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:

This Take Note arrives after a wonderfully successful 160th Anniversary celebration at the New York Botanical Garden last October and the conclusion of our Capital Campaign, Ensure Their Future, which surpassed our $3 million dollar goal!

A most sincere thanks to all who stepped up to the plate, and there were many of you. As I wrote in our 160th Anniversary Journal, paraphrasing the Roman historian Tacitus: "Victory has many fathers, failure is an orphan." Here at AMSU we benefit from the many committed constituencies who understand the importance of providing young women a solid academic foundation, an ecumenical spiritual environment reflecting the broad welcome of Pope Francis, and the Ursuline charism of Serviam.

Our students are some of the most wonderful students you will find in any Catholic high school in the Archdiocese of New York. If you have any doubts about that, I challenge you to make an appointment and visit the school. Meet the students. Sit in on a class. Listen to the chatter and laughter. We are doing our very best to utilize the resources at our disposal to assist every student, regardless of their academic potential. Our teachers are diligent in helping all students.

We are extremely proud of our senior, Cinthia Ibarra (graduate of Our Lady of Victory), the student body president, who was awarded a QuestBridge scholarship of up to $200,000. Cinthia has chosen the University of Pennsylvania from a very select list, including Brown, University of Chicago, Columbia, Dartmouth, MIT, Notre Dame, Princeton, Stanford, Yale, etc. The goal of QuestBridge is to select the brightest low-income students for America’s best universities and opportunities. How many other “Cinthias” are here in the Bronx who could benefit from your support and the education we offer?

As we look to the future, our goal is to work for an increase in enrollment (not easy as parochial grammar schools vanish) and attack the infrastructure issues now facing our building: boiler, windows, roof, sidewalk repair, new signage, etc.

As many of you know, the Ursuline Convent has been sold as of December 31, 2015. The property has been divided. We now stand alone. Adjustments need to be made, including the construction of a new parking lot for teachers and staff this coming summer, a gift of the Bedford Park Community of Ursulines. Stay tuned and do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. Again, many thanks for your support.

Sincerely,

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

What an exciting year it has been at AMSU for this 2015-2016 academic year! We had such a wonderful gathering of alumnae, benefactors, current and former administrators, faculty and staff, friends, students and Ursuline Sisters for our 160th Anniversary Gala at the New York Botanical Garden right here in our own neighborhood. As one of our student leaders remarked to me, "I love the way all graduates speak so highly of their AMSU education. I’m so happy to know that I am connected to such a great community of people!" Yes, we are very blessed to be part of the Academy of Mount St. Ursula.

AMSU is currently in the midst of our Admissions Process, preparing to meet the Class of 2020. We recently held a Scholars Dinner and a Second Look Open House for accepted students and their families. You could hear wonderful chatter, great laughter and a real sense of desire to meet our new students. What was so impressive at both was seeing our current students talk about their AMSU education and experience. Our students greeted each person with a firm handshake, maintained eye contact, smiled broadly and then went on to engage the person in conversation. You should have heard some of them talk about frog dissection, algebra algorithms, music theory, tower building and animation work. Be sure to read about the various academic departments as you go through this publication.

Not only did the students share about academics, but they also made sure people heard about the AMSU sisterhood, the various clubs, activities and opportunities. During the Second Look Open House, our young women walked around taking photos, filming, playing musical instruments, performing culture dances, and practicing their lines for our school play. Visitors were able to view a basketball game with our cheerleaders cheering on our team.

Our students are truly achieving their academic potential through their hard work and the dedication of our exceptionally caring teachers. Every teacher works diligently to help all students succeed. Our teachers definitely follow Angela’s words: engrave each one’s mind, heart and character on your heart. Our AMSU young women are quite impressive!

College acceptances and scholarships have already started coming in. Check out our most recent list at www.amsu.org.

Thank you to all who help us provide the academics, extra-curricular activities and opportunities that we offer to our families. We all appreciate your support very much.

Please know that you are welcome to visit AMSU at any time. Come meet our students, faculty and experience all the energy and excitement our young women display daily. I guarantee they will inspire you.

Prayers and blessings,

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

Dear AMSU Alumnae and Friends,

We are off to a great start this year by surpassing our Ensure Their Future Capital Campaign $3 million goal. We are extremely grateful to everyone who contributed and helped make this fundraiser for scholarships and financial assistance a great success.

The school’s Annual Fund drive is our most important fundraiser of the year. AMSU is extremely fortunate to have so many alumnae and friends who give so generously. We depend on this support to assist in closing the gap between tuition and the cost to educate. This year our tuition is $7,900 while the cost to educate is over $16,000. Many of our families can barely afford the tuition. However, we want to encourage our families to enroll their daughters, to give them the opportunity for a wonderful education with a chance to attend a college of her choice when she graduates AMSU. There is still time to participate and also consider a matching gift from your company or that of your spouse. You can double the impact of your gift!

At AMSU we like to plan fun and spirited events in support of our students. Some upcoming dates to mark on your calendar are:

- April 16th - Alumnae Reunion for Classes ending in 1s and 6s at Maestro’s Catering in the Bronx
- April 28th - Painting with AMSU Friends at AMSU partnering with Yummi Studios (to register visit the following link: http://www.eventbrite.com/e/fundraiser-for-academy-of-mount-st-ursula-painting-with-amsu-friends-bronx-ny-tickets-20967487319)
- May 4th - Alex and Ani Event, Rye N.Y.
- May 5th - Benefactor Mass and Breakfast & Cinco de Mayo Raffle
- October 28th - Salsa and Chips

My hope is that you continue to support our mission. The Academy of Mount St. Ursula is where the women who will be the future leaders of our society continue to be educated!

Warm Regards,

Anna Parra
Executive Director of Development

"What is success? To laugh often and much; To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; To earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; To appreciate beauty; To find the best in others; To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived; This is to have succeeded."

- Bessie Anderson Stanley
Dear Alumnae and Friends of AMSU,

St. Angela Merici the foundress of the Ursulines urges her followers to cultivate the vine entrusted to them. It is in this spirit that the Ursuline Sisters, who sponsor AMSU, retained the Meitler Group, a nationally recognized educational consulting firm, to assess AMSU’s present challenges and provide recommendations to position AMSU to face these challenges and stabilize its future.

Recently this process has been completed and proposed recommendations have been received and discussed by the Board of Trustees and the Ursuline Sisters. We write now to inform you, our alumnae and friends, of two significant recommendations which will be implemented in the near future.

- AMSU will engage in the creation of a five year strategic plan. We will begin this process immediately in order to have this roadmap for our future completed before the next school year starts.

- AMSU will restructure and streamline the school’s administration to be more in line with a school of our scale, size and complexity. After thoughtful consideration, the Board of Trustees and the Ursuline Sisters have made the decision to change the AMSU’s administrative structure. Beginning July 1, 2016, the structure will return to the model of leadership of a single Principal.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Fr. John Vigilanti for his eight years of service as President. He not only led AMSU’s daily life, but also its extended 160th anniversary celebration and successful Capital Campaign. Father John previously served as a valued member of the AMSU faculty. During all these years he has faithfully supported the educational mission of AMSU and touched the lives of many students and other members of the AMSU family.

The faculty at AMSU is recognized for its tireless dedication, commitment, and hard work throughout the school year, and beyond. Their efforts are the primary reason that our Academy of Mount St. Ursula students receive a thorough college preparatory education in the tradition of the Ursuline Sisters emphasizing academics, arts, and service.

We extend to Sr. Jeannie Humphries, our current principal, our gratitude and support during this transition. Sr. Jeannie will remain as Principal of AMSU. We invite you to join us in prayerfully sending positive energy towards this endeavor.

St. Angela’s words have guided the growth and development of AMSU through many decades. You, our alumnae and friends, have supported this growth by your overwhelming and consistent generosity. Our history of 160 years would not be the same without you. While change is difficult and AMSU faces challenges, the Board of Trustees and the Ursuline Sisters look forward to your continued support in revitalizing our urban school and implementing any needed reorganization so that AMSU can continue to offer “Four years to last a lifetime.”

With sincere appreciation,

Susan McCarthy Cronin
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Sr. Jane Finnerty, OSU
Chair of the Members of AMSU Corporation
The Academy of Mount St. Ursula Celebrates Its 160th Anniversary

On Friday, October 16th, the Academy of Mount St. Ursula celebrated its 160th Anniversary in Educating Young Women at a special event held at the New York Botanical Garden. The monumental evening was hosted by Grammy-nominated singer, actress and author, Vanessa Williams, and recognized the hard work and dedication of six women; Estelle Harper Brocks ’45, Katherine Corticcio, Carole Kakos ’61, Adrienne Rolla ’76, Katherine Treanor Tashner ’59 and Joan O’Meara Winant ’69 as they were inducted into AMSU’s Hall of Fame.

Over 420 alumnae, donors, and friends of the Academy of Mount St. Ursula gathered at the NYBG to celebrate the 160th anniversary. The event raised over $107,000 for the school and was the largest crowd ever hosted by the Botanical Garden in the Garden Terrace Room.

Fr. John Vigilanti, AMSU President, commented about the event: “It is a great honor to serve at a school which for 160 years has provided young women with a solid academic foundation and a spirit of service, the very essence of Catholic education.”

It is with great pleasure that the Capital Campaign Committee of the Academy of Mount St. Ursula is able to report that they have surpassed the $3 million Capital Campaign goal in celebration of their 160th Anniversary. They would like to express their gratitude to alumnae, donors, friends, and our supportive Ursuline Sisters for their continued support and dedication. Funds from the Capital Campaign will allow the school to continue to offer scholarships and financial aid. “The success of the Academy of Mount St. Ursula's Capital Campaign is a testament to the empowering education that AMSU has been providing to young women for 160 years. Grateful alumnae and friends of the school are acknowledging the positive influence the school has made in their lives and insuring that AMSU will continue in its mission to enable present and future generations of young women to enlighten and strengthen our world for many years to come,” said Barbara Montenero DeAngelo ’69.

Joan O’Meara Winant ’69, the chair of the Campaign Committee says, “The Committee is so grateful and pleased at the great response to the Campaign, but we are not totally surprised at its success. After all, love and concern for the needs of others have been ingrained in us since we were young women, as symbolized by the Ursuline motto of SERVIAM. The outpouring of support for our beloved school is a testament to its enduring power and legacy.”

From left to right: Carole Kakos ’61, Estelle Harper Brocks ’45, Joan O’Meara Winant ’69, Vanessa Williams, Kay Treanor Tashner ’59, Katherine Corticcio, Adrienne Rolla ’76
Scholarship Recipient
Cinthia Ibarra

The Academy of Mount St. Ursula Guidance department is proud to announce early college scholarship information. Cinthia Ibarra, a member of the Class of 2016 and AMSU Student Body President, has been selected for admission to the University of Pennsylvania’s College of Arts and Sciences with a QuestBridge College Match Scholarship.

The QuestBridge Scholarship is a national scholarship program that connects the nation’s brightest low-income students to America’s best universities and opportunities. This year, only 657 finalists from across the country were matched with QuestBridge College Match awards at the 36 QuestBridge partner colleges, and only 51 students were admitted as QuestBridge Scholars at Penn. To learn more about QuestBridge, visit: http://www.questbridge.org/about-questbridge/mission-a-vision.

As you can imagine, the AMSU Community is incredibly proud of Cinthia for being chosen as a part of this very select group. College Match Scholarship recipients are granted admission to one of QuestBridge’s partner colleges with a full, four-year scholarship, meaning that Cinthia has been awarded upwards of $200,000 as a winner of this scholarship. “Receiving the news that I was granted the scholarship just before Christmas was such a blessing to me and my family,” said Cinthia. For a list of QuestBridge college partners, visit: http://www.questbridge.org/partner-colleges/overview-listing.

English Department Update

English teachers have been working on a variety of topics with AMSU students. The freshmen honors class has completed a unit on poetry; in addition, they’ve written their own personal poems. Students presented these poems aloud for the class and are eager to begin their new unit on the novel Fahrenheit 451.

The sophomores are working on the novel Frankenstein in which they have created a character Facebook and an in-class news channel.

The seniors have just begun the novel Like Water for Chocolate. They are currently focusing on the setting of the novel as they will soon present their projects on the Mexican Revolution. AMSU seniors have also begun writing their senior research papers. They have developed their ideas and will be submitting them soon. This will be their final research paper of their high school career.

What’s Happening in Foreign Language

During February, the Italian Club will watch presentations on Rome. Spanish classes will be celebrating Carnevale. Students will be making masks and then enjoy homemade desserts. Spanish 2 is learning how to talk about staying fit, healthy and they are also using the preterite tense of -ir and -er verbs. Italian 2.5 have been learning familiar and formal commands and demonstrative adjectives. This grammar has been combined with shopping vocabulary and other grammar taught in the past. Italian 1.5 have been using vocabulary dealing with food and has learned how to conjugate -ere and -ire verbs in the present tense.

From the AMSU Library

The library has been undergoing some updates thanks to the grant it received from The Laura Bush Foundation for America’s Libraries. The Library has been weeding out lots of old books, adding in many new copies of classic fiction and English research books. This is especially helpful as the juniors and seniors will be completing their research papers this semester. The Library Council, along with other student volunteers, put together a haunted house for AMSU’s Halloween Dance on October 30th, which was very successful. The library also held a Hunger Games-themed contest in November, in which 33 students and faculty members participated. The winner, Annie Nguyen (12th grade) received a gift card to purchase two tickets to the premiere of Mockingjay: Part 2.
Intro to Computers
In the Introduction to Computers course, Mr. Triana’s ninth grade students created websites as their final project. They were required to create a homepage and four linked pages. Kath Tran went above and beyond and created a clean, minimalist website with double the required pages. The websites allowed students the venue to express their interests in books, films, and musical groups using a blank, cyber canvas.

Media Arts and Applications Course
In the Media Arts and Applications course, the seniors created their own original short films as their second quarter projects. Ranging from satire to romance, each project showcased the students’ understanding of screenwriting, camera angles, and editing. Senior, Skaila Pyatt’s project, which showcased her work from in front of and behind the camera, explores the consequences of procrastination through its music video format. In the video, the main character struggles with her desire to enter a video competition on the same day of a huge test she had not studied for, all while resisting the urge to procrastinate on social media. Overall, the Media Class presented an array of different videos with the power to make one laugh, warm one’s heart, and even teach a valuable lesson or two.

From the Lab
“In the FLAME TESTS laboratory investigation, compounds or substances are heated in a flame. Each heated material emits a distinctive light color which can be used to identify the matter. Testing included the chlorides of lithium, sodium, potassium, calcium and strontium. Generally, students become very excited on observing some of the fantastic colors obtained for this experiment.” - Aroon Rampersaud, Science teacher

Summer Scholarships
We are happy to announce that four of our AMSU young women have been awarded scholarships to attend exciting programs this summer through the National Hispanic Institute. Three of our 9th graders, Josee Molina, Dimarie Pagoada, and Julia Quansah will have the opportunity to attend the Northeast Great Debate at Villanova University, a 6-day experience that focuses on honing the important skills of reasoning and argumentation and the power of communications. Leilani Aviles, a current 10th grader, will represent AMSU at the Northeast Lorenzo dezavala Youth Legislative Session at the University of Rochester, which focuses on advancing students’ understanding of organizational development, culture and protocol through a mock legislative session. We are very proud of Josee, Dimarie, Julia, and Leilani and we hope they enjoy their experience this summer!

College Acceptances
The Guidance department is pleased to announce that at this early stage in the college acceptance/scholarship period, the seniors have received over $3.9 million in scholarships.

Visit www.amsu.org to see the full list of colleges
Visual Arts

From Fine Arts to Digital Arts

This year, with the end of Art Academy, AMSU decided to take the Arts Program in the direction of Digital Art. Although Studio Art and new Animation class both focus on creating art on the computer, the students still use the fundamental drawing skills from the freshman Basic Art course. This year the Studio Art class has been focusing on Graphic Design created with the use of Adobe Illustrator, InDesign, and Photoshop. One of their main projects so far has been to create branding packages (logos, business cards, letterheads, and mailing envelopes) for themselves as artists. The process involved making decisions about how they wanted to present their brand to other people, sketching all potential ideas for their logos and layouts, and finally creating the finished pieces and making sure they are formatted for printing. The Animation students have been learning about gesture drawing, which is quickly capturing the energy motion of a model’s pose. They are then able to apply this skill to their hand drawn animations (done in Adobe Flash), ultimately giving a more expressive motion to their character’s actions. For their mid-term projects, students presented storyboards and character designs for their upcoming short animations, in which each frame (there were 24 frames per second) will have to be individually hand drawn. Special thanks to Sr. Pascal Conforti, osu in support of this program through the estate of her mother, Lena Conforti.

Mr. Gary Horn would like to thank everyone for attending his art exhibit, the flowers, their thoughts and well wishes. “It was a wonderful evening highlighted by the attendance of those from Ursula I had taught along side with for so many years and the students who have graduated and remained an important part of my life. I can never express in words just how important being in the stable learning environment such as Ursula was to my development as an artist. I was delighted that faculty and past and present students were in attendance as I took my first step into my own Night Journey, but I will take with me memories that last for a life time. Thank you all.”

Gary Horn [glynhorn@gmail.com]
2015 International Night

This year’s International Night was well received by the audience. The highlight of the evening was a Gospel Ensemble comprised of Kezia Boateng ’18, and Lizie Mensah ’18, as well as Lizie’s mother and younger brother (photo above). Their heavenly renditions of two praise hymns brought the audience to their feet in a standing ovation. Another new and diverse act was sophomore Amiya Sikidar who read an original poem about her homeland, Bangledesh. She also sang a cultural song at the end of the poem.

All in all it was a wonderful evening of song, spoken word and dance enjoyed by everyone who attended.

Christmas Concert

The music department prepared AMSU’s annual Christmas concert, with this year’s program theme being "For Unto Us a Child is Born." The concert featured songs about the birth of Christ and the Holy Family’s trip to Bethlehem as well as traditional carols and spirituals. In addition to the sophomore class and the AMSU Vocalists, the AMSU guitar club, the violin class, the Juilliard clarinet class and the piano lab all performed in this concert, one of AMSU’s most well-loved annual traditions.

In the spring, the performing arts department has turned its focus to our spring musical production of “Little Shop of Horrors.”
Performing Arts

Spring Musical

The Performing Arts department has made the decision to perform an AMSU rendition of “Little Shop of Horrors” in the upcoming Spring Musical.

“Although rehearsals have just begun, it is clear that we have a very talented cast. So much so, that after hearing them all sing together at call backs we decided to have a group of 12 sing with the 3 lead “Ronnettes” in the show. We chose the show to be able to offer the students an opportunity to do something different – as we have never done a musical comedy before. “Little Shop” is a satire of the famous “B-Horror Flicks” of the 50s and 60s. Our girls, joined by boys from Fordham Prep, Mount St. Michael and Renaissance High School are extremely excited to perform in this highly energetic and comical show,” said musical director, Jeanne DiBenedetto.

Remember . . . “Don’t feed the Plants!!!”

Acting/Theatre Class

As part of the partnership with the Theatre Development Fund (TDF), the acting elective class has been working on writing short plays together with a professional playwright and director, Noelle Ghoussaini. At the end of the first semester, TDF brought in professional actors to read the students’ work. Now in the third year of partnership, TDF and the actors continue to be impressed by the maturity, professionalism and talents of the young ladies of AMSU.
Religious Studies

AMSU freshmen have been learning that the Bible is a Sacred Library of Inspired Books. It is a Book of Faith, written by people of Faith, to express their Faith in the one true God. In the process of exploring this awesome “love” story between God and his people, the young ladies’ faith is being nurtured: SOULS are being fed!

The sophomores are exploring the essence of the “Paschal Mystery:” the work of salvation accomplished by Jesus through his life, passion, death, resurrection and ascension. The young ladies are internalizing that this mystery should not only touch one’s mind and heart, but motivate one’s every act!

Our Catechumens and candidates in the Catechumenate (RCIA: Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) are enthusiastically preparing for the celebration of their Easter Sacraments on May 5th, 2016 ~ a celebration that fully initiates the young ladies into the Catholic Church!

Pope Francis’s U.S. Visit

On Thursday, September 24th, 2015, the Academy of Mount St. Ursula students and faculty gathered together in the school auditorium to watch the once in a lifetime speech of Pope Francis.

In honor of Pope Francis’ visit to New York City, AMSU’s students used their creativity to paint a banner for the Pope. This banner was displayed on AMSU’s rooftop hoping that the pontiff would be able to see as he departed from New York City. In preparation for the Pope’s visit to New York City, students began brainstorming, sketching, and eventually creating the banner which supported the motto of Pope Francis, “To change the world we must be good to those who cannot repay us.”

UN Day of the Girl Summit

On October 9th students from AMSU attended the International Day of the Girl Summit at the UN. At this event they witnessed a dramatization of a student takeover of the UN. The girls who took charge, proclaimed that it was time for girls to be heard at this center of power. They then shared the situations of girls throughout the world who face poverty, violence, lack of education, and much more. Students who attended were very inspired and presented this information to the school community at a pre-thanksgiving assembly. The student attendees introduced the school community to what they had learned and invited them to take an action of their own. They encouraged everyone to join an Ursuline effort to empower young children, especially girls, by contributing to the construction of a road in a remote village of Cambodia.

This project, taken on by Ursulines and Ursuline schools around the world helped raise funds to assist in building this road. What makes the road special is that it leads to a school. Many children who have been deterred from attending school because of the poor condition of this road will now have reliable access to education. The village, too, will be able to raise its quality of life through the use of this road so everyone’s quality of life will be better. AMSU students raised $450 as their contribution to the project, helping build a path to a brighter future for the people of the village.

Ideas give birth to action and action is the first step to changing the world. AMSU launched a new club this year called “the UN Connection,” which students have been involved in for several years. The girls in this club discuss issues of gender equality, protection of girls from the many forms of violence which they face, and empowerment of girls through participation at UN events. Action is the first step toward changing the world for girls everywhere. AMSU girls have been empowered. Stay tuned to learn what they do next!

AMSU Interfaith Discussions

On the morning of December 7th, the Academy of Mount St. Ursula hosted an assembly with the Islamic High School, Al-Ihsan Academy from South Ozone Park, NY to share some truths about Muslim beliefs with students of other faiths. Dr. Carl Landegger, a professed Catholic, a faculty member of the Al-Ihsan Academy, three senior girls and two senior boys discussed their core beliefs and the similarities between Muslim and Catholic teachings. They then presented ways of mutually supporting inter-religious dialogue.

Paige Sanchez, Director of Mission Effectiveness for ADNY said, “I experienced one of their presentations, and I found
Service Awards

Academy of Mount St. Ursula

AMSU Student works with 52nd Precinct Law Enforcement Exploring Program

Senior Ermelinda Vushaj has been working with the 52nd Precinct Law Enforcement Exploring Program in the Bronx since 2010. Throughout her five year dedication to Law Enforcement, Ermelinda has received various awards and citations for giving exemplary volunteer service to the Bronx Community. Some of these awards include; certificates of achievement for successfully completing the 2014 and 2015 Law Enforcement Academy and citations from the New York State Assembly for outstanding commitment to the 52nd precinct. Ermelinda holds the rank of Sergeant in the program and continues to excel in her career in law enforcement.

During this time, Ermelinda has been given U.S. Marine Corp. training, Search and Arrest, Domestic Violence, Bomb Threat and Anti Terrorism class training and instruction.


Ermelinda is an exemplary honors student at the Academy of Mount St. Ursula. Her hard work and dedication to education and community service is inspiring. She is active in extra-curricular activities such as student council, national honor society, theater productions, basketball, volleyball, softball and martial arts. Ermelinda attended the 2015 People to People Leadership Summit at Harvard University.

She will be applying to the United States Military Academy at West Point where she plans to study law and dedicate herself to be an Army Cadet. For more information on West Point, visit: http://www.westpoint.edu/SitePages/Home.aspx

AMSU Students and Faculty Live the Serviam Motto

Faculty and students of the Academy of Mount St. Ursula live the Serviam motto throughout the entire school year and particularly during the holiday season. The Latin word Serviam means “I will serve” and is symbolized by the virtue of devotedness. Students at AMSU are taught to forget self in order to think of others by serving their family, parish, and local community.

On Tuesday, November 24, 2015, students and faculty all participated in a day of service to the Bronx Community and the wider world. Some of the service activities included setting up Thanksgiving Dinner at Serviam Gardens, working with small children at the Concourse House, assisting teachers at Our Lady of Refuge and St. Ann’s Schools, spending time with the senior citizens at St. Patrick’s Home, and visiting the Sr. Annunciata Bethell Senior Center, Edison Arms, and performing International Night acts at Andrus on the Hudson Senior Care Community where some Ursuline Sisters reside.

Teachers and students also spent a good part of the day creating Christmas cards for the Center Peace Organization, Andrus Senior Care Community and Cabrini Nursing Center.

“It was an awesome day at the Concourse House! The children at the house whom our AMSU students served felt loved, nurtured and cared for by our young ladies, and our “Lady Bears” truly internalized their energy by stating, “We don’t want to leave these kids, we’ll be back!” “Serviam” for our ladies has truly become a “way of life” not a mere requirement!!! By “giving” we are “receiving” so much more in return by loving God and loving our neighbor who is made in the image and likeness of an “awesome” God!!”

- Mr. Vincent Amendola (Religious Studies Department)
Volleyball

The volleyball team was officially the undefeated champions of the school’s division, and had a great season. Even though the Lady Bears were not the champions of all divisions, the team members still felt a strong sense of accomplishment. Over all the girls worked hard and progressed into well rounded volleyball players, but most of all had a lot of fun with their teammates.

“They have been the most amazing team I have had so far. They all love each other and are great athletes. I am so impressed and proud to be their coach!” said coach Ruth Taveras.

Basketball

This year’s basketball season was a challenge as we had a very young team with limited experience, but throughout the season, the girls remained dedicated; practicing 5 days a week, some weekends and over winter recess to further enhance their skills. Despite their busy schedules, most players managed to achieve first or second academic honors for semester 1. In addition to the regular season games, the team competed in the Third Annual Kalie Gill Memorial Tournament at St. Barnabas High School. On December 29, 2015, the basketball team attended a Women’s Lehman Lightning game to support the Coaches vs. Cancer tournament at Lehman College. Samantha Martin ’15 and Christie Pierre ’19 competed in a shooting contest at halftime.

No matter the outcome of each game, the school’s support was unwavering; the gym was filled with spectators for each home game and the cheerleaders showered them with support and positivity. They are especially appreciative of the senior manager Jordan Marie Morales and the senior teammates Mbaulu Kallon, Ermelinda Vushaj, and captain Samantha Martin. Their leadership and commitment to the team will never be forgotten!
Alumna Spotlight

Carla Lide ’05

On January, 7, 2016, the Academy of Mount St. Ursula held its Young Alumnae Reunion from 12 noon to 2 pm. Alumnae from classes of 2012 through 2015 were invited to attend the event. Guest speaker, Carla Lide from the Class of 2005 addressed the recent graduates and seniors with enthusiasm and pride in her Ursuline Education at the Academy of Mount St. Ursula.

Today, Carla works as a project coordinator at the National Football League. In the Player Engagement Department she assists in the enhancement and production of player programs including; Rookie Symposium, Rookie Success, The Bridge to Success Program, Off Season Boot Camps, DVSADUI education, and various NFL initiatives. These programs are designed to educate and equip current and former NFL players with the skills needed to excel off and on the field. Carla’s primary focus at the NFL is to produce Career Development Programs and assist players in navigating life after football.

Carla is a native New Yorker, born in Manhattan and raised in the Bronx. Her first love was ballet which carried her throughout childhood. At the Academy of Mount St. Ursula, she played varsity basketball, varsity softball, and continued to dance at Alvin Alley & Broadway Dance Center. In 2005, Carla attended Concordia College in Bronxville, NY where she majored in Behavioral Science, founded the Concordia College Dance Team, and maintained active status on the Dean’s List. In 2009 she was accepted into the Athletic Counseling Graduate Program at Springfield College where she was able to fuse her love of sport with psychology. In her second year at Springfield College she was awarded the Psychology Graduate Assistantship position and taught Introduction to Psychology to undergraduate students. During her two year graduate program, she also served as an Ameri Corps member in the city of Springfield. Her service included academic coaching and counseling for underprivileged high school football student-athletes.

In 2012, Carla began a new chapter at Fordham University as an Academic Advisor for Student Athletes. Her skills acquired at Springfield were easily transferable as she counseled and advised Division I student-athletes. During this time Carla successfully balanced her advising career, taught group exercise classes, and coached a high school cheerleading team.

Carla has a deep devotion to her high school alma mater and a love and bond between sister alumnae. “The values I learned here at AMSU is the reason why I am standing here working for the NFL. Once an AMSU girl, always an AMSU girl!” In Carla’s spare time, she enjoys teaching dance classes to children and adults throughout New York City.
**Update from the Class of 1961**

In the five years since our 50th reunion, there have been so many reconnections.

Mary Jane Coyle Dooley, Rose Marie Caiazzo Occhino, and Elaine Castaldo Sackmann visited the Dead Sea Scrolls Exhibit at Discovery.

Eileen Molloy Mann, visiting from South Carolina, had lunch with Mary Jane, Rose Marie, Elaine, and Mary Ann Eatz in West Nyack. Mary Ann had attended St. Philip Neri with Eileen and Mary Jane. Eileen brought pictures from their grade school days and from days at AMSU. She even brought along letters and pictures from her French pen pal and the programs from the junior dance, 'Silver Bells', and the senior dance, 'Crystal Cotillion' – what great fun reminiscing!

Julia McKeon Murphy invited Janet Barelli Murphy and Elaine to Archbishop Dolan’s talk on the Gospel of Life at Fordham Law School and to a lecture by Kenneth Jackson at the Bronxville Historical Society.

Dorothy Nichols Cusack hosted Rose Marie, Elaine, and Theresa Monaco Bologna (all attended St. Frances of Rome as well as AMSU) at her home in West Cornwall, Connecticut.

Terri joined Dottie, Rose Marie, Elaine, and Helen Miller Sorensen (another St. Francis of Rome alum) for brunch at Alice’s Tea Cup in NYC – a mini SFR/AMSU reunion.

Sr. Jeanne Giebelhouse, Terri, Dottie, Elaine, and Rose Marie joined for lunch at Villagio Restaurant in Pelham. All had attended St. Frances of Rome and AMSU so they had much to reminisce about.

Carol Labruzzo Sheil and her husband, Bob, visited NY and while Bob spent time with his cousins, Carol had brunch with Rose Marie, Dottie, and Elaine in Pleasantville. Carol and Elaine also took a tour through the Chappaqua area where Carol’s dad had built some homes when she was growing up and shared amazing memories.

Elaine brought her son’s friend, Ivana, to AMSU. Ivana was visiting from Argentina where she owns two English language schools. She spoke to the Spanish classes and was very impressed with the students, the staff, and the school.

Marie Chiappe Rhodes, Mary Jane, Rose Marie, and Elaine are about to have their 9th get together with Ms. Com and her husband, Pierre. They have lunch at the Culinary Institute and then visit Teilhard’s gravesite on the grounds of the CIA. On each visit Pierre gives the girls a study guide of Teilhard’s work with numerous articles and books for each of them. Pierre is the quintessential teacher - he often sends wonderful emails to Marie, Mary Jane, Rose Marie, and Elaine about beautiful music, French holy days, and French/Catholic traditions.

Not all the reunions took place in NY. When Kathy Cleary Price, who lives in Virginia, went to Cincinnati for a genealogy conference, she connected with Carol Labruzzo Sheil. Carol and her husband, Bob, gave Kathy a grand tour of their hometown, ending the evening with a lovely dinner.

Claire Goodwin Lee, hearing that Kathy was only a few hours away from her home in Indiana, drove with her husband to meet Kathy in Cincinnati, enjoying a wonderful reunion, dinner, and catch-up time!

Once Marie Keegan and Carole Kakos discovered they live near each other in the Sarasota/Bradenton area of Florida they have managed to not only chat with each other via phone but have also gone out to dinner a few times and feel each time was more fun than the other.

Ann Clancy O’Connell and Rose Marie (and their husbands), along with Lorna Hurley Minor, Julia, Sr. Jane Finnerty, and Sr. Sheila Campbell attended the dinner dance celebrating the 160th Anniversary of AMSU. It was held at the Botanical Gardens on October 16, 2015 and our classmate, Carole Kakos, was one of the honorees.

Betty Ann Cioffari Mosser met Janet, Julia, Carole, and Elaine for lunch at Brio’s in Danbury this past November. They spent hours catching up on the last 50 years. And while they were there, Ann Esposito Varvaro called – what an incredible surprise – truly a Godcidence!

Julia hosted a ‘Christmas Tea, Cookies, and Sparkly’ in December. Betty Ann, Rose Marie, Janet, Elaine, Sr. Jane Finnerty, and Sr. Sheila Campbell were among the guests - a wonderful time was had by all – such a nice way to start the holiday!

The past five years have been wonderful as more and more of the class of ’61 has reconnected. With the 55th reunion approaching, everyone is hoping that even more classmates will come and join in the fun.

If you know of anyone who does not receive mailings from AMSU, please email Anna Parra, Executive Director of Development, aparra@amsu.org (or call 718-733-6249) with their contact information.
Class Notes

1958
Margaret Mary Kelleher, O.S.U. retired from the faculty of The Catholic University of America as of August 31, 2015.

1960
Below is a photo of four members of the class of 1960 taken in Naples, Florida where they all coincidently spend winter. “Maybe some others from our class come down here too and could look us up.”

From left to right: Kathy Disken Clarke, Judy Schneider Harper, Carol Darconte Peiffer and Anne Lafferty Michaels

1965
In July 2014, Jane Close Conoley became president of California State University, Long Beach.

1966
Catherine Caceci Burke, and her husband, William, are expecting their first grandchild by their son, Thomas and his beautiful wife, Kristin. Baby Burke is due June 29, 2016. Thomas and Kristin have opted to wait until the birth to learn whether they will raise a boy or a girl. She hopes to see lots of her classmates at her 50th reunion in April!

1967
After 25 years in the field at Cornerstone Hospice and Palliative Care, Jeanette Chuck Ragusa has decided to become a Team Manager. Jeanette is married, and has 12 grandchildren.

1969
Angela Gagliardo Richards was inducted into the Federal Order of Malta in September, 2015 by Cardinal Wuerl of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. The Order is a lay order of the Catholic Church dedicated to serving the sick and the poor and includes about 15,000 people worldwide. Last April, the Order sponsored a trip to Lourdes, France in which Angela participated. Over 350 members, candidates, and volunteers from the Baltimore area, plus over 50 malades (seriously ill), were brought to pray at this shrine and bathe in the healing waters. Angela tells us it “was a life changing experience” that she hopes to participate in again!

1970
Bridget G. Smith remarried on May 16, 2015 and is now Mrs. Bridget S. Murphy!! Timothy and Bridget were married in Transfiguration Church, Tarrytown and had their reception at the Carrollwood Condominium Clubhouse for family and close friends. They continue to live there and are both working in Westchester. Bridget is continuing her career in speech pathology services to children and adults with disabilities and Tim is a production chef. They are so grateful to have found each other at this point in their lives.

1972
Ingrid Casimir Harris has been working as Director of Medical Staff Services at Sidra Medical and Research Center in Doha, Qatar in the Arabian Gulf since June 2013. Sidra is based on the American academic medical center model and is an initiative of Qatar Foundation, as envisioned by her Highness Sheikha Moza Bint Nasser, the mother of the Emir of Qatar. Ingrid will be returning to The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) in February as Senior Director of Medical Staff Services. She was previously at CHOP from 2005-2013.

1973
In keeping with their “micro-reunion” tradition, members of the Class of ’73 rang in this Holiday Season at Antonio’s Trattoria, just south of AMSU on Arthur Avenue. To mark the fun, auspicious occasion, classmate Tosca LaBoy channeled Ring Day, recreating ring warmers for her classmates. Going forward, the wonderful maroon pom pom statement piece will no doubt adorn the ring finger of these alumnae.

1979
Kathy Moran reports that on November 15th, members of the Class ’79 got together in White Plains. She also writes that she is really happy to hear that AMSU surpassed the 3 million dollar goal. “God always makes a way for those serving him to succeed.”

1982
Rebecca Sheridan Malone recently joined the AMSU Board of Trustees. She currently lives in Baltimore. Her three sons are in college or working, and Rebecca is the principal of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic elementary school. Her husband is the principal of Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in Baltimore.
1987
La Shell Wooten has a newly branded Lifestyle Management business which includes mental health therapy, life coaching and visualization training. For more information visit her website http://lashellwooten.com/.

1989
Jeannie Humphries, osu, PhD had an article published based on her dissertation work. The article is titled “Beyond Who, What, Where, When, Why and How: Preparing Students to Generate Questions in the Age of Common Core Standards.” It was published in the September 2015 edition of the Journal of Research in Childhood Education.

1999
Melissa Gardella gave birth to her second child, Elizabeth Taylor, on August 27th, 2015.

2010
Mayra Petrovich just got a job as a substitute teacher at PS 176 in Co-op City and is working every day with children with Autism.

In Loving Memory

Alice Murphy Gillespie ’33
Rose Cuomo Coviello ’37
Jean Dorchak Jantzen ’40
Gilda Cardillo Puzio ’44
Adeline Koepfler Seebach ’44
William Brocks I
Beloved husband of
Estelle Harper Brocks ’45,
Father of
Nancy Brocks Bruckmann ’70 and
Kathleen Brocks Whiteside ’67
Catherine Tuohy Sagurton ’45
Arthur Colligan
Beloved husband of
Jean Barrett Colligan ’46,
Father of
Ann Colligan McEvily ’75 and
Mary Colligan McShane ’77 and
Brother of
Florence Colligan Mahoney ’47
Lucille Twohill Johnson ’47
Beloved Mother of
Elizabeth Johnson O’Mara ’68,
Jean Marie Johnson Noel ’69 and
Anne Marie Johnson Murray ’78

Mary Rogers O’Neill ’46
Mary Louise Minetti McCarthy ’48
Kathleen Sullivan Brown ’51
Clare Marie Goggins
Beloved granddaughter of
Myra Mahoney Goggins ’55
Fitz Squires
Beloved husband of
Myra Mahoney Goggins ’55
Emelise F. Aleandri, Ph.D. ’61
Fred Burkley
Beloved husband of
Virginia Sheridan Burkle ’65
Justine Smith Picarelli ’66
Beloved sister of
Judith Smith Rella ’71 and
Carol Smith Sforza ’74
Robert A. Pragoff
Beloved Brother of
Catherine Pragoff ’68 and
Barbara Pragoff Wilson ’72
Joan Darcy Sorgi ’70

Sheila O’Neill ’78
Thomas Culhane
Beloved father of
Beth Culhane Robins ’80, Barbara Culhane Mullaney ’81 and
Karen Culhane ’85
Edmund P. Murray
Beloved brother of
Siobhan Murray Mason ’81
Tonya Goudy Carther ’81
Father James Connaughton
Beloved uncle of
Margaret Kerins ’82
Dairen Frias
Son of
Tarika Rivera ’94 and
Cousin of
Ashley Valero ’17
Jennifer Vega ’02
Cathy Madden,
former AMSU Assistant Principal
Meg Rowe
Niece of
Sr. Alice Marie Giordano, osu ’52

Winter 2016 - 19 -
YUMMI Studios Presents an AMSU Fun-Raiser
Thursday, April 28, 2016 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

You will be painting Starry Sunflower, originally painted by artist Cinnamon Cooney

We hope you and a friend will attend this FUN-raiser at AMSU. Join us for a night out, have a glass of wine and create your own art work to take home. All proceeds are to benefit the students of the Academy of Mount St. Ursula. Price includes refreshments - Wine and Sandwiches

To register, visit www.amsu.org and click the link on the event slider