"With Change Comes Opportunity"

Take Note

Summer 2016
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Open House ................................................................. October 23
Salsa and Chips, Lake Isle, 6pm-11pm ........................... October 28
Alumnae Reunion ........................................................ April 29
Classes ending in 2s and 7s, Lake Isle, 12pm-5pm

Contributors
Fr. John A. Vigilanti, Ed. D.
President
jvigilanti@amsu.org

Sr. Jean Marie Humphries, osu, PhD ’89
Principal
jhumphries@amsu.org

Ms. Anna E. Parra
Executive Director of Development
aparra@amsu.org

Mrs. Jessica Ruiz
Associate Director of Development
jruiz@amsu.org

Mr. Patrick Dannenhoffer
External Relations Associate
pdannenhoffer@amsu.org

The Academy of Mount St. Ursula has made every effort to accurately present all information. We apologize in advance for any errors. Please contact the office with any corrections at info@amsu.org.

Cover: (Left to right) Class of 2016 Salutatorian, Cinthia Ibarra, Fr. John Vigilanti and 2016 Valedictorian, Delia Cruz
Dear Alums, Benefactors and Friends:

When I accepted the generous offer of the Ursulines to be the president of AMSU in 2008, I understood that this would not be an easy assignment. I also sincerely believed that the job was doable, and that the long-term survival of the school was secure because of the commitment of the Ursuline Sisters, the most generous contributions of generations of loyal alums, and the professionalism of a dedicated faculty. I have not been disappointed in my expectations, and you should know that both the Ursulines, and our alums, have continuously reaffirmed their covenant with AMSU. Their unwavering fidelity has brought the school to the celebration of its 160th anniversary. No small accomplishment in an environment of radical change.

At the same time, the Archdiocese of New York continues the reassignment of personnel and the most profound realignment of parishes in its history. As one of a dwindling number of native-born New York priests, I now find myself in the position of returning to the Archdiocese for reassignment. While I have enjoyed parish work over the years, I believe that at this stage in my life I would like to complete the final 5 years of my active ministry in an educational setting. As a consequence, I have decided to accept an offer from Bishop Caggiano of the Bridgeport Diocese for a position available July 2017. In the interim, I will be the administrator of the Church of the Magdalene, Pocantico Hills, effective July 1, 2016. Why the move? With the disposition of the Convent property and with the appointment of Sr. Jeannie as principal, the Ursulines will, once again, have the ability to focus their full attention to AMSU, preparing for the years ahead and nurturing the work so nobly initiated 160 years ago. As a consequence, the decision was made to eliminate the position of president. The time has come to hand over administrative responsibility to the primary stake-holders.

Anticipating, preparing, and participating in our 160th anniversary on October 16, 2015 was the perfect culmination of my 8 years at AMSU and a true celebration of our legacy, bridging three centuries of New York history. The hard work of our Capital Campaign Committee and the generosity of our donors helped us surpass our $3 million dollar goal, a clear commentary about the diverse support AMSU continues to enjoy.

It has been an honor to be associated with a truly remarkable institution, its tradition, and its staff, and as long as the focus remains educating young women in the "serviam" spirit, AMSU will continue to be a presence in a great city. I am especially thankful to the Ursulines for giving me this opportunity and I will be forever indebted to them.

Sincerely,

Fr. John A. Vigilanti, Ed.D.
President
Dear Sister Alumnae, Benefactors and Friends,

On Saturday, June 11th, the Academy of Mount St. Ursula celebrated the graduation of the Class of 2016 at St. Philip Neri Church. What a glorious day it was! Seeing our 77 smiling graduates walk to the altar to get their diplomas filled me with such joy and pride. Our young women hold so much promise and I know that they will go out and make a difference in our world. 80% percent of these graduates earned 10 million dollars in scholarships, excluding financial aid. Our young women have also lived out the spirit of SERVIAM by completing a total of 7,886 hours of service. We are very proud of their accomplishments.

As we say goodbye to the Class of 2016, we are also getting ready to welcome the Class of 2020! These young girls are so excited to be joining the AMSU community and their eager smiling faces show such promise too. AMSU looks forward to having them be part of our community in September 2016.

The theme of this edition’s Take Note is Change and Opportunities. Yes, AMSU is undergoing changes. We are eliminating the President/Principal model of governance at our school. This means Fr. John Vigilanti is leaving us after eight years as our President. His priorities have included increasing enrollment, reducing costs and expanding our fundraising efforts. Fr. John worked very hard to accomplish these goals and he has left his mark ensuring that another generation of young women are able to receive a solid academic foundation. Our students, faculty and staff will really miss his inspiring Masses and homilies. He always managed to have a spiritual message that was meaningful for all. We are very appreciative of his commitment to AMSU and for all he has done to help us stay on a good path.

Susan McCarthy Cronin ‘65, AMSU’s Board Chair for the past eight years, has finished up her term of office. We thank her for her dedication, hard work, support, and love of our school. Susan was a constant presence at AMSU before and during her term. I’m sure that will continue. In addition to being Board Chair, Susan is our unofficial AMSU gardener, decorator and historian. Thank you Susan and we welcome Ron Johnn as our new Board Chair.

Retiring this year are Mr. Michael Henry, Social Studies Teacher and Mrs. Joanie McCarthy, all around AMSU staff person. Mr. Henry’s love of history and music has been inspiring our young women for the past 23 years. Mrs. Joanie McCarthy began her career in our school cafeteria and her work has evolved into so much more these past 36 years. She was always present with a smile and a willingness to step up into any task that was needed. We wish them well in their retirement and hope they will continue to visit AMSU.

Other changes include improvements to the physical plant such as installing a new phone system with phones in each classroom/student space, increasing our broadband wiring to allow us to have better wireless internet service so students can use their own mobile devices as learning tools, installing a new boiler and constructing a parking lot outside the student cafeteria. AMSU will be a busy place this summer!

As Heraclitus, the pre-Socratic Greek philosopher, said, “Change is the only constant in life.” Change leads to great opportunities and that is where AMSU is right now. AMSU has a wonderful opportunity right now in that we are undergoing Strategic Planning with Meitler Consultants. This work enables us to plan and implement goals for the next 5-10 years of AMSU’s future. More information concerning this Strategic Plan is to follow. It is wonderful to dream, plan and strategize actions which will continue to make AMSU such a great place of learning. Our action goals will help us uphold our excellent programs in Academics, Arts and Service. You are always welcome to visit AMSU and see the wonderful learning activities that take place.

Prayers and blessings,

Sr. Jean Marie Humphries, osu, PhD ‘89
Principal
“Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything.” - George Bernard Shaw

Dear Alumnae and Friends,

With all of the changes the Academy of Mount St. Ursula has in its midst, there comes much opportunity. AMSU will begin a new chapter under the leadership of Sr. Jean Marie Humphries, osu, Principal, and new board chair, Ronald Johnn. We support them as they work toward securing the school’s viability for another 160 years.

Fr. John Vigilanti has left his mark on AMSU. As President, he has done a wonderful job in ensuring the future of the school. He reduced costs and expanded our fundraising efforts. In order to thank him, we have created an award in his name, Fr. John Vigilanti Tuition Aid Fund. We are extremely grateful for Father’s commitment to AMSU and the path he has made for us to continue our good work here in the Bronx. If you are interested in contributing to this fund, please contact the Development Office or use the envelope enclosed and mention the fund in the memo section of your donation.

There is no doubt that AMSU remains strong because of the support and generosity of our alumnae and friends. All of us here at AMSU are extremely grateful for all that our alumnae do to support the Ursuline mission. Every year I report on our status of the annual fund in the summer issue and by the end of our fiscal year in August, we surpass our goal! As of today we are close to 90% of our goal. It would be wonderful if we can have a repeat performance again this year!

As many of you may know, we had two new events this year, which were very well attended; Painting with AMSU Friends and our Alex and Ani event in Rye. We hope to have more of these events in the fall, dates to be announced. These fun events are not huge fundraisers, but they are so important in reconnecting alumnae with the school and allowing the opportunity for alumnae to meet some of our students. Please mark Friday, October 28, 2016 on your calendar for our next Salsa and Chips event at Mulino’s at Lake Isle. It is sure to be one of our best so far!

During the summer months if you are in the neighborhood, and would like to see the school, please call us and we will be happy to give you a tour. Wishing you a wonderful summer!

Best wishes,

Anna E. Parra
Executive Director of Development
Academics

Commencement Speeches

Valedictorian - Delia Cruz

Good morning Fr. Vigilanti, Sr. Jeannie, Mrs. Duggan, faculty, staff, parents, and, most importantly, the Class of 2016.

I just love saying that phrase: 'the Class of 2016.' We made it! All of those countless hours spent learning in our classrooms, finishing our homework, and crying about our finals have finally paid off, because here we are, ready to celebrate our commencement from high school onto bigger and better things...

To read the entire speech visit AMSU.org

Salutatorian - Cinthia Ibarra

Good morning members of the Board of Trustees, Father Vigilanti, Sister Jeannie, Mrs. Duggan, faculty, staff, friends, families, and finally: the Class of 2016

Wow! After four years we are once again sitting in our caps and gowns, making the transition not from eighth grade to high school, but from high school to college. Before I begin with the talk of the future, I want us all to take a deep breath and focus on this moment. Twenty years from now, when we are all off living our lives, reaching for even greater successes, ...

To read the entire speech visit AMSU.org

Academic Scholarships

The AMSU community would like to congratulate the Class of 2016 as they continue to learn and live their “Serviam” motto! Graduation was held on Saturday, June 11, 2016, at St. Philip Neri Church. “We are very proud of our AMSU seniors who have earned $10 million in academic scholarships,” said AMSU Guidance Department Chairperson, Kathleen Ryan O’Connell ’85. Some of the more prominent college acceptances include: American University, Boston University, CUNY Macaulay Honors College, Fashion Institute of Technology, Fordham University, Howard University, Manhattan College, Northeastern University, Pennsylvania State University, Siena College, SUNY Binghamton University, Syracuse University, University of Pennsylvania, and Vassar College. At AMSU, students are supported by talented, caring and dedicated teachers, staff members and especially generous donors and contributors. Thank you to everyone for making this year a great success!

Go to http://www.amsu.org/academics/college-acceptances to see the full list of scholarships

Opportunities for Students

Throughout the school year AMSU students from every grade level are given the opportunity to apply for scholarship and internship opportunities. It is important for students and parents to visit the "opportunities" section of the website frequently to be aware of newly posted information which may benefit them, their future education and career goals. These opportunities often open doors to occupations for which they may have never known they had a passion for pursuing. Being aware of these opportunities may be keys to success, and taking advantage of the information will provide students with an extra edge in advancing their education and future careers.

Go to https://www.amsu.org/students/opportunities/ and look through each opportunity posted.

Congratulations to the Class of 2016 as they continue to learn and live their “serviam” motto! Graduates earned over $10 million in scholarships to college.

If you are interested in reading the complete commencement speeches, scan this QandR code from your smartphone.
# Academic Scholarships Class of 2016

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<td>Anne Calbitaza</td>
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<td>Delia Naomi Cruz</td>
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<td>Nia Imani Davis</td>
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<td>Melissa Flores</td>
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<td>Yoselyn Garcia</td>
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<td>Mya Annarell Hendricks</td>
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<td>Arianna Hernandez</td>
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<td>Cinthia Arlette Ibarra</td>
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"With Change Comes Opportunity"

Academics

2016 National Honor Society Members

Ashley Alexander*          Bryana Pena*
Samantha Arias           Kristen Rhamdeow*
Delia Cruz               Joely Santana*
Denise Douglas           Sabyne Santiago*
Yvette Duverge           Brianna Scott*
Cinthia Ibarra            Zainab Shaikh*
Manissa Kouyate          Ileynen Taveras*
Liliana Mendez           Stephanie Toro*
Fatima Mills             Chalita Tulapong*
Annie Nguyen             Ermelinda Vushaj*
Kimberly Padilla         Melina Watson*
Leanisa Paulino          Mary Zakki*

2016 Diploma Type

^ACADEMY OF MOUNT SAINT URSULA DIPLOMA
*NYS REGENTS DIPLOMA
**NYS ADVANCED REGENTS DIPLOMA
+NYS ADVANCED REGENTS DIPLOMA WITH HONORS (All Regents Exams Average a 90 or Above)

Ashley Alexander**        Arianna Hernandez*
Stacy Alvarez**           Victoria L. Howe*
Samantha Arias**          Krystal Taina Hued*
Sasha Arias*              Cinthia Arlette Ibarra Varela+
Kathiria Linette Arroyo*  Endres Jaquez*
Taleija Benn*             Mbalu Kallon*
Valerie Blain**           Manissa Susan Kouyaté*
Anne Calbitaza**          Adrena Lambert**
Arielle Canate*           Alexis Anne Le Grand*
Delia Naomi Cruz+         Mayerlin Gabriela Lopez*
Nia Imani Davis*          Brianna N. Lorenzana*
Juliana Dedá*             Leandrah Yvette Maldonado*
Samantha A.P. Dennehy*    Brianna Marrero*
Denise Marie Douglas+     Samantha Alexandra Martir*
Brittany S. Dunkley**    Amber Victoria Mejía*
Yvette M. Duverge**       Liliana Krystal Mendez**
Zondrea Khamilya Ferrario** Susej Mendoza*
Melissa Flores*           Samantha Menyah**
Yoselyn Garcia*           Fatima Alexis Mills**
Mya Annarell Hendricks*   Jordan Marie Morales*
           Rosanna Muñoz*
           Annie Nguyen**
           Krizamar Otordos*
           Sonia M. Pacheco*
           Kimberly Padilla**
           Kendra Abigail Patrick*
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           Aylin Quezada*
           Brittany Suhey Regalado*
           Kristen Rhamdeow**
           Jessica Jesenia Rivera^*
           Vanessa C. Sanchez
           Joely Santana+
           Sabyne Nanichi Santiago**
           Cassandra J. Santos*
           Brianna Scott**
           Zainab Shaikh**
           Dahianea Taveras**
           Ileynen Taveras*
           Roehema Lisania Taylor**
           Shaqueria Marie Estelle Tolbert*
           Stephanie Alejandra Toro**
           Chalita Tulapong**
           Lillian Vitalina Ureña*
           Annie Rysel Vargas*
           Samantha Briana Vasquez*
           Gladys Alida Vasquez*
           Paola Vega*
           Pamela Ventura**
           Rubi Michelle Ventura*
           Ermelinda Vushaj*
           Melina Lee Watson*
           Angelis Maree Wong**
           Mary J. Zakki**
Academics

Science and Technology

Science at AMSU will never be the same. The Microsoft Surface tablets and the LifeLiqe software will allow students to see the detailed structures of plant and animal cells and the heart in 3D. AMSU also plans on purchasing a 3D printer in order to take advantage of LifeLiqe’s 3D printing capability. Students will be able to print the plant cell in 3D and analyze the different parts of the cell in their hands.

Science

10th Grade
At the STEM conference at Monsignor Scanlan High School, students had the opportunity to see the practical applications of engineering to solve problems that shape the world now and into the future. In the 1st activity, students learned about renewable energy. They were given the opportunity to design and construct wind turbines and test their design to see how much power they could generate. In the 2nd activity, students were given the opportunity to purify water in a cost effective manner.

11th Grade
On April 7th, 2016, juniors Barbara Djan, Beverly Djan, Kathryn Destin and Nia Javier attended an Engineering Tomorrow STEM Conference. At the conference, students learned what engineers do, how they impact the world and that female engineers are in high demand. After a brief presentation on wind energy, students were given two hours to build a wind turbine. Each participant learned how to determine strengths and weaknesses of the prototype. The position, angle, pitch, materials used and the surface area affected the aerodynamics and the ability to generate power. Through trial and error, the prototype went from 33.9mw to 264mw. AMSU finished in 3rd place.

The 2nd demonstration was on water purification. Students learned how to filter solids from the water using a coagulant polymer with agitations. The goal was to produce the cleanest water at the lowest cost. AMSU students removed the most impurities at a relatively low price. Over all, it was a fun day and students were more receptive to the idea of entering the field of engineering in the future.

English Language Arts

Ms. Mirabella's 9th graders explored Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet while the 10th graders were diving into Macbeth. The students enjoyed the literature as they both read along and listened to an audio CD with actors, actresses and accents. Throughout each act, students had an in-depth analysis of the plot, language and literary techniques.

Ms. Mirabella’s seniors concluded the reading of the last play, August Osage County. In addition, they completed their writing portfolios, the last and bittersweet project of their senior year!

A major component of Ms. Petkevicius’ English Language Arts class is to encourage students to read. To do this, the culminating project of the class centered around creating a book list. A list created by the students that is composed of their favorite books, from all different genres and time periods. The students had to come up with a short, non-revealing summary, a reflection as to why they liked the book, and suggestions as to who should read the designated book. The students hope that other AMSU students will take their suggestions and read some of the books on the list. The book list will be published on the AMSU website and will ensure that the students have excellent, engaging summer reads.

Mathematics

Throughout the year, students were involved with various activities/projects related to their mathematics course of study. The AP Calculus trip visited the MoMath Museum in the fall and many students, across all grades, celebrated Pi day on March 14th by reciting the digits of Pi, reading original poems and songs while participating in activities related to Pi. The teachers in the Mathematics department attended many enrichment programs and workshops. Specifically, Ms. Evans and Ms. Petkevicius attended the STEM STAR program at Manhattan College, Ms. Evans attended an AP Calculus AB Conference and Ms. Civitano and Ms. Petkevicius attended the Long Island Math Conference.

Throughout the year, all the teachers provide tutoring in the morning and afternoons to assist their students. All students will be taking an online mathematics assignment over the summer to promote mathematical fluency. As they look forward to next year, the department plans on participating in a Catholic Math League contest. Their hope is to encourage critical thinking and instill a love of math, or at least a “like,” in every student.

Do something, get moving, risk new things, stick with it, get on your knees, then be ready for big surprises. ~ St. Angela Merici
Religious Studies

Throughout the year, Mr. Amendola’s Religious Studies 9 classes became astute exegetes. The freshmen went beyond the literal signs they read in Scriptures to the deeper spiritual meanings intended in order to bolster their relationships with God, self and others. Their group presentations on the symbolic elements of the Adam and Eve narrative against the backdrop of the Paschal Mystery were insightful, profound and relevant; the themes conveyed were timeless and yet timely!

Mr. Amendola’s Religious Studies 10 classes enthusiastically and creatively presented images and models of church with the understanding that the common theme of these images and models is relationships.

After many awesome presentations using art, music and beautifully composed prayers, the students internalized what Religion is really all about: in essence, religion is about relationships: our relationship with God, self and others. This understanding of religion helps to instill in our young ladies the values of empathy and tolerance: two values that must be revisited in the world in which we live today!

A warm and heartfelt congratulations to the AMSU Catechumen and Candidates who celebrated their Easter Sacraments on May 5, 2016 under the supervision of the Director of the Catechumenate: Mr. Vincent A. Amendola.

Silvia Frances Cabreja, Director of Recruitment and Admissions, was baptized, confirmed and received first Holy Communion, and the following AMSU students confirmed their faith in our Lord Jesus Christ... and His Holy Catholic Church in the Sacrament of Confirmation: Darlenis Joan Cabral, Dismell Rita Gabin, Julie Anastasia Melendez, Dileysi Lucy Nunez, and Layla Catherine Pagan.

We pray that these children of God may always experience the peace and joy of our Lord as they aspire with His grace to be faithful to their Baptismal promises now and always. Take note that these young ladies are continuing to work on a project for the Saint Jude's Children's Research Hospital for cancer patients: the students are crocheting hats and blankets for the children as they are undergoing treatment: As the Lord says, “Well done my Good and Faithful Servants.”

Library Media

The 2015-2016 school year was full of exciting changes for AMSU's library media center. In May of 2015, our library received a grant from The Laura Bush Foundation for America’s Libraries. Over the past year, Ms. McCoy, the library media specialist, has been working diligently to purchase new research materials for AMSU students. With this grant funding, Ms. McCoy purchased 219 new print books for our library shelves, including new copies of many classic novels and a variety of research materials for our English Language Arts classes.

In addition to the print books, 48 new e-book titles were acquired for our students’ research needs. This school year, our e-book provider reported a 97% increase in e-book traffic for our school, indicating that our students found nearly double the number of resources they needed this year over the previous school year.

This grant has improved so many aspects of the research process for our students here at AMSU. Many of our students have obligations after school that make it difficult for them to access reference resources available on library shelves. Now that the AMSU library can offer so many copies of novels for checkout and e-books for students to access anytime from home, our students are free to read, research, and write when they have the time to do so.

Microsoft 365

AMSU is now a fully Microsoft-connected school. Every student, faculty, and staff member has a license to Microsoft 365. Everyone who is part of the AMSU network has access to Microsoft Outlook and five licenses to Microsoft Office. Members of the network are able to install Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint and other Microsoft Office software on up to five devices for free.

Technology Update

The Academy of Mount St. Ursula will be making huge technological upgrades over the summer. A new wireless system will allow students, faculty, staff, and guests to access the internet anywhere in the school. The wireless system will be powered by Lightower Fiber, enabling AMSU to enjoy internet speeds of up to 1 GB/S, twenty times faster than the current speed. In order to provide fast internet, AMSU will also upgrade the wiring system throughout the building. A new phone system will be installed in the school, including a phone and intercom in every classroom/student space.
Animation

This semester, a class titled Beginning Animation was opened up to 9th graders. This class focused on building the drawing skills necessary for the subsequent Animation classes. Students practiced timed gesture drawings, recreated part of a dance sequence on paper, and redrew the dance sequence as though it were performed by an existing cartoon character.

The 10th, 11th, and 12th graders in the Animation class worked on turning their stories from the midterm into animated storyboards with segments of fluid motion. The stories are as diverse as their animators, who should be proud of what they have accomplished.

- Xiang in the Cave of Secrets by Anne Calbitaza ’16
- Missing Me by Brittany Dunkley ’16
- Mangakirl by Skaila Pyatt ’16
- Light of my Life by Cassandra Santos ’16
- Daisy by Cyan Pruitt ’17
- Era by Gabriela Falcons ’18
- The Garden by Bianca Jimenez ’18
- Alien vs. Earth by Danielle Montanez ’18

Animations can be seen on the AMSU website at https://www.amsu.org/arts/visual-arts/

Studio Art

As their final project, students in the Studio Art class came together as a graphic design team and designed the Creative Writing Club’s literary magazine titled paper. They were responsible for creating a logo, covers, and layouts that stayed in line with the club’s vision, and they created artwork to complement the themes of each story. The book can be viewed at https://www.amsu.org/arts/visual-arts/
Art Spotlight

Congratulations to Anne Calbitaza ’16 and Krizamar Otordos ’16 who have both been accepted into the Sculpting with Wax/Casting with Bronze summer sculpture workshop. The Fantasy Fountain Fund, Inc., a non-profit educational arts foundation, has awarded both students a scholarship to attend this program. Students in the program will receive training on how to work with studio waxes, clay, wood and/or plaster and will have their sculpture cast in bronze.

Little Shop of Horrors
words from Ms. Jeannie Di Benedetto

AMSU adds another successful spring musical to their growing list “Little Shop of Horrors!” Early on in rehearsals it became clear that we have a very talented cast. So much so that after hearing them all sing together at call backs, we decided to have a group of 12 sing with the 3 lead “Ronnettes” in the show. We chose the show to be able to offer the students an opportunity to do something different as we have never done a musical comedy before. “Little Shop” is a satire of the famous B-Horror Flicks of the 1950s and 1960s. Our girls, joined by boys from Fordham Prep, Mount St. Michael and Renaissance High School were extremely excited to perform in this highly energetic and comical show. The big attraction this year were the Audrey Two professional puppets that we rented for the show. Our assistant director, Antionette Timm ’01, headed up our plant team along with puppeteers Emily Blain ’18, Janelle Lanclos ’18 and Mohammed Atif, a stage crew member from Mount St. Michael. At one point during the dress rehearsal, two of the sophomores were discussing how they thought the plant was electronic and voice activated. When I told them their classmates were inside and another was doing the voice backstage on a mic, they could not believe how perfectly synced everything was. A lot of hard work paid off and a great time was had by all!
Service

Ursuline Sisters of Bedford Park Donate $1 million to AMSU

The spirit of the Ursuline Sisters continues to permeate the life of the Academy of Mount St. Ursula and remains critical for the advancement of the mission of the school. Since 2008 the Ursuline Sisters have been extremely generous by providing financial support to the school totaling well over $2 million. In February, AMSU received word that they were committing another $1 million to support the school’s mission. With this gift, the Ursulines fulfilled their pledge to the Ensure Their Future Capital Campaign and the Annual Fund. In addition, this gift will enable AMSU to offer substantial financial aid to the Class of 2020, assist with necessary upgrades to the physical plant, and construct a new faculty/staff parking lot.

In her note to the AMSU administration announcing the gift, Sr. Kathleen Finnerty, osu ’56, said, “We are delighted to be able to assist in this way. Our devotion to the AMSU mission remains strong and steadfast.”

This donation would not have been possible without a mutually beneficial partnership between the Ursuline Sisters and the Fordham Bedford Housing Corporation.


In December 2015, the Sisters sold the Ursuline Bedford Park Convent to the Fordham Bedford Housing Corporation for the development of additional housing for Seniors. The completed project will be called Serviam Heights.

The proceeds from the Serviam Gardens and Towers, and Serviam Heights are to be used for the support of the Sisters and the on-going mission of the Academy of Mount St. Ursula.

AMSU is extremely grateful for this wonderful gift! Our dedicated administrators, faculty and staff are successfully carrying on the mission of Ursuline education. Their dedication and hard work will keep AMSU moving forward for future generations.

“This recent gift of the Ursuline community is in keeping with the 160 years of generosity demonstrated by the Ursulines for the young women of New York,” said Fr. John Vigilanti, President.

“We at AMSU are so appreciative of the support we receive from the Ursuline Sisters. AMSU is the great school it is because of the wonderful Ursuline Sisters who began our school and who have worked here for many years,” said Sr. Jean Marie Humphries, osu, PhD ’89.

“Carry on steadfastly and faithfully the work you have undertaken” (Intro. to Counsels, St. Angela Merici)

The Class of 2016 Service Hours

7,886 hours of service
5 students have given over 300 hours. 4 students have given over 200 hours
16 students have given over 100 hours

They have substantially supported the Hayes Program for Exceptional People, Concourse House, Serviam Gardens, POTS, local Church activities, Community Centers as well as Art and Dance Centers. They have tutored in Grammar Schools and After School Programs. Students have taken part in parades, the local St. Patrick’s Day Parades and the Bronx Day Parade and Marathons for the causes of Juvenile Diabetes, Breast Cancer and Climate Change. In addition many have represented us at events at the UN and at our own school events, Open House, Alumnae Reunions and High School Nights at local Grammar Schools.

All students are required to perform 40 hours over their four years but it is clear some have done much more.
Sr. Alice Marie Giordano, osu '52 Celebrates 60th Jubilee

On Friday, May 13, the Academy of Mount St. Ursula celebrated Sr. Alice Marie Giordano’s 60th Jubilee in the school auditorium with students, faculty, Ursuline sisters and many others whom Sr. Alice Marie has graciously influenced with her kindred spirit and devotion to Jesus Christ.

Sr. Alice Marie Giordano, fondly known as Alrie and formerly known as Mother Amadeo, entered the Ursulines in 1953 and made her first vows on January 16, 1956. She has been in elementary and secondary education as her ministry, beginning with The Ursuline School and continuing at St. Philip Neri School, St. Angela, and Blessed Sacrament. She then taught at the Academy of Mount St. Ursula, was Assistant Principal from 1981 to 1986, and later taught from 2005 to 2006. With her generous and hardworking spirit, Alrie became Service Activities Coordinator at AMSU for students, with particular connections with UN activities and events from 2006 to the present.

In 2009 Alrie became Coordinator in the province office of Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation, promoting connections, informational and action-oriented, between national and international social justice organizations and the Province. Alrie began connecting AMSU students with the Working Group on Girls at the UN which has the young ladies interacting with women around the world.

Sr. Alice Marie has also been concerned about other Ursuline endeavors serving on the Board of Trustees at the Ursuline School, and an organization called Songcatchers. She is now Coordinator of JPIC, our Ursuline Office concerned with Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation. In this position she attends several organizational meetings: A Coalition of Religious Congregations to Stop Human Trafficking, a group called ROAR, Religious Organizations Along the River which helps make Hudson River Region more ecologically sound and the TRICRI which stands for the Tri State Coalition for Responsible Investment, a group that uses investment as a means of convincing businesses to be more ethical.

For over forty years, Alrie has been involved with the Exceptional Children’s Program at Cardinal Hayes High School. This program is for local group homes of mentally and physically challenged adults. Cardinal Hayes and AMSU students volunteer their time to serve as guides and chaperones for the adults as part of their community service. They help with arts and crafts as well as physical education activities. Sr. Alice Marie consistently uses positive reinforcement and often commends students who display excellent support to the adults. She uses her time to encourage the students to be more proactive, engage them in conversation, or just listen to what they have to say. Many of the adults who attend the program show a deep affection for Sr. Alice Marie.

Quote from Mr. Terence Mulvey, Assistant Principal of Student Affairs, Cardinal Hayes High School:

“I have worked with Sr. Alice for the past two years in the Exceptional Children’s Program, in which students from Cardinal Hayes and Mount St. Ursula interact with mentally and physically challenged adults. In my short time with the program, I can unequivocally state that Sr. Alice brings energy, enthusiasm, and a kind caring voice to the program.”

“I exercise pleasantness toward all, taking great care what you have commanded may never be done by reason of force. For God has given free will to everyone, and therefore never forces anyone - but only indicates, calls and persuades.”

~ St. Angela Merici
Sports Awards

On Sunday, June 5th, the Athletic Department celebrated the end of a great year with its Annual Sports Awards reception, this year in the form of a brunch. AMSU is blessed to have 60 athletes amongst its volleyball, basketball, softball, cheerleading and STEP teams. The following special awards were distributed:

**Volleyball:**
Congratulations to the volleyball team, the NY CHSAA Bronx-Westchester B Division champions for the 2015 season. They had an undefeated regular season with 8 wins and an overall record of 10-2. Congratulations, Lady Bears & Coach Taveras!

Most Valuable Player: Valerie Blain ’16
Most Dedicated: Rebecca Garcia ’19
Most Improved: Janelle Ruiz ’17
Most Spirited: Blerentina Krasniqi ’19

**Basketball:**
Most Valuable Player: Samantha Martir ’16
Most Dedicated: Alyssa Ponce ’18
Most Improved: Jenaya Cates ’18
Most Spirited: Bielka Frias ’19

**Softball:**
Most Valuable Player: Janelle Ruiz ’17
Most Dedicated: Thais Nunez ’19
Most Improved: Trinity Rojas ’19
Most Spirited: Ermelinda Vushaj ’16

**Step:**
Most Valuable Player: Nia Davis ’16
Most Dedicated: Shaquera Tolbert ’16
Most Improved: Kari Elvin ’17
Most Spirited: Manissa Kouyate ’16

**Cheerleading:**
MVP: Kathleen Rodriguez ’18
Most Dedicated: Genesis Feliciano ’18
Most Improved: Destiny Friday ’18
Most Spirited: Naya DeOleo ’19

The final honor of the afternoon, AMSU’s Athletic Director Award, was presented to Ermelinda Vushaj ’17 with Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj (photo to the right). A member of the volleyball, basketball and softball teams, Ermelinda has also found the time to complete 200 hours of community service, serve on the senior retreat team, prom committee, tech crew and serve as senior class president. Academically,
she is an honor student and recent inductee to the National Honor Society. Ermelinda has also received countless honors as a member of the NYPD Explorers program since 2010. Ermelinda’s passion, dedication and enthusiasm for everything she does has made her a role model for her peers. Congratulations, Ermelinda!

Another student, Janelle Ruiz '17, said “Participating in athletics has been one of the best decisions I’ve ever made. Athletics has taught me many lessons that I will take with me wherever I go. Nevertheless it has been a big part of our school spirit and I have enjoyed it for all of my three years. Athletics has helped me transform from being a closed off person to an open young woman. Being involved in athletics is sometimes a hard commitment, but it is worth it in the end. It has been a distraction to me when I’ve needed it the most. I have met so many people with different personalities. Being on a team and bonding with your teammates is a great experience. We see each other at our best and at our worst. As a team you learn how to work with each other and care for one another. My coaches have taught me how to remain calm, be confident in myself, and to not give up. Next year I am looking forward to spending more time with my teammates, helping to improve Ursula’s teams, and making memories.”

AMSU Cheerleading

Cheerleaders are always known for their high energy and school spirit, but this year’s team has all that and more! The previous cheer coach, Carla Lide ’05 moved on to a new position at the NFL, and it was difficult finding a replacement once the school year began. Ms. Kelleher, AMSU’s Treasurer, 1981 alumna, and former AMSU cheer Captain, stepped up and filled the role. There were many positions open on the team due to seniors who had graduated last year, so with the help of the veterans, tryouts were organized and practices held to fill the open positions. Once the team was selected, the squad held a bake sale to help fund new uniforms, all while supporting the AMSU Bears at every home game!

But the team’s pride didn’t stop when the basketball season ended. AMSU Cheerleaders proudly marched with the school in both the Throgs Neck St. Patrick’s Day Parade, and the Bronx Parade on our own Mosholu Parkway. Their school spirit was proudly on display as they performed cheers and got the crowds involved!
Annual Career Day for Juniors

On Friday, May 20th, the AMSU guidance department hosted its Annual Career Day for the junior class. This event was an enlightening, insightful and informative experience. It was certainly a privilege for the juniors to have the opportunity to connect with successful alumnae in order to build a network to advance their education and structure their career path.

Career Day representatives from left to right above included: Dentist, Janet Keane ’74; NBC TODAY Producer, Michele Leone ’85; Communications & Marketing Director at CUNY School of Law, Lucille Renwick ’83; Speech Language Pathologist, Helene Butler ’90; Senior Project Manager, External Affairs, Strategic Planning, Montefiore Health System, Deirdre Byrne; Stadium Operations, New York Yankees, Carol Laurenzano ’90 and Ariana Laurenzano, daughter of Carol, Manhattanville ’16 graduate; College Professor at Manhattan College, Rosemary Carroll Farley ’70; and not seen in photo, Associate Director of Nursing, Carmen Soliman, wife of Leo Soliman, Religion Department Chair.

The guidance department would like to thank all of those who participated in Career Day. “We understand that it is not easy to give up your time, but the girls and AMSU community truly appreciate your participation. The girls learned a lot about various careers, but more importantly they learned about life. Not only did you share work and education details, you also expressed the trials and tribulations along the way, which is very inspiring. It was clear each of you genuinely wanted the girls to walk away with core life values that will lead them to success.” ~ Mrs. Kathleen Ryan O’Connell ’85

Building Good Economies

On April 22, Earth Day, Ms. Gratton, Religion Teacher and Mrs. Fabrizio, History Teacher and department chair, escorted twenty juniors to Fordham University, Lincoln Center, to attend Building Good Economies: An Interdisciplinary Conference Celebrating 125 Years of Catholic Social Teaching conference. This event was sponsored by Fordham University’s Francis and Ann Curran Center for American Catholic Studies. The day focused on the environment in light of Catholic social teaching. The students heard presentations from professors at St. John’s University and Loyola University, New Orleans. After lunch, the students built on these presentations by participating in small group discussions concerning how their schools care for the environment. The students were energized to implement new environmental initiatives at AMSU.
Charity Champion presents check to Members of the Grail

On Monday, April 4th Elizabeth Ferrier from Charity Champions, an initiative of Cablevision, presented a check for $1,000 to Members of The Grail. Then two young women of the Grail and AMSU students shared their experiences at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 60). The students of AMSU have chosen the Grail as their special charity this year. They raised funds to help young Grail members from all over the world attend UN events with them.

Taping of Three Masses at St. Frances de Sales Church

Participating in the Taping of Three Masses at St. Francis de Sales Church in NYC was truly an experience for the freshmen and sophomores as well as the chaperones: Mr. Amendola, Religion Teacher, Dr. Mengharini, Science Teacher and Ms. Gratton, Religion Teacher.

This memorable event helped one to appreciate and not take for granted how the Mass is the sacred composition of the highest form of prayer for a Catholic; moreover, how the beauty of this prayer is enhanced by beautifully sung hymns and prayerfully read sacred readings culminating in the Word made Flesh in the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

Additionally, students realized how this model of Church as Herald is not just limited to the Liturgy of the Word at Mass, but how the Church uses the social media of the day to be faithful to Jesus’ commission dating back to the 1st century: Proclaim the Good News of Salvation to the ends of the earth.

~ Mr. Amendola (Religious Studies Dept.)

CPR Taught to AMSU Seniors

The New York State Board of Regents recently mandated that all high school students be taught CPR prior to graduating. This includes hands on instruction in CPR, as well as training in the use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs). On Friday, March 11, Amanda Bachmann, Assistant Athletic Director/Athletic Trainer at the Ursuline School in New Rochelle, visited AMSU to provide the training. The senior class watched a video and practiced CPR on mannequins.

Senior Prom at Glen Island Harbour Club
Student Events

Mrs. Patricia Russo of the Women’s Campaign School at Yale University Inspires the Students of AMSU

On Friday, February 12, the Academy of Mount St. Ursula had the pleasure of welcoming Mrs. Patricia Russo of the Women’s Campaign School at Yale University. Mrs. Russo immediately caught the attention of the AMSU community as she proceeded onto the stage dancing to her favorite song: “Girl on Fire!” She promised to transform the “girls of Mount St. Ursula” in just a short 45 minutes, and her presentation proved that she surely kept her promise. Throughout her speech, Mrs. Russo demonstrated the characteristics of a well-rounded, educated, animated, passionate and captivating strong woman. She strove to inspire the AMSU students through words of wisdom, personal philosophies and life experiences. She taught the girls to take risks, to be bold, to be confident, to be accepting, to be non-judgmental and to love themselves wholeheartedly. These words of advice truly resonated with the girls as she provided personal mantras for all walks of life. Mrs. Russo is truly an empowering woman who has certainly left her footprint at AMSU. “We are so grateful to have had the opportunity to welcome her and to give her the standing ovation that was well deserved,” said Ms. Amanda Mirabella, English Teacher.

AMSU was blessed to have Mrs. Russo share her workshop on “Being a Leader in Your Life.” She presented this workshop as a gift to celebrate and honor Ms. Joan O’Meara Winant ’69 for being an honoree at the 160th Anniversary Gala Celebration for the Academy of Mount St. Ursula.

The Women’s Campaign School at Yale University is a non-partisan, issue neutral leadership program, whose mission is to increase the number and influence of women in elected and appointed office in the United States and around the world. For more information, visit: www.wcsyale.org

NYC Smoke-Free at Public Health Solutions Sponsors Kick Butts Day at AMSU

AMSU student leaders from NYC Smoke-Free at Public Health Solutions hosted a Kick Butts Day event during the school assembly. Kick Butts Day is a national day of activism that empowers youth to stand out, speak up and seize control against Big Tobacco. There are over 1600 tobacco retailers that populate our Bronx communities. This growing number of tobacco retailers in our neighborhoods re-normalizes tobacco use. And in far too many communities, youth are more likely to find tobacco on their neighborhood blocks than parks, schools, libraries, or toy stores.

By raising awareness of the problem of tobacco exposure around their home and school communities, students were encouraged to be more aware of and stand up against Big Tobacco. During the assembly students hosted a presentation around the program and highlighted the tobacco density concerns in the neighborhood. Five students within the school also participated in an “Open Mic” event. They had a chance to stand up against Big Tobacco through an art form whether it was a poem, song or displayed a work of art. For further information visit: https://www.amsu.org/students/events/Kick-Butts-Day

AMSU is grateful to Vonetta Dudley ’00 (photograph on next page) for helping set up this event. “It’s always great to come back and visit at AMSU! It’s been even better working with the school and its students. This year has helped to show me how important it is to stay connected with my fellow sisters and I’m glad of the work that we were able to do together. Many teenagers don’t know or understand how huge corporations can have an impact on their livelihood from an early age. I’m proud of the Reality Check student leaders for all the work they did, how they created awareness about tobacco control issues among their fellow sisters and their future plans for the program and changes they hope to bring to their school and home communities. It feels great to work with and give back to a school that is truly vested in the health, education and livelihood of their students and alumnae!”

NYC Smoke-Free, a program of Public Health Solutions, works to protect the health of New Yorkers through tobacco control policy, advocacy, and education. Formerly the NYC Coalition for a Smoke-Free City, they partner with community members, legislators, and health advocates to support local efforts to end the devastating tobacco epidemic throughout
NYC. They believe every New Yorker has the right to breathe clean, smoke-free air where they live, work and play. For more information, please visit www.NYCSmokeFree.org Youth Engagement Associate, Vonetta Dudley ’00, can be reached at 718-466-8862 by phone or vdudley@healthsolutions.org.

About Reality Check

Reality Check is a student led, adult supported program for those between the ages of 13 through 18. The statewide program is composed of multiple student run chapters’ across New York State. Each chapter works to expose the deceptive marketing tactics of the tobacco industry through education, advocacy outreach and media campaigns. For more information, go to www.reailtycheckofny.com

Kick Butts Day is a national day of activism that empowers youth to stand out, speak up and seize control against Big Tobacco. They expected more than 1,000 events in schools and communities across the United States and even around the world.

On Kick Butts Day, teachers, youth leaders and health advocates organized events to:

- Raise awareness of the problem of tobacco use in their state or community;
- Encourage youth to reject the tobacco industry’s deceptive marketing and stay tobacco-free; and
- Urge elected officials to take action to protect kids from tobacco.

Kick Butts Day is organized by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. The first Kick Butts Day was held in 1996. For more information, please visit: www.kickbuttsday.org/about/

NYC Smoke-Free at Public Health Solutions Sponsors World No Tobacco Day at AMSU

On May 31, AMSU student leaders from NYC Smoke-Free at Public Health Solutions hosted a World No Tobacco Day event. As a way of demonstrating how the Academy of Mount St. Ursula celebrated and supported World No Tobacco Day, AMSU signed a policy which stated that the school would not show youth-rated movies where smoking is displayed.

World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) is observed around the world every year on May 31. It is intended to encourage a 24-hour period of abstinence from all forms of tobacco consumption around the globe. The day is further intended to draw attention to the widespread prevalence of tobacco use and to negative health effects. By signing a “Smoke Free Movie” policy, movies shown at the school rated G, PG or PG-13, would not have smoking scenes in them unless it is for historical context and social justice issues. This is important because smoking in movies does recruit 187,000 new teen smokers every year and tobacco companies mainly target our teens through these movies. Signing the agreement was one more step in the continuation to protect its students from Big Tobacco and the overexposure to the teen population.

https://www.amsu.org/students/events/World-No-Tobacco-Day

Sr. Jean Marie Humphries, osu, PhD ’89 signed "Smoke Free Movie" policy
Farewells

Mrs. Susan Mc Carthy Cronin ’65, retiring as Chair of the Board

“Give a girl the right shoes, and she can conquer the world.”~ Marilyn Monroe

These words remind me of a special person we are here to honor this morning. This person has worn many hats (and many shoes) over the years. She is a dedicated alumna from the Class of 1965, an Adopt a Student sponsor to girls from Our Lady of Refuge School, AMSU’s personal interior decorator, AMSU’s private property florist, the Queen of Modern Dress Plaid, Susan McCarthy Cronin.

For the past 14 years I have had the privilege to work very closely with Susan on many fundraisers, annual appeals, capital campaigns and school projects. I would not have been able to do it without her! She has been an active member of the school’s Development Committee, Leadership Committee, and for the past eight years has served as a dynamic Chair of the Board of Trustees.

In everything Susan has done for her alma mater, she has always planned every detail to perfection. It is because of her generosity that we have classic photos on the second floor of the school, colorful canvas images in the renovated girls’ restrooms, a big screen television in the cafeteria and all of the decorations for our Open Houses and Development events. She is the type of person who makes everyone feel special, and she certainly has made us feel special here with all she has done.

It is no secret that Susan’s email address is shoesrule2. She loves shoes as much as she loves AMSU! And it will be difficult for anyone to fill her shoes here at the Academy of Mount St. Ursula. But, the one lesson I think we can all learn from Susan, is…… “Give a girl the right shoes, and she can conquer the world.” ~ Anna Parra

Fr. John Vigilanti

Father John Vigilanti was introduced to the Ursulines and to Mount St. Ursula in 1986 by Sister Amadeus McKevitt, OSU, ’37 with whom he studied Canon Law at Catholic University and worked at the Metropolitan Tribunal. He taught a senior class on Marriage and the Family and eventually became a frequent celebrant of special school Masses until the early 90s. In more recent years, as pastoral leader of the school community, Father John helped to bring comfort and peace to a grieving school community who experienced the tragic and sudden deaths of two of Mount’s students. Father Vigilanti will be remembered for his many talents as teacher, administrator and pastoral leader throughout these years. As a homilist, his gift with words engages the congregation in attentive and prayerful celebrations of the Eucharist, helping all to relate the heart of the Gospel message to life in the twenty-first century, will long be appreciated and remembered by all as will his enthusiastic participation in song! Ad multos annos, Father John! ~ Sr. Barbara Calamari, osu

Fr. John has left an impression on AMSU. A few highlights from his eight years as president: He has helped raise over $14.5 million to keep the school running, hosted 8 reunions, 3 Salsa and Chips events, 2 Hall of Fame dinner dances, and completed the Ensure Their Future Campaign by surpassing our $3 million goal, he has cut costs and increased fundraising, began partnerships with Student Sponsor Partners and The Juilliard School, aired our first TV commercial on Cablevision, promoted AMSU through interviews on WVOX and Bronxnet, obtained the new upright piano for the music classroom, and assisted with many other opportunities for AMSU.

Father John has paved the way for us to continue the mission of the Ursuline Sisters. Thank you for a great eight years and for all you have done for AMSU. We are very sad to see you go. Buena Suerte y Que Dios Te Bendiga!

~ Anna Parra

Passing the Torch

It is my honor to be selected as the next Chair of the Board of Trustees of AMSU. It certainly will be difficult to fill the “many shoes” of Susan Cronin, but I will give it my all. I have certainly enjoyed my four years on the Board to this point. I have served as chairman of the Finance Committee, member of the Executive Committee, member of the Principal Search Committee, and am currently serving on the Strategic Planning Committee. From my first assignment as a rookie Board member when I was asked to shadow the Open House tours, I was struck by the maturity and poise of the student tour guides. AMSU is truly a special institution. I look forward to my mission of serviam, and working with our Board to make the next 160 years as special as the last 160 years. ~ Ron Johnn

- 22 - 2016 Summer Take Note
Mr. Michael Henry

“T’m honored to say a few words as we say goodbye to Mike. For over twenty years, Mike has been a master history teacher, wholly dedicated to our mission. During his tenure here he’s led Student Council, including trips to the UN and to Ursuline schools around the country; he’s brought the Guitar Club and Open Mic, which is a favorite student activity, to our school. Alums come back to AMSU specifically to see Mike and pick up a microphone and an instrument. I’ve seen first-hand his capacity to bring music and performing to the shyest student.

One of the hardest parts about teaching history is getting students involved and interested in learning about events that happened in other places in other times. Mike never had that problem. He begins every class by greeting each student individually at the classroom door and immediately engages them in the study of history. His passion for history is contagious and his anecdotes are interesting and funny. Mike has a solid grasp of World and United States history and the flow of events and their importance. He identifies the relevant information and enhances it with additional color to make it interesting and bring it to life.

Kathy, Mike and I have always worked so well together, whether it’s department meeting discussions or the hundreds of hours of Regents’ grading and we share the same educational philosophy. Mike isn’t only an amazing teacher, but a great colleague and friend. I’ll miss our talks about the direction and future of Social Studies education. Henry Adams, a historian and descendant of John Adams, said that “A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.” Despite leaving the classroom behind, Mike’s lessons will continue to influence several generations of students. We all wish you and your wife Suzanne happiness and adventure in this new chapter in life. String lessons will continue to influence several generations of students. We all wish you and your wife Suzanne happiness and adventure in this new chapter in life. We will miss you but this isn’t good bye as we know you’ll keep in touch and we’ll see you sooner rather than later. Thank you, Mike, for years of unwavering commitment to AMSU and girls education.”
~ Marie Fabrizio, Social Studies Chair

Mrs. Joanie McCarthy

“Joanie McCarthy has been affiliated with AMSU for about 36 years. I first met Joanie in our cafeteria. She was the manager of all things related to that busy kitchen. She prepared the food and helped in serving it to our students. Eventually, she had others help her with the “counter” and she became “head cashier”. Her mental math skills were remarkable. She was able to collect the cash and make change in the most efficient way possible, the whole time being kind and pleasant to every girl on the line. When girls had no money, she would lend it to them. And without fail they would repay her the next day. They loved Joanie. When I was on “lunch duty”, I would spend time talking to her and we would share our thoughts about life and family. Knowing that I would have Joanie to talk to always made lunch duty bearable. When I was running some school events, like Father/Daughter dance, she would always help me plan the menu and prepare the buffet. She was always efficient, organized and reliable. When AMSU changed the lunch program, Joanie took off the “chef’s hat” and started to help the school with other activities. She became our ”gal Friday”. She was instrumental in planning many events related to the school. When there was an opening in the health room, she then became the school ”nurse”. Once again, she returned to a position that allowed her to reconnect with the students...something she always loved. When she was replaced by an official nurse from the Board of Ed, she willingly helped administration with whatever they needed. Every morning, as we entered the building, Joanie would be sitting at the desk greeting everyone with a warm hello and “how are you?” (and the horoscope). This personal and heartfelt touch will surely be missed. As Joanie embarks on the next chapter of her life, we wish her much good health and happiness. We know that she will come back and visit and that AMSU will always be in her heart. She will be remembered as ….a congenial colleague, a cooperative employee, a grandmother figure to the students but most of all as a dear friend. Much love Joanie, we will miss you!”
~ Mrs. Monica Signorini DeLaurentis ’70, Mathematics Chair

“We celebrate Joanie McCarthy who was hired in 1980 by Sr. St. Eleanor Cohen as the chief “chef” in Mount’s cafeteria. Besides being a great cook, Joanie became a friend and confidant of her colleagues assisting in the kitchen, the faculty, staff and the students. Her friendliness and kindness touched the lives of so many of us for thirty-six years, serving everyone with a warm greeting and a gracious smile. Her care and concern for the students will always be remembered. St. Patrick’s Day will never be the same at AMSU without Joanie’s charming Irish brogue and her delicious Irish soda bread and scones. On behalf of all the Ursulines from 1980 to the present, we thank Joanie for sharing her great gifts with all.”
~ Sr. Barbara Calamari, osu
Alumnae Events

Painting with AMSU Friends was AMSU’s first event of this kind. It brought in 34 guests, which was a great turnout! This was a mini-fundraiser which generated $2,000. Current students and young alumnæ participated, along with alumnæ, friends and staff. A great time was had by all!

Alex and Ani Event in Rye was the first event of this type. The school had great participation. AMSU will receive 15% of all sales during our event time. AMSU plans to have another event like this in the fall.

Cinco de Mayo Raffle is one of AMSU’s most popular fundraisers. This year the event raised over $7,300. Congratulations to the winners: First prize: $3,000 (Anne Butler, mother of Helene Butler ’90); Second prize: $1,500 (Dr. Ellen Tedaldi ’71) and Third prize: $500 (Mary Jane McGahan, friend of Carole Kakos ’61).

Salsa and Chips will take place on Friday, October 28th, at Lake Isle in Eastchester. Lake Isle has been renovated and the venue is a true sight for those who have not been there. Formal invitations will be mailed at the beginning of September. Tickets will be $100 per person. We look forward to having a record number of guests attend this event.

Alumnae Reunion: On Saturday, April 16th, AMSU opened the school building to over 50 alumnæ from the classes ending in 1s and 6s for coffee and offered student tours of the school from 10:30 to noon. Beginning at 1:00 p.m., a record number of alumnæ, close to 230, gathered together for their reunion, which was held at Maestro’s Caterers in the Bronx.

A special thank you to all the class coordinators who assisted in contacting their classmates to make this year’s reunion very special: Jean Barrett Coligan ‘46, Julia Whalen ’51, Carole Kakos ’61, Janet Barelli Murphy ’61, Rose Marie Occhino ’61, Elaine Castaldo Sackmann ’61, Margaret Hayes Kelly ’66, Jueleanne Coogan McGurk ’66, Rosemarie Ellicot Roche ’76, Michelle Kelleher ’81, Teresita Sanabria ’81, Francesca Kossick Bossey ’86, Angela LeClerc ’91, Sarita Hatcher ’01, Jamie Miranda ’01 and Angelique Calbitaza ’06.

Anna delivered a special thank you to the many alumnæ who helped to coordinate contributions toward their class gifts. In total, the reunion classes collected over $19,000. The Class of 1966, who celebrated their 55th reunion, generously contributed $10,065 toward their class gift. NYS Senator Charles Schumer stopped by to show support for Catholic schools and the dedicated administration and faculty.

(photos to the right with Ms. Anna Parra)

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Hello to Reunion Groups ending in 1’s and 6’s,

So near and yet so far! So sorry to have missed greeting all of you at the Alumnae Reunion. Traffic and parking made it an impossibility. However, we were there in spirit and viewing the photos on the AMSU webpage showed what fun you all had. Glad to have seen so many of you at the 160th in the Botanical Gardens in October! May you all be blessed for your generosity and commitment to “the Mount” throughout the years!

Love and prayers,
Sr. Barbara Calamari, osu and Sr. Mary Beth Read, osu

Members of the Class of 1966
Class Notes

1924

Rose Sinisgalli Feraca recently passed, but has left a wonderful treasure to AMSU, her AMSU pin. The photo is of Rose’s confirmation with her godmother around 1916. (photo to the left)

1954

Dr. Maryellen Keefe, OSU was promoted from Associate to Full Professor in May at SUNY Maritime College where has been teaching in the Humanities Department since 2003. Her book, CASUAL AFFAIRS: the LIFE AND FICTION OF SALLY BENSON is doing well.

1961

Carol Tosi Rhoder and Carole Kakos met recently on Anna Maria Island in Bradenton, Florida for a "lengthy lunch" at the beach. It was a perfect day in every way. Carol and Carole not only attended AMSU together but Mercy College together as well so they had lots to reminisce about during their three to four-hour lunch. Now that they have discovered they live very near each other on the Florida Gulf Coast they plan to get together often. In fact they may travel north together in July on the Amtrak Auto Train from Sanford, Fl. to Lorton, Va. That train trip won't be quite the same as the one they took together to Montreal and Quebec with their classmates during their senior year at Mount but they anticipate it will be loads of fun and, unlike in their senior year, this time they’ll be sure to get some sleep while on board the overnight train. Months before last April’s 55th reunion Carole Kakos contacted Camille Gentilella Manfredonia with hopes Camille would be able to come to NY for the planned reunion weekend. Although Camille was unable to attend the reunion, she did respond to the Reunion Committee’s request to write something about herself and her memories of Mount to be included in the AMSU 55th Reunion Booklet which Elaine Castaldo Sackmann put together. Camille and Carole are both hoping to someday get together in Florida. For now, they are enjoying communicating via e mail.

Virginia LiVolsi, MD. attended the World Health Organization sponsored meeting in Lyon France in mid-April 2016. She participated in the update of the classification of tumors of the Endocrine system which will be published in 2017. This series of books serves as the standard for pathologists worldwide in the diagnosis and genetics of tumors affecting all major endocrine organs including pituitary, thyroid, parathyroid, adrenal glands and paraganglia.

Elaine Castaldo Sackmann writes “The 9th annual gathering of Ms. Com, Pierre, Mary Jane Coyle Doyle, Marie Chiappe Rhodes, Rose Marie Caiazzo Occhino, and Elaine Castaldo Sackmann took place this past April at Bocuse at The Culinary Institute. After a delicious lunch, they headed to the
Class Notes

The gravesite of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin where they cleaned the grounds and planted spring flowers. Pierre had prepared the 6th binder of studies on de Chardin this one focusing on Teilhard’s biography, paleontology, The Phenomenon of Man/Original Sin, The Divine Milieu, and Teilhard’s teachings. The goody bag from Ms. Com and Pierre also included a book on St. Benedict, some cds, and lavender soap. Mary Jane, Marie, Rose Marie, and Elaine truly treasure these get-togethers.

The 55th Reunion of the Class of ’61 was an awesome gathering with classmates coming from as far as Ireland, Arizona, Florida, South Carolina, Ohio, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, New Jersey, and of course as close as New York. The reunion started on Friday night with drinks and food at The Tap in Tuckahoe, was followed by the Saturday luncheon at Maestro’s, and culminated with brunch at The Grand Hyatt in NYC. Classmates submitted bios of what they have done since graduation, what they are now doing, and other information they chose to include. A booklet was prepared with the 1961 graduation photos and the updated bios. Two things were repeatedly evident in their stories – classmates treasure the fine Ursuline education they received and the 'Serviam' motto has been and remains very much a part of their lives. The booklet was certainly a very meaningful memento of the weekend.

1965
Romaine Genovese Hoffman writes, “Hello, Everyone! It must have been on my bucket list - to write a children’s short chapter book. I never expected to complete the story of two Florida sibling manatees; however, my book was published in August 2015. Check it out on Amazon.com. The story is appropriate for Grades 3-6 and has at least 20 positive characteristics among the siblings, Marisol and Marco, and the animals they befriend throughout their adventure. Discussion questions are included in the back of the book. Should you read HIGH-FIVING FLIPPERS, please send along feedback. Hoping to see you soon at another great reunion; nothing could top our 50th!”

1966
Laura Pacher North had a photo exhibit at the Bronxville Library throughout the month of June.

1967
Michele Mucci is not an avid email reader so she only recently learned of the damages to the buildings and the subsequent need to house the students at the convent. Here is her response: “My first reaction was jealousy, then wistful remembering of all the places and people that composed campus life for me. Yes, I know. Wistfulness does not repair roofs but please allow me to share a personal memory as you await my financial donation.

I worked after school hours as the portress. This is the only word that was used to designate function, person, and place. I am not sure if this word exists anymore and I certainly know even simple technology has long since replaced the bells and PBX switchboard I used to alert or summon the nuns. Even now, I hear the bells and feel the presence of the discreet and low light cubicle that captured me. Some years ago, about fifteen, I visited and was met by Mother St. Pierre Drury who was with her companion. They were sitting at a table in the hall (to the chapel) I was so pleased that she remembered me. I was equally pleased to see the portress booth still standing. I wanted to hug it. Yes, I know. Hugs do not repair roofs nor pay contractors. So let me do both: hugs and money.”

1969
Sue Lundberg Ciaccia and her husband, Domenick, were very happy when their oldest daughter, Jackie, married Chris Henschel in June 2015. Among the guests in NYC were Liz Wagner Lundberg ’87, Gina Sorbera DeCaprio ’79, MaryBeth Ferre Stewart ’79, and Denise Baccalore ’79. Sue and Domenick's second daughter, Stefanie, is engaged to Stephen Veneruso. An August wedding has been planned!

1970
Susan Schwartzman is now hosting a radio show, Susan's Book Corner, on Pawling Public Radio. Her show can be heard online at www.pawlingpublicradio.org on Sundays at 3:00 PM ET, and Mondays at 12:30 PM ET. In September, you will be able to hear it throughout the Harlem Valley in Dutchess County. For more information, please visit http://www.pawlingpublicradio.org/show/susans-book-corner/.

1979
Christine Grimaldi became engaged to Michael Nicotina in front of their families and friends on October 23, 2015. Also in attendance was AMSU alum Christina Nicotina (Alvarez, also a 2003 graduate) who will serve as a bridesmaid. Her ring bearer will be Robert Bergmann, son of Megan Burke Bergmann ’97 and grandson of Elizabeth Bergmann, former AMSU staff member.
2006

Christine Jurado wanted to share some exciting news – she graduated from Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service with a Master of Social Work in May. She also recently began a position as a Clinical Social Worker at Northside Center for Child Development in East Harlem.

Sinead Crimmins graduated from AMSU in 2006 and Iona College in 2010. She received her Master’s degree in 2011, also from Iona College. Sinead is certified in Adolescent Education. Her degrees are: Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education: Social Studies and MSEd in Secondary Education: Social Studies.

After college, Sinead substituted in various elementary levels ranging from K to 8th grade. She was hired as a leave replacement position for Social Studies Grades 6-8. Then she was an intern in a high school where she tutored students for the Global and American History Regents. For the past four years, Sinead has been teaching at St. Anselm School focusing on middle school level Social Studies.

Sinead will be getting married this July to Kevin Cameron at Holy Family Church in the Bronx. They met at Iona College their junior year through a mutual friend. He is a NYPD officer in the Bronx. They will be honeymooning in Colorado in August. Sinead’s maid of honor, Adina Sheopaul, is a fellow AMSU graduate from the Class of 2006. They attended high school and college together. They met freshman year at AMSU over morning breakfast and have been friends ever since! Sinead will return to AMSU in Fall 2016 as a Social Studies Teacher.

2009

Ritu Bala is currently a nurse at Montefiore Hospital on Bainbridge Avenue. She was recently attending to Rocco Parra, Anna Parra’s 97-year old grandfather. He was in very good hands with Ritu!
SAVE THE DATE

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, October 23, 2016
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Visit us online@ www.amsu.org

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