



Veritas

2021

CATHOLIC COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL FOR GIRLS



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“
 THIS IS A VERY
 SPECIAL YEAR
 FOR OUR ENTIRE
 COMMUNITY AS WE
 WILL CELEBRATE THE
 125TH ANNIVERSARY
 OF DOMINICAN
 ACADEMY BEGINNING
 IN JANUARY 2022.
 ”

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
SR. MARGARET ORMOND, O.P., '60



MY DEAR COMPANIONS ON THE D.A. JOURNEY,

As we began the 2021–22 school year, it was truly a blessing to have students, faculty, and staff back in the building together again. It might be tempting to say that things are “back to normal” at our beloved Dominican Academy, but there is nothing normal about COVID-19 and what it did to us and the world. So instead of “back to normal,” I pray that we begin “anew.”

Together, we will develop new routines, adjust to new schedules, and learn how to manage different activities amid challenging times. Together, we welcome 77 new students who have already contributed to the vibrant community that is D.A. Together, we recite the four pillars of our life at D.A. each day:

“We pray to search for truth through study,
 Work to create a caring community,
 Reach out to others by preaching and just actions, and
 Enfold our life in prayer.”

So friends, we rely on your prayers and support as we begin “anew” and strive to do what we’ve attempted to do since 1897—provide a unique holistic education in the tradition of Saint Dominic. At D.A., a student’s IQ (intelligence quotient) and EQ (emotional quotient), group together in harmony for the full development of young women who are called to build a better world and make meaningful contributions to society.

Looking ahead, this is a very special year for our entire community as we will celebrate the 125th anniversary of Dominican Academy beginning in January 2022. Until then, be assured that I am keeping you and your families in my prayers. I am grateful for your continued support and look forward to celebrating our anniversary together.

With hope and love,

Sr. Margaret Ormond, O.P.

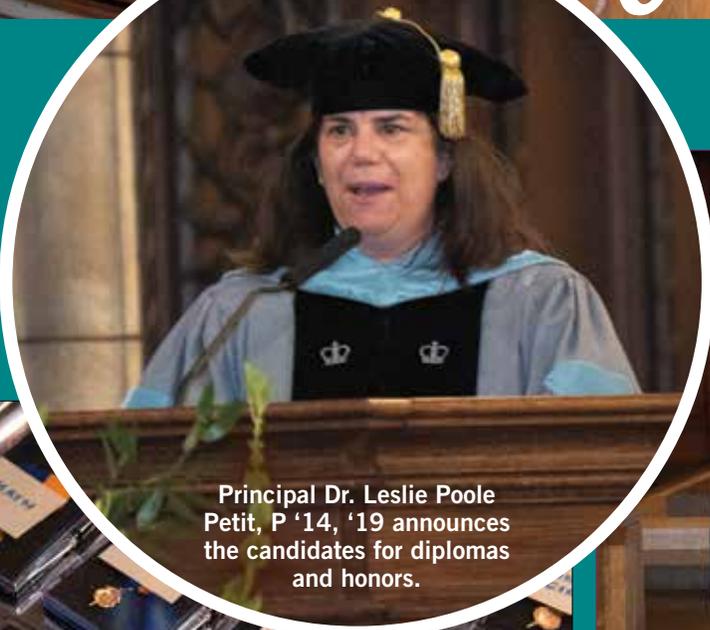
Sr. Margaret Ormond, O.P., '60
 President

With COVID-19 protocols carefully in place, D.A. families, faculty and staff join in during graduation mass at Saint Vincent Ferrer Church.



Class of '21

GRADUATION | JUNE 4, 2021



Principal Dr. Leslie Poole Petit, P '14, '19 announces the candidates for diplomas and honors.



Senior ensemble members (L-R) Jacqueline (Tula) Tremblay, Natalya Raikhovski, Serena Ezquerra and Jacqueline Colmenares lead attendees in the "Dominican Academy Alma Mater" before the closing benediction.



The graduation awards are set alongside the altar at the start of mass.



V Gabriella Montalvo, '21 reflects on "last times" during her Valedictory address.



2021 VALEDICTORY ADDRESS GABRIELLA MONTALVO, '21

“

**D.A. HAS PREPARED
US TO BE BRAVE
ENOUGH TO
WELCOME THE
LAST TIME WITH
OPEN ARMS.**

”

Good afternoon to Sr. Margaret, Dr. Petit, Ms. Weil, faculty and staff, family, friends, and to the members of Dominican Academy's Class of 2021.

Two hours ago, you walked through the doors of this church as high school students for the last time. Two weeks ago, you finished your final full week of high school. Two months ago was the last time most of you slipped on the green kilt of your winter uniform. March 2020 was the last time things were "normal." Did you realize it then?

Do you realize that now might be the last time all of us are together in the same space, at least for a long time?

Too often do we forgo these "last times."

Too often do we lament what could have been before the last time. We pull ourselves apart over what would have been "complete."

But the truth is, we will never escape the last time. Nor will we ever shake the fear of never being complete.

What, then, do we do about the last time? About the incomplete? I say we have two options:

Option 1: We can dread it. We can try to run from the last time, we can obsess over what went wrong or not right enough. We can harp on the details—which formula we should have used, which answer choice we should have selected, which school we should have chosen, which words we should have or should not have said. But D.A. didn't teach us to do that.

Then there is Option 2: We can revel in the last time. We can make it a game of charades at a retreat center in Huntington, or a polo shirt with multicolored sharpie signatures all over the back, or a shared rooftop meal. We can embrace this incompleteness, embrace this physical space between us as space to fill with that agapic, selfless, fervent love—a love that gives, and never expects. D.A. has prepared us to be brave enough to welcome the last time with open arms. To know that yes, it is an end, but also, a beginning.

A beginning. As we step through those doors behind you we will step into the start of our lives as intelligent people bound by justice, pursuit of the common good, care for the other, and of course, care for each other. When I look at you all I see so much good just waiting to be done, and I am thankful for this last time. I mean it

when I say each of you is so extraordinarily special. I cannot wait to see how the good in you takes shape.

Yes, this is the last time, but before we part ways I would like to remind you all of Dr. Cagney's 9 tips for college and for life.

1. Make friends of excellence, utility, and pleasure.
2. Find a mentor. Go to office hours.
3. Read great books.
4. Pray.
5. Determine your life philosophy.
6. Work an odd job.
7. Experience another culture.
8. Eat good food.
9. Help someone else.

Life is full of last times and first times. D.A. has given us the tremendous gifts of an education and a family. As we sit in this last time and gear up for a first time, please make use of those gifts the way Dominican Academy taught us to: give them away.

Congratulations, class of 2021. We did it.



THE MEMBERS OF D.A.'S CLASS OF 2021 COMMITTED TO ATTEND THE FOLLOWING COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES. JUST 64 GRADUATES EARNED OVER \$22 MILLION IN MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS.

Boston University
Bowdoin College
Brigham Young University
Colgate University
College of the Holy Cross
Columbia University
Cornell University*
Fairfield University*
Fordham University*
Franklin and Marshall College
Georgia Institute of Technology
Harvard University
Hillsdale College
Indiana University
Loyola University Chicago
Middlebury College
New York University*

Northeastern University
Notre Dame-Holy Cross College Gateway Program
Ohio State University
Oxford College of Emory University
Pennsylvania State University*
Providence College
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Saint Louis University
Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education
State University of New York Albany
State University of New York Binghamton
State University of New York Stony Brook*
The City University of New York City College
The University of Tampa
Tufts University

University at St. Andrews, Scotland
University of Arizona
University of Delaware*
University of Florida
University of Miami
University of Michigan*
University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Southern California
University of Vermont
Vassar College
Villanova University*
Wake Forest University*
Wellesley College
Wesleyan University

*indicates multiple students attending

Congrats

CLASS OF '21



 **Gabriella Montalvo**
Valedictorian

THE D.A. CLASS OF 2021 INCLUDED
THREE NATIONAL MERIT COMMENDED
SCHOLARS AND ONE NATIONAL HISPANIC
RECOGNITION PROGRAM FINALIST.



 **Olivia Jaskolska**
Co-Salutatorian



 **Isabella Maria Quatela**
Co-Salutatorian



 **Jacqueline Graciela Colmenares**
All Dominican Girl



 **Emma Sullivan**
Mother Stephanie Award
Recipient



 **Despina Anastasiou**
Board of Trustees
Service Award



 **Audrea Rose Crowley**
Scholar Athlete Award

YEAR IN REVIEW

CIRCLING BACK OF '20-'21



STUDENT PRINTS GOES ONLINE

In light of COVID-19 protocols, D.A. administration opted to convert **Student Prints**, our treasured school newspaper, into a digital online format. The first-ever digital issue was circulated via email and posted on the school website. **Student Prints**, a quarterly publication, also introduced new features such as “D.A. in the Life,” “In the News,” and “Arts and Music.” Check out back issues by visiting the Student Life section on D.A.’s website.

FALL 2020



Ms. Mooney and students from the Class of '22 hold Music class via Zoom.

NEW LEARNING MODELS IN UNPRECEDENTED TIMES

The start of the 2020–21 school year looked a lot different and not only because face masks, temperature checks and hand sanitizers were part of the daily routine. D.A. class schedules were crafted to allow for hybrid learning (a mix of remote and in-person learning) and to accommodate COVID-19 social distancing and other New York State and CDC protocols. It made for an interesting (and definitely a memorable) year!



D.A.'s Class of '24 attend class socially distanced.

VIRTUAL GALA RAISED AN UNPRECEDENTED \$167,000 TO SUPPORT DOMINICAN ACADEMY

2020 ANNUAL AUCTION & BENEFIT

The online auction ran from September 23–29, 2020. The virtual Auction & Benefit was held on Friday, September 25th with professional auctioneer, Jim Miller, serving as our master of ceremonies. During the event, we had the privilege of honoring the Dowicz family and Kristin Shea, '82, P'19 with a video tribute and special recognition award.

We are also grateful to all of those who attended, sponsored, and donated to our virtual event; to those who purchased tickets in anticipation of a live event in April and graciously converted their tickets into donations; and to those who donated and bid on the many auction items we offered up in the days leading up to and following the Gala. We raised an unprecedented \$167,000 to support Dominican Academy.

COCONUT THUMBPRINT COOKIES

Ingredients:

1 ½ stick unsalted butter
½ cup granulated sugar
1 egg yolk
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 ¾ cup all purpose flour

1 egg white lightly beaten (optional)
1 cup coconut flakes (optional)
1 cup raspberry jam

Instructions:

1. Preheat the oven to 350F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
2. Beat butter and granulated sugar until fully creamy and incorporated.
3. Add in the egg yolk and mix well.
4. Mix in vanilla extract.
5. Add in flour and mix using a wooden spoon or spatula until a dough forms.
6. Roll a 1-inch ball of dough and set it aside. Repeat with the remaining dough until you have 36 dough balls.
7. Roll each ball in the beaten egg and then in the coconut flakes (optional step).
8. Place the balls on the baking sheet, leaving a 2-inch space between them.
9. Using your thumb, press an indentation into the center of each cookie. Fill the indentation with raspberry jam.
10. Bake the cookies in the oven for 9–10 minutes until the bottom of the cookies is golden.
11. Cool the cookies on a rack and then serve.

DAPA CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION TAKES A TASTY TURN

D.A.'s annual Family Christmas celebration included baking Christmas cookies together online led by our talented Principal and resident chef, Dr. Leslie Poole Petit, P '14, '19. Check out the recipe at left!



▲ Alexandra Berardelli, '21 shows off the finished product.

WINTER 2020

ANNUAL SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION VIA ZOOM

The Shakespeare Competition, a long-standing D.A. tradition, did not miss a beat due to COVID-19. Organized by Shakespeare Club moderator Ms. Mary Somboonchoke and led by announcer Audrea Crowley, '21, the annual event was held via Zoom in January 2021. First place honors went to Lauren Mlicko, '22. Grace Marks, '21 and Ellena Karapatakis, '21 were awarded second and third place honors, respectively. Ms. Somboonchoke complimented all participants stating, "They delivered their monologues with grace and beauty. It was extremely difficult for the judges to choose a winner from this talented group of students."



1ST
PLACE

▲ Lauren Mlicko, '22

➤ Students and faculty moderators from Student Council and SOCA present "Let's Get Cooking" during Black History Month.



EXPLORING BLACK HISTORY THROUGH FOOD

Students of Color Alliance (SOCA), led by Keanna Goddard, '21, collaborated with Student Council members to bring us a special webinar titled, "Let's Get Cooking!" The online event was dedicated to exploring and celebrating Black history through food. With a virtual audience consisting of roughly 160 students, faculty and staff members, SOCA club moderator Ms. Kaitlyn LiPuma, '15 guided us through the steps towards creating Malawah, sweet Somali pancakes. Throughout the event, students shared facts about the origins and history of African-American food.

YEAR IN REVIEW

CIRCLING BACK OF '20-'21

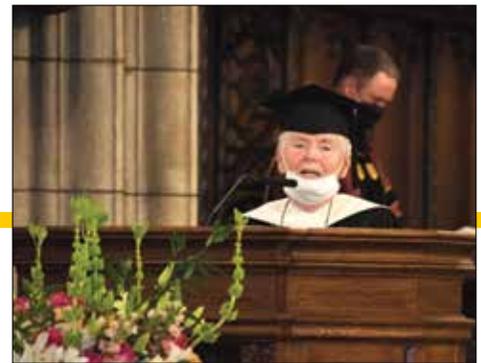
DAPA MOTHER-DAUGHTER PAINT NIGHT

Spring 2021 brought a new twist of the annual (and much loved) Mother-Daughter Luncheon. Due to COVID-19 protocols, the annual event was reimagined as a virtual Mother-Daughter Paint Night. With nearly 100 participants, the event was a wonderful way to enjoy our amazing D.A. community and spend some quality time together. It was an evening of creativity and connection with lively instruction, Zoom break out rooms and an opportunity to show off our masterpieces!

Isabella Quatela, '21 and mom Antoinette pose with their masterpieces from DAPA's first-ever Mother-Daughter Paint Night.



Sr. Margaret Ormond, O.P., President, delivers the Closing Benediction at Graduation '21.



SPRING 2021

ST. JOHN'S GYM UPDATE

We were very grateful to begin using the St. John Nepomucene gym located on 66th Street for D.A. athletics in the spring. The new purchase and installation of a volleyball net was a welcome addition to help further expand our sports offerings.



(L-R) Volleyball Coach Antoinette Quatela, P '21, Seniors Isabella Quatela, Milly Girardi, Head Coach Kieran Kilduff, P '22, Adela Tabrizi, Olivia Jaskolska and Principal Dr. Leslie Poole Petit, P '14, '19 pose at St. John's gym.

GRADUATION 2021

Dominican Academy's Class of 2021 graduated on Friday, June 4, 2021 at Saint Vincent Ferrer Church on Lexington Avenue. Our 64 graduates earned over \$22 million in merit scholarships and grants.





▲ Teresa E. Anderson, '22 ▲ MaryAnn O. Uduebo, '22 ▲ Ana Winston, '22

HALLOWEEN 2021 FEATURES FIRST-EVER "MONSTER BASH" COSTUME CONTEST

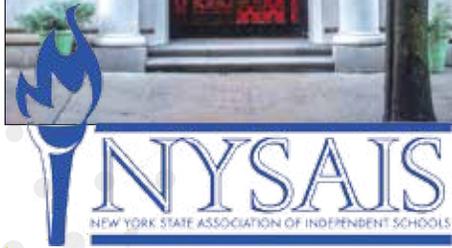
The red stairs served as the runway for D.A.'s unique costume contest which was broadcast via Zoom into classrooms throughout the building on Friday, October 29. Freshmen and seniors competed for votes via Google Forms. And the winners are... Seniors Alexandra Harrington and Regina Reisig as George Washington and Alexander Hamilton!



CLASS OF 2022 COMMENDED SCHOLARS ANNOUNCED

We are proud to announce that D.A.'s Class of '22 includes three commended students in the 2022 Merit Scholarship Program. Congratulations to Teresa E. Anderson, MaryAnn O. Uduebo, and Ana Winston! These students have been recognized for their exceptional academic promise by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Commended scholars placed among the top 3% of all students who entered the 2022 competition by taking the 2020 PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

FALL 2021



AP BIOLOGY STUDENTS VISIT TODAY SHOW

On Monday, October 11, D.A. was one of a few schools invited to visit NBC's *Today Show* in recognition of International Day of the Girl, an annual observance to acknowledge the importance, power, and potential of adolescent girls by encouraging the opening up of more opportunities for them. Our students, along with STEM Department Co-Chair Dr. Lauren Serpagli, were given space to stand in the audience for the live broadcast. It was a powerful experience for our students. Dr. Serpagli notes, "It was just another testament to the dedication and commitment our students have to being leaders of tomorrow. Waking up extra early to stand in the windy weather on their day off from school and represent D.A. shows why they deserve to be celebrated!"



▲ D.A.'s AP Biology students pose with Hoda Kotb and Dr. Serpagli on International Day of the Girl. (L-R front row): Hoda Kotb, Allison Leung, Dr. Serpagli; (L-R back row): Stephanie Diaz Feeney, Teresa Anderson, Marielle Kudera and MaryAnn Uduebo.

D.A. ANNOUNCES PROVISIONAL MEMBERSHIP IN NYSAIS

Dominican Academy is pursuing accreditation through the New York Association of Independent Schools (NYSAIS) and has received provisional membership for the 2021–22 school year. The NYSAIS accreditation process cultivates a culture of ongoing self-evaluation and growth. This year, Dominican Academy will complete its first self-assessment in advance of the arrival of a visiting NYSAIS accreditation team in Fall 2022. According to Principal Dr. Leslie Petit, P '14, '19, accreditation is an important tool for our community as it will "ensure that students and their families can have confidence in Dominican Academy's academic and extracurricular programming."

TWO FACULTY “LEGENDS & LEADERS” RETIRE

MISS PERRONE & MR. MCDERMOTT
BID FAREWELL



Managing Editor Alessia Coluccio, '22 (left) and Senior Editor Quinn Pasmantier, '22 (right) of *Student Prints* show off the 1982 and 1999 Dominican yearbooks after locating photos of Miss Perrone and Mr. McDermott from their early days of teaching at D.A.

The terms “legends” and “leaders” are not thrown around lightly at Dominican Academy, but when referring to Miss Roseann Perrone and Mr. Charles McDermott, these terms suffice. Miss Perrone and Mr. McDermott bid farewell to D.A. in the spring of 2021 after a combined total of over sixty years in service to our students. Long-time Chairs of the World Languages and History departments respectively, they educated hundreds of D.A. girls teaching lessons to last a lifetime both inside and outside the classroom. This fall, *Student Prints* editors Alessia Coluccio, '22 and Quinn Pasmantier, '22 lent their reporting skills to *Veritas* to share their experiences and thoughts on these beloved teachers and mentors.

MISS ROSEANN PERRONE, WORLD LANGUAGES CHAIR

by Quinn Pasmantier, '22

Miss Roseann Perrone had dedicated over forty years of her life to Dominican Academy when she announced her retirement last May. During her time at D.A., she made a lasting impression on everyone she met. A devoted teacher of Spanish I, Latin II, III, and IV, as well as Latin Poetry, her true dedication to the subject of Language inspires all those who know her. In class, Miss Perrone liked to explore each and every passage of her translations to the fullest, and enjoyed inviting students to bring their own ideas to the table. As Latin Club moderator for

many years, she liked to analyze movies set in Roman cultures. While her love of analysis made her a truly admirable teacher, perhaps her most memorable quality will be her love of music. Whether she was singing a Latin version of “Jingle Bells,” or teaching her students songs about the Spanish tenses, Miss Perrone always incorporated music into her lessons. Between her cheerful and upbeat attitude and her passion for sharing interesting stories—there was never a dull moment! Thank you Miss Perrone for all that you are and all that you have shared with us over the years. Ms. Ling Chen has taken up the reins as World Languages Chair.

MR. CHARLES MCDERMOTT, HISTORY CHAIR

by Alessia Coluccio, '22

Last year, one of the most valuable members of our D.A. community retired. Mr. Charles McDermott devoted 23 years of his life to bettering the minds and lives of his students. During his tenure, he served as the moderator for many clubs including *Student Prints*, the Valor Club, and Model UN, in addition to coaching multiple sports. Mr. McDermott has made the best of his retirement by setting a goal of reading a book a week and exploring some of his interests. His daily routine consists

of solving the New York Times crossword puzzle, reading either a spy fiction novel or a biography, and writing his memoir. Even though he refers to his own life as “boring,” anyone who has had Mr. McDermott as a teacher remembers hearing about his crazy adventures while traveling the world as a member of the U.S. Navy. While he is doing well in retirement, he misses being in the classroom, surrounded by smart and eager young students. Initially, Mr. McDermott expected to work at D.A. for only five years. At his last faculty meeting, he rose and jokingly said, “This has been the longest five years of my life!” Ms. Jennifer Reardon, '98, P' 24 now serves as Dominican Academy's History Chair.



2021

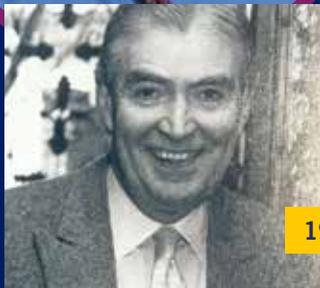


1982

Miss Perrone 'Then' and 'Now'



2021



1999

Mr. McDermott 'Then' and 'Now'

Meet

D.A.'S NEW FACULTY & STAFF

COHORT BRINGS EXPERIENCE AND COMMITMENT TO D.A. MISSION

Student Prints Senior Editors Lauren Mlicko, '22 and Quinn Pasmantier, '22 interviewed D.A.'s newest faculty and staff members at the start of the 2021-22 school year and are thrilled to introduce them in the pages of **Veritas**.



MRS. TARA CORBY
HISTORY

Mrs. Tara Corby joins Dominican Academy as the new History teacher to the freshmen and sophomore classes. She is spearheading two new additions to the curriculum: Pre-AP World History and AP World History: Modern. She also serves as moderator of the newly formed Political Science Club. Mrs. Corby graduated from Boston University with a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in International Relations and from Fordham University with a Master of Science (M.S.) in Teaching Adolescent Social Studies. She recalls first having an interest in history during her time at BU, and was pushed further by an internship in Washington D.C. Before joining Dominican Academy, Mrs. Corby taught Global Studies 9 and 10, AP World History, and U.S. History at St. Catherine's in the Bronx where she also served as the Student Council moderator. Previously, Mrs. Corby worked as a Compliance Officer in the financial services industry.



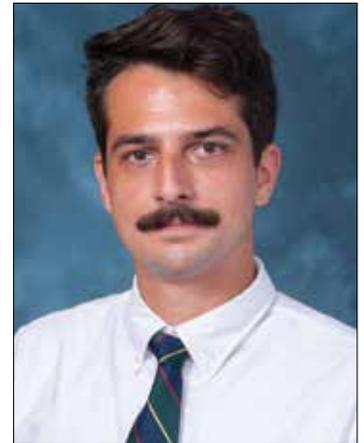
MR. BYRON RAMIREZ
MATHEMATICS/STEM

Mr. Byron Ramirez holds a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Mathematics from the Pontifical Catholic University and a Master of Arts (M.A.) in Applied Mathematics from the Interamerican University of Puerto Rico. Originally from Puerto Rico, Mr. Ramirez has extensive experience teaching an array of Math courses in both high school and college. Currently, Mr. Ramirez is teaching Algebra II/Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, and AP Calculus AB. Mr. Ramirez also serves as the moderator for the newly formed Music Club. Since moving to New York City, Mr. Ramirez has been both adjusting to the fast pace of city life and taking the time to reflect. He enjoys being surrounded by so much activity, and he already senses some personal growth in the short time he's lived in the city.



MRS. ANNIE SULLIVAN, P '20
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Mrs. Annie Sullivan, P '20, serves as D.A.'s new Athletic Director. Mrs. Sullivan first joined the D.A. community as a parent and later as the President of the Dominican Academy Parents' Association (DAPA). As the proud mother of twin graduates who were co-captains of the 2019 CHSAA Tier 3 Soccer Championship Team, Mrs. Sullivan looks forward to sharing her love of athletics with D.A.'s growing number of student-athletes.



DR. HARRISON TROYANO
WORLD LANGUAGES

Dr. Harrison Troyano is the new Latin and Spanish teacher. He takes on the impressive task of teaching Latin 2 and Spanish 1 to sophomores, Latin 3 and Latin Poetry to juniors, and Latin 4 and AP Latin to seniors. Additionally, he is the new moderator for Latin Club. Dr. Troyano graduated in May from Fordham University with a Ph.D. in Classics. He also holds a M.A. in Classics from Fordham and a B.A. from Hunter College where he double majored in Ancient Greek/Latin and Interdisciplinary Honors with a minor in English Literature. Dr. Troyano hopes to show his students that languages can be a powerful gateway to understanding both literature and history. He would like to encourage others to use what they have learned in his class to communicate and learn in a more scientific way.



DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

5 QUESTIONS WITH JAN ABERNATHY

In the Winter of 2021, Dominican Academy's Board Committee for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) began working with Jan Abernathy, Principal of Jan Abernathy Strategic Communications to assist D.A. in its equity and inclusion efforts. This move was D.A.'s first step in implementing its mission to ensure a diverse, equitable, and inclusive learning environment for all members of the D.A. community. This year, a DEI Faculty/Staff Task Force was formed to work alongside Ms. Abernathy. The Task Force will meet regularly to focus on DEI initiatives in keeping with our mission. In September '21, we met up with Ms. Abernathy to review our progress and look at the opportunities for growth in the year ahead.

”

I THINK D.A. IS DOING THIS WORK WITH EYES WIDE OPEN AND A GREAT DEAL OF WILLINGNESS TO ENGAGE IN DEI. EVERYONE I HAVE MET AND SPOKEN TO AT D.A. KNOWS THE WORK IS NOT WITHOUT ITS CHALLENGES, BUT I FIND THAT D.A. IS REALLY COMMITTED TO LIVING THE VALUES OF INCLUSION WHERE STUDENTS CAN BE TRUE TO THEMSELVES AND TRUE TO DOMINICAN VALUES.

—Jan Abernathy, DEI Consultant

“

What are the most important steps to take in creating an inclusive DEI process?

It really means a couple of things. It starts by meeting people where they are and then giving them an opportunity for “voice and choice.” Voice—in making sure they are heard and discussing the elements of DEI that are important to them. Choice—in terms of training or forming DEI committees and creating activities. If you're bringing people together for DEI, they are coming together because they understand that their institution may not be as far along as others and they want to get up to speed. Then what you have to do is to find a midpoint. You always want to be pushing people to give their very best to the effort—knowing that it's going to be complex and difficult. We also need to recognize that we've all been brought together for reasons that are important to our mission. Bringing it back to the mission and the students is really what is key in this process.

DEI presents an opportunity to foster a diverse and inclusive community. How do the changes that come about through DEI initiatives stretch beyond the immediate objectives?

It's like building blocks. The initial objective is to have people begin to talk about diversity with more ease—and really think about—diversity in terms of the students. It's making sure that every student has what they need to be successful. This might mean that they need different things. We want to be able to expand beyond saying, “Yes, we believe in the Catholic doctrine, we are a Dominican institution, and we see you.” I think diversity programs at most schools start from a place of pain or from people who had certain needs that were not being met. In meeting those needs, there's going to be some push and pull. You get this a lot in diversity work. Some may think, “I don't understand why all these things are happening now.”

Then you need to explain to people that they were happening before, but no one told you. A teacher may say, “How could I not have known children were feeling this way?” Oftentimes, we didn't have the language even to ask those kinds of questions of children. In doing this work, it's important that we consider what people's lives are like—and how different they may be from our own lives.

Given your work with other institutions, how have you seen the focus on DEI expand outside of more obvious areas such as curriculum?

I think that a good DEI program should expand into everything in the life of the school. In that respect, communications is important. For your alumnae, you might want to think about the experience of your alums of color throughout the generations and whether those voices have been heard. For Admissions, you might want to think about the kinds of questions that you're asking prospective families. Perhaps you could ask, “How do you think you can contribute to the inclusivity of our community?” You could also ask the same of incoming faculty and staff, letting them know that there is a DEI lens here. It's not necessarily that schools need to find people with a lot of experience in this area, but rather someone who has thought about DEI. You will make better decisions when the lens is broader in this area. In places where people are similar, they're not going to step outside their comfort zone and may not take advantage of the power of those you already have within your community. I think there needs to be a shared agreement in all areas that DEI is crucial to your mission.

After consulting with the board, leadership and some faculty members and students at D.A., how do you envision DEI being reflected through the four pillars of a Dominican education: prayer,

DEI INITIATIVES SINCE SEPTEMBER 2020

service, community, and study?

DEI seems to be foundational to what the Dominicans believe. For example, Community. It's fairly obvious, you want a place where everybody could belong and where everyone's voice can be heard. It's a kind of shared understanding which is really exciting to see. I think that your Dominican pledge really says it all. Then it becomes about how you live it. Treating people with dignity. Showing you care. Giving them what they need. Being equitable. Seeing that they are whole and that they are enough.

D.A. is currently going through the NYS AIS accreditation process. Do you feel that the accreditation process can go hand in hand with the DEI process? If so, in what way?

Absolutely! As part of the NYS AIS self-study, you will be asked pointed questions about DEI. This will drive you to think about how other schools do this work and where your gaps may be. Then after the self-study, when the NYS AIS accreditation team comes to visit D.A., that team will ask about DEI. There are some very high standards in terms of what NYS AIS is doing in DEI work, so the accreditation process will open up the conversation. And remember, DEI is not just about race. It encompasses sexuality, gender identity, ability, national origin, socioeconomic, and even religion. For example, not assigning homework the evening before a non-Christian religious holiday shows that an institution has an awareness of, and respect for, the centrality of all students' faith traditions.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR FACULTY AND STAFF

- Provided in-depth, monthly sessions by Facing History & Ourselves—an organization that uses lessons in history to help teachers combat bigotry and hate.
- Explored the roots of racism in the United States, analyzed the term systemic racism and examined how to interrupt microaggressions.

ACADEMIC ENHANCEMENTS

- Updated summer reading materials across all grade levels to include the addition of Black and Latinx authors.
- Shifted away from a Eurocentric view of world events to help students understand the narrative of history through multiple lenses.
- Replaced the Grade 9 World History course with Pre-AP World History, to help foster the analytical skills needed to transition to college-level coursework.
- Replaced the Grade 10 AP European History course with AP World History: Modern.
- Offered the Grade 12 English course, Themes in World Literature, to focus on justice, truth and personal identity

through the lens of authors across Africa, Asia and Latin America.

STUDENT LIFE ENHANCEMENTS

- Provided a school-wide cooking event in honor of Black History Month.
- Highlighted the contributions and achievements of People of Color (POC) and religious figures during Black History Month, Latinx Heritage Month, and Asian American and Pacific Islander Month.
- Promoted the active involvement of student leadership groups to highlight the contributions of POC groups during calendar recognition months. Students of Color Alliance (SOCA) provided detailed biographies of key figures. Student Council (STUCO) shared videos and artwork via social media.
- Participated in the Ricci Program, a language and cultural exchange program with Regis High School and the Nanjing American Language School in China which led to creating new endeavors such as the Cool Foods Program.
- Joined the Diaspora Literacy Program with Regis High School, a three-year cultural enrichment program for BIPOC students focusing on textual study, SEL, leadership skills, college preparation and social engagement.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

- Created Dominican Academy's first-ever DEI Award, presented to Keanna Goddard, '21, in recognition of her continued commitment to incorporating diversity, inclusivity, and awareness at Dominican Academy and for inspiring and creating a safe space for others to use their voice.

BOARD DEI MISSION STATEMENT

The Board DEI Committee will collaborate with Dominican Academy leadership to strengthen a diverse, equitable, and inclusive learning environment, where all D.A. community members experience a genuine sense of belonging, a supportive climate that affirms the dignity, value, and uniqueness of each community member, and the opportunity to achieve one's full potential both inside and outside the classroom.

BOARD DEI COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Glen Gregorio—Chair
Kristin Shea '82, P '19
Alison Andrews Weber, Esq. '97
Daphné Crespo-Helm '89
Keith Cruise, Ph.D.
Terence Kannengieser

2020 ANNUAL AUCTION & BENEFIT

A YEAR OF FIRSTS!

While the format differed from past years' events, D.A.'s most recent Annual Auction & Benefit was nonetheless a tremendous success. Traditionally held each spring, due to COVID-19, our 2020 Spring Auction & Benefit became a fall event. The online auction ran from September 23–29, 2020. The virtual Gala/Annual Auction & Benefit event was held on Friday, September 25th with professional auctioneer, Jim Miller, serving as our master of ceremonies. During the event, we had the privilege of honoring the Dowicz family and Kristin Shea, '82, P'19 with a video tribute and special recognition award.

Mary Elizabeth Dowicz, mother of alum Karen Dowicz Haas, '79 was a devout Roman Catholic who, with her husband Zenon, enrolled their eight children in parochial schools. Because Karen was awarded a full four year scholarship to D.A., the family was able to keep their other children in Catholic school, as well. As a

tribute to their mother, Karen, her brother Stephen and their other siblings created the endowed Dowicz Family Scholarship so that other young students could receive the same opportunities they had been given.

Kristin Shea, '82, P'19, whose family has a long legacy at D.A., has been giving her time and talents to our beloved school for over two decades. She has served as Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees, has served on several Board sub-committees and was a member and President of the Dominican Academy Parents' Association (DAPA) while her daughter Sophia attended D.A. We are so grateful to our honorees and their ongoing support.

We are also grateful to all of those who attended, sponsored, and donated to our virtual event; to those who purchased tickets in anticipation of a live event in April and graciously converted their tickets into

donations; and to those who donated and bid on the many auction items we offered up in the days leading up to and following the Gala. We raised an unprecedented \$167,000 to support Dominican Academy.



HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED THIS EVENT AND WHO SUPPORT US YEAR AFTER YEAR.



We look forward to hosting everyone in person at our next Annual Auction & Benefit, this one celebrating our 125th founding anniversary, at the Metropolitan Club on April 8, 2022.



Jim Miller
Auctioneer



Karen Haas, '79 (Dowicz family)
2020 honoree



Kristin Shea, '82, P '19
2020 honoree

TOP 5 SILENT ITEMS

Item Name / Number	Value	Current Bid	High Bid
Zulu Nyala Photo Safari #112	\$5,950	\$2,500	279
Cocktails and Conversation with D.A. President, Sr. Margaret Ormond	Priceless	\$1,100	188
Golf Outing at the Exclusive Westchester County Club	\$1,500	\$1,050	476
Mass with His Eminence, Timothy Cardinal Dolan	Priceless	\$1,000	374
Hammock Cove Resort & Spa Antigua	\$3,800	\$800	476



DEAR ALUMNAE, PARENTS AND FRIENDS,

Greetings from Dominican Academy. I hope that each of you is doing well in these still challenging times.

Next year, 2022, marks an exciting milestone as D.A. celebrates its 125th Anniversary of our founding in 1897. This gives us opportunities to celebrate with a year-long series of events both virtually and in person. I hope you will join us at some of these events when your schedules permit. A list of events will soon be published starting with an opening Mass for the Anniversary Year on Saturday, January 8, 2022, at 2:00 pm at St. Vincent Ferrer Church. A reception at Dominican Academy will follow the Anniversary Mass. All are welcome.

During the past seven years, I've had the honor of working at D.A. It's been a pleasure to see the strong bonds of friendship and sisterhood that have been formed among D.A. alumnae. These bonds have been spoken of by alumnae themselves from every age group—many

who live great distances from New York City. The high caliber of the education is another quality of the D.A. experience that has been frequently commented on along with having become “a woman for others.” All of this makes for an intelligent, tight-knit community who cares about each other and cares about the greater world at large.

This Anniversary Year, I ask you to be as generous as you can to D.A. to offer our current and future students the same amazing experience that so many of you recall. Our goal this year is to increase the academy's endowment to continue to keep tuition as low as possible which will benefit every student. Thank you for your vital support to Dominican Academy.

Sincerely,

Brother James P. Simon, C.O.

125TH ANNIVERSARY NEWS



PRAYER FOR DOMINICAN ACADEMY'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

Gracious and loving God, you have created us to seek truth in all that we do.

As we celebrate with joy our 125th Founding Anniversary, may everything we do begin with your inspiration, continue with your strength and end with your guidance.

We praise and thank you for the abundant graces showered on us during these 125 years.

In gratitude, we pray and remember our founders, our administrators, our faculty members and staff, our students, our parents, our alumnae, our benefactors and all who walked through the portals of our Alma Mater these past 125 years.

Hear our prayers Lord, and send forth your Spirit on us during this time of celebration, so that we, as a community, may be united and committed to follow the Pillars of St. Dominic: Study, Community, Service and Prayer.

We ask this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. AMEN.



ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW PRESIDENT

DR. ALEXANDRIA EGLER, P '10

DEAR MEMBERS OF THE DOMINICAN ACADEMY COMMUNITY,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Dominican Academy, I am delighted to announce the appointment of Dr. Alexandria (Alex) Egler as the second President and first lay-leader of Dominican Academy. This appointment is effective July 1, 2022 upon the retirement of Sister Margaret Ormond, O.P. During the extensive nine-month search, Dr. Egler met with the Board, faculty, staff, parents, alumnae, and other interested members of the D.A. community. The Board unanimously voted to nominate Dr. Egler, and the Leadership Team of the Dominican Sisters of Peace enthusiastically approved her appointment in July 2021.

Dr. Egler comes to D.A. with more than twenty years of experience in administrative and academic roles at St. Francis College, where she currently serves as the Executive Director of

Mission, Ministry & Interfaith Dialogue and Professor of Religious Studies. She earned her B.A. and teaching certificate in Religious Studies from Chestnut Hill College, her M.A. in Religious Studies from Villanova, and her Ph.D. from Fordham University's Graduate School of Religion and Religious Education. As the parent of a D.A. graduate (Julia Egler, Class of 2010), Dr. Egler appreciates D.A.'s unique culture, its dedication to excellence in women's Catholic education, and the special people who make up the D.A. community she will now lead.

"The Search Committee worked exhaustively to find the right candidate for this important leadership role. We were impressed with Dr. Egler's credentials, inspired by her commitment, and engaged through her energy. It has been a true pleasure to get to know Dr. Egler over the past year," said Kristin Shea, the Chair of the President Search Committee.

Dr. Egler's commitment to faith, dedication to Catholic education, and expertise in administration collectively establish her as the inspiring leader who can execute on initiatives and strengthen our school.

The Board will work with Sister Margaret and Dr. Egler on a transition plan in the coming year. During this time, we will also celebrate Sister Margaret's contributions during her seven years of leadership excellence.

Thank you for all your prayers during this process!

Peace,

Mary Sullivan
Chair of the Board of Trustees

WE ARE GLAD TO HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO MEET WITH DR. EGLER SO SHE COULD SHARE A FEW THOUGHTS WITH US AND THE D.A. COMMUNITY.

Veritas: We're so glad you're joining us at D.A. What attracted you to the position of President?

Dr. Egler: It is an absolute blessing and a joy to have been invited to be part of continuing the incredible legacy of the Dominican Sisters of Peace.

The attraction of this position begins with my own steadfast belief in the quality, strength, marvelous outcomes, and possibilities of a Catholic education for young women. Dominican Academy offers our students academic excellence alongside their ability to fully develop as the individuals that God has intended them to be. They will carry this confidence into the world and make a positive impact.

Veritas: How do you see Catholic education evolving in the coming years?

Dr. Egler: What a great question! I think it's important to begin with recognizing where, how, and why Catholic education is where it is today, particularly in the United States. It is really because of the countless courageous and faithful women like the Dominican Sisters and other women's religious communities, who came to America to serve and support indigenous and immigrant populations, minority groups and the poor. These women offered their lives, their gifts, and their hearts in order to pave the way for better, healthier, and greater opportunities for generations.

We are living in an era that is incredibly complex and fast paced. Because of technology and social media we have evolved into a society that demands instant gratification and instant communication. There is so much good to be harvested from this, and Catholic education must pivot with the times to remain not just relevant but compelling and desirable.

Along with a focus on academics, Catholic education is always reaching out to the margins of society with love and charity for ALL regardless of faith, political persuasion, ethnicity, or gender. If Catholic education is to continue to thrive, we must recognize and embrace that each of us has a responsibility to be stewards and

shepherds of evangelizing the Gospels through our words, actions, and way of being as we strive to make our world a more peaceful and loving place.

Veritas: You have extensive background in Franciscan spirituality. Do you see that as a help or a hinderance as you immerse yourself in the Dominican charism?

Dr. Egler: St. Dominic and St. Francis were contemporaries and friends and shared many similar qualities and attitudes on what it means to follow Jesus and share the Gospels with others. I believe that the Dominicans and Franciscans complement one another. Both are reflections of our very rich Catholic Christian Tradition.

Veritas: What are the unique challenges D.A. students and recent alumnae will face in the coming years?

Dr. Egler: I think that at this moment in time our society is fraught with divisiveness and discord and that is a sobering and deep concern. There is tremendous injustice and inequity in our world. There are crises within our Church that test our faith in the institution and are at times disheartening to even the most devout among us. Affiliation with the Catholic Church (particularly among young people) is declining in numbers with a significant percentage of Millennials disconnecting from their religion for a myriad of reasons. As grave or as bleak as the picture might appear to be, it is important to recognize that there is extraordinary joy and love courageously and selflessly envisioned and enacted by our global Catholic community.

As a Catholic school, we are strengthened and comforted by our belief that Christ is our principle educator. D.A. students and alumnae are finding their way in the world through their creativity, their passion, and their commitment as witnesses of and voices for social justice. Our students and recent alumnae need our continual prayers, encouragement, and support as they navigate society and our global community, particularly as we live, work, and pray throughout this pandemic and other social, political, health and justice concerns.

Veritas: How has your own faith played a role in your personal and professional life?

Dr. Egler: Being a Catholic is integral to who I am both personally and professionally. I know that without my faith, I would be rudderless and adrift. I take immense comfort in the fact that our Church is made up of people like me, flawed, less than perfect, but who wake up each day with the desire to live with joy and in small (or big) ways make our world a better place.

As a person of faith I am challenged to grow daily with prayer as I try to listen and respond with my intellect and spirit. I firmly believe that the providence of the Holy Spirit has guided me throughout my life and has brought me to Dominican Academy.

Veritas: "Veritas" means "truth." Given all the mixed messages we receive in the media, and the conflicting versions of "facts" that are thrown at us all, how do you see helping our students find truth in their academic lives?

Dr. Egler: Facts and truth are related but not meant to be conflated. An important element of our Catholic Dominican spirituality is the understanding of what it means to pursue and live Veritas. Our four pillars of prayer, study, community, and service support this truth, a truth that IS God's mercy and love, and a truth that can be revealed through an embracing and living of our tenets of belief. We need to continue to recognize and accompany one another in seeking and recognizing truth, which is the revelation of God in the beauty of creation, the gifts we share with one another and even the revelation of truth in the people we do not like or with whom we do not agree. Veritas, God's truth, is fundamental to our being and is reflected within and around our world and universe.

Veritas: It has been a turbulent time for Catholic education at every level. D.A., however, remains academically strong and resolute in its commitment to its Christian values. How can D.A. sustain its competitive edge in the NY Catholic school system in the years ahead?



Veritas: The school has recently formed a Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Task Force. How do you see its impact on the school under your leadership?

Dr. Eglar: This is a critically important step for D.A. to take. I am eager to work with the task force in ensuring that our mission and our community at D.A. reflect our diversity and strive for equity, inclusion, and a sense of belonging in all that we do and who we are.

Our understanding and implementation of Catholic Social Teaching will serve us well in ensuring that as an institution of academic excellence we understand that a diverse community is one in which equity is essential to our excellence. We cannot claim excellence if any member of our community feels marginalized, unheard, or unseen. We need to think about how we respond to individual needs, offer support, and create conditions that will encourage success, confidence, and a deep sense of belonging while encouraging and celebrating the unique gifts and talents of all.

This is a marvelous moment in our history. I know that the Holy Spirit will guide us and open our hearts and minds to this invitation to grow as a community in richly meaningful and loving ways.

Veritas: Dr. Eglar, thank you for your time and insights. On behalf of the D.A. community, welcome to our school. We look forward to working with you.

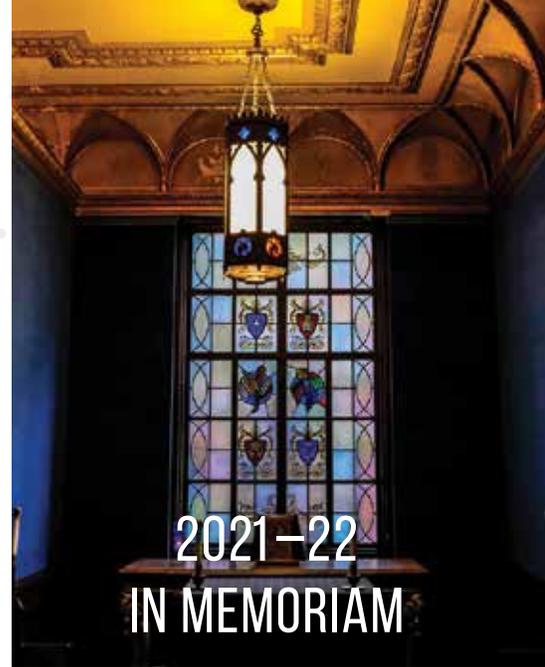
Dr. Eglar: It has been a privilege to think about and respond to these thoughtful questions. I am so very excited to join D.A. and I can't wait to get started. It is humbling to follow Sr. Margaret and all that she has brought to and done for D.A. I have been so warmly welcomed by everyone I have met and I feel very supported. I just ask that everyone reading this to please keep our students and our community in their prayers. Be assured that I am carrying every member of our D.A. family in my heart and in my prayers.

Dr. Eglar: First and foremost, we will continue to do all that has yielded the strong, competitive, and positive results that we have proudly achieved. Dominican Academy is a unique institution and that should be promoted and celebrated with the knowledge that we offer an exceptional education that cannot be measured against other (Catholic) schools in the area. What I mean by this is we must focus on the hard work and success that we have accomplished for 125 years. But we must always be vigilant and look towards the future. I truly believe that our mission and the fact that we are the only all honors, Catholic, secondary school for young women in New York State are what set us apart from other (Catholic) secondary schools.

We will continue to seek out new opportunities and partnerships both from within and outside our D.A. community that will support our faith and our ideas and challenge our young women and expand the horizons of their curiosity and success.

Veritas: As a pilgrimage organizer and leader, what do you see as the purpose and benefits of pilgrimage? Do you plan on offering our students and/or alumnae an opportunity to participate in a pilgrimage?

Dr. Eglar: Pilgrimage as a form of spiritual practice is also an instrument of religious education. It would be an absolute privilege to have the opportunity to develop pilgrimage opportunities for our students, alumnae, parents, faculty, and all members of our D.A. community who might be interested. My research and practice of pilgrimage has completely transformed my personal spirituality and daily life. I want to share the experience and spiritual path with as many people who might be interested in seeking a form of prayer and contemplation that invites the possibility of reframing and reinvigorating a relationship with God.



2021-22

IN MEMORIAM

ALUMNAE

Frances Fasano Storck '38
 Alice B. Kevil, '41
 Pat Alexander LaMothe, '46
 Helen Martin Maloney, '47
 Terese McCabe Cerni, '50
 Eleanor McCabe, '50 (11/2/20)
 Martha McMahan McCaffrey, '50, nee
 Sr. Mary James, former D.A.
 faculty member
 MaryJane Lloyd DeGenaro, '53
 Virginia Barnes Salzer '53
 Patricia A. Richard Felix, '55
 Marianne Ouellette Parker, '55
 Kathleen Sheridan Giery, '56
 Helene Babaraco Miglierina, '56
 Katherine McArdle McDonnell, '57
 Patricia Mostyn Aker, '58
 Marianne Scialabba Mongello, '59
 Romana (Ronnie) Biezenski Estes, '63
 Marina (Nami) McCreery, '69
 Norma Taglioretti-Wofse, '70
 Christine Van Hoek, '76
 Pei Lin Huang, '77

D.A. FAMILY & FRIENDS

Thomas Aikenhead, S '54
 Daniel Andrews, P '97, G '25
 Ginette Crespo, P '89
 Robert Daly, faculty parent
 Raymond Dee, faculty parent
 Bill Kenney, S '66
 Jack McCaffrey, S '50
 Sister Mary Faith Reaney, O.P.,
 former D.A. faculty member
 Mary Robotti, P '64
 Frank Seus, S '67
 Michael Touhey, S '59
 John Walter, P '86

Notes

ALUMNAE

1956 | Helen Clarke Molanphy's book on reform in the American penal system is under serious consideration by Routledge Press for publication as a text for college students, criminal justice professionals and the general public. She is reworking the manuscript, guided by suggestions from criminal justice professors assigned by Routledge Press to provide critiques.

The Class of '56 celebrated their 65th Reunion via Zoom on May 20, 2021. Classmates attended from New Mexico and other locations near and far.



1958 | Jo Ann Liberali Cardone writes, "This was taken at the Galabeya party on my Nile Cruise. The other one is obvious. I returned on February 28th and promptly landed in the hospital. A heart attack, a stent and a cancer diagnosis. Holy cow. Doing very well now, thanks to God and

all my Dominican 'sisters.' Have no doubt, prayer works. What better time to be sick than when one couldn't do anything else? Timing is everything!!!"

Jeanne Glennon McAnaney sent the following regarding her class—"This is a class report I hoped never to have to write. On August 3rd we lost **Pat Mostyn Aker**, one of our most beloved classmates, to an irreversible brain injury suffered in a fall. Our classmate and Pat's lifelong dear friend, **Lyn Reynolds Canty** was able to attend Pat's funeral which she said was beautiful with music chosen by Pat. Many of us were aware of Pat's compromised health and were sending our prayers heavenward but the Almighty had other plans. Pat's amazing sense of humor, compassion for the less fortunate, devotion to her husband John and family, generosity and loyalty to D.A., defined her well lived life. We will all miss her terribly but were incredibly lucky to call her our friend for so many years.

On another note, during the year I keep a list of news I hear from the faithful members of the proud Class of '58 in Drafts on my computer so that I don't have to rely on my questionable memory. Shortly before I was preparing to report all this, I discovered that Edward had accidentally deleted it. We won't discuss that conversation here. If I have lost track of your news or screwed up my memory of it, don't hesitate to resend it. We love sharing it no matter how old. Not surprisingly at our age, our news consists of health reports which is not my area of expertise but here we go.

In the spring **Lauretta Clancy Leddy** had a heart procedure which went very well. She was home the next day. She had moved in January from her home of 50+ years to a charming apartment in Garden City. Also in the spring, **Barbara Onderchek Black** had her second knee replacement, good reason to have only two knees, another success. Come September, **Barbara Sullivan Ertel**, our outpost classmate in Idaho,

experienced a serious hospitalization and **Jo Ann Cardone** kept us regularly updated on her changing condition with medical input from nurse **Sheila Fannon McArdle** whose own health issues seem to be under control. Happily, Barbara is pretty much up and running at this writing. **Beth Wagner Dougherty** has spent COVID-19 isolation in the lovely Hudson Valley and has recently been able to revisit her two California grandchildren.

On September 8th, **Jo Ann Cardone** joined a jolly lunch with the usual suspects at the Central Park Boathouse and we shared a call with **Barbara Ertel** to cheer on her recovery. Shortly before that, we enjoyed a hilarious dinner with **Gerry Murphy Pasquale**. In October, **Susan Filippi O'Shea, Maureen McPartland Brokaw, Dorothy Filoramo, Lauretta Leddy** and I also enjoyed a lovely lunch at the Isle of Capri restaurant owned by our loyal D.A. alumna **Jane Lamanna, '61**. We were delighted to support Jane and at the same time treat ourselves to a wonderful meal. If you are looking for a charming dining experience, do head to 61st and Third Avenue where you will be in Jane's good hands. We are endowing a Class of '58 scholarship to Weight Watchers to survive these wonderful meals.

Our Energizer Bunny **Dorothy Filoramo** is chair of the celebration of D.A.'s 125th Anniversary festivities which kick off with Mass on January 8th. Lauretta is organizing a special event for our class in June or July 2022 so keep your calendars clear to join that.

As always, thank you for your contribution to the Annual Fund. This has been a challenging 18 months and your gift makes a genuine impact on our school's ability to provide the outstanding education we enjoyed.

1959 | Pam Keating wrote "I have Sr. Mary Austine to blame—no, to THANK—for my having become a somewhat nutty amateur etymologist. I've been working, for

about a dozen years, on a book that gives the life stories of about 400 words and quotes that use those words in thought-provoking ways. A joy! (If anyone would like to see what I have so far, just drop me a note at keating.pam@gmail.com and I'll happily send it to you.) Should it ever get published, its title will be, "In the Beginning." The few samples below fit D.A. perfectly. By the way—I got a B.A. at Mt. St. Vincent, went to Hofstra, the University of Arizona, Johns Hopkins and Cambridge University in England—but I always say that I was educated at D.A. VERITAS! I'll always be grateful."

One of the greatest problems of our time is that many are schooled but few are educated. —Thomas More

A proper education enables young people to put their lives in order, which means knowing what things are more important than other things; it means putting first things first. —Wendell Berry, interview with Bill Moyers

The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and critically. Intelligence and character—hat is the goal of true education. —Martin Luther King

By education I mean that training in excellence from youth upward which makes a man passionately desire to be a perfect citizen, and teaches him to rule, and to obey, with justice. This is the only education which deserves the name. —Plato, Laws, Book I

My God, how beautiful Shakespeare is. Who else is as mysterious as he is; his language and method are like a brush trembling with excitement and ecstasy. But one must learn to read, just as one must learn to see and learn to live. —Van Gogh

Gratefully,
Pam Keating

1961 | Roseanne O'Brien Weinstein welcomed her first grandchild, a girl, born

to her daughter, Shauna and husband TJ. on August 5, 2021. Shauna's identical twin, Erin and husband Colin are expecting a girl in January 2022. Both girls are psychologists and work at the same agency (CASA) with the same population. Twins!!!

1965 | Barbara Sisk Troxell wrote "**Dorothy Whitlock Mahoney** and I played in a Women's Member Guest at her golf club in mid-September. Our golf score was not fabulous, but our time together was wonderful. **Rosemary Lambert Riepe** was vacationing recently at Bryce National Park in Utah. **Marion Murphy Bergensen** continues to enjoy her life in Boulder, CO. She stays busy taking beautiful photographs and working with some non-profits. Jeff and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary (belatedly due to COVID-19) with our children and grandchildren in New Hampshire this summer. Our oldest grandchild Charlotte is a sophomore at Boston University and our youngest, Will, just started nursery school. We head west to Arizona for the winter for the weather and to be closer to our grands who live in Utah and Colorado. Facebook allows me to keep up with news from many of our classmates."

1967 | Louise Pedone Cosenza has a beautiful new granddaughter, Sabine Charlotte Cosenza. Born August 7, 2021, 7 lbs. 9 oz., 19 and 1/2 inches long. She is Louise's 7th grandchild. Proud parents, Erin and Joseph Cosenza.

1971 | Mary Blecha Gaits wrote: "The Class of 1971 celebrated our 50th reunion with a Zoom Party in June 2021. Fifty percent of our classmates participated from near and far. Our classmates from the British Isles, **Maura Heaphy** and **Eileen Riley Arms** were the farthest removed, but we have kept up with their adventures thanks to Facebook. Our world traveler is **Linda Virzi Gallagher** who has led us on a picturesque journey across the USA and many foreign countries we can only dream about visiting. She has also shared the

Christmas windows from NYC which we all miss. **Janet Vazquez Benjamin** was so kind in inviting our former school secretary, her mom, Mrs. Vazquez to be part of our day. We are spread across the U.S. and in the British Isles, but have maintained our friendships thanks to Facebook. D.A. Class of '71 has its own Facebook page for those we are not yet in contact with. Thank you to **Claudia Thompson Shukis**, my best friend in HS for her phenomenal organizational skills and to **Susan Oliva** for her technological expertise in making this event happen. Our class donation of \$10,000 dollars is dedicated to classmates we have lost way too soon, **Rita Craig** and **Michelle Petraitis**. We will be having an in-person WEEKEND reunion in September 2022 in Cape May, NJ. Please contact me for details at Mary Blecha Gaits, 100 Sunburst Road, Bridgeport CT 06606, Mgaits1953@gmail.com."



1975 | Beth Montagni Figari retired from her teaching career in 2018 and has been enjoying retirement to its fullest! "We sold our home and now spend the winters in Sarasota, FL and the summers in our beach house in Hampton Bays, NY. We have been blessed with two beautiful grandchildren, Giovanna who is four-years-old and Finn Jameson who is two-years-old. We are grateful that our three grown children are healthy and have careers of service in law enforcement and education. My husband Peter and I enjoy traveling

and boating. Most recently, we visited the National Parks out west and hope to visit Europe once again in the future.”

1982 | Laura Lyons Karrh, '82 shared that her mother, **Eleanor Fitzgerald Lyons** and her dear friend **Barbara Buckley Cummins, both Class of '49**, speak often via phone and share lots of laughs. They have both just turned 90 years young. They reminisce fondly of their days as D.A. girls—they often talk about Ms. Jantzer, their dance teacher and how she inspired them to enjoy the arts. They both commuted from Jackson Heights to D.A. like many D.A. girls do today. I love hearing their stories and sharing my own of my D.A. days. When my mother convinced me to transfer to D.A. as a Junior she shared her D.A. Handbook with me. It amused me as it said things like 'loud laughter is a sign of bad breeding' and that gum chewing was very frowned upon. But the Handbook also convinced me that D.A. had a mission to create leaders out of its students and enrich our Catholic faith with its mission of social justice. I have enrolled my children in Catholic elementary and middle school and love watching them grow in their faith as I did at D.A.—all thanks to my mom and her mother, my grandmother, who sent her to D.A.!



1984 | Lisa Zabrowski wrote “Lisa Zab, who goes by the professional name of Lisa Leonard, recently rebranded her VoiceOver

business. She specializes in corporate eLearning and medical narration. One of Lisa’s ‘pandemic projects’ was creating a video podcast, “Help and Healing Hangout.” In each 5-minute episode, experts give advice on staying physically and emotionally healthy during these challenging times. www.LisaLeonardVoice.com.”

1985 | Laura Del Valle Benvenuto wishes congratulations to her daughter Veronica, who graduated from 8th grade with high honors and won the Triple “C” Award from the New York State Office of the Attorney General Letitia James for courage, commitment, and character, as well as the Pope Francis Award for extraordinary service to her parish. Veronica is headed to Dominican Academy in the fall and mom could not be prouder! Her sister Angelica just completed 6th grade with high honors as well. Laura recently joined fellow alumnae **Carla Eng, '85, Sandra Juanico, '85** while **Jackie Massa Proctor, '85** led them all on an extremely informative hike through Locust Grove Estate in upstate New York. They are looking forward to another hike through Innisfree Garden with additional Class of '85 alums!



Ingrid Jacqueline Proctor shared that a little group of D.A. Class of 1985 girls recently reunited after 36 years. Traveling from as far as Buffalo and Massachusetts, they gathered at a house near West Point and went to an apple orchard and did a corn maze together. “We ate and laughed

as we recalled many stories and caught each other up on our families. Once a D.A. girl, always a D.A. girl!”

Back row: Patricia (Boland) Bernard, Nora (Oroszlany) Driscoll, Ellen Geis, Jackie (Massa) Proctor, Laura (Del Valle) Benvenuto Front Row: Susanna Hong, Carla Eng-Kohn, Sandra (Juanico-Reilly) Slane, Paula Hong

1988 | Joanne Guerrero-Georgalos is incredibly proud and happy to share that her daughter, Sofia, has begun her high school career at D.A. Class of 2025. She found our graduation picture outside Room #2. Grateful to our fellow classmate, **Chrissy Rohan Camas, '88, P'20** for lending us a blazer (that actually fits) for school pictures! Looking forward to life as a D.A. parent.

1990 | Tatiana Serafin wrote: “Last fall, I launched an international news podcast with the Carnegie Council for International Affairs, where I was appointed Senior Fellow. (www.carnegiecouncil.org/programs/the-doorstep). I continue to teach journalism at Marymount Manhattan College and am the Director of the Digital Journalism program. I am really inspired by the passion and dedication of the next generation and look forward to working with new students each year. I am ticking off a bucket list item this year by running in the NYC marathon in support of Girl Scouts (I have been a Troop Leader for 10 years!)”

1991 | Keri-Ann Fiore DeAngelo and husband Mike celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in August. They have three wonderful children. The youngest, Ella started as a freshman at D.A. in September. She is already making friends and memories!

1998 | Jocelyn McCarthy Smith just finished her doctorate at Vanderbilt and is serving as principal of a Catholic school in Columbus, Georgia.

Notes



1999 | Meredith Hill Chartier shared a photo of her daughter, Margaux Geraldine Chartier, born January 23, 2020.



2002 | Emily Fannon Rathbone welcomed daughter Abigail Charlotte to our family on September 11, 2021.

2003 | Catherine (Cat) Lukaszewski wrote: "Over five years into West Coast living, I continue to enjoy life in Los Angeles. I am very grateful for a recent promotion from Laboratory Coordinator to Project Manager for the Science Department at the Getty Conservation Institute and to have achieved many personal goals in 2021, despite the ongoing pandemic."

Over the past year, I ran my fastest half marathon race, successfully summited Mount Whitney, the highest mountain in the lower 48/continental United States, climbed Yosemite's Half Dome—and more! I have proudly served as a board member of the Friends of Westwood Library since the summer of 2019. I remain in close contact with many fellow D.A. graduates and former and current faculty members. I hope my schoolmates and teachers and their families are staying safe during this challenging time."



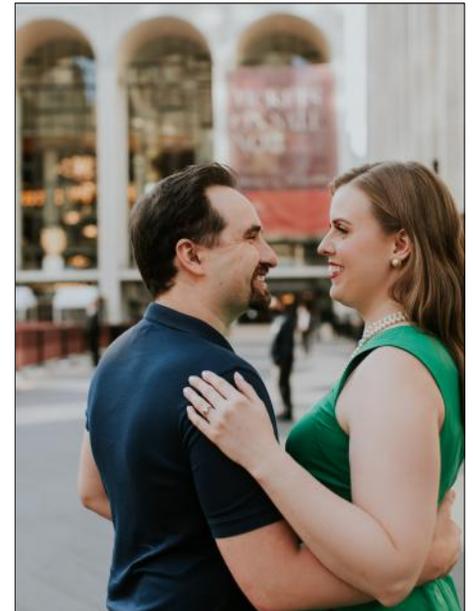
2004 | Adrienne Mountis-Bauer and husband James welcomed a daughter, Francesca Estelle Bauer, on March 17, 2021. She was baptized at St. Vincent Ferrer on September 18th.



2006 | Mary Wachowicz Kulhanek and husband Stephen Kulhanek welcomed a baby girl, Veronica Brooke, on July 11, 2021. She joins older brother Arthur.



Mary also shared that she is a manager at PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP, effective July 1, 2021. She works in the Consulting Solutions practice, focusing on State & Local Tax, where she works on various projects spanning consulting, compliance, and controversy issues. She has experience assisting taxpayers, including partnerships, corporations and individuals.



2007 | Madeleine B. Metzler, D.A.'s Director of Admissions and Strategic Marketing, will marry Justin J. Sousa in Southampton on Sunday, April 24, 2022. Madeleine and Justin look forward to celebrating with loved ones from near and far, including many dear friends from Dominican Academy.

2008 | Elizabeth M. Cappello, MD graduated from Pediatrics Residency in June 2021, and is currently Chief Resident of the Pediatrics Residency Program at Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters/Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, Virginia.



Katie Hennessy wrote: "A day to remember! Hurricane Henri couldn't rain on this parade. Katie Hennessy '08 married Chris Rodeschin (Regis '07) on August 22, 2021 at the Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Brooklyn Heights. The event was filled with love and laughter. Friends and family from near and far gathered to celebrate the happy couple."

2010 | Nicole DeFilippi shared that on February 15, 2021 she got engaged to longtime boyfriend (and Dominican Academy volunteer!) George Smith at one of their favorite places - Long Beach Island, NJ! They plan to wed in June of 2023.



2010 | Jennifer Stewart graduated with her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology in August 2021. She will be working as a postdoctoral fellow in PTSD at a VA Hospital for the next year before starting as a clinical psychologist.

2013 | Camilla J. Davila completed a dual-Master's in Public Policy between Sciences Po Paris and the University of Tokyo, specializing in Global Health and International Relations this past September. She spent the past two years abroad, first in France and now in Japan, exploring the local food scenes, rich cultures, and natural beauty that both countries have to offer.



2014 | Hannah Stanke recently ran a 5K for Christ House, a respite-care center for homeless men in Washington, DC. Independently, she raised over \$2,200 for the organization and offered hand-made art prizes as special rewards for all her donors!



2020 | Teila Narcisco is no longer using her cane after having it for a year. She dislocated her right knee dancing in August 2020. A few months later, she dislocated her left knee (also while dancing). We are happy she is recovered and hope she never stops dancing.

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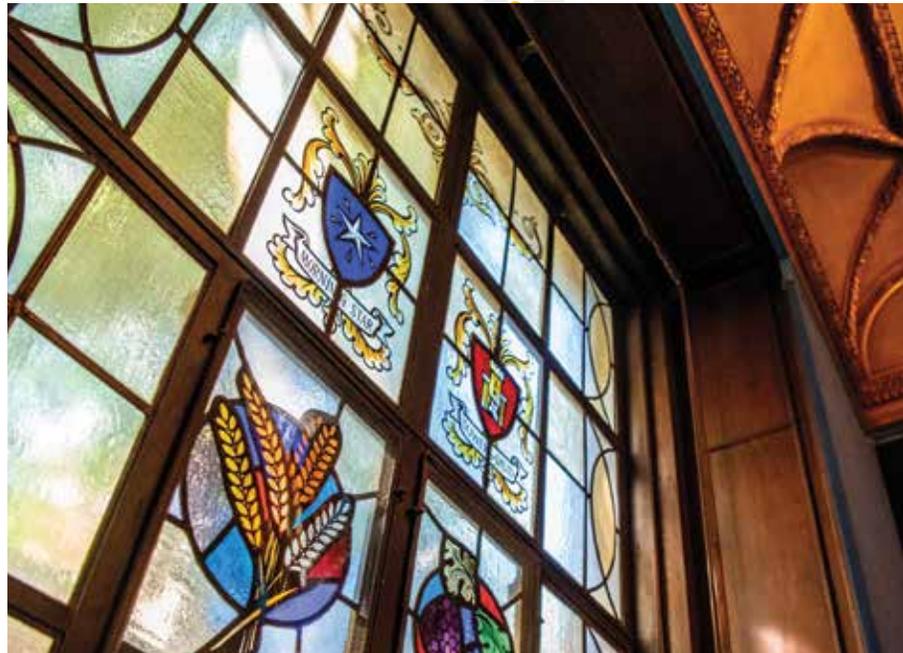
Editor's Note: The information in Veritas, '21 is intended to be accurate as of November 1, 2021. If you see something that you feel should be corrected in our next edition, please email development@dominicanacademy.org.

SAVE THE
Date

SAT JAN 8 '22
**125TH OPENING MASS
AND RECEPTION**

FRI APR 8 '22
**2022 ANNUAL AUCTION
& BENEFIT**

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