SAVE THE DATE

October 16, 2015

Hall of Fame Dinner Dance

New York Botanical Garden, Bronx - 7 p.m.

Vanessa Williams
Mistress of Ceremonies
Congratulations to the Class of 2015
Graduates earned over $7.6 million in scholarships to college.

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Classes ending in 1s and 6s

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

We are rapidly approaching another milestone in the history of AMSU: the celebration of our 160th anniversary on October 16th at the New York Botanical Garden. This moment would not have arrived without the sponsorship of the Bedford Park Community of Ursulines and the generous outreach of our loyal and grateful alums, who wish to bequeath to another generation of young women a solid education and the Serviam spirit.

While we rightly celebrate the accomplishments of the past, we do not lose focus on the challenges that lie ahead. AMSU, like many institutions in America today, is an evolving organization. Our past inspires us to prepare for a bright future. The needs of our students mirror the needs of Catholic education in this period of unprecedented change. To meet these needs requires the resolute commitment of a diverse community of constituencies: Ursulines, church, parents, teachers, staff, board of trustees, and the political will to work toward success for our young people. Without this solid partnership, the road ahead would be arduous and Herculean.

Believe me, I do understand the challenges. In my seven years at AMSU we have experienced the tragic deaths of two of our students, an unimaginable loss for their families and for our school community. This past May our school was hit with a major flood due to a broken bathroom pipe in the 1922 building. No part of our building was left untouched. Classes were cancelled for two days as assessments of the damage were made. The rest of the academic year was completed in the vacant classrooms of the convent. Our ability to meet the unexpected with grace, professionalism, and sacrifice, speaks highly of our entire staff. We may not have the bells and whistles of other schools, but we do have a spirit that exemplifies the motto of one of my former combat engineer units: “Essayons,” (Let us try).

Having proudly served in the Army Reserves for 33 years, I have an abiding appreciation for teamwork. AMSU has been a blessing here in the Bronx for 160 years because of the bond between Ursulines, staff, alums, donors, and generations of parents who entrusted their daughters to the care of a school that is a true Bronx institution.

If you have not had the opportunity to contribute to our Capital Campaign, “Ensure Their Future,” to fund scholarships, to provide financial aid for students in need, and to establish additional academic support for students hampered by learning obstacles or social disadvantages, please consider doing so. Connect with your alma mater in a way that will be most useful as we prepare for the years ahead.

If you are able, please join us at the Botanical Garden on October 16th. On behalf of the entire AMSU community, THANK YOU!

Sincerely,

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

It’s hard to believe that it was just a year ago that I began my ministry as principal of our great school—The Academy of Mount St. Ursula. What an amazing year this has been! It truly has been so wonderful to be among our spectacular administrative team, faculty, staff, students, families, alumnae, friends and benefactors.

When I think of a word to describe our administration, faculty and staff, what comes to mind is DEDICATION. They work hard every day and truly show care and concern for our students. They demand the best from each one and hold our students accountable for their actions, words and work. But it is all done with a true sense of caring and love. All who work at AMSU want to see our young women succeed.

Even in the midst of a flood and needing to have classes in the convent building, our faculty did not complain, they immediately got to work adjusting lessons and assignments. Many worked with just poster paper and markers, since not all spaces had chalkboards and very few of the rooms were able to handle smart boards, projectors and ELMOS (document cameras). Different spaces in the convent were used for classes—the parlors, nuns’ community room, priest’s dining room, etc. At times, class was even held in the chapel. As a school community, we gathered in the chapel each day for morning and afternoon prayer, and announcements.

What a memory our young women will have of this school year! They loved checking out the convent and seeing all the places that were “forbidden” to them at other times. Our students have been good sports about adjusting to classes in a new location and have kept their academic focus so they can continue to make us proud.

When I think of a word to describe our students, I think of OPPORTUNITIES. Many of our young women this year have taken advantage of opportunities presented to them from other schools and outside organizations so they can build up their skills and make themselves more marketable for college and their future careers. Our students have been writers for the Bronx Youth Herald of the Norwood News. Students were able to visit with the NYC Police Commissioner and the Local 52nd Precinct because of their involvement and winning of the essay contest-Police Commissioner for the Day. One of our rising seniors, Bryana Pena, will be part of the Sonia and Celine Sotomayor Judicial Internship Program and she will be working with a federal judge for the month of July. AMSU students attended the Rising Moxie Conference offered by Latinas in Higher Education. (see pg. 18) This summer AMSU young women are working at Van Cortlandt Park, attending the Science and Technology Entry Program at Fordham University, participating in the Smart Girls conference, attending the student leadership program in Cleveland with Ursuline Educational Services and traveling to England to be part of the Ursuline Links Service Program. They sure are involved!

Our graduation at St. Philip Neri Church was just fabulous. You could see the pride and excitement in each of our 89 young women graduates and their families. This class earned over 7 million dollars in academic scholarships. We wish them well and we eagerly await to see what changes they will make in our world.

The school year of 2014-2015 has been filled with many surprises and I look forward to even more in the upcoming school year of 2015-2016! Please know you are welcome to visit AMSU at any time and know our young women will greet you with a smile. Thank you for your continued support and involvement with AMSU.

Prayers and blessings,

Sr. Jean Marie Humphries, osu, PhD ’89
Principal
Greetings from the Executive Director of Development

“Nations that invest in women’s employment, health, and education are just more likely to have better outcomes. Their children will be healthier and better educated. So this is not just the right thing to do for us to hold up these women, to support them, to encourage their involvement; this is a strategic imperative.”

~ Hillary Clinton

Dear AMSU Alumnae and Friends,

During this 160th Anniversary year we will be honoring six fabulous women who have impacted AMSU and its students in various ways. On Friday, October 16, 2015, these individuals will be inducted into the Academy of Mount St. Ursula’s Hall of Fame at the New York Botanical Garden. We hope you are able to join us for this very special event. Please find more information on the inductees and how you too can honor them on pages 6 and 7.

The Development staff organized several events earlier this year. On March 14th, AMSU hosted an appreciation breakfast for current and former AMSU faculty and staff. In April, two special alumnae events were held on the 25th and 26th, beginning with our annual alumnae reunion, which was celebrated in a special way. It took place at the Shenorock Shore Club due to the generosity of Susan McCarthy Cronin ’65, who celebrated her 50th anniversary with 44 of her classmates, and 150 other alumnae. On Sunday, members of the AMSU community gathered in AMSU’s chapel to commemorate the 160th anniversary of the school. The mass was followed by a luncheon in the cafeteria. It was a wonderful AMSU weekend! Photos from these events can be found on pages 22 and 23.

At this time, we are at 80% of our Annual Fund goal for this year. The support of the Ursuline Sisters and our dedicated alumnae and friends, have been extraordinary. The students are extremely fortunate to have so many who believe in them as they work to achieve their potential, so they too may live the "Four Years to Last a Lifetime" motto. There is still time to send in your Annual Fund gift for our 160th anniversary year. Remember to contact your human resources department for matching gift information. You can double, even triple, the impact of your gift. We are hoping for 100% participation, especially during this milestone year.

If you are in the neighborhood during the summer and would like to visit the school, please contact me so we can schedule a tour. I wish you a wonderful summer!

Warm regards,

Anna Parra
Executive Director of Development

The Campaign for the Academy of Mount St. Ursula, Ensure Their Future, is very close to reaching its goal of $3 million. As of June 19th, we are at 88% of our goal. If you have not contributed to the campaign, please consider doing so. You may make your gift on our secure website by selecting Capital Campaign on the drop down menu or you can call our office and we will process your gift over the phone. Our hope is to reach $3 million by the end of our fiscal year, August 31st. Every gift helps, no matter what size!
160th Anniversary Hall of Fame Honorees

The Academy of Mount St. Ursula is celebrating its 160th year of educating young women in the tradition of St. Angela Merici. Over the years, we have been blessed with the dedication and spirit of the Ursuline Sisters, gifted lay teachers, a well-coordinated administrative staff, and students who, to this day, remain the pride of all those invested in the education of the next generation of young women. As part of the celebration of 160 years of excellence, we welcome six exemplary honorees into the AMSU Hall of Fame.

Katherine Corticcio

“Excellence is not an accident, it is a choice you make every day.”
—Abraham Lincoln
When I meet students now, I stress that we are a college prep school, and they DO need to work hard to prepare for later on. I am starting my 39th year here and still having fun...

Estelle Harper Brocks ’45

Seventy years, a very long time, have passed since I became an alumna of the Academy of Mount St. Ursula. “The Mount,” as it was called back then, has been a significant part of my life over these years, as an active alumna, a parent, and eventually, a member of the faculty for thirty years. It played a key role in helping me become the person I am today, with its value oriented education and preparation for the challenges of college. It was here, too, that I made some life long friends and for all of these reasons I am very grateful to be honored as a member of the Hall of Fame.

Kathleen Treanor Tashner ’59

May AMSU continue to be the beacon of light in the Bronx that it was for my class when we entered the school in 1955 to celebrate the 100th anniversary. It has been an absolute pleasure to be part of the Mount St. Ursula family as a student, trustee and member of the Development Committee.

Carole Kakos ’61

I thank AMSU for honoring me with this induction into its 160th Anniversary Hall of Fame. It is a huge privilege for which I will be forever grateful. Over time many things may have changed at AMSU yet its mission of educating young women in the tradition of St. Angela Merici has continued for an extraordinary number of years. The values which were instilled in me, the lessons I learned and the memories I have from my four years at Mount have lasted me a lifetime. “Forward Mount St. Ursula” for at least another 160 years!!

Joan O’Meara Winant ’69

I am both overwhelmed and humbled by my inclusion in the Mount St. Ursula Hall of Fame. To do honor to the great Ursuline tradition of “Serviam” and to encourage others to follow the tradition will be my goal in accepting this unexpected honor.

Adrienne Rolla ’76

I am honored to have been selected for induction into the AMSU Hall of Fame. It is through our individual achievements that we can see AMSU’s true success in educating and mentoring young women for over 160 years.
We invite you to recognize this year's honorees and support AMSU by placing an ad in our 160th Anniversary Commemorative Journal.

Please check off the ad size you would like and mail to:

Academy of Mount St. Ursula
Office of Development/Alumnae Relations
330 Bedford Park Boulevard
Bronx, New York 10458

Artwork may be sent electronically to alumnae@amsu.org (Journal size is 8.5” w x 11” h)

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Journal Ads:
- Back Cover $3,000
- Inside Cover $2,000
- Full Gold Page $1,000
- Full White Page $500
- Half White Page $350
- Quarter White Page $200
- Booster $100

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Name of person/business:

________________________________________

Address          City          State          Zip

________________________________________

Phone: ____________________________________________
E-Mail: ___________________________________________

Total Amount Enclosed by check $ ________________________

Credit Card #: ___________________________________
Exp.: _____________________________________________
Signature: _________________________________________

Please make checks payable to: Academy of Mount St. Ursula | Deadline for ads is September 18, 2015
Academic Achievements

Commencement Addresses

Valedictorian - Karla Ortiz

...During senior year, we became young adults and began to prepare to leave AMSU. We took risks, survived the college application process, and savored every single moment.

In turn, AMSU will never forget about the Class of 2015 because of the mark we left behind during these past four years. Our class will always be known for having the amazing opportunity of having our last day of classes in the Convent building, graduating in a beautiful location, and having the honor of graduating during the 160th Anniversary of our school...

Salutatorian - Kathy Huot

...And so here we are! It's finally the big day. The day we transition from high school students into actual college/university students. Can you truly believe it's been four years? Ursula has truly lived up to its motto “Four years to last a Lifetime,” because the memories that came with attending this institution will never fade from my memory and I’m pretty sure they won’t fade from yours either...

To read the commencement addresses in their entirety, please visit AMSU.org or scan this QR code from your smartphone.

Academic Scholarships

The AMSU community would like to congratulate the Class of 2015 as they continue to learn and live their “Serviam” motto! Graduation was held on Saturday, June 6, at St. Philip Neri Church. “We are very proud of our AMSU seniors, and this year they earned $7.6 million in academic scholarships,” said AMSU Guidance Department Chairperson, Kathleen Ryan O’Connell ’85. Some of the more prominent college acceptances include: CUNY Hunter College, Fordham University, New York University, Pennsylvania State University, Quinnipiac University, Siena College, SUNY Binghamton University, Syracuse University, Trinity College, and Vassar College. On average, 98% of AMSU graduates attend college immediately after graduation since they are well prepared for college. At AMSU, students are supported by talented, caring and dedicated teachers, staff members and especially generous donors and contributors.

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

National Honor Society Inductees

On May 18, the Academy of Mount St. Ursula held its Annual Graduation Liturgy in the school chapel. Seniors: Alana Ali, Melissa Avila, Dipsy Bonilla, Shelandah Brissett, Destiny Cruz, Alexis Cumba, Keisy Gernosen, Emely Gomez, Kathy Huot, Ashley Lebron, Emely Martinez, Brianna Morris, Karla Ortiz, Stephanie Singh, Aida Tavarez, Thuy Tran, Brittnex Vargas, and Deija Williams were inducted into the National Honor Society based on evidence of good character, leadership and service. Each of these seniors maintained an average of 89.5 and devoted 10 hours to our after school tutoring program. In acknowledgment of their achievement, these seniors were given an official NHS award and a white rose at the graduation liturgy.

Congratulations to the Class of 2015 as they continue to learn and live their “serviam” motto! Graduates earned over $7.6 million in scholarships to college.
On May 18, Mrs. Laura Bush announced the 2015 library grants from The Laura Bush Foundation for America’s Libraries at Blackshear Elementary Fine Arts Academy in Austin, Texas. More than $875,000 is being distributed to 131 school libraries across the country. AMSU was one of the recipients of grant funds for our library.

AMSU offers six advanced placement courses, and two dual-credit enrollment programs, yet the resources in our school library cannot provide for the students’ needs. "Many of the resources the students use are provided through state-funded databases and state-loaned books. Despite how fortunate we are to have said resources, I’m often left struggling to find adequate information for our students for any given project," said AMSU Librarian, Jillian McCoy.

Thanks to the Laura Bush Foundation for America’s Libraries, AMSU will now have the ability to address the students’ needs on three levels. First, it will replace the old and worn volumes of classic literature now on our shelves, giving students more appealing, modern copies of the classic literature. This will increase the appeal of works written by the Bronte Sisters, Charles Dickens, and many other great writers of past and present, increasing the likelihood that our students will choose these books for their pleasure-reading.

Second, the grant will provide students with a greater range and diversity of classic literary novels to choose as their “supplementary reading” in their Advanced Placement English courses or for their own pleasure-reading. Students often stalk up to the desk requesting the “shortest thing on the supplementary reading list.” They want to read The Picture of Dorian Gray, Of Mice and Men, and The Yellow Wallpaper, to reduce the amount of time they spend reading what they perceive to be torturous and outdated works of literature. AMSU can now increase the appeal and scope of these novels, and have students choose what they read for their English classes based on their level of interest and engagement with the text, not the length of the novel.

Finally, the funds will provide the literary criticisms and analyses necessary for students to write excellent research papers on the literary works they have read.

“No matter what you want to be when you grow up – a doctor or a lawyer, a Senator, an artist, or a teacher, reading will help you reach your goal...By providing more schools with better reading materials, the Laura Bush Foundation helps students understand more of the world around them, and its limitless possibilities.”

~ Mrs. Laura Bush
In my case, retirement is too deceptive of a term. I wish to use the remainder of my life to pursue what Joseph Campbell refers to as "following your bliss." My mind is crammed full and exploding with visual ideas that I currently don't have the time to express. At this time my needs mentally and physically are to move to a place where I can have the time to explore and reach my own artistic potential. I will also attempt to continue to teach in book form. I hope the book, Docendo Discimus We Learn by Teaching, that I have been working on with former AMSU principal, Ms. Lisa Harrison, will get published within the year. I have a visual lesson plan book being worked on now and have a number of writings I would like to do as well. I will also be preparing for a one person show at the National Veterans Museum of Art in Chicago to be scheduled in 2017 or 2018. So I am not retiring—I am merely changing professional directions. My time at the Academy of Mount St. Ursula has delivered me right to the very door step of this change. I am fortunate to have been here and the art room has been my home for the past 14 years. It is a room filled with the many memories of the wonderful students I have worked with. One of the advantages of being an artist is that you never really leave. I will always be present in the building through the many pieces of art students and I have created and installed. We did it in service to our school and we did it to be a part of the AMSU community.

I have never taken working here for granted and am forever grateful for the opportunities provided by AMSU.

- Mr. Gary Horn

**Message from Sr. Jeannie**

*Thanks to the privilege of having the talented Mr. Gary Horn as the instructor, the Art Academy at AMSU continues to show exponential growth.

*We at AMSU have been greatly enriched by Gary's presence and his sharing of his wonderful talent with our AMSU community. He has done wonders with our students and has helped them really get a sense of detail and improve their visual skills. Our Advanced Art students will miss him greatly and so will we. However, as he said, he will always be present due to all the spectacular art work around our AMSU building. We wish Gary the best of luck in his future endeavors and send him off with many prayers, much gratitude and lots of blessings. We hope he will visit us in the years to come and keep in touch. AMSU will greet him with open arms and open hearts!*

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**DOCENDO DISCIMUS**

**WE LEARN BY TEACHING**

G. L. Horn

**Skaila Pyatt ’16 - Color Drawing**
Artists of works pictured above:

(1) Kathy Huot ’15
(2) Natalie Betances ’18
(3) Kathy Huot ’15
(4) Cassandra Santos ’16
(5) Bianca Jimenez ’18
Performing Arts

Highlights from the Stage

This past school year, AMSU was blessed to have many talented young women in the performing arts. Music teacher, Laura Mulholland has reached her 4th year at AMSU, and the school witnessed the fruits of her labor through the performances this year, particularly from members of the senior class.

The AMSU production of "The Sound of Music" was unique in that many seniors who had never been on stage in a musical, performed in the show as chorus members and in leading roles. Though this also brought some challenges to the directorial staff, it also brought a fresh presence to the performance. Senior Emely Martinez, who had never had a solo in front of an audience, brought the role of Liesl to life! Faculty joked with her about how she had "come out from behind her guitar." Even though students struggled with rehearsal time conflicts and snow days, the performers, stage crew and faculty all managed to pull together to create a wonderful and touching performance of this timeless classic.

Another highlight of the performances this year was our Spring Concert. The sophomore class was particularly wonderful and they had many different acts that made the show spectacular. Another example of growth in our students were the performances from the Juilliard Music students, whose talents greatly developed this year. The flute and clarinet classes gave their best performances yet, and we hope to see even more great things from our freshmen Juilliard members in the future.

The performing arts program also featured a dance group from Cardinal Hayes High School, comprised of dancers from Hayes, AMSU and Aquinas High School, who did a fantastic Salsa number. The group had been practicing many months for a show at Cardinal Hayes. When AMSU learned that the show had been cancelled, AMSU invited them to perform the routine at our Spring show. The moderator of the CHHS Dance club, Lesley Sarran, and her students were very appreciative for the opportunity to showcase their dance skills!
Technology at AMSU

The Class of 2015 participated in one of the most media-rich courses in the 160 year history of AMSU. Students from the Media Arts and Applications course took over three thousand pictures of almost every school event. They completed a 144-page yearbook, the Montis. The class also learned material from four college courses from the University of Texas. The students created 10 short films covering many topics including: haunted houses, what teachers do after school, and what it was like to be at AMSU for four years. Next year's class will cover AMSU events on the new school newspaper website. Please visit www.amsunews.org to read about everything that is happening at AMSU!
Serving the Community

Once again, AMSU students exemplified Serviam during this 2014-2015 school year. Many local organizations welcomed their service. The students volunteered many hours at Concourse House, Serviam Gardens, Part of the Solution (POTS), and the AMSU-Hayes Program for Exceptional People. They also spent time tutoring in after school programs as well as participating in marathons and community activities in their own neighborhoods.

Along with these established programs students participated in the Climate March of over 400,000 participants in September, in the International Day of the Girl in October, and in the week of meetings for the Commission on the Status of Women in March. This year those who attended the UN meetings gave a presentation at an AMSU assembly for the whole student body. They shared the experiences of girls in developing countries and the many efforts of well organized coalitions working generously and effectively to empower girls and to provide them with protection and opportunities.

Each year students work with Charity Champions to fund raise for an organization of AMSU’s choosing. This year the students had a Christmas boutique and raffled a gingerbread house donated by AMSU Assistant Principal, Carolyn Duggan. They also held an Easter boutique and raffled off a gift certificate to H&M and a basket of cosmetics, also donated by Mrs. Duggan. The money raised, along with a matching check of $1,000 from Charity Champions, was given to support a safe house for victims of human trafficking run by LifeWay Network. An Ursuline Sister who is part of the host community of this safe house received the check at an assembly.

Another Serviam effort was the writing of hundreds of letters to women and children who came to the United States as refugees from violence in Central America and are now being held in detention centers in Texas. AMSU young women spent countless hours creatively decorating these cards and writing heartfelt notes to let the refugees know that AMSU cares.

Some students are signed up for summer programs like FEMSEM, an effort to give girls knowledge, support and networks to address the “gender justice moment,” and a Bronx Museum of Art effort to help students reflect and act on social justice issues that affect the Bronx community.

Outstanding Leadership and Service Awards

At this year’s graduation ceremony, the following seniors were recognized with special awards for their leadership and service during their years at AMSU:

Keisy Germosen and Karla Ortiz: for Character and the Pursuit of Excellence, in memory of Marcella C. Maher

Emely Martinez, Karla Ortiz and Brittney Vargas: for Spirit, Leadership and Service, in memory of Ruth McEvoy ’25

Kayla Ortiz and Brittney Vargas: Ursuline Serviam Award for Service to School, Civic, Church and Community
Documentary Showing
*The Heart of a Murderer*

Thanks to AMSU Religious Studies Department Chairperson, Leo Soliman and the Idente Missionaries, who shepherd Our Lady of Solace/St. Dominic Parish in the Bronx, presented a documentary to the AMSU students. This documentary film, *The Heart of a Murderer*, was aimed at teaching a most difficult kind of forgiveness. The beautifully crafted film portrayed a family not only forgiving, but also embracing as their own son, the man who murdered their daughter/sister.

The entire AMSU student body was moved by the film. The response of the students was very intense. Their hearts were touched by the forgiveness granted to the murderer by the family of his victim. The students posed very intelligent questions after the presentation. Joining the student body for the presentation and discussion was the protagonist of the story, Fr. Swami, film director; Catherine McGilvary, film producer; Renato Spaventa, film presentation coordinator; Eleanna Gugliemli, M. Id, secretary of Rielo Institute of Integral Development; Sonia Martinez; Subin Ditto, M.Id; Fr. Robert P. Badillo, M.Id, Pastor of Our Lady of Solace/St. Dominic Parish, Bronx and brother of alumna, Dr. Mary Elizabeth Badillo ’84. All were impressed by the reverence of our young women and school community. AMSU is lucky to have such wonderful international connections. It enables the AMSU community to fulfill part of its mission by instilling a broader global view among our students.

A Special Visit from Rome

On Tuesday, April 14, Sr. Neusimar Marques da Silva, osu from the General Government of the Ursuline Sisters of the Roman Union visited AMSU. Sr. Neusimar is originally from Brazil. She attended a few classes, met with Student Council representatives and heard about the Commission on the Status of Women from Sr. Alice Marie Giordano, osu ’52 and our AMSU young women who attended this event at the United Nations in March. Our students and faculty were magnificent in hosting her and accompanying her during classroom visits. The discussion was lively and spirited showing the energy and enthusiasm which prevails at AMSU. Sr. Neusimar enjoyed all the conversations she participated in and the learning she witnessed. She was very impressed by how the staff at AMSU are encouraging our young women to think differently about the world and aspire to make a difference in it.
Student Events

Career Day

On Friday, May 1, AMSU’s Guidance Department Chair, Kathleen Ryan O’Connell ’85; Guidance Counselor, Brianne O’Hare; Teacher, Jennifer Carey Neal ’05; and Library Media Specialist, Jillian McCoy, hosted Career Day for the junior class at AMSU. Men and women from various professions spoke about their careers in Finance, Accounting, Law, Education, Occupational Therapy, Urban Development, Law Enforcement, Art, Non-Profit Organizations, Physical Therapy and Medicine. Among these presenters were AMSU alumnae Francesca Kosick-Bossey ’86, Slowmon Hastanan ’81, Michelle Kelleher ’81, Lee Lambelis ’79, Amy Malave ’99, Roxanna Chowdhry-Velasquez ’94, and Dr. Denia Varrasso ’74, who spoke about how well their education at AMSU helped them to prepare for their career paths and emphasized the importance of following one’s dreams.

Teacher Appreciation

Teacher Appreciation week was particularly special this year. AMSU senior, Keisy Germosen ’15 initiated the production of a faculty and staff photo booklet from Chatbooks. Keisy designed the booklet utilizing faculty and staff event pictures taken throughout the year. The Student Council members collaborated on a fundraiser for the production of the printed booklets. A single bake sale covered the expense of the printing and gift wrapping. The students presented the books as gifts to all faculty and staff members in appreciation for their hard work and dedication. Religion teacher, Vincent Amendola said, “this was the best teacher appreciation gift I have ever received in my 34 years of teaching.”

Enrichment Day

On Wednesday, April 29, AMSU students and faculty enjoyed an Enrichment trip day. Students and faculty went on trips to the Bronx Zoo, Hayden Planetarium, Medieval Times, Pizza Making, Frick Museum, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Comedy Show, Juilliard Brass Concert, Madame Tussaud’s Wax Museum, and Ripley’s Believe It or Not. Learning took place in a real world setting. Students who went to Medieval Times wore homemade hats representing Europe during the Middle Ages and before leaving for the trip four students (Danielle Cruz ’15, Cinthia Ibarra ’16, Adrena Lambert ’16, Sabyne Santiago ’16) were knighted by Ms. Corticcio in recognition of their service accomplishment. These four young women had the highest number of hours of service. The group of 38 students completed 1700 hours of service. What a wonderful example of living out our SERVIAM motto! The sophomore AP European History class and six seniors went with Mrs. Fabrizio and Mrs. Sipe to the Metropolitan Museum of Art to view European Art of the Italian and Northern Renaissance. Ms. Peri and Mrs. Kelly had the opportunity to make pizza with some of our students.

Helene Butler ’90 discusses career options with current AMSU students
**Annual Benefactor Breakfast**

On Thursday, May 14, the Academy of Mount St. Ursula held its Annual Benefactor Mass and Breakfast. Among the attendees were Ann Bangert ’55, Sr. Barbara Calamari, osu, Sr. Alice Marie Giordano, osu ’52, Sr. Kathleen Finnerty, osu ’56, Judy Coyle Boyle ’57, Kathleen Treanor Tashner ’59, Susan McCarthy Cronin ’65, Anne Marie Hynes ’67, Eileen McCarthy ’69, Debra Kiernan O’Connor ’77, Lisa Galdi, Fran Manushkin, Elysia Doyle, Teresa Sammon, Sr. Maria Rosa Deiso, osu, Ellen Verrier Brillo, Meghan Murphy, Christine Arzeno, Teresa Buoninfante, and Sr. Sheila Campbell, osu ’61. A total of thirty-eight students representing each grade enjoyed spending time with their sponsors, and thanked them for their generosity, love, and support. Senior, Karla Ortiz, shared her experience at AMSU and credited her benefactor, AMSU Board Chair, Susan McCarthy Cronin ’65, for giving her “Four Years to Last a Lifetime.”

**Athletics**

Several of our athletic teams had the opportunity to engage in various events during the school year. In December, AMSU participated in the 2nd Annual Kalie Gill Memorial Basketball Tournament at St. Barnabas High School and an Ursuline Sister Schools Tournament in February. The Ursuline School in New Rochelle, as well as Ursuline schools in Dedham, Massachusetts, St. Louis, Missouri, and Wilmington, Delaware were also present at this tournament. The team appreciated the opportunity to meet students from the other Ursuline schools and tour the facilities at the College of New Rochelle. The volleyball team was involved in a similar tournament in October.

The cheerleading team attended a clinic at Fordham University in February where they got a feel for college cheerleading. Fordham University’s cheerleaders taught the students new cheers and stunting techniques.

The AMSU Step Team had several field trips this year, the first of which was to the Big Apple Classic at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn in December. In February, they performed at a Black History Month event at PS 75 in Manhattan, as well as at the Bronx Day Parade in May.

AMSU’s athletic community celebrated the year’s achievements at the Annual Sports Dinner on June 3rd. The basketball, softball, volleyball, cheerleading and Step teams were all acknowledged for their triumphs. A special thank you was given to 10 senior athletes who were true leaders within their respective teams; the final honor of the evening, the Athletic Director’s Award, was given to senior volleyball captain, Destiny Cruz.
The Rising Moxie Conference included:

- Educate and inspire more young girls to venture off to college and experience higher education.
- Empower students and their parents to take control of their futures and the college process.
- Incentivize parents’ attendance and support for their daughters by hosting workshops in both English and Spanish.
- Foster a community for the students and parents alike that will help more young women achieve their academic, professional and personal goals.

Approximately 60 girls and their parents attended the conference. The keynote address, by Michelle Herrera Mulligan, provided the attendees with a glimpse into what is possible even when faced with naysayers. Born and raised in Chicago, Herrera Mulligan is an author, blogger and all around inspiration. As the Editor-in-Chief of Cosmo for Latinas since 2011, Herrera Mulligan shared her personal story and insights into navigating the world and following your dreams. After giving the keynote address, Herrera Mulligan stayed to listen in on the workshops and network with the girls.

The student track included topics like women’s empowerment, college life, financial aid and the difference between safety and reach schools. The parent track focused on strategies for letting go and allowing their students to take calculated risks such as living on campus or going away to school. Speakers focused on helping parents identify key programs like the Higher Education Opportunity Program, SEEK or College Discovery as programs that can help their students identify financial aid and academic enrichment opportunities. The conference ended with networking and a college fair. It was truly an empowering, enlightening and emboldening opportunity for all who participated—student, parents, volunteers and conference organizers alike.

Neither rain nor flood could keep this conference from happening. Principal Sr. Jeannie Humphries was a champion for this event, working with Latinas in Higher Education and Be Moxie to insure that students and parents were informed and excited about the conference. Moxie means to have vigor, verve and determination. We are confident that the young women who attended the Rising Moxie Conference have the moxie to be successful in their post-secondary careers.

The Rising Moxie Conference was generously sponsored by State Farm, Admittedly, OPI, Crunch, LA Fresh, OMG Photography, L&S and Cosmopolitan for Latinas. To learn more about Latinas in Higher Education visit www.latinasinhighereducation.com. To learn more about Be Moxie, visit bemoxie.org.
It is an honor to serve an institution that is empowering young women for leadership and service to our world. It really is my privilege to say, “Come and visit. Come and meet some of the outstanding students that make AMSU a wonderful community.” Meeting our students will change you forever. It will teach you about hope in the future. It will convince you that these young women will make a positive difference in our world. Believe me, it is worth the trip. I will greet you at the door and introduce you to the women who will be the change makers for the next generation. They are our students and they are truly remarkable!

Maureen Donlon
When my colleagues and I learned in January 2014 that after 115 years Mother Cabrini High School would close at the end of the school year, we were devastated. More importantly, our students, their families, and the Washington Heights community were deeply distressed. However, how fortunate many of the Cabrini freshmen and juniors were to be accepted to the Academy of Mount St. Ursula. I, too, was most fortunate, to secure a position in the English Department at AMSU. The students and I were greeted with open arms, minds, and hearts and were readily made to feel a part of the AMSU family.

Mother Cabrini’s philosophy of education was centered on the “education of the heart,” that is the education of the whole person. Here at AMSU with a focus on academics, the arts, and service, that philosophy is also in place. The development of the mind, character, heart, and soul of the students that was begun at Cabrini has continued at AMSU. How lucky the current sophomores and seniors are to have continued their education at AMSU, making a smooth transition to their new school.

Although after thirty-nine years in the Catholic school system, I am retiring at the end of the school year, it has been my privilege to have been a part of the AMSU community this year. I have met so many generous and dedicated colleagues and have been shown wonderful support and friendship by all staff, faculty, and administrators. I am especially grateful to Joan Sipe and Amanda Mirabella, my colleagues in the English Department, who have helped me so much.

Now I am looking forward to visiting my family and friends and having time to read and coming back to visit at AMSU which I know will continue its mission for the next 160 years.
Student Events
STUDENT EVENTS

1. Mother-Daughter Communion Breakfast
2. Open Mic
3. Mother-Daughter Fashion Show
4. Open Mic, Emely Martinez ’15
5. Spring Musical, “The Sound of Music”
6. Graduation Liturgy
7. Judy Coyle Boyle ’57 with students at Annual Benefactor Mass and Breakfast
8. Ursuline Sisters attend Annual Benefactor Mass and Breakfast (l-r):
   Sr. Maria Rosa Deiso, osu, Sr. Barbara Calamari, osu, Sr. Kathleen Finnerty, osu ’56,
   Sr. Jean Marie Humphries, osu, Ph.D. ’89, Sr. Alice Marie Giordano, osu ’52 and
   Sr. Sheila Campbell, osu ’61
9. The Class of 2015 Commencement Ceremony at St. Philip Neri Church
10. Class of 2015 graduates
11. Senior Brunch for the Class of 2015
Alumnae Events
ALUMNAE EVENTS

1. Katherine Corticcio and Debbie Maragoudakis ’90
2. Current and Former AMSU Faculty and Staff at AMSU Appreciation Breakfast
3. AMSU Appreciation Breakfast attendees Gladys Grimaldi, P ’03, Sr. Pat Schlili, osu ’78 and Renee DeGroat-Dillon ’89
4. Class of 1985 in AMSU Chapel with Sr. Mary Beth Read, osu, Sr. Barbara Calamari, osu and Katherine Corticcio
5. Catherine Fuller ’82, Claudia Toni-Smith ’92 and Ginny Ceruasi smile for a photo at the AMSU Appreciation Breakfast
6. Tabrizia Jones ’05, Melissa Audain ’05, and Deanna Laurie ’06 at the 160th Anniversary Mass
7. Rosa Castillo-Rivera ’90 and Maria Diaz ’90 show off their AMSU sweatshirts at the Alumnae Reunion
8. Alumnae from the Class of 1985 gather for the 160th Mass at AMSU
9. Members of the Class of 1965 celebrate their 50th Reunion
10. Offering of gifts at the 160th Anniversary Mass
11. Fr. John Vigilanti and Sr. Alice Marie Giordano, osu ’52

More photos from the alumnae reunion can be found in AMSU’s Shutterfly account by going to the following link:
http://amsupictures.shutterfly.com/alumnae2015
Class Notes

1947
Kathleen Rees Klein was recently honored by Timothy Cardinal Dolan for creating a new logo for the Ladies of Charity which identifies their mission, “Ladies of Charity...Making a Difference.” Kathleen has been a volunteer for 40 years as art director for the Ladies of Charity. She not only designed the group's new logo, she has created many brochures and reports, among other items. Kathleen has served twice on the Ladies of Charity board of directors as vice president. She has volunteered at her parish, Resurrection in Rye, and at the former St. Vincent's Hospital in Manhattan. Ironically, Kathleen also designed the AMSU logo which the school still uses on all of its materials. Thank you, Kathleen, for sharing your artistic talents. Congratulations!

1954
Sr. Maryellen Keefe, OSU, Ph.D currently teaches at SUNY Maritime College where she is an Associate Professor of Humanities. Her electives include “The Bible as in Literature” and “Irish History and Literature.” Sr. Maryellen is also Moderator of the Newman Club and she just completed a seven year stint as University Faculty Senator for the University Faculty Senate which represents all of SUNY’s 64 colleges and universities. Sr. Maryellen would like to have a book signing at AMSU for interested alums or students. The biography of Sally Benson is doing well. Its title is CASUAL AFFAIRS: the LIFE and FICTION of SALLY BENSON.

1957
Dottie Maiuzzo Muccigrosso loves to hear from AMSU. She remembers celebrating the 100th anniversary as a student so many years ago. They presented a pageant and she recalls wearing a paper bag on her head as part of a tableau of Egypt. Today Dottie is retired as an assistant superintendent for the Archdiocese of New York. Due to the work ethic instilled in her at AMSU, she continues to work as a program manager for Sylvan Learning. She is also a consultant and adjunct professor at Manhattanville College and works with both graduate and undergrads as a field supervisor. Her newest challenge is the edTPA.

1966
Catherine Caceci Burke and her husband Bill have two grown children, Catherine, married to Harris O’Malley and living in Austin, TX and Thomas, married to Kristin (nee Shiffer) and living in Rochester, NY. Bill was an administrator for the New York State Department of Correctional Services for over 30 years while Catherine worked part-time, at home, raising her two wonderful children, both Skidmore College graduates. Their son-in-law, Harris, also graduated from Skidmore in Saratoga Springs, NY with their daughter and is a published writer. Catherine received an Enhanced Master's Degree in Medieval History from Syracuse University and is employed at Austin Community College. Their daughter-in-law, Kristin, is a graduate of Georgetown University with a master's in public health and works at Catholic Charities in Rochester, NY. Bill retired in 2006 and has been very active in Hospice and Northeast Regional Food Bank, as well as Clan Campbell Society and the St. Andrew's Society of Albany. In their retirement they stay active in their church. Catherine serves as vice-president of the Ladies’ Society and well as being a member of PEO, Philanthropic Educational Organization. The whole ‘gang’ love to travel and do so as often as time and resources allow. The above photo was taken by their son, Thomas, in 2009 on a family trip to Italy.

1967
Melissa Gabriel, LCSW is currently working at The Community Counseling Center of Moorestown VNA in Moorestown, NJ as a licensed clinical outpatient therapist with children, adults and families. Melissa received her Master’s in Counseling from NYU and a Master’s in Social Work from the University of Pennsylvania. She lives in Westmont, NJ and will be semi-retiring in 2016.

Anne Marie Nichol Hynes sent in this update: The Order of Malta is a lay religious group comprised of approximately 14,000 members. Founded 900 years ago by Blessed Gerard to assist the poor and sick, the Order of Malta provides help in disasters all over the world. At the beginning of May each year, the Knights and Dames of Malta bring the sick to Lourdes to gather and pray. Groups from many countries join in procession to pray for spiritual and physical healing. This year, the American Chapter of
the Knights and Dames of Malta chartered a plane with 450 people to Lourdes. Among the Dames were three graduates from AMSU, pictured left to right: Anne Marie Nichol Hynes, Peg Lyons, and Dolores Baldwin O’Callaghan.

1968
Theresa A. Orsogna says there is a private Facebook group of several members of MSU ’68. They all care for each other, send prayers and encouragement. They also just have fun. "MSU brought us together and keeps us together. My BFFs are all Mounties and that says it all!"

1969
The class of ’69 had a mini-reunion on March 22, 2015. They had a great time catching up with each other’s latest adventures and hope to get together again this summer.

Left to right in photo: Margaret Lenihan Bavosa, Joan Carty, Pat Groark McCormack, Pat Dolan Manning, Patty Platan, Barbara Montenero DeAngelo, Joan O’Meara Winant, Eileen Mulligan McCarthy, Linda Christof Guglielmo, Pat Kelleher Marquart, Tania Degen

1970
Grace Monahan McNamara’s daughter, Lara Marie McNamara, graduated from Maria Regina High School this June and will be attending Utica College in Utica, New York this September. She is going to be on the swim team and seems excited about this new road in her life.

Monica Signorini Delaurentis welcomed her fourth grandchild, first granddaughter, Avery Monica McCartin. She was born on May 22, 2015 at 6 lbs. 7 oz. and 19.5 inches long. Monica’s grandsons; Trey 7 years, Aidan 5 years from daughter Kathryn, and Dylan 3 years from daughter Kristin, are excited about Avery’s arrival!

1974
Andrea Cerbone Adovasio and her husband Bob became first-time grandparents of Valentina Camille born on April 2, 2015. Their daughter and son-in-law, Danielle and Stephen DePalma, are the proud parents.

1979
Frances Ayers recently moved to Brooklyn. After graduating from AMSU, she earned her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees from Mercy College and Fordham University, respectively. Her degrees are in Social Work and she has worked in the child welfare field. Frances is also a published Poet and she is working on a collection of new poems.

1987
Nancy Rodrigue just graduated from Lehman’s School Building Leadership program, and earned her MS in Educational Leadership. Two other AMSU ladies were in the program with her: Evelyn Mendez ’99, and Virginia Cavigliano ’82.

1990
Debbie Maragoudakis had an amazing time celebrating her 25th year reunion at the Shenorock Shore Club in Rye, NY. “It was a great choice!” Seeing her fellow classmates and being able to dance and laugh with them is now a memory she will treasure forever. She is looking forward to the next one.

1991
Annette Kazmerski moved to Los Angeles back in 1997 to attend UCLA School of Law, and she liked it enough to stay. She started her practice of law in small firms in the areas of business litigation, bankruptcy, and intellectual property, and in 2010 was lucky enough to move in-house. In the fall of 2013, Annette moved to a second company, Conif Seguros, a nationwide insurance distribution company that owns several well-known brands, including Freeway Insurance (“That thing you’re speeding on!”). In her free time, she loves enjoying what L.A. has to offer, including concerts on the Sunset Strip and beyond, all manner of theater and other live entertainment events, a veritable “foodie paradise” that includes everything from food trucks to gourmet restaurants, and a number of fabulous and fascinating museums. Annette also loves relaxing at home with her significant other, Randall, and their family of 4 cats and a tiny, spoiled Chihuahua named Robin. She would love to hear from old friends and can always be reached by email at annette@post.harvard.edu.
Diana Derrig Castro announces that she was married on April 26, 2014. Her sister Helena Derrig Nielsen ’88 was matron of honor and her son was the ring bearer (he was 4 at the time).

1999

Amy Malave recently resigned from AMSU. However, she moves forward to put into practice what AMSU has taught her, SERVIAM. She is so happy to serve her community. She started her own non-profit organization called Isabel’s Empowering Queens in memory of her daughter. Their mission is to love, nurture, guide and above all, empower young women in the community to be strong and successful. Since leaving in May, Amy has had so many invitations to meet young women in various schools and it is with great joy that she shares what she was taught at AMSU. Amy thanks her family and AMSU for nourishing her to become the woman that she is today, and to be able to pay it forward to other young women. Amy has found her purpose on earth. She knows that this is her mission. ‘As women we already face so many challenges, so teaching women to empower each other is what makes my soul sing.’

2005

Carla Lide was sad to leave AMSU earlier this year, but ready for a new chapter in her life! She is now a coordinator within the NFL’s Player Engagement Department. This department develops assistance programs for all the players in the league. She is working primarily on: The Career Transition Program which assists players in their transition out of the NFL (designing workshops to help them with their resumes, interviewing process, and overall career search); and the Rookie Symposium creating programs to prep all the new players who are entering the NFL for the first time. Her main focus is on a new Domestic Violence Prevention Program and executing educational workshops that surround player conduct issues. Carla is also assisting in the NFL Draft, Super Bowl, The Combine and various annual events. This ’05 AMSU Lady Bear plans to take over the NFL!

2009

Julissa Contreras has great news to share! In December she started as a 5th grade teaching assistant at the Academic Leadership Charter School in the South Bronx. She was recently promoted to a Lead 5th Grade Teacher position. Julissa is also beginning her second year as a Grad student at Lehman College’s Social Studies Secondary Education MA program.

2014

Sorinil Barea, along with Sr. Elisa Ryan, osu, Sr. Jean Hopman, osu, and five young alumnae from Ursuline Academy St. Louis, embarked on the very first Ursuline Alumnae Service Trip to New Orleans. Sorinil had the following thoughts on the trip: “We all shared in a common experience through Ursuline education that brought us there. It was evident through our excitement that all of us felt passionate about our calling to serve while growing in Spirituality, Sisterhood, and Simplicity.

We ran a week long art camp at St. Jude’s Church on the border of the French Quarter for children, ages 5-9. This was the first year that the camp had 6 alumnae volunteers. Our days began bright and early around the breakfast table with a conversation about the previous day. The camp ran until early afternoon. After camp, we would rest and attend an evening mass at the beautiful National Shrine of Our Lady of Prompt Succor. Our evenings were filled with laughter, smiles, and many hugs as we were made to feel greatly appreciated for our work by the locals, alumnae, and the Ursuline Sisters of New Orleans. We ended our days in reflection and prayer in the spirit of Serviam. This experience was both humbling and filled with growth in each of us as individuals and members of the Ursuline community.”

“Have hope and firm faith in God, for He will help you in everything!”

~ St. Angela Merici
In Memoriam

Agnes Donnelly Hartman '44

Jean Wilson Tharp '47
Beloved Sister of
Sr. Stephanie Wilson, osu

Ann Towers Lewis '50

Dr. Elynore Clark Cucinell '52

Alice Moffatt '55

Teresa R. Fiorino Campana '55
Beloved Mother of
Maria Campana Schmid '95
and AMSU Faculty Member 1988-1997

Marjorie Joyce
Beloved Mother of
Marjorie Joyce Tabak '71,
Jane Joyce '73 and
Laura Joyce '78

Bernard Boland
Beloved Father of
Theresa Boland-Spear '77

Evril Renwick
Beloved Mother of
Dianne Renwick Johnson '78,
Lucille Renwick Archibold '83 and
Mother-in-law of
Bernadette Noel Renwick '78

Penelope Law
Beloved Mother-in-Law of
Josephine Pirrone Law '89

Karolyn Roberts '90

Michelle Irizarry Paulino '95

Valerie Castillo '99

Rosana Curth
AMSU Physical Education Teacher and
Tennis Coach 2003-2004

Francis Boland
Beloved Father of
Kathleen Boland Skeehan
Former AMSU Guidance Counselor 2004-2014

2016 Alumnae Reunion
Classes ending in 1s and 6s
mark your calendars!
Saturday, April 16, 2016
is the day to celebrate your
graduation from AMSU.

Save the DATE!
SAVE THE DATE
OPEN HOUSE
Sunday, October 18, 2015
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

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