



ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL
LANCASTER • NEW YORK

Preparing young men and women for college and beyond

Volume 1, Issue 1

Dear Friends,

We hope that this note finds you well as we introduce our new Annual Alumni Appeal format. Periodic issues of The Lance will also contain our Annual Alumni Appeal request and reminders. This new format allows us the opportunity to ask for your vital monetary support while also keeping you up to date on Alumni news. We ask that you email any Alumni life updates to our Vice President, Kevin Kelleher at kkelleher@smhlancers.org.

We will also use this space to keep you informed of all of the wonderful things that our current students have been accomplishing in the classroom, on the stage, on the athletic fields/courts and in the community!

Welcome to the 2015-2016 Annual Alumni Appeal!

We have put some ambitious plans in place to keep our school updated from a facilities and technology standpoint. We need your help to provide the best high school college preparatory experience that we can for future Lancers.

Direct your gift to support one of these projects, or leave it to us!

- **Modernizing our kitchen and updating our cafeteria.** Fundraising for these projects will extend through several phases of our Annual Alumni Appeal and will be named in honor of our late dear friend, teacher and Class of 1964 alumnus Henry Even.
- **Renovating the front entrance to the school.** This renovation will open up and brighten the main entrance to the school to provide a more modern and welcoming atmosphere.
- **Technology and classroom updates/improvements.** Large strides have already been made to improve our Wi-Fi access points within the school to enhance classroom learning and student life. More improvements are set for the 2016-2017 school year as we move to a 1 to 1 technology device concept, where each student will be given a Google ChromeBook to use throughout their St. Mary's years and on to college.
- **Installing a turf field for physical education and athletics.** Currently in the planning phase, this project will allow us to expand our on-site practice and game venue availability to include football, baseball, softball, men's and women's soccer, as well as men's and women's lacrosse.

All financial contributions help to fund not only the projects outlined above but also help to counter the ever-increasing day-to-day costs associated with providing a first class college preparatory education. Your Annual Alumni Appeal support can be designated to one of the above projects of your choice, or it can remain unrestricted.

Alumni and friends can also support St. Mary's by serving on advisory committees and boards, and even assisting with student recruitment. See the article inside to learn more.

St. Mary's has made great strides to strengthen its position as one of Western New York's leading college preparatory high schools. With your support, we have no doubt that we will all continue to make a positive difference in the lives of our students for generations to come.

Mark Tramont '77
President

Kevin Kelleher '89
Vice President

Rebecca Kranz '92
Principal



School News, Current Events and Student Accomplishments



Senior Maddie Whuk is giving her time and talents to children at the Down Syndrome Parents Group of WNY's annual Halloween party.



The Lancer Volunteer Corps doing their part at the Susan G. Komen Race for a Cure in downtown Buffalo.

St. Mary's Students Shine in the Community

Each year, our students do their part to raise awareness and funds for local charities, as well as families right here in the St. Mary's community who need assistance. Thanks to our Lancer Volunteer Corps, Student Senate and the overall student body we have raised funds and assisted at events for a variety of charitable causes that include:

- St. Vincent DePaul Society
- Kids Escaping Drugs
- Roswell Park Cancer Institute
- Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation
- National Parkinson Foundation of WNY
- Down Syndrome Parents Group of WNY
- and many others!

"Service to others is a big part of what we teach and do here at St. Mary's," said Mark Tramont, President of St. Mary's. "I'm overwhelmed at how incredibly thoughtful, helpful and generous our students are for all of these different causes and events."

Historic 2014 Girls Volleyball team paves the way for 2015 invitation to Nike Tournament of Champions in Phoenix

TRADITION NEVER GRADUATES!

This is a familiar term that surrounds the St. Mary's Athletic Department. The 2014 Girls Volleyball Team captured this motto in fine fashion by completing the most accomplished season in school history. The 2014 Lady Lancers finished the season with a 47-0-1 record and ranked 22nd in the country!

Led by 2014 graduates Leah Meyer and Ashley Dryzmala, the Lancers captured their 14th State Championship and won numerous prestigious tournaments including the Garden State Challenge in New Jersey.

The 2014 season paved the way for an invite for the 2015 Lancers to the Nike Tournament of Champions in Phoenix, AZ. The team competed against the 64 best teams in the country and finished 26th.

Meyer, who was named the New York State Gatorade Player of the Year, accepted a full scholarship to Duke University, where she is majoring in Pre-Med and is already making significant contributions as a starter for the Blue Devils. Dryzmala accepted a scholarship to Daemen College, where she is majoring in Business and is a point leader as a starter for the Wildcats.



The 2015 Lady Lancer Volleyball Team in front of the St. Clare of Assisi mural at the Franciscan Retreat Center in Phoenix, AZ where they attended mass and enjoyed brunch before heading home.

Alumni News and Notes

Upcoming reunions: can you help?

If anyone from the classes of 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011 would like to act as a class reunion liaison to work with our advancement team please call Kevin Kelleher at 716.683.4824, ext. 249 or email him at kkelleher@smhlancers.org.



50 Years—Class of 1965

Over 45 alumni from the Class of 1965 came together on the weekend of September 18th to celebrate all things St. Mary's. The 50-year reunion weekend was a whirlwind of activity including a golf outing on Friday afternoon followed by an informal gathering at Magruders Restaurant in Depew.

On Saturday the Class of '65 and spouses came together at St. Mary's High School to take tours of the school and celebrate mass, while remembering fondly some of their classmates who are no longer with us. They finished off the evening in fine style with dinner (provided by Frank's Grille), drinks and dancing.

The Class of '65 did not quit there! On Sunday, they enjoyed a picnic at Como Park. The group was able to enjoy a beautiful day and also catch the Buffalo Bills game compliments of Barb and Al Hapeman (Class of '65 and '64) as they rolled up their RV complete with outdoor flat screen TV! A special thanks goes out to Karen Penfold and her amazing reunion committee for organizing such a fantastic weekend!

40 Years—Class of 1975

The 40-year reunion also had a fantastic weekend of events that brought the group together to share many laughs and memories. The Class of '75 may have set a Lancer reunion record for aggregate furthest distance traveled! They had alumni come back home from the states of Washington, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, North Carolina and Michigan!

Their weekend of fun began with an informal gathering at Frank's Grille in Lancaster where they enjoyed a night of food, drinks and many laughs. They spent a beautiful fall Saturday afternoon back at St. Mary's where they watched the football Lancers take on St. Joe's in their own private tent with food and beverages.

Saturday night, the 1975 crew took the party to Magruders to finish off the evening. On Sunday morning the group headed to St. Mark's where fellow 1975 alum Father Joe Rogliano celebrated mass. A special thanks goes out to Linda Lombardo, Gary Nichter and Laurie Reger for acting as Class Reunion Coordinators for the 1975 gang!



Sharing Weddings, Births, and Life Events



Future issues of The Lance's Alumni News section will be primarily dedicated to catching up with our alumni who have celebrated recent marriages and births.

We will also have our "in memoriam" section for those members of the Lancer family who we have lost.

For newlyweds: please include your wedding date and spouse's name. Feel free to include any fellow Lancers who helped celebrate your wedding day!

For newborns: please include your spouse's name and as much information as you wish regarding birth date, name and weight.

Please email Kevin Kelleher at kkelleher@smhlancers.org with any news or updates regarding these topics.

St. Mary's Athletic Hall of Fame Inductions



In case you missed it, here are two years' worth of Hall of Fame inductions:

2014 Spring Sports Banquet. Two new additions to the St. Mary's High School Athletic Hall of Fame were introduced: Larry Mulcahy, '75 and Adam Page, '10. While at St. Mary's, Mulcahy was a two-time All-Catholic basketball player who averaged 17.2 points per game. He was also an All-Catholic in track & field for the high jump. Mulcahy went on to star at Alfred State College; he was also inducted into their Hall of Fame in 2012. After receiving his BS in accounting from the University of Scranton and his MBA from Fordham University, Mulcahy became a chief financial officer for various public and private companies in New Jersey where he resides with his wife Nancy and their sons, Matthew and Brian.

Page, born with spinabifida, is a member of the United States National Sled Hockey Team and has won two Olympic Gold Medals, the first while he was a senior at St. Mary's in 2010 in Vancouver and the second in 2014 in Sochi. He has been on the U.S. National Sled Hockey Team for seven years. Adam is presently attending Medaille College where he is majoring in Sports Management. The Lancaster resident is also a motivational speaker.

2015 Spring Sports Banquet. Dr. David Szymanski, '75 was inducted in 2015 to the St. Mary's Athletic Hall of Fame. While at St. Mary's, Szymanski excelled on the basketball and tennis courts, where he earned All-Catholic honors. In tennis he was ranked as the #1 16U player in Western New York. After St. Mary's, he attended the University of North Carolina at Asheville on a full athletic scholarship for both basketball and tennis, where he graduated #4 in his class

academically. He went on to earn a masters from Vanderbilt University and an MBA and PhD from the University of Wisconsin.

After serving as a professor at Texas A&M University for 23 years, Dr. Szymanski is now the Dean of the Lindner School of Business at the University of Cincinnati.



St. Mary's Coach of the Year, Don Pieczynski and Hall of Fame Inductee, Dr. David Szymanski, '75 surrounded by the 2015 Major Athletic Award Winners.

Chris Griswold Memorial 5K



Each May for the past 23 years, the Lancer Community comes together to remember Chris Griswold, '73 by participating in the Chris Griswold Memorial 5K run & 1-mile Fun Walk at Como Park in Lancaster. This event is run by Dr. Nick Aquino, '73 along with his wife Pam, as well as Joe Aquino, '74, Paul Bumbalo, '73 and Mark Kotas, '74. Over 400 runners participate annually on a beautiful scenic run through Como Park. As expected with Dr. Nick running the show, this 5K undoubtedly has one of the best after-race parties on the WNY running circuit! Mark your calendars: the 2016 race will be held on Saturday, May 21st. For more information contact Kevin Kelleher at kkelleher@smhlancers.org.



1989 Alum and Vice President Kevin Kelleher and fellow classmate, Scott Croce after the race.

Interested in serving on a St. Mary's Alumni Board?



Alumni Board. If you are living in Western New York and are interested in serving on the St. Mary's Alumni Board please call Kevin Kelleher at 716-683-4824 ext. 249 or email him at kkelleher@smhlancers.org. This board will attempt to meet four-to-six times per year here at St. Mary's High School.

The main duties associated with this board will be to help keep information on your fellow classmates as up to date as possible, and assist in increasing classmate participation in our various fundraising events, such as the Bash for Cash, Lancer Auction, Chris Griswold Memorial 5K and the St. Mary's Golf Outing—to name a few.

National Alumni Board. If you live outside of Western New York and are interested in serving on the St. Mary's National Alumni Board, please contact Kevin Kelleher at 716-683-4824 ext. 249 or email at kkelleher@smhlancers.org.

This board will attempt to meet once a year here at St. Mary's High School. The main duties associated with this Board would be to help organize and host Lancer gatherings for fellow alumni who have also settled in your area. The hosting can take place at a local establishment, or at your home.

Save the Date!



2016 Lancer Auction

February 5, 2016 at St. Mary's High School

OR

If you would like an invitation to the Lancer Auction, please contact Vice President Kevin Kelleher at 716-683-4824 ext. 249 or email at kkelleher@smhlancers.org.

Over 400 guests came together in February 2015 to celebrate all things St. Mary's while enjoying an evening of great food, great drinks, and great company at the school's largest fundraiser, the Lancer Gala Dinner Auction.





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142 Laverack Avenue, Lancaster, New York 14086

2015-2016 Annual Appeal

We need all our alumni to support St. Mary's! Please submit your pledge today!

More from St. Mary's...



▲ **In June 2015, for the second consecutive year, the St. Mary's High School Art Club won the prestigious People's Choice Award at the Albright Know Art Gallery's Art Alive Competition!**

- **The St. Mary's Performing Arts Department** wowed the crowd in the Spring of 2015 with a fantastic performance of the hit musical *Bye Bye Birdie*.
- **The 2015 Senior Class earned over \$10.4 million in scholarships.** Our recent graduates are attending some of the nation's finest colleges and universities including Michigan State, Syracuse, Duke, Notre Dame, UB, St. Bonaventure, Canisius, RIT, Niagara, St. John Fisher, Fredonia, Mercyhurst and more.
- **While the 2015 Fall Sports teams are finishing their respective seasons,** we can take a quick look back to last year where the **2014 varsity football team** enjoyed a successful season including a big 51-26 win at St. Joe's! **The 2015 Lancer baseball program**

had a great year making a run to the Georgetown Cup finals, losing to St. Francis in a best-of-three championship held at Coca Cola Field. **The 2015 Lancer softball team** earned a spot in the Catholic High School State Championship by winning the League Championship. The Lady Lancers defeated Sacred Heart in the semi-finals then Nichols in the Finals!

- **St. Mary's Athletic Hall of Fame member and Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame member Mike Rappl** from the Class of 1971 joined the Lancer coaching staff as an assistant upon his retirement from Canisius College.
- **St. Mary's saw two students, Kaitlyn Tytko and Kendra Ciezki,** get inducted into the Lancaster Youth Bureau Hall of Fame.