

Alumnae Awards Ceremony

Celebrate the impact of Mercy!

Trocaire Leadership Awards

**Margaret Beirn Barger '35
Distinguished Alumna Award**

Athletic Hall of Fame Award

**Maria Lutz McHugh '46 Award for Outstanding
Commitment to Gwynedd Mercy Athletics**



Saturday, October 21, 2023

About the Alumnae Awards



Celebrate the impact of Mercy!

Trocaire Leadership Awards: Service to the World

Trocaire is the Gaelic word for compassion or mercy. The Trocaire Leaders embody the success and spirit of a Gwynedd Mercy education. They inspire and motivate others, exhibit outstanding leadership in their professional lives and throughout the community, and are committed to personal growth, social responsibility, and global awareness. During the School's 150th Anniversary Celebration, eight women from various fields were honored with the inaugural Trocaire Leadership Awards. Each year since then, women are honored in their fields.

Margaret Beirn Barger '35 Distinguished Alumna Award: Service to the School

This annual award is named for Margaret Beirn Barger, a 1935 graduate of the Academy of the Sisters of Mercy, who had a life-long dedication to the Alumnae Association. Margaret served as the backbone of the organization for more than 50 years. In the past, this award was given to graduates who represented commitment to the works of Mercy. Today, this award recognizes alumnae who epitomize the qualities of loyalty, service, dedication, and devotion to the School, all demonstrated by Margaret.

Athletic Hall of Fame Award

The Athletic Hall of Fame at Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School was established to preserve the School's successful athletic history, to honor outstanding athletes, teams, and coaches, and to inspire young women to compete with perseverance and the utmost Mercy Spirit. The Hall also is an extension of the School's Athletic Wall of Fame, installed in the Maria Lutz McHugh '46 Gymnasium in 2010 during the School's 150th Anniversary.

Maria Lutz McHugh '46 Award for Outstanding Commitment to Gwynedd Mercy Athletics

This prestigious award, named in honor of Maria Lutz McHugh '46, recognizes an adult (alumna, coach, athletic trainer, faculty member, staff member, parent, community member, etc.) who has made an outstanding commitment and demonstrated extraordinary leadership to advancing Gwynedd Mercy Athletics. A proud alumna, Maria promoted women and sports at Gwynedd for more than three decades. She taught health and physical education; coached basketball, field hockey and tennis; and provided visionary leadership as the Academy's first athletic director. She established many sports programs at GMA, including cross country, gymnastics, lacrosse, swimming, track and field, and volleyball. Today, we honor her legacy with this award.

Reunion 2023

Alumnae Awards Ceremony

Welcome

Erin Reimel Clements '12
Director of Alumnae Engagement

Denise Corkery Marbach '72, P'05, '09
President

Melva Exner, Esq. '77, P'11
Board of Trustees Chair,
Alumnae Association Awards
Committee Chair

Presentation of Awards

Trocaire Leadership Awards

Margaret Beirn Barger '35
Distinguished Alumna Award

Athletic Hall of Fame Award

Maria Lutz McHugh '46 Award
for Outstanding Commitment to
Gwynedd Mercy Athletics

Singing of Alma Mater

Mix and Mingle Reception

**Gather with classmates,
family, and friends.**

Cocktails and light fare served immediately
following the awards ceremony.

Reconnect and mingle while exploring the
familiar red and gold corridors.

The School Store is also open.



Trocaire Leadership Awards

Maisha Palmer Kelly '95
Education

Marlena Ventresca Parker,
Colonel Retired '86
Government & Legal

Nicole Lovecchio '97
Philanthropy & Nonprofit

Sister Maureen Christi Donahue, RSM
Religious Vocations & Volunteers

Meghan Bishop, MD '03
STEM

Margaret Beirn Barger '35 Distinguished Alumna Award: Service to the School

Anna Skoien Lall '02

Athletic Hall of Fame Award

Christina Mastropaolo, PhD '07

Maria Lutz McHugh '46 Award for Outstanding Commitment to Gwynedd Mercy Athletics

Cristin Meehan '05

Maisha Palmer Kelly '95

2023 Trocaire Leadership Award: Education



Maisha currently serves as Drexel University's Director of Athletics, a post she was appointed to on June 16, 2021. Kelly, a native of Philadelphia, returned to the city as the first-ever Black woman to hold this position across the Philadelphia area's six Division I programs.

As the Director of Athletics, Kelly oversees 18 Division I varsity athletics programs, comprised of approximately 500 student-athletes. In addition to the management of the department's functions in executing an intercollegiate athletics program, Kelly also has oversight of the campus's recreation program which serves the campus community of students, faculty, and staff. Kelly's leadership is focused on providing a platform for student-athletes to excel academically, athletically, and personally. Drexel Athletics proudly boasts a cumulative GPA of over 3.4 for its student-athletes, while competing for championships and prioritizing engagement in the community of West Philadelphia through work that extends access and opportunity for its neighborhood residents.

Prior to arriving in Philadelphia, Kelly spent almost eleven years as a senior administrator in Bucknell University's department of athletics. Kelly developed a wide breadth of experience during her decade-long tenure at Bucknell, ranging from sport oversight to partnerships with key campus constituents, to the creation of DEI and student-athlete leadership programs, to fundraising. In each of those roles, Kelly led from the fundamental perspective of holistic support for Bucknell's more than 750 Division I student-athletes.

Kelly landed at Bucknell from the NCAA headquarters in Indianapolis, where she served as an assistant director of championships. In that role, she worked with constituents to execute NCAA Championship events. Kelly was a member of the USA Swimming and USA Diving Board of Directors.

Kelly's rise in intercollegiate athletics administration came by way of student-athlete development positions at Rutgers University, Vanderbilt University, and Saint Joseph's University.

Kelly is a 2000 graduate of Saint Joseph's University, where she captained the track and field team. She later spent three seasons as an assistant track and field coach at Saint Joseph's while also teaching sixth-grade social studies and science at Waldron Mercy Academy in Merion, PA. Kelly received her master's of education degree in sport and recreation administration from Temple University. Kelly and her husband, Kevin, have two young children, Gregory and Kennedy.

I am honored to receive this recognition. My journey to GMA was charted by way of sport. As a Philadelphia native, my prior education was primarily in Philadelphia public schools. My experiences were limited, hailing from a family where I was one of four children raised by a single mother. It was the commitment to education and resourcefulness of my mother, coupled with the sport of track and field under tutelage of Larry Wilson that opened the doors of access for me. At GMA, I gained a dedication to lifelong service.

While my work focuses on providing a student experience through sport, it also embraces a commitment to the greater community and any future community our students venture into professionally and personally. This is bred from learning that the lives we live are part of a greater world. I am a product of advocates and champions throughout my journey. Teachers like Sr. Maureen Christi, principals like Sr. Mary Alice, and lifelong friends from the Class of 1995. Education is a tool to transform lives.

I consider my role in education a lifestyle. I navigate my work with the intention to be a champion and advocate for others as we pursue success and gain valuable life lessons and relationships along the way...all a foundation from my time at GMA and throughout chapters of my life.

Marlena Ventresca Parker, Colonel Retired '86

2023 Trocaire Leadership Award: Government & Legal



Upon her graduation from Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School's Class of 1986, Marlena Ventresca was appointed to the Air Force Academy (AFA) in Colorado Springs, Colorado, where she excelled in gymnastics, achieving All-American status, and solo-piloted the T-41 "Mescalero." In 1990, Marlena graduated from AFA as a Second Lieutenant and pursued Undergraduate Pilot Training at Reese Air Force Base. She flew the T-37 "Tweet", the T-38 "Talon" and the T-1 "Jayhawk". Her next assignment brought her to March Air Force Base, where she flew the KC-10 "Extender." She deployed to Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates, participating in Operation DESERT SHIELD. She flew many air-refueling missions over the Persian Gulf, realizing the fighter aircraft were backing up the troops on the ground, connecting us as a "Total Force." Marlena then married Boyd Parker and together were assigned to Travis Air Force Base (TAFB). In 1994, Marlena was promoted to Captain and became an Aircraft Commander, where she continued to fly the KC-10. She was deployed five times for active duty. Her last deployment was to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, flying missions over Serbia and Macedonia and participating in Operation ALLIED FORCE. Her greatest mission during this time was an emergency air-refueling of a battled damaged A-10 "Thunderbolt" across the Adriatic Sea.

In 1999, Marlena left active duty to begin a new chapter with United Airlines (UA). She flew the 737 "Guppy" out of San Francisco International Airport. She and her husband welcomed their first child in 2001. On September 11, 2001, Marlena departed on a 6:00 a.m. flight, when Air Traffic Control asked "for any aircraft in distress to identify, then asked all aircraft to land immediately." Midflight, while learning of the tragedies occurring that morning, she knew she must return to military service. After the birth of her second child in 2002, she returned as a Major to the Air Force Reserve at TAFB. Marlena flew the KC-10 for the next eight years, deployed two more times, and was also an Instructor Pilot. In 2011, she was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and assigned to the Pentagon in the National Military Command Center. Shortly after, she was back in the air as the first female Commander of the 73d Airlift Squadron at Scott Air Force Base. She hails this assignment, flying Congressional Delegations on the C-40 "Clipper," as the highlight of her career. Upon her promotion in 2017 to Colonel, she was assigned to Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, where she served as Vice Commander directing hurricane responses, air-base openings, and advising on many global missions. In April 2020, Marlena retired from the United States Air Force, with 26 years of service.

She has been awarded numerous medals, culminating at her retirement with a Legion of Merit. She is a Pennsylvania Veteran of Distinction. Marlena continues to serve her community as Admissions Liaison Officer for AFA. She is a member of Plumstead Township Veterans Committee, Adjutant of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 175, and is a mentor for the Bucks County Veterans Court Program. Marlena is currently flying the 777 "Triple Seven" for UA, where her passion is to inspire our next generation of pilots.

I am humbled and honored to receive this award and be part of an alumnae group that is unmatched. I graduated with the 125th class and my classmates were my world and truly pushed me toward service. I'd like to say my biggest thank you to Mrs. Marie Keidel, my guidance counselor. In my junior year, Mrs. Keidel told me that if I wanted to be an astronaut...I had to go to the Air Force Academy. My experiences there were phenomenal. I met my husband and went on to have a really great career, serving in the world's greatest Air Force. As I now fly for United Airlines, I can't help but credit Gwynedd Mercy Academy's first influencer, who changed my view of the world, with compassion and confident leadership. #SheIsTheFuture for sure! I will have an impact on future generations of pilots!

Nicole Lovecchio '97

2023 Trocaire Leadership Award: Philanthropy & Nonprofit

Nicole Lovecchio serves as the Chief SEL Officer at Wings for Kids, an all-female-led nonprofit dedicated to equipping children from under-resourced communities with the social-emotional skills they need to succeed in school, stay in school, and thrive in life. For 21 years, Nicole has helped transform a single afterschool program into a national organization with multiple direct service sites across the southeast and partnerships from coast to coast. What's most impressive? She's accomplished this with heart, grit, and a loyal following of employees, coworkers, students, and fans.

Having held nearly every position within the now seven-million-dollar company, Nicole's primary role is ensuring social-emotional learning is at the heart of everything within the organization. She develops curriculum for elementary students and training/professional development content for adults who work with youth—inside and outside of WINGS. She also cultivates partnerships with other youth-serving organizations (like the YMCA of Metro Atlanta) and schools around the country to help them build a foundation that fosters social-emotional safety and development for their students and staff. In times like these, Nicole's talents and expertise have never been in more high demand.

In 2002, Nicole was introduced to Wings for Kids while serving as a wrap-around counselor with the South Carolina Department of Mental Health. Many of her clients attended the WINGS program, so when a position opened up, she hoped to join their team. Luckily, she was hired as a part-time WINGS Behavior Management Specialist. She spent afternoons helping students identify their emotions, improve their decision-making skills, and resolve conflict. Just over a year later, Nicole moved into a full-time Program Director position, where she stayed and blossomed for seven years. During her time as Program Director, she created a new curriculum, re-vamped staff training, and replicated the program across multiple elementary schools in Charleston, SC. She was then promoted to Regional Operations Director, providing direct oversight of the four Charleston programs and assisting with the expansion of programming into Atlanta, GA, and Charlotte, NC. Eventually, Nicole was offered the role of Chief Program Officer and consistently provided leadership on all aspects of developing, implementing, and managing the afterschool programs and services offered by the organization.

When she's not traveling around the country training teachers and youth development staff, or presenting at conferences, Nicole enjoys spending quality time with her wife, Pam, and their three children, Evelyn (5), Junie (3), and Myles (3) and soaking up any chance to catch up on all of her reality TV programs.



It's an honor to receive the Trocaire Leadership Award in Philanthropy. I'm thankful to my friend and fellow alumna, Kristen Creed Hayes '97 for the nomination and for the consideration of the Alumnae Association's Awards Committee.

My time at GMA empowered me to believe I could make a difference. I developed life skills I lean on heavily in my career—communication, problem-solving, critical thinking, creativity, and empathy to name a few. Most of my time at Gwynedd was spent playing sports, and the lessons learned in leadership and teamwork set me up for success in life.

I am grateful to my parents for the privilege to attend GMA. Not only did I receive a high-quality education and gain skills that allowed me to thrive in my career, but I also made life-long friendships with six women that mean the absolute world to me. I appreciate the constant support of my wife, Pam, and the lessons I learn from the little loves who call me mommy—Evelyn, Junie, and Myles.

Sister Maureen Christi Donahue, RSM

2023 Trocaire Leadership Award: Religious Vocations & Volunteers



Kathleen Donahue entered the Sisters of Mercy in September 1965 and was formally received into the Community in June 1966 and given the name Sister Maureen Christi. Two years later she professed her Vows as a Sister of Mercy.

After 12 years of teaching, she was assigned to teach English at Gwynedd in 1980. Initially, it was a daunting assignment, and she doubted her ability. But by Mercy Day, the red corridor had become home and her “young ladies” were a pleasure to teach. Eventually, Sister’s roster focused permanently on American literature, essay writing, and SAT Prep for eleventh grade students.

During the next two decades, Sister assisted Sister Maria Marta in a variety of CSC service-learning projects. It started out with the usual after school programs; but Sister Marta was determined to grow the program. One of the first new ventures was participating in the Bread Basketball Can Food Drive—GMA won the contest five years running. Service also expanded to include the famous Archdiocesan Operation Santa Claus, which sent teams of students into the city to deliver toys and gifts on Christmas Eve. An even more popular activity involved hosting a Christmas Dinner with Santa for the residents of Mercy Hospice.

Eventually, Sister Christi expanded the student outreach to include summer archdiocesan habitat-type service trips. Gwynedd girls spent eight days learning and practicing building and painting skills in a small town near the Cumberland Gap. Sister’s fondest memories of the trips include living out of a duffle bag and sleeping on an Army cot surrounded by 20 other Army cots.

In 1991, Sister helped write the report that won “Blue Ribbon” status for Gwynedd and travelled to Washington, D.C. with Sisters Marta and Mary Alice to personally accept the award. The following year, the White House arranged for Barbara Bush to visit and tour the school. Watching the Secret Service ‘lock down’ the school was almost as exciting as watching the First Lady, her daughter-in-law, and her granddaughter tour the building.

In 2001, Sister transferred to Merion Mercy Academy to teach 10th grade English, during which time she also cared for her elderly and ailing parents who lived in New Jersey. In 2011, Sister Pat Flynn called to say there would be an opening in the English Department and Sister returned “home” the following year.

In 2013 and 2014, she asked permission from the school administrations to connect with Mercy Career & Tech students on weeklong Hurricane Sandy clean up service trips in northern Jersey. The destruction was beyond description, but Gwynedd girls did not hesitate to give their time and energy to help clean up the storm of the century. And this time Sister Christi did not need to sleep on an army cot.

A few years later, COVID appeared on the horizon and life at Gwynedd changed forever.

I have attempted to walk a path inspired by Catherine McAuley’s little known comment: “Never seek reward for your service or recognition for your accomplishments.” In many ways, it was easy to live her advice here at Gwynedd where mercy and service are part of our DNA.

So, when asked to respond to this humbling award, I could think only of the countless hours spent collecting, tutoring, feeding, hammering, and laughing as together we “fed the hungry, visited the sick, clothed the poor,” and attempted every other Beatitude on Christ’s List.

Although teaching English (and winning homeroom contests) was my main function, most of my time was spent working with young students willing to step up at food banks, tutoring sessions, homeless shelters, or work sites. And for this, I am forever grateful.

I am also grateful to the Sisters of Mercy who shared my ministry here, and most especially Sister Mary Alice and Sister Pat Flynn who permitted and encouraged service projects that made such a difference.

Meghan Bishop, MD '03

2023 Trocaire Leadership Award: STEM



Meghan Bishop, MD, '03, is a fellowship-trained, board-certified sports medicine surgeon who works for the Rothman Orthopaedic Institute in South Jersey. She specializes in treating athletic injuries in people of all ages and is passionate about helping her patients stay healthy and active. She has a special interest in treating female athletes and has focused much of her research on this topic.

While at the College of William and Mary, Meghan graduated Magna Cum Laude with a major in biology. She was a member of the cross-country and track teams where she was four-time Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) Scholar Athlete of the Year as well as selected to the 2007 CoSIDA/ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District Second Team for cross-country/track. Her time as an athlete helped garner her interest in the field of sports medicine. Meghan pursued her medical degree at George Washington University School of Medicine where she was a member of Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) and was class Valedictorian. She completed her residency in orthopaedic surgery at Thomas Jefferson University and fellowship in sports medicine and shoulder surgery at Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS) in New York City. She currently works as an orthopaedic sports medicine surgeon for Rothman Orthopaedics in South Jersey.

Meghan continues to consider caring for athletes and her community as the most rewarding part of her career. During fellowship, she served as one of the team physicians for the New York Knicks and Iona College. She has served as head team physician of the New York Empire American Ultimate Disc League (AUDL) Team and is the Chair of the AUDL Research Committee. Additionally, she is the orthopaedic medical director for the Philadelphia Marathon and provides medical coverage for the elite athletes at the New York City Marathon.

Meghan's love for running was formed at Gwynedd, under the great Coach Larry Wilson. She still runs to this day and participated in the 2020 US Olympic Trials in the marathon where she placed 50th. She continues to try to give back to the running community and has been a participant in Back on My Feet, an organization that combats homelessness through the power of community and running. She is also on the Board of Directors of Students Run Philly Style, a local community organization that provides mentorship through running.

Meghan is passionate about advancing the field of orthopaedics through research and has published over 40 peer reviewed publications and numerous book chapters. She focuses many of her studies on the female athlete and their unique aspects of injury. She hopes to help improve female representation in orthopaedic surgery, which has the least number of females in a surgical subspecialty. She serves on the Editorial Board of the *American Journal of Sports Medicine* (AJSM) and is part of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion task force. She also serves as Chair of the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine (AOSSM) Emerging Leaders Committee.

In her free time, Meghan loves to spend time at the beach in Cape May Point with her husband Matt and two children Logan (2) and Rory (4 months).

I am truly honored to receive this award. Gwynedd shaped me as a person and taught me to believe in myself, be accepting of all people, and that with hard work and focus you can truly make a difference. I have taken those principles with me through life and they have not failed me yet! There are not many female orthopaedic surgeons, but I've never doubted my abilities as a physician and a leader. I credit the values I learned at Gwynedd, and I hope to make this path a little easier for future female physicians.

I would like to thank my husband Matt who has supported me through it all and our two children Logan and Rory who are too young to understand, but I hope that I make them proud. I'd also like to thank my parents, Mary Ellen Cassidy Bishop '71 and Bill, for providing me a Mercy education and the tools and support to follow my dreams.

Anna Skoien Lall '02

Margaret Beirn Barger '35 Distinguished Alumna Award: Service to the School



Anna currently works at Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School where she coordinates the Service-Learning program for junior students. Anna helped to launch the new program in 2023, which is an initiative from the strategic plan She is the Future. It is a method of teaching, learning, and reflecting that combines academic classroom curriculum with meaningful service throughout the community, directly tied to one of the Critical Concerns of Mercy. All junior students partner with an agency or organization to engage in hands-on community service hours, advocacy work, and assist others with compassion and generosity.

Anna graduated from Gwynedd in 2002 and the University of Notre Dame in 2006 with a B.A. in Classics. She spent the first part of her career in healthcare public relations, working at Vox Medica in Philadelphia, Ruder Finn in NYC, and then at Weber Shandwick in Boston. After Anna received her master's in education from Boston College in 2013, she taught high school level Latin in Massachusetts for five years before relocating to Pennsylvania.

Anna became a member of the GMAHS Alumnae Board upon her graduation from Notre Dame in 2006 and was instrumental in fostering connections with young alumnae. When she moved back to PA in 2018, she immediately rejoined the board to continue the mission of lifelong sisterhood. In 2020, Anna became the President of the Alumnae Association and worked closely with the board members and Director of Alumnae Engagement to revitalize the Class Agent program, provide clear structure to the board and its committees, and to expand the board with new members from diverse backgrounds (and ages)! Anna is a very proud Class Agent for the Class of 2002, which consistently finishes in the top ten of all Gwynedd classes in alumnae giving and engagement.

Anna is the Immediate Past President of the Alumnae Association, current Chair of the Alumnae Board's Nominating Committee, and member of the 1861 Society. She has previously served as the Alumnae Board's Scholarship Committee Chair and sat on the Board of Trustees from 2020-2023. Currently, Anna is a member of the Leadership Advisory Council, an advisory committee of alumnae who works in an array of professions and industries and works with the program's students to provide real-world insights, guidance, and mentorship.

Anna and her husband Brian reside in Blue Bell with their three children, Peter, Grace, and Libby.

I am who I am today because I am a Gwynedd Girl. I am so grateful to Gwynedd for the opportunities afforded to me during my four years in the red and gold corridors. The academic scholarship that I received as an incoming freshman changed the course of my life and I have spent my time, talents, and treasure to pay it back and pay it forward.

I am indebted to Gwynedd for believing in me from the moment I walked through the door, empowering me to find my voice, and encouraging me to live out the Mercy core values. I will always hold the door open for the future generations of Gwynedd girls who walk after me and am so grateful for the gift of lifelong sisterhood of my fellow Gwynedd alumnae. It has been my honor to serve this school I hold so dearly!

Thank you to my parents, Mike and Mary, who sacrificed to send me to Gwynedd; to my husband Brian for always supporting me; and to my son, Peter, and two future Mercy girls, my daughters, Grace, and Libby.

Christina Mastropaolo, PhD '07

Athletic Hall of Fame Award

Christina Mastropaolo began playing field hockey during middle school, much to the dismay of her family who wondered why you could only hit the ball on one side of the stick and why there were so many whistles. At Gwynedd, Mastropaolo made a competitive JV squad her freshmen year and met some influential teammates who were involved in the US circuit and interested in playing in college. With some good coaching, the rest was history. She went on to have a series of successful varsity seasons as midfielder and forward and was recruited by numerous D1 field hockey programs, eventually committing to Drexel University. She also played varsity softball all four years at GMA, freshman basketball, and had a brief stint of indoor track her sophomore year with the legendary Coach Larry Wilson.

She graduated from GMA in 2007 and went on to play D1 field hockey at Drexel, becoming a two-time All-American and earning CAA Player of the Year her junior and senior seasons. She holds the title for most goals and points in Drexel University Field Hockey program history, with 60 goals and 146 points, as well as second place in program history for assists with 26. She also set the single-season record with 29 goals as well as most goals scored in a game (5). She was selected as Academic Performer of the Year in 2009 by the Philadelphia Inquirer and went on to receive All-Academic team honors for four years in a row.

Following undergrad at Drexel, she earned her PhD in Counseling Psychology from Seton Hall University in 2019. She currently resides with her fiancé in Brooklyn, NY and works as a psychologist for Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City. She specializes in intensive treatment of personality disorders as well as training and supervision of psychology and psychiatry residents. She also holds a part-time private practice.



When I look back on my years as a Monarch, my athletic memories will always be my warmest and fondest. Whether it was gearing up for a bus ride to a game, nights doing drill after drill on the field, or letting loose with my teammates after practices, athletics always held a sense of community and belonging for me.

The older I get, the more I am grateful and recognize the positive impact athletics had on me during a critical time of my development. Thank you also to my GMA friends off the field. They were not immune to me trying to make them run another "Mercy Mile" with me or to my countdowns to preseason, paired with some now cringe-worthy mixed CDs.

Thank you to my coaches, teachers and staff during my time at GMA, especially former AD Terri Fasano as well as my field hockey coach Kate Tobias. Thank you for believing in me and encouraging me to pursue my athletic dreams. Thank you to my family, especially my parents and grandparents, for your love and support and for attending all my games rain or shine. I can't imagine who I might have become without the discipline, sense of belonging, and community of love and acceptance that GMA athletics offered me. I am forever grateful.

Cristin Meehan '05

Maria Lutz McHugh '46 Award for Outstanding Commitment to Gwynedd Mercy Athletics



Cristin Meehan is a member of Gwynedd Mercy Academy's Class of 2005. She was involved in arts, music, and athletics, especially Track and Field (Captain). Cristin had the memorable experience of being a part of the PIAA 2004 Track and Field State Championship Team. Along with many other League and District championships between 2002 and 2005.

Cristin went on to become a two-sport collegiate athlete, competing in Field Hockey and Track and Field at DeSales University. In 2008, Coach Larry Wilson recruited Cristin to help the Gwynedd team at States, as she had come to many meets and practices during her off-seasons. This continued in 2009, and she then became a full-time coach at GMA. Cristin graduated in 2010 with a B.S. in Exercise Science and became a certified personal trainer, USA Track and Field Level 1 Coach, and a collaborator with Coach Larry Wilson. In 2016, Cristin graduated with a master's degree in nutrition education—this is notable, as Cristin's thesis research was completed with Gwynedd Mercy Academy's athletes. Her research focused on, "Macro-minerals and Vitamin D, Nutrition Education of Female Adolescent Athletes," focusing on preventable injuries in female adolescent athletes, specifically muscle cramps and stress fractures.

After the 2016 spring season, Cristin was designated the Head Coach of the Track and Field program, continuing the traditions of Coach Larry Wilson and GMA's track legacy. In the years since, the Gwynedd Mercy Academy Track program continues to promote growth in all athletes with many ACAA League, District, and State qualifiers competing in the most competitive District (District 1) and the most competitive Division (AAA) in the State. Cristin is proud of a recent experience in 2021, a difficult, post-COVID year for all athletes, when Gwynedd's 4x800m Relay placed in Districts and moved on to medal at States. Cristin believes that sport provides impactful learning experiences for student athletes and is proud of athletes that have gone through the Gwynedd Mercy Track and Field program and what they have accomplished.

Cristin is currently a Clinical Liaison in Philadelphia, working with patients who have feeding difficulties, such as oncology and ALS patients who need feeding tubes placed to support their nutrition. She educates patients and their families so they can successfully make the transition from acute care and inpatient hospital settings to home.

I am honored to have been nominated and selected to receive the Maria Lutz McHugh '46 Award. I have spent more than half of my life at the Gwynedd Mercy Academy/Larry Wilson Track. I am privileged to have been mentored by Coach Larry Wilson for numerous years and to be continuing the vision of the Gwynedd Mercy Track and Field program. Coach Larry Wilson, Gil Bainbridge, Marie Meehan, and Joe O'Connor created a program that I loved at GMA and I believe strongly in its coaching philosophy. I feel incredibly lucky to have our current supportive, longtime coaching staff of Holly Staglione and Marie Meehan P '05, as well our technical coaches consisting of Chrissy Zataveski Norman '05, Brennan Marion P '23, and Colleen McKeon Gibb '04.

The Gwynedd Mercy Academy Track and Field program holds value and strength in our athletes and training. We want athletes to step onto the track with dedication, hard work, and the desire to contribute. These aspects give an athlete purpose, as track and field is as much of a team sport as an individual sport and a team is only as strong as its individuals. We are always evaluating the tools available to athletes and are well invested in their success here at GMA and the future. We encourage and would appreciate alumnae to come back to the track and inspire current athletes to show their gains from the sport. You are always welcome at the GMA track! Follow us on Instagram @gmatrackandfield.

Trocaire Leadership Award Recipients



2022

Kelley Malott DeConciliis '99

Business, Entrepreneur, Engineer

Erica Weiler-Timmins, PhD, ABPP '89

Education

Lt. Col. Dianna DiToro, DPT, USMCR '97

Government & Legal

Alison McGrorty-Crotts, MD, MPH '04

Healthcare, Science & Technology

Mackenzie Dougherty Driscoll '04

Philanthropy & Nonprofit

2021

Allison Zaucha '10

Arts

Julie Eble, PhD '71

Business, Entrepreneur, Engineer

Karalyn McGrorty Derstine, EdD '01

Education

Mary Ott, PhD '75

Government & Legal

Clare Cherney, MD '75

Healthcare, Science & Technology

Sheila Nolan, MD '90

Healthcare, Science & Technology

Kate Daniels Imbesi, Esq. '92

Philanthropy & Nonprofit

Sr. Virginia Hasson, RSM (posthumous)

Religion, Vocation, Volunteer

2019

Elissa Gore '68

Arts

Eileen Maguire Maginnis '75

Business, Entrepreneur, Engineer

Maura McLaughlin, PhD '90

Healthcare, Science & Technology

Lori Fanelli Butrus '79

Religion, Vocation, Volunteer

2018

Catherine Wilson, PhD '90

Education

Lisa Heilbronn, PhD '72

Government & Legal

Angela Amarhanov '08

Philanthropy & Nonprofit

Sr. Rosemary Herron, RSM

Sr. Susan Walsh, RSM

Religion, Vocation, Volunteer—Religious

2017

Melissa Maddonni Haims '90

Arts

Ann McKernan Robinson '54

Business, Entrepreneur, Engineer

Julie Tippens, PhD '97

Healthcare, Science & Technology

Rev. Marianne Robbins '75

Religion, Vocation, Volunteer—Layperson

2016

Susan Baumher Mitchell, Faculty

Education

Sallyanne Harper '72

Government & Legal

Kristina Wahl '93

Philanthropy & Nonprofit

Sr. Monica Sheehy, RSM '63

Religion, Vocation, Volunteer—Religious

2015

Jen Creed Rego '94

Arts

Carolyn Fontaine Davis '97

Business, Entrepreneur, Engineer

Joely Esposito, PsyD '88

Healthcare, Science & Technology

Andi Land Healy '80

Religion, Vocation, Volunteer—Layperson



2014

Diane Dewhirst '75

Government & Legal

Kristin M. Risi, PhD '87

Education

Teresa Araco Rodgers '91

Philanthropy & Nonprofit

Sr. Cathe Shoulberg, RSM '65

Religion, Vocation, Volunteer-Religious

2013

Margaret Walsh Huddy '57

Arts

Joan Murray Reynolds '48

Business, Entrepreneur, Engineer

Mary Ellen Miller, PhD, RN, Past Parent

Healthcare, Science & Technology

Ann Diehl Casey '50

Religion, Vocation, Volunteer-Layperson

2012

Mary Higgins Fletcher '77

Government & Legal

Sr. Mary Klock, RSM '48

Religion, Vocation, Volunteer-Religious

Kathy Myers, PhD

Education

Corinne O'Connell '93

Philanthropy & Nonprofit

2010-11

Maureen Grogan Colburn '93

Education

Peggy Dolan, Past Parent

Philanthropy & Nonprofit

Rosemary McCarron Flannery, Esq. '39

Government & Legal

Frances Galante '75

Arts

Maureen O'Connell, PhD '91

Religion, Vocation, Volunteer-Layperson

Kathleen Roeder, MD '60

Healthcare, Science & Technology

Barbara Boyle Sullivan '54

Business, Entrepreneur, Engineer

Sr. Antoinette Zimmerman, RSM '57

Religion, Vocation, Volunteer-Religious

Margaret Beirn Barger '35 Distinguished Alumna Award



2022 Kristin Kane Ford '00

2021 Michele Corkery Hanes '72 and
Marita Sommar Osborne '66

2019 Nancy Pannepacker McKeaney '64

2018 Cory Clark Shay '95

2017 Melva Exner, Esq. '77

2016 Karen McKeaney '88

2015 Cathy Cunneff Seese '46

2014 Eileen Cairnes Samtmann '60

2013 Carol Chiodo '75

2012 Cindy Antoni Conaway '71

2010 Linda Galante, Esq. '72

2009 Sr. Mary Trainer, RSM '57

2008 Denise Corkery Marbach '72

2007 Mary Jane Leaming Wahl '56

2006 Sr. Peggy Mahoney, RSM '64

2005 Alice Anne Goldkamp Bossow '60

2004 Jean Hepburn Lembach '50

2003 Kathleen (Toots) Cattie Fee '61

2002 Ann Diehl Casey '50

2001 Isabelle (June) McCullough
Bottke '51

2000 Mary Elizabeth Cunningham '50

1999 Kathleen Roeder, MD '60

1998 Sr. Mary Klock, RSM '48

1997 Joanne Becker Rovno '57

1996 Sr. Gail deMacedo, RSM '55
(posthumous)

1995 Judy McLaughlin Buckco '60

Peg McKenna Luksik '73

1994 Sr. Elizabeth Marie McCormick,
RSM '32

1993 Nancy Faris Buckley '57

1992 Kate Harper Kelly, Esq. '74

Athletic Hall of Fame Awards

- 2022** Emily McCauley '12
- 2021** Emma Keenan '13
- 2019** Clark Deardorff, Tennis Coach (posthumous)
- 2018** The 1995 Volleyball Team
- 2017** Lori Baiocchi King, Esq. '93
- 2016** Alex Malatesta McMahan, Esq. '05
- 2015** Moira Durkin Tozier '00
Kate Hosterman Tobias
- 2014** The 1962-63 Field Hockey Team
Maisha Palmer Kelly '95
- 2013** Colleen Gleeson Greshock '96
Lauren Morton '04
- 2012** Regina Graham Maioriello '79
The 2000 Swim Team

The Hall of Fame includes all those previously recognized on the 150th Anniversary Wall of Fame unveiled in September 2010.

Maria Lutz McHugh '46 Award for Outstanding Commitment to Gwynedd Mercy Athletics

- 2021** Coach Larry Wilson

2023-24 Alumnae Board

The Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School Alumnae Board, in conjunction with the Advancement Office, plans a variety of events throughout the year to help our Alumnae connect with each other and their Alma Mater. It is with greater support from our Alumnae that we build a sense of community and foster the legacy of Mercy and our lifelong sisterhood.

Andrea Geppert '05, *President*
Helena DeBald '10, *Vice President*
Jennifer Kin Cottrell '99, *Secretary*
Anna Skoien Lall '02,
Immediate Past President
Chris Ernst Ball '79
Karen Price Benson '79
Kellie Dunphy Brogan '87
Bethanne Mascio Connolly '03
Casey Mulhern Cumiskey '04
Melva Exner, Esq. '77
Mary Kate McNulty Gallo '02
Elizabeth Hasson '18
Terri Mazzotta Hynes '88
Caren Cline Johnston '85
Alicia Jones, DO '87
Kathryn Ailtmar Kirk '03
Caitlyn Moynahan '11
Katie Redmond Oberlies '07
Marita Sommar Osborne '66
Jenny Prior Schlegel '90
Sahiba Tandon '21

Learn how you can get involved and support your alma mater by visiting gmahs.org/alumnae/getinvolved.

Advancement Office

Colleen Belz Frascatore '89

Director of Advancement
cfrascatore@gmahs.org

Karen Cavacos

Director of Family Engagement
kcavacos@gmahs.org

Colleen Corace Connor '86, P'25

Director of Annual Giving
ccoraceconnor@gmahs.org

Mimi Craig P'90, '93

Director of Advancement Services
mcraig@gmahs.org

Erin Reimel Clements '12

Director of Alumnae Engagement
eclements@gmahs.org

Caitlin Fitzgerald Straub '01

Engagement Coordinator
cstraub@gmahs.org

Save the Date!

Saturday,
March 2, 2024

Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School

McAuley's PUB NIGHT

Show your support and be
part of a fun night!

Let the
Shenanigans
Continue

All parents, alumnae, family,
faculty, staff and friends
are invited.

Join our
Irish-themed
pub night
celebrating
our girls.
Wear your green
and your
jeans.

gmahs.org/pubnight



GWYNEDD MERCY ACADEMY
HIGH SCHOOL

Alma Mater

*Hail to thee our Alma Mater!
School of schools all hail to thee!
We, thy children, here assembled
dedicate our hearts to thee.
Come, girls, your school now calls for you
to honor the Red and the Gold.
Give her your vow to go forth now,
her standards to uphold.*

*Dear Alma Mater Mercy,
we, your children stand
to pledge our lasting loyalty
in ever faithful band.*

*Let all in ardent chorus
her merits to uphold.
Strong and high her colors fly
as Mercy's Red and Gold.
So rise and cheer unto the sky
to honor the school you hold so dear.
Revere her name of widespread fame,
and sing year after year.*

*Dear Alma Mater Mercy,
we, your children stand
to pledge our lasting loyalty
in ever faithful band.*

Written by Dorothy L. Hutton Trainer '28



Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School
1345 Sumneytown Pike
Lower Gwynedd, PA 19002
www.gmahs.org