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Head of School
Colleen R. Pettus

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MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Friends of Holy Child,

Each year, our Glimpses magazine provides a view into the vibrant life of all that makes Holy Child special. This new edition is certainly no different. However, with large segments of our community unable to visit our campus this year, these “glimpses” into the daily life of our School are arguably more important, and hopefully more treasured, than ever before.

These pages reflect our tangible, collective work to “sustain a bright and joyful spirit.” These words from our founder, Cornelia Connelly, always inspire us, but most significantly, since the pandemic impacted all of us over a year ago. Throughout the magazine, you will undoubtedly notice the resiliency, smiles, collaboration and joy that have continued to define our community.

Our decision making and creative problem solving throughout the year has been guided by our mission and goals as a Holy Child school. While our focus on academics never faltered, our unwavering care for the whole child helped differentiate us from other schools. This edition reflects the infectious commitment I see each day from our faculty, staff and students as well as several inspiring profiles of other community members. Each individual member of our community makes an invaluable contribution to the life of our School.

Thank you for diving deep into the narrative of Holy Child. It is a great story to tell with many more chapters to be written.

With gratitude,

Colleen R. Pettus
Head of School

Holy Child
EDUCATING YOUNG WOMEN OF CONSCIENCE AND ACTION

FUN FACTS ABOUT COLLEEN

What inspired you to be a teacher?

Besides the example that my mother set for me at a young age, I recall a moment in English class during my junior year of high school at Notre Dame Academy on Staten Island. After presenting on Steinbeck’s Of Mice and Men, my teacher looked at me and said, “McDonald (she always called us by our last names), I am going to make an English teacher out of you.” That stayed with me and even though I was initially interested in business at the beginning of college, I kept gravitating back to the English and education classes. Working with children was something I always loved, so it was a natural fit for me.

What’s your favorite Holy Child tradition?

I will never forget seeing my first Holy Child graduation. I had never seen a graduation ceremony that was so beautiful, with such a “wow factor.” But more importantly, I now know how much love and care goes into planning every part of the ceremony. In our Middle School, Beach Day is my favorite! When I learned that Cornelia Connelly brought her own students to the beach at the end of each year, it made the tradition even more special.

What is your favorite movie and why?

I feel like my love of different movies reminded me of different phases of my life. But one is consistent – I watch “It’s A Wonderful Life” each year on Christmas Eve with my family. It is my favorite because of the feelings it conjures up for me - comfort in family, peace, and love at Christmas.

What sports teams do you root for?

The New York Mets and the New York Giants. I’m not a huge NBA fan, but I do love college hoops.

What was your favorite subject in high school?

English, no doubt.

What activity with your family do you enjoy the most?

I love spending time in the city, whether it be Manhattan or Brooklyn (where I was born and raised), with my family. We try to hit a different neighborhood, park, or museum each time we go. Related to Holy Child, I’m so lucky to be able to share all things Gryphon with my daughter, Ellis, who is a rising senior.

Tell us about a teacher who inspired you in school.

My 5th grade teacher, Mrs. Calucio, took a great interest in me as a writer and as a reader. That interest, both in me and my work, developed the love I have for the middle school years. Students at that age are very excited about learning and their energy can be directed in so many different ways.

Do you have a hobby?

I am a huge sports fan but my family and I have become more interested in hiking in recent years thanks to the interest of my oldest son, Jack. I also love taking photos and have an old-fashioned scrapbooking hobby that I share with two of my college friends.

Who is your hero?

I grew up with wonderful parents. My mother is the epitome of kindness, thoughtfulness, and quiet strength. My father was a model of integrity and authenticity and showed me, by example, how to meet life’s challenges.

Any three dinner guests, living or deceased?

My dad, Mother Teresa, Jackie Robinson.

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My father was a model of integrity and authenticity and the epitome of kindness, thoughtfulness, and quiet strength.
Our Holy Child Spirit Lives On

Resilient reimagination. This is the best way to describe how our School community has navigated the past year. It has been nothing short of a privilege to witness the commitment and dedication of our teachers, combined with the focus and thoughtful cooperation of our students. It would have been easy to lose or abandon the signature spirit of Holy Child amidst such uncertainty and difficulty. There are so many responsible for making sure that didn’t happen. That’s where the reimagination came in. The 2020-2021 school year certainly looked a lot different than usual, but it still felt quintessential Holy Child.

I am delighted to bring to you in the pages ahead both a visual and narrative representation of this most unique year that saw our community come together for the purpose of continuing to be Holy Child. We wouldn’t have it any other way.

Paul Costiglio
Director of Communications
Learning and Connecting:
In and Out of the Classroom

The quotes that are highlighted in the pages ahead are excerpted from weekly letters from Head of School, Colleen Pettus that were featured in Newslines. They speak to the various ways Holy Child intentionally came together as a community this past year to learn from and connect with each other.

A 21st CENTURY EDUCATION SHOULD CONSISTENTLY “FACE OUT” TO OUR EVER-CHANGING WORLD. THE LEARNING WE DO IN THE CLASSROOM IS MORE IMPACTFUL WHEN IT HELPS US PROCESS AND LEAVE OUR MARK ON THE WORLD AROUND US.

Relationships need care and attention. In this challenging year, with so many conflicting priorities, we have stayed focused on our relationships. When there is trust and connection, the possibilities are endless.

“IN A YEAR DEFINED BY EXTRAORDINARY CHALLENGES, WE VERY MUCH HAD TO INTENTIONALLY LIVE IN THE MOMENT AND ADAPT TO NEW CIRCUMSTANCES, OFTEN WITHOUT WARNING.”

They are living the history future generations will study. There is no doubt that I see the infinite possibilities of the future in each of our students.

As a part of our mission, our care of each individual extends to our overall care for the community. The girls are just as involved as the adults in the wellbeing of Holy Child. I am so proud of them for leaning into this commitment.

In developing courageous and compassionate young women, we encourage each other to lean into these sometimes difficult conversations with humility, empathy, and open mindedness.
We know how important it is to live and celebrate the joy and spirit of our community each day.

Through our retreats, service learning initiatives, and liturgies and prayer services we are living our mission to provide ways for our girls to build their own joyous, personal relationships with God.

Our teachers continue to go above and beyond to be sure our Holy Child spirit shines on.

Meaningful engagement with students, parents, and colleagues is a hallmark of our community. Looking ahead to next year, we will take a careful look at how our students engage with their academics through choice, experiences, and different ways of learning.

DESPITE THIS YEAR BEING ANYTHING BUT TYPICAL, WE CONTINUE TO EXTEND OURSELVES TO BUILD OUR COMMUNITY AND CELEBRATE OUR GIRLS.

Empowering Renaissance Women:
Yulissa Hidalgo-Lopez

Yulissa Hidalgo-Lopez might not be coming up on her third year teaching English at Holy Child if her earliest childhood ambition had become a reality. Growing up in Washington Heights and the South Bronx, Yulissa attended mostly public schools and had dreams of becoming a pediatrician. It wasn’t until she got to Bucknell University that she realized she was destined for a career in the Humanities. College is where she discovered her love for literature and theater. Having primarily spoken Spanish growing up, her enlightenment at Bucknell led to a question beginning to form in her mind: “How could she help bridge the gap between second language learners like herself and the English language, thus inspiring students to use writing as an empowerment tool?” Furthermore, Yulissa became very focused on uncovering ways to make literature and writing accessible to her mind: “How could she help bridge the gap between second language learners like herself and the English language, thus inspiring students to use writing as an empowerment tool?”

After graduating from Bucknell University and teaching in New Hampshire for a year, Yulissa earned her Master of Arts in Educational Theater and English Education at NYU. The concept of accessibility surfaced yet again as Yulissa quickly realized that when it came to the arts, many communities were underrepresented. “How do students get there? They need mentors, they need someone to push them in that direction. And students can’t get there if they think of language as a barrier,” she told herself.

Yulissa’s experience directing theater productions and her passion for social justice have already greatly benefited Holy Child. This past October, she directed Twelfth Night, her second full comedy with the Gryphon Players after staging You Can’t Take It With You last year. The messages about society that are included in both works are just as important, if not more than hitting the right marks or set and costume design. The commentary on class in You Can’t Take It With You and Twelfth Night’s exploration of gender roles and learning from mistakes were takeaways that Yulissa wanted everyone involved in the productions to consider. “We’re learning from each other. I’m learning from the Gryphon Players and they’re learning from me.”

The teachings of Brazilian philosopher Paolo Freire were particularly influential for Holy Child. Last year, Yulissa began to establish her own beliefs about teaching and the classroom experience she wanted to create for her future students. Freire’s concepts of learning through doing and meeting students where they are academically integrate well within the Holy Child community as they are hallmarks of the School’s educational philosophy. As a self-professed “weird hybrid of artsy and athletic,” Yulissa identifies with how multifaceted Holy Child students are and identifies with what she calls “a lot of Renaissance women here.”

Another point of excitement for Yulissa comes with the new English curriculum for 10th grade. Previously, there was a singular focus on the canon of British literature greats. There has been an expansion to World Anglophone literature, which includes writers from former British colonies such as Africa and parts of the Caribbean. “We’ve evolved from colonialism. How do we address it? We need contemporary texts.” No matter the material, a very intentional aspect of the experience of being in Mrs. Hidalgo-Lopez’s classroom is defending one’s argument without self doubt. “I tell them, don’t say ‘sorry’ for asking a question, make your point. Don’t say I think,” she said. “I am day one, I try to banish them from beginning any statement with self doubt.” She’s preparing them for college and life beyond Holy Child.

The inspiring energy and joy of returning to Holy Child this past September was something Yulissa felt from the very first day. “The resiliency of the students has shown itself through that joy and the ability to hold each other accountable” as the community relied on each other to remain healthy and safe. “It reiterated the notion that they want to be here and this is a place worth being.”
Claire Pagliaro is a member of Holy Child's science faculty as well as the STEM Curriculum and Assessment Coordinator. She is a graduate of Sarah Lawrence College, where she majored in Biology and minored in Photography. Claire then went on to get her Master's degree in Environmental Education from Southern Connecticut State University. She is deeply committed to fostering human connections to nature and the Earth and creating hands-on learning opportunities for her students.

Our conversation highlighted below covers Claire’s multiple roles, the importance of caring for our environment and her assessment of a challenging school year.

By Paul Costiglio, Director of Communications

Claire Pagliaro: Teaching with Purpose

PC: Tell us about your passion for sustainability and the environment and why it’s important to you for students to learn about these issues.

CP: When I was choosing my Master’s program, I knew I wanted to study not just environmental science, but to truly be stewards of creation we have to follow a path in life that makes the smallest negative impact on the planet while improving the planet as best we can. Some small ways I try to be a steward of creation in my own life are to reduce, reuse and recycle products rather than buying new. I also greatly reduce my use of single-use plastics as I try to consciously only use five plastic bottles a year. I also like to volunteer for environmental clean-ups or removal of invasive species.

PC: What are some of your favorite aspects of the culture among both students and faculty at Holy Child?

CP: The community of adults at Holy Child is amazing! I love the collaboration, communication, support, creativity, sharing of ideas, and positivity between and within departments. Having taught at several other schools before, I know that our school is unique in that respect. I have seen the amazing way that faculty and staff work together. For example, the 5th and 6th grade middle school students worked on a Daffodil Project this year and I worked closely with Dr. Ashley Marks, the middle school science teacher, Toni Archibald, Director of Community Engagement and Special Events, Louisa Polis, Middle School Dean as well as the Little Garden Club of Rye members to create an inspiring experience that the girls will never forget.

PC: What most impressed you about how the Holy Child community navigated the pandemic at the tail end of last year as well as this past school year?

CP: As the STEM Curriculum Coordinator, I was most impressed at the beginning of the pandemic with the resilience and adaptability of the faculty and staff. We had to quickly pivot professional development to focus on a new world of online learning. Teachers adopted new forms of technology, online programs, and teaching techniques. The summer learning last year was also incredibly impressive. A team of teachers volunteered to help develop our own Holy Child remote teaching professional development series. It was a wide range of videos covering multiple areas to help our students including how to use certain online programs, streamlining technology between classes and departments to make it easier for students to use evidence are essential for middle and upper school students alike. While it is possible to teach some of these skills through virtual labs, the experience and growth is not the same. We were so lucky have in-person learning in small classroom groups this year.

CP: Given that we are a Catholic school, please share your perspective on our collective role as Catholic stewards of creation.

CP: God created the Earth, and we all live here together. It is our responsibility to protect the planet that God created for us. It sounds so simple, but to truly be stewards of creation we have to follow a path in life that makes the smallest negative impact on the planet while improving the planet as best we can. Some small ways I try to be a steward of creation in my own life are to reduce, reuse and recycle products rather than buying new. I also greatly reduce my use of single-use plastics as I try to consciously only use five plastic bottles a year. I also like to volunteer for environmental clean-ups or removal of invasive species.

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175 Year Anniversary of SHCJ

Reflection from Sr. Jeanne Ronzani, SHCJ, Former Head of School and current trustee of Holy Child:

On October 11, 1846, Cornelia Connelly and her three companions were joined in prayer at the Society’s first Mass in Derby, England. Little did they imagine that 175 years later, countless thousands of individuals, on four continents, would have been inspired by her spirit of courage, science and charity. “Cornelia’s life is an amazing story of call and response. Filled with obstacles and challenges, and through it all she was able to lead her own orthodoxy, that is the desire to sustain a “bright and joyful spirit.””

We have all been touched by this valiant woman and her innovative, far-sighted approach to educating the whole person, encouraging each to be his or her best self. For many decades, as the number of Holy Child Sisters grew, the sisters opened and staffed schools in Europe, Africa and North America, along with pastoral ministries in Latin America. In more recent decades, leadership of the schools, in particular, has been entrusted to outstanding women and men who have embraced our Holy Child philosophy with total commitment and dedication. They carry the beloved legacy of the Society into the future, and our whole world benefits as graduates commit to making the world a better place.

This year, as we celebrate 175 years since the founding of the Society, we have great cause for rejoicing. While sisters are fewer in number, hundreds of amazing companions lead our schools; steadfast in their resolve that Cornelia’s vision is and will be sustained over decades, hopefully centuries to come. For what more could we ask, for this spirit is a treasured gift, one beyond measure and a boundless source of comfort. The Society has every confidence that our schools will thrive, long after we are gone, and our gratitude is profound and deep.

In 1957, when I began secondary school at Holy Child High School in Waukegan, Illinois, little did I know this Holy Child connection would define the rest of my life. For this great adventure I am grateful each day.
ARTS IN FOCUS: PERFORMING ARTS

There were many things that we all missed about being on campus during the spring of 2020. Experiencing and creating art encourages self-exploration and discovery. Being creative also has tangible mental and physical health benefits. Visual and performing arts are an important aspect of a Holy Child education, and for the 2020-2021 school year, the arts were back!
ARTS IN FOCUS:
VISUAL ARTS

AROUND CAMPUS
By Catherine Conway, Director of Athletics

Athletics is part of the fabric of being a student at Holy Child. More than 210 students participated in athletics over the course of the 2018-2019 school year. We were on track for almost 250 student participants in 2019-2020, prior to the disruption in spring 2020. On a “normal” afternoon, campus buzzes with athletic activity from 3:00 p.m. on, with practices, scrimmages, games, birthday celebrations, parking lot dance parties, and more.

This 2020-2021 year had a different look, but no less buzz. Without the structure of traditional interscholastic athletics this fall, we got creative. Starting at 7:30 a.m., middle school students arrived daily for intramural athletics. They have tried soccer, field hockey, lacrosse, kickball, amongst others. Upper school students arrived at 7:40 a.m. for optional strength and running form training. Our Gryphons headed to class at 8:20 a.m., and we started again at 2:45 p.m. We added a running club that went out for 2-5 mile loops daily. We offered soccer and field hockey practices and scrimmages; weekly volleyball and basketball training sessions; and finally, a semi-normal spring season. Whenever the turf was open, there were groups of students ready to jump into field hockey, lacrosse, and soccer games. The lone outdoor basketball hoop was used almost daily for free throw practice.

“The Class of 2021 dealt with the loss of their junior spring season, massive uncertainty regarding the fall, a mostly lost senior winter season, and a truncated senior spring. Throughout, these student-athletes have remained positive, engaged, upbeat and overall fantastic members of the Athletics community. They have participated in our intramural offerings with gusto and they have picked up new sports when offered. While the end of their high school interscholastic careers could not be what they imagined, they have proven themselves to be resilient and adaptable; traits that will take them far further in life than the athletic skills honed in training.”

- Catherine Conway, Director of Athletics
Around Campus

Joyful is...
Listening to the soccer program warm up mix before a scrimmage.
Watching the field hockey win on a beautiful November afternoon.
Tearing up while the Class of 2021 was honored on Senior Day.
Having 20+ middle school students on Gryphon Field every morning for athletics before school starts.
Playing a semi-normal spring season, complete with interscholastic competition.

Bright is...
Having more students come out for a sport than ever before.
Watching a student try a new sport, or one they haven’t played since they were in elementary school.
Seeing our students come together and support each other through the least traditional season ever.
Experiencing the support of the Holy Child community for our students, wherever they might be.

Below is a list of senior student-athletes and the sports they participated in during their time at Holy Child:

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<tr>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>Sports</th>
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<td>Bannister</td>
<td>Volleyball, Tennis</td>
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<td>Barry</td>
<td>Softball</td>
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<td>Bonanno</td>
<td>Cross Country, Track and Field, Track and Field</td>
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<td>Brown</td>
<td>Field Hockey</td>
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<td>Burke</td>
<td>Swimming, Tennis</td>
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<td>Field Hockey, Swimming, Lacrosse</td>
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<td>Comrie</td>
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<td>Squash, Lacrosse</td>
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<td>Frank</td>
<td>Soccer</td>
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<td>Gaffney</td>
<td>Swimming, Tennis</td>
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<td>Volleyball Manager, Softball</td>
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<td>Irwin</td>
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<td>Soccer, Lacrosse</td>
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<td>Kelly</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
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<td>LaMassa</td>
<td>Volleyball, Softball</td>
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Four members of the Class of 2021 will be competing in athletics at the collegiate level:

Back (l to r): Kate Michelini, Cornell University (gymnastics), Rachel Bonanno, Tufts University (sailing)
Front (l to r): Alanna Kelly, University of Scranton (swimming), Caroline O’Neill, Tufts University (soccer)
In a time when physical distancing created separation, spiritual closeness was needed more than ever to help combat the feeling of loneliness that was prevalent during the height of the pandemic. Campus Ministry creatively engaged our community in reimagining ways to come together to pray and nourish our spirits. Each month, a class was chosen to write prayers which were then prayed daily by students during advisories at lunch time. Once a month, there was a prayer service that was led by students and live-streamed into classrooms before lunch. When these prayer services were led by middle school students, upper school campus ministry leaders mentored their younger sisters, worked with them on their parts and practiced reading and praying so they were prepared on the day of the prayer service. Finding ways to safely pray together in a liturgy was more challenging; however, our community also began live streaming liturgies on Catholic Holy Days so the whole community could participate. In a normal year, every grade has an opportunity to go on retreat. However, during COVID-19, the focus of class retreats shifted to giving our newest members, the fifth and ninth grades, an experience that would help them become closer as classmates. These retreats were led by upper school campus ministry leaders. The fifth grade retreat happened in the fall and was a combination of online and in person. The bonds formed between the younger fifth grade students and their upper school mentors continued after the retreat as they exchanged email addresses and connected online with one another. The fervor for community service, a favorite student experience to nourish the soul, is stronger than ever. A new tutoring program was started this year where upper school students meet virtually with middle school girls to help them with challenging subjects and to ensure they stay organized. This has again created special bonds between younger and older Holy Child students. Four new service clubs were formed by students to serve the food insecure, homeless, elderly, and sick children. As a first, these clubs are made up of both middle school and upper school girls working together to plan and serve the most vulnerable in the community. While COVID limited our options of coming together as a whole community to worship and pray, through creativity and with the help of the Holy Spirit, we continually found ways to love and serve God and one another.

By Jayne Pickett, Religious Studies Faculty and Upper School Campus Minister

“The fervor for community service, a favorite student experience to nourish the soul, is stronger than ever.”

“Faith and Service in Action”

By Jayne Pickett, Religious Studies Faculty and Upper School Campus Minister
HOW WE SUPPORT OUR GIRLS

LEARNING CENTER
With daily challenges outside the walls of Holy Child, we continue to create a safe environment where we can lend additional academic support, especially during these uncertain times.

Through the Learning Center, we continue to focus on the specific skills and strategies the girls need to stay on track whether in the classroom or remotely. We meet the girls where they are to help keep their confidence and spirits high in any learning environment.

STUDENT LIFE
Many traditions at Holy Child had to be modified this year, but our community worked hard to keep joyful celebration part of our everyday life. The Student Life team, in partnership with our Student Government leaders, reimagined what spirit looks like.

Whether it was giraffes roaming the campus on Safari Day during a special Spirit Week, a new Ring Day tradition, a Halloween parade through the Theatre, or the Christmas holiday traditions that continued via videos and virtual meetings, our Student Life allowed us to have fun every step of the way!

HEALTH AND WELLNESS
Despite the challenges presented, we maintained our student counseling sessions both live and virtually, in order to remain available to the girls whenever they needed or wanted to talk. Our counseling program, affinity groups, peer mentor program and other supports, like advisory, continued to flourish. The Health curriculum was revised to focus particularly on the unique social and emotional challenges the students faced this year, in addition to the core curriculum topics we address each year in each grade.

Health and Wellness was featured in grade level meetings where we presented a weekly tip, designed to highlight an issue relevant to overall student well-being. In addition to being present with each of the girls in grade level meetings, the Counseling Department reached out to families through the Counseling Corner in our weekly newsletter, offering tips and reminders for community well-being.

SCHOOL NURSE
The role of school nurse at Holy Child has changed dramatically since the pandemic began. Typically, a majority of nursing responsibilities and obligations have been centered around taking care of students’ health and well-being while they are in school. The pandemic has reinforced that schools are an irreplaceable part of our lives and communities.

This certainly shifted the focus and pushed and challenged us in ways that we never imagined. It seemed that support came through advising, discussing, and directing students and their families about COVID. Collaborating and working with the Health and Safety Committee remains critical. Every member’s specialty and knowledge all contributes to prioritizing the health and safety of our school community and allowed us to be together.

COLLEGE COUNSELING
The college process is all about connections, but how does a student make connections in a pandemic? Our College Counseling team, like so many others, had to pivot quickly to help our Class of 2020 to connect as they made their final matriculation decisions, our Class of 2021 to connect when the cancellation of in-person visits and travel restrictions made it virtually impossible to visit campuses, and now, our Class of 2022 who begin their process under the same conditions.

In Spring 2020, our task was to help our students make their final decisions. To do this, we connected with some of our Holy Child alumnae, asking them to be panelists in virtual information sessions to answer questions about the various colleges.

For our Classes of 2021 and 2022, we’ve connected students to the various colleges by hosting virtual visits with college admission officers at nearly 100 colleges and universities. Our Junior and Parent College Night was re-designed as a monthly webinar series that allowed us to address a different facet of the application process each month. Topics have included financial aid, academic planning for senior year, holistic admissions review, and shaping a freshman class.

Despite living in this virtual world, our college counselors continue to engage with and personalize the college process for each of Holy Child’s students and their families. Cornelia Connelly’s words guide us as we continually adjust to the new circumstances of our world and their impact on our student’s journey to their years after Holy Child.
The work of IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Advocacy) at Holy Child is folded into all aspects of the student experience in a way that is meant to build empathy, compassion, and true respect for the dignity and uniqueness of each person. It is clear that the work of IDEA must exist in every space and within every constituency and it is our collective responsibility as a community to commit to learning, reflecting, and always moving forward with humility. As we strive to make our community one that is equitable and inclusive for all identities, we seek to always keep the wellbeing of each and every one of our girls at the center of what we do. Ultimately, the mission of IDEA is to create a sense of belonging for all members of our community, and it has been inspiring to witness the ways many of our community members have created spaces for others to truly belong this year.

Our student IDEA members meet weekly in Affinity Groups and allyship spaces to discuss aspects of their identities and encourage each other to lead by example. These spaces, which include Girls of Color, White Allies for Antiracism, Mental Health, and LGBTQ+ are led by students who actively model the importance of courageous conversations.

Our alumnae and parent communities have embodied our mission of “conscience and action” by creating spaces for mentorship, conversation, and education that seek to call all constituencies into the mission of IDEA in a meaningful way. We are committed to growth and continual reflection on our procedures, policies, and curriculum. Our faculty and staff continue to examine their work through an equity lens. These steps help to provide opportunities for students to both see themselves represented in class material and to expand their understanding of the many ways their own identities, and the identities of others, inform the world around them. We continue to develop meaningful relationships between alumnae and current students. The Alumnae Mentorship Program for Students of Color officially launched this spring under the leadership of Chioma Nwana ’14, Rayjenée Roberts ’14, and Arnell Stewart ’16 and in partnership with our Alumnae Engagement Office and IDEA Initiatives.

The Parents of IDEA re-established themselves this year under the parent leadership of Deb Brookes P ’21, ’27 and Krissie Mulvoy of IDEA. We are grateful for their efforts and look forward to a continued partnership creating more opportunities for engagement and education in the 2021-2022 school year.

All of this important work was supported this past year by an engagement with Haakmat Consulting. With a focus on developing strategy and providing coaching on diversity and inclusion, Martha Haakmat and her team conducted robust sessions with Holy Child’s Board of Trustees and members of the faculty and staff. In addition, a particular emphasis on achieving more diversity through the practice of hiring has been the thrust of a renewed and reimagined relationship with Joli Moniz, former Director of Admission and Financial Aid at Holy Child. She consulted on the School’s hiring of new teachers for the upcoming school year. We look forward to deepening these relationships going forward as we continue to learn and grow as a community.

“As we strive to make our community one that is equitable and inclusive for all identities, we seek to always keep the wellbeing of each and every one of our girls at the center of what we do.”

Our IDEA Initiatives embody our Holy Child network of schools’ goals. Undoubtedly, they reflect the Christian principles of justice, peace and compassion as we aim to nurture a learning climate based on the reverence for the dignity and uniqueness of each person. They help promote the personal growth and development of all who participate in the life of the school.

PC: As a healthcare professional, you were on the frontlines of the pandemic this past year. What has that experience been like?
KC: It was surreal—the pandemic hit the medical community so quickly that no one was really prepared to handle it. It was an extremely trying time for all involved with it day in and day out.

PC: How has COVID-19 impacted how you and your colleagues’ view of and approach to patient care?
KC: We went back to the basics: patients come first and everything else comes second. During the pandemic, it was an “all hands on deck” for the medical community. It didn’t matter if you were a doctor, nurse, receptionist or CQD. We were all in it together, knowing we had to help our patients as best as we possibly could, while at the same time, keeping our teams safe to ensure they didn’t get sick.

PC: What has it been like to also be a mom and care for your family during this time? What have been the biggest challenges?
KC: It was difficult being away from my family for so many hours. My practice was one of the first to set up full time, drive-in COVID testing. We tested patients 7 days a week. I was there from the start of the day to the end of the day. When I came home I was physically and mentally exhausted. I had to stay away from my family in fear I would get them sick from being at the testing site. I am extremely lucky to have such a supportive and loving family who let me do “what I needed to do”! Elizabeth was beyond understanding and was truly the bright spot of everyday. When you see so many individuals coming in sick and scared, it is hard not to get emotional or upset for them.

PC: Over this past year, healthcare teams have been celebrated for their courage and care. What did you learn about your colleagues at the Scarsdale Medical Group?
KC: I always believed that I worked with an outstanding group of clinicians and staff, but they all rose to the occasion and went above and beyond to take care of the community in Westchester County. I am extremely honored and proud to have worked side by side with all of them.

PC: Any specific case, patient or experience that made your efforts particularly gratifying?
KC: There is no specific event, but it was gratifying to see the generosity of patients and individuals in the community through their show of support to the clinicians and staff. Many sent food, cards, and more to the practice thanking us for taking care of the community. To see the community appreciate what you do and see that we were making a difference—all you can do is smile and know that you are doing the right thing!

PC: As we continue to navigate the pandemic, what advice would you give to Holy Child students, parents, and community members?
KC: The pandemic is not quite over! It is wonderful that we have the vaccine and so many people have already been vaccinated, but we have to stay the course and be vigilant. Lastly, thank you to the faculty and staff at Holy Child for the wonderful job they have done to keep our girls safe!
Making It Work for the Holy Child Community

By Toni Santangelo Archibald ’76, Director of Community Engagement and Special Events

The 2020-2021 school year will most certainly go down in the books as a year like no other. As a school, it became necessary to reimagine the Holy Child experience, not only for our faculty and students, but also for our parents and the Parents Association. We forged ahead, thinking of creative and innovative ways to engage our parent community, inspired by the words of our founder, Cornelia Connelly:

“Remember that it is not sufficient to have begun; you must also persevere with courage and finish with resolution.”

Last spring and throughout this year the Parents Association collaborated with Student Life to create a number of fun events for students as well as their families. In October, Breast Cancer Awareness Month was celebrated on a perfect autumn day with a student advisory group pink ribbon tree tying event on campus. Virtual Family Trivia Nights, hosted by alumna faculty members Christine Shanahan ’05 and Lauren Pocca ’02, have proved to be winners with our families, and in February our ever popular Bingo Night returned virtually with over 100 families participating! We even managed an in-person raffle and candy gram sales for the girls in the Hughes Family Lobby.

Parents Association Co-President, Heather Gillespie, P ’23 ’25 stated, “As a PA, we have missed doing events on campus this past year. Fortunately, the PA worked closely with Student Life in order to create virtual events for the Holy Child community. We appreciated the support of the School, Student Life and our incredible staff and teachers for making these events possible.”

In the spring of 2020, the Parents Association hosted its first virtual meeting with a record attendance of over 100 families. A virtual book club was subsequently created, with its first read, I’m Still Here, Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness by Austin Channing Brown. The discussion was led by Kat Sanford, Director of Library Services and parent and alumna, Krissie Mulvoy Williams ’88 P ’25.

Krissie says, “Co-leading the book club is a real gift. Meeting other parents, having dynamic conversations and discussing great books fills me up with gratitude for the Holy Child community.”

The group continues to meet seasonally, having read The Vanishing Half by Britt Bennett this winter, and the selection, There There by Tommy Orange voted on by members, will be discussed this summer. “Walking with Purpose” was brought to Holy Child virtually last summer through the Parents Association. The Bible study group was aimed at mothers who were looking to develop a more personal relationship with Jesus. The program incorporates at home Scripture study as well as weekly small group virtual discussions and has served as an excellent opportunity to learn from each other and share personal stories about faith.

“We have become close spiritual friends who support and encourage each other in our faith. I am truly lucky to know them,” said Susie Cannon P ’27, ’27 who coordinates the program for Holy Child with Trish McMahon P ’25.

In December, the annual Christmas plant sale pick-up took place outside with dedicated parent volunteers. The annual Mesrobian Memorial Library Lunch and Boutique landed on Zoom with featured speaker, Kelly Corrigan, best selling author and host of the podcast Kelly Corrigan Wonders and a virtual all-day boutique with 23 spectacular vendors.

In the fall, Little Garden Club members, Cheryl Adler and Chris Duncan P ’09, ’09 joined the girls on campus and led a bulb planting with 5th and 6th grade students in the Alumnae Garden. Holy Child’s first Daffodil Show was a terrific success and we could not be more proud of our students, who worked on this Daffodil Project since the fall. They researched and presented on different varieties of daffodil, planted over 500 bulbs, waited patiently for the bulbs to bloom, and learned about what a Daffodil Show is and how to enter. Each student chose one bloom, groomed it, and displayed it flawlessly in our very own Holy Child Daffodil Show! Students, faculty and staff took in the unique beauty of each bloom and voted for their favorite flower.

This cross-curricular project drew connections in science, art, religion, language arts, and other subjects; around flowers, daffodils, and enjoying nature. This project was truly a testament to the “Joy in teaching, joy in learning” model of Cornelia Connelly. Teachers, staff, and community members came together to bring beauty to the campus and lifelong learning to students. These flowers will grow every spring just as our students grow each year on their journey at Holy Child.
The inaugural group of students who are participating in Holy Child’s newest two-year signature program, the Advanced Humanities Institute took on a project to showcase the works of local artist, Joseph Genova. Not only did they mount an exhibit of his new work in the Holy Child Theatre lobby gallery this spring; the students also created a virtual walk-through and online gallery catalogue for the works, highlighting folds in fabric and the texture of the sea and flowers, rendered in hyper-realistic form. After the exhibit was displayed, students were asked to express their views and feelings about the paintings in poems and essays. Following is a poem written by Christine D’Avanzo ’22, who was inspired by the painting entitled “Symphony in White.”

“The man in the moon watching. The wind screaming. The cold threatening, past, present, future. The wind howls, the dust collecting silk. The floorboards creak beneath her weight. The cold bites - its teeth sharp as nails. A step through the threshold. The wind howls, the dust collecting silk. She leaves the house. The door closed - now abandoned - forever. She leaves her childhood, leaves the dust collecting silk. Eyes - like heart - lingering. And walks away. Leaves the dust collecting silk. She leaves her childhood, leaves the dust collecting silk. Eyes - like heart - lingering. And walks away.”

-Heather Gillespie and Kelly Hodulik
Parents Association Co-Presidents

Cynthia Adams is a problem solver. Throughout her professional career, she has always been interested in helping people in organizations solve problems. She considers it her own niche, whereby she advises and counsels clients to avoid problems before they happen or investigate, unearth problems and contain them. She attributes much of her success to meeting people at various stages of her career that invited her to follow them to new and more challenging opportunities. It’s a scenario that she likens to what she senses about Holy Child in that inevitably there are fellow Gryphons that “will go on to do cool things and might ask you to do cool things with them.”

In just a short time as a member of the Holy Child community and during a school year when parents have rarely been able to visit campus, Cynthia has been able to sense the energy and level of engagement through Taylor’s daily experiences. The camaraderie was evident early on for Cynthia and Taylor when they first visited Holy Child’s open house. “Prospective students were treated as if they were already part of the Holy Child family.”

As a parent, Cynthia is eager for Taylor to have certainty about her place in the world and feels strongly that Holy Child is a place that will help to facilitate that outcome by developing her as an independent thinker and embracing her interest in the arts. As a new Holy Child parent during a time of heightened global focus on issues of social justice and equality, Cynthia jumped at the opportunity last summer to participate in a book club offered by Holy Child’s PA IDEA committee; an initiative of the Parents Association. First on the list was the book I’m Still Here, Black Dignity in A World Made for Whiteness by Austin Channing Brown. “If Holy Child was willing to engage in uncomfortable conversations and invite candor about a book that is not for the faint of heart, I had to participate.” She felt she could authentically share her lived experiences both as someone who grew up in the rural South and as a professional of color on Wall Street. On both a personal and professional level, Cynthia is a very engaged and passionate advocate for DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion). “Representations matter. Life is challenging enough. Why not go through it in an environment where you’ll be affirmed and celebrated?” She has not always found herself in environments that were welcoming or affirming, but she has forged pathways to success beyond those obstacles in an industry not known for its diversity. Having lived through those experiences provides her with a perspective and a strong conviction about what she wants for Taylor. “The full spectrum of young womanhood and possibility has a place at Holy Child and that’s very important to me.”

A print of the iconic Norman Rockwell painting of young Ruby Bridges becoming the first African American student to integrate her local elementary school in the South served as a reminder that education is an important tool to prepare young people to become the leaders of tomorrow. “Prospective students were treated as if they were already part of the Holy Child family.”

-Heather Gillespie and Kelly Hodulik
Parents Association Co-Presidents
At the start of the COVID-19 crisis, enrollment at Holy Child was projected to be the highest in the School’s history. And, despite the challenges that continue as a result of the pandemic, our strong enrollment has not shifted. In September 2020, we opened School with 375 students for in-person learning albeit with modified schedules and classroom setups. With a successful reopening plan for new and returning families in place, the focus to reimagine our School’s admission process became a priority.

How has this situation changed the admission process? Recruitment, as we knew it, has changed. Independent schools had to completely reinvent their processes, which meant that each school had a different set of expectations for recruitment. We took a look at our process and strengthened the things that set us apart - the things that Holy Child is known for like our attention to personal connections with a high level of care, detail, and clear communication.

There was a shift to virtual information sessions and meetings that took place almost immediately. Last summer was used to organize virtual campus tours, led by returning students, who explained not only what each of our buildings are but what happens in them. Driving tours of campus were encouraged for prospective families who had not yet had a chance to visit campus, and an accompanying driving tour video was created to enhance their visit. These digital options were critical in showcasing Holy Child safely during the height of the admission cycle.

In addition to “visiting” the campus in these ways, we transitioned our typical in-person programming, which features student and teacher speakers, to a virtual model. In our virtual Open House formats, prospective families heard from Colleen Pettus, Head of School, as well as a student speaker and the Admission Office - all from the comfort of their homes. For prospective families, this type of event highlighted the School’s strong leadership, as well as the student experience in a way that felt authentic, and very Holy Child. We also hosted student-centered events that allowed applicants and current students to virtually meet one another and participate in an activity. An important aspect of Holy Child is the student experience, so providing a chance for applicants to meet current students was a priority.

Though the admission process was different, prospective families consistently shared that our virtual approach is noticeable and impressive. Fall 2021 is projected to be another record year for enrollment - with an expected 380 students in grades 5-12.
Cira Mancuso ’17

Last summer, Latin & Classical Greek faculty member, Howard Keltig, sent an email alerting the Alumnae Office to the front page of The New York Times. The feature was about the ongoing plight of Afghan women. Howard recalled that one of his former students, Cira Mancuso ’17, was asked by Georgetown University to serve as a research assistant gathering information on the rights and legal status of Muslim women in a number of countries and sects for the use of the Afghan government in their negotiations with the Taliban. Just another casual summer internship for a Holy Child graduate? Not so much...

Throughout this past fall, Cira worked remotely as an intern for the United States Department of State in the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations. In this role, she continues to work on women’s rights, particularly in the MENA region and as it relates to Yazidi survivors. We were excited to catch up with Cira and learn more about her life since graduating from Holy Child. Cira’s enthusiasm, intelligence and passion for her work was evident in our candid conversation about her impressive journey to this career path.

to learn more about government operations and not see it as elusive. Simultaneously, I am doing a research fellowship with the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy at Georgetown, where I am focusing on diplomatic approaches to repatriating foreign ISIS fighters and why that is so necessary for international security. This May, I began a full-time job working for the DOD.

HC: How has the pandemic affected your perspective on your job and research?
CM: It’s oddly given me more time, but at the same time made me busier! I have thought about what I actually want to do and the challenges it could present in terms of moral and ethical questions. It’s also allowed me the time to apply to jobs as the application processes are extensive. Because classes were remote, I had more time in my schedule to meet and talk with people in my field of study. The use of Zoom made it very convenient. As a security major, I would have thought it would be more likely for a nuclear bomb to drop than for a pandemic to occur. And as a result, that has made me think a lot about the issues that we don’t focus on, which can actually have such a detrimental effect on security, that includes human rights, which is something I am very passionate about, but now also global health.

HC: What are your days like as a student and as an intern?
CM: I recently finished my undergraduate studies at Georgetown University with a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service Studies degree. During my final year at Georgetown, I worked with the State Department, completing a virtual student federal services internship. I put in about 10 hours a week and while I can’t go into much detail, it basically involves working with the government about how they can be more transparent in order for the American public

Cira participating at a roundtable at the Council on Foreign Relations with activist, Manal al-Sharif (far right) and former Ambassador, Melanne Verveer (far left)

motivated me to understand not only human psychology, but also cultural aspects about different parts of the world that make people who they are and influence who they become. Terrorism was my main interest when I got to Georgetown because I was fascinated by how ideology could drive people to such extremes. As I was given more opportunities to travel, I became more passionate about that bridge between people and their cultures. I think no matter where I attended high school, I would have ended up in this field, but I look at my time at Holy Child as extremely formative, especially in terms of human rights and women’s rights. Learning about these subjects at Holy Child showed me how women’s rights actually increase security.

HC: Would you say there was a particular class or faculty member that sparked that interest for you while you were a student at HC?
CM: Definitely Social Justice with Jacqueline Richards. There were topics we talked about in that class that I don’t think would have been taught in another school. It had a really big impact on me and my views on how women are treated in America. Women are treated differently in other parts of the world and cultural aspects have a major influence. It’s such a simple thing! Treat women well and don’t create structures of discrimination and this will help your economy and your national security, yet it’s not done everywhere.

HC: What is your opinion on the current state of women’s rights in this country compared to other countries, and do you think that race and religious backgrounds play into that?
CM: Yes, I do. At the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security, we came out with a WPS index that measures how women are faring in the United States. Truthfully, it was pretty surprising. If you compare a certain state to a country that you may think of as not being pro-women’s rights, there is actually a lot of equivalence. Often, the United States is viewed as this monolithic whole and that’s not the case. For example, I live in Connecticut which ranked high on the index and I haven’t experienced much discrimination as a woman. Comparatively, when you look at the states that rank low on the index, it is clear that women in a highly ranked state would have vastly different experiences. I do believe there is this tendency, particularly in the US, to look at other countries and conclude that we are doing so much better, but in reality that’s not always the truth. We are coming to a reckoning of all this now and it will be a long path to actually getting to where we want to go. However, especially after last summer, there has been some sort of breaking of the boundary to get there.

HC: You spoke a bit about your plans post-graduation but in terms of your career what would your aspirations be? Of course, we know this could change several times as it does for most people!
CM: I can say with more certainty what I do not want to do! I know that I definitely do not want to go to law school or be involved in politics. I’m more action-oriented. I would pursue a second master’s degree, considering the government would pay for me to do that. I’m interested in Eastern Europe and the Middle East so spending time abroad and learning the languages would be something I want to pursue. Right now I’m fluent in Spanish and I am taking Russian, but hopefully I’ll also be able to learn Arabic. Shockingly, languages didn’t actually come easy to me in high school!

HC: What did you want to be when you were growing up?
CM: I was kind of that quirky kid who just wanted to be a spy! I grew up reading Harriet the Spy and I wanted to be Harriet. As I grew older, I realized that how it was portrayed in these books wasn’t exactly how it worked in reality. But I did know I wanted to analyze things.

HC: What would be your best advice to Holy Child students in particular seniors?
CM: I feel like everyone says this, but I just took myself way too seriously thinking that high school was the end all be all. I created these stories in my head and it was to the detriment of socializing, and having a lot of friends and being able to enjoy what high school is about instead of being focused solely on academics. Socially, I felt a bit like a floundering fish when I got to college because all I had ever done was study. A lot of us, including myself, are also looking at ‘what life was before’ rather than looking at the present moment and accepting it. This is kind of the new normal and when you reconcile that, you’re better able to take advantage of the things you can do now and see the positive. This shows us that life doesn’t stop for anything.

HC: You spoke a bit about different experiences. I do believe there is this tendency, particularly in

Cira and a fellow research assistant with Scottish First MInister, Nicola Sturgeon

and a detrimental effect on security; that includes human rights, which is something I am very passionate about, but now also global health.

HC: What was your best advice to Holy Child students? In particular seniors?
CM: I feel like everyone says this, but I just took myself way too seriously thinking that high school was the end all be all. I created these stories in my head and it was to the detriment of socializing, and having a lot of friends and being able to enjoy what high school is about instead of being focused solely on academics. Socially, I felt a bit like a floundering fish when I got to college because all I had ever done was study. A lot of us, including myself, are also looking at ‘what life was before’ rather than looking at the present moment and accepting it. This is kind of the new normal and when you reconcile that, you’re better able to take advantage of the things you can do now and see the positive. This shows us that life doesn’t stop for anything.

HC: You spoke a bit about your plans post-graduation but in terms of your career what would your aspirations be? Of course, we know this could change several times as it does for most people!
CM: I can say with more certainty what I do not want to do! I know that I definitely do not want to go to law school or be involved in politics. I’m more action-oriented. I would pursue a second master’s degree, considering the government would pay for me to do that. I’m interested in Eastern Europe and the Middle East so spending time abroad and learning the languages would be something I want to pursue. Right now I’m fluent in Spanish and I am taking Russian, but hopefully I’ll also be able to learn Arabic. Shockingly, languages didn’t actually come easy to me in high school!

HC: What did you want to be when you were growing up?
CM: I was kind of that quirky kid who just wanted to be a spy! I grew up reading Harriet the Spy and I wanted to be Harriet. As I grew older, I realized that how it was portrayed in these books wasn’t exactly how it worked in reality. But I did know I wanted to analyze things.

HC: What would be your best advice to Holy Child students in particular seniors?
CM: I feel like everyone says this, but I just took myself way too seriously thinking that high school was the end all be all. I created these stories in my head and it was to the detriment of socializing, and having a lot of friends and being able to enjoy what high school is about instead of being focused solely on academics. Socially, I felt a bit like a floundering fish when I got to college because all I had ever done was study. A lot of us, including myself, are also looking at ‘what life was before’ rather than looking at the present moment and accepting it. This is kind of the new normal and when you reconcile that, you’re better able to take advantage of the things you can do now and see the positive. This shows us that life doesn’t stop for anything.

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and a detrimental effect on security; that includes human rights, which is something I am very passionate about, but now also global health.
Alexis Cortijo-Brown ’02 | Alexis Cortijo-Brown ’02 is an emergency medicine attending physician at Montefiore Medical Center and a faculty member at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. She works in an extremely busy and high-volume emergency room. When COVID-19 hit the Montefiore ER, Dr. Cortijo-Brown’s job became even more intense. On one of the worst days there were about 80 COVID patients.

“I love my job. Physicians don’t turn away from chaos or suffering. This is what we are trained to do. Some of my closest friends who have supported me through this crisis were my Holy Child classmates.”

Emma Kvaale ’13 | Emma Kvaale ’13 is a registered nurse at NYU Langone in New York City. In mid-March of 2020, her unit transitioned into a COVID-19 ICU. As an acute care nurse, she was originally floated to other acute COVID floors but she is now training to be an ICU nurse.

“It is scary coming into work everyday knowing I will be exposed to these patients, but my team has really come together and they are all so motivating. This has been difficult, because as a nurse, I think it is really important to balance work with outside activities, so as not to let the hardships of work take over your life.”

Beth Carey Hanyspiak ’94 | Beth Carey Hanyspiak ’94 is a Critical Care Nurse at the Naples Community Hospital in Naples, FL. She became a nurse in 1998 and in 2000 started working in critical care with a focus in open heart surgery. Beth worked with specific COVID-19 patient assignments which required a wearing a gown, gloves, N95 mask, goggles, head cover, and face shield. At the end of each shift, staff had to shower and change into clean clothes. Beth even used her Holy Child Alumni bag to bring clean clothes back and forth.

“I am definitely exhausted by the end of the shift. I have been involved in some emotional cases. I have a great support system, including my extended family and the Holy Child community. Update: It’s a relief to see our patients getting better.”

Analisa Ambrosi ’05 | Analisa Ambrosi ’05 is a Physician Assistant, who has been practicing hospital medicine for the past 8 years. For the last 6 years, she has been working at Bryn Mawr Hospital in suburban Philadelphia. Analisa cares for patients on the hospital’s dedicated COVID-19 unit.

“It is certainly a challenging and stressful time to be practicing medicine but I feel privileged to be on the front lines with many other talented and dedicated healthcare professionals.”

Eileen Beck ’10 | Eileen Beck ’10 has been a Registered Nurse for five years. She works in the emergency room at New York Presbyterian Lawrence Hospital in Bronxville, NY.

“We had our first COVID-19 patient early on during the pandemic and it has been non-stop since then. It has been mentally and physically draining. It was the most rewarding feeling to help these patients start to get better as we saw an increase in recoveries.”

Kristen McKeegan McDermott ’00 | The young children of Kristen McKeegan McDermott ’00 wanted to do something to help fight the coronavirus. Mary (7) and Patrick (5), set up a stand outside their house in Crestwood, NY and sold pictures and pipe cleaner jewelry. They raised $700 over a single weekend and their parents matched what they raised. The money was used to gift nurses in the neighborhood and former babysitters who are nurses with $300 via Venmo.

“My kids started this project all on their own. I love that they are so little but were still able to make a difference.”

Cristina Rocco ’18 | Cristina Rocco ’18 and her brother, Alex started CT Central Kitchen (CTCK) with the mission to provide hot meals to both inner-city residents and first responders in Bridgeport, CT. Every Monday, CTCK set up in a different part of Bridgeport and distributed 250 hot plates of chicken, beans, and rice.

“The launch of CTCK has made me realize that even if life isn’t going the way one wants, there is still hope and love to be spread to others. Nothing is more heartwarming and pleasing than hearing someone say that you made their day by giving them a hot plate of food. Update: This is definitely a busy time for me, as I am finishing up my junior year at Northeastern University where my classes have been for the past year online. However, I am looking forward to the summer and fall semester, where in-person instruction is going to begin and the city is starting to reopen to full capacity.”

Kristin Twomey Hopkins ’04 | Dr. Kristin Twomey Hopkins ’04 is currently a Fellow in an orthopaedic surgeon at Stony Brook University. Given that a lot of orthopaedic sports is elective surgery, Kristin’s work schedule slowed down during the pandemic. She continued to treat patients with injuries that required urgent care such as fractures of tendon ruptures, and telehealth has emerged as an effective way to be accessible as well.

“Honestly, at times I felt very helpless and even guilty since my specialty narrowed my role in this crisis. I am in awe of all of our front line healthcare providers who are truly in the trenches!”

Dr. Hopkins was the commencement speaker for the Class of 2020 graduation ceremony. To the Class of 2020: “I know this is not how you pictured your time at Holy Child coming to an end, but you’ve done an amazing job of banding together in al of this. Your legacy is definitely unique, and one day this will be quite the story to tell your own children! I am so honored to be a part of your graduation from such a special place.”

Update: “Things are definitely improving out here on Long Island. It’s especially great to see all of the kids back on the fields playing the sports they love! I’ve had many patients tell me they finally feel safe enough after their vaccines to go to the doctor, which is so important. I’m hopeful that the worst is behind us and we’ll continue the forward progress!”

Andrea Hooper Robert ’91, P’28 and Dr. Melissa Gennarelli ’91 | Andrea Hooper Robert and Dr. Melissa Gennarelli, two members of the Class of 1991, were able to come together in an effort to address the public health crisis in Westchester and beyond. Dr. Melissa Gennarelli ’91 works in Internal Medicine at Westchester Medical Center. Her husband, Dr. Michael Canter works in Emergency Medicine at Greenwich Hospital.

“We are a husband and wife physician team together in this fight against COVID-19 at Westchester Medical Center and Greenwich Hospital. We are dedicated to treating and caring for the patients of our community during this pandemic.”

Andrea Hooper Robert ’91, a member of the Holy Child Board of Trustees and Holy Child Alumni Board, joined Regeneron in December of 2019. Regeneron is in the precision medicine department. She is responsible for the biomarker strategy in clinical trials for programs in immunology, inflammation and infectious diseases. Regeneron formed a rapid response team to discover and develop highly potent antibodies for blocking SARS-CoV2. This was done on their existing experience and success for Ebola a few years ago, and because the company has an intense and harmonized focus to win the war against COVID-19.

“This brought me together with Melissa Gennarelli ’91 as we worked on a clinical protocol together and had several meetings with our two organizations in order to work together to address public health needs as quickly as possible. Never in my career have I seen such a level of collaboration and teamwork across the entire world and entire scientific fluid.”

Update from Dr. Melissa Gennarelli: “The COVID-19 pandemic has changed our world forever. It has never been more apparent that through courage, unity, perseverance, and resilience, we can rise to any challenge and overcome adversity. The success of vaccines, efficacy of therapeutics, increased knowledge of the disease itself, and the promise of continued research on this virus have given us the glimpse of a brighter future and the hope that ultimately we will defeat of this invisible enemy.”

Amanda Septimo ’08 | Amanda Septimo ’08 was previously a member of the political team at the New York State Nurses Association, a union representing more than 40,000 working nurses across New York. She is now the Assemblymember for the 84th district of the New York State Assembly in the South Bronx, having won her campaign this past November and began her term in January 2021.

“Your years at Holy Child grounded me in the reality that at times life can offer more questions than answers. As a young woman of conscience and action, I have learned that it is ok to spend every single day in pursuit of the answers, life, and world you want. So, in the midst of these uncertain times, I hope we are all able to stay close to that truth.”
It was disappointing to not be able to host Reunion last year because of the global pandemic. But it did not stop Holy Child alumnae from coming together to celebrate. Because of creative thinking and a whole lot of planning, the alumnae from the classes ending 0, 1, 5, and 6 were able to celebrate their milestone anniversaries. On Friday, April 30, the first ever virtual Holy Child Reunion took place with over 150 attendees “zooming” in from all around the country and the world.

The Alumnae Office hosted virtual events that allowed for participants to “pop in-and-out” of these events throughout the day. First, a Coffee Chat with our newly appointed Head of School, Colleen Pettus. During the “chat” alums were treated to an update on the state of their alma mater and were also able to spend some time just getting to know Colleen. Next up, a lunch-time cooking class with chef and alumna, Jocelyn Salata ’09. Jocelyn shared how and why she began cooking and the secrets to one of her favorite recipes — eggplant parmigiana. In the afternoon, there was an opportunity to join a class taught by current faculty members. Giving alums a sneak peek into what happens in our classrooms each day. It was affirming for those who participated to witness Holy Child faculty members continuing to be knowledgeable, passionate and engaging about their disciplines.

The virtual day concluded with a cocktail party on Zoom complete with breakout rooms for each reunion class. It was wonderful to see so many alumnae in virtual attendance from as near as Rye, and as far away as China! The celebrations continued into the weekend with a virtual 5k and on-demand Peloton ride for all to enjoy. Additionally, reunion attendees were treated to an awesome “Reunion Swag Box” chock full of gear to represent their Gryphon pride.

While it would have been wonderful to be together in-person on campus, our virtual Reunion was the perfect way to celebrate safely and together. This ability to gather virtually will now be a component of our Reunion celebrations — a true silver lining of challenges presented to all this past year.
**Class Notes**

**Send Your Class Notes All Year Long!**

We love to hear from you! Please send us your news and/or photos, and they will be included in the next issue of Glimpses. Submit them via email to alumnae@holychildrye.org with your name, class year, and “CLASS NOTES” in the subject line.

*Please know that every effort has been made to be as accurate as possible. If there are any errors, please accept our sincerest apologies and contact Alumnae Engagement Liaison, Carolyn Walters at c.walters@holychildrye.org*

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**1948**

Ann Conway Clancy mourns the loss of her sister, Mary Jane Conway Matter ’35 who passed away on June 14, 2020.

**1964**

Anne Marie Doty Paine and her husband, Larry moved to Roosevelt Island after selling their home in Fairfield, CT. The island is two miles long in the middle of the East River with marvelous views of the Manhattan skyline. They are enjoying being bonafide New Yorkers after living in Connecticut for 49 years.

**1966**

Micaela Kelly English presented her granddaughter, Lekha English ‘21 her diploma at Holy Child’s graduation on Saturday, June 5, 2021.

**1971**

Eugenie Diserio continues to exhibit her paintings in many art venues across Fairfield County, CT. She also had a solo exhibit of 12 paintings on view at The Inn of New Canaan, part of the Waveny Lifecare Network. Eugenie says, “It’s an honor to spread color, inspiration, and energy to the residents of this senior community who are locked down for so long. Like spring, the art brings them a stimulating breath of fresh air!”

**1974**

Nancy Shlora Donnelly and her sister, Marie Shlora Misisco ’76 are grandparents! Nancy, right, with her grandson, Carson Donnelly, and Marie, left, with her twin grandsons, William and Henry Misisco.

**1975**

Claire Heaney Ruggieri and her husband Phil’s eldest daughter, Ashley ‘02 and her husband, James Stucenski, welcomed Bowen Philip on February 17, 2020. He joins big brother Wyatt. Claire’s youngest daughter, Elizabeth ‘09 is engaged to Gavin Brennan. The wedding was on May 21, 2021, at Westchester Country Club Beach Club in Rye, NY. They are having a busy year despite the pandemic!

**1976**

Lisa Pandaleason Cavanaugh’s granddaughters, Rowan, 4 and Enrico, 1, spent Father’s Day weekend 2021 on Lake Canandaigua, NY.

**1977**

Nora Ryan Golterman’s son, Max Golterman, married Elle Birmingham in Las Vegas, NV last summer. They had an intimate wedding reception in Denver, CO on August 1, 2020. Nora, her husband Nick, and their other two children, Sam and Marta, are pictured to the left of the bride and groom.

**1978**

Cath Huttlinger Strong is excited to announce that the Strong Family welcomed Carson James Strong into the world on Thursday, November 12, 2020 born to Seamus and Alyssa Strong. “We are taking to our new role as grandparents and loving it!”

Liz Rehm Wooster finds there are silver linings to everything. Though COVID has challenged us all in many ways, she is happy her family has been lucky. As everyone’s lives got a little smaller, they were able to spend much more time together! Although the family planned originally for two weddings in 2020, both had been postponed until 2021. Liz’s youngest daughter Kayley Hopper married her longtime boyfriend, Alex Zieg, on August 28, 2020. Since not all family members could be there, they got married on their own and Zoomed everyone in; it was beautiful and perfect!

Meg Brown Powers’ daughter, Alyson Powers MS ’06, married Garrett Hoy on October 18, 2020 at Lyndhurst Castle in Tarrytown, NY. The couple lives in Rye, NY.
In early March, prior to the COVID-19 shutdown, Kathryn Langeline Gazzo and her daughter, Ava 26 enjoyed a mother-daughter trip to London. They visited the Tower of London, British Museum, Globe Theatre, and Churchill War Rooms; climbed to the top of St. Paul’s Cathedral, strolled the Prime Meridian in Greenwich; enjoyed afternoon tea at Sketch; and went to see a play in London’s West End! They even took a flight home with fellow Gryphon Alena Maiolo’17 who was returning home from study abroad in London.

1943
Deirdre O’Brien and her 1993 classmates found a great positive during quarantine and the need to stay at home during the pandemic through their weekly Zoom meetings! Despite the four time zones and the distance of the friends spanning the country living in California, Colorado, Texas, Indiana, New York, and Connecticut, they sat aside an hour (sometimes two or three) to get together. Over twenty-five years since being together at Holy Child, the bond and friendships remain as strong as ever. This weekly Zoom became a place where, despite all the chaos in the world, ten friends came together to laugh, share, and appreciate the support that has remained throughout the years! From left to right – Anne Carr, Tristie Thompson Gaukrop, Leigh Stuart Mulshine, Colette Porcelli Lottieri, Deirdre A. O’Brien, Sue Flink O’Connor, Colleen Parrott Ogilvie. Missing are Annie Gannon, Erica Mirabile Rubinstein, and Kendra Murray Jennings.

2000
Helena Sanchez and her daughter Khalilah 24 visit Times Square last summer.

2002
Anne Maren Bahr along with her husband Ben and sons Lucas Benjamin 4 and Conner Jeffrey 2, welcomed a third son, Samuel Maren Bahr on August 19, 2020. Her family now lives in Dobbs Ferry, NY.

1992
Heidi Les-Komaromi is grateful for her husband and 5 year old son and for living near the beach! She has been keeping busy with her art pursuits and created TogetherApart, an artist-designed face mask collection that supports artists. They also recently moved homes and currently live in Sag Harbor, where whales, dolphins and seals frequent the shores. She enjoys yoga, meditation, cooking and especially reconnecting with old alumna friends!

1979
Nina Leone and Betsy Hudsbesch 79 still “sing to the wisdom of the Holy Child”! They met up in the early days of the pandemic to cherish a socially distant visit in New York City. Weekly calls with Vermont based alum Melanie McGuirk 79 keep their trinity tight, “we are always each other’s soft place to land.”

1980
Alicia Risascico Coash’s daughter, Cara Coash married Richie Fazio on September 12, 2020 in a beautiful outside ceremony at Westchester Country Club in Rye, NY. Married Richie Fazio on September 12, 2020 in a beautiful outside ceremony at Westchester Country Club in Rye, NY. Married Richie Fazio on September 12, 2020 in a beautiful outside ceremony at Westchester Country Club in Rye, NY.

1989
After 19 years working in Elder Services as an Elder Abuse Supervisor, Karen Stonehouse has changed careers to Quality Assurance. During the pandemic, she began a new position as a Clinical Quality Supervisor at a large mental health organization in Western Massachusetts.

1990
In September, the Class of 1990 lost one of our radiant friends, Beth Errico. Beth was someone who always lit up a room with her genuine smile, entertained others with her infectious laugh and possessed the unique ability to connect with others, with her genuineness and compassion. We will so deeply miss her. Perhaps they are not stars, but rather openings in heaven where the love of our lost ones pours through and shines down upon us to let us know they are happy. Eula Biss Proverbs.

2005
Claire Cashman married Apol Ignyor on December 13, 2020 via Zoom! She still keeps in touch with her Holy Child best friends from the class of 2005 (from left to right) Jamie Conners, Taylor McFenna, Danika Salzow, and Claire Cashman Ignyor.

2004
Katie Breen was recently promoted to Executive Director at Morgan Stanley, where she is an Alternative Investments Specialist in the Investment Management Division. Katie relocated back to New York from California in 2020.

2003
Megan Breen Bennett and her husband, Neville Bennett welcomed daughter Charlotte “Charlie” Elizabeth Bennett in July 2020. Megan is a Sergeant and Neville is a Detective with the Yorks Police Department.
2006

Brooks Pendergast Frank and her family are based outside of Washington D.C. where she works as a school-based therapist with Catholic Charities. She’s worked in public elementary education providing therapy (now tele-therapy), resources, and community support. Her husband, Sam, is a second-year law student at Georgetown Law. After spending several years out in California while he was in the Marine Corps they were happy to return to the East Coast to pursue their grad school ambitions four years ago. Their daughter Alex, 4, spent a happy summer going on adventures around the neighborhood! She is a very caring big sister to her brother, Leonard who is now two years old.

Noelle Tudor Vasquez is in her 11th year of teaching science at Holy Child. Her son, Joshua, is 4 and her daughter, (and future Gryphon!) Zoe is 2.

Brittany Williams recently accepted an offer for a new role at LegalZoom. She will be a Principal on their Strategy and Operations team, directly supporting the CEO of LegalZoom, Dan Winnkeff. Brittany and her fiancé, Sam Taylor were planning their wedding for March 27, 2021 in Jamaica but because of COVID-19, Sam and Brittany were legally married on April 28 in San Francisco, CA. The two are looking forward to celebrating with family and friends in Montego Bay, Jamaica in March 2022.

Future members of the Holy Child class of 2038: Maggie McConnell (daughter of Holy Child alumna Carly Exam McConnell) and Annabelle Wechsler (daughter of Laura Hudson Wechsler ’07).

2007
Brenna Carlin and her team, Jim’s Fighters, virtually participated in The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society’s (LLS) Light the Night Walk and she raised a significant amount of money for a cause so dear to her. Jim’s Fighters was created in honor of her father James T. Carlin, Jr. who passed away two years ago following bravely battling Acute Myeloid Leukemia. She walked with her best friend and classmate, Kaitlin Kelly Mara, who is a two-time survivor of Lymphoma, a true inspiration to all. Jim’s Fighters also included two additional Holy Child alumnae: Caroline Hollieran Thompson and Brenna’s sister, Morris Carlin ’10.

Laura Hudson Wechsler and her husband, Jake Wechsler, welcomed a daughter, Annabelle Kata Wechsler on August 16, 2020. Laura is a third grade teacher at St. Bernard’s School, an all-boys school in New York City. She is currently enjoying some time off to spend with her daughter.

2008
Erin Mara Brooks and her husband, Avery Brooks welcomed daughter, Parker Mara Brooks, on April 16, 2020. Parker joins big sister, Lily!

Julia Cancro and her 2008 classmates marked up and drove to Vermont to visit Chelsea DeCaro ’06.

Kaita Cashman married Erica Castaldo on August 1, 2020 in an intimate backyard wedding!

Brittany Williams recently accepted an offer for a new role at LegalZoom. She will be a Principal on their Strategy and Operations team, directly supporting the CEO of LegalZoom, Dan Winnkeff. Brittany and her fiancé Sam Taylor were planning their wedding for March 27, 2021 in Jamaica but because of COVID-19, Sam and Brittany were legally married on April 28 in San Francisco, CA. The two are looking forward to celebrating with family and friends in Montego Bay, Jamaica in March 2022.

Future members of the Holy Child class of 2038: Maggie McConnell (daughter of Carly Exam McConnell) and Annabelle Wechsler (daughter of Laura Hudson Wechsler ’07).

Cara Hudson Wechsler ’07 welcomed a baby boy, Patrick Crowley Clancy on May 15, 2020.

Emily Baird Cawley with her husband, Matt and daughter, Ellie.

Claire Crowley Clancy and her husband, John welcomed a baby boy, Patrick Crowley Clancy on May 15, 2020.

Laura Hudson Wechsler and her husband, Jake Wechsler, welcomed a daughter, Annabelle Kata Wechsler on August 16, 2020. Laura is a third grade teacher at St. Bernard’s School, an all-boys school in New York City. She is currently enjoying some time off to spend with her daughter.

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Kathleen Glaithaar wrote, “I am so excited that Joseph Lazara asked me to marry him in May! We plan to get married at Fordham University’s Church in November 2022.”

The 2020 Holy Child Awards Dinner sponsored by the Sisters of the Holy Child was supposed to take place on March 26 in New York City but was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mairead Jones-Kennelly ’08 was the recipient of one of the two awards, the Holy Child Spirit Award, presented at this annual event. The Holy Child Spirit Award is bestowed on someone who exemplifies the characteristics of service unique to the Holy Child tradition (i.e. faith, justice, action, compassion) by using their gifts to make a difference in the world. Fiona Kelly, Mairead’s mother, and former Director of Learning Services at Holy Child, prepared these words to introduce Mairead.

“Cornelia Connelly said, ‘what one is called to do, one is called to do with all her might.’ Those of us who know Mairead know she does EVERYTHING with all her might. Mairead is a champion of everyone. Most importantly, she is a champion of those on the margins. From an early age, Mairead was driven by a commitment to social justice and standing up for others. And like everything she committed to, she is standing up for others.”

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Congratulations, Mairead!

Mairead is the Associate Counsel in the Office of the Counsel to the Mayor of New York City.

2009
Meredith Trousdale Mullane and her husband, Pat are enjoying being parents to their daughter, Mackenzie Frances Mullane, who is 9 months old. Mackenzie’s grandmother is Barbara Palagia Trousdale ’74.

Laura Hudson Wechsler and her husband, Jake Wechsler, welcomed a daughter, Annabelle Kata Wechsler on August 16, 2020. Laura is a third grade teacher at St. Bernard’s School, an all-boys school in New York City. She is currently enjoying some time off to spend with her daughter.

Caroline O’Connor Dyer and her husband, Cory celebrated their son, Connor’s first birthday in June 2020.

Margit “Maggie” McConnell was born on September 1, 2020 weight 6 lb, 6 oz and 19.5 inches long. Maggie is the daughter of Carly Exam McConnell and Carey McConnell. She is the granddaughter of Helen Carey McConnell ’77 and the niece of Kate McConnell ’20.

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Congratulations, Mairead!

Mairead is the Associate Counsel in the Office of the Counsel to the Mayor of New York City.

2010
Rebecca Sestak welcomed a baby boy, Jack Thomas Sestak, on September 22, 2020.

Laura Hudson Wechsler and her husband, Jake Wechsler, welcomed a daughter, Annabelle Kata Wechsler on August 16, 2020. Laura is a third grade teacher at St. Bernard’s School, an all-boys school in New York City. She is currently enjoying some time off to spend with her daughter.

Caroline O’Connor Dyer and her husband, Cory celebrated their son, Connor’s first birthday in June 2020.

Kathleen Glaithaar wrote, “I am so excited that Joseph Lazara asked me to marry him in May! We plan to get married at Fordham University’s Church in November 2022.”

Congratulations, Mairead!

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It was amazing to finally tie the knot, especially during this time of COVID! Jackie and Jack were surrounded by immediate family and her maid of honor was Jackie Smith McCarthy is the Associate Dean of Students at Connelly School of the Holy Child in Potomac, MD. She is currently in school at George Washington University working on her Masters in Educational Leadership. Jackie and her husband, Ryan welcomed their first child on December 17, 2020. Christopher Joseph is sweet as can be! Christopher is the grandchild of Holy Child Board of Trustees Chair, Ellen Fahey-Smith.

2008

Stefanie Ciaccia Veneruso and her husband, Stephen Veneruso welcomed their son Domenico “Nico” James Veneruso to the world on March 22, 2020. Nico has been the best quarantine buddy!

Jackie Smith McCarthy

Deirdre Murphy Rogalski welcomed her daughter, Hope Frances Rogalski in 2020!


Maggie Kelly

Chris Talarico proposed on February 15, 2020 and engaged to be married Jack McGuigan on Saturday, September 19, 2020 after postponing their wedding a few times due to COVID! Jackie and Jack were surrounded by immediate family and her maid of honor was Taylor Messiter ’08. It was amazing to finally tie the knot, especially during this time of uncertainty.

Ali Barber Zalesky was a nurse practitioner at Brooklyn Hospital Center until last July when she decided to change positions and began working as a school nurse at The Windward School in Manhattan. It’s been an interesting start in the midst of the pandemic! Ali and her husband, Brian a moved to their new home in Greenwich with their baby daughter, Sloane.

Ali Barber Zalesky

2009

Tracy Britt is teaching full time at St. Augustine School as an ELA teacher while also pursuing her MA in English at Fordham University part-time. She also got engaged! Chris Talarico proposed on February 15, 2020 at the Cloisters and the couple plans to marry on July 16, 2021.

Tracy Britt

Casey O’Connor Stathopoulos and her husband, Michael, welcomed their son Nicholas “Niko” Stathopoulos to the world on March 22, 2020. Nico has been the best quarantine buddy!

Casey O’Connor Stathopoulos

2010

Sara Archibald MS ’06 visited Ibby Anda MS ’06 in Venice Beach, CA this spring while on vacation. Ibby lives and works in Los Angeles for Surf Air and Sara works for Virtuoso, a luxury travel network.

Sara Archibald

Emily Houghton is currently pursuing her MBA at UCLA Anderson. After spending her SP (senior independent project) working for the ABC Family Network, she knew she wanted to work in the entertainment industry. She graduated from Miami University Ohio in 2014 and spent four years at Viacom Media Networks working on the distribution strategy team. After Anderson, Emily plans to continue with her entertainment career path, focusing on entertainment strategy.

Emily Houghton

2008

Deirdre Murphy Rogalski

When everyone started staying home due to COVID-19, Catherine Corbett decided to give herself quarantine bangs with the help of her Holy Child friends on zoom!

Catherine Corbett

Emily Houghton

2009

Jackie Knowles married Jack McSugan on Saturday, September 19, 2020 after postponing their wedding a few times due to COVID! Jackie and Jack were surrounded by immediate family and her maid of honor was Taylor Messiter ’08. It was amazing to finally tie the knot, especially during this time of uncertainty.

Jackie Knowles

Jackie Penichet is currently stationed in Yokosuka, Japan. She reported to U.S. SEVENTH FLEET in August 2019 as Flag Aide to the Commander and has traveled to over ten different countries throughout Asia. She was deployed for five months on the USS BLUE RIDGE last spring and she resigned her contract to stay in the Navy another four years. She will move back to the U.S. to complete a 6 month tactical course before reporting back to a submarine as a Department Head in February.

Jackie Penichet

Pamela Rizvi got engaged on July 1, 2020 to Maxwell Chalkin. Their wedding is planned for July 31, 2021 at Bryant Park Grill in New York, NY.

Pamela Rizvi

Emily Bock is engaged to Dylan Desjardin (Stepinac ’10)! Dylan is a paramedic firefighter who brings patients to Eileen as she is an ER nurse at New York Presbyterian Lawrence Hospital. Eileen and Dylan plan to marry in September 2021 in New Jersey.

Emily Bock
Mallory Little ’06 will marry Kevin Bruce in Rye, NY on December 31, 2021. Mallory and Kevin met at Miami University in Ohio. Mal and Kevin live in Chicago and are pictured with their dog Moeis. Sara Archibald ’06 will be a bridesmaid in the New Year’s Eve wedding.

Megan McLaughlin started a new role as an Inpatient Physical Therapist at Hospital for Special Surgery in Manhattan. However, when the pandemic was at its peak last spring, her unit at the Hospital for Special Surgery-Stamford Collaboration at Stamford Hospital shut down (as New York was no longer performing emergency/traumas), and conducting elective orthopedic surgeries and shut down (as New York was no longer

Holly Childress.org 48

Christine Janke married Zachary (Zak) Knueper on June 27, 2020. Her sisters, Sarah Janke ’07 and Meghan Janke ’12 served as her co-maids of honor. Christine and Zak have made their home in Dallas, TX and would love visitors! Christine works on the Digital Health team at Baylor Scott & White Health, transforming patient care and experiences through technology platforms.

Eighth grade teacher, Zuzanna Golec. Sophia is the residency at Icahn School of Medicine, Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City. Sophia is the daughter of Holy Child French and Spanish teacher, Zuzanna Golec.

Holly Janke ’10 and Meghan Janke ’12 served as her co-maids of honor. Christine and Zak have made their home in Dallas, TX and would love visitors! Christine works on the Digital Health team at Baylor Scott & White Health, transforming patient care and experiences through technology platforms.

2011

Meghan Barry continues to work as a speech language pathologist. She currently holds a part-time job at All About Kids, an EI agency and is currently working in the Dobbs Ferry School District as a leave replacement for middle school and high school.

Sophia Brodzilas Golec, Columbia University Class of 2015, graduated from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in May 2020. She was inducted into Alpha Omega Honors Society Class of 2020. Last July, she started her Internal Medicine residency at Icahn School of Medicine, Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City. Sophia is the daughter of Holy Child French and Spanish teacher, Zuzanna Golec.

Hawthorne, where she worked as a backfill for a startup and helping teach a leadership class at MIT.

Elizabeth Schama is excited to move into her recently purchased apartment in Boston. She is working as an Engineering Project Manager for a startup and helping teach a leadership class at MIT.

2012

Juliana Kilpi Chiolo married her husband, Nick Chiolo, on August 10, 2019 at Shenorock Shore Club. She graduated last January with a Masters in Professional Studies in Mathematics and Special Education from Manhattanville College. She began working at Holy Child for the 2020-2021 school year! Juliana taught 5th and 6th grade math and was excited to rejoin the community as a faculty member. She looks forward to inspiring her students in math as well as connecting with them and her co-workers, more this coming school year.

Mary Cortis lives and works in New York City. After working with JP Morgan Chase as a Campus Recruiter for many years, she is loving being with American Express now on their Campus Recruitment team.

Danielle Rivera is in her fifth year teaching math at Holy Child as well as coaching volleyball and advising an amazing group of students from the Class of 2021. She is also working on her master’s degree in administration at Fordham University in a program focused on leadership in Catholic schools. Danielle thinks she has the best colleagues in the world!

Mindi Millard founded a mensural health company in 2017 and she is so thankful to share that in the last year they raised their seed investment round and were featured in Forbes and Entrepreneur magazines. Her company, De Lune, provides natural, research-backed relief for menstrual symptoms — so that no one is held back by their period. She hopes that anyone struggling with cycle health in the Holy Child community will benefit from their products! Being a startup CEO during a pandemic has certainly been a wild ride, but hearing from all of the women who have found relief through her work makes it a thousand times worth it!

Alanna Kilkeary is a beauty, fashion and lifestyle journalist and blogger based in New York City. Graduating from Fordham University, Lincoln Center in 2016, she holds a BA in English and Fashion Studies. She’s currently working as a beauty editor at POPSUGAR/Group Nine, using her branded beauty writing expertise to recharge L’Oreal’s Makeup.com and skincare.com sites.

Tori Almeida is working from home on the marketing team for S&P Global, where she’s worked since graduating from Lafayette College in 2017. During the pandemic she has been spending a lot of time with family and hoping to eventually work abroad once things get back to normal. One exciting accomplishment for Tori was crossing the finish line at the 2019 NYC Marathon!

Gianna Ciminello and sister Cristina Ciminello ’15 both enjoy working for Altus Group, in Commercial Real Estate Valuations. They continue to adjust to the recent “work from home” environment!

Molly Cescas was engaged to Joey Vigor at Folly Beach in SC on March 15, 2021. A June 2022 wedding is planned in Rye, NY. Molly continues to teach at the Brunswick School in Greenwich, CT and will teach Pre-K next fall.

Laura Gerkis is loving her job as a teacher. While this year has been tough, her students have been coming together and bringing life back to the classroom!

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Maggie Evans and Geoffrey Pinney were married on June 19, 2021. Maggie currently teaches second grade at a private school in Dallas, TX.

Grace Jordan recently moved to Denver, CO and works in advertising. She loves living out west — everything is an adventure!

Morgan O’Donnell married Devin Robinson on October 9, 2020, in an intimate ceremony officiated by the groom’s grandfather in Rochester, NY. Morgan and Devin met while attending St. Lawrence University. The couple resides in Macedon, NY. The wedding was attended by her classmates, Emma Kvaale ’13 and Katie Rogan ’13.

Please be sure to include your name, class year and put CLASS NOTES in the subject line.

Please accept our sincerest apologies if there are any errors. We make every effort to be as accurate as possible,

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Jennifer Cummavo is a teacher in Greenswich, CT working with disabled children. She never imagined she would be a teacher but has loved finding a true passion for her work!

Tessa Flanagan received her undergraduate degree from Franklin and Marshall College in 2018 and is currently in her third year of her PhD program in Developmental Psychology at Cornell University. Her research focuses on children’s social cognitive development and philosophy of the mind. She is also the President of Cornell’s Graduate Women in Science (GWiS) organization and was recently awarded the Martha E. Foulk Fellowship for the Spring 2021 semester. This fellowship is awarded the Martha E. Foulk Fellowship for grades 4-6. She’s been spending time exploring Colorado and enjoying her new puppy Persiphone or Percy as she calls her!

Abigail Andrews is currently living in Palo Alto, CA and in the second year of her PhD program for Civil Engineering at Stanford University. She recently received the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. Outside the lab, she is enjoying life in Northern California!

Juliana Caposso is currently earning her masters in Mental Health Counseling at Boston College.

Anna Crotty graduated from Capri Cosmetology School in Nanuet, NY in August 2019 and is currently a hair stylist. She is working from home and visiting her clients at their homes due to the pandemic.

Colleen Flink recently moved to Omaha, NE for a new job as the Championship Manager for the 2021 US Senior Open which will take place this July at Omaha Country Club. She oversees the volunteer program, coordinating and managing over 2,000 volunteers leading up to the week of the Championship. She loves it so far; although it is quite different from Holy Child as she serves as the only woman on her team. However, she credits Holy Child for being confident enough to enter a male-dominated industry.

Cameron Kellett is in her second year at Cardozo Law School. She finds the work challenging but very interesting!

Molly O’Shea is a first year medical student at the Mayo Clinic, Alle School of Medicine in Rochester, MN.

Beth Infinger O’Connell married Colin O’Connell on November 30, 2019 in Boulder, CO. They are currently living in West Chester, PA because of Colin’s job as a FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) Missionary at West Chester University. She is doing marketing and communication work for a Catholic organization called Regnum Christi and Mission Youth. Beth (center) with her sisters, Laura ’09 and Leslie ’11.

Gus Pendergast moved to Denver, CO in October 2019 and has been working at a Montessori School since this past November. She works in an upper elementary classroom for grades 4-6. She’s been spending time exploring Colorado and enjoying her new puppy Persephone or Percy as she calls her!

Rayjenée Roberts is reminded that she is blessed during these trying times! Here she is pictured here with her sister, Meghan ’11.

Cameron Kellett is in her second year at Cardozo Law School. She finds the work challenging but very interesting!

Taylor John was featured on Syracuse University’s homepage and had an article written about her involvement at Syracuse. She was also interviewed for multiple University platforms where she shared what it meant to be an “Our Time Has Come Scholar”!

https://www.syracuse.edu/stories/taylor-john-our-time-has-come-scholarship/
Faculty and Trustee Notes

Carol Attammara, trustee, at Cornell University’s Commencement in May 2021 with graduating daughter, Christina ‘17, left, daughter, Annemarie ‘16, center, a graduate of Georgetown University, and her husband, Bob.

Fiona Kelly, former faculty member and mother of Mairead Jones-Kennelly ‘08 is a grandmother! Mairead’s daughter, Sacielle Wilde Jones-Kennelly was born on Mother’s Day arriving at 3:07 a.m. and weighing 8lbs. 1 oz.

Caty Bishop was engaged to Burjis Cooper on March 20, 2021. A small wedding ceremony in Central Park is scheduled for October 9, 2021.

Dr. Tim Duffy P’28, English faculty and AHI Director, and his wife, Ann P’28 baptized their third child, Matteo Jerome on June 12, 2021 in St. Walburga’s Chapel on campus. Adele Duffy ’28 assisted Deacon John Henderson, her grandfather, in the baptismal rite.

Caitlin Mills, Director of Student Counseling and Wellness and her daughter, Eliza ‘21 at Holy Child’s graduation on June 5.

Art teacher, Erin Morlock and Robinson Raj were married on April 30, 2021, in Waltham, MA, with “our girl, Oakley.” A small group of friends and family gathered to celebrate this happy union, and a larger event will be scheduled in the future.

English teacher, Victoria Provazza married Bryan Lutz on May 22, 2021 at Fort Adams in Newport, RI.

History teacher, Stephen Powell proposed to Elaine Thurman on October 10, 2020 at Provincetown Dunes on Cape Cod, MA. Their wedding will be held in August 2022.

Faculty member Suzy Slattery retired this year after 16 years of teaching at Holy Child. Suzy, a former Upper School Dean and History teacher was the lead advisor for the Class of 2021. Suzy (center) pictured with her fellow senior advisors including alums Jackie Ciaccia ‘06, Danielle Rivera ‘02, Kathryn Langston Gazzo ‘04 and Toni Santangelo Archibald ’76.

School nurse, Lila Smith and husband, Nick with their daughter, Shelby ‘21 at her graduation from Holy Child.

Former faculty member, Marcia Smith (far left) attending the graduation of her granddaughter, Fiona Degen ‘21.
In Memoriam

ALUMNAE AND SHCJ

Jeannie Colloton Brooks '81, sister of Kathy Colloton Komar '77
Judith Egan Bruckner '48
Sr. Mary Bryan, SHCJ, former Head of School
Sr. Eleanor Carbin, SHCJ
Ann Marie Colangelo Buchanan '61, sister of Ellen Colangelo '63
Caroline Kelly Davis '74, wife of former trustee Barry Davis, mother of Quinn Davis '06 and Nell Davis '10, sister of Helen Kelly Heekin '62, Micaela Kelly English '66, aunt of Caroline English '94, great aunt of Lekha English '21 and sister-in-law to former Board Chair Dede Ross.
Mary Sullivan Duignan '51
Beth Errico '90
Catherine O'Brien Fallon '55
Sr. Gemma Gargano, SHCJ
Cristi Crabtree Gochoel '59
Carol Kafka '58
Elfriede Mudelsee Latimer '51
Mary Jane Conway Matier '55, sister of Ann Conway Clancy '48, and great aunt of Caylene Parrish '13
Sr. Helen McDonald, SHCJ, former American SHCJ Province Leader
Eileen Moore '38
Sr. Marie Kathryn Naab, SHCJ, former faculty member
Margaret “Peggy” Browne Polis '55
Michaela Rodriguez '16, sister of Santana '20
Sr. Nora Sweeney, SHCJ, former faculty member
Natalie Yackeren Waller '42
MEMBERS OF THE HOLY CHILD COMMUNITY
Paulette Bonk, mother of Michele Ann Bonk '96*
James A. Cannon, grandfather of Mary '25 and Grace '25 Cannon
Kristina Catalic, mother of Ava Catalic '22
Elizabeth (Betty) Cleary, former trustee and mother of Cate Cleary Sposato '77, Maureen Cleary Colligan '80, and Patty Cleary '82.
George Clemens, grandfather of Emily '19 and Ashley '22 Clemens
Stephen Collins, father of Anne Collins Loos '91 and Kate Collins '95 and grandfather of Emma Loos '21
Lawrence Corroon, father of Claire Corroon '76 and Anne Corroon Grubbs '76*
Frank English, husband of Micaela Kelly English '66, father of Caroline English '94, grandfather of Lekha English '21, brother-in-law of Helen Kelly Heekin '62, Caroline Kelly Davis '74*, and uncle of Quinn Davis '06 and Nell Davis '10
Vivienne Finn, sister of Gabrielle Finn '21
Joan Fugazy, grandmother of Catie Fugazy Bave '03 and Caitlyn Scanlon Perry '04
Charlie Hayes, grandfather of Molly Hayes '22
Annette Lagana, mother of Paulette Lagana '62
Richard Matulat, father of Bridget Matulat Costiglio '91, grandfather of Grace '20 and Molly '23 Costiglio, and father-in-law of Director of Communications, Paul Costiglio
John McDonald, grandfather of Ellie Pettus '22 and father of Head of School, Colleen Pettus
Louis Migliore, father of Jessica Migliore DiFalco '03
Elizabeth Chase Mills and Willis Daniel Mills, Jr., grandparents of Eliza Mills '21, and in-laws of Erin McGillicuddy Mills '77, and faculty member Cairistin Mills
R.A. Tony O’Callaghan, former trustee and brother-in-law of Tricia Cassidy O’Callaghan '72
Thomas O’Neill father of Meghan O’Neill '10
Mary Pannuti, mother of Joan Pannuti Pottinger '93
Marianne Parker, mother of Lyell Parker Lewis '92
Richard Pettus, grandfather of Ellie Pettus '22 and father-in-law of Head of School, Colleen Pettus
Joseph Piscopo, grandfather of Sofia Ippolito '21
Timothy Plaia, grandson of Helen Gillespie Plaia '58
Domenic Procopio, grandfather of Sofia Miceli '20
Alexander Rizzo, father of Mariajoy Rizzo '91
Jessica Fuentes-Rivera, mother of Bella Rivera '25
Clare Shlora, mother of Nancy Shlora Donnelly '74 and Marie Shlora Misisco '76, aunt of Gigi Rooney Weil '74, and great aunt of Lucy Flanagan '11
Jack Souza, grandfather of Hayden Souza '26
Nicholas Tierney, son of Sarah O’Brien Tierney '75
Alejandro Troya, grandfather of Alina Troya '00 and Cristal Troya '02
Manuel Vazquez, father of Victoria Vazquez Meyer '88
Diane Vjajcki, mother of Darren Vjajcki, Facilities Manager
Sophie Wickramasinghe, former faculty member

*Predeceased

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