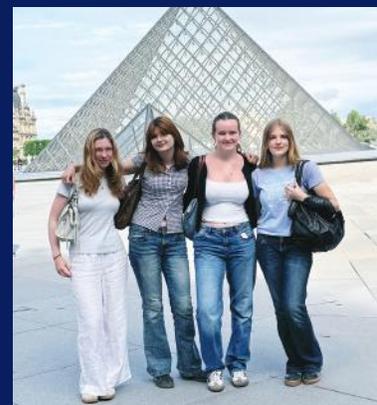


Veritas

FALL 2025

FOR ALUMNAE AND
FRIENDS OF THE
D.A. COMMUNITY



DOMINICAN ACADEMY
Catholic College Preparatory School for Girls



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VERITAS MAGAZINE

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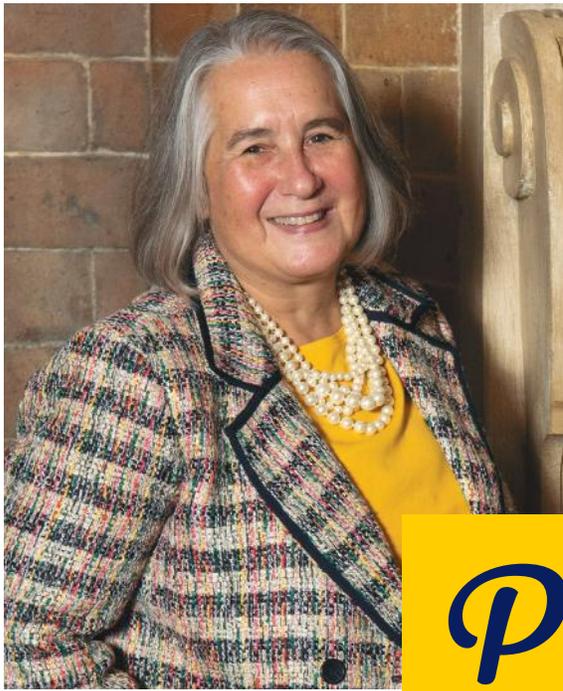
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LETTER FROM THE

President

Dear Parents, Alumnae, and Friends,

At Dominican Academy, we often speak of the transformative power of education. Yet, the true measure of transformation is not found only in the lessons learned in classrooms but in the experiences that shape the heart, mind, and spirit. This issue of *Veritas* reflects just that—the ways in which the lives of our students are changed through education, faith, and community and how they, in turn, change the world around them.

This past summer, I experienced transformation in the form of three pilgrimages. In June, I joined colleagues at the inaugural Dominican Educator Learning Community Academy in Columbus, Ohio. In August, I traveled with Sr. Joan Franks, OP, '59 to visit the Dominican community in Nairobi, Kenya. Between these trips was my time in Rome, which was particularly moving. While I was there, I was able to pray quietly at the tomb of Pope Francis. In that moment of stillness, I was struck by his extraordinary humility and his witness that true leadership begins with service and that everything begins with God. Pilgrimage teaches us to see with new eyes, to walk with humility, and to return home in faith and purpose. These travels were also a powerful reminder that spiritual growth is not about arriving but about being changed along the way.

Our students experience this type of transformative journey at Dominican Academy. Whether through their academic pursuits, athletic commitments, or faith formation, they are invited to see the world differently and to discover their role in shaping it. The members of this year's graduating class, the Class of 2025, have been accepted into some of the nation's most prestigious colleges and universities and earned nearly \$23 million in scholarships and grants. Their achievements testify to the rigor

of a D.A. education but also to the resilience, leadership, and faith that guide them. Many of these qualities are nurtured on the playing fields and courts, where our athletes grow in confidence and spirit, acquiring lessons that they carry into every arena of their lives.

This issue also shares the inspiring stories of the Kathleen Krank Mooney '64 Study Abroad Scholarship, which now funds global immersion programs for two D.A. students annually, and of the WE Dream Fund that was generously created by Emilia Fazzalari P'24 and her husband, Wyc Grousbeck. Rooted in the belief that talent is everywhere but opportunity is not, this fund ensures that future D.A. students will embark on their own transformative journeys, supported by a sisterhood that lifts each girl higher. These acts of significant generosity are living expressions of our mission and remind us that the transformative power of a D.A. education extends across generations.

As you read through these pages, I hope you will be reminded of your own connection to Dominican Academy—how you were changed here and how you continue to be part of the transformation of others. May we walk together, as pilgrims, renewed by faith, inspired by community, and committed to the mission that unites us.

Peace and all good,

Alexandria M. Egler, Ph.D.

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



CLASS OF '25

Graduates

THE MEMBERS OF D.A.'S CLASS OF 2025 COMMITTED TO ATTEND THE FOLLOWING COLLEGES. NEARLY \$23 MILLION IN MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS HAVE BEEN AWARDED TO THE GRADUATES OF THE CLASS OF 2025.

American University
 Binghamton University
 Boston College
 Boston University
 Bucknell University
 Chapman University
 Colgate University
 College of the Holy Cross *
 Columbia University
 Cornell University
 Duke University
 Fairfield University *
 Georgetown University *
 Hamilton College
 Indiana University
 Iona University *

Lafayette College
 Loyola University Maryland
 McGill University *
 New York University *
 Northeastern University *
 Pace University
 Pennsylvania State University *
 Quinnipiac University
 Rutgers University *
 Skidmore College
 Smith College
 SUNY Oswego
 The College of William and Mary
 The Ohio State University
 Trinity College
 University of California Davis

University of Connecticut
 University of Florida *
 University of Maryland
 University of Massachusetts Amherst *
 University of Notre Dame *
 University of Richmond
 University of South Carolina *
 University of St Andrews
 University of Wisconsin
 Vanderbilt University
 Villanova University *
 Wake Forest University
 Wesleyan University

**Indicates multiple students attending*



NICOLE L.
VALEDICTORIAN



ANNIE M.
SALUTATORIAN,
MOTHER STEPHANIE
AWARD FOR CHARACTER
AND LEADERSHIP



EMILIANNA G.
ALL DOMINICAN GIRL
AWARD FOR INTEGRITY AND
CHARACTER



IVELISSE R.
DEIB AWARD FOR EQUITY,
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION



SIMONA F.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SERVICE AWARD



EILEEN W.
SCHOLAR ATHLETE AWARD

Congrats!

THE D.A. CLASS OF 2025 INCLUDED ONE NATIONAL MERIT SEMI-FINALIST AND SIX COMMENDED STUDENTS.



Year In Review

Alumnae Rooftop Reconnection

We had a beautiful cool evening for this year's Rooftop Reception, held on September 20, 2024. We welcomed back over 60 alumnae, ranging in class years from 1958–2020. Alumnae had the chance to bid on silent auction items and a 50–50 raffle while reconnecting with classmates, making new connections, and meeting Dominic the Tiger. As always, our student ambassadors were ready to give tours and share the latest D.A. happenings!





Non-Profit Networking Night With Fordham Prep

On November 25, 2024, D.A. hosted the first collaboration with Fordham Prep in our Non-Profit Networking Night, which featured a panel discussion with two of our D.A. alumnae and two alumni from Fordham Prep. The panel consisted of D.A. alumnae Vanessa Pino Lockel, '94, and Katie Hennessy, '08, along with Fordham Prep alumnus John Haley, FP '87, and moderator Charron Darris, FP '94, executive director of the Reading Team. The panelists came from diverse backgrounds in health, education, and environmental fields and shared insights on how to find one's niche in the non-profit sector, leverage transferable skills, and how to remain current with a rapidly changing world and emerging technologies. Fordham Prep's President Mr. Anthony Day joined Dr. Egler in welcoming guests from both schools.



Riverhead Alumnae Reception

Danielle and Rocco Papandrea, parents of Isabella '26, hosted a lovely alumnae brunch on September 28, 2024, at the Vineyards Country Club in Riverhead, Long Island. Dr. Egler greeted a dozen alumnae from 1957–1994 from the greater Long Island Region.



Father-Daughter Dance

D.A.'s Father-Daughter Dance took place on November 2, 2024, at The View at Battery Park. It was a night complete with dinner, dancing, and raffles. The event is an annual tradition that celebrates the bonds that our students share with the father figures in their lives.



Young Alumnae Welcome Back

On the Friday before Christmas Break, we warmly welcomed 50 of our incredible young alumnae from the classes of 2021–2024 for our annual Young Alumnae Reception! The festive morning was filled with holiday cheer, as our alumnae enjoyed breakfast and a beautiful Christmas concert from our Glee Club and Senior Ensemble while reconnecting with their beloved teachers. Thank you to all who joined us—it was heartwarming to see our recent graduates back home at D.A. We can't wait to welcome our new alumnae back to D.A. next December!



Career Day

We offer a heartfelt thank you to the incredible Dominican Academy alumnae who joined us for Career Day on February 6, 2025! This year, graduates spanning more than 25 years shared insights, advice, and personal stories in panel discussions, small group sessions, and resume critiques, which made a lasting impact on our juniors who are beginning to envision their own futures. The generosity of these graduates in sharing their time and experiences truly embodies the D.A. spirit, inspiring the next generation of leaders, innovators, and changemakers. The saying remains: you can always come back home!



Junior Ring Day

The Class of 2026 received their junior rings, a cherished symbol of their journey at D.A., on February 28. This year's ceremony was even more special, as seven juniors were joined by their alumnae mothers, and we even had several alum sisters return, continuing a legacy of faith and sisterhood.

Noreen W., '26, was presented with the Natalie Frankowski, '14 Award, honoring the faith, humility, and scholarship that Natalie embodied. Ms. Weil shared how teachers wrote about the kindness, school spirit, and strength in her faith, that Noreen demonstrated noting how she even served as the chaplain on the school bus for team softball games. In closing, Ms. Weil said, "It is clear that you were meant to have this award, as you have an impact on everyone you come into contact with, just as Natalie did."





U.N. Conference

In the third week of March, Dominican Academy students had the incredible opportunity to attend the 49th Annual International UNIS-UN Conference, which was hosted by the United Nations International School. Held in the iconic General Assembly Hall at the U.N., this three-day conference explored “Beyond the Algorithm: Navigating the Future of Artificial Intelligence.” Through thought-provoking discussions and debates, students engaged with global experts on the profound impact of AI across critical areas including education, cybersecurity, employment, conflict, the arts, health, misinformation, sustainability, sports, and more. Those who attended the conference examined both the transformative power of AI, which continues to shape our world, and the ethical challenges of responsible innovation. Attending this prestigious event gave our students a unique chance to broaden their global perspective, develop critical thinking skills, and contribute to meaningful conversations about the future.



St. Patrick's Day

For the third consecutive year, the Dominican Academy community hit the streets of NYC and marched proudly in the St. Patrick's Day Parade! With cheers from the crowd and Irish spirit in the air, it was a day bursting with joy, unity, and a whole lot of green.

But the fun didn't stop there—back at D.A., the celebration kept rolling with music, dancing, and shamrock-filled cheer! Students, faculty, staff, and families wowed us with performances, and we all dug into a delicious Irish feast of corned beef, cabbage, and soda bread. It was the perfect mix of laughter, good vibes, and unforgettable memories. Sláinte!



Student AI/Stem Research Published

Anusuiya B., '26, recently conducted a 16-month study on using artificial intelligence to diagnose tuberculosis and was mentored by an Oxford scholar. Her research, published in *The Journal of Emerging Investigators*, involved the development of deep-learning models for analyzing pulmonary X-rays to improve diagnoses. Inspired by a family friend's illness, she highlighted the need for more accessible tuberculosis datasets.

Anusuiya hopes to continue studying AI and medicine, with a focus on public health and healthcare accessibility, while being supported by D.A.'s strong STEM program.



D.A.'s Production of *Little Women*

On the first weekend in April, our talented students brought Louisa May Alcott's timeless story to life, depicting the strength, ambition, and sisterhood of the March family on the D.A. stage for Dominican Academy's production of *Little Women*. A story of love, resilience, and the pursuit of dreams, *Little Women* has inspired generations with its heartfelt themes of independence and perseverance.



Dominican Educator Learning Community

In June, educators from across the country gathered in Columbus, Ohio, for the inaugural Dominican Educator Learning Community (DELIC) Academy, hosted by Dominican Veritas Ministries. Over several days of prayer, learning, and shared meals, participants deepened their connection to one another and strengthened their commitment to the Dominican mission.

Keynote speakers Dr. Donna Carroll and Sr. Pat Twohill, OP, offered faith-filled insights for carrying the Dominican legacy forward. The event also marked the launch of the DELIC Platform, a new collaborative space for educators across Dominican ministries to share resources, foster learning, and advance the shared charism.



A.P. Macroeconomics Field Study

Students in Dominican Academy's A.P. Macroeconomics class were given an inside look at the heart of global finance with a visit to Bloomberg headquarters this spring! Organized by economics instructor Dr. AnitaRose Dziwura, the trip offered an incredible opportunity to explore corporate operations, learn about the creation and impact of the Bloomberg Terminal, and see how it's used to power financial markets worldwide. Students received a firsthand look at Bloomberg's global operations, explored the newsroom floors where real-time financial news is reported, and gained insights into how Bloomberg analyzes and interprets the financial markets. It was an inspiring day of learning outside the classroom here in NYC—connecting economic theory with the fast-paced world of global finance. The highlight of the day was meeting Charlie Pellet—legendary Bloomberg broadcaster and the iconic voice of the NYC Subway!



2025 Spring Auction & Benefit

On Thursday, April 10, 2025, Dominican Academy celebrated the Annual Spring Auction & Benefit at the New York Athletic Club in Manhattan. This year, we once again had a lively auction led by auctioneer Jamie McDonald, with exciting live prizes and dozens of silent auction items. We were delighted to honor our STEM Department's achievements and see some of the incredible work that is being done in our classrooms.

Our student ambassadors were vibrant examples of the reasons we come together. We surpassed our expectations and raised more than \$280,000 in support of our students. This year alone, over 50% of our students received financial aid, and every dollar raised helps ensure that a D.A. education remains within reach for all who earn their place here. Thank you to our community of alumnae, parents, faculty, staff and friends—those with us that night and those who joined us in spirit—who helped make it a fantastic event.





Mother-Daughter Luncheon

On May 4th, 2025, we celebrated the Mother-Daughter Luncheon in style at Tao Downtown. The afternoon was packed with love, laughter, and nonstop fun—from delicious bites and dazzling raffles to dancing that kept everyone on their feet. It was an afternoon full of joy, sparkle, and unforgettable memories shared between moms, daughters, and all of the motherly figures in our lives.



Honoring Faculty And Staff

During our end-of-year staff luncheon, Dr. Egler and Dr. Petit honored our faculty and staff who have been at D.A. for 20 years or more. Sr. Joan Franks, OP, '59; Dr. Lauren Serpagli; Ms. Josephine Belcastro; Ms. Mary Somboonchoke; Ms. Rita Salfeld; Ms. Elisa Weil, '81; Ms. Maria Bruno, P'00; Ms. Pia Gliatta (not pictured); and Ms. Gwyneth Mooney (not pictured)—thank you for all your years of service and dedication to D.A.!



College Tour

Right after classes ended, 27 D.A. students—19 rising seniors and 8 rising juniors—hit the road for our annual D.A. College Tour! Over four days, they visited a range of exceptional New England schools, exploring campuses, asking great questions, and envisioning their futures.

Stops included Fairfield University, Quinnipiac University, Albertus Magnus College (a Dominican institution!), Providence College, Babson College, College of the Holy Cross, Boston College, Boston University, Northeastern University, and University of Connecticut.

This trip is a D.A. tradition that gives students a firsthand look at college life—and helps them make thoughtful, informed decisions about what's next. Here's to the Class of 2026 and 2027—we're so proud of the way you're dreaming big and planning boldly!



Alumnae Reunion—October 2024

On October 26, 2024, Dominican Academy was thrilled to welcome back over 150 alumnae for the Class Reunion for the years ending in "4" and "9." The event started with a mass at D.A. presided over by Father Joseph Allen, O.P. Graduates from 1954 to 2019 enjoyed time catching up with old friends, looking through their yearbooks, taking tours of the school, picking up some D.A. gear, and making future plans to stay reconnected.





D.A.'s swim team was among many others that have transformed in recent years. Pictured are members of the 2024–25 team with Dr. Petit, D.A. principal.

Dominican Academy Athletics:

The Tigers are Roaring

By Mike Benigno

It wasn't long ago that sports at Dominican Academy were an afterthought. Athletic programs were small and largely informal. Teams were coached by parents stepping up to help, and a few girls joined club teams outside school, but D.A. wasn't known for competitive athletics—in fact, the school competed in a charter school league. Sports at D.A., while well intentioned simply weren't a priority.

That story has changed.

In just a few short years, D.A. athletics has undergone a structural and cultural transformation. Every team now has a dedicated coach, and tryouts are mandatory. Practices are consistent, and teams compete in the Catholic High School Athletic Association (CHSAA), one of the most competitive leagues in New York. And most importantly, D.A. athletes are winning—city championships, division titles, recognition at the state level, and for the first time, scholarships to elite Division 1 universities.

“Every sport has moved up a tier,” said the school’s athletic director, Annie Sullivan, P ’20. “In every single program, we’ve seen growth in competitiveness, discipline, and spirit. The change has been gradual but deeply intentional.”

From Club to Commitment

The transformation began when the school made a bold commitment: to transform sports at Dominican Academy from an extracurricular activity to a core part of what it means to educate the whole person.

One of the first steps was to phase out volunteer coaching. “Parent coaches often gave everything they could and did so much with so little,” Sullivan said. “But to build something sustainable, we needed to create a system with clear expectations, medical protocols, professional oversight, and structure.”

Tryouts were implemented, and practice schedules became routine. Sports were no longer something students attended week-to-week if they had time—they became an integrated part of the student experience. And slowly, D.A. started to become known not just for its academic excellence but for its rising athletics.



Olivia Chin, '25, will continue her tennis career at Smith College this fall, following an incredible undefeated run at D.A. She also served as a 2024 U.S. Open ballgirl, an honor reserved for a select few.



Emilianna Gonzalez, '25, winner of both the Millie Tavaras Outstanding Swimmer Award and the Career Swimmer Award, will swim on the Division I team at Rutgers this fall.



Defying the Odds

Facilities, however, remained a challenge. D.A. has no gym of its own; practices and games require creative coordination with external venues, often involving travel across the city.

Basketball and volleyball practice occurs at a rented gym at the nearby St. John Nepomucene Church. Tennis is played at West Side Tennis Club in Forest Hills or at Queens College. Swimming takes place at Leman Preparatory School downtown. The soccer and softball teams negotiate with NYC Parks for field space on Randall's Island, DeWitt Clinton Park, and elsewhere. Each practice and game is a commitment.

"Given our constraints, what our girls have accomplished is extraordinary," Sullivan said. "Many teams only practice twice a week, yet they compete against schools with full-time facilities and JV programs that feed into varsity squads. We often have freshmen competing at the varsity level against seniors who've played for years."

And still, D.A. teams have risen.

Breakout Years for Tennis and Soccer

In the past two years, two programs in particular made history: tennis and soccer.

Tennis began just a few years ago with a portable net and an empty indoor gym. Eventually, participants transitioned to private

courts through a parent connection, and what started as an intramural team grew more serious when it became clear that D.A. had real talent.

"We had some girls who were just incredible players," said Sullivan. Among them was Olivia Chin, '25, who joined the team as a sophomore. This year, Olivia ended her high school tennis career undefeated—not losing a single match across three years, including the city championship and the state tournament.

The 2023-24 season marked the team's first as a varsity sport. Not only did they dominate their regular season, but they also clinched the city title and advanced to the state finals under the lights at the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center. Olivia won her singles match, and the team finished as first runners-up—a stunning achievement for a debut varsity program.

"These girls were commuting hours to get to matches on Staten Island and back," Sullivan said. "They were so dedicated. And it changed how those 12 girls experienced high school. They weren't just teammates. They were a family."

Soccer has also triumphed. Once relegated to Tier 3 in the CHSAA, D.A. steadily climbed to Tier 1. During the 2023 season, the team won the city championship and advanced onward to the state championship.

On the afternoon of the state championship game, 30 D.A. students who were part of the Spirit Team filled a rented bus to travel to Aviator Sports Complex near the Rockaways. Faces were painted blue and white, but as the bus weaved through traffic on



Five members of D.A.'s Class of 2025 will continue their athletic careers in college. Pictured above are Olivia Chin, Caroline Iversen, Emilanna Gonzalez, and Claire Story. Alexandra O'Brien, pictured on opposite page, played on Newark's Ironbound Hockey Club AAA travel team and will take to the ice at SUNY Oswego.

Brooklyn streets, it became apparent that they would arrive well after the start of the game.

When the group neared the field, they exited the bus, ran to the field mid-game, and were met with a spectator section supporting the opposing team, cowbells ringing from the stands. The girls screamed to let the D.A. team know they had arrived, cheering and singing the alma mater with full voices—and D.A. won.

“You could feel the energy shift,” Sullivan said. “It wasn’t just a soccer team out there. It was the entire school, and the girls felt it. That kind of spirit changes the trajectory of a game.”

A Culture of Spirit and Faith

D.A. has also invested in the culture surrounding athletics. Students of all years participate on the Spirit Team, rallying to cheer on athletes and create community in the building and alongside games. Every team celebrates a Senior Night, and Dominic the Tiger, the school’s costumed mascot, makes frequent appearances at games, awards ceremonies, and Open House. A sports managers program gives students the opportunity to participate in athletics and hone their time management and organizational skills while becoming experts in the rules and regulations of a particular sport.

Through it all, faith is central. Teams pray before games, and student athletes lead reflections and prayers. There’s even a bus chaplain assigned to pray for safety and success each time the vehicle departs 68th Street.

“Faith and spirituality aren’t boxed off at D.A.,” Sullivan said. “We want our girls to see that God belongs in every part of their lives, including sports. These four years matter for these girls, as far as sports go, and within that, it should matter that God is there, too.”

On to the Next Level

This new era of D.A. athletics has opened doors for graduates. This year alone, five D.A. graduates proceeded to compete at the collegiate level, including Olivia, who will play tennis at Smith College while double majoring in classics and economics.

Emilanna Gonzalez, '25, broke an 11-year CHSAA 50-yard freestyle league record and then broke it again with a time of 23.43. She proceeded to set a new record for 100-yard freestyle and won both the Millie Tavaras Outstanding Swimmer Award and the Career Swimmer Award, which came after she was unanimously elected by league coaches. This fall, Emilanna will swim on the Division I team at Rutgers, where she will study computer science.

Claire Story, '25, co-captain of D.A.'s track team, crushed several D.A. track records and was the first track star in the school's history to win the 3,000 meter race at the CHSAA New York/Brooklyn Varsity Sectionals. Claire qualified for the New York State Federation Championship and signed to run with the Division I Raiders track team at Colgate University where she will study neuroscience.

Fellow co-captain Caroline Iversen, '25, broke many of her own personal best records while running for D.A. and qualified for the New York State Federation Championship for both track and cross country. At the Manhattan Invitational, the largest single-day high school cross country meet in the nation, Caroline medaled in the 2.5 mile race. She signed to run on the track team for Hamilton College.

And in early March, Alexandra O'Brien, who has played on Newark's Ironbound Hockey Club AAA travel team, committed at SUNY Oswego while studying communications. Earlier in her career, Alex was the only female player to compete in the USA Hockey Youth Tier II 14U National Championship Championship. More recently, she scored an overtime game-winning goal for the Ironbound Elite during the National Girls Hockey League semi-finals.



Claire Story was D.A.'s first track star in school history to win the 3,000 meter race at the CHSAA New York/Brooklyn Varsity Sectionals.

This marks the first time in D.A. history that students who trained and competed at the school have earned multiple athletic scholarships, particularly at the D1 level. However, beyond wins and scholarships, the real story of D.A. athletics is what it fosters: grit, leadership, time management, and resilience.

"I feel incredibly fortunate to be part of a school community that not only supports me in being my authentic self but also challenges me to strive for my best. At D.A., I've learned that growth and learning have no limits, and I am constantly encouraged to push beyond boundaries I once thought existed," Chin said.

"We talk a lot about mental health, and we should," said Sullivan. "But getting girls physically active, involved, showing up for something bigger than themselves—that changes them and supports well-being. It prepares them for leadership in life."

And, in a small school like D.A., that impact is multiplied. Most teams don't have the numbers or budget for JV programs, so freshmen often jump straight into varsity roles.

"At D.A., you're not just a freshman or a senior. You're a teammate. And that makes all the difference," Sullivan said.

A Program With Purpose

On the third floor of D.A.'s library, there's a framed photo with words that call D.A. athletes to find even greater significance in their endeavors: "Be it known to all who enter here that Christ is the reason for this school. He is the unseen but ever present teacher. . . He is the model of its faculty and the inspiration of its students."

That message comes to life every time a Tiger steps onto the court, field, or track. In striving for excellence, showing discipline, and competing with integrity, D.A. athletes embody the values at the heart of the school's mission. They play with the understanding that skill is a gift to be honed, competition is an opportunity to grow, and teamwork is a way to reflect a loving and supportive presence to one another.

The gym may be borrowed, and the fields may be rented. But the heart belongs entirely to Dominican Academy.



Dominican Academy athletic accomplishments in recent years:

VOLLEYBALL

2023 CHSAANY Varsity Champions

SOCCER

2024 Dominican Cup Champions

2023 State A Champions

2023 CHSAANY Varsity Champions

2022 Dominican Cup Champions

BASKETBALL

2022–2023 CHSAANY Varsity Champions

2022 City Finalist

TRACK/CROSS COUNTRY

2023 NYCHSAA Sophomore Girls Champions

2023 New York State Federation Championship Outdoor Track—Two Qualifying Runners

2024 New York State Federation Championship Cross Country—Team Qualification

SOFTBALL

2023 CHSAANY Varsity Champions

SWIM

2022: Coach Kristin Karabees wins Vinny Harkin Coach of the Year Award.

2024: Emilianna Gonzalez, '25, breaks the 50-free CHSAA record that had been held 11 years at "A" Championships and wins the Millie Travers Outstanding Swimmer Award.

2025: Emilianna Gonzalez, '25, breaks both the 50- and 100-free CHSAA record at "A" Championships; wins Millie Travers Outstanding Swimmer Award for second year in a row; and wins Career Swimmer Award.

TENNIS

2024 CHSAANY Varsity Champions

2024 New York State Finalist



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- » Opportunities for young alumnae
- » Career and college advice
- » Update your information with D.A.

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Please contact the Development Office at **212.744.0195** or development@dominicanacademy.org





Alumnae Spotlight

Three Generations

of Faith, Family, and Friendship

Kristin Shea, '82, stands out among the many graduates of Dominican Academy who have experienced D.A. as more than a school—for her, it's a second home, a place that's given her a community of women she's loved since the day she stepped through its doors. Her journey began with a mother's wisdom: Kristin's mom, Vilma DeFilippi Shea, '56, insisted on D.A. for her daughter, knowing firsthand the strength of its academic and spiritual formation. Kristin, initially reluctant, quickly realized that D.A. was exactly where she belonged.

That decision began a multi-generational legacy of Dominican Academy women. Kristin's daughter Sophia graduated in 2019, and her cousin Nicole DeFilippi, '10, now serves as a D.A. board member. "Three generations of D.A. women started with my grandmother, who wanted something better for her daughter," Kristin said. "My mother was the first woman in our family to go to college, before becoming a teacher and getting married."

Kristin's experience at D.A. embodies many of the school's lasting strengths that still define student life today. "We didn't have crazy cliques. We were all friends. Despite the academic rigor, everyone wanted everyone to succeed. There's no other school like this in the city."

Her connection to the school has only deepened with time. A longtime trustee, 2020 Gala honoree, and past D.A. Parents' Association (D.A.P.A.) president, Kristin has helped guide the school through presidential transitions, capital campaigns, and strategic planning.

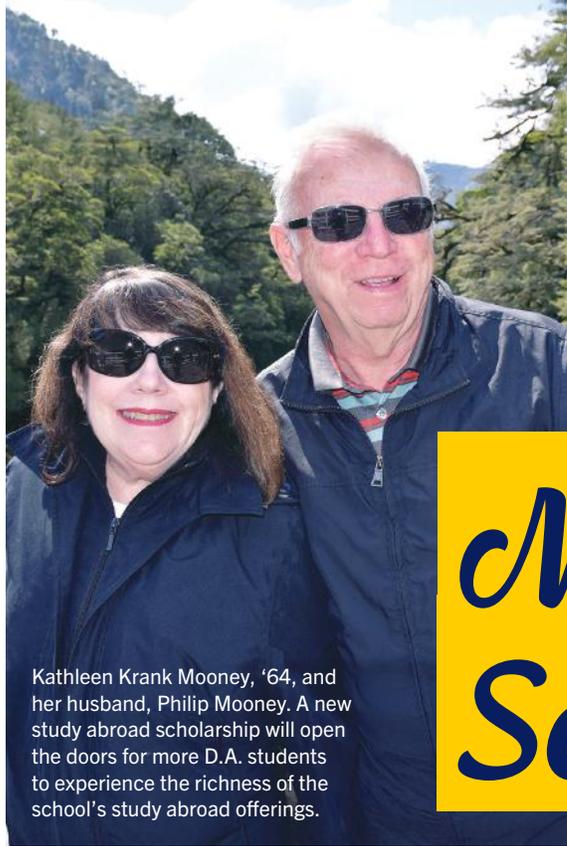
"Being on the board strengthened my faith," she says. "It gave me a deeper understanding of the Dominican Sisters—their wisdom, compassion, and joy. They had the foresight to educate young women, even when that wasn't popular, and they did it as part of their mission, not just to teach the Gospel but to live it."

Kristin speaks with conviction about the school's mission. "D.A. is, first and foremost, a Catholic all-girls school. That setting is essential, and it gives girls a space to be seen, to be heard, to build confidence." Reflecting on her daughter's time at D.A., she adds, "I asked her just yesterday what it meant to her, and she said exactly what I felt 40 years ago: the small size, the friendships, the support—it's still the same."

That enduring sisterhood was on full display last year, when Kristin and a close-knit group of classmates gathered for a rooftop birthday celebration. "We're 60 now, and we met when we were 14. These women live near and far, and we all have different occupations, but we've stayed close. They are the sisters I never had."



Above, Kristin, Shea '82, along with fellow graduates and their partners, celebrated the D.A. sisterhood and their milestone birthdays with a gathering on the D.A. rooftop.
Right, Kristin with her daughter, Sophia, '19 and cousin, Nicole DeFilippi, '10, at Nicole's wedding. Opposite, Kristin, a longtime trustee, at the 2025 Spring Auction & Benefit.



Kathleen Krank Mooney, '64, and her husband, Philip Mooney. A new study abroad scholarship will open the doors for more D.A. students to experience the richness of the school's study abroad offerings.

Legacy of Gratitude

New Endowed Scholarship

Honoring Kathleen Krank Mooney, '64, for "Opening the World" to D.A. Students

This summer, Dominican Academy launched a new chapter in global learning thanks to the generosity of Philip Mooney and the late Kathleen Krank Mooney, '64. The newly established *Kathleen Krank Mooney '64 Study Abroad Scholarship* endowment ensures that deserving students can take part in transformative global immersion programs—an opportunity that reflects both the love of travel that Kathleen had and her deep belief in the power of women's education.

"The idea of a study abroad scholarship touched me and our two grown children because Kathy and I loved to travel," said Philip. "We believed deeply in the importance of students seeing other cultures, learning how people in different countries live and think. That kind of exposure changes you—it expands your world."

In June, the first two recipients of the scholarship traveled to Madrid, Spain, for a two-week cultural and language immersion experience. While living with host families from Colegio Nuestra Señora Del Recuerdo, a Jesuit school with which D.A. has partnered, they toured the Royal Palaces, marveled at the surrealist masterpieces of Salvador Dalí, took day trips to historic cities like Toledo, and spent free afternoons exploring the streets of Madrid. The program offered a rare balance—structured cultural and academic exchange alongside the independence to discover a new country on their own terms.

The endowment, created in 2024 after Kathleen's passing in late 2023, is the third major gift made by the Mooneys in support of Dominican Academy. The couple previously established the *Rita and James Krank Memorial Scholarship in 2017* in honor of Kathleen's parents. The Mooneys also created an endowed gift to support D.A.'s language department as part of the school's 125th anniversary celebration.

Kathy and Philip initially reconnected with D.A. after a serendipitous travel-related visit to the school about a decade ago. "We were on a cruise that ended in New York, and Kathy decided to stop by her old school," Philip recalled. "It wasn't planned, but someone let us in, and we spoke with a student who shared her perspective. It reminded us why D.A. mattered so much—and inspired us to give back."

Kathleen's passion for advancing women's education was lifelong. After receiving a scholarship herself and graduating from Dominican Academy, she proceeded to attend Notre Dame College (now part of St. John's University) and later worked as a career counselor at Bryn Mawr College, and at Agnes Scott College, both notable schools for women. When she became the director of her own consulting business, she continued to believe fiercely in institutions that champion young women's intellectual and personal growth—a commitment now honored in her name in perpetuity.

Today, Dominican Academy offers three global exchange programs in partnership with prestigious Jesuit schools in Madrid, Paris, and China. With the support of the Kathleen Krank Mooney '64 Study Abroad Scholarship, more students will have the chance to experience the richness of these programs, returning not only with better language skills but with broader worldviews, deeper independence, and memories that last a lifetime.

"This is a tribute to Kathy," Philip said. "And to the school that helped shape her."





Dominican Academy students studying Mandarin, French, and Spanish have the chance to study abroad through exchange programs with Jesuit schools in Nanjing, Paris, and Madrid. The school also offers a group travel opportunity to Greece.

“ We believed deeply in the importance of students seeing other cultures, learning how people in different countries live and think. That kind of exposure changes you—it expands your world. ”
— Philip Mooney



Emilia Fazzalari, P '24, and daughter, Francesca G., '24, met with D.A.'s first WE Dream scholarship recipient, Isabella T., '29, and her family.

The WE Dream Fund

Empowers Through Education



By Mike Benigno

When Emilia Fazzalari, P '24, reflects on her own journey—as a daughter of Italian immigrants, and the only girl in a family where education was seen as out of reach—she doesn't speak of limitation but of fire.

"I heard 'no' a lot growing up," she recalls. "'No, that's not for girls. No, stay close to home, and don't go away to college.' These limits, coming from love and caution, inspired my work ethic by lighting a fire within me."

This fire led Emilia to become a successful entrepreneur, a devoted mother, and now a passionate philanthropist. Emilia and her husband, Wyc Grousbeck, fellow entrepreneur and co-owner and CEO of the Boston Celtics, are currently building something deeply personal and profoundly impactful: the WE Dream Fund. The WE Dream Fund is a scholarship initiative dedicated to empowering young women through education.

This fall, Dominican Academy will welcome its first-ever recipient of the WE Dream Scholarship: Isabella, a student whose full potential can now be realized. But this is just the beginning. Each year going forward, the fund will provide a full, four-year scholarship to a new incoming student. Eventually, there will be one WE Dream scholar in every grade, each benefiting from the life-changing education in which Emilia passionately believes.

Building Bridges, Opening Doors

The WE Dream Fund was born of a simple but powerful idea: that talent is everywhere, but opportunity is not.

For Emilia, who saw her own trajectory altered by access to education, it's about more than just covering tuition. "It's about opening doors, building confidence, and creating a network of support," she explains.

Though its roots are personal, the initiative is expansive. Since its founding, WE Dream has launched scholarship partnerships with prestigious institutions in Italy, including Bocconi University and LUISS University, focusing on young women from the hometown of Emilia's family in Calabria. In the United States, the fund now supports students at Dominican Academy and Xavier High School—alma maters of Emilia's children—and will soon extend to Messina College at Boston College, a program designed for first-generation and underrepresented students.

Each of these institutions, Emilia notes, shares a core commitment: "They don't just educate—they empower."

That alignment is especially clear at Dominican Academy, a school with a long legacy for helping bright, motivated students from all walks of life reach their fullest potential. More than 50% of today's student body receives substantial merit scholarships and financial aid, reflecting the deeply rooted commitment to accessibility maintained by the school and the generosity of its

donors. The results speak for themselves: all of D.A.'s graduating seniors are accepted into four-year colleges and universities, including the nation's most selective schools, and the Class of 2025 earned more than \$23 million in scholarships and grants.

"In partnering with Dominican Academy, the WE Dream Fund isn't just investing in individuals—it's joining forces with a school that has made educational transformation its mission," said D.A. President Alexandria M. Egler, Ph.D., P'10.

D.A.'s First WE Dream Scholarship Recipient

When Emilia envisioned the ideal recipient of the WE Dream Scholarship, she wasn't thinking of a specific resume or test score. She was thinking of someone with "curiosity, grit, and dreams bigger than her circumstances."

The selection process, she adds, is intentional and empowering. Partner schools themselves identify candidates who embody this spirit—students with strong academic promise, financial need, and the spark of a drive that can be nurtured into something life-changing.

"She may be the first in her family to go to college," Emilia says. "She may dream of becoming a doctor, an engineer, or an entrepreneur—or maybe she's still figuring it out. But what she knows is that a great education is the beginning of something bigger."

Isabella T., '29, the first Dominican Academy scholar, visited D.A. for the first time while in the seventh grade at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Catholic Academy in Forest Hills, Queens. A student-athlete and member of the debate team, Isabella was twice recognized for academic excellence. She comes to D.A. ready to jump into extracurricular activities and experience the personal growth that the school is well known for instilling in its students.

More Than a Scholarship: A Sisterhood

From the start, Emilia and Wyc's commitment has been more than financial—it's familial. Meeting Isabella this spring was "deeply personal," Emilia says. The family plans to remain closely involved with each recipient throughout her time at the school: celebrating milestones, offering mentorship, and ensuring that no one walks this path alone.

"This is a long-term commitment," she emphasizes. "I want the WE Dream Scholarship to be more than a source of funding—I want it to feel like someone saw your potential, gave you a shot, and stayed in your corner."

Ultimately, Emilia hopes the fund becomes a generational sisterhood: a ripple effect where today's scholars become tomorrow's mentors, and each girl lifts up the next.

This ripple begins at home.

Emilia's daughter Francesca, of Dominican Academy's Class of 2024, knows the power of the school's mission firsthand. "My time at D.A. was defined by a deep appreciation for academic rigor and intellectual growth," Francesca said.

The WE Dream Fund aims to cultivate a similar commitment to excellence and growth in its scholars, and Francesca's close relationship with the initiative adds another dimension of authenticity—one that bridges the gap between a dream and a reality. She brings a perspective that's "real and relatable," Emilia notes, and is poised to play an increasing role as a giving advisor and mentor. "She's someone the scholars can talk to, lean on, and grow with."



Francesca G., '24, (center) with friends and fellow D.A. graduates. Knowing firsthand the impact of Dominican Academy's mission, Francesca will serve as a mentor to scholarship recipients while also working with the WE Dream Fund as a giving advisor.

Pairing Potential with Possibility

The WE Dream Fund will pair potential with possibility at Dominican Academy. Driven by the unshakable belief that one girl's education can change everything, Emilia hopes that success won't just be measured by awards or accolades but by self-realization.

"If our scholars walk out of school with a stronger sense of who they are and what they're here to do, that's success," Emilia says. Whether their future lies in medicine, the arts, business, or advocacy, the goal is to give them tools—and belief—to carve out their own paths.

In Emilia's words, "If people look at this and say, 'This is what made the difference,' then we've done what we came to do."

“ In partnering with Dominican Academy, the WE Dream Fund isn't just investing in individuals—it's joining forces with a school that has made educational transformation its mission. ”

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

Alumnae

1956

The daughter of **Dorothy Enold Worfolk** sent the following sad news: My mother passed on May 24, 2025, at the age of 87. She loved her time at D.A., and we heard many stories about the school. She was predeceased by her husband of 64 years, Barry Worfolk, and survived by three children, four grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. She is missed greatly.



1958

Jo Ann Liberali Cardone shared the following: This year marked my grandson Kahler's graduation from Golden High School. He will be attending the engineering school at Montana State University.

I recently spent three weeks in Tuscany and Umbria, staying in and touring in beautiful small towns. The last days were spent in Rome. I was there for Easter and the death of Pope Francis. Heading off to the French and Italian rivieras, Corsica and Elba, and on to Rome. I hope I don't melt! September in the Faroe Islands; Copenhagen; Kiel Canal; Bruges; Antwerp; the beaches of Dunkirk, Omaha, and Normandy; Paris; and London. Good Lord willing, Oman, Dubai, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, and Singapore in January. Returning in February to a second knee replacement.

Fun! In the meantime, I have a very serious brace that keeps me going. Happy Travels. Since I purchased a new car, I had to get new plates. I was blown away by the last letter and numbers: C58. That could be Cardone 58 or, more to my liking, Class of 58.



At the Spanish Steps last April.



Pictured: Laurette Leddy, Maureen Brokaw, Susan O'Shea, Dorothy Filoramo, Jeanne McAnaney, Beth Dougherty

Jeanne McAnaney Guliver? Who's that? Compared to our own Energizer Traveler, **Jo Ann Cardone**, he is a rank amateur. Jo Ann has already made plans for a trip in 2027! That's after what she has on her

agenda in the coming months. I spent Easter in Naples, Florida, with my daughter and two granddaughters, an ideal experience where I was expected to do nothing. In May, I went to UVA for a grandson's law school graduation. Happily, he will start work in NYC in the fall. Just when I am heading for the old age home, I get a couple of grandchildren living in my zip code. Fortunately, my building is like assisted living. The doormen and service staff take care of everything, including whatever I screw up on the computer, and the liquor store delivers promptly. As you see from the photo, the "usual suspects" enjoyed a festive lunch. It was a major coup to catch **Beth Dougherty**, who is often on pet sitting duty for her son's family in CA, and **Susan O'Shea**, who spends most of her out-of-tax territory time in Florida or visiting her son who has recently RETIRED! **Laurette Leddy** has recently welcomed twin great grandchildren and is heading to Montana shortly to meet them. Everyone was in great form and thoroughly enjoyed our get-together. I am very sorry to report the death of **Sheila McArdle's** son-in-law, Jim Ryan, at the much too young age of 66 to complicated heart disease. Jim was married to Sheila and Jim's daughter, Kristin. Sheila shared the following: "Jim Ryan was a favorite dad, uncle, son-in-law, and lacrosse coach." Please remember our cherished classmates who are dealing with threatening health issues, and let us know what you are doing.

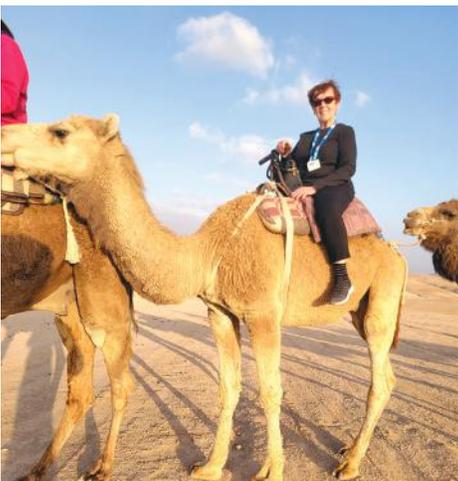
Notes



1963

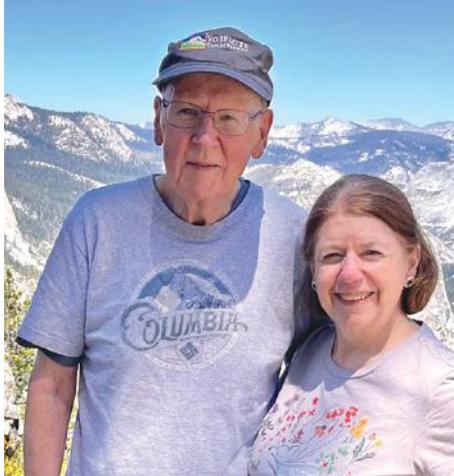
Regina Birkner Hartley made the following announcement: I have a brand-new grandson, Marcus, born in February 2025. He joins his big brother, Flynn, who turned three in April. Mommy Alice, my daughter, just accepted a position as Director of Circularity at Nike. They will be moving from San Francisco to Oregon.

I just had the pleasure of singing the Faure Requiem at Carnegie Hall, coming full circle, having sung it 50 years ago at the same venue.



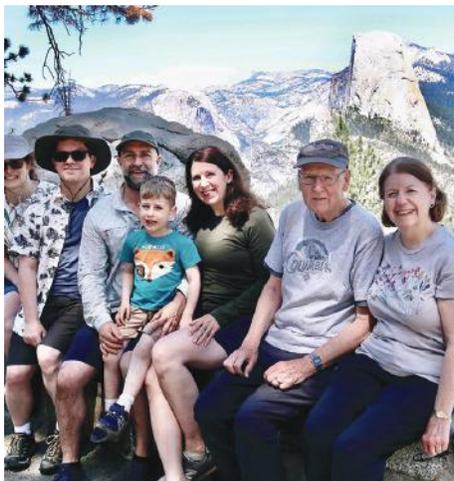
1965

Suzanne Wardell Austin rode a camel in Morocco this year...and remembered riding one in the Bronx Zoo as a child!



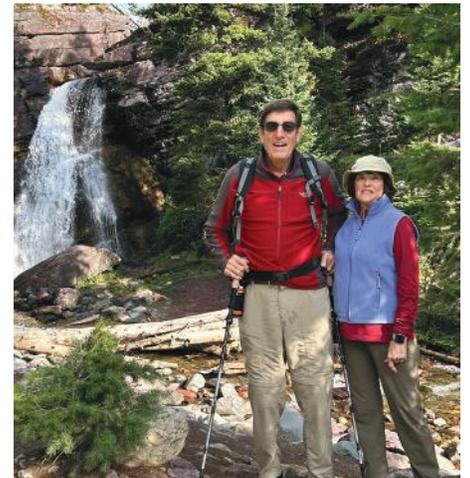
Pictured at Washburn Point with the iconic Half Dome on the left, the Sierra Range behind, and Nevada Fall on the right is Ron and Ann Berg.

Ann Moran Berg wrote the following: It is hard to believe that 60 years have gone by since my graduation from D.A. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend this year's reunion, as Ron and I will be involved with Yosemite Conservancy's Fall Colors at Yosemite National Park during the same weekend in October. Yosemite National Park tops our list as our favorite place to hike and to commune with nature.



Also at Washburn Point is our family: Ashley & Chris Berg, Dustin, Henry & Susan Bronson and Ron & Ann Berg.

This past June, our family enjoyed a week in the park. One of the highlights was an all-day Yosemite Conservancy Outdoor Adventure with Naturalist Dick Ewart, a longtime friend and retired and retired NPS Ranger who was our daughter's supervisor when Susan spent the summer of 1998 as an intern ranger. Over the years, Ron and I have traveled to all fifty states, enjoying many national parks. In fact, we have visited 43 of the 63 national parks. Many trips were with Road Scholar, our favorite for group travel.



Barbara Sisk Troxell shared the big news that we are selling our lake house in New Hampshire and moving to Park City, Utah. We will winter at our home in Arizona and summer at 7,000 feet in Utah! Our daughter Amy and her family live in Salt Lake City, just 30 minutes away, and our son Scott and his family live in Glenwood Springs, Colorado, which is in between our two homes. It will be nice to live closer to family for a change. Jeff and I continue to be able to hike, walk the golf course, do volunteer work, and participate in a variety of gym classes. We are truly blessed. It is doubtful that I will be able to attend our reunion, as we will literally be "on the move." The photo was taken on a hiking trip to Glacier National Park.



1967

Louise Pedone Cosenza recently returned from a beautiful trip to Paris and Lourdes. “I was blessed by the holy water of Lourdes and saw many churches, especially Notre Dame, Sacred Coeur, and Notre Dame de Lourdes,” she revealed. She also visited the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, and Mona Lisa and went for a luncheon boat ride on the Seine. “Next spring, I will travel to Holland, Denmark, Finland, and other Scandinavian countries.” Louise sent a photo of herself baking croissants at Maison Fleuret in Paris! Sister Florida would be very proud!!



1969

Members of the Class of 1969 reunited at the Rooftop Reconnection in September 2024. **Celia Visconti, '71, sister of Cris Visconti,** (not present) joined **Joanne Guarasci Yost, Alice Consigli Onady, Ann Marie Flynn, and Marise Mack Allen.**



Ann Marie Flynn sent in the class reunion photo and wrote that the following members of the Class of '69 attended the October 26, 2024, reunion: **Denise Midroy, Barbara Casmasina, Barbara Bondanza Arnold, Julie DiRico Hyman, Cristina Visconti, Wendy Turgeon, Carla Loffredo, Maureen Fahy Grone, Cathy Meyers Jusko, Joan Bogden Brandt, and Ann Marie Flynn. Mary McNulty Kral** later joined everyone for dinner.

1975

Gloria Piliero Gengos wrote the following: I am now six months into retirement, and among the many wonderful things about this stage of life is the ability to reflect in a deep and luxurious manner. D.A. shines brightly for me, for so many reasons—academics, ethics, and the inspiration that comes from the company of smart, intellectually curious young women, all independent and courageous thinkers! And just like that, it seems, we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of our graduation. I hope to see you at our reunion—to laugh, reminisce, reconnect, and cherish that very special chapter!

1976

Claire Sarrazin Rennell shared the following: After 32+ years teaching at The Epiphany School in Manhattan, I will be retiring! I have loved my second career in education after spending 7 years in international marketing. While I will miss the students and my marvelous co-workers, it is time for me to enjoy my grandchildren (in California) and to indulge my love of travel! Onward and upward!!!

1977

Mary Jo Schneider-Bennett shared the following: Fiona and I visited Tokyo and Kyoto in April.

HAIKU

Standing together
Cherry blossoms fell like snow
Silence etched in joy



1983

Members of the Class of 1983 celebrated their milestone birthdays with a weekend in the city. They invited their little brother Manny Mercader (brother of the late Maria Carla Mercader) to join them. The theme of the weekend was friendship and love.

The day started with some of the ladies checking in at the Bryant Park Hotel, which was followed with a complimentary Prosecco at the Celon Bar & Lounge. Others gathered at Lady Blue Cocktail lounge before having a private dinner at Lattanzi. After dinner, the group went singing at the cabaret, Go Tell Mama. The evening ended with dancing on the rooftop of the Kimberly Hotel and closing the place down. The next day was a beautiful brunch on Ainsworth rooftop, where the ladies wore their signature t-shirts to mark this special birthday. It was a truly memorable weekend we will cherish forever. We are all grateful for the lasting friendships made at D.A. and appreciate all the love and support over the years. Mabel Meneses says it best: Zounds of love!



1984

Jean Marie Janos wrote the following: We have another D.A. alum in the family! My daughter, Sabrina, graduated from D.A. on May 30. I could not have been happier or prouder to see her and her classmates in their white gowns! She'll be heading to UMass Amherst in the fall to study chemical engineering. It's been so much fun attending all of her D.A. events over the past four years. It brought back so many memories. My son, Jared, just finished his sophomore year at Xavier, so it will be College Search Chaos, Take 2 next year! Looking forward to seeing everyone at our 45th reunion.



1985

Margaret Besheer shared the following: In the spring, I signed off on a 30-year career in journalism and became a licensed NY real estate agent. I am working with the Agency, doing sales and rentals in all five

boroughs and am ready to help my D.A. sisters find their dream home!

1986

Sadhvee Hansraj-Pastine shared the following update: I am excited to share that I have moved back to NJ. My son, Valentino, just graduated from Cardinal Gibbons High School in Fort Lauderdale and will begin his college career at Seton Hall University. As he begins this new chapter, so do I as the next Chair of the D.A. Board of Trustees. I am looking forward to building upon the contributions of my predecessors and working to fortify the legacy that is Dominican Academy. Don't hesitate to reach out, as I look forward to connecting with both familiar and new faces.

1988

Joanne Guerrero-Georgalos wrote the following: Our daughter, Sofia, just graduated from D.A. in May and is heading off to Trinity College to major in economics and political science. I am starting a virtual community for women in menopause, so anyone who is interested, please reach out. All are welcome! We recently celebrated **Ambika Nayar's** birthday together, and I was lucky enough to have both Ambika and **Sheila Feerick** at my birthday last year. Looking forward to seeing more of the class of 1988 this year.



1992

Maria (Clancy) Gary lives in Fort Lauderdale with her husband Alexander and her 15-year-old son. She is a CPA

and works as the controller for a general contractor specializing in luxury retail construction.



Myrna Toledo Wang wrote the following: I am excited to come back home to D.A. as the new Alumnae Relations & Special Events Manager. I hope to meet many more of you this coming year. Please reach out to me at mtoledowang@dominicanacademy.org with any alumnae-related questions. I am also proud to share that my daughter graduated from elementary school and will be starting middle school in the fall!



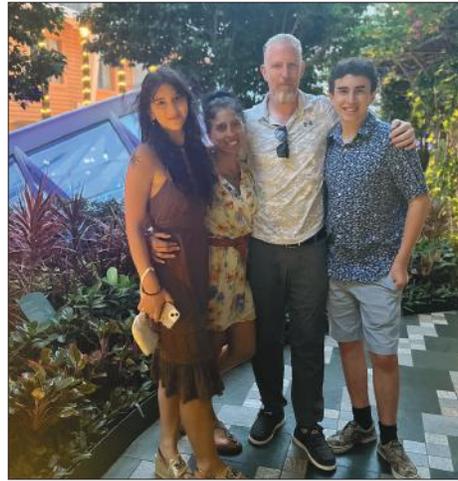
1993

Cristina O’Keeffe (Lopez) is excited for her daughter, Patricia, to join D.A.’s Class of 2029 as the recipient of the Aquinas Scholarship.

Patricia graduated from St. Anne’s in Garden City, Long Island, on June 13th as the class valedictorian. Along with the General Excellence award, she received the Fine Arts medal, the gold cord for high academic achievement, the service medal, the crystal cross for being an altar server, and the HSA scholarship.

Along with several small family and friend celebrations, the immediate family ventured to Ireland, stopping in Dungarven, Co. Waterford, to visit family. We were lucky enough to see Waterford beat Clare to win the All-Ireland Minor Hurling Championship, which has

happened only four times in 100 years! Go Waterford! (See photo of the family with the background of the Waterford fans storming the field after the win.)



1994

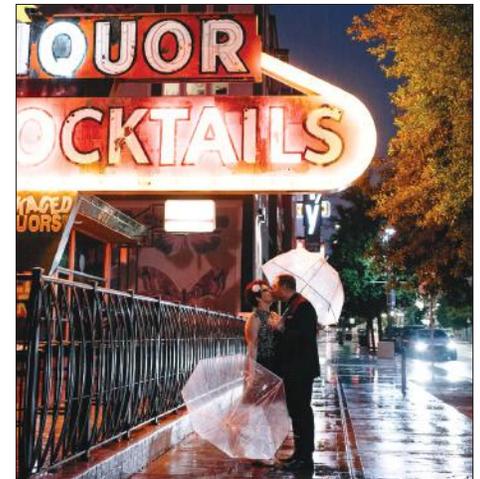
Vanessa Pino-Lockel was honored to return to Dominican Academy to deliver the 2025 Commencement Address. In her speech, she reflected on the foundation of faith, friendship, and fierce determination that D.A. instilled in her—values that she still carries into every chapter of her life. Vanessa currently serves as the Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County, a \$20+ million organization with over 300 employees supporting agriculture, youth, nutrition, and marine science across Long Island. She was recently appointed by the New York State Legislature to the Peconic Bay Region Advisory Committee, helping guide the preservation of Long Island’s vital coastal ecosystems.

She and her husband are proud parents of two college students. Their son Lucas graduated from high school with high honors and will be attending the prestigious Webb Institute, a top-ranked school for naval architecture and marine engineering. Their daughter Cecilia, a dean’s List student at Northeastern University, just returned from a semester abroad in Spain and is starting her junior-year co-op this fall.

Vanessa is also an avid long-distance runner. She’s completed twelve marathons and four ultramarathons, is training for her first 50-mile race at the SRC Backyard Ultra, and has secured spots in both the 2026 London and New York City Marathons. She remains an active and proud D.A. alum—and loved welcoming the Class of 2025 into the sisterhood of Dominican women who lead with light and purpose.

1996

Anne Reidy Sullivan started the new year with a new job at Stonehill College. She is helping run a lifelong learners program for senior citizens in the surrounding area. Lectures, book clubs, and college classes are offered for free to local senior citizens. All D.A. students are welcome to come say hi if they visit the Stonehill College campus, located in the Joseph R. Martin Institute for Law and Society.



2000

On May 5, 2025, **Doreen Lobelle** and Nicholas Palumbo eloped on the Las Vegas Strip. They celebrated tying the knot during the rainiest May in Las Vegas history!



2001

After ten years in Rhode Island, **Christina Pastor Canty** is returning to New York City. This September, her daughter, Theodora, will be attending Dominican Academy as an incoming 9th grader. Theodora just graduated from St. Mary Academy - Bay View, a Catholic all-girls school. She is looking forward to making new friends and being a D.A. girl, just like her mom!

2002

Dr. Yelena Bogdan and her husband Bradley Dunn welcomed their second child, Eleanor Dunn, in 2024. She joins big brother Samuel.

2006

In 2025, **Dina Ferraiuolo** launched DMF Engineering PLLC, a civil engineering firm based in New York City. After 15 years of leading transformative infrastructure and development projects across the city, she founded DMF to focus on affordable housing, resilient infrastructure, and public-private partnerships that strengthen NYC communities. The firm's current work includes civil engineering services for affordable housing developments and streetscape improvements, with an actively growing portfolio of mission-driven projects across the five boroughs. This new chapter has been both exciting and meaningful—grounded in the values of service, excellence, and leadership that Dina first embraced at Dominican Academy.

Mary Wachowicz Kulhanek and husband Stephen Kulhanek welcomed James Nicholas to the family on May 26th. Big siblings Arthur and Veronica are thrilled to have a new playmate!



2008

Elizabeth (Liz) Cappello completed her fellowship in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at Vanderbilt University in 2025 and has started her fellowship in Transfusion Medicine at Emory University. Liz also recently graduated from Johns Hopkins University with a Masters of Education in the Health Professions.



Deirdre Burns White welcomed her third baby girl to her growing family of six! She is now a proud mother to three young girls, Harper (10), Charlotte (5), and Eleanor (7 months), and one stepson, Nicholas (14).

She brought her family to visit D.A. over the holidays and snapped a family photo on the red entryway carpet.

2010

Jennifer (Jen) Stewart has been working as a psychologist for 4 years now and has recently opened her own private practice. She provides individual and group therapy to teens and adults across the United States.

2013

Katrina Bernhardt provided the following update: After 6.5 years as a product development scientist at Neutrogena, she will be returning to education to pursue an MBA through the Distinguished Fellows Program at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

Sabrina Bode shared the following: I started a new job as Director of Finance & Operations at Van Alen Institute!

2019

Yiling Liu wrote the following: I got my first job. I'm an engineering researcher now!



2020

Evangelina Boutsikakis married her Ohio State sweetheart, Panayiotis Gentis on May 25, 2025. The two got married on a beautiful sunny day in Queens, New York, at S.S. Catherine & George Greek Orthodox Church. Evangelina and Pano are now residing in Columbus, Ohio, and can't wait to see what the future holds!



2021

Alexandra Berardelli was awarded the prestigious Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship in Athens, Greece. As a Fulbright Fellow at Athens College-Hellenic American Educational Foundation, Alexandra will serve as a teacher, mentor, and cultural ambassador—sharing the richness of American life while immersing herself

in Greek education and culture. Guided by a passion for shared knowledge and understanding, Alexandra has embraced the Fulbright's mission of promoting bilateral cultural exchange. After studying Latin at D.A. and graduating in 2021, Alexandra, a Brooklyn native, earned the Henry Bean, S.J. Scholarship to study Classics at the College of the Holy Cross. There, she engaged in ancient languages and Mediterranean culture, taking an interdisciplinary approach to researching Roman politics and ancient and modern political rhetoric. She graduated summa cum laude from Holy Cross' Honors College in the spring of 2025. A primary goal of her studies thus far has been to draw meaningful connections between antiquity and modernity, with a particular emphasis on the power of persuasion. As an undergraduate, she spent a semester abroad in Greece with College Year in Athens. Alexandra is thrilled to return to Greece, this time as a leader, educator, and role model for students seeking to grow through truth and learning.



Devon Lamer shared that she graduated from Arizona State University Honors College cum laude with a degree in astrophysics. She is now starting a full-time position as an analyst at Morgan Stanley in New York City.

NOTRE DAME LAW SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Dominican Academy is proud to share an exciting opportunity for our alumnae pursuing a career in law. Graduates of D.A. who apply to the University of Notre Dame Law School are eligible for the **John and Maureen Tully Law Fellowship**, a prestigious award offering up to \$25,000 per year in scholarship support.

The Fellowship is designed to recognize students who demonstrate exceptional academic achievement, strong character, and proven leadership, with financial need also taken into consideration. In keeping with its mission, the Fellowship gives priority to qualified graduates of Dominican Academy and St. Vincent Ferrer High School in Manhattan.

Prospective D.A. alumnae interested in applying to Notre Dame Law are encouraged to contact the Law School Admissions Office directly at lawadmit@nd.edu for more information.



+



DOMINICAN ACADEMY
Catholic College Preparatory School for Girls



2024–2025

In Memoriam

Alumnae

Emily Heffernan Leonard, '45
Eileen Morris Locher, '45
Frances McAward Costello, '47
Patricia Gardner, '52
Mary Armstrong Navin, '52
Catherine Dinehart, '54
Providence Klein, '54
Geraldine Connor Lynch, '54
Florence Jachara Mirti, '54
Georgianna Lang Shugrue, '54
Eleanore Orlando Farley, '55
Linda Evans Franklin, '56
Dorothy Enold Worfolk, '56
Jane Evans Carreyrou, '57
Diana Pons Rossi, '64
Judith Benedicks DiFonzo, '67

Marcella Ackert Specce, '67
Rita McCarthy Gibson, '69
Barbara Compiani Mittrione, '69
Laura Lyons Karrh, '82
Concetta (Connie) Babore, '85

Family

Frank L. Mellana, H '60
Enrico Sancricca, H'69
Hon. John F. Keenan, P'83
Joseph Kollappallil, P'92, G'25
Charles K Meuse, H'73
Marcia Reidy, P'96, G'26
Margarita Chan Lu, P'08

SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 26, 2025

OPENING MASS AND DOMINICAN VERITAS
MINISTRIES TRANSFER CEREMONY

SATURDAY OCTOBER 18, 2025

OPEN HOUSE FOR 7TH AND 8TH GRADERS

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 22, 2025

MINI OPEN HOUSE FOR 7TH AND 8TH GRADERS

SATURDAY OCTOBER 25, 2025

REUNION FOR CLASSES ENDING IN "0" AND "5"

FRIDAY DECEMBER 19, 2025

YOUNG ALUMNAE WELCOME BACK

FRIDAY JANUARY 30, 2026

CAREER DAY



DOMINICAN ACADEMY

Catholic College Preparatory School for Girls

