Dear Alumnae and Friends,

This Take Note comes to you after a very hectic Fall semester. Within a three week period between October and November we had Open House, our first TV commercial and print advertisement in the Daily News, a live interview on BronxNet, our annual audit, a major fund raiser, and our Middle States visit and evaluation (a unanimous vote of confidence!). I am proud to say that your alma mater came through with flying colors! This was possible because of the hard work and team effort of the entire faculty and staff. Adding icing to the cake, our students won their first round in the MSG Varsity Challenge.

Our school also became the staging area of a Bronx-wide initiative to improve the diet and nutrition of all our residents, with the Bronx Borough President, our state senator, and staff members of Montefiore Hospital in attendance. The event was covered by the local press and TV. It is important that the Bronx community knows who we are and what we are trying to do for the next generation of young women from the local area. To aid in that effort we have redesigned our website to be more interactive, informative, and visually appealing. Check it out!

This year, we approached the $900,000 level in granting financial aid to our students in need. This is only possible because of your generosity and dedication to our school. In addition, next year we will be offering 15 full academic scholarships to incoming freshmen. While this puts a greater burden on our development office, we hope to attract the best and brightest young women in our area while offering a quality education to a diversity of 8th graders from local parochial and public schools. As of this writing, five donors have come forward to underwrite six of the 15 full scholarships for four years (approximately $30,000 for each student over the four years).

Our students continue to be inspired by the Ursuline tradition of “Serviam,” and clearly understand the mission of the school, a fact noted by the Middle States evaluation team. Our partnerships with the Metropolitan Opera Guild, Juilliard, the Metropolitan Museum, the Morgan, and the Frick continue and afford our students with exposure to the rich cultural heritage of New York City at a time when many such programs are being reduced or eliminated in the public schools.

Enjoy this Winter issue of Take Note. If you are in the neighborhood, stop by and reminisce.

Sincerely,

Fr. John A. Vigilanti Ed.D.
President
Dear Parents and Alumnae,

We are all familiar with the proverbial saying that it takes a village to raise a child. This is no cliché; the responsibility of cultivating well-rounded, socially conscious, spiritual young women who are successful and productive members of society is a considerable task, one that can be most successfully accomplished with the support of an active and involved community whose members espouse the same beliefs and subscribe to similar values systems. This is precisely the kind of "team effort" to which Fr. Vigilanti pays tribute in his letter's opening.

Day in and day out, AMSU administration, faculty, and staff work to attend to St. Angela’s counsel to cultivate the vine that has been entrusted to them. They work in collaboration, supporting one another’s efforts to facilitate the development of knowledge and skills, to reinforce lessons, both academic and moral, and to provide perspective for their charges, as well as for one another.

Additional dimensions of the AMSU support system are alive in stakeholders’ involvement in various aspects of school life. Through their involvement, they demonstrate an interest in and commitment to the mission and vision of the school. Involved parents make efforts to be both physically and emotionally present for their children as they negotiate adolescence and their high school years. They firmly support the school, its policies and initiatives, and, of course, its teachers. The fellowship that exists among AMSU students, faculty, and staff works to sustain the unique family atmosphere that is so important to our young women. The stewardship of the Ursulines, their generosity, and the generosity of our donors continues to finance, support, and validate our efforts. The connections forged with members of the community, whether direct or indirect, serve to provide new and interesting opportunities for our young women; through the many cultural and service-based programs available to them as a result, they are exposed to a diversity of experiences to which they might not otherwise have access.

The role of alumnae in cultivating the vine is a particularly important one. Having reaped the benefits of an Ursuline education, alumnae are intimately connected to current AMSU students. They know and understand their needs for college and career readiness and they appreciate the value of the education they received at AMSU on a deeper level. We are so very pleased at how many of our alumnae are becoming active at the school level. Their willingness to give back in any capacity, to share their experiences and their talents, and to take part in the development of our young women is a wonderful endorsement, and one for which we are truly grateful. Please be in touch at any time, if indeed you would like to work more closely with AMSU students.

Sincerely,

Lisa A. Harrison
Principal

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Dear Parents and Alumnae,

A main focus this school year has been publicizing AMSU. We wanted to get the word out about what a wonderful place AMSU is to be a student! In addition to the marketing Fr. John mentions in his letter, we were also featured on News 12 The Bronx’s Christmas Day Special, “2011’s Best of the Bronx!” In mid-December we launched our new website, opened a Twitter account and we currently have a Facebook page with over 1,500 fans. In the next few months we may have our own AMSU app for the iPhone!

Our other focus has been fundraising. This past October we held our third casino event, Salsa and Chips, at the Davenport Club. The event was a great success! With the support of the Development Committee, school administration, our student salsa dancers, and many generous alumnae and friends, the school profited close to $31,000 from just that night! As of January, we have raised 50% of our annual goal. There are seven months remaining in our fiscal year, so there is plenty of time to reach our quota of $1.5 million. If you have already sent in your donation, thank you so much! If you still plan to send in a gift, please remember to check with your Human Resources Department to find out if your employer will match your gift to AMSU. Last year we received over $25,000 from matching gift companies!

This spring we have scheduled several events for alumnae and friends which are listed in the “calendar” section on page 2. We will post updates on Facebook and Twitter, as well as send reminders via e-mail. We hope to see you at one or more of the events in the coming months!

If you have any ideas about marketing, events or fundraising, please give me a call. I would love to hear from you.

Best Wishes,

Anna Ramos
Executive Director of Development
HONORS ASSEMBLY

HONORING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

During a spirited ceremony held in the AMSU auditorium, AMSU students were presented awards for their academic, artistic and volunteer service achievements for the 2010-2011 academic year:

First Honors students who maintained an 89.5 unweighted average for the first marking period received a pin and a certificate. Second Honors students who earned an 84.5 unweighted average for the first marking period received a certificate.

- 22% of all AMSU students received First Honors

- 24% of all AMSU students received Second Honors

The talented AMSU students who received First and Second in Excellence in their individual classes were:

Grade 9: First in Excellence: Karla Ortiz
Second in Excellence: Stephanie Singh

Grade 10: First in Excellence: Caitlin Harrison
Second in Excellence: Angelica Soto

Grade 11: First in Excellence: Sandra Tskior
Second in Excellence: Jasmine Constantino

Grade 12: First in Excellence: Jacqueline Martinez
Second in Excellence: Mariana Pinos

Service awards were also presented to: Tiffany Pabon for giving 50 hours of service; Amena Ahmed, Kiara Flores, Melissa Hernandez, Emily Heyward, Jacqueline Martinez, Bianca Trinidad and Kathryn Trujillo for giving 100 or more hours of service.

During a very poignant part of the ceremony, Jacqueline Martinez, Class of 2012, shared with the audience the importance of service and giving back and the experience she had doing so.

The response from the audience was an overwhelming applause.

The accomplished AMSU seniors will be inducted into the National Honors Society in May, providing that they retain the average of 89.5 and successfully complete the additional hours of community service.

“Service has played an important role in my high school education since freshman year. For me, it has become so much more than a requirement, it has become something I enjoy - something that has enhanced my life.

Service is important to me not only because you are helping others, but you are also helping yourself. After volunteering anywhere, whether it is with children, the elderly, or people with special needs, you feel extremely good about giving back to your community.”

Jacqueline Martinez ’12
AMSU RISES TO THE CHALLENGE

The third time seems to be a charm for AMSU’s talented students.

Members from AMSU’s Senior Class of 2012 put on their maroon and white thinking caps as they competed once again in the high school academic game show, “The Challenge,” which airs on the MSG Network.

About 32 schools in the Bronx and Brooklyn start off initially in the competition, then it narrows down within each round. It ends with the Bronx champ versus the Brooklyn Champ going for the big title!

During Round 1, team captain, Jacqueline Martinez, along with her fellow AMSU classmates, Maria Rymer, Aleysha Taveras, and Mariana Pinos, competed against the Bronx’s Harry S. Truman High School.

The students were asked questions from categories like: Astrology, Physics, Who is Who in Business, and types of Dances, which students from both schools excitedly tried to respond to.

Supporting the AMSU students was definitely a huge plus, as back up AMSU students were in the studio audience, along with AMSU’s beloved Lady Bear mascot, cheering on our scholars. The team advisors – Teachers, Rosemary Sitler and Mike Henry, Coordinator of Student Affairs, Jeannie DiBenedetto, and Director of External Relations/Recruitment, Julia Myers-Bartley ’85, were also in the audience supporting our ‘girls of Mount St. Ursula.’

As the competition went on, both teams eagerly answered tough questions which later resulted in a nail biter during the Finale.

In the end, AMSU triumphed and defeated the resilient Truman team.

The next taping will be Tuesday, March 6th, when AMSU competes against another Bronx school, SAR Academy.
THE ARTS ARE ALIVE AT AMSU!!

ART CONTINUES TO MOUNT

During your next visit to AMSU, when you enter the main lobby, you will immediately notice a strikingly beautiful image hanging on the wall. It is the newest art installation project by AMSU’s creative Art teacher, Mr. Gary Horn. The image is called the St. Angela Mosaic.

The initial image, which comes from The Icon of Saint Angela Merici by painter and author Domenica Ghidotti, was given to Mr. Horn by our very own Sr. Alice Marie Giordano, OSU ’52. Mr. Horn immediately thought it would be the perfect look for the entry way to our school. So he translated it into the mosaic medium, to create a unified entrance into AMSU, to go along with the Christ mosaic, which was installed about a year ago.

Mr. Horn says when he first visited AMSU many years ago, he was struck by the school’s lack of visual identity. It looked like any other institution, with blank walls and posters. There were no real visible signs definitively declaring the school’s identity or even any signs that indicated anyone had actually gone through these halls in its long history. There was also no evidence of the existence of an art program throughout the building.

The St. Angela Merici mosaic took about a year and a half to complete and was worked on when time permitted, usually 2 to 4 hours per week. The Mosaic was dedicated to all the Ursuline educators who have taught at our school throughout its long history. Visitors who have recently walked through the AMSU walls have observed this beautiful masterpiece.

“When I give my time and skill to the benefit of the school, it helps my students to understand their obligations to our school and they readily give themselves and their work to stand alongside of my work in appreciation for the opportunities provided by the Academy of Mount St. Ursula.” -Gary Horn

As Mr. Horn’s artistic leadership oversees AMSU’s flourishing Art program in various aspects, the best and the brightest students are also taking on other frameworks of vision, resulting in beautiful strokes of imagery.

Presently, Art Academy members are learning how to expand their discipline of how to work with color via watercolors. The attention to detail is also being revealed in their work portraits.

The past few weeks, the students have been working on their own interpretation of how a guitar is designed. They are emulating some of the work of the great African-American artist, Romare Bearden.

Not to be outdone, the Studio Art I class at AMSU, which is offered to Freshmen, allows the future artists to work on developmental skills, hoping that they will also become future great impressionists.

THE JUILLIARD INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

For the 2nd year in a row, music fills the halls of AMSU thanks to the amazing contribution of our partnership with the Instrumental Music Program run through the Office of Educational Outreach at the prestigious Juilliard School.

Meeting every Wednesday and Friday, music teachers from the world renowned school come to AMSU and teach our students how to play various instruments such as: clarinet, piano, trumpet, and flute. There are currently six members, with more students showing interest to become a part of the ensemble.

The lessons were put to the stage during AMSU’s Annual Christmas concert, when the students performed “Carol of the Bells.”

“Being a part of the Juilliard Instrumental Music Program has allowed me to express my creative interest through music as well as have fun with my peers making new music; something I would have never been able to do.”

Sabrina Ogun ’13, trumpet player
SPORTS WRAP: FROM THE AMSU HARD COURT

BASKETBALL TEAM

AMSU’s Basketball Team’s season is off to an incredible start!

This year, Junior Varsity and Varsity are now combined into one team in order to build one strong program. The Lady Bears are focused, driven and determined to hit the court running, score, win ...and win BIG!

So far this season, the team has defeated area schools with MAJOR blow out wins!

In December, AMSU defeated Monsignor Scanlan with a score of 57–24. Sophomore Caitlin Harrison had 25 points. Sophomore Teresa Alejandro had 18 points. One month later, AMSU beat Scanlan again, 64–14. Caitlin Harrison had 20 points. Junior Dana Woodstock had 18 points.

In January, AMSU also towered over Blessed Sacrament by defeating them 69–24. Caitlin Harrison had 22 points. Sophomore Wendy Korentang had 14 points and Dana Woodstock had 14 points.

There have been close games, such as the one on January 12th vs. Good Counsel Academy. At the buzzer, AMSU lost against Good Counsel 33–35. Caitlin Harrison had 16 points.

For the season, Teresa Alejandro is averaging 9 blocks, 10 rebounds and 10 points per game. Caitlin Harrison is averaging 16 points and 2 steals per game. Dana Woodstock is averaging 3 blocks, 4 rebounds and 9 points per game.

Please help support the AMSU Lady Bears, as they continue to keep the momentum going by forging ahead this season into a remarkably focused team.

AMSU’s STEP TEAM...
PRECISION FOOTWORK PROMOTING SISTERHOOD

The Umoja Dare Step Team has been working incredibly hard this year, as they continue to stay a few steps ahead of the rest. Many people do not realize this, but each step that they perform has been choreographed by a member of the step team - members from the past and the present. Currently with 16 members, they have new steps that they are excited to show the school.

Besides the Annual International Night performance in November, the step team has been performing for the public. This year, the team participated in the 3rd Annual Youth Step USA National High School Stepping Championship. On Saturday, January 14, 2012, they represented the Bronx as they competed in the Brooklyn Borough Championship. They competed against fifteen other step teams and did a phenomenal job!

The next show they are getting ready for is on February 10th. The step team will be performing at Columbia University during halftime for the Columbia Men’s Basketball Game against Brown University. They performed last year at another Columbia University Basketball game and have become “a crowd favorite” according to Columbia’s Director of Sports Marketing.

The girls are excited to participate in future competitions. They welcome old members to come to practices and help out whenever they can. The girls say that being a part of the step team is nice because it is like a small sisterhood that keeps growing.

29TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

On Friday, November 18, 2011, AMSU celebrated the wonderful cultures of our students at the 29th Annual International Night. The evening showcased our tremendously talented students, who performed traditional dances such as: Dhoom Tana, Bhangra Indian dances (photo below); a dance medley done by the Asian Club, as well as an African dance from Ghana. A powerful performance by the Umoja Dare Step Team motivated the audience to put their best foot forward in thunderous applause. The inspirational Spoken Word performance by AMSU Junior, Peace Asio, left everyone speechless and in awe.

The show closed out with a never before seen performance of Bachata and Salsa by the AMSU and All Hallows Dance Clubs.
AMSU STUDENTS GIVING BACK IN RECORD HOURS
Serviam...“I will serve,” is such a vital part of the Ursuline tradition, and it is wonderful when our students take a dynamic part in fulfilling this motto, by performing incredible charitable acts.

Each AMSU student is required to complete 10 hours of service each academic year. This commitment to service enhances the life of not only the recipient, but even more so, the giver. As a result, some of our AMSU students have excelled in giving back their time to notable organizations in record hours.

As of December, the following students have volunteered their time with local institutions, exceeding the required hours that is asked of them:

- Emely Jimenez ’13 – 1,385 hours at the New York Public Library, Tremont Branch and Cardinal Hayes Exceptional Children’s Program
- Jacqueline Martinez ’12 – 446 hours at St. John Chrysostom School, Lawrence Hospital and Cardinal Hayes Exceptional Children’s Program
- Carriel Brodie ’12 – 365 hours at NABB - “National Association of Blessed Billionaires”
- Amber Milan ’13 – 312 hours at Family Day Care
- Ashlyn Sarubbi ’13 – 301 hours at YMCA, Respite and Brightside Academy
- Kathryn Trujillo ’12 – 243 hours at the New York Botanical Gardens, Tutoring at AMSU and Diabetes Walkathon
- Bianca Trinidad ’12 – 230 hours at St. Francis of Rome Schoo and the Hebrew Hospital and Home of Westchester
- Ened Frederick ’12 – 188 hours at Mercy Center

“Because of all the hours of volunteer service I have completed, I have realized how important it is to let people know that there are people in this world who truly care. In serving others, I found out that I am a people person and the power it has to draw others to help. During my time at the New York Public Library, I learned the history of this 100 year old facility, and realized that I was the first volunteer who stayed to develop programs for the community. ”

Emely Jimenez ’13

AMSU BLOOD DRIVE... PUMPING FOR LIFE
With the blood supply in New York always in need of extra support, AMSU students extended their hands and gave blood to the New York Blood Center.

For the last five years, AMSU has been one of the most generous participants for this Blood Drive. About 25 pints were collected. As a result of AMSU’s participation, we are eligible for a financial scholarship to be presented to a member of the Senior class.

The event was held on Thursday, November 10, 2011 in the AMSU auditorium. Another Blood Drive will be held in the spring.

THANKSGIVING DINNER
Just before the Thanksgiving holiday, AMSU students and faculty came together after school and gave thanks for their blessings, during a lovely afternoon of praise and feast.

AMSU students paid a small fee for a delicious meal of turkey, gravy, mashed potatoes, salad with the fixin’s, and of course, delectable desserts. The funds raised were donated to Concourse House.

The festivities were topped with performances of songs, readings and speeches by students and faculty.
ENRICHMENT/SERVICE DAY
On November 14, 2011, a new phase of AMSU’s new Enrichment Day Initiative was rolled out. The event took the students from inside the classrooms to a large number of service projects in the Bronx and Westchester communities.

Ms. Jeannie DiBenedetto, Coordinator of Student Affairs/Youth Ministry, organized activities for the entire school, where faculty and alumnae also participated.

Volunteers were involved with various organizations such as: Serviam Gardens, St. Patrick’s Home, Rose Hill Senior Apartments, Sr. Annunciata Senior Center, Edison Arms, Andrus on the Hudson Cabrini Home, Our Lady of the Angels School, St. Ann’s School, POTS-soup kitchen, and Mount St. Ursula Speech Center. They worked with children at Concourse House and the St. Philip Neri book drive, did garden clean up at Botanical Gardens and Mosholu Parkway, and worked on the AMSU Science Lab clean-up.

Due to the enormous number of participants, the day was broken up into two groups per activity. This brought out the competitive edge between the groups to excel in their duties. Despite the cloudy morning and rainy afternoon, AMSU let the sun shine in brightly at these events and made it into a tremendous success.

“The girls were well prepared, well spoken, and they left a wonderful lasting impression,” said Sr. Mary Cleery, Principal of Our Lady of Angels School.

“Without the AMSU students, the Thanksgiving dinner would have been so much more difficult to prepare.” Resident of Serviam Gardens

CONCOURSE HOUSE/CHRISTMAS VISIT
The kindness of giving never stops in and out of AMSU. Just before the school’s Christmas break, AMSU’s “That’s Life” club raised money for toys during Advent, and then personally delivered them to the children at Concourse House.

Eight members of the Freshmen class traveled with Sr. Alice Marie Giordano, OSU ’52 and Ms. Christina Canty, AMSU Religion Department Chairperson, to Concourse House. Dolls, cars, trucks and other wrapped, age-appropriate items were presented to each child as if it were coming from Santa.

Stories were read and cookies and juice were served during a festive party. The children were told that their gifts needed to be placed under the Christmas tree and then opened on Christmas Day. Needless to say, some went ahead and took a peek at their Christmas surprise.

The entire afternoon was a wonderful way to celebrate the reason for the Christmas season.

AMSU SKYPING AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING
Members of AMSU’s National Honor Society are using the web as an effective tool to raise awareness about Human Trafficking. Recently, students skyped with St. Augustine’s College Preparatory for Boys in Richland, New Jersey on the topic of Human Trafficking. The boys are researching the use of child labor in the chocolate industry. AMSU students thought it would be beneficial for both schools to work together on ideas in order to combat this on-going devastating issue.

The National Honor students will also continue to talk to the freshman and sophomore classes about the topic of Human Trafficking. They are currently preparing for a meeting at Fordham University that will take place in March entitled “The True Price of the Low Cost.” This meeting will help all to reflect on the evils of Labor Trafficking and what we can do about it.

TOY DRIVE/COAT DRIVE
As a major tie-in to Spirit Week, AMSU students held a coat drive. Thirty coats were collected and donated to Life Way and Concourse House.

The students also created their own spirit-wear, during “T-SHIRT time.” They attended a free Christmas Social sponsored by Student Council, who baked delicious Christmas goodies for everyone to snack on and enjoy.
The dice were rolled at AMSU’s Annual Fall Fundraiser at the Davenport Country Club in New Rochelle on Friday, October 28, 2011.

Alumnae and friends from the tri-state area laid out their bets and attended the evening that was filled with salsa dancing and lessons, as well as live and chance auctions for fabulous prizes.

Members of the AMSU Dance Club, along with the All Hallows Salsa Club danced the night away while teaching other guests various ballroom dances. Mariana Pinos (captain), Junior Munoz, Aleysha Taveras, Jon Serrano, Annlady Jorge, Renalf Marmolejos, Jacqueline Martinez and Andy Garcia were the Senior class student dancers.

Guests took their chances at blackjack, roulette, craps, and spinning the wheel. They also participated in the live and chance auctions.

Mrs. Kerry Gould Reynolds ’86 emceed the live auction where guests had the opportunity to bid on a variety of items. Some of the prizes included: a five-day Rhode Island Getaway, New York Jets tickets, a one-week stay in a cozy apartment in the exclusive Frogner City in Norway, New York Ranger Skybox tickets for 12, and New York Mets tickets for four. Guests also generously contributed $16,000 toward the Adopt-a-Student Program in the final auction portion.

Not to be outdone, the chance auction items available at the event included: a framed picture of Derek Jeter’s 3000th Hit, two orchestra seats to the New York City Ballet, $105 Ritz-Carlton Massage gift certificate, $150 Nordstrom’s gift certificate, His and Her Limited Edition Mickey Mouse watches, a scratch-off lottery tree, gift certificates to any Broadway show and a New York City French restaurant, and many more.

The event successfully raised over $31,000, all to benefit AMSU. In addition to casino games, prizes and dancing, AMSU’s Mrs. Joanie McCarthy was announced as the winner of the 50/50 raffle.

“It was a fun evening with friends who came to support our AMSU students. The event was a big success and learning how to Salsa dance was a bonus!”

Susan McCarthy Cronin ’65
Photos - left to right:
1. Guests take a chance at a gaming table
2. Kerri Gould Reynolds ’86 with her mother Maureen Udo
3. Sr. Bernadette Hannaway, OSU and Sr. Maureen Welch, OSU
4. Anna Ramos and Susan McCarthy Cronin ’65
5. Members of the AMSU and All Hallows Dance Clubs
6. Ms. Jeanne DiBenedetto and Mr. Orlando Brenes
7. Big winners at the roulette table
8. Chance auction prizes
9. Fr. John Vigilanti welcomes guests
10. Mary Colligan McShane ’77, Kay Treanor Tashner ’59, Sr. Jeannie Humphries, OSU ’89, Barbara Montenero DeAngelo ’69
11. Mary McGovern O’Sullivan ’91, Cathy Daly ’91, Meghan Byrne Donovan ’92 and Claudia Toni-Smith ’92
12. AMSU dancers give guests Salsa lessons
13. Susan McCarthy Cronin ’65, Richard and Lynne Leahy
14. Carole Kalos ’61, Donald Tashner, Ann Clancy O’Connell ’61 and John O’Connell
ALUMNAE INVITE AMSU STUDENTS TO HELP ‘DREAM BIG’

Several AMSU students were invited as guests to an event promoting the Bronx Children’s Museum’s ‘Dream Big’ program, organized by alumna, Lee Llambelis, Esq. ‘77. The event took place on Saturday, August 6th at Hostos Community College on the Grand Concourse. U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. Regina Benjamin was the event’s honoree, promoting the importance of a healthy lifestyle and fulfilling one’s dream to realize his or her goals.

Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, and U.S. Congressman Jose Serrano were also in attendance. Parents, public officials, and guests were treated to displays of music, art, and dance that 116 children from local Bronx organizations put together to showcase to the event’s special guests.

HAMPTONS FUNDRAISER

On August 25, 2011, Susan McCarthy Cronin ’65 invited alumnae to her summer home in the Hamptons for a mini-alumnae reunion. Susan wanted to give AMSU alumnae an opportunity to meet outside the school. About 25 alumnae from the classes of 1957 to 1992 enjoyed the beautiful views of the shore and refreshments from the island.

Alumnae in attendance were: Judy Coyle Boyle ’57, Lisa Welborn Beusse ’61, Dorothy Nichols Cusack ’61, Julia McKeon Murphy ’61, Rose Marie Caiazzo Occhino ’61, Elaine Castaldo Sackman ’61, Nancy Parks O’Neil ’62, Susan McCarthy Cronin ’65, Maryalice Madden Duval ’65, Geraldine Riva Curtin ’66, Margaret Hayes Kelly ’66, Juillianne Coogan McGurk ’66, Rosemary Ellicott Roche ’76, Siobhan Sullivan ’85 and Christine Padilla Eckel ’92. Also, in attendance were Fr. John Vigilanti, Ms. Lisa Harrison, Ms. Anna Ramos and Ms. Julia Myers-Bartley ’85.

It was a few days before Hurricane Irene stormed her way into New York, so guests were in the clear that day for perfect weather.

RING DAY

On Friday, October 14th, a half a century tradition skated on in the Bronx. The Senior Class of 2012 lived up to AMSU’s wonderful custom of showing AMSU spirit and pride.

Officers from the 52nd Police Precinct led about 100 girls who skated up the Grand Concourse to AMSU, where they received their high school rings. Families, faculty, and staff, along with the student’s Sophomore Sisters, were on hand to cheer on the Senior Class of 2012.

After making their mark in Bronx history, the girls took off their skates and made their way to the auditorium, where a formal ceremony took place. The girls received their rings, followed by an original comedic skit performed by the Junior Class and a song sung by their Sophomore Sisters.

SSP DINNER

AMSU students who are a part of the SSP (Student Sponsor Partners) program, attended the annual opening dinner on Wednesday, October 19, 2011 in the school auditorium. Twenty-five students and their parents met with their SSP mentors, some for the very first time. They enjoyed a dinner provided by SSP and had an opportunity to speak with their mentors.

AMSU is extremely fortunate to have eleven alumnae as mentors to our very own students! Schools participating in the SSP program are asked to recruit new mentors each year. AMSU’s goal for next year is to add six more alumnae mentors. If you would like more information, please contact Anna Ramos. There is no financial obligation to be a mentor. We are looking for alumnae to guide these young women during their high school careers.
Other notable comments from visitors that day stated, “the students love their school and are happy; it is a nurturing and positive environment;” “now I’m going to put this as my first choice;” “it gave me a better sense of community, my daughter will love it here and she will fit right in!”

The great weather, our beautiful campus decorated with pumpkins, the warmth and enthusiasm of our faculty, and most of all, the students, really left an incredible impression on what we hope will be future ‘girls of Mount St. Ursula!’

AMSU TAKES ON HEALTH INITIATIVE

AMSU made a commitment to contribute to better health, when the school was selected as the location for a major press conference. New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera, Bronx Borough President, Rueben Diaz and a host of medical experts from Montefiore Hospital came to promote a new health initiative for Bronx families and schools.

Maryann Rosa ’06, who works for Senator Rivera, contacted AMSU because she was looking for a way to give back to her beloved alma mater.

The conference was the culmination event of the government sponsored program, celebrating ‘real food and healthy eating.’ There were also other events held in the other boroughs addressing nutrition and a healthier lifestyle.

This Health Initiative was presented as a challenge to schools to follow particular guidelines for eight weeks by doing the following: drink water and low-fat milk; eat fish, fruit, vegetables, whole grains, and home cooked meals; and exercise 30 minutes a day.

The State Senator was proud of his own health accomplishments. Having lost close to 20 pounds, he proudly took off his shoes, stepped onto the scale and weighed in for the final time within the eight week period.

The Borough President also showed off his own feat. He lost 14 pounds by cutting out soda and going to the gym more often.

Following the press conference, State Senator Rivera, Borough President Diaz, and other medical officials joined Fr. Vigilanti, Ms. Harrison, and AMSU students for a photo-op with local press and media.

Each AMSU student was given an apple to start her on her way toward a healthier lifestyle.

“It is critically important that today’s young women be exposed to the dangers inherent in unhealthy lifestyles, and that they have the support they need to make informed choices about nutrition and exercise. Healthy bodies yield healthy minds.”

Lisa Harrison

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

“White Christmas,” “Jingle Bell Rock/Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree” and “Let it Snow” were some of the songs performed at AMSU’s Annual Christmas Concert, featuring ‘Our Favorite Christmas Songs!’

On the last day before the Christmas holiday AMSU held a special mass in the school’s chapel. Teachers and students participated in a beautiful rendition of “Mary, Did You Know?” There was also a performance by AMSU’s very own Music Director and pianist, Laura Mulholland. She surprised the students with her varied musical talents by playing “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” on the violin.

The day continued with the Christmas concert in the AMSU auditorium which included a musical tribute by the AMSU Vocalists, Chorus Class, the Juilliard Instrumental Program and the Piano Lab. There were also extraordinary performances of “March” from the Nutcracker Suite and “Panis Angelicus.”

The spirit of Christmas was definitely in the air at AMSU, thanks to these enriching performances.
YOUNG ALUMNAE REUNION

On Thursday, January 5, 2012, young alumnae from the classes of 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 came back to AMSU to reunite. The alumnae were home on winter break from the colleges and universities they are currently attending. They came from all over the United States, including one alumna, Chloe Geigel ‘11, who visited from her college in Hawaii.

The alums enjoyed a luncheon provided by the Development Office, and they had the opportunity to visit with teachers and staff, as well as take photos. A college feedback event was held immediately following the reunion, which was coordinated with the help of the Guidance Department.

Four young alums spoke about college life to the current AMSU senior class. They talked about commuting, extra-curricular activities, study abroad, and transitioning from high school to college. Among the speakers were Julissa Contreras ’09 (John Jay College for Criminal Justice), Shanice Gilchrist ’10 (Iona College), Lucitania Hernandez ’10 (Marist College) and Shaella Morales ‘10 (Georgetown University; Class of 2010 Gates Millennium Scholarship Winner).

After their presentations, AMSU’s very own, Ms. Julia Myers-Bartley ’85, Director of External Relations/Recruiting, spoke about her experience with the difficulties of choosing a college, what to major in and how to adjust when you get there. Julia also discussed the importance of studying abroad, encouraged students to use the amazing resources that are offered at AMSU and gave helpful tips to the girls for when they get to college.

AMSU STUDENT LIVES IN SPAIN FOR THE SUMMER!!

AMSU Honors student Mariana Pinos ’12 spent the summer of a lifetime in Spain in 2011, traveling with the organization called Experiment in International Living. This organization sends groups of students all over the world to do community service, and get involved with cultural and outdoor programs.

After being nominated to become a member of the Liberty LEADS Program, which is affiliated with Bankstreet College, Mariana was accepted into the International program. Every year students are required to participate in a summer program, where they travel abroad and may be eligible to receive a partial scholarship.

Following an intense application process involving a group interview, Mariana also had to make sure she completed the two year Spanish Language requirement. As a native Spanish speaker, she easily fulfilled the requirement and was on her way to Spain.

Mariana’s month long trip in Spain included seeing some of the ancient pathways of the country. She spent a week in Madrid; a 16-day home-stay in Northern Spain, where she went sailing and clamming; then a week long 111 kilometer trek through El Camino de Santiago. While on the trip she celebrated her 17th birthday!

Mariana says this experience was absolutely amazing! She did not have much communication with her family or friends in the States during the trip but learned a lot about herself and being independent. She made great connections with other Americans who traveled with her; and she still keeps in contact with her host family, who she will eventually return to visit. Her experience has definitely prepared her for college.

Mariana is not the first student to have gone through this program. Annlady Jorge ’12 also participated in the summer of 2010 and went to France.

AMSU STUDENTS ‘OPEN’ UP TO A BRONXNET INTERNSHIP

On January 9, 2012, six AMSU students began an internship with BRONXNET, a city-owned public access television station, located on the campus of Lehman College, in the Bronx.

The students will work on BRONXNET’s TV show called ‘Open’ – writing, producing, editing, working behind a camera and performing other production aspects of putting a television show together.

The internship is free and the girls participate on Mondays and Wednesdays for six months. It is an incredible opportunity for a select group students who are currently enrolled in the Emerging Media class and for students who are thinking about a career in the field.

“Having worked in the television industry for as long as I have, I know how valuable this foundation is; it is a wonderful springboard for AMSU’s students to takeoff into the media profession,” stated Julia Myers-Bartley ’85. Julia initiated the partnership between AMSU and BRONXNET.
1952
Elynore Clark Cucinell, MD is still practicing Neurology at Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, but she is working part time now. She continues to see Service personnel returning from combat zones with PTSD and concussions. “It is heartbreaking,” Elynore and her husband Sam have five sons who are all adults and they have seven grandchildren. They both retired from the Army, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary a couple of years ago and also the 50th anniversary of their graduation from Albany Medical College in 1960. Elynore and her husband take walks, swim in the Pacific and sail Sam’s Rawson 30. They have a Celtic music group meeting in their garage. They have also taken up acrylic painting at about a 4th grade level. They sail with Padre John Vigilanti when he comes out to be chaplain at TAMC. Elynore would be happy to email anyone from AMSU, especially anyone from ’51 or ’52, or any young women interested in going into Medicine or the Sciences.

Dr. Marie Menna Pagliaro has just had four books published by Rowman and Littlefield for novice and veteran teachers, teachers-in-training, staff developers, supervisors, administrators, and for others interested in education. The titles are: Exemplary Classroom Questioning: Practices to Promote Thinking and Learning; Educator or Bully? Managing the 21st Century Classroom; Differentiating Instruction: Matching Strategies with Objectives; and Research-Based Unit and Lesson Planning: Maximizing Student Achievement. These books are in addition to her novel, That Woman and the Mafia Don, whose profits go to help prevent young people from joining all kinds of ethnic gangs. Visit her website at www.mariepagliaro.com.

1954
Dr. Maryellen Keefe, OSU, a Humanities Professor at Maritime College, is having a new book published by SUNY. Her book is a biography summarizing the life of Sally Benson, a woman who became a staff member of the New Yorker in the 1930s and 1940s, in a time when reporting jobs were given to men. The book will be available beginning in the Spring of 2013. If you enjoy the golden era of film, theater and fiction, you will enjoy this book.

1957
Patricia Happner Muldowney is retired. She celebrated her 50th Anniversary last year with her family which includes ten grandchildren. Pat hopes to see everyone at 1957’s 55th Reunion.

1961
Carole Kakos writes in to say that since their 50th Alumnae Reunion in April 2011, women from the class of ’61 continue to connect and enjoy each other’s company. In late October, Dorothy Nichols Cusack, Sr. Jane Finnerty, Carole Kakos, Julia McKeon Murphy, Rose Marie Caiazzo Occhino, Ann Clancy O’Connell, and Elaine Castaldo Sackmann joined together for dinner in Tuckahoe, NY. In addition, some of the gals have met in Manhattan for lunch, an art exhibit, Mass in French at the United Nations Church of the Holy Family, and have participated in a one day women’s retreat at The Ursuline Provincialate in New Rochelle, NY. Carole, Rose Marie, Elaine, and Janet Barelli Murphy met one afternoon in Eastchester at Haiku. Sr. Sheila Campbell, OSU and Carole attended and enjoyed a Yankee game together. Sheila is a diehard Yankee fan! Everyone is interested in staying connected and in reconnecting in the future with as many classmates as possible proving that the years at The Mount were “Four Years to Last a Lifetime.” By pooling tidbits of information, Mary Jane Coyle Dooley, Julia McKeon Murphy, Rose Marie Caiazzo Occhino, and Elaine Castaldo Sackmann located their former French teacher, Jacqueline Com. There have been emails, cards, and a phone call exchanged, they are planning a get-together in the near future. They would also love to locate and connect with other teachers. Does anyone out there know the whereabouts of Ms. Keough (Kehoe) or Ms. Bonaparte (Beauparlante)? If you have any information that would be helpful or if you just want to join in some future activities, please contact Mary Jane (mjdooley@optonline.net), Carole (carolkwitheane@aol.com), Rose Marie (rosemo37@aol.com), or Elaine (shakaskye@gmail.com). They would love to hear from you.

1962
Joan McDonough O’Malley retired from Daimler Chrysler in February 2001 after a 25 year career in the auto industry. Joan and her husband are living in Nyack, NY and enjoy traveling, especially cruising.

1963
Jean Mirenda Harrigan is looking forward to retiring next June. Jean and her husband decided to take a trip during this Christmas break. They have always enjoyed watching the Rose Bowl Parade and are fascinated by what people do with flowers, seeds and grain. When an opportunity arose to fly to LA and then be driven up the Coastal Highway into San Francisco, they decided this would be the year to see the parade in person. Jean wishes all her classmates from the Class of ’63 and the best in the New Year.

Anne-Patricia Rufino retired from teaching in June 2009 and now lives in Viera, FL (near Melbourne). Her five-year-old granddaughter is living with her and keeps Anne very busy. Anne volunteers for the American Cancer Society’s “Road to Recovery” Program and spends a fair amount of time keeping up with all the wildlife in the lake behind her house.
Margaret McCullen Rice just became a grandmother on 11-8-11 with the birth of Conor Patrick McDonald to her daughter and son-in-law.

1964

Maureen Roche Keane now has 36 people in her immediate family, so her family pictures tend to look like “Where’s Waldo.” There are eight children, seven spouses, one Jesuit (to be ordained in 2013) and 19 grandchildren. Maureen has been in California since she graduated from CNR in ’68. Bob has retired from television writing and she still volunteers at her parish. Maureen’s mother passed away in April 2011 at the age of 101. Maureen still cherishes the happy memories of the Mount; “those were great days!”

1965

Joan (Joni) Corcoran taught elementary school for 25 plus years. Besides a Master’s in Education, she also has a Master’s in Instructional Technology. Joan is happily retired now and lives with her husband, Ed, in Cape Cod, MA and Lakewood Ranch, FL. She has three children and Ed has two, and they have ten grandchildren between them. Joan is on two Boards right now—one a Neighborhood Board where she prepares digital newsletters for community members. The other Board is a non-profit called Disaster Aid USA where she is the Communications Director. She works on the website and Facebook page, as well as makes presentations to groups to share the message. They help families domestically and globally who have lost everything in a disaster by providing a family tent, clean water systems, and tools for recovery, as well as temporary schools and first aid stations. Check out the website at: www.disasteraidusa.org. This is a great project for retirees who care! Joan is also beginning to do therapy dog work with her Labrador, Chance.

Nancy Hanish Imhof and her husband Bill moved last year from New Jersey to Hendersonville, NC. They are enjoying the milder climate, beautiful mountain vistas and all the art and cultural offerings in the Asheville area. In addition, they love being only three hours away from their granddaughter in Charleston, SC.

Susan Cronin and Carol Ivory and seven other alumnae from the class of 1965, attended a celebratory reunion marking the 50-year anniversary of their 1961 graduation from Our Lady of Refuge School. OLR is located on Briggs Avenue, only a few blocks from AMSU. The alumnae included Peggy Bartley Maybury, Lynne Berne Toumey, Roberta Bukraba Willim, Claire Colangelo Manto, Maureen McIntyre, Dolores Rieth Hannon, and Anne Varley DeGroot. The idea for the reunion began in conversations at their 45th AMSU reunion in April 2010 and culminated in a fun-filled dinner at J.C. Fogarty’s in Bronxville on November 5, 2011.

1966

Dorothy Igwel Cooney and her husband retired to a small town in Arkansas four years ago. They live on 40 wooded acres in the Ouachita Mountains, and have a small river running through their property. They are surrounded by farms, nature, and wildlife and love it there! They share their home with their poodle, Collette. “Actually, she shares her home with us!” Their oldest granddaughter (21) got married last June, and they attended the wedding in Houston, TX. They made another trip there in October to see their middle grandson (18) become an Eagle Scout. Dorothy and her husband are so proud of them and their three other grandchildren. Dorothy is active in her local artist society where she has sold paintings, a craft group, and an RV club she and her husband caravan with at times. One caravan went from Texas through New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, and into Montana. There was fabulous scenery the entire way, including Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks. Another caravan went through Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. Lots of cornfields there!

1967

Connie Slavin McCue received a doctorate in education from Seton Hall University. She has been Principal at St. Elizabeth School in Wyckoff, NJ for the last nine years. Connie is also teaching graduate courses at Seton Hall University and Felician College. She will teach full time at the college level during the next chapter in her life. Connie has three grown children. She loves to travel with her husband Jim whenever they get the chance.

1968

Ingrid Casimir Harris currently lives in Philadelphia where she is the Director of the Office of Medical Staff Affairs at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.
1969

Ursula de Nemeskeri-Kiss Higham met up with Patricia Callaghan Young in London this past autumn and had dinner at a typical English pub!

1970

Debbie Masterson's life is constantly changing and taking her places she never thought she would go. When her company in Greenwich suddenly closed, she found herself moving to Nashville, TN. She is managing the Major Accounts operation for Blue Cross Blue Shield. She is looking forward to exploring Nashville! After high school she went to work, but getting a college degree was always important to Debbie. She achieved that goal in 2006 after 36 years of taking classes at night! Debbie’s daughter Liz graduated Magna Cum Laude from Marist College in 2010 and also moved to Nashville in late 2011. Debbie is three hours away from Bonnie Langguth and looking forward to getting together with her. When Debbie was in NY, she also enjoyed seeing Tish Ryan, Joan Bauer, Peggy McKeon and Margaret Donlon. Debbie is looking forward to returning to NY for their reunion in 2015! She has not missed one yet and does not plan to start. Debbie recently created an AMSU class of 1970 group on Facebook and she is enjoying adding members so they can catch up and share experiences.

Brenda O’Connell Gazinski welcomed her first grandchild, Gabrielle Nicole Gazinski, on November 11, 2010.

Bridget Smith McCarthy is the Coordinator of Related Services at Children's School for Early Development, which is part of the Arc of Westchester. She has worked there as a Speech Pathologist for 33 years, both in adult and children's services. Her other love is choral singing. Bridget has sung with several Westchester choruses, as well as the Festival Chorus at St. Joseph’s Seminary, Dunwoodie. She traveled to Italy with Hudson Chorale in June and sang the Mozart Requiem in Venice, Vicenza and Verona. Bridget also sings at Immaculate Conception choir in Tuckahoe and she is enjoying the increased use of chant. She had her marriage annulled in the Church in 1998 after 13 years. She is eternally grateful to the priests and church officials who saw her through that process. Bridget lives in a lovely condominium community with her cats and she is the President of the Phase Board of Managers there. Bridget treasures the years she spent at Mount St. Ursula and the wonderful education she received there and later at Lehman College and Teacher’s College, Columbia University. She would not have had the rewarding career she has without the superb instruction received at all three fine institutions. Bridget appreciates the chance to update everyone!

Barbara Sell Gargani and her husband recently moved to Danbury, CT. They have three grandchildren.

1971

Donna Nava works with Rosemary Luca Zerbo at Pocantico Hills Central School. They sat together for four years at lunch along with Gloria Savelli Burke, and Barbara Gray Conti, all of whom she still keeps in touch with. Last year, they celebrated Rosemary’s son’s wedding in September, as well as Gloria’s daughter’s wedding in June. Unfortunately, Barbara lost her husband Nick to Alzheimer’s disease. Their bond and friendship has endured through all. Donna keeps herself busy by fundraising for her foundation called “Tiffany’s All At Once Foundation” which has successfully collaborated with “Support Connection” to help cancer victims and their families with house cleaning, food deliveries or gifts for cancer patients and their families.

Mary Flanagan Cooper and her husband Bill welcomed their first grandchild Adam, born on September 21, 2011.

Marilyn Healy-McDermott’s husband, Tom McDermott, died November 28, 2011. He was 59 years old. They were married for 35 years. They have three daughters and their oldest is expecting their first grandchild (a girl!) on February 18, 2012. Tom’s sister, Ellen McDermott Molloy, is an alumna from the class of 1974. Tom’s cousin, Bonnie Henderson Frick-Jesteadt ’61, is also an alumna.

Joanne DeMarzo Boyle and her husband Tim live in Louisville, KY for past 20 plus years. He is from Riverdale (Manhattan Prep/College Grad) and his sisters Cathy and Mary graduated from AMSU in ’75 and ’76; and her cousin Ann Marie Quinn in ’70. Joanne’s sister, Mary Ellen Sanchez, graduated in ’75. Joanne graduated from Fordham in ’75 with a BA in Math, and Iona Grad School of Business with an MBA in ’80. She worked at Pepsi as a Business Systems Manager for many years prior to her daughter being born in 1988. Joanne and Tim have 2 children, Jacqui and Tim. They own a franchise SportClips Haircuts in KY and she runs the business. Tim works for the University of Louisville. Joanne also does a lot of volunteer work and chaired a few boards while the kids were in school. She has been involved with Bible Study Fellowship, a non-denominational world-wide Bible Study, for ten years.

1973

Rose Sullivan met with some classmates for a brunch in Central Park’s Boathouse Restaurant this past October. A great time was had by all. It was a beautiful fall day.

From left: Class of 1973 - Mary Casey, Rose Sullivan, Mary Culhane Hickey, Jane Joyce, Joanne O’Beirne and Grace O’Malley
1975

Maureen Moore traveled across the globe to Australia this past September with her husband and her daughter. They could not visit Sydney without climbing the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

1976

A group of the members of the Class of ’76 gathered in the Christmas spirit for Irish music and dancing at Tommy Fox’s Public House in Bergenfield, NJ on Sunday, December 11th.

1977

Leisa Arisio Albro says that 2011 was a big year for her family. She got remarried in the spring to Paul Albro. Her daughter Christina got married during Hurricane Irene. She was also able to reconnect with many AMSU classmates on Facebook. She is wondering what happened to classmates Mary Woods and Virginia Dufford.

1978

Dr. Leslie Hayes is the Director of Adolescent Pediatric Services at Lincoln Hospital in the Bronx. She was recently highlighted by the Inner City Scholarship Fund for her success in achieving her lifelong dream of becoming a doctor. In her current position, she teaches residents how to care for adolescent patients and she is responsible for direct patient care. Leslie also evaluates children who have been referred to the hospital in child abuse cases.

Lisa Forte-Doyle is an English and Creative Writing Teacher at Chatham High School in Cape Cod, Massachusetts for the last 18 years. She is also a Breast Cancer Survivor since 2010, Advisor to the Young Women’s Club and the Creative Writing Club of Chatham High, and winner of a “Teachers Make a Difference” Award of $1,000 in school supplies and a 30 second spot on New England Cable Network. Lisa has a great husband, Timothy, and she has two sons: Chris, a Dean’s List sophomore at High Point University in North Carolina and Aodhan, an Honors Freshman student at Nauset High School on the Cape. Lisa’s mother is still alive and strong at almost 92 years old! Here’s a shout out to her friends from high school: Valerie Cassarini DeSio, Ann Fallon, Mary Alfinito, Dot Kessler, Pat Schifini, and Pat Dobek McDermott. Email her at lismit@comcast.net.

1979

Cynthia Arne and several classmates from the class of ’79 recently got together to celebrate their 50th birthdays! “It was so much fun!” They caught up on what’s going on in their lives, with their bodies...menopause! It was as if they were back in the cafeteria at AMSU...wonderful! Lots of music, food and laughter! Roxanna and Cynthia just could not wait for their reunion so they reached out to people! They plan to do it again in the spring.

The people in attendance: Cynthia Rosario Arne, Roxanna Rivera, Cathy Quartarolo Patrichuk, Darlene Rivera, Carla Fuentes Alvarado, Andrea Gentile Fioli, Camille Desantis, Diane Swane Sirabella, Lisa Welborn Beusse, Gina Sorbera DeCaprio, Denise Baccalon, Sue Lundberg Giaccia, Meryl Stevens, Nelly Rivera, and Jeri Baker.

Frances Ayers is currently an aspiring Writer/Published Poet. Her poems have been published online and in three Facebook anthologies. In May of 2010, her poem, “As Old As The Sea”, came in third place in a an international online poetry contest sponsored by Voicenet. She is also working on some short stories. When she is not writing, she is a full time caregiver to an elderly uncle and a nine-year-old cat. Previously, she worked as a Social Worker with abused and neglected children after obtaining her Master’s in Social Work from Fordham University.

Gayle Williams is the Editor of Consumer Reports on Health Newsletter, which this year became the largest-circulating health newsletter in America. Gayle would love to hear from any alumnae who might be readers of the newsletter, or who have ideas for articles. Also, if anyone knows where to find Yolanda Wright, Jill Stacey and Sharon Ramessar, Gayle would appreciate it!

Kathryn Hudson just got back from two pilgrimages: The Way of St. James, five weeks walking from the south of France (St. Jean Pied-de-Port) to Santiago de Compostela where St. James is buried. Kathryn says the trail was fascinating, with folks from all over the planet converging to walk what turned out to be well over 500 miles. That was not enough, so afterward, she tackled the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu in Peru after a work-related trip to Brazil. The two trips left her feeling very strongly that a pilgrimage is a great way to reconnect with Spirit.

Veronica Dengler is currently a Master Gardener in the state of New Jersey. She gives lectures in schools and libraries, and helps people to plan out and maintain their gardens. She recently visited Abbey Road in London with her husband for their anniversary. He is a big Beatles fan.
Lucille Renwick lives in Mexico City with her husband and three children. They moved there at the end of 2010 for her husband’s job (he is a Foreign Correspondent with The New York Times). They will be there for another three or four years. Lucille is still running a communications/PR consulting business, Highlight Communications, which she started when they were living in Los Angeles. Much of her time in Mexico is taken up with caring for her children (Lyla 10, Miles 7, and Ellis 5), learning Spanish, and prepping to start teaching Journalism and Public Relations classes in the fall at a local university (all in English, “thank good ness”).

1985
Deborah Blades-Clarke had been married to Steve Clarke for five years. They have a beautiful son named Steven who is four years old.

1987
Nancy Rodrigue began her 19th year as an English teacher this January, 2012. She is 18 months into a 2-year English teacher/Department Chair contract in Surabaya, Indonesia, and looking forward to returning to NY in June, 2012. Ms. Corticcio and Nancy have set up a Pen Pal program with their students, and to date it is going well.

1988
Liz Guarracino is returning to NY after living in Colorado for 13 years! She has been a freelance photographer for some time, and has been exhibited in 2011 in Denver at Denver International Airport, the State Capitol, the Denver Library, Edge Gallery, Cirque Voltaire Show ii, and in Los Angeles at the Los Angeles Center for Digital Art. Liz hopes to continue her photography when she gets to NY. She would love to catch up with everyone from ’88. Liz expects to be back in the Bronx in January of 2012.

1989
Erica Johnson would like to sincerely thank Maria Moreno ’94 for her loving support during her mother Cécile’s extended, serious hospitalization at New York Presbyterian. She would also like to truly thank Sr. Jeannie Humphries ’89, the Ursulines, and the Young Alumnae Committee for their powerful prayers. Alumnae Toni Mele ’88 and Traci Wilson ’89 also offered kind words to her parents. Her mother is now a year past her liver transplant surgery and doing nicely! She and her sister, Valeria Johnson ’91, are so grateful for this miracle and think it is so wonderful to have Academy of Mount St. Ursula sisters everywhere, surprisingly turning up just when you need them! You all remain in the Johnson family’s prayers. Erica would also like to warmly welcome Mary Di Donato ’71 to her office family at the Pontifical Mission Societies national office! Happy 40th Birthday to the Class of ’89!

Sr. Jeannie Humphries, OSU is busy pursuing her doctorate in Language, Literacy and Learning at Fordham University on Students’ Self Questioning When Reading. She is looking forward to finishing up in 2012!! Fingers crossed! Jeannie also works as a supervisor for teachers of students with special needs for the Cooke Center for Learning and Development in NYC. Helene Butler ’90 is the speech and language pathologist at the same site. “SERVIAM is alive!” Jeannie has another part-time job at Fordham University. She teaches a course on Children’s Literature for those interested in elementary school education as a career choice. Jeannie is also a Board member for AMSU. For the past few years, she has been collaborating with Claudia Toni-Smith ’92 on a Young Alumnae Committee. They are looking for new ideas and members as they want to keep the AMSU sisterhood strong and connected. Feel free to contact Jeannie at srjeannieosu@yahoo.com.

2001
Kiva LaTouche moved to Johannesburg, South Africa this October to work as a Communications Officer for an NGO - CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation. For more information about CIVICUS feel free to visit the website: www.civicus.org.

2003
Christine Grimaldi, daughter of School Health Administrator, Gladys Grimaldi, is now offering zumba dance classes to students, faculty and friends for free!! Every Tuesday and Thursday from 4:30-5:30p.m. Christine teaches how to get rid of stress, as you ‘party hearty!’

2005
Keshia Pershad will be joining the AMSU team as an Assistant Coach for softball. Keshia graduated from Villanova University in May 2009 with a BA in Criminal Justice and a minor in Human Services. She is currently working at the American Montessori School as an assistant to the teacher in the Education Department.

2006
Janine Ramos is pursuing her Master’s of Fine Arts in Digital Media at Lehman College. She hopes to graduate in Spring 2012.

2009
Julissa Contreras recently began interning for NYC Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez in the Legislative and Community Affairs Branches. She works at his Inwood office and at City Hall preparing press releases and media clips, personally speaking to community residents, providing briefs for committee meetings, and doing administrative work. Julissa is a Junior at John Jay College majoring in Political Science/Sociology.

In Memoriam

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ELTON JOHN & TIM RICE’S
AIDA
THE TIMELESS LOVE STORY
SCHOOL EDITION

Date: March 23, 24, 25, 2012 • Performance time: Fri/Sat- 7:30 Sun- luncheon 12:30 - performance 2pm.

Music By:
Elton John

Lyrics By:
Tim Rice

Book By:
Linda Woolverton
and
Robert Falls & David Henry Hwang

Originally Directed on Broadway By:
Robert Falls

Originally Produced By:
Disney Theatrical Productions