

The Lance

ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL • LANCASTER, NEW YORK
DECEMBER 2019



A MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL KEVIN KELLEHER '89



Dear Alumni and Friends,

As we enter the season of Advent, I have great hope and anticipation that 2020 will be as exciting a year as 2019!

As you will read in these pages, or may have already heard, St. Mary's has experienced some unprecedented successes in many areas!

- SMHS ranked #7 academically by *Business First* amongst 131 high schools in WNY.
- Baseball won the Georgetown Cup for the first time since 1980.
- SMHS was nominated for 7 Kenny Awards, recognizing excellence in musical theatre.
- **Fr. Robert Owczarzak '02** was recently ordained a Catholic priest.
- Women's Volleyball won the CHSAA State Championship for the 17th time.
- The Diocese named **Rev. Msgr. David G. LiPuma '78** pastor of OLV National Shrine & Basilica, Parish and president of OLV Institutions.
- The University of North Florida named **Dr. David Szymanski '75** their president.
- 14 current students and staff traveled to Guatemala on a mission trip to work with the Work, Play, Love Foundation's orphanage and the surrounding community.

And the list could go on and on...

It is difficult to contain my excitement with so much to be proud of, from both our current students and hard-working staff to all of our alumni. During these times that are difficult for the Catholic Church and its organizations, we are proud to say that we here at St. Mary's High School are succeeding and thriving!

As we move forward into a new decade, we will also be looking back to our past with new and concerted efforts to re-engage, welcome back, and thank every single one of our alumni who have helped make St. Mary's what it is today. In order to take our school to even higher levels of achievement, the support of our alumni is crucial – not just in terms of giving, but in calling upon the thoughts, memories, love and significance that St. Mary's has given you and your life.

I hope to be part of that reminiscing when I see you at the Reunion Weekend, which will be held June 26 - 29th. More information will follow, but I encourage all to make every effort to join us for what will be a fantastic celebration with many new events to be a part of.

Finally, as the year comes to an end, I encourage you to keep St. Mary's High School not only in your prayers but also in your charitable contributions. For those that have already honored us, on behalf of all, we thank you. For all that are still planning out their year-end charitable contributions, we would be so humbled if you would make St. Mary's part of them.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and may your New Year be filled with many blessings.

God Bless, and Go Lancers!

Kevin Kelleher
HEAD OF SCHOOL

START PLANNING! Reunion Weekend 2020 June 26 - 29

We will be specifically saluting the classes of:
'55, '60, '65, '70, '75, '80, '85, '90, '95,
'00, '05, '10, and '15

Watch the mail for more details about your upcoming reunion.

All classes are welcome to join us for Reunion Weekend June 26-29, 2020 as we celebrate all things St. Mary's!!

Tentative schedule:

Friday, June 26th

Private Class Receptions – Contact your class representative (see below)

Saturday, June 27th

1:00 p.m. – Double-Decker Bus Tour of Buffalo
5:00 p.m. – Mass in the Auditorium
6:00 p.m. – Reunion Celebration at St. Mary's

Sunday, June 28th

9:00 a.m. – Farewell Brunch
6:00 p.m. – Cocktail Party at Lancaster Country Club

Monday, June 29th

St. Mary's Golf Tournament • Lancaster Country Club
Morning and afternoon shotgun start

Class Liaisons:

- 1960** – Sharon Chamberlin (*sharchamb@roadrunner.com*)
- 1965** – Karen Penfold (*karenepenfold@gmail.com*)
- 1970** – Doug Buczak, Director of Alumni Relations
(*dbuczak@smhlancers.org*)
- 1975** – Linda Lombardo (*instak900@yahoo.com*)
- 1980** – Don Monnin (*monnind@villa.edu*)
- 1985** – Pete Musialowski (*petemus57@gmail.com*)
- 1990** – Tracey Gallo (*tgallo@smhlancers.org*)
- 1995** – Kim Fort Bernas (*kim.bernas@icloud.com*)
- 2000** – Matt Carlucci
- 2005** – Bridget Helak (*helakba@gmail.com*)
- 2010** – Emma Concannon (*emmac@nforest.com*) &
Justine Pazderski (*jpgazderski@gmail.com*)
- 2015** – Danielle Hockwater (*dhockwater@gmail.com*)

LEADERSHIP TEAM

KEVIN KELLEHER '89
Head of School

ROB CAVALLARI
Chief Financial Officer

KEITH JUNIK
Dean of Academic Affairs

ANDREA DRABIK
Dean of Student Life &
Enrollment

BECK O'CONNOR
Dean of Students

MARK TRAMONT '77
Vice President of Institutional
Advancement

DOUG BUCZAK '94
Director of Development &
Alumni Relations

AMY KAWA '11
Director of Marketing &
Communications

ZACH WEISS '07
Marketing & Communications
Coordinator

DEACON ROBB CIEZKI
Campus Minister

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

NICHOLAS FIUME
Chair

EVELYN HAMILTON
Vice Chair

LUANNE BROWN '77

MAUREEN DENMAN

MARK DiPIRRO '86

CHRIS HORVATITS '09

JANE DENZ KNEY '72

RUTH McMANUS

MICHAEL SOBOTKA '04
Secretary

PAUL ELWELL
Treasurer

JOSEPH MORENO

THOMAS ODDO

DEAN RAMIREZ

REV. DAVE RICHARDS

KAREN E. PENFOLD '65
Emeritus

DALE VOLKER '58
Emeritus

To see the latest info on faculty and staff, and “who’s who” at St. Mary’s, visit: our website at <https://smhlancers.org/facultystaffboard-directory/>

SMH Lancer News

Over the summer, some St. Mary's students, the Spanish Department, and Head of School Kevin Kelleher headed to Guatemala for a service trip in conjunction with SMH alum **Marty Gilano '85**, who is a board member of the Work, Play, Love Foundation.

Under the guidance of the foundation's president, Kim Meila, the St. Mary's contingency spent the week at an orphanage, cleaning, putting together a trampoline, and just spending time with the children. There was also time for some sight-seeing, as the students hiked up the Pacaya Volcano and visited Cerro de la Cruz.

SERVICE TRIP CHANGES LIVES



ST. MARY'S PARTNERS WITH CRADLE BEACH



St. Mary's has started a new program where the school chooses a charity to partner with throughout the school year as our "Charity of Choice." This year, St. Mary's is partnering with Cradle Beach Camp in Angola, where different student groups will go to volunteer, and they will be the beneficiary of several opportunities to donate throughout the school year.

Daniel May '20 (far left in photo) really enjoyed his day of service at Cradle Beach, as he and his fellow National Honor Society members got a tour of the camp and served lunch to the campers: "I love having the opportunity to go out into the community and experience different ways to help," Daniel said. "Getting the chance to serve lunch to kids of all different backgrounds and abilities helped us see the kind of impact organizations like Cradle Beach can have. I was honored to be a part of it."

PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT WINS TWO KENNY'S

In 2019, the St. Mary's Performing Arts Department received seven Kenny Award nominations for their production of *The Addams Family*. The Kenny's honor the best of the best of high school musical theater in Western New York. Out of those seven nominations, junior **Marten Linnan** won Most Outstanding Actor in a Supporting Role and the entire production was awarded Best Costuming.

Mark your calendars for this year's musical *How to Succeed In Business Without Really Trying*, which will be performed on the St. Mary's stage March 19 - 21, 2020.



FIVE INDUCTED INTO YOUTH BUREAU HALL OF FAME



This year, five Lancers were inducted into the Lancaster Youth Bureau Hall of Fame, which honors its inductees for their academic prowess, sense of service, leadership, and service to the Lancaster community. Those honored from St. Mary's this year were: **Anya Achtyl '19**, **Caitlin Bish '19**, **Lauren Nawojski '20**, **Brianna Propis '19**, and **Jillian Szeluga '20**.

These Lancers join the ranks of over 20 other SMH alumni who have also been inducted into the Hall of Fame since the 1980s.

Young Alumni on the Move

▶ ALUMNI STORY



CAITLIN BISH '19
Princeton University

Caitlin Bish graduated as the valedictorian and president of her class, nominee for the Marian Award, and Female Athlete of the Year. It's not surprising that she's off to big things at Princeton University and the Tigers Softball Team. We can't wait to see what's ahead for her!



Caitlin Bish '19 felt the support while signing her letter of intent.

▶ ALUMNI STORY



LEAH MEYER '15
University of Kentucky

The former three-time state champion, league MVP, high school All-American selection, and NY Gatorade Player of the Year traded her Duke Blue for Kentucky Blue. **Meyer** is playing out her final year of eligibility in Lexington and is enjoying quite the season with the 15th-ranked Wildcats (at time of press), earning SEC Defensive player of the Week honors in October, as she pursues her MBA from the UK Gatton College of Business and Economics.

▶ ALUMNI STORY



WILL SEVERYN '09
Severyn Development



ALEX SEVERYN '09
Severyn Development

Severyn Development landed quite the big deal this fall. The brothers, who were members of the Class of 2009, have found quite a great deal of success in the family business. The Severyns worked diligently and patiently with neighbors and the City Planning Board to move forward with a plan to build townhouses on Jersey Street in the city of Buffalo.

The \$2 million project is expected to take nine months to complete and construction will begin in March.

LANCER GALA FEBRUARY 7, 2020

St. Mary's premiere fundraising event of the year! With hundreds of live and silent auction items.

It's a fabulous evening of fun, cocktails, food stations by Frontier Catering, and live music all to support St. Mary's students and programs. Last year, this event raised nearly \$130,000. We hope you and your friends can join us on February 7th to exceed this year's goal of \$150,000! For tickets and sponsor information, go to: <https://smhlancers.org/lancer-gala/> or contact Noelle Dugas at ndugas@smhlancers.org.



We are also collecting auction items to be featured during both our silent and live auctions. To donate items, please contact Noelle or head to our Amazon Smile "wish list," which can be found on our website.

CIAO ITALIA ... RETURNS HOME APRIL 25, 2020



Have you ever wanted to be a part of a real, live cooking demonstration? Now's your chance!

Mary Ann Esposito '60 is the creator and host of the nationally televised PBS series, *Ciao Italia with Mary Ann Esposito* and has written 13 cookbooks to date. *Ciao Italia* has been viewed by millions over its 30-year history, making it the longest-running food show on television today! Come be a part of a live cooking demonstration at SMH!

Ciao Italia! tickets can be purchased by contacting Mark Tramont at mtramont@smhlancers.org or (716) 683-4824 ext. 237. Live music will also be provided by the Bobby Militello Quartet.

St. Mary's Retirements



Mrs. Claudia Fiume worked at St. Mary's for over two decades. She was the friendly voice parents heard on the phone in the Attendance Office and the friendly face students saw when they signed out or in. After decades of hard work and service to St. Mary's, Mrs. Fiume has decided to retire and enjoy some well-deserved time with her family.



Mrs. Trish Connelly decided to ride off into the sunset and head for retirement after 15 years of teaching at SMH. Mrs. Connelly is a Lancer through and through, as she graduated from the school in 1971. She taught Social Studies, Psychology, and several other classes and will be missed for her signature "Mrs. Connelly" style.

CSI Comes to St. Mary's



St. Mary's High School has partnered with Anthony Zuiker and Zuiker Press to integrate the company's graphic novels into the school's summer reading program.

Zuiker is the creator of one of the most popular and longest-running shows in the history of television in CSI and founded Zuiker Press, which released its first title in Fall 2018.

Zuiker recognizes that all high school students experience some type of pain, go through some type of strife, and many of those struggles are universally felt, like bullying or divorce, which are topics covered in the novels: "We want every young person who reads a Zuiker Press graphic novel to see three things: you are not alone; how this person got through this tough time; and you can get through it too," Zuiker said.

This mission resonated with Head of School Kevin Kelleher, as he jumped at the chance to work with Zuiker when he visited several Buffalo-area schools promoting the novels earlier this year. Zuiker appreciated the show of support that Kelleher displayed early on in the process: "Kevin and I have gotten along great, and we are very appreciative of the support St. Mary's has shown us in this partnership," Zuiker concluded.

William O'Brien '76 was awarded the 2019-2020 Distinguished Chair in Social Sciences to China by the Fulbright Scholar Board. The award involves teaching and conducting research in mindfulness and physiology with faculty members in psychology, neuroscience, global health, with universities located in the Shanghai provincial region.

Cristina Petruzzo Burns '00 welcomed a beautiful baby boy in October of 2018.



Danny and Michelle (Jezuit) Hamilton '11 were married in the summer of 2019 after being high school sweethearts.

Vincent Marmion '82 retired from the New York State Department of Corrections at the end of 2018.

Doug Buczak '94 has returned to St. Mary's High School as the Director of Development & Alumni Relations. Buczak is a part of a bolstered Advancement team that is ready to reach to and connect with fellow alumni and the community at large to share all of the wonderful things St. Mary's is doing.

"In being back and in my role here, it will allow me a great opportunity to reconnect with so many St. Mary's friends, past schoolmates and former athletes who I coached here in the past. St. Mary's has always been family, and I am thrilled to be right back in the heart of it," Buczak said.



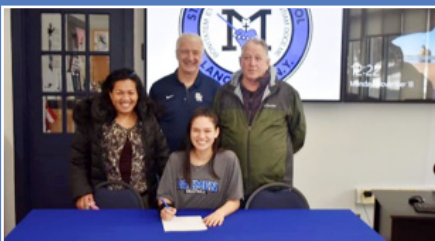
If you would like to share any updates with us to include in the next *Lance* newsletter, you can do so online at <https://smhlancers.org/alumni-updates> or you can drop us a note to Alumni Relations at 142 Laverack Avenue, Lancaster, NY 14086.

Please note: We are in the process of updating our alumni directory. A representative from Publishing Concepts could be contacting you via mail and phone over the next several months. We would appreciate your understanding and help to update our records.

Senior Class News



Skye Baun '20 is joined by her parents as she signs to play soccer at Lipscomb.



Jasmine Brundage '20 is joined by her parents and coach as she commits to play volleyball at Daemen.



Sam Carlson '20 is joined by her family as she commits to play soccer at Niagara.



Lauren Nawowski '20 is joined by her parents and siblings as she signs to play basketball at St. John Fisher.



Jess Sheffield '20 is joined by her parents and sister as she commits to play softball at Gannon.



Luke Szablewski '20 is joined by his parents and siblings as he will play soccer for Canisius.

College Tour Program Visits Philadelphia-Area Schools



St. Mary's Center for College & Career Counseling plans a yearly trip for interested students to visit colleges and universities within a specific geographic area. Students receive information about the college's majors, a tour the campuses, and are given then opportunity to talk with current students and faculty members.

Kerry Sullivan '20 participated in the spring program, on which she and the group visited Villanova, Bucknell, Susquehanna, and the University of Pennsylvania: *"The College Tour Program gave me the ability to see colleges I might not have otherwise considered, and allowed me to really get a feel for schools on my own,"* Kerry said.

Art Alive Team Wins Award



This summer, St. Mary's participated in the annual Art Alive event at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery. The event features participants from local schools who bring famous paintings and other works of art to life by putting themselves into the scenes!

Under the direction of Art Teacher Mr. Richard Christian, St. Mary's won the Judges' Award for Best Craftsmanship. Mr. Christian was very proud of his team: *"Our students worked for weeks to put together this piece, and it came out beautifully,"* Christian said.

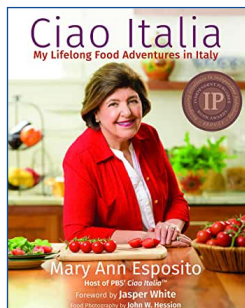
Alumni Spotlight

We're celebrating some big reunions this year! Let's check in with some alumni who have some milestone memories to share:

► MARY ANN (SAPORITO) ESPOSITO '60

After Mary Ann Esposito graduated from St. Mary's in 1960 and met her husband and fellow graduate, Dr. Guy Esposito '60, she set out to combine two of everyone's favorite worlds – food and television.

Mary Ann is the creator and host of the nationally televised PBS series, *Ciao Italia with Mary Ann Esposito* and the author of 13 cookbooks, including her most recent, *Ciao Italia: My Lifelong Food Adventures in Italy*. *Ciao Italia* has been viewed by millions over its 30-year history, making it the longest-running food show on television today!



Numerous organizations have recognized Mary Ann for her efforts to preserve the traditions surrounding Italian regional food and culture. She received the Order of the Star of Italy Cavaliere Award from the President of the Italian Republic and the Premio Artusi Award for her work in promoting Italian food. The Italian Trade Commission further distinguished Mary Ann by naming her a Hall of Fame honoree.

Mary Ann attained her Master's Degree from the University of New Hampshire and holds an honorary doctorate from St. Anselm College. Johnson and Wales University also presented Mary Ann with their Distinguished Author Award.

Mary Ann is holding a special engagement at St. Mary's this Spring! See p. 4 for details on how to attend.

► TOM LORENTZ '70

Tom Lorentz is the personification of "cool." Since his time at St. Mary's, he has gone on to receive three music degrees, including a Master's Degree in Music, Performance and Education from University at Buffalo. Throughout his lengthy career as a performer, song writer, and music producer, Tom has met many famous musicians and celebrities and performed with some of the greats. He is a local music legend and was inducted into the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame in 2012.

Tom's first love is music, but many of the same lessons that apply on stage, like knowing your audience and letting people see the real you, can also be applied to the business world. Tom has perfected this crossover, as he started his own small business, Main Mobility, in 1984. The business has grown over the years from a one-man job to over 30 employees designing and manufacturing wheelchair-accessible vehicles. In 2003, Tom was honored with the US Small Business Person of the Year Award for his work.



Tom and his wife, Joyce, have been married for 43 years and have two children and five grandchildren.

LORENTZ, *continued*

The family atmosphere of St. Mary's High School is something that is often discussed, but Tom captures its true meaning: "St. Mary's taught me the importance of respect for others and appreciation of true friends. We learned to compete, bond, share feelings, and simply be there for each other. It's 50 years later, and those feelings are even stronger," Tom said. "It is this foundation that provides an inner strength and allows me to step up to any challenges and maintain an attitude that I can succeed knowing someone always has my back."

► DON MONNIN '80

Don has quite the Lancer legacy, even earning the title of Alumni of the Year in 2004. Since his time at St. Mary's, he has received two Masters Degrees from Christ the King Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry in Applied Ministries from the Graduate Theological Foundation in South Bend, IN. Don has gone on to find great success at Villa Maria College as a Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies. He was even promoted to Vice President for Mission & Ministry just this year after being named the college's Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year in 2018.



Don has found ways to pay tribute to the places near and dear to his heart by making major contributions to published works, like *A Beacon for Excellence: A History of Villa Maria College, 1962-2012*, and *Teach Me Goodness, Discipline, and Knowledge: A Centennial History of Saint Mary's High School 1904-2004*.

Clearly, Don has found great success beyond the hallways of St. Mary's, but he attributes St. Mary's to helping him find his purpose: "In addition to 'book' knowledge, I also gained a sense of community, family and belonging. St. Mary's helped me to realize that working together, we can make the world a better place, and in doing so, gain a sense of meaning and purpose and come to know what is truly important in life."

SAVE THE DATE

February 7 th	Lancer Gala
March 19 - 21 st	Spring Musical (How to Succeed In Business Without Really Trying)
April 30 th	Fine Arts Night
May 16 th	Chris Griswold Memorial Run
May 28 th	116 th Commencement Ceremony
June 26 - 28 th	Reunion Weekend
June 29 th	St. Mary's Golf Tournament

Lancer Athletic News



1 - Freshman Phenom

Freshman **Jacob Dantonio** shot an even par 71 at Springville Country Club to earn the top golfer at the All-Catholic Championships and led all Western New York golfers this season.

His cousin, sophomore **Tyler Dantonio**, was also named to the 2019 Monsignor Martin All-Catholic Golf Team. Both boys are now onto the State Championships in June.

2 - Baseball Takes the Cup

The Lancers defeated St. Joe's 5-3 to win our first Georgetown Cup in 39 years! What a team! What a season!

3 - Softball Wins the League

The SMH Softball Team took down Mount St. Mary's in the title game 4-0 to bring home their second title in three years.

4 - Women's Volleyball Wins 17th State Title

The Lancers went 6-0 in pool play and swept

Kennedy Catholic in the finals to take the state championship, the team's third in the last four years.

5 - Szablewski Nets 100th Goal

Senior **Luke Szablewski**, son of SMH alumnus and Athletic Hall of Fame member, **Tim Szablewski '92**, scored his 100th goal in a St. Mary's uniform in a 4-0 win over Bishop Timon. The Men's Soccer Team also won their league title!

6 - Women's Soccer Takes Regular Season and Playoff Championships

The women's soccer team finished the regular season atop the league and then beat Nichols 3-0 to win their first league championship.

7 - Football Makes B Division Championships

New Head Coach Matt Ard and his squad hosted their first playoff game in 14 years and made it to the B Division Championship Game played at UB. The Lancers had 8 First Team All-Catholic players, led by junior **JaQwan Manuel's** 1,449 rushing yards (3rd highest in school history).

CHAPEL REFURBISHED

The Lady of Our Peace Chapel underwent quite the transformation this summer and continues to be a sanctuary for all who come to St. Mary's.

It is because of donations to last year's **Annual Fund** that renovations like this are possible!

