take note

summer 2010

academy of mount st. ursula
in association with the art academy, amsu players & amsu vocalists
present

the arts

book, music & lyrics by
jeanne dibenedetto, michael henry, gary horn & laura ravotti

with special guests

yoko ono, vanessa williams,
angela brown & j.k. simmons

starring (in order of appearance)

shaella morales '10 - gates millennium scholar
marian guerra '10 - valedictorian
 crystal mcmillian '10 - student body president

co-starring
amsu alumnae

choreographed by
amsu faculty/staff

production supervision
the administration

directed by
the students

produced by
the ursulines
As this Take Note arrives I am gratified to share with you the many exciting events hosted by our school during the past year. I would also like to thank those alums who have taken an active role in serving their alma mater. Their interest and energy have provided a tangible connection to a new generation of AMSU students. Finally, I want to offer sincere thanks to Mrs. Susan McCarthy Cronin ’65, the Chair of our Board, who seeks out every opportunity to solidify the Mount’s wonderful reputation.

Our 155th year has been a very busy one at AMSU. Once again, our students have stepped up. They advanced to the semi-final round on MSG Varsity’s academic game show The Challenge and competed against Fordham Prep’s Team. Our students made their voices heard by participating at the UN conference on the Status of Women under the guidance of Mrs. Joanne Kelly and Sr. Alice Marie Giordano, osu ’52. They wrote materials for the Commission and sponsored an Empower Girls Day and Water Day at AMSU. Our students are strengthening their connection with our nearest neighbors at Serviam Gardens, in keeping with the Ursuline motto: Serviam. In response to the quake in Haiti, students raised and donated $1,000 to Catholic Relief Services. The whole school marched this year in the St. Patrick’s Day Parade up 5th Avenue and greeted our new archbishop. The weather could not have been better. Finally, we awarded our first Service scholarship to an incoming freshman.

This was a year for promoting the Arts. We awarded our first Art scholarship for the coming academic year, under the guidance of Mr. Horn, our artist in residence. On February 23rd we hosted a performance by the soprano, Angela Brown, who made her Met debut in the title role of Aida in 2004. As a New York Times critic commented: “Finally, we have an Aida.” She sang, explained opera, and spoke of her journey in music. On March 2nd, forty of our students attended the Metropolitan Opera dress rehearsal of the Shostakovich opera The Nose. On March 9th we welcomed 40 members of the Spelman College Glee Club who wowed our students with their beautiful renditions of Gospel music. On March 12th our school became the location for filming two scenes from the independent film Mr. Tambourine Man. A production crew of 100 actors and crew descended on the school at 6am and filmed until midnight, using the library and auditorium as their sets. The star, J.K. Simmons (The Closer, Law and Order, etc.) graciously posed with members of our Musical Theatre program. On March 30th, a generous donor provided a brand new Bechstein piano to the school to enhance our music program. In April our musical theatre students put on three great performances of Grease, supported by our talented musical faculty, Ms. Jeanne DiBenedetto, Ms. Laura Ravotti, and Mr. Michael Henry. On May 20th, one of our alums, Terri Cook ’60, author of Sacred Havens, conducted a private tour of Manhattan’s spiritual places for our art students. Finally, our administrative team, with members of our Fine Arts faculty, met with Dr. Joseph Polisi, the President of Juilliard, to explore the possibility of a partnership between our schools, an exciting initiative!

On Saturday, June 12th, we graduated 74 students. This year we decided to hold the graduation in our own auditorium. As for the future, because of our new partnership with the Student Sponsored Partners program and the coordinated team work of our admissions office, teachers, and Board of Trustees’ members, we are looking at a freshman class of roughly 110! In addition, we have streamlined our structure, so that our branding and marketing, development, and admissions’ staff are working together to increase the school’s visibility, enrollment, and financial stability.

Please accept my sincere thanks for your continued support of the Mount and reserve Thursday evening, October 14th, for our 155th anniversary dinner at the Davenport Club in New Rochelle!

Sincerely,

Fr. John A. Vigilanti, Ed.D.
President
Letter

from the Principal

In addition to being a year for promoting and cultivating the arts, academic year 2009-2010 has aimed to place a strong emphasis on diversity and self-expression. AMSU’s student body is a paragon of diversity, a diversity which extends itself beyond the traditional definition to include both the learning needs of students and the manner in which they express what they know. Societal, emotional, and technological changes have demanded increased attention on students’ learning needs. We recognize that, as educators, we have an obligation to meet each of our students where they are, to give each of them what they need to learn and to grow, and to allow each of them opportunities to demonstrate their varied aptitudes, in both traditional and non-traditional ways. To this end, AMSU’s administration and faculty have collaborated to create what we feel is a balanced curriculum for our college-bound young women. We are proud to be able to offer challenging Advanced Placement and Honors level courses, as well as dual-enrollment college credit opportunities through St. John’s University and Mercy College, while at the same time offering equally challenging Regents level courses and ample support services in the form of Title I remediation and after-school tutoring. Through this focus on curriculum, along with departmental strategic planning and school-wide professional development initiatives aimed at differentiating instruction, we hope to cultivate within our students a true love of learning that they will embrace throughout the duration of their lives.

Critical to conveying the value of life-long learning and the importance of a broader global view, the essence of AMSU’s mission, is our ability to expand our focus on our arts and service-based programs, which speak directly to our commitment to the Ursuline tradition and to the value we place on the development of the whole person. AMSU provides its students with many opportunities to demonstrate their natural talents. Whether in academic-based programs such as Art Academy and Urban Voices, extra-curricular programs such as Musical Theatre, Guitar Club, and the MSG Varsity Club, or faith-based service programs such as the AMSU-Cardinal Hayes Program for Exceptional People, involved students are honing their talents, learning and growing in new directions, developing a sense of self-confidence, and experiencing personal fulfillment. We believe so wholeheartedly in the importance of such programs that we have committed to running our second annual Summer Arts at the Academy, a summer enrichment program for rising 7th, 8th, and 9th graders. It is our hope that, through this program, prospective students will come to know AMSU and what it is that we truly value, and commit to four high school years that are sure to last a lifetime.

In the words of Maya Angelou, “diversity makes for a rich tapestry.” Anyone who has spent a moment at AMSU can attest to the truth of this statement. In focusing on each individual and in encouraging the pursuit of each young woman’s dreams we expand our understanding and interpretation of knowledge and increase our students’ opportunities for success. As always, we thank you for your generosity and for your continued support of our educational endeavors.

Sincerely,

Lisa A. Harrison
Principal

Message

from the Executive Director

2010 is a time to celebrate milestones, successes and our alumnae. AMSU is 155 years old and we will be celebrating events, fundraising opportunities and outreach initiatives throughout the academic year to honor this very important achievement.

In coordination with this anniversary, we are working on a comprehensive fundraising and marketing strategy which we hope will be the beginning of a very successful plan. You will see how we are phasing these objectives in our events, materials, and school projects. Our Hall of Fame Dinner will take place on Thursday, October 14th honoring special individuals who have made an impact on AMSU and its students. We hope you will be able to join us at the Davenport Club to celebrate. (See more information about this event on page 17.)

In the spirit of increasing the use of technology and decreasing costs, the Office of Development will be integrating an initiative to “go green” in all of our solicitations and publications. We are beginning with the elimination of the Annual Report proof mailing. Instead of mailing 7500 samples of our 2009-2010 donor listing, we will post a version on our website. If you are unable to access the website, please feel free to call our office and we can review the listing with you. The purpose of the Annual Report printer’s proof is a reminder to members of our community that the end of our fiscal year is approaching and will close on August 31st. This allows you to still make a gift, complete payment on a pledge or check to ensure you are listed in the appropriate category. (See more information on page 17.) For those of you who enjoy receiving our Take Note, we will continue to publish and mail our bi-annual publication.

During the summer you will receive an important letter from Fr. John regarding a Tuition Assistance Fund campaign. In brief, the information is a detailed explanation of the three main programs we sustain to assist students with financial need. We hope you will consider supporting the one which appeals most to you. The success of this 155th birthday campaign will ensure the enrollment through graduation of young women who would greatly benefit from an Ursuline education and our nurturing environment.

AMSU alumnae are a treasure of love, compassion and sincere concern for our school and its students. We must continue to work together to ensure AMSU can participate in every opportunity available to us. There are programs, funding, technology, and many other great instances where we can benefit. If you have any ideas or contacts which you feel would help us, please contact me. Heartfelt thanks for all that you do.

I wish you and your family a wonderful summer.

Best wishes,

Anna Ramos
Executive Director of Development
On April 16th the MSG Varsity network aired the second round of the academic game show *The Challenge*. Academy of Mount St. Ursula took on the In-Tech Academy for the second round of a 4-round Bronx competition, beating them by 30 points.

Representing AMSU were seniors Adeola Okoduwa, Marian Guerra, Lucille Watkins, and Alisha Roman, who all competed against St. Barnabas High School in round 1 of the Bronx bracket (photographed on left).

In the Multiple Choice round of the game, questions ranged from categories such as Film, Biology, Algebra and Famous people. At the end of the round, 10 points separated the two schools. In the Lightning round, the seniors were asked to name the creators of characters in literature such as Big Brother by George Orwell, Don Quixote by Cervantes, and Hagrid by J.K. Rowling.

Round 3 saw AMSU leading In-Tech Academy by 5 points after answering questions about subjects like Transportation and Element Trivia. The last round, named The Complete 180, consisted of Math, Arts and Energy. By the end AMSU had 230 points and In-Tech 200, beating In-Tech to move on to the semi-finals.

"The Challenge has been a great experience for the students," said advisor to the girls and AMSU Social Studies teacher Mr. Glenn Stordeur. "It has given them an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge, skills and a ability to their community and represent their school. It was a great learning experience for everyone involved."

Kumhyun Song replaced Lucille Watkins in the semi-final round, which was taped on the same day as their competition with In-Tech Academy. The team played its final match against their brother school, Fordham Prep.

"In retrospect, participating in The Challenge has been a holistic learning experience for me. During the actual tapings, I was undoubtedly nervous, but somehow with the overwhelming support of my teammates, I learned how to transform my nervousness into confidence," stated team captain Marian Guerra. "It has certainly been an intellectual and emotional experience that I will never forget. To the future AMSU girls chosen to be a part of this game, I advise you to sustain your confidence and always remember to have fun!"

For the second year in a row, the Academy of Mount St. Ursula is proud to announce a senior as a winner of a Gates Millennium Scholarship (GMS). This year’s recipient is Shaella Morales. As a member of the Class of 2010 GMS program, Shaella is one of 1,000 students from across the country to receive a good-through-graduation full tuition scholarship to any undergraduate program at the college or university of her choice.

To achieve this, she had to undergo a rigorous application process. Shaella submitted eight extensive essays and answered additional questions which delved into her character and accomplishments. Her list of achievements at AMSU are impressive. Shaella was inducted into the National Honor Society, is an active member of the school’s Student Council and was the Assistant Director of the school’s production of Grease. Additionally, she represented AMSU at several United Nations conferences this year on the Rights of Women and Children. She was the Co-Editor of the school’s yearbook, Secretary of the Italian club and an AMSU Student Ambassador.

Shaella will be attending Georgetown University in the fall and plans to pursue a BS in Biology with a minor in English or History. She would like to acknowledge the following individuals who have made a significant impact on her ability to receive this honor. "My sponsor Mrs. Debra O’Connor ’77, my mentor Ms. Valerie Beal from the REACH Program, and my guidance counselor Mrs. Diana Papa, Director of Guidance at AMSU, have all played a vital role in providing me with the confidence and drive necessary to have a successful high school career," noted Shaella. "And now I have the opportunity to start off with a clean slate and focus on my studies and pursue my dream in medicine."

The entire school community wishes Shaella much success as she embarks into the next phase of her educational career.

Shaella’s dream came true when she led her Anatomy/Physiology class in her first dissection. "Now I feel ready to pursue medicine!"
On Thursday, May 20th twenty-five seniors were inducted to the Serviam Chapter of the National Honor Society (photographed above). After the students read their pledge and received a rose and pin, the top four students - Marian Guerra, Lucille Watkins, Adeola Okoduwa and Alisha Roman - lit four candles symbolizing Scholarship, Character, Leadership and Service (photographed on the right).

After the induction, seniors were recognized for their accomplishments in Academics, Arts and Service. Eight seniors were recognized by the St. John’s University “Women in Science Society” for excellence in Anatomy/Physiology and Calculus. Four seniors received praise for their efforts on the National Latin Examination. Two Business Education Awards were presented by the College of Westchester. Eleven Advanced Placement students were honored by the National Spanish Honor Society.

Individual awards and acknowledgements were presented by the school’s Assistant Principal, Mrs. Carolyn Duggan. Lucille Watkins was announced as a Finalist in the National Achievement Scholarship program based on the 2008 PSAT. The New York State Office of the State Comptroller Thomas D. Napoli Award for academic excellence and leadership in improving school and community was presented to Cristi Benn. The Comptroller of the City of New York Award, for academic excellence in mathematics, outstanding leadership and excellent citizenship were presented to Adeola Okoduwa and Kumhyun Song.

The school’s accredited Art Academy program recognized four seniors for their dedication and contributions to the school’s permanent collection. Mrs. Duggan recognized Marian Guerra for her participation in the Metropolitan Museum of Art’s senior internship program. Nineteen seniors were recognized for their dedication and commitment to the AMSU Musical Theatre program and five students were acknowledged for being part of the founding class of the MSG Varsity Club.

For service to their school, twenty-one seniors were congratulated for their commitment to the Senior Retreat Team. In honor of Teresa Harris, the foundress of the AMSU-Cardinal Hayes Program for Exceptional People, the school acknowledged Nicaela Cartagena and Cecilia Gonzalez for outstanding leadership and dedication. Along with six other seniors, these students committed over 50 hours of community service to the program. Ten other seniors were acknowledged for completing over 100 hours of community service, and An Nguyen was recognized for her outstanding support of St. Nicholas of Tolentine by giving 486 hours of community service.

In the spirit of St. Angela Merici, five seniors promoted the core values of an Ursuline Education by participating in the Serviam Leaders program. They were Stephanie Guaba, Shaella Morales, An Nguyen, Kumhyun Song and Lucille Watkins. Crystal McMillian was the recipient of the Eliot Engel Congressional Achievement trophy and the College of Westchester award for her leadership as Student Council President. Finally, Sabrina Cedeno and Chabely Ignacio were recognized by the New York State Attorney General’s Office and the Board of Education with a Triple C Award for Character, Courage and Commitment.
The AMSU Guitar Club recently hosted Fordham Prep’s Blue Grass Club and Electric Guitar Club, along with their two moderators. The volume in and around room 305 was high as was everyone’s spirits. After quick introductions, small groups started to form based on individuals’ unique musical tastes. By the time the last note had been picked and the last guitar sadly packed away it had been universally agreed that this would be the first of a new exchange program between the two schools’ clubs.

On Tuesday May 25th, the AMSU Guitar Club, moderated by Mr. Michael Henry, and the AMSU Liturgy Club, moderated by Ms. Jeanne DiBenedetto, sponsored AMSU’s first ever Open Microphone event. The Open Mic was scheduled to help say farewell to the Senior Class of 2010.

There were poetry readings, spoken word pieces, and music by students with the occasional faculty performance (just to show that they can). The lights were low, the candles were lit and the talent illuminated the cafeteria.

The event was based on the concept of a ‘60’s coffee house where mood worked to enhance the arts. A backdrop was created using the guitar artwork designed by the Studio Art students. Performances included songs by Lady Gaga, The Beatles and Alisha Keys. “I was amazed at the amount of talent and energy present,” said Mr. Henry. “When sophomore Victoria Hashbon got up to sing, I’d Rather be Blue with You than Happy with Someone Else by Barbara Streisand, the audience began to stand and applaud halfway through the song.”

Kasha Watson ’11 amazed her classmates and the faculty with the artistry of her music.

The Art Academy has become one of the school’s strongest programs and its students some of the most visually intelligent. While all freshman are required to take a Basic Art course, a few are invited to enroll in the Art Academy. It is through this four-year program that students are able to hone their artistic abilities and take part in competitions where they display their work.

This past May several AMSU students took part in the Catholic Youth Organization and the LaSalle Academy Art competitions. Senior Sara Yanes took second place for the 11th-12th grade division of the CYO competition and sophomore Akeah Hepburn took first place for the 9th-10th grade division.

At the LaSalle competition senior Kumhyun Song took first in the portrait category, and senior Marianna Evangelista took second. Freshman Jasmine Constantino took 1st in the landscape category (painting on left) and fellow classmate Irina Arias took second. Junior Angelica Ortiz took second place in the still life category.

“I would like to express my gratitude to the LaSalle Academy and the Catholic Youth Organization for recognizing the need to provide venues where student achievement in the arts can be acknowledged and rewarded by the celebration and honoring of their works of art,” noted Mr. Gary Horn, the school’s resident artist and Art teacher. “We thank them for the enormous amount of time and work that goes into these tributes and celebrations of the arts.”

The confidence and creative range presented at this first Open Mic encouraged the organizers to agree upon planning another event of this kind in the near future.
During October of this school year, Social Studies teacher Mr. Michael Henry stopped using the side blackboard in his classroom...he had an idea.

"Given the number of talented artists in the school, I wanted to give someone the opportunity to use the space to have fun expressing their art. Marian Guerra ’10 is an artist with a point of view and her art displays the emotion that can only be expressed by someone who loves her craft. I asked Marian if she would be interested in using the board.

I told Marian that the subject matter was at her discretion. She came in one afternoon and did the initial sketch in plain yellow chalk and I thought it was beautiful, and finished. She arrived the next day with her own pastels and chalks and completed the piece. It became an instant attraction with students and faculty stopping in to see and photograph Marian’s creation.

One morning, I found myself gazing at the mural of John Lennon and Yoko Ono. I was touched by their sad story and their uplifting message of peace that Marian had so beautifully adapted. I decided that Ms. Ono should see her message through the eyes of a 17 year-old girl born in the Philippines and raised in the Bronx. I took photos of the portrait, printed them and mailed them to Ms. Ono with a cover letter explaining how the work had come about. On the senior’s last day of school, I received a signed autograph photo from Yoko Ono dedicated to Marian."

Marian’s story: “One day after anthropology class, my teacher Mr. Henry stopped me in my steps, motioned at a massive blank chalkboard in his classroom, and asked me to do something about its bare appearance. I was in shock. In addition to this shock, however, was this emerging excitement and freedom. Like a child facing an enormous piece of chocolate, I was facing my own treat: a barren canvas ready for me to draw on. After incessantly asking Mr. Henry if he was truly sure about giving me the freedom to do anything I wanted on the chalkboard (and he was), I encountered yet another doubt. This time, I wasn’t sure about what to draw on the board. Usually having a model or still life provided in front of me, I was forced to create something from the depths of my imagination. I hadn’t a clue what the subject of the board would be, but I knew that it would be very different from my other art pieces, this time focusing on the conceptual elements of a masterpiece as opposed to the technical.

Walking down the hallway on the third floor after school, I finally ascertained the perfect theme for my chalkboard piece. A sweet, delicate guitar symphony resonated throughout the hallway. Peeking in Mr. Henry’s room, the source of this melodic thrill, I discovered the Guitar Club in one of their customary meetings, effortlessly playing The Beatles. It was an atmosphere that was completely foreign to me; their playing was tranquil and soothing to the ear, but I immediately sensed their intense concentration. They were artists, mastering a work.

I figured that this was the most appropriate, stimulating environment in which I could accomplish something substantial on the chalkboard. So, taking a picture of John Lennon and Yoko Ono and a bag of pastels and chalk with me, I immersed myself in the inspirational backdrop that the Guitar Club provided in their musical art. I drew while their rendition “Eight Days a Week” resounded in my head. Making lines and strokes with my chalk that paralleled the nature of the song, I genuinely believed that I was living in the era of The Beatles. I attribute my inspiration for my “Imagine Peace” mural of John Lennon and Yoko to the Guitar Club. I instilled their drive and soul in their music to my art. I am grateful to capture their brilliance on a canvas.

I believe that their passion, my own passion, and the passion of every other student in this school can be reflected in the ambiance that engrossed me every time I went to Mr. Henry’s classroom to develop the board. I think that everyone discovers his or her own sense of peace doing what he or she loves to do. I find my peace every time I pick up a paintbrush or charcoal or microphone. In my mural, I want the viewer to acknowledge and appreciate what gives him or her peace and contentment.

I had no idea how much this mural would mean to me when Mr. Henry initially asked me to ‘do something about it.’ I thank him for giving me this opportunity to express my own sense of peace through making it. I also thank him for writing to Yoko Ono about it. I treasure her autograph a lot, but I am still in awe at how much I learned from the Guitar Club.”
On Saturday, March 27th students, parents, alumnae and friends of AMSU attended a preview of the Broadway review *Sondheim on Sondheim*. The show starring Vanessa Williams, Barbara Cook and Tom Wopat was extended to run through June 27th at the infamous Studio 54 Theatre.

"It feels like you’re having an intimate chat with the Master himself!" ~ Entertainment Weekly

And that is exactly what the AMSU guests experienced - an intimate chat with Vanessa Williams, Leslie Kritzer, Norm Lewis, Euan Morton, Erin Mackey and Matthew Scott. The stars spent a half hour between shows sharing their personal experiences which led them to this unique collaboration that Newsday calls: "A priceless gift to the theater. Revealing, fascinating and utterly charming!"

The cast revealed behind the scenes stories on how the production came together and shared their grueling rehearsal schedules. The students were thrilled to meet Ms. Williams and Ms. Mackey, who made her Broadway debut as Glinda in *Wicked*.

The administration is grateful to Ms. Williams for her generosity and commitment to providing AMSU students with life changing musical opportunities.

In 2004, soprano Angela Brown wowed audiences in her Met debut in the title role of *Aida*. A New York Times critic commented: "Finally, we have an Aida." After hearing about this performance, Fr. John wrote her a letter and invited her to share her talents with the students of AMSU. On February 23rd, the school welcomed her to the Bronx. She commanded their attention with her voice and stage presence, shared her love of opera, explained the diversity within the genre and spoke of her journey in music. The students of AMSU were treated to a performance entitled *Opera from a Sistah’s Point of View*. Ms. Brown provided many students with their first exposure to live opera.

"It was my first experience hearing opera," noted Peace Aisogun ’13. "I was most impressed with her range and vocal control. So much so, that I went home that same day to test out my own range. I am grateful to Ms. Brown for sharing opera in a way that was personal and enjoyable."

In addition to this school wide event, on March 2nd forty sophomores in the Urban Voices Program attended the Met dress rehearsal of the Shostakovich opera *The Nose*. 

"It was my first experience hearing opera," noted Peace Aisogun ’13. "I was most impressed with her range and vocal control. So much so, that I went home that same day to test out my own range. I am grateful to Ms. Brown for sharing opera in a way that was personal and enjoyable."
**Greased Lightnin’ Hits the AMSU Stage**

This winter, AMSU students, and visiting Fordham Prep and Mount St. Michael students, were busy singing and dancing on one stage. Under the supervision of the Musical Theatre director, Ms. Jeanne DiBenedetto, they prepared to put on their first ever rendition of the Tony award winning musical *Grease* over a three night period.

While AMSU productions always include male actors from other Bronx Catholic schools, this production of *Grease* was the perfect showcase of the Catholic school communities’ untapped talent pool.

“The students of the Academy of Mount St. Ursula, joined by students from Fordham Prep and Mount St. Michael, gave 3 outstanding performances,” said Fr. John Vigilanti. “The sacrifices parents make to send their children to Catholic high schools here in the Bronx are well justified when you experience the wonderful, engaging, cooperation of students who gave a bravura musical show.”

The cast had to share some rehearsal time on Friday, March 12th, when the school became the location for two scenes in the independent film *Mr. Tambourine Man*. The star, J.K. Simmons (*The Closer, Law and Order, Spiderman*) graciously posed with members of the AMSU Players and wished them luck in their production of *Grease* - a play he had the privilege of acting in during his high school years!

The show was first presented on Friday, April 16th followed by a Saturday night performance and closed with a Sunday Matinee. The matinee included a luncheon for alumnae, Ursulines, Board of Trustee members and friends of the school. The performance was filled with well-coordinated dance numbers like “Greased Lightnin’” choreographed by Mr. Thomas J. O’Sullivan, who has worked on Ursula productions for over a decade and graduated from Fordham Prep in 1998. There were well-sung musical numbers like the famous “We Go Together,” directed by AMSU Music teacher Ms. Laura Ravotti. “I’m impressed with the students and their dedication. These shows are part of the foundation of Ursula,” noted Carole Ciccarone Mills ’58 who attended the matinee performance with her husband and sister. “It’s exciting to see them grow and display their talents on stage.”

One truly memorable part of the entire weekend was the closing acknowledgements made by the cast themselves. Showcasing a sense of maturity and gratitude that was inspiring to witness, the seniors performed a heart wrenching rendition of “For Good” from the musical *Wicked* and dedicated it to the Directorial Team.

“**This was by far the most talented cast I’ve ever directed. The tech crew worked so hard and did their jobs like professionals thus making it the best opening night in 11 years,”** said Ms. DiBenedetto.

“This was definitely a shining success for all involved and for AMSU.”

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**Urban Voices: Tribute to Broadway**

On May 7th the Academy of Mount St. Ursula held an evening dedicated to choral music. The school’s choral group, the AMSU Vocalists, and the entire sophomore class, as part of the Urban Voices program, performed for students, faculty, family and friends in the Annual Choral Spring concert.

**Formed in 2003, the AMSU Vocalists, consisting of students who have an interest in music and performance, produce a concert every spring. This year the night was dedicated to Broadway shows featuring The Sound of Music, Hairspray, Fiddler on the Roof, The Wiz, Carousel, Girl Crazy, Oh Kay, and an entire medley of songs from The Lion King.** Both the AMSU Vocalists and the Urban Voices performed a selection of 5 songs each, accompanied on piano by Mr. James Davis, Jr. and AMSU sophomore Nicole Smith.

The Urban Voices is a choral music initiative group that is part of The Metropolitan Opera Guild, and is funded by several foundations that support music in schools. This collaboration has become a huge contributor of the growing arts program at AMSU. The program has a guild trained professional, Mr. Courtney Carey, who comes to the school and co-teaches the students alongside the school music teacher, Ms. Laura Ravotti. “The Urban Voices program has definitely been a huge asset to the music program here at AMSU,” noted Ms. Ravotti. “I believe the girls are learning a lot about proper vocal technique and getting the experience to demonstrate what they have learned through live stage performances.”

To prepare the students for this performance Mr. Carey invited the Spelman College Glee Club to perform for the student body. On March 9th forty young women amazed the audience with their beautiful renditions of Gospel music. This concert exposed the students to the higher caliber of choral music found at the collegiate level.
This past March the members of the National Honor Society did their part representing their community and participating in a dialogue with men and women around the globe by attending the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women Conference. The goal of the conference was to examine the promises made by the commission to women and girls worldwide 15 years ago in Beijing.

From March 1st to the 12th, twenty-five seniors, led by National Honor Society Moderator and AMSU Religion Department Chair Mrs. Joanne Kelly, AMSU Service Coordinator Sr. Alice Marie Giordano, osu ’52, and Guidance Counselor Ms. Kathleen Boland attended the conference sponsored by the UN Working Group on Girls. “Going to the UN was about more than just gaining knowledge; it was about experience,” said AMSU senior Adeola Okoduwa. “The people I met and the stories and lectures that I heard have enlightened my mindset on women and girls.”

That respect and what the girls learned at the UN led to more hands-on work for the National Honor Society members and the AMSU community. “Inspiring others is a good way to spread the movement. However, inspiring isn’t enough,” said AMSU senior Kumhyun Song. “What women who are in bad situations want is not the discussion, it is action.”

Through the generous gift of a donor, a friend of Fr. John Vigilanti, the students were able to take action. At the conference, students were introduced to microfinancing, which is a type of banking service provided to low income or unemployed individuals or groups who have no means of getting financial services. Students used these funds to loan money to eight female entrepreneurs who are trying to start their own businesses in order to improve the quality of life for their families and their communities. In order to select the loan recipients the National Honor Society students ran workshops on Youth Day. They included classmates in the decision making process by working with an organization called Kiva, a non-profit institution which connects donors to entrepreneurs across the globe via the internet.

“It’s been such an experience to have the girls look seriously at desperate situations in our world and have the final outcome be a sense of empowerment for themselves,” notes Sr. Alice Marie. “It gives great hope that we can change our world and that our students will become part of the solution.”

To learn more visit: http://www.kiva.org/lender/msustudents8904

Three times a year, the Academy of Mount St. Ursula students participate in Enrichment day. Students get a break from their daily class schedules to learn about careers from established professionals, further explore their lives and faith, join neighbors in acts of service or explore what the arts and culture have to offer in a city like New York, all of which are aspects of an AMSU education.

While seniors and sophomores visited historical sites such as Theodore Roosevelt’s birthplace and the Museum of Natural History, Career day for the junior class was in full swing. The juniors explored different career paths by attending several workshop lectures held by professionals in the field. The workshops included careers in Journalism, Public Relations, Finance, Nursing, Software Engineering, and Law. The lecturers, many of whom are AMSU alumnae, took their time to advise the students about life choices and the importance of higher education in becoming professionals.

With college right around the corner, the juniors were encouraged to explore the many fields and career options available and further develop their interests through internships and volunteer work.

“Revisiting AMSU on Career Day was an absolute honor and privilege,” said presenter Christine Alindogan ’99. “For me to give back and be able to shape or influence the future decisions of these young women is only a fraction of what the Ursuline tradition of Serviam instilled in me. It excites me personally and professionally to know I may work with my younger AMSU sisters in the future.”

While Career day was in full swing, members of the freshman class experienced their first retreat at AMSU. Led by the Senior Retreat Team and Campus Minister, Ms. Jeanne DiBenedetto, they were deep in discussion and prayer focusing on the theme of Friendship and Unity.

At the same time, a small group of freshman, residents from Serviam Gardens gathered to landscape “Our Lady’s Garden” which is located on the school grounds. The activity was arranged by AMSU Service Coordinator Sr. Alice Marie Giordano, osu ’52 and Ms. Caitlin Grath, Support Services Coordinator at Serviam Gardens. Students were instructed by Science Department Chair Dr. Suroj Tiwari, on the correct techniques of weeding and planting. The service project offered students the ability to interact with their neighbors and take part in the beautification of the campus in time for Earth Day.

“As a student here I joined with others to pray and crown our Blessed Mother in this garden. And now, it makes me happy to see our new neighbors and our freshman join together to make a place of beauty where we all can find the peace and inspiration that I know is here in this special place,” said Sr. Alice Marie.
Students, Saving Lives

On Friday, March 19th, the Academy of Mount St. Ursula received the Bronze Award from the New York Blood Center for holding two blood drives and collecting 55 pints of blood in the 2008-2009 academic year.

Student Council President, Crystal McMillian ’10, proudly received this award on behalf of the school and, inspired by the statistics and stories shared at the awards ceremony, immediately began working on ideas for recruiting students to participate in the school’s spring blood drive which was held on Friday, April 30, 2010.

As a donor in every blood drive held at AMSU since the fall of 2008, Crystal used her role as the school’s elected leader to raise awareness and educate her peers. She worked closely with the school’s MSG Varsity Club to create a comedic video that aired in homeroom the week of the drive in order to alleviate any fears that students may have had about donating for the first time. Additionally, she assisted the New York Blood Center representative, Ms. Tina Rivera, in a formal presentation given to the juniors and seniors.

Overall the spring blood drive successfully collected a total of 21 pints of blood. Since the school began its partnership with the New York Blood Center it has collected enough pints of blood to potentially save over 300 lives within the Bronx Community.

In addition to collecting blood for those in need, the New York Blood Center recognizes students who dedicate time to the cause. Scholarships are awarded to graduating seniors who display exceptional leadership and great organizational skills in coordinating the student blood drive, as well as recruiting fellow students to donate blood. This year’s recipient of the 2010 New York Blood Center Scholarship is Crystal McMillian. The school’s administration made this selection based on her enthusiasm and genuine concern for those in need of blood donations.

“It is the spirit of Serviam instilled by St. Angela which continues to inspire students like Crystal and all of those who overcome their fears to make a difference in the lives of so many,” noted Ms. Cecilia Granda ’99, Director of Marketing/External Relations at AMSU.

Donors, Changing Lives

On May 13, 2010 the Office of Development hosted the annual Benefactor’s Breakfast. Students and administrators welcomed donors in the convent parlors to acknowledge their commitment and life changing contributions to AMSU students.

The event included presentations on AMSU’s mission as an academic institution and the impact of financial assistance on students. Seniors Marian Guerra, Crystal McMillian, Lucitania Hernandez, and Shaella Morales, shared their personal stories in appreciation for the impact the donors have had, not only on their education, but on their ability to enjoy their high school years. Through the Adopt-a-Student Program, AMSU students are given financial assistance because of the generous donations of sponsors, many of which are AMSU alumnae.

With 35% of the class of 2010 receiving financial help from donors, AMSU has taken the next steps in helping that number grow within each class. With the intention of giving more students the opportunity to receive financial aid, the Affinity Awards Program was established. This program allows alumnae to build a bridge between their elementary school and AMSU by supporting a student who chooses to join our family.

Providing a student with financial assistance for all four years of their high school career is a commitment that acknowledges the value sponsors place on their own Ursuline education and ensures that future students receive the same opportunity.

Last September, AMSU began a partnership with Student Sponsor Partners (SSP), which helps at-risk New York City students and gives them the opportunity to attend private schools by partnering them with sponsors who provide financial, as well as personal, support. The program provides fifty percent of the tuition for students and then it is up to the school to find donors to provide the rest. AMSU is searching for 30 donors to support the next cohort of incoming SSP freshmen arriving this September.

These programs provide students with the opportunity to receive an AMSU education and sponsors with the privilege to contribute to the AMSU community as well as change a young woman’s life in the process.

“AMSU is extremely fortunate to have alumnae and friends who are dedicated to our mission and generous to our students,” stated Mrs. Anna Ramos, Executive Director of Development. “As we move forward, these tuition assistance programs will be the stepping stones to ensuring the vitality of the school.”
On Saturday, April 24, 2010 the halls of Mount St. Ursula were filled with voices from the 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s. For many alumnae it was hard to believe how quickly time had passed. The alumnae enjoyed a cocktail hour, walked the grounds, chatted in the gazebo, and dined in the school cafeteria where they were greeted by Fr. John Vigilanti and Mrs. Anna Ramos. Fr. John thanked all those who have been so generous to the school and the Fund for the Future Campaign. Additionally, he encouraged each class to consider supporting one student for the next four years through the three tuition assistance programs offered by the school. The classes of 1960, 1965 and 1985 had already raised over $2,500 throughout the year in preparation for their reunion and the class of 1980 jumped to the challenge and collected $2,500 that very afternoon to support a student through the Student Sponsor Partners program.

Serviam is the motto of all the Ursuline Schools worldwide. The Latin word Serviam means “I will serve” and is symbolized by the virtue of devotedness. At AMSU students are taught to learn how to forget self in order to think of others by serving their family, parish, and local community. The word includes in its meaning self-sacrifice and world-embracing charity.

The Serviam Shield is the emblem of loyalty known by Ursuline students throughout the world. The seven stars, representing Ursa Minor, are a reminder of St. Ursula, patroness of young women and education. The stars tell us of the heights to which our ideals must soar. The cross stands for Faith, the foundation of all Christian action.

“Take care of all...having each and every one engraved on your mind and heart, not only their names but also their situation.” ~ St. Angela Merici (Testament)

Jo-Ann Heilferty Verrier ‘55 devoted her life to her family and children. Jo-Ann has been involved in various local parish endeavors which led her to be the co-chair of the Social Concerns Committee. Here people worked primarily with homeless families and individuals, disabled persons and AIDS patients, bringing comfort and financial support to the unemployed and guided single parents and pregnant women to receive proper care. Her connection to AMSU became more formal in 1991, when her family established a scholarship in memory of her mother. To date approximately 50 AMSU graduates have benefitted from this scholarship. She and her husband Jack have been extremely dedicated to ensure this scholarship continues to assist young women with financial need. Jo-Ann has just completed her second term on the AMSU Board of Trustees. The school is grateful for her years of dedication and is privileged to have the opportunity to honor her. As Jo-Ann’s family of 7 children, 22 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren continues to grow, her connection to AMSU and new family of accomplished graduates.

Over the past eight years, Susan McCarthy Cronin ’65 has served on the Board of Trustees, co-chaired the 2003 Dinner and Auction, and co-chaired the 150th Anniversary of AMSU. She has helped coordinate a multitude of events with the Guidance, Admissions and Development offices and has become a familiar face among faculty, staff, parents and students.

More recently Susan has taken on the task of promoting AMSU. She has provided flowers for landscaping to beautify our campus, framed archive photos to display our history, and reupholstered chairs with the AMSU plaid to preserve our traditions. She is also the individual who came up with the idea of the plaid scarves proudly worn by students, faculty and alumnae at the St. Patrick’s Day Parade! Last year Susan was instrumental in helping recruit 14 students from her elementray school, Our Lady of Refuge, for the AMSU Class of 2014. The school is proud to honor our current Chair of the Board of Trustees and thanks Susan for her generous support, attention to detail and wonderful spirit.
On Saturday, May 1, 2010 the girls of Mount St. Ursula from the classes of 1990, 1995, 2000 and 2005 gathered at The Pines in the Bronx to reconnect. It was a beautiful afternoon and the room was filled with laughter, camera flashes and embarrassing yearbook photos. Helene Butler ’90 addressed her AMSU sisters and welcomed all on behalf of the Young Alumnae Committee. She encouraged her fellow alumnae to think back to when they were once high school students and consider mentoring a current student through a new initiative: Serviam Sisterhood Program. (For information on the program see page 16.)

Alumnae were excited to catch up with former teachers and administrators including Sr. Patricia Schifini, osu ’78, Sr. Barbara Calamari, osu, Ms. Jeanne DiBenedetto and Fr. John Vigilanti. The class of 1990 met with Ms. Kathy Corticcio during their after party celebration and members of the class of 1995 promised to pay a visit to their favorite math teacher Mrs. Monica DeLaurentis ’70. Most importantly the alumnae enjoyed good food, good company and great memories. "The vibe in the room was highly spirited," noted Helene. "Everyone just kept asking, 'why did it take us so long to get together?""

Many alumnae connected through the AMSU Facebook fan page. We recommend the next group of reunion classes begin their search for classmates today to ensure an even stronger turn out for classes ending in ’1s and ’6s.
A TEAM ORIENTED APPROACH

This year marked a major milestone in the branding and marketing of AMSU. With the implementation of the first phase of the school’s brand strategy and the creation of the Brand Guardian Team, made up of board members, administrators, faculty and alumnae, AMSU took a proactive approach in revamping its entire image. Many of the changes have been challenging, but most have been received with excitement and enthusiasm.

The newest change came about this past May with the creation of the Office of Marketing/External Relations. This department was developed to centralize all public communications for the school. Additionally, the administration decided to take a team-oriented approach by bringing the Office of Development/Alumnae Relations, the Office of Admissions/Recruitment and the Office of Marketing/External Relations under one umbrella: the Office of Development. All these changes have been implemented to increase the school’s visibility, enrollment and financial stability.

Overseeing the entire restructuring is Mrs. Anna Ramos, Executive Director of Development. Mrs. Ramos will be working closely with existing staff, as well as new members, in establishing the new streamlined structure. Her knowledge, which reaches all dimensions of school life, will assist in planning strategic goals within each department of the Development Office for the upcoming year. “A team-oriented approach to fundraising, recruiting and marketing will enhance our image and communications to our various audiences,” stated Mrs. Ramos. “I look forward to working with a group of talented professionals who are extremely dedicated to AMSU’s mission and its students.” Her primary focus will remain on fundraising, grant writing, event planning and alumnae relations.

In her fourth year at AMSU, Ms. Cecilia Granda ’99 has taken on the role of Director of Marketing/External Relations. Her new responsibilities include managing the school’s brand and designing all marketing materials and publications, including the Take Note. She will continue to maintain constant communication with the local media and community, promoting the latest school news and student achievements, as well as managing the school’s online presence via the website and all social media accounts.

Additionally, Ms. Granda has been managing the school’s second marketing grant provided by the Taproot Foundation. This grant assigned a team of marketing consultants (photographed below with members of the Brand Guardian Team) to work pro bono for the school and create a brochure that truly captures the essence of the school’s new image. This unique, cost-effective brochure will be used by both the Development and Admissions Offices for soliciting funds and recruiting new students. “As we celebrate 155 years of educating incredible young women, we are proud to present our rich Ursuline traditions as an institution, while professionally highlighting our unique programs in Academics, Arts and Service all in one brochure,” stated Ms. Granda.

In March 2010, Miss Mileska Contreras ’07 (photographed below) joined the team when she began volunteering her time as a Public Relations Intern. Working directly with Ms. Granda, she has been a wonderful asset to the school writing press releases and editing the Take Note, an experience that she describes as “beneficial to her career goals as a writer and an eye opener to the hard work that administrators at AMSU do.” Currently a senior at Hunter College, Miss Contreras will graduate this fall with a double major in English and Media Studies, as well as a minor in Women and Gender Studies. She plans to attend Graduate school and attain a Masters’ in Journalism.

Continuing in the role of Director of Admissions/Recruitment is Ms. Kate Ostrander ’97, who hit the ground running this past September recruiting potential students in traditional and non-traditional venues. Ms. Ostrander has made it her mission to think outside of the box. She has incorporated the school’s unique attributes in her recruitment strategy through the development of several new programs which highlight AMSU’s strengths of Academics, Arts and Service. For example, AMSU hosted a 7th Grade Essay Competition to celebrate our 155th Anniversary this spring. Students were given the task of writing an essay of one paragraph which played a significant role in their lives, much as 155 is a significant milestone for the school. “I had two winners - 1st place was a student from St. Clare of Assisi whose special number was 5 and 2nd place was a student from Immaculate Conception 151st Street whose number was 13,” stated Ms. Ostrander. “We were thrilled to have received a wonderful collection of creative and inspired essays from a wide variety of local elementary schools.”

The administration is proud to welcome, Mrs. Jessica Ruiz, Development Associate and Mrs. Amy Malave Dodwell ’99, Assistant to the Finance and Development Offices to the team. Mrs. Ruiz comes to AMSU from the Archdiocese of New York where she worked for the past 15 years. She will be working directly with Mrs. Ramos in managing student programs, processing donations, maintaining alumnae relations and planning events. “I am very excited to have joined the AMSU family,” stated Mrs. Ruiz. “Besides assisting in the school’s fundraising efforts and coordinating events, I look forward to working closer with the students and seeing first hand the impact of a Catholic education.” Mrs. Dodwell joins the team on a part-time basis and will work closely with Mrs. Denise Kannar, Director of Finance, Mr. Dennis Tormey, Interim Treasurer, and Mrs. Ramos. When asked how she felt about returning to AMSU, this is what she had to say: “Returning to AMSU is the most breath taking and comforting experience. It is nice to work in an environment that holds such wonderful memories. Working here is my way of giving back to such a wonderful school and saying thank you to those who made such a profound impact in my life. I want to pass on the gifts I was given while here as a student, which was wisdom, strength and most important, love. “Four years to last a lifetime’ is such a true statement. I’m living proof. Eleven years later, my AMSU sisters are still in my life. They are the first to be there when I need them.”
**Acknowledgements, Congratulations and Farewells**

2009-2010 marks the first year in which a Principal and one Assistant Principal ran the day to day operations of the school.

Both Ms. Lisa Harrison and Mrs. Carolyn Duggan worked closely with faculty and staff to ensure that the new administrative model was efficient and supportive by establishing strategic committees to develop comprehensive plans for the continued success of the school. Mrs. Duggan, formerly Assistant Principal for Discipline/Student Affairs for the past six years, quickly adapted to her new role as Assistant Principal for Academics/Discipline. While adjusting to managing the academic schedules of the faculty and students, she also took the time to mentor the school’s new Coordinator for Student Affairs, Mr. Glenn Stordeur.

In this newly created role, Mr. Stordeur, who has worked at AMSU as a Social Studies teacher since 2008, is responsible for planning all student events, managing student Metrocards and scheduling Enrichment Days, in addition to teaching on a part-time basis. “Mr. Stordeur has proved himself to be efficient and creative in the execution of his new duties,” noted Ms. Harrison. “What AMSU appreciates most is how he is always willing to go the extra mile to ensure that our young ladies are afforded opportunities for worthwhile experiences that are exciting and fun.”

Several faculty members are reaching new heights in their lives while continuing to enrich the AMSU community with their dedication.

The AMSU family would like to congratulate Mrs. Diana Papa, Director of Guidance, and her husband Ben, as they welcomed baby Isabella Joan Papa on Saturday, May 15, 2010 at 3 pm, weighing 6 lbs. 7 oz. Mrs. Papa will be returning to AMSU in late August along with fellow guidance counselors, Ms. Kathleen Boland and Mrs. Donna Nelson, to prepare for the 2010-2011 academic year.

Ms. Jillian Asaro, Athletic Director and Chair of the Physical Education and Health Departments, will become Mrs. Jillian Iacovone on Saturday, August 14th. The school wishes her and her soon-to-be husband, Brett, a lifetime of happiness!

Ms. Rosemary Sitler, a Science teacher since September of 2005, was recently published in The Brooklyn Rail: Critical Perspectives on Arts, Politics, and Culture. Her article entitled “Letter from the Bronx: Authenticity and Arthur Avenue” was well researched and thought provoking. Below is an excerpt from the article:

“It [Arthur Avenue] is a functioning, and dare I say soulful … area—there are public spaces where all age groups and different ethnicities interact in the form of the market, the parks, the Church, and the sidewalk. There is a palpable sense of camaraderie among vendors, locals, and visitors, and though the area’s brand is tied to a past era, it still generates the kinds of micro-urban experiences that distinguish this neighborhood from the increasingly homogenized type we see springing up—or more accurately, blending in—all over Manhattan. There are opportunities for preserving the past and crafting new beginnings. And were a guidebook to be written about the Bronx now, there would be no lack of restaurants to recommend after a day trekking through the Botanical Gardens and the zoo. Just walk a little further west, and take your pick.”

To read the full article visit: http://brooklynrail.org/2010/06/local/letter-from-the-bronx-authenticity-and-arthur-avenue

“Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is fulfilling. Success is the result.” ~ Fr. John Vigilanti

S eptember will bring many changes to the AMSU community. It is with a heavy heart that we say goodbye to Mrs. Rosemary Twomey who, as of June 2010, will be completing her twenty-fourth year of service as the school’s Administrative Assistant.

“We are incredibly grateful for her many years of service and for the ease and grace with which she has kept our main office, the hub of the school, operating,” stated Ms. Harrison.

“It is with mixed emotions that I say ‘goodbye’ to the Academy of Mount St. Ursula,” exclaimed Mrs. Twomey. “I've loved my job and all it entailed. Thank you all!”

Mrs. Susan Acocella, who has been with AMSU for the past 2 years as Administrative Assistant to the Principal, has graciously accepted the newly combined position.

Also leaving is Mr. Richard McGowan who started working for the school in July of 2007 as Supervisor of the Main Lobby. Mr. McGowan volunteered at the school for many years prior to his employment while his daughter Christine McGowan ’07 studied at AMSU. He provided a wonderful welcoming ambiance to our visitors and students, as the official “dad” on campus. His dedication and charm will be missed by all. "Words cannot express how much I have enjoyed these past four years,” stated Mr. McGowan. “The best part was getting to know, respect and love each and every person. It was a great awakening to witness the dedication and concern displayed by all towards the students. I will always miss my 'second' family!"

With the phasing out of French in the Foreign Language department, the school would like to wish Mrs. Tracy Feerick, French teacher for the past three years, much success as she joins the faculty of Cardinal Hayes in the fall.

After five years of dedicated service to AMSU, Mrs. Margie O’Reilly accepted an offer for a Development position with a non-profit sector in Manhattan. Her dual role at AMSU, as Assistant to the President and Development Assistant has been critical in ensuring donations, our second greatest source of income after tuition, are processed and acknowledged. "We are grateful to Margie for her hard work, efficiency and energy,” stated Mrs. Ramos. “She undoubtedly will be extremely successful in her new position.”

Additionally, the entire school community would like to thank Sr. Ann Duggan, osu, for her dedicated work in the Finance Office and as Secretary of the Board of Trustees for the past seven years.

We wish many blessings and much love to Sr. Ann!
Help AMSU earn donations through Stop and Shop’s A+ BonusBucks program

Sign up beginning August 24th at:

http://www.stopandshop.com/our_stores/bonus_bucks/account_totals.htm

**Let’s beat last year’s winner who earned almost $8,000!**

**Earn Points as of August 2010**

- Points accrue with each purchase where the Stop & Shop Card is used.
- It even works with purchases made online with Peapod by Stop & Shop.
- At the end of each month, these points determine AMSU’s cash total which will automatically credit to our account.

If you have a Stop and Shop card and you are unable to sign up, just contact the Development Office.
Give us your Stop and Shop card number over the phone and we will sign you up!

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**Serviam Sisterhood Program**

**Become an Alumna Sister to a Junior!**

**Program Goals:**

- To connect our alumnae with current students through mentoring opportunities and shadow days.
- To expose juniors to different career opportunities.
- To provide information about options in the work force.
- To assist in the college selection process.

To become an alumna sister email
alumnae@amsu.org

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**Join the TARGET REDcard Program**

**Shop Target & AMSU receives points!**

1. Apply today for a REDcard through www.target.com

2. Enroll in the Take Charge of Education program and designate the Academy of Mount St. Ursula to receive a percentage of what you spend.

3. Start shopping with your REDcard.

Target will track purchases made by participating REDcard holders, then send a no-strings-attached donation check directly to AMSU.

You can track your school’s progress at www.target.com/tcoe

If you need help signing up, please call the Development Office.

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**Take Note**
Poetry Reading & Reunion at AMSU

Sunday, September 26, 2010, 2-4 p.m.
Check our website after August 27th on how to RSVP.

Spend the afternoon with family, friends, and fellow AMSU alumnae at this riveting reading by the prize-winning poet who has read for NPR audiences and at hundreds of colleges and cultural centers.

Nationally Acclaimed Poet

Joan (Schwetje) Murray '63
http://www.joanmurray.com/

» Joan will give a 40-minute dramatic reading, followed by a Q&A session.

» The reception will begin at 3 p.m. and include a book-signing by the author, refreshments, tours of the school, and plenty of time for conversation.

» Suggested contribution is $10 to offset expenses for opening the school and providing refreshments.

Joan Murray’s books include: Looking for the Parade (W. W. Norton), Dancing on the Edge and Queen of the Mist (both Beacon Press), and The Same Water (Wesleyan University Press). Her work has appeared in The Atlantic Monthly, Harper’s, The Nation, The New York Times, The Best American Poetry and many other journals and anthologies. She is also editor of The Pushcart Book of Poetry and the Poems to Live By anthologies from Beacon, and was commissioned by Broadway’s Jujamcyn Theatres to develop Queen of the Mist for the stage.

A repeat guest on NPR’s Morning Edition, she is a National Poetry Series Winner, a National Endowment for the Arts Poetry Fellowship Winner, a Wesleyan New Poets Series Winner, and Winner of Poetry Society of America’s Gordon Barber Award. She has been Poet-in-Residence at the New York State Writers Institute, and has given readings and workshops at hundreds of universities and cultural centers, including the Chautauqua Institution, the International Poetry Forum, and the Lark Theatre in Manhattan.

Hall of Fame Dinner

Thursday, October 14, 2010
6 p.m. – 10 p.m. ~ Davenport Club, New Rochelle

Join us as we celebrate a milestone and induct
Jean Hannigan Moran ’81
Debra Kiernan O’Connor ’77
All former AMSU Ursuline Educators

into the Academy of Mount St. Ursula’s Hall of Fame

Please look for an invitation in August.
Mary M. Murphy attended her 60th reunion in April. She was impressed with the faculty, students and curriculum focusing on Academics, Arts and Service. Mary was also amazed by the multitude of student accomplishments and was thrilled to see her old campus as beautiful as ever on Bedford Park Boulevard.

Carole Ciccarone Mills and her husband Richard reconnected with AMSU two years ago when she attended the Sunday matinee performance of *Anything Goes*. Impressed by the direction of the Musical Theatre Program and the school, they graciously donated a brand new American flag this spring. Additionally they are helping the school purchase a brand new banner for use in school events and to carry with pride in the St. Patrick's Day parade. Carole and her husband are retired but run a business, Flags Unfurled. They enjoy keeping busy with this small venture, as well as spending a lot of time with their two grandchildren.

Terry Cook, author of *Sacred Havens, A Guide to Manhattan’s Spiritual Places*, gave the Art Academy students a tour of a few of the sacred spaces highlighted in her book. The purpose of the tour was to show the students how art and architecture come together to define spaces that are cultural, spiritual and separate from the world around them while at the same time being an integral part of the busy NYC life. The group visited the Islamic Cultural Center, St. Vincent Ferrer RC Church, Central Presbyterian Church and Temple Emanu-El.

Two members of the Class of ’65 have agreed to put together an update on their classmates. Please email either Rita Gerhardinger Anderson at: AndersonRnRita@aol.com or Denise Shamoun Phalan at: Dapinta1@aol.com and share what has been happening in your life. Photos are welcome! Rita and Denise are looking into putting all the updates, photos etc. into a booklet for everyone. The class will have an opportunity to “reconnect” with each other before their 50th reunion!

Dolores Rieth Hannon became a grandmother for the first time. Welcome to Logan Joseph Keefe born on June 12, 2010 to daughter Audra and her husband Ryan.

Monica Signorini DeLaurentis is proud to announce the birth of her second grandson Aidan James Fogliano on June 14th, weighing 6 lbs. 14 oz. and 20 in. Her daughter Kathryn is doing well and big brother Trey is very excited.

Dr. Theresa Boland Spear graduated from A.T. Still University, in Kirksville Missouri, in February 2009 with a Doctorate in Health Education and was recently elected to serve on the University Alumni Board of Directors. She is working at a Healthcare Risk Management consultant firm in New York City as a Senior Claims Analyst and holds various adjunct professor positions at local universities. Theresa resides in Yonkers with her husband Michael and three children.

“The Class of 1979, in my eyes, has always been a special class. Even though we live in different areas now, we have always shared the love for one another most especially in the past year. The Class of ’79 has dealt with many tragedies. But it was through these tough times that brought us closer together. Recently we gathered at Kim McKevitt’s funeral to say our goodbyes and remember all the laughs. And just a month ago we gathered to bring a smile to Roxanna Rivera Bajra so that she could get through her battle with breast cancer. It was a fun night of love and laughter! And it was through this love that she was able to go through her surgery. Currently things look GREAT! But it is our love and spirit of the Mount that keeps us together. I love you all, Cynthia Rosario Arne.”

**Family Day**

Sunday, October 3rd

Mass at 10am in the Chapel followed by food, games and fun for students and families till 3pm!
Ana Maria Cuevas Robben and her husband, Philip welcomed their second baby girl to their family on September 23, 2009. Christina Alexandra has been a most wonderful blessing to the family. She joins big sister Isabella, who has patiently waited 7 ½ years for a sibling!

Angela Bozza LeClerc will be joining the staff of St. Lucy’s in the Bronx as the Director of Religious Education. For the past eight years, she has dedicated her time to raising her three amazing children. She would like to thank Sr. Mary Beth Read, osu for encouraging her to “keep it up” when she volunteered as a catechist at St. Lucy’s over 20 years ago. Angela is looking forward to reconnecting with her fellow classmates for their 20th anniversary reunion in the spring of 2011.

Catherine Daly and her husband Dave welcomed their fourth child (below on the right) Michael Patrick Duffy born on May 25th weighing 8 lbs. 14 oz.

Ann Marie Daly Castellano, sister of Catherine Daly ‘91, and her husband Joe welcomed Jack Joseph (top on the left) weighing 7 lbs. 15 oz. and born on the same day as his cousin!

Bibi F. Hussain is proud to welcome her daughter Bibi D. Hussain ’10 to the AMSU family of alumnae. Little Bibi will be attending St. Andrew’s Presbyterian College in North Carolina and studying Equine Facilitated Therapy in the fall.

Melissa Audain graduated from The College of New Rochelle’s graduate school on May 27th with honors. She received a medal for Academic Excellence with a 4.0 GPA in Childhood Special Education. Melissa completed her graduate assistantship, on June 30th. She is looking for a teaching position for September in childhood or special education in grades 1-6.

Janine Ramos recently graduated from Macaulay Honors College at Lehman with a degree in Computer Graphics and Imaging. Below is a photo of her senior drawing class final pastel project “Sargent in Wonderland” which was inspired by both John Singer Sargent’s famous Madame X painting and by Lewis Carroll’s famous children’s story Alice in Wonderland. Janine is an animation intern at Lehman and plans to pursue a masters in Fine Arts.

AMSU Flea Market
Sunday, November 21st
11am - 3pm
All members of our AMSU family are invited to attend!
More information to follow in the fall.

George Miller
Husband of Marian Burke Miller ’38
Henry Nix
Husband of Margaret Timoney Nix ‘47
Anne L. Cutler ’48
Ms. Cornelia Mahon ’50
Ann Black ’51
Elizabeth “Judy” Ryan Burke ’59
Eileen Madden
Mother of Maryalice Madden ’65
Eileen Madden ’68
Kathleen Madden ’71
Marie Courtney
Sister of Catherine Daly Pierson ’67
Mary E. Abele
Mother of Donna Abele Keane ’69
Hannah Boland
Mother of Dr. Theresa Boland Spear ’77
Kim McKevitt ’79
Marie Hudson
Mother of Kathryn M. Hudson ’80
Theobald J. Dengler IX
Father of Lisa Dengler Carruthers ’81
Veronica Dengler ’83
Katrina Dengler ’85
Uncle of Victoria Dengler Longworth ’81
Therese Dengler Gojocaru ’83
Joaquin Rodriguez
Father of Lorraine Rodriguez ’96
Joan Burns
Sister of Sr. Ann Duggan, osu

IN MEMORIAM
COME SEE WHAT'S NEW AT AMSU

Wine & Cheese Reception
10/5/2010
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
INVITATION TO FOLLOW FOR Elementary school Administrators and Faculty

Open House
10/24/2010
12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
admissions@amsu.org | TACHS # 217