

THE MAGAZINE OF MOUNT ST. MARY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

SPRING 2019

THE MOUNT

115 YEARS *of* MERCY

at MOUNT ST. MARY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

LOVE INSPIRES MSM ALUMNI COUPLE p. 20 / MUSIC ON THE RISE p. 30 / ANNUAL REPORT p. 34



Continued from Front Cover
Sisters of Mercy on the front steps of Mount
St. Mary Catholic High School



Mount St. Mary

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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THE MOUNT

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When one says the word "mercy," it brings such a warm, comforting, and peaceful feeling.

When the word "mercy" becomes
capitalized – Mercy – words like
SERVICE, COMPASSION, and TRUST
quickly come to mind. And it is with
those words, and many more, we
lovingly call to mind the many Sisters
of Mercy who came before us and
courageously established the long-
standing traditions we have held over
the last 115 years and continue to hold
close to heart.

This school year we celebrate being
115 years strong! Congratulations,
Mount St. Mary Family! From the early
beginnings of laying the cornerstone
to putting the final touches on our new
Commons area just this past May, The
Mount has endured many hardships
through time, but because of the
commitment of so many instructors,
such as science teacher, Sister Betty
Elmer, and math teacher, Mark
Woodward, to the devoted graduates,
Gilbert Stockinger '62, Joyce Stone '56
Sims, and James Ward '84, the spirit
of Mercy has flourished through these
many decades.

The Mercy charism has been taken
across the community, near and far,
through the desire to serve, as seen
in Joe '93 and Giselle Piñon '93 Leon,
Mike Voorhees '72, Billy Vanlandingham

WELCOME | MSM

mercy
endures

'00, P.J. Kennedy '07 and Karen Aguilar
'09 Kennedy, and Joe Mussatto '12.
Additionally we proudly announce a new
program, Rehema Na Vitendo, at The
Mount, developed by our own faculty
members! Mercy will be put into action
in Kenya this summer through the
devotion of our staff and nine students!
These MSM alums and current MSM
members have dedicated their lives to
their communities, and it can easily be
said it is largely due to the inspiration
of our Mercy surroundings and the
expectations of the Sisters and our lay
instructors, for they are true ministers of
Mercy.

The Mercy spirit continues to thrive as
we move forward into the next 115 years,
and it is with a grateful heart we applaud
ALL of The Mount community – past
and present. The future is especially
bright for us here "on the hill" as we
begin making plans for our next projects.
Growth takes trust, and I am especially
thankful to each and every one of you
for the faith you continue to place in our
staff and students, as well as in myself.
God has immensely blessed us, and
we remain committed to developing
disciples of Mercy. And to think it all
began 115 years ago...

Happy Birthday!

Talita DeNegri

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More than *alumni.*

Patrick Kennedye & Karen Aguilar Kennedye MSM Classes of 2007 & 2009

Patrick “PJ” Kennedye ‘07 and Anakaren “Karen” Aguilar ‘09 Kennedye are more than just alumni of Mount St. Mary—they are ambassadors.

The story of their marriage, careers, and family embodies commitment and service. Their achievements, their success, and their faithfulness share a common starting point at MSM, and they have gone forward to lead, serve, and live Mercy.

In high school both already knew their career goals—practicing medicine for PJ, practicing law for Karen. Just as they had served their MSM community

in high school, they would serve others in their careers. Showing remarkable maturity and commitment, PJ and Karen made a plan. Just like PJ, Karen would attend OCU on full scholarship; however, she would complete her undergraduate degree in three years! They would then get married. After they were married, PJ would finish medical school at OU while Karen earned her law degree at OCU.

And while the journey continues for Karen and PJ, they have added some new members to their Rocket family. They have a son Peter 4, daughter Phoebe 3, and daughter Daphne who was born in February 2019! The Kennedyes are parishioners at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Oklahoma City, and their children attend Rosary Catholic School. Karen

affirmed that in the future, she and PJ want all three kids to be Rockets so they can “be part of the same history and family we are.”

Meanwhile, Karen and PJ have established careers marked by service. Karen is an immigration attorney in Oklahoma City with her own practice, Aguilar Kennedye Law, PLLC. In this role, she helps those who may not know how to help themselves as they navigate an increasingly complex immigration system. Those who know Karen are not surprised she reached a goal she established so many years ago, nor that she is using her talents to serve others. The same is true of PJ who is a physician at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Health Center in Shawnee, Oklahoma, serving full time in family



Photo by Kathleen Ellis Photography

medicine practice. He provides care for a range of health concerns—and just like Karen, he is using his talents to give critical service to others.

When asked about the role his MSM education has played in his life, PJ said, “The education I received at MSM set me up to accomplish the goals I had for myself.” Karen affirmed that her MSM connections “are for life,” and she remembered the “true sense of community” that pervades MSM.

“We’ve always known that The Mount is special—not just to us. It’s special,” declared Karen.

Truly, MSM is a special place, and it’s largely because of alumni like the Kennedyes. Patrick “PJ” Kennedye and Anakaren “Karen” Aguilar Kennedye: great ambassadors for the spirit of Mercy and the MSM community. 

“We’ve always known that The Mount is special – not just to us. It’s special.”

- Karen Kennedye

LIFE OF DISCIPLINE LEADS ALUM TO SUCCESS

Mike Voorhees MSM Class of 1972

W

hen you ask South Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce members about Mike Voorhees, smiles widen, and whiskey is often mentioned! In the case of Voorhees, it is not so much he enjoys a good shot of the drink once in a while, but for the past decade, Voorhees has led a networking group called Whiskey Friday. What was an initial inception of two men shutting down work a few minutes early on a Friday afternoon has grown into a weekly gathering for people to come together at the end of a week to reflect, share ideas, and enjoy one another's friendship. One would have a hard time associating the leader of a so-called whiskey event as a person whose self-discipline has led him on a successful journey in life. But 1972 Mount alum Mike Voorhees has never chosen a path of least resistance; instead, he has built a life on self-imposed discipline to become a respected attorney, a valued community mentor, and a beloved friend.

After graduation from The Mount, Voorhees attended Oklahoma City Community College, followed by OU and OU Law School. After a brief stay as an associate attorney for now Oklahoma City Community College President Jerry Steward, Voorhees ventured into mortgage banking for fourteen months. "It sometimes is just as important to figure out what you don't want to do as it is figuring out what you want to do," explained Voorhees. He returned to Steward's growing law firm until an opportunity presented itself in 1988 to join the firm of Phillips McFall, today known as Phillips Murrah.

During his time at OU, Voorhees met his wife, Sharon, who was also attending law school. After working four years at Phillips McFall handling single family resident foreclosures west of Interstate 35, Voorhees joined his wife to form their law practice in south Oklahoma City. "The first month of the business we grossed only \$600 dollars. We had to draw on our line of credit just to pay our overhead. We were living out of our operations account. In other words, you got to eat what you could kill," explained Voorhees. Voorhees knew the challenge of stepping into private practice would be great, but a defining moment came when his business line of credit was maxed out. "Sharon and I knew there would be huge financial bleeding when we started our practice so we set in motion a plan to pay off all our business debt in our first five years. It took a life of discipline for us to become debt free in 60 months. What helped us was we shared office space and services with another firm who would give us the cold calls they didn't want. Sharon still has a client today from one of those cold calls in 1992," said Voorhees. Today Voorhees, Voorhees, and Byers is a thriving law firm specializing in probate, estate planning, and guardianships.

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Voorhees and his two siblings, Mary Kay Voorhees '76 Finney and David Voorhees '78, graduated from The Mount. Their father, Dr. John Voorhees, was a highly respected physician in South Oklahoma City and a founding member of St. James Parish. But it was their mother, Margie, who first planted the seeds of the importance of church and community involvement. "Mom was involved in church activities and always volunteered at the school library at St. James. In addition, she served on the board for a senior care center near Hillcrest Hospital. Mom saw a need and she was always willing to help out and contribute," shared Mary Kay Finney.

Voorhees has followed in his parent's footsteps in becoming an advocate for others. "Because of my parents and Pete Córdova [MSM legendary teacher] I understand if you live and work here you owe back to the people who support you. I don't care if it is emptying trash at bingo or cleaning grease out of pans at a charity barbeque, you just do it," added Voorhees. In addition, Voorhees has been a leader in the South Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce. Chamber President and CEO Elaine Lyons shared, "Mike is one of those people who is truly invested in the community. He teaches classes on entrepreneurship, gives free legal advice, and he is a mentor for our members. He truly believes in lifting up the business community to make every business better."

Mr. Córdova's teaching methods also had a profound impact on Voorhees. "In his Democracy class,

he would randomly hand someone the morning newspaper to read and analyze an article on the municipal, state, or federal government. It made me understand the various levels in government and appreciate who takes care of you on a daily basis. This was eye opening for me and I have continued the same discipline that Pete started years ago," said Voorhees.

Like so many classmates from his generation, Voorhees had great admiration for Mr. Córdova. When reflecting back on his Mount days, Voorhees shares, "Mr. Córdova had strong discipline without being an idiot. He was a leader you respected without him having to hit you on the back of the head!" Voorhees did leave The Mount with one regret he still thinks about today. "My one regret is I never joined Key Club with Pete. It was laziness on my part. I just didn't understand what it was all about at the time. It was all my fault and I still regret not being involved to this very day," explained Voorhees.

Even though Voorhees may have disappointment about something he did not do in high school, the discipline of his daily actions has defined him as a respected attorney, a valued community leader, and a treasured friend. As longtime friend and South Chamber colleague Matt Hinkle shared, "He is a selfless servant for the South Chamber giving free legal advice to members. He is very politically connected but is very bi-partisan in his advice." Hinkle then gave his best summary of Mike Voorhees, "He is just a super guy!" **M**

MIKE IS ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO IS TRULY INVESTED IN THE COMMUNITY. HE TRULY BELIEVES IN LIFTING UP THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO MAKE EVERY BUSINESS BETTER."

Elaine Lyons, President and CEO
South Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce

living a life of impact

Bill Vanlandingham MSM Class of 2000

The old saying in life is "preparation proceeds performance." For Mount St. Mary alum Bill Vanlandingham his life preparation began the day he walked the hallways of Mount St. Mary Catholic High School. His preparation has led him on a journey as a successful doctor, husband and friend.

After graduating from Mount St. Mary, Bill spent four years in Stillwater at OSU earning a Bachelor's Degree in Physiology. He then attended medical school earning an MD after four years at OU College of Medicine in Oklahoma City. He then moved to Kansas City to complete a five-year residency in Radiology at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. During his time in Kansas City, he discovered an area of interest to sub-specialize in. This led to a one-year fellowship in vascular and interventional radiology at the University of Kansas in 2013-14. When his training was completed, Vanlandingham moved back to Oklahoma City and took a faculty position at the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine where he is currently working.

Dr. Vanlandingham is currently an assistant professor of vascular and interventional radiology at OU and spends the majority of his days performing minimally invasive, image-guided procedures at OU Medical Center. These procedures include targeted cancer treatments; angiograms to treat internal bleeding; image-guided biopsies; and a host of other minimally invasive procedures. Vanlandingham also spends time training medical students and resident physicians in these procedures. Dr. Vanlandingham

says, "The best part about my job is that every day, I get to enter a patient's life for a relatively short period of time to hopefully make a dramatic impact in their lives while using some of the most cutting-edge technologies in medicine. Each day is different, and I'm always working closely with the other physicians to try and do what's best for our patients at any given moment."

While in medical school, Bill met his wife Amanda, and they have been married for nine years. Currently they do not have any children but do have a Boston Terrier named Tucker. Amanda is a pediatrician at Integris Baptist Medical Center where she has worked since they moved back to Oklahoma City.

When asked about his MSM memories, Bill added, "I have great memories of my time at The Mount and still keep in touch with a number of friends. It was a great place to learn, grow up, and have the chance to meet people from all walks of life. The opportunity to play various sports helped me learn to work well with others. These are things that I still rely on daily. As I moved on to college and further, I always felt more than prepared for the next step, and I have no doubt that came from the solid foundation that started at The Mount. I'm very grateful for my time at Mount St. Mary, and I'm not sure if I'd be where I am today if not for the combination of education, teaching of Catholic values, friendship, and support I received at The Mount." **M**



"I'm very grateful for my time at Mount St. Mary, and I'm not sure if I'd be where I am today if not for the combination of education, teaching of Catholic values, friendship, and support I received at The Mount."

Dr. Bill Vanlandingham



ALUM FINDS PERFECT FIT

Joe Mussatto, MSM Class of 2012

GROWING UP IN OKLAHOMA, JOE MUSSATTO BECAME AN ENTHUSIASTIC FAN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOOTBALL.

Like many young boys, he would attend OU home football games with his parents. Each Saturday afternoon he would fanatically cheer for his beloved Sooners, elated in victory or disheartened in defeat. After the game, most kids his age would return home and forget the game's memorable moments but not Mussatto. On his return home, he would pull out notebook paper and write a complete game summary! Little did he know those penned game notes were equipping him for his future. Today, Joe Mussatto is a perfect fit as the OU sports beat writer for *The Oklahoman*, Oklahoma's largest newspaper.

Mussatto, a 2012 MSM graduate, credits his Mount teachers for "setting the hooks" in getting him interested in writing. "I loved English and history. I also had a great love for sports. Mrs. [Claudia] Straw and Mr. [David] Roberts helped me create a writing style by teaching me how to form a narrative. I became fully immersed in the books we read and the discussions we had in class. The passion of those discussions now carries over to what we have with our staff [The Oklahoman]," said Mussatto.

As a journalism major at OU, Mussatto began writing for the school's student newspaper, *The Oklahoma Daily*, covering softball, football, and baseball. He vividly remembers early in his career how he had to make the crossover from being a fan to becoming a journalist. "Back in 2013 when I first started covering OU football, I had to ask

[Head Football Coach] Bob Stoops a question for the first time. I was nervous, a bit intimidated, and my voice was cracking, but he answered my question. It was then and there I realized it was time for me to lose my fanhood because this was what it was all about if I was going to be a journalist," stated Mussatto. He became the sports editor of the school paper in 2015 and later was named Editor in Chief of *The Oklahoman Daily* during his senior year at OU in 2016.

After graduation from OU, Mussatto covered University of Kentucky

"It is hard to explain, but The Mount is a special place. It is a place where I have great memories and have made friends for a lifetime."

football and basketball for a Cox Media hosted website, SEC Country. It was during his time in Lexington, Kentucky, he began perfecting his ability to find and write unique stories. One of his most memorable ones was a story he wrote on football player, Lonnie Johnson. "He [Johnson] was a junior college transfer from Garden City Community College in Kansas. He had no money growing up and was a non-qualifier (academically ineligible) out of high school. He went on to be an ultimate success at Kentucky and in life. He was from Gary, Indiana, and I went to his home to interview his mother. It was a culture shock to witness the devastation and destruction he grew up in. I knew it was my obligation to tell his story by doing anything I could to show what a player is off the field," shared Mussatto.

Last year after the SEC Country website shut down, a conversation with *The Oklahoman* Sports Editor, Ryan Sharp, brought Mussatto back home. Mussatto's current work on

the OU sports beat has earned him high praise from his colleagues. Sharp shared, "Joe has been an outstanding addition to our team. His knack for detailed storytelling has really helped our coverage of OU athletics. Perhaps more important than his journalistic competency is his character. He has a tremendous work ethic, and he is a pleasure to be around." *The Oklahoman's* nationally acclaimed sports columnist, Berry Tramel, added, "Joe has a bright future. He is an excellent writer with a strong sense of finding unique stories, looking at all different angles. He likes to tell stories, and no matter what happens with

platform changes in the future, that will always be in style."

Mussatto continues to stay in close contact with many of his former Mount classmates. He credits many of The Mount teachers and coaches for helping him grow as a person and for getting him where he is today. "It is hard to explain, but The Mount is a special place. It is a place where I have great memories and have made friends for a lifetime. The Mount was just great for me," said Mussatto.

Tramel best sums up Mussatto's greatest attribute, "When we were looking to bring Joe on board, we knew he was an exceptional talent who had gotten rave reviews on the OU campus. He had a local knowledge, making him a perfect prospect in that regard. The challenge is you really don't know how someone will fit in until you work with them. What we have come to find out is Joe Mussatto is a fantastic person who gets along with everyone and has the right values. The content of his character, along with his skills as a writer, makes him the perfect fit!" **M**



BELOVED ALUM & FRUGAL PHILANTHROPIST LEAVES \$800,000 PLANNED GIFT TO THE MOUNT

When former classmates, co-workers, and friends describe the personal attributes of the late Gilbert Stockinger who passed away in March of 2018, words such as modest, unassuming, and down-to-earth come to the forefront in their portrayal of this 1962 Mount alum. Also depicted in their narrative is his personal frugality in which many of his cost-saving approaches were so fabled they still bring laughter to those who knew him best. Taking these two traits into consideration, imagine the unexpected surprise when The Mount recently received in excess of \$800,000 from Stockinger's will and trust! After a closer look into the story of Gilbert Stockinger's life, one can come to a stronger conclusion of how and why this unassuming man would remember the school with a game-changing planned gift. Living modestly and frugally were, in part, who he was, but what defined Gilbert Stockinger's life and legacy was the Golden Rule of how he treated others.

Stockinger grew up with his parents and two brothers only one block away from The Mount. His brother Eugene is a 1952 Mount alum, and his late brother Mike graduated in 1970. Examining his upbringing provides a better understanding of Stockinger's personality. "Gilbert's family was very modest and kindhearted. They always had a houseful of us kids, and his mom was always feeding us. Gilbert's dad managed every single penny the family made, and his mom would never throw anything away," shared Chuck Schumacher, a 1962 Mount alum, classmate, and friend of Stockinger.

After graduation from The Mount, Stockinger attended St. Gregory's followed by a year at Oklahoma State

University. Subsequently, a visit to an Army recruiter's office led Stockinger to enlist during the Vietnam War. He served for three years, specializing as a medical clerk at Fort Riley. He then went to Walter Reed Hospital, followed by a tour of duty in Germany. Upon completing his Army commitment, he began his career on the loading docks at Wilson & Company, a meat packing and processing business located in the Oklahoma City Stockyards. The work was challenging explained longtime friend and co-worker, Jim Shane. "There were times when Gilbert would have to carry a section of what we called the Big Beef. It would weigh anywhere between 250 to 300 pounds. He would hoist it on his shoulders and carry it for about 30 feet into a semi-truck," added Shane. Even though Wilson & Company changed names and ownership on numerous occasions, Stockinger stayed at the same location in the stockyards for his entire work career, retiring at the age of 55.

Stockinger enjoyed the freedom of retirement at an early age. Longtime friend, Roy Maughan, shared, "Gilbert adapted to the retirement life in a blink of an eye. He wanted to do what he enjoyed." One of Stockinger's favorite trips was to go with former Mount classmates and friends to Las Vegas. Even in Vegas his legendary frugality made his friends laugh. Lifetime friend and 1962 Mount classmate, Mike Craig, explains, "He [Gilbert] loved to visit Vegas. Unlike most people, he didn't keep track of his winnings and losses. He kept track of his comps. He considered them discounts!" Stockinger's thrifty nature is also remembered by Roy Maughan, "Gilbert was

an avid reader of Consumer Reports. Sometimes he would follow their suggestions, and then sometimes he wouldn't. They came out with an article that the laundry detergent Tide was the cheapest and best product at the current time. So what did Gilbert do? He went out and bought an entire pallet of Tide! He was a single man who really didn't need a lifetime supply of laundry detergent, but that was Gilbert."

Even though Stockinger's personality traits provided laughter, there were distinctive qualities in his life his friends loved to share. "He was non-judgmental of people," said Mike Craig. "Gilbert was easy to get along with, and everyone thought highly of him," shared Chuck Schumacher. "Gilbert was an unassuming, gentle person who never said anything bad about anyone," said Jim Shane. Added Roy Maughan, "Gilbert was just as much family as my very own family."

Poet and activist Maya Angelou once said, "I've learned that people will forget what you said; people will forget what you did; but people will never forget how you made them feel." Stockinger would always treat others like he wanted to be treated and had a unique way to make people feel special. After learning of his transformational gift to The Mount and considering his unassuming nature, his frugality, and his treatment of others, we now have a clearer picture about his life and legacy. As Jim Shane reflected he defined Stockinger's life when saying, "Gilbert was the real deal when it came to being a friend, and he was a cherished friend whom I miss." **M**





Meet Mr. Woo.

"I had a sense something bigger than me was happening." As he looks back at his 18 years as a teacher at Mount St. Mary Catholic High School, Mark Woodward reflects on God's providential hand, guiding and directing him to faith in Jesus Christ. Mark, affectionately known to MSM students as "Mr. Woo," is deeply aware of how instrumental the community at The Mount has been on his journey of faith.

This journey began in 2001 with several pieces falling into place to prompt Mark to come to MSM as a math teacher. First, a former MSM administrator was a colleague of his at Del City High School, and she nudged Mark to apply to MSM. At the same time, his oldest daughter, Caitlin Woodward '05, was set to begin high school that fall. In addition, Mark's wife Roberta had always wanted their four children to attend Catholic school. Mark sees God's hand in

these factors; in looking back, it's clear to see how God was using MSM to draw Mark to Him.

Early in fall 2001, Mark's first year at MSM, he sensed God's pull. "I remember walking down that first-floor hallway, thinking, 'I am in the middle of a faith community, and I don't have any [faith]—now what?'" Before school even started, colleague Brian Boeckman was engaging Mark in spiritual conversations. Just a few months later, MSM art teacher and

dear friend David Naranjo invited Mark to attend Kairos, the four day spiritual retreat offered to MSM students and teachers each year. In David's words, "Why don't you come to Kairos—you just might find what you're looking for." God was, as Mark says, "getting my attention."

That Kairos retreat, Kairos 22 (each retreat is numbered consecutively), proved pivotal in Mark's life. It was there he first received the gift of faith. "God opened the door. I stepped

through and followed the path. But I didn't know where it was going," Mark remembers with a smile. Mark can even pinpoint the exact moment when he saw a familiar phrase in a new way—he walked into the room of assembled retreatants for a talk given by David Naranjo on the subject of "God's friendship." He recalls that later in the same retreat, he attended Mass and was "awestruck" and "enthralled" at the care of Father William Novak (MSM '85) at the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Within hours, he acknowledged out loud, "I believe in Jesus Christ."

After that retreat, Mark says he "jumped in with both feet." He began attending Mass every weekend with Roberta, whose own faith was a strong example for Mark, and started RCIA class that fall. He was baptized and confirmed in the Catholic Church on Easter 2003. It stands out to Mark even now how the MSM community supported him that day. In attendance at his baptism at St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church (where Mark is still a parishioner today) were fellow MSM teachers Brian Boeckman, Pat Gripka, and David Naranjo, along with several students and their parents.


To the surprise of no one who knows Mark well, he immediately began serving his students and colleagues at MSM in return. He actually directed his first Kairos retreat in fall 2003—Kairos 26. And now, his next retreat to direct will be Kairos 77. When asked why he has invested so deeply in Kairos, Mark says, "The retreat introduces students and adults to faith and Jesus, and to the idea that God is more than the media says. For the lukewarm Christian, it often lights a fire under them. In all cases, [Kairos] is planting God's seeds that will blossom later in their lives—most likely when they have their own children."

The words of Mr. Woo's students confirm the depth of his impact on their lives. Danielle Page '05 Hurst fondly recalls, "Mr. Woo knows how to give some hard truths with a whole lot of God's love mixed in. Many of those words are etched forever on my heart - they even led me to my loving husband!" Colton Marschik '18 declares that Mr. Woo is "the rehabilitator of my mathematical passions" and "a man who loves all and is likewise loved by all." Remembering a specific event, Kristen Arambula '06 Hernandez says, "One day after school in 2006, Mr. Woodward asked if I wanted to pray with him. To this day, it was one of the most genuine, moving, and powerful moments of my life that taught me the importance of true human connection and raw honesty." Summing up so many students' feelings, Jewelle Peña '07 Scott says, "When I look back on my time at The Mount, Mr. Woo always stands out. He made such a huge impact on my faith life with his guidance in and out of class."

Mark's colleagues share similar sentiments. Kathryn Pickens '07, now a math teacher at MSM, says that Mr. Woo "helped spark my passion for math, and he inspired me to come back to The Mount to teach. On top of that, he demonstrated what it means to live faithfully every single day." Colleague David Roberts describes Mark as "devout, kind, gracious, and generous. Mark has been incredibly influential on my own life—as a teacher, husband, father, and follower of Christ." And David Naranjo, whose impact on Mark is so clear, reflects, "It is because of Mark's faith that I kept mine. He took his faith and ran with it and is still running as of today. His impact on the total Mount community is immeasurable."



Eighteen years later, Mark sees clearly how the MSM community has influenced him. "The Mount is the fertile soil" that allowed him to take root and grow. "You cannot grow in faith alone—it takes community, family, and friends." He adds, "As much as we influence them, the students influence me. How many groups of young people came here, played, learned, and experienced life? They become part of who you are—their personalities, their sense of humor."

Mark's deepest hope is that as the MSM family has helped point him to Jesus, so too will his story point others to Jesus, and, in his words, the journey will culminate in the presence of God. "If I make it to heaven, I look forward to hearing all the students' stories after they left The Mount." 

Golfing for Good

Over 30 years ago, the first MSM golf tournament was held to raise funds for programs and activities at Mount St. Mary Catholic High School. Many MSM alumni, parents, and friends of The Mount have participated in the fun and fellowship associated with this annual golf tournament. Players come together to celebrate—and sometimes commiserate—over the outcomes.




For many years, Señor Pete Córdova attended the tournament to visit in his own loving and teasing way with former students and parents. Eventually, the tournament was renamed the Pete Córdova Golf Classic to honor this beloved teacher, mentor, and friend.

The MSM Advancement Office continues the tradition by hosting

the Pete Córdova Golf Classic each year at various golf courses around the Oklahoma City area. In 2008 the school partnered with Mercy Health Oklahoma communities as a title sponsor for the event. Each year sponsors and golfers participate in the tournament to have an enjoyable day of golf and provide funding for MSM programs including the Pete Córdova Tuition Assistance Fund.

For 2019 we are excited to announce the Pete Córdova Golf Classic sponsored by Mercy will be held at the Jimmie Austin Golf Club at The University of Oklahoma in Norman. With its rolling hills, native grasses, and majestic Bur Oaks, Jimmie Austin OU Golf Club is a peaceful beauty designed to challenge golfers of all levels. The tournament will be held on Tuesday, June 18, and will include lunch, dinner, and awards. Information and registration are available on the MSM website (www.mountstmary.org) or contact Advancement Director Chris Stiles at 405-990-1806.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all golfers who participated in the 2018 Pete Córdova Golf Classic. Additionally, we would like to thank the golfers, sponsors, and donors who helped raise over \$20,000 for The Mount. 

SAVE THE DATE
JUNE 18, 2019



SPONSORED BY


at Jimmie Austin

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA GOLF CLUB

2018 SPONSORS & DONORS

Mercy Health Oklahoma Communities
3NINES Technologies
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Streets Mechanical
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Tomlinson Farmers Insurance
Tyler Media - The Franchise
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Wegener Human Resources
WEOKIE Credit Union

Thank you!

2018 MAGIC AT THE MOUNT

After many years of being held at outside venues, Magic at The Mount Gala was brought back to Mount St. Mary.

The new MSM Commons proved a beautiful gathering space for friends, family, and alumni to celebrate the mission of Mount St. Mary while raising funds to purchase a Suburban and raise over \$174,000. The evening was capped off by dancing with the ultimate party band~Squad Live.

Larry Pierce, The Voice of the Rockets, served as the evening's emcee while Rick Miller, Founder of Fund Your Org, teamed up with Mount St. Mary to bring a tremendous amount of energy to the room as the auctioneer. Several "almost impossible-to-find" bourbons and whiskeys kicked off the live auction. Other spectacular items such as dinner with Archbishop Coakley, beautiful jewelry, full orthodontics, in-ground tornado shelter, several getaways, and whiskey tasting raised a record amount in the live auction.

Video Productions teacher, Kaylyn Henderson, along with her class, produced a wonderful video showing the need for a Suburban, our Fund-A-Need item. This allowed people the opportunity to give to that portion of the evening. "The response to the Fund-A-Need was incredible. Our MSM family is so willing to step up and help out," Director of Advancement Chris Stiles said. "It is a great feeling to raise enough funds in one evening to purchase the Suburban that The Mount so badly needs."

The 2018 Magic Gala Committee was incredible. We had so many excited people who volunteered to be on the committee this year. Many hours were dedicated by these volunteers to ensure the evening was a huge success. Committee members include: Amy Alley, Ed Averyt, Bart & Sylvia Cox, Holly Eaton, Becky Flesher, Brenda Holland, Janet Lujan, LaTonia McDaniel, David Pickens, Richard &

Paulette Rice, Pearl Summers-Garza, Piper Wiewel, & Annie Wildes. A special thank you goes out to all of the volunteers who worked many hours to ensure the success of the gala.

We would also like to extend our gratitude to the school's corporate partners who helped sponsor this event. Magic Platinum Corporate Partnerships include: ADG, Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, BancFirst, CareSource, CMSWillowbrook, Farm Bureau Insurance-Mark Wolf, FlatSafe Tornado Shelters, Krapff Reynolds Construction, Mercy, Mollman's Culligan Water Conditioning, Roto-Rooter Plumbers, Sisters of Mercy - South Central Community, Smith Roberts Baldischwiler, Sola Solutions, and John Michael & Kathy Williams.

Mark your calendars for this year's Magic at The Mount Gala to be held on October 26, 2019 at MSM! 



115 YEARS *of* MERCY

at MOUNT ST. MARY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Walking in Mercy.

Since the laying of the cornerstone of Mount St. Mary in 1903, many Sisters of Mercy have walked the hallways and touched the lives of those who call Mount St. Mary Catholic High School home.

(continued on next page)

Sister Betty Elmer
Photo by Chris Landsberger - The Oklahoman



(continued from previous page)

In 1884, five Sisters of Mercy, at the request of Bishop Theophile Meerschaert, traveled to what was then known as Indian Territory to establish a school for young ladies at the Sacred Heart Mission near Shawnee.

When fire destroyed the Sacred Heart Mission school in 1901, the Sisters decided to relocate to Oklahoma City on donated land on a hill just south of downtown Oklahoma City. The cornerstone was laid on December 12, 1903, and young ladies arrived from across the United States to be educated at Mount Saint Mary Academy.

In these years Mount St. Mary was a boarding school for young women, and it also served as a novitiate for the Sisters of Mercy of Oklahoma. In the 1910s, the school began admitting local young women as day students

in addition to boarding students, and a rear wing including the cafeteria and auditorium was added in 1922. Mount St. Mary Academy continued as a novitiate until 1929, when the Sisters of Mercy of Oklahoma amalgamated into a union with a larger body of the Sisters of Mercy. During these early years when Mount St. Mary Academy functioned as a school for girls, the school graduated more than 270 young ladies, at least 32 of whom went on to answer a religious vocation.

In 1950, Bishop Eugene McGuinness instituted a reorganization of Catholic schools throughout the Oklahoma City Archdiocese. The bishop asked Mount St. Mary to be involved in this new organization, and the Sisters agreed to open enrollment to boys as well as girls for the first time in the school's history.

Despite the changes that took place over the years, one thing stayed consistent: The Sisters of Mercy ran Mount St. Mary Catholic High School true to their Mercy roots.

Among the Sisters over the years who devoted their heart and time to MSM, was Sister Betty Elmer, a young woman born and raised in the "wheat

fields of Kansas," who had a calling from God and a passion to teach.

The Sisters of Mercy have always maintained a presence at MSM, ever since its beginnings 115 years ago. That changed on December 21, 2018, when Sister Betty, the last religious sister on staff at MSM, retired.

Sister Betty, 72, said she will miss cheering for the Rockets at athletic events and attending various events. Most of all, she said, she will miss being a part of the hustle and bustle of a thriving campus.

"I will miss the youthfulness of the students and the total family atmosphere," Sister Betty said. "It's just a great place to come to work."

MSM students and faculty recently honored Sister Betty at a fitting time, "Mercy Day," which marked MSM's 115th anniversary. Sister Betty's last leadership roles at MSM were Work Grant Program Coordinator and PLUSS Program teacher.

Mrs. DeNegri, MSM Principal, said students and staff have relied on Sister Betty's steady presence and sense of humor over the years. "She inspired them, motivated them, and

held them accountable to be good stewards of The Mount. She's the inspiration, completely and totally, for our school," DeNegri said.

Sister Betty joined the religious order in 1964 at age 18. She said she had the option of becoming a teacher or a nurse and she had a dream to teach like the Sisters of Mercy who taught her school for 11 years. She taught in Arkansas for a time before making her way to Oklahoma and the school that she would come to think of as home. Sister Betty taught at Mount St. Mary in the 1970s and left to become a junior high principal at a Catholic school in Arkansas before returning to Oklahoma and The Mount in 2002.

As DeNegri and students sang Sister Betty's praises, she returned it as she looked around at the school she had been such a big part of for decades.

"It's a wonderful community. If every student and teacher would have a place like this to go to every day they would love it," she said.

Sister Betty said she remembers living on one of the floors with the rest of her religious order. She had lived in the Sisters' living quarters up until four years ago. Those living



"I will miss the youthfulness of the students and the total family atmosphere," Sister Betty said. "It's just a great place to come to work."

— Sister Betty Elmer

accommodations at The Mount were transformed into much-needed classroom space, and Sister Betty began living at a residence in the neighborhood.

Two other Sisters of Mercy joined the school in honoring Sister Betty. Sister Diane Koorie and Sister Elena Gonzalez, both retired, live at the Sisters of Mercy convent on the Mercy Health Center complex in northwest Oklahoma City.

The trio talked about the ways their lives and ministry have evolved over the years. They said they chose to forego habits in favor of simple attire after Vatican II. They traded stories about the old elevator at The Mount that still works. They discussed

the eventual transformation of the school from a girls' boarding school to a coed campus.

Koorie said the women of their religious order committed their lives to helping others in various ways, including education at Mount St. Mary. The school always will be in the Sisters' hearts and prayers.

"As the Sisters of Mercy before us, we keep alive the healing teachings of Jesus," Koorie said. "That spirit will never really be gone. It will always be here." **M**



Joe and Giselle Piñon Leon: MSM Class of 1993



**"You don't truly
value something
unless you have an**

investment."
— Joe Leon

Love inspires

MSM ALUMNI COUPLE

"Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

I CORINTHIANS 13:4-7

These words from I Corinthians chapter 13 are some of the most familiar in the Bible. Quoted in a majority of weddings, these verses of scripture are often recognized as part of the nuptials of holy matrimony. However, this definition of love can spread much further than the bond between a husband and wife. For current Mount family and alumni, Joe and Giselle Leon, their story starts as coincidental classmates and continues today through their love for one another, their

love for family, their love of their faith, and their love of The Mount.

God has a plan for all of our lives, and only the work of His hands could have united a young Joe Leon and Giselle Piñon. Prior to becoming classmates at The Mount, Joe and his three siblings, Ashley '88, Maggie, and John '98, were raised in traditional Catholic fashion as members of St. Patrick's Parish and as students at Corpus Christi School in Oklahoma

City. In contrast, Giselle's mother fled the country of Cuba for Mexico and met her eventual husband. Giselle was born in Mexico City before the family immigrated into the United States and settled in Indiana. Giselle's father worked in a General Motors plant and her mother at Kmart. Later, Giselle's father was transferred to the old General Motors plant in south Oklahoma City, and the family became members of St. James Parish and School.

Joe recalls the first time he saw Giselle. "We were both at an eighth grade retreat at The Mount. I remember seeing her for the first time walk into the auditorium and telling myself I am going to marry that girl," exclaimed Joe. He continued, "I was so excited about the dance that evening to get to know her, but I got the flu and had to miss it!" Once they were at The Mount together, Joe made a point to sit next to Giselle in all their freshman classes. Giselle recalls, "Joe always made me laugh,

but we did not have our first date until our sophomore year. Our first date was at a school dance, and we have been together ever since." After graduation from The Mount in 1993, Joe attended Phillips University in Enid on a soccer scholarship, and Giselle enrolled at the University of Central Oklahoma. Shortly afterwards the couple was married in 1995.

Being married at such an early age, being college students, having children, and working full time jobs can test a young marriage. In addition, Giselle was fighting her way through post-partum depression after the birth of their first child. Nevertheless, the common denominator bringing the couple together would also be the foundation of their marriage. "Married so young, we had family and friends saying high school sweethearts don't last. What we learned through our church and at The Mount were lessons of how deep our faith needs to be to persevere through all challenges. Almost anything can be taken away from you, but faith is something no one can take from you," shared Giselle.

Through the years the couple's faith has continued to grow. They have become mentors to others by teaching bible study classes and are heavily involved at their parish, St. Francis of Assisi. Their younger children, Ava and Alexander, attend Rosary Catholic School where Joe and Giselle are also involved. In addition, they are very invested in volunteering at and supporting The Mount, where their eldest daughter Sophia graduated in 2017 and their son, Tony, is in his junior year. Their motivation to get involved and give back is easy to understand and appreciate. Giselle shared, "Father [William] Novak is always saying you can give of your talent, your time, your treasure, or any combination of the above." Giselle also added, "You don't truly value something unless you have an investment."

It has come as no surprise for Joe and Giselle to return to The Mount as parents. "We found each other at The Mount, and The Mount has always been at the foundation of our relationship," said Joe. One of the couple's lifetime friends and 1993 classmate, Justin Byrne, added, "When I was a student at The Mount, I marveled at classmates who were sons, daughters and grandchildren of alumni and wondered if anyone from our class would continue that tradition. I should have known it would be Joe and Giselle. They were their own institution within an institution and always appeared 'at home' when on campus. I don't think there was ever a question in their minds Mount St. Mary would become home to their kids."

A romance beginning at a high school dance has now come full circle. For Joe and Giselle Leon, their time as high school sweethearts has not only lasted but has become a love to be emulated by all who know them. Their love for each other, their family, and their faith inspires them daily. And this love all began at The Mount. Giselle concluded, "It is a nostalgic feeling to go back now and feel the love we had for the school, but just as important, to feel the love the school had for us." **M**



MERCY IN ACTION.

The Rehema Na Vitendo Service Project



MSM math teacher Beth Rempe and her husband Brent have worked

tirelessly to establish Rehema Na Vitendo, a service project involving Rocket students, teachers, and Don Bosco, a school in Kenya.

Don Bosco serves students with physical disabilities in a rural village of Western Kenya. David Mategwa, board chair of Kenya Police SACCO (credit union), introduced Brent to the school in June 2017. Brent was one of 16 U.S. credit union professionals who attended an international credit union development education workshop in Kenya. Mategwa first became a benefactor of the school by donating wheelchairs following his Africa Credit Union Development Educator training.

After Brent returned from Kenya in 2017, the Rempes mobilized their Mount St. Mary and credit union networks to successfully crowdfund over \$14,000 USD to finish a three classroom addition at Don Bosco

and reduce the cost of travel for the team of Oklahoma educators to visit the school in June 2018. Mount St. Mary Catholic High School managed donations in the U.S., while the African Credit Union Development Foundation managed the building project in Kenya. Classroom construction broke ground on May 1, 2018 and was completed by the time the team visited Don Bosco in June 2018.

Three teachers from Mount St. Mary joined the trip to Likuyani: Rachel Jones, foreign language teacher; Beth Rempe, math teacher; and Magi Whitaker, science teacher with early childhood and special education certifications. Judith Dickson, school counselor at Union Public Schools in Tulsa, also joined the project.

During the visit, Dickson and Brent Rempe focused on working with students while Jones, Beth Rempe, and Whitaker provided professional development workshops to teachers. The group also met with administrators from Don Bosco and the African Credit Union Development Foundation to identify gaps at the school and help set strategic goals to address those gaps.

"I am looking forward to doing more for the world I live in and carrying the spirit of Mercy to a school a continent away"

HUNTER SCURLOCK, MSM JUNIOR



Whitaker's expertise in early childhood education was especially useful in building the human capital of Don Bosco's Early Childhood Development (ECD) teachers.

"[Whitaker] has a passion for helping those with both specific and general learning disabilities," said Caroline Andobe, Don Bosco lead ECD teacher. "She was very creative in making relevant teaching aids that helped students learn by engaging multiple senses."

Ten Mount St. Mary students and five teachers will participate in Rehema Na Vitendo in June 2019. The students will spend five months prepping for the trip, meeting one Sunday a month for a course on African studies. The Mount St. Mary team will head to Likuyani to work with the Don Bosco students, provide additional professional development to Don Bosco teachers, and join credit union development educators from around the world to help establish a community library.

"I am so excited to be involved in the Don Bosco project! I am looking forward to doing more for the world I live in and carrying the spirit of Mercy to a school a continent away," said MSM junior, Hunter Scurlock. **M**



Brandon Jackson
Boys Basketball



Willis Alexander
Football

WELCOME NEW HEAD COACHES!

GET TO KNOW '85 MSM ALUM

COACH JAMES WARD

The Mount volleyball team has continued its sixth straight run at the State Championship with a new head coach this year, 1985 alum James Ward. Ward took the reins from former head coach Mary Jekel. The Mount St. Mary program has grown into a household name when it comes to the sport of volleyball in the state of Oklahoma. With Ward taking the reins, it will continue to remain at the top level where it has continuously climbed for the past six years.

Ward has just finished his 25th year of coaching volleyball in Oklahoma. He coached at Oklahoma Bible Academy and Enid High School prior to coming to The Mount. He has taken a team to the state tournament for 14 years, won a state championship, and has four runner-up finishes. "James brings a plethora of knowledge to our program, and is probably one of the funniest people I know. I truly enjoyed working as his assistant coach this year and getting to know James and see him do what he loves, and that is coaching," said Jekel.

"It has been great to be back around MSM. I am not only seeing old friends but getting to see their children who attend or plan to attend The Mount," Ward said. He also added, "Coaching, I have realized, is a true passion of mine. I have enjoyed every year and every season."

Along with coaching, Ward has also held other positions for high school volleyball which include:

- Vice President, Oklahoma Coaches Association, 10 years
- OSSAA Advisory Board for Volleyball, 8 years
- All-State Selection Committee, 8 years
- Oklahoma Regional Volleyball Association Board Member, 4 years

James has had 23 players named All-State and 91 players who have gone on to play in college. James is married to Marci, and they have three sons—MSM freshman twins Jady and Jaxyn plus Gabriel, a fifth grader at All Saints Catholic School. [M](#)



service

LEARNING CLASS AT MSM

Each class at The Mount has a one-day service project in which the students get to serve the Oklahoma City community with their class as a whole.

Upperclassmen work at Habitat for Humanity, and the underclassmen work with the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma. While these one-day projects definitely helped our students see the value of service, we also saw the need to provide our students the opportunity to live out Mercy on a day-to-day basis. The idea of the service learning class was a brainchild of many teachers and administrators who felt the same: our students need more opportunities to learn how to seek out service opportunities on their own. To further the purpose of the course, the students also discuss and reflect upon the systemic change that is necessary in service to the greater community. This provides the students with a deeper understanding of why a community has the issues it does, and it also transforms the students' experience of service.

In the service learning class, students are asked to take the reins of their own service learning through each step of service. With only little direction, students first brainstorm and research local service sites and their locations. One of the most important details of this class is students are the ones doing the planning. They are the ones making phone calls to the various organizations they could potentially reach. They schedule the service with these organizations and are the points of contact with the volunteer coordinators. This step is very important because the students get to recognize they are not too young to reach out and initiate their own service. They must show maturity and professionalism on the phone and be willing to call and call again to make sure everything is planned correctly. The students are then responsible for informing their peers of what they need to prepare for that specific project. The goal for the first semester was to do a service project at least once or twice each week. A few sites visited include Birth Choice of Oklahoma, The Hugs Project, Make-A-

Wish Foundation, Feed the Children, Cleats 4 Kids, and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

"I never know how the semester is going to go when I walk into the Transformative Service Learning class on the first day of school," said Leigha Pierce '10 Liuzza, MSM Service Learning instructor. Mrs. Liuzza continued, "This class has the goal of getting our students out in the community in ways other than with the large group they usually do service projects with. It's to give them exposure to planning their own projects, communicating with the volunteer coordinators at certain locations, and following through with the projects THEY wish to set up. I have ideas as I enter this class, but the direction the students want to take it makes each year new. Reaching this goal is highly dependent on the drive and the hearts of the students involved. This makes the class a little daunting but so exciting to teach! It's refreshing to see the class come to life and watch the transformation of their hearts throughout the semester!" [M](#)



finding purpose.

Meet Emily Rockers, MSM Class of 2019

All freshmen entering Mount St. Mary are required to take an elective called "Rocket Experience." It is a one-semester course in which the new students learn about The Mount's history, what it means to be a Rocket, as well as needed tools for high school such as time management and leadership skills.

On one such class day my teacher, Mr. Roberts, had us write down our long term high school goals on poster size paper so we could hang them up outside the door. Mr. Roberts claimed that if we wrote down our goals, we would be much more likely to accomplish them. I stared at my blank piece of paper for a long time. I decorated the borders and wrote "my goals" in fancy lettering at the top of the page, but I did not begin the list for quite a while.

The problem was this: as a freshman in high school, I had no goals. I didn't know where I wanted to go to college. I didn't know what I wanted to study. I didn't have a goal GPA or plan to make the varsity sports team. There was no direction in my life and no purpose.

Mount St. Mary has given me exactly what I lacked—direction and purpose. MSM Catholic High School has done this for me in a

way I know no other school can. The Mount emphasizes God-given gifts; and abilities are to be used for divine intention; and everyone has a particular vocation they are called to. I know I want to pursue a career in mathematics not only because I like it, but because I believe it is the language of God, and I can use it to further the Kingdom of God.

My parents took their vocation towards parenthood very seriously, and they have not chosen the easiest path. Sending me to The Mount was a very difficult decision and one they sacrificed much for. My father worked long hours and sold his car, while my mother balanced a new job and took care of the household on her own. It put stress on my siblings, too, who watched my parents struggle but didn't really understand the reasons. I participated in Work Grant and began to babysit more. However, my parents never regretted their choice and saw it as their responsibility as parents to put me in surroundings that would help both my mind and soul to thrive. I can only dream of living my vocation with as much passion and love as they have lived theirs.

When I was an underclassman I used to joke about "Rocket Pride" because I thought it was cliché and silly. It was only when I realized I loved the person The Mount helped me to become that I began to have true school spirit. In the spirit of Mercy, MSM has slowly but surely developed me into the woman I am. I could never have conceived to describe the person I have become on "my goals" poster in Rocket Experience. The fourth floor of the school may be haunted—I'm still not totally convinced—the wooden floors in the chapel are creaky, and I have never tried the so-called "cold, creamy, delicious milk," but there is no other school that so breathes the language of God into the language of all our careers. **M**

STUDENTS | MSM



MUSIC ON THE RISE

In the early 1960s you would find the MSM marching band and choir programs flourishing with success and talent. Participation was high with over forty members in the marching band. Over the years, that once vibrant program had become just a few classes offered as an elective. That is, until the 2000s when passionate directors entered the program and re-inspired the once thriving program. Now participation, skill, and recognition for the program are at an all time high. Although a music program has always been in place at MSM, the marching band had been inactive since the 1980s, and overall competitive success is on the rise.

(continued on next page)



"The music department is like another home. All of us together make up another family where we can express our love for music."

Tony Leon, MSM Junior

(continued from previous page)

In 2014 there were four students in the instrument band and only nine in the girls' choir. The boys' choir didn't exist. That all changed in a short time as more and more students started to show an interest in playing instruments as well as vocals.

Enrollment at MSM is currently around 400 students. Today, about 60 students are involved in the music programs. The growth of participation and success in the MSM program is exciting for all of those on the Rocket campus.

"We are extremely proud of our recent music department accomplishments," Mrs. DeNegri said. "It has been such an uplifting feeling to see and hear the excitement of the students, the parents, and the entire Mount family with the revival of our music program."

Learning to be part of the marching band is tough and takes time. Through it all, Rocket musicians have taken pride in what they are doing and have become a cohesive, close group.

Just ask junior student Tony Leon.

"The music department is like another home," Leon said. "All of us together make up another family where we can express our love for music."

This year, the revived marching band took part in state competition in Alva for the first time in Mount St. Mary history. The band performed for the Rockets at both home and away football games. For the past few years, they've also sent choirs, soloists, and instrument groups to other events where they have earned awards and recognition.

From marching in the fall, competitions throughout the year, and two concerts a year, the future looks bright for the dedicated MSM musicians.

Great programs do more than just win titles; they teach life lessons and create growth that stay with students for their entire lives. That is success, and that is just what the Mount St. Mary music program is accomplishing. The music department serves as a positive beacon and inspires the Rocket community. **M**

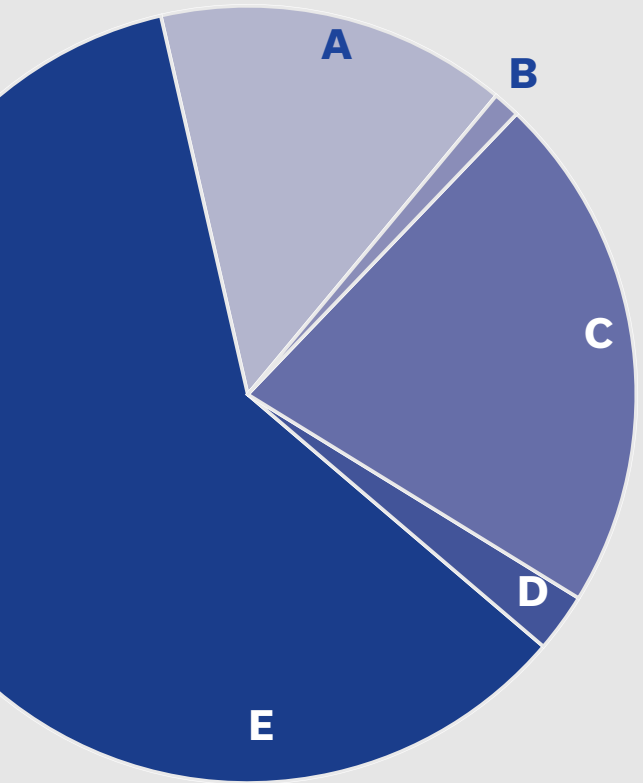
RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2018-2019 Awards

- All-State Qualifiers**
1 - first year participating
- State Qualifiers**
Soloists: 6
Ensembles: 6
- Instrumental Music Ensemble**
Competed as a concert band for the first time at OSSAA Instrumental Large Group Competition earning an excellent rating (II)
- Honors Choir**
Perfect rating at Regionals
- Marching Band**
Reinstated program at MSM after 30+ year absence. Made appearance at OSSAA State Competition
- Jazz Ensemble**
Third year to qualify for state. Earned a rating of II in 2019
- Treble Choir**
Swept Superior ratings in performance and sight reading at Regionals
- Vocal Music Ensemble**
Swept Superior ratings in performance at Regionals





17
18



2017-18 FISCAL YEAR ANNUAL REPORT

GIFTS BY PURPOSE

A Mount Fund	330,279
B Magic at The Mount 2017	55,374
C Higher Ground Capital Campaign	487,891
D Foundations and Grants	25,293
E Other Designated Gifts	1,357,897
Total Gifts	\$2,256,734

ENDOWED FUNDS

CHARTING COURSE ENDOWMENT as of 6/30/2018

Sisters of Mercy	3,000,000
Mount St. Mary Community	2,006,270
Retained Investment Performance	3,527,919
Held at JA Glynn, Inc.	8,534,189
Archdiocese of OKC	2,813,118
Catholic Foundation	246,113
Oklahoma City Community Foundation	629,191
TOTAL CHARTING COURSE ENDOWMENT	\$12,222,612

OTHER ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Adolphine E. Quasebarth Fund	26,518
Tom Swyden Foundation	17,162
TOTAL OTHER ENDOWMENT FUNDS	\$43,680

TOTAL ENDOWMENT FUNDS	\$12,266,292
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WANT TO
ESTABLISH AN
ENDOWMENT AT
THE MOUNT?

read more
on pg. 47



CORNERSTONE SOCIETY

JULY 1, 2017 - JUNE 30, 2018

Comprised of lead investors
committed to the future
of Mount St. Mary
Catholic High School

The Cornerstone Society is comprised of lead investors committed to the future of Mount St. Mary Catholic High School. Membership is open to all individuals, families, and organizations that make a minimum \$1,000 annual gift to the school. Each year the school counts on these leadership gifts to provide difference-making projects throughout the campus.

Michael & Renee Aleman	Steven & Nichole Copeland	Rickey Hester '92
Robert & Charl Allison	Craig & Paula Boelte Family Foundation	Henry & Rita Mollman '60 Holder
Robert & Tara Allison		Jim & Melissa Holland
Anonymous	Michael Craig '62	Tom & Ann Hooper
Robert & Holly Anthony	Todd & Lori Wietelman '78 Crosby	Tom '66 & Paula Howell
Architectural Design Group (ADG)	Keaton & Sonnya Weatherford '86 Cudd	John & Lauri Hunsucker
Karl & Rhonda Baldischwiler		Image Works of Oklahoma, Inc.
BancFirst	Robert & Patricia Culbert	Russell & Tracey Ingram
Christopher Carney	Dunn '69 & Magnolia Cumby	Mark & Caroline Jeffreys
Candler & Kris Barnett	William and Sylvia Zale Fund	Brian & Charlotte Johnson
Jim & Ellen Basile	David & Justine Dautenhahn	JP Morgan Chase Foundation
Kristi Bates '84 Bauer	Jack & Nancy Dees	Bob '88 & Jenny Kalsu
Reverend Richard Beckman	Robert '80 & Talita Córdova '80 DeNegri	Donald & Gayle Kastens
Most Reverend Eusebius J. Beltran		Tim & Phyllis Churchman '76 Kersey
Clayton I. Bennett	Michael Dennehy	Skylar & Yvonne Kinsey
Joe & Kathy Biscone	Neal Do & Annie Nguyen	Kirkpatrick Family Fund
Lynn & Marilyn Blevins	Patrick & Diane Downes	Kirkpatrick Foundation
The Boeing Company	Jason Dukes	Michael & Pam Kloiber
Lisa & Jim Bowers Jr. '78	Darren & Whitney Faires	Harry '55 & Rosemary Schachle '58 Koelsch
William & Sue Bowlby	Shaun Fiaccone '99	Krapff Reynolds Construction Company
Jared & Courtney Boyer	Fidelity Charitable	Fred '69 & Frances Lee '69 Krapff
Larry '58 & Linda Brandt	Becky Fleming	Mark '72 & Carrie Krapff
Charles '71 & Sandy Braun	Jeff & Becky Flesher	Virginia M. Lanum '46 Kresl
Christopher & Jennifer Brierly	Shaun Fiaccone '99	Larry & Diana Lee
Joshua & Jennifer Brim	James & Sarah Fraser	Joseph '93 & Giselle Pinon '93 Leon
Russell & Michelle Britten	Alan & Sharon Greene	David & Tracy Lloyd Family
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Thank you!



The Mount Fund Honor Roll
July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

The names listed on the following pages recognize those who, through their generous and thoughtful gifts, have partnered with us to strengthen Mount St. Mary Catholic High School. The Mount Fund donors for our fiscal year from July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018, are included in this honor roll. We extend a spirit of gratefulness to all of those who made a gift to The Mount Fund and to our leadership committee who devoted their time and energy to this successful campaign.

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What is The Mount Fund?

The Mount Fund is Mount St. Mary Catholic High School's annual giving campaign. The Mount Fund adds to the general fund of the school's budget to help improve facilities, purchase state-of-the-art equipment, upgrade technology, and recruit and retain outstanding faculty – in short, ensuring the continuation of quality education.

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Harris
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July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018

The following list recognizes all donors who have expressed their loyalty and commitment to our school in the form of a gift that has helped advance the mission of Mount St. Mary Catholic High School. These gifts range from student tuition assistance, school endowment contributions, memorial gifts, major designated gifts, planned gifts and bequests, and contributions to The Mount Fund. Thank you for your generosity - you are truly our "Partners In Mission."

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Bennett
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Paul & Cristina Cagigal '66
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Van Winkeler '21
Gerald '84 & Christina Wipfli

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Janet Wolf '58
Mark '80 & Mary-Ellen Wolf
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Joe Woods
Camden Woodward '18
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Robert Zahl
Ben Zoeller '56
Jason & Stacey Zondor

Thank
you!



Scholarships, Endowments & Named Memorials

For the 2017-2018 school year, over 29% of Mount students received some form of tuition assistance. Families must qualify through an application process, and awarded students are required to work 60 hours of work grant on the MSM campus during the school year and/or summer. The school's endowed funds provided \$149,400.00 of tuition assistance this past year.

Scholarships are funded on a year-to-year basis. Endowments and memorials are endowments placed into an investments portfolio and are in perpetuity. If you would like to contribute to any of the existing endowments, scholarships, or named memorials, please contact the Office of Advancement at 405-631-8865. New endowments for tuition assistance can also be established with a minimum gift of \$25,000.

Established Endowments

7-Eleven Stores Endowment
*Martha Hensley Archer Endowment
*Donna R. Brown Endowment in Memory of
*Richard F. & *Mary Jo Kelley
*Pete Córdova Endowment
*Allison Culbert '93 Scholarship
*Heinrich Family Endowment
Sister Jane Mary Hotstream Endowment
*Reverend Joseph C. Kolb Endowment
Virginia M. Lanum '46 Endowment
*Lucy "Tina" V. Lanum '51 Endowment
Luckowski Family Endowment
*George & Margaret Male Endowment Fund
*John & Paula Martinez Endowment
*Jim Mullins Endowment
*Pat Noyes '91, Endowment
*Florentine Nowacki Endowment in Memory of
*Barbara Nowacki '61 Fragos
*Coach Daryl Alan Reynolds Endowment
*Nina Garner Smith Endowed Scholarship Fund
*Marge Berard '56 Stanley Endowment
Toelle Family Endowment

Named Memorials

*Bernadette Cunyan '24, Named Memorial
*Sister Geraldine Curran, Named Memorial
*Ryan Fiaccone '97, Named Memorial
*Jamie Fialkowski '80 Genzer, Named Memorial
*Sister M. Hortense Maca, RSM '32, Named Memorial
*Reverend Gerald O'Nolan, Named Memorial
*Jack A. Mideke, Named Memorial

Scholarships

The Bates Heart and Soul Scholarship
*John & *Paula Martinez Hispanic Scholarship Fund
*David J. Nelson Scholarship Fund

**denotes deceased*

gratitude.

THE CATALYST BEHIND PLANNED GIFT

Joyce Stone '56 Sims was extremely quiet and reserved as a Mount student. Rosie Scholtes Munhollon [1956 classmate] shared, "Joyce was not a normal noisy teenager who would draw attention to herself, like most of us did. She was a very nice, dignified, and quiet person who never was in trouble."

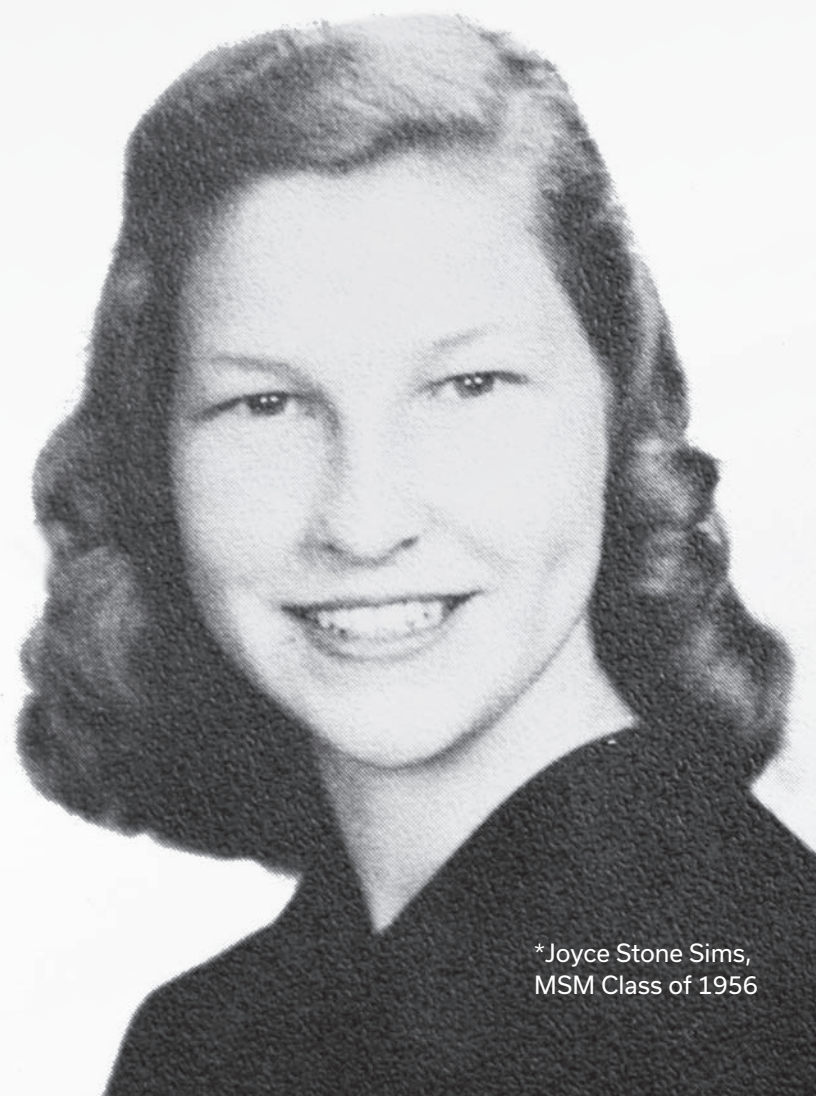
After Joyce graduated from The Mount, she moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado. It was there she raised her family and was employed by Video Theaters, a local cable television company. She reconnected to The Mount later in life, first through a modest contribution to the school's endowment campaign in 2005, then becoming a loyal donor to The Mount Fund. Joyce's generosity led Chris Stiles, Director of Advancement, to reach out and connect with her. As the years passed, her contributions continued to grow as she shared her gratitude for all who had impacted her life at The Mount. In 2013, she shared her intentions of leaving Mount St. Mary in her will. The school featured Joyce in a Heart of The Mount article in the Mount Magazine.

"I was a convert to Catholicism when I first attended The Mount. In those days Mount St. Mary was still an all-girls school; however, it became co-ed after my first two years.

When I think of The Mount, I can't help but think of Monsignor Luecke. He taught Senior Theology, and I can still see him running down the hallway to get to our class. He became one of the three most important men in my life, as he was kind to me when I needed kindness the most. I am leaving a bequest to Mount St. Mary in my estate plan because I believe that the purpose and mission behind why The Mount was established is as alive and vibrant today as it was when I was a student. Young people still have the same fundamental needs today, and I feel it is the responsibility of all of us who have benefitted from the purpose of The Mount to ensure the purpose continues."

Sadly, Joyce Stone '56 Sims passed away on October 25, 2017, in her home in Colorado Springs. Shortly afterwards, Chris Stiles received a call that Joyce had named The Mount as beneficiaries of her three IRA accounts totaling \$600,000! The shy, reserved, and unnoticeable teenager who had her life altered by people who were kind to her when she needed it the most, has left a legacy insuring the purpose and mission of The Mount continues to flourish. May we all be inspired by the humbleness and humility of Joyce Stone Sims.

Eternal rest grant to her, O Lord; and let your perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul, and the souls of all the faithfully departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. [M](#)



*Joyce Stone Sims,
MSM Class of 1956

HEART *of* the MOUNT SOCIETY

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*Rebecca Ann Bruckner '58

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*Pete & Emma Córdova

Robert '80 & Talita Córdova '80
DeNegri

Jim '84 & Rebecca Durbin

*Barbara Nowacki '61 Fragos

*Geraldine Glenn '34 Hanger

*Father Joseph C. Kolb

Virginia Lanum '46 Kresl

*Lucy Lanum '51

John Magerus '61

Edward McKenna '56

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Teresa Pryor '67 Moisant

*John & Lucille Nelson

*Florentine A. Nowacki

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*Joyce Stone '56 Sims

*Gilbert Stockinger '62

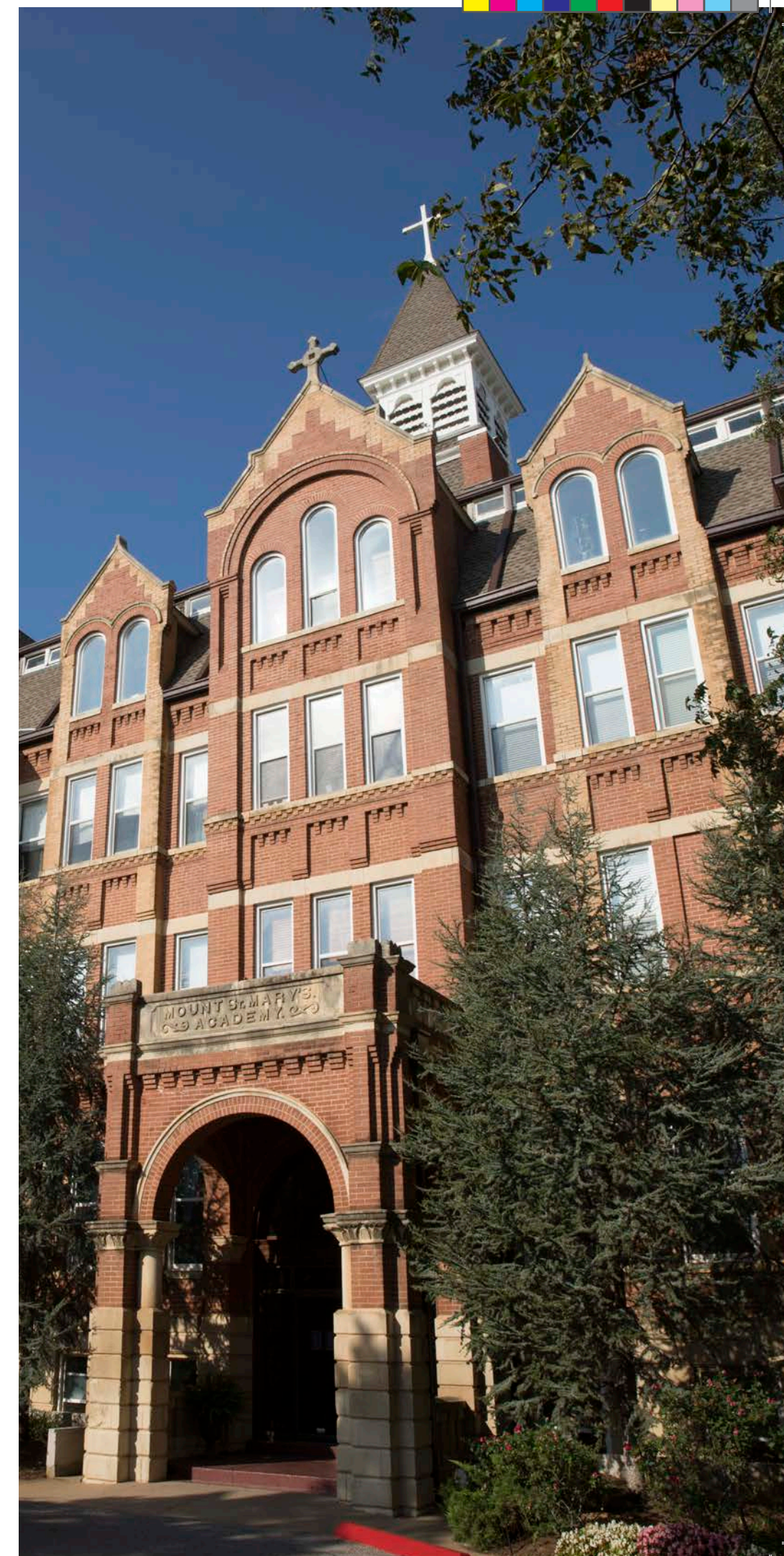
*Tom A. Thomas, Jr.

Richard F. White

Joan Magerus '54 Wirt

Helen Scholtes '54 Wolf

*Indicates Deceased





Mount St. Mary
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

2801 S. Shartel Ave / Oklahoma City, OK 73109

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UPCOMING EVENTS

June 18
32nd Annual Pete Córdova Golf Classic
sponsored by Mercy
Jimmie Austin Golf Club, OU

June 30
End of 2018-2019 Mount Fund

August 12
First Day of 2019-2020 School Year

September 26
First Home Football Game

October 26
Magic at The Mount Gala



STAY CONNECTED WITH US ALL YEAR!



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