroad in Sydney, Australia. Alongside my study abroad, I was fortunate enough to travel to several countries, including: Indonesia, Singapore, Fiji, New Zealand, South Africa, Seychelles, Spain, the United Kingdom, Mykonos, and more. Upon my

return, I received High Distinction from the University of New South Wales, as well as Dean's List with Distinction (top 10% of undergraduates) from Duke University.

**2022** **Teresa Anderson** received the Reagan Sloane Shanley (RSS) Scholarship—\$10,000/yr (2022, 2023), with commitment for up to 3 years, for young investigators seeking to advance the practical understanding of hydrocephalus; she was one of two scholarship winners for 2022. Teresa also received the Women In Engineering—\$1,000 WIE scholarship from The George Family Foundation

She was invited to speak on a panel at the annual National Hydrocephalus Conference (August 10–11th 2023) in Princeton, NJ, as a current RSS Scholarship recipient.

As a freshman, she was selected for a position with hands-on medical lab work for academic credit at a Georgia Tech BME lab, located off-campus at the Atlanta Veterans Administration (VA) Medical Center. She worked alongside post-docs, PhD students, and GT Emory researchers as the only undergraduate. The lab is headed by GT BME faculty Dr. Machel Pardue, and her mentor is Dr. Katie Bales. Her main current focus is on researching neuroprotective strategies (such as exercise) in order to slow retinal disease and preserve visual function. Her role involved investigating astrocyte and vascular morphological connections and how they are altered with exercise, in both a light-induced retinal degeneration model as well as a rat model of menopause-induced glaucoma.

Teresa also trained for and ran her first marathon in February as well as two half marathons!



# In Memoriam



## ALUMNAE

- Mary Harrington Ehrhardt, '43
- June Crilley Zalud, '48
- Barbara O'Connor Hofmann, '52
- Patricia Clancy Varley, '53
- Julie Pagnucco Varca, '54
- Elaine Crandall Borelli, '57
- Sally Ann Quinn Callahan, '57
- Margaret Rose Pavin, '60
- Jane Lamanna D'Agostino, '61
- Kathleen Clancy Billings, '62
- Dorothy Tyndall Duckworth, '62
- Peggy Lang Connelly, '63
- Margaret (Meg) Smith, '64
- Angela Marie Philactos, '68
- Dr. Camilla Kari, '68
- Elizabeth Sheehan-Bourke, '76

## FAMILY

- Edward McAnaney, H, '58
- W. Michael Funck, H, '61
- Arthur Xanthos, P'85, '88
- Carol Veracoechea, P, '85, '87
- Margarita Chan Lu, P'08
- Chris Vasilas, P'10



## SAVE THE *Date*

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2023  
GIVING TUESDAY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2023  
YOUNG ALUMNAE WELCOME BACK

TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2024  
ANNUAL AUCTION AND BENEFIT