



PATHWAYS

June 2007

Mothers and Daughters Make SCA a Family Tradition

When Alessandra Rosso, a freshman, was deciding on the high school that she wanted to attend, she felt she had an easy choice. “My sisters had all come to SCA and, besides, I live in the neighborhood. I already knew many of the teachers and even some of the students.” Alessandra had high expectations of what life at SCA would be and she says “I haven’t been disappointed.” The fact that her mother, Lisa Vernocchi Rosso ’78, is also an SCA graduate, may have helped.

Kendra Parks ’07 also has a mother who is an SCA alumna, Sharon Baker Parks ’75. Kendra looked at a number of other schools but after her second SCA open house, decided on St. Catharine’s. She is now preparing to attend Lehman College and eventually, open her own dance studio.

Common Experiences

“I loved that Catharine’s was an all-girls school” states mother Lisa Rosso. Mother Sharon Parks also points out that caring committed teachers really had an influence on the students. She adds that “Mrs. Blanca Flores-Quintana was very helpful to me.” These are aspects that both mothers are glad to see are still part of St. Catharine Academy.

The academic life of the school was strong as well during their time at SCA and activities such as the father-daughter dance, mother-daughter communion breakfast, school trips, proms and having “little sisters” were also part of their SCA experience and

they are glad that Alessandra and Kendra have been able to participate in them.

SCA Growth

“The college counseling is much better than when I was at SCA” states Sharon Parks. “The building facilities are also improved and there is a good deal of technology available.”

Lisa Rosso is also happy that her four daughters have been able to participate on sports teams in a way that she was unable. “They all have played three sports a year. There is so much that they have learned while being a member of a team that they can’t learn in the regular classroom setting.” One of her daughters, Melissa Rosso ’06, has returned to SCA as a volleyball coach.

Both Sharon and Lisa are glad for the increased cultural diversity that is now present at SCA and see it as a real strength of the school. “Our daughters have been able to meet a variety of people that they might not have otherwise” states Lisa.



Alessandra Rosso '10 (left) with her mother Lisa Vernocchi Rosso '78



Sharon Baker Parks '75 (right) with daughter Kendra Parks '07

Prepared for the Future

As a senior, Kendra Parks looks back at her years at SCA and is glad for the many clubs she was able to participate in and the opportunities for different experiences. Kendra is a member of the National Honor Society and has logged many hours of community service as a senior girl scout helping her mother with a scout troop of young girls. She also has been a member of several clubs such as the African Alliance and the Fashion and Dance clubs. She has been able to travel to Spain and Italy on trips with the school.

“I’m ready to leave SCA because SCA helped to prepare me for my life” states Kendra. She is glad for her friends and teachers that she has had at St. Catharine’s. Her mother, Sharon, is pleased with Kendra’s readiness for the future and proud of her achievements.

Lisa Rosso is happy with the education her daughters have received and that Alessandra ’10 is still receiving. “The three that have graduated all earned college scholarships and are doing very well.” ❖



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Celebration of Community

Sr. Patricia Wolf, RSM '62

The lights in the SCA auditorium dimmed and the assembled audience became hushed. Suddenly the silence was punctuated by the wail of bagpipes. Then, the lights were turned up and emerging from the darkened hallways, came a cascade of color. Thus began the celebration of St. Catharine Academy's International Show, which after four years is becoming an annual event.

A Multi-Culture Legacy

The bagpiper was leading a procession of SCA students each carrying the flag of her ancestry. The flags of Albania, China, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ghana, Ireland, Italy,

Jamaica, Pakistan, Puerto Rico, Yemen (among many), all proudly passed by.

SCA is a high school in and of the Bronx, with a student body that reflects the diversity of cultures found in this NYC borough. Too often people, neighborhoods, and nations fracture around the issues of race, ethnicity, and religion. At SCA, we gather in hope that diverse peoples can live and work together. Woven into the fabric of SCA is the profound work of building community.

A Mercy Identity

All things start with respect for the dignity of each person. This is not an abstract idea. It is essential for the harmonious functioning of the school and integral to SCA's Catholic and Mercy identity.

In the early 1990's the Sisters of Mercy, joined by the administration and faculty of SCA and its sister school, Our Lady of Victory Academy, crafted a shared mission and vision for the schools. As a result, SCA and OLVA express their mission as one in which each school:

- *Combines academic excellence with educational processes that encourage the development of women's leadership,*
- *Respects the ethnic and cultural diversity present in our world, and*
- *Demonstrates commitment to the service of others.*

An Outsider's View

Recently, we were visited by the Middle States Commission team, which wrote in their final report: "One of our strongest and lasting impressions ... was the diversity of the student body and the ease with which they act among themselves." I am so

pleased they experienced this spirit first hand.

A Dedication

The International Show was dedicated to "Guadalupe Homes", an organization responsible for housing 100 orphaned and abandoned children in Guatemala. They received, as a result of the evening's admission fees, a \$1,000 donation made through "Friendship Without Borders". (I love the image!)

Many SCA students personally know great hardship. However, they are encouraged to understand the hopes and dreams of others, to assume a world vision, and adopt a sense of responsibility. Their decision to dedicate the event to this cause is a testament to 'living' their values.

Meaning and Compassion

On this joyous night the auditorium vibrated from the pulsating beat of Caribbean music and the tap of Irish step. It quieted for the gentle rhythms of Asian dance and for SCA's Praise Dancers, who demonstrated the power of movement as a form of prayer. The Middle Eastern Club provided a lens into their culture by performing a Middle Eastern wedding ceremony.

As I reflect on this event, I saw through dance, poetry, and photography that all present were invited on a path to appreciate our differences. Through prayer, we held before our God our deepest longing for a world at peace. Through our donation, we signaled our compassion for those most vulnerable.

On that special night, I witnessed an affirmation of our mission of excellence, diversity, and commitment. ❖

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Varsity and JV Basketball Teams Capture Titles

Down 13 points with 3:10 on the clock, the Lady Crusaders displayed one of the greatest comebacks in the school's history. Telling her team to "believe in themselves," Coach Sandie Capifali's team went on an 18-4 run to defeat Good Counsel Academy 50-49 to capture the Archdiocesan



Members of the SCA JV Basketball team, (l to r): Chris Mary Martinez, Kimberly Keddo, Kiyana Brooks, Crystal Kuyoro, Cristina Lisboa, Nancy Morano, Designa Correa, Nekia Roberts, Amanda Villavicencio, Samantha Medina, Sabrina Caiazza, Lorraine Naar, Stephanie Morales.

CHSAA Division D Championship.

Throughout the 15 and 2 season the team displayed what Capifali calls a lot of P.E.P. —"Possession and Execution leads to Points." Before taking the court at the beginning of each game the players huddle together for a "Go Hard or Go Home" cheer that motivates them from the beginning of the game to the final buzzer.

Both the JV and Varsity teams have worked hard all season, scrimmaging and challenging each other. Coach Capifali and JV Coach Marko Markolovic believe that this has only made them better teams. The results are evident as the JV team captured their CHSAA League Title. According to Coach Capifali, "Unless you try to do something beyond what you have already mastered, a team will never grow. The chemistry is there as long as they believe in themselves."



Members of the SCA Varsity Basketball team with coaches: (1st row, l to r) Jessica Boscana, Jalessa Harris, Tiana Rosa, Alyssa Flavin, (2nd row, l to r) Coach Capifali, Monique Crosdale, Alessandra Rossa, Lauren Paylor (3rd row, l to r) Monica Rosa, Kathleen Sampson, Coach Markolovic, Simone Castillo

Coaches Capifali and Markolovic will miss the three seniors who were part of this successful season: Jaleesa Harris, Katie Sampson and Tiana Rosa, who ends her high school career with 688 points. ❖

Class of 2007 College Acceptances

Students from the class of 2007 have worked hard and achieved much in their four years at St. Catharine's. To date they have been offered \$3.8 million in scholarship funds and been accepted at the following colleges and universities:

Amherst College	CUNY/Laguardia Community College	Howard University	New York Institute of Technology	SUNY/Farmingdale
Art Institute of New York	CUNY/Lehman College	Hunter College	Northeastern University	SUNY/Morrisville
Baruch College	CUNY/Mohawk Community College	Indian River Community College	Nyack College	SUNY/New Paltz
Berkeley College	CUNY/Queensborough Community College	Iona College	Pace University	SUNY/Purchase College
Brandeis University	CUNY/York Concordia College	Keystone College	Pennsylvania State University	SUNY/Stonybrook
Cazenovia College	Delaware State University	Laboratory Institute of Merchandising	Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Puerto Rico	SUNY/University of Buffalo
College of Mount Saint Vincent	DePaul University	LaSalle University	Rochester Institute of Technology	SUNY/Westchester Community College
College of New Rochelle	Dominican College	LeMoyne College	Sandford-Brown Institute	Susquehanna University
CUNY/Baruch College	Dowling College	Long Island University/CW Post	Simmons College	The College of Westchester
CUNY/Borough of Manhattan Community College	Farleigh Dickinson University	Long Island University/Brooklyn	St. Francis College	University of Chicago
CUNY/ Bronx Community College	Fordham University	Lynchburg College	St. John Fisher College	University of Central Florida
CUNY/College of Technology	Franklin Pierce College	Manhattan College	St. John's University	University of Hartford
CUNY/ Hunter College	Georgian Court University	Marist College	St. Joseph's College	University of New Haven
CUNY/ John Jay College of Criminal Justice	Hartwick College	Mercy College	St. Peter's College	University of Tampa
	Harvard University	Monmouth University	SUNY/Bufalo State	Williams College
		Mt. St. Mary College	SUNY/Delhi	Wood Tobe-Coburn School
				Yale University

An Oasis in the Bronx

Keeping the Option Available



*Kathleen McCarrick
Weiden '75*

Karen Adragna D'Aleo '71, Kathleen McCarrick Weiden '75 and Julie Morrone '80 attended St. Catharine Academy within a few years of one another – and they share a deep appreciation for the positive influence that the school had in their lives. They also share a strong commitment to its mission of educating young women.

This became apparent recently, when each of these women took on new board-related responsibilities: Karen is completing her first year as chair of the Board of Trustees of St. Catharine Academy; Julie is beginning her first term as a member of that board; and Kathleen has agreed to serve on the board's Finance Committee.

A quick review of their resumes makes apparent the valuable professional experience that they are able to share, particularly from their strong financial backgrounds.

Karen is Assistant Vice President-Assistant Controller for the Rockefeller Group Development Corporation. Julie is an investment analyst, specializing in tax-exempt bonds and the securing of financing for Not-For-Profit organizations. Kathleen is a professor at The Charles F. Dolan School of Business at Fairfield University, where she combines her love of taxation law with her practical experiences as a Certified Public Accountant.

The path to financial careers was different for each of the women. Karen loved her drama experiences at St. Catharine's and intended to become a Spanish teacher and high school drama coach. It was the discovery that the business environment offered more job opportunities that caused her to shift her career focus to

the world of accounting and to develop her innate math ability. Julie's story is similar. Although well grounded in math, her real career intent was to become a writer – until she discovered this didn't pay her bills: "The movement into the financial field was for very practical reasons – to pay off educational loans. But I realized I'm good at it."

Kathleen's path was more direct. In high school, she recognized she had the skill sets her father possessed, along with a business mind. "Those kinds of things always made sense to me." Still, Kathleen admits her love for English literature made the prospect of teaching a very strong second choice.

All three of these multi-talented women are pleased to put their knowledge and experience at the disposal of SCA's mission. Their reasons for doing so are quite straight forward, and they have a lot to do with what the St. Catharine's experience meant in their lives. They value their high school single-sex education, crediting it with giving them an enduring sense of self confidence. Kathleen reflected, "That's not something I knew at the time, but looking back, I can see that it is something I carried with me as I moved into more male environments."

Julie credits St. Catharine's with helping her to develop her presentation skills and a sense of confidence and comfort whenever she has to speak before an audience. "It's not just what you know; it's also how you package what you know and present it", she said.

Continuing the sense of appreciation for the empowering environment experienced at SCA, Karen summed it up, "We were encouraged to believe that we could do anything, and that if



*Karen Adragna
D'Aleo '71*



Julie Morrone '80

we put in the effort, we would attain our goals."

In her own way, each of these women hopes to contribute whatever talents and knowledge she has (particularly in the field of finances), in order to help the school grow and become a better and bigger place for its students.

For Julie, there is a lot at stake: "I look at St. Catharine's as an oasis for a lot of girls in the Bronx, and I think it is very important to maintain it. These girls have incredible potential, and during these critical years, SCA provides a place where they can grow and flourish." ❖

Breaking Barriers

Dr. Sarita Arteaga '82

As a Hispanic woman dentist, Sarita Arteaga '82, is a pioneer in her field. She was the only Hispanic in her dental school graduating class and typically finds herself as the only woman present at professional meetings. She has recently been named the president elect of the Hispanic Dental Association, a national association of dental care professionals who have a mission to care for the oral health of the Hispanic community through improved prevention, treatment, and education.

In Her Mother's Footsteps

Dr. Arteaga was inspired by her mother to become a dentist. "My mother went back to school and then worked as a dental hygienist while I was in high school" states Sarita. When it was time to choose her own career path, Sarita first thought she would become a pediatrician, but after working as a dental assistant while attending NYU, Sarita decided that becoming a dentist would combine her love of science and art. Later, she went on to study and graduate from University of Connecticut school of Dental Medicine located in Farmington, CT.

Her focus is in community health, which she enjoys immensely and believes is vitally important.

She recalls a particularly rewarding experience that occurred while she was treating a child in her downtown Waterbury, CT office. Sarita realized that the mother of this child had been a former patient

of hers. Now this young mother was studying to be a dental assistant. Sarita was tremendously pleased that she had influenced this woman and that they were both working toward ensuring the oral health of not only the daughter, but other children as well.

The SCA Difference

St. Catharine Academy allowed Sarita to accelerate her education by offering a three year high school graduation program. "I appreciated the all-girl environment and excellent teachers such as Mr. David Antinore [Mathematics] and Mrs. Gabriella Cassaneto [Mathematics]. They really encouraged me."

Her advice to students at SCA today is "... to be sure to set goals for yourself." Sarita also suggests that students find a mentor in the field in which they wish to pursue and "shadow" them.

A Role Model

Sarita became an assistant clinical professor at her dental school alma mater in 1995. "I felt I could reach more people by teaching others to do community dentistry." She still sees patients once a week at the University's health center, but believes that through her teaching, she can best serve as a role model for others who are feeling the challenges of being a minority in their chosen field. ❖



Class Notes

1942 Mary Maguire Murtagh can't believe it has been 65 years since graduation! SCA was on 152nd Street in Manhattan and she remembers playing volleyball and basketball in the backyard of the building.

1950 Martha M. Habermann is currently living in Maryland and states: "I would like to hear from any of my classmates - Her e-mail address is: martyh6@verizon.net."

1953 Sarah Campbell Tarsney would like to thank all the Sisters of Mercy who were teaching at St. Catharine's during her time there. She is also thankful for 46 years of marriage, five great children and eight fantastic grandchildren.

1956 Eleanor Krantz Murillo says hello to all with fond memories: murillo59@aol.com

1957 Elisa Verna Liotti and her husband Anthony have recently moved back to the Bronx after living 35 years in New Jersey. They are helping to care for Elisa's 98 year old mother. Elisa is now teaching CCD at St. Clare's School and thankful to St. Catharine's for making her such a strong, respectful woman. • **Barbara Follini Colombo** is looking forward to seeing fellow classmates at the upcoming 50th reunion.



Members of the class of 1957 celebrate their 50th anniversary at the Alumnae Reunion held at SCA.

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Class Notes Cont'd



Jane Sullivan Roberts '72 (left) speaks with Rosemary Curry Landrigan '52 at the Alumnae Reunion held on April 29, 2007.

1958 Marie Wolf Doyle is retired from teaching and currently working two days a week as the librarian in the school where she had taught for 26 years. Her eleventh grandchild is due in July.

1959 Eileen Smyth Sussmann is the proud mother of two SCA alumnae: Colleen Sussmann '91 and Regina Sussmann '96. She is looking forward to her own 50th class reunion in two years. • **Frances LaMotta Monti** continues to work for a cure for ALS (Lou Gherig's Disease) which took her older son William at a very early age. She takes care of four grandchildren ages 9 to 2 and traveled to Fatima during Easter Week of 2007.

1960 Josette Odierno Perciballi hopes all her classmates are well and happy! She has two sons: Mario is corporate counsel for T-Mobile and planning a July wedding and Marc is a car inspector for the Long Island Railroad.

1961 Carole Ann Lattanzi Urfrig and her husband Donald continue to be bi-



Class of 1962 members (l to r) Allana Maikish Nappi, Joan DiChiara and Lucille Viggiano DiRucco are sharing family photos at the April 2007 reunion.

coastal with both sons in the NY area. Jonathan heads his own fund in Manhattan and with his wife Courtney welcomed a new son Skylar Reese Urfrig in March. Gregory joined Scarsdale Oral Surgery as an oral maxillofacial surgeon. • **Paulette Sorg** is the leader of the Tenants Association for Woodmansten Apartments on Williamsbridge Rd in the Bronx. Paulette has been active in working for improvements as well as the restoration of this historic building. • **Antonnetta Quercia Gannon** is currently working at Fordham University as the administrative assistant to a Senior Vice President.



Members of the Class of 1972 gather for a picture. In front photo (l to r) Kathanna Knapp, Nina Colavolpe-Leone and Mary Stracci Fitzpatrick.

1962 Allana Maikish Nappi and her husband Michael have become grandparents for the first time. Their son Andrew and his wife Kim had a baby girl, Samantha Lynn in August. • **Helen O'Neill Lynch** and her husband Frank welcomed their fifth grandchild, Jack William. He joins Kayleigh 12, Ryan 8, Shannon 7 and Colleen 4. Now that Helen is retired from Mineola Public Schools she has some extra time to enjoy them.

1964 Patricia Williams Fitzgerald lives with her husband, James, in Garrison, NY. Patricia owns a travel agency and has been teaching CCD for the past 17 years. They have twin daughters who are now 25 years old. • **Loretta**



The Class of 1982 enjoyed seeing each other at the 2007 Reunion.

McLaughlin Larkey is working in the social work program at the University of Wisconsin in Green Bay and loves it. She and her husband John travel frequently and will be in Guatemala in June leading a service-learning course for social work students. They have four grown sons who are all doing well.

1965 MaryAnn Pessolano Mattone misses all her friends and would love to plan a get together. She is married with 27 grandchildren, good health, a tolerant husband, continues to work for charities and is "still a non-stop talker and shopper". • **Roseann Tritto O'Malley** says hello to her former classmates and wants Desi and Toni Ann to know that it was wonderful to see them at Kerry Ann's shower.

1966 Judi Palmer Purcell and her husband moved to Kansas City, Missouri last year and are enjoying their new life in the Midwest. Best wishes to my fellow alumnae and especially the class of '66.

1969 Theresa Poidomari Grimaldi is currently teaching at SCA and the proud grandmother of Eddie, age 5 and Natalia, 15 months.

1971 Susan M. Romeo recently purchased her first home in Valley Cottage, NY. She is teaching physics at Nanuet

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High School and has a son who is a senior at the University of Buffalo with a double major in history and creative writing. She is grateful to SCA for a strong academic background.

1972 Theresa (Terry) Hnath Chisolm has lived in Tampa, FL since 1988. She is professor and chair of the department of communication sciences and disorders at the University of South Florida. She has one son, Christopher, 14 years old and has been married since 2003 to Steve Sobieralski.



Alali George Williams and Michelle Soto from the Class of 1992 enjoying the April 2007 reunion.

1979 Dr. Patricia Hunt Waffenschmidt is the site medical director of the NY Stock Exchange and does consulting for the Department of Energy and U.S. Postal Service. She is adjunct professor of pathophysiology at Pace University, NYC. She lives with her spouse of 16 years, Robert, in Long Island, NY.

1980 Patricia Delvin Sidorick is living with her husband in Naugatuck, CT. She is a financial advisor with Ameriprise Financial Services. Her practice is based in Woodbridge, CT and she is licensed in NY as well as CT. Her daughter Christine is currently a sophomore at Iona College.

1988 Rosemarie Saccoccio Xenos' brother, Anthony Saccoccio passed away in December of 2006. "He drove me to high school every morning for the four years—I honor his dedication and support during my high school years."



Members of the 2007 SCA Reunion Committee (l to r): Elisa Verna Liotti '57; Dorothea Bersani '62, Louise Biancardi Villani '62, Mary Coletti '62, Roseanne Autera Pinto '72, Milagros Montalvo '02.

1997 Maria LaPietra graduated from the University of Miami Law School in December of 2003. In August of 2005 she started her own firm and is currently practicing Real Estate. She is recently engaged and living in Miami Beach, Florida.

2001 Robin Cammarota recently earned her Master's degree in organizational leadership and was promoted to associate director of recruitment for Mercy College.

2002 Stephanie E. Burgos received her BA from Boston College in 2006 and is currently completing a post-bac in pre-med at Duquesne University. She will be attending medical school in the fall.

2003 Rachel Rezek will be graduating from Fordham University in May 2007 with a BS in biological sciences. She will begin attending medical school in August at New York College of Osteopathic Medicine. She misses her days at SCA – especially Math Class!

MILESTONES

■ Wedding Anniversaries

Rosemary Curry Landrigan '52 and her husband Jim celebrated 49 years of marriage on February 1, 2007.

■ In Memoriam

Dorothy Maguire Gregory '42
E. Dolores Pogue Hughes '42
Maria Bitsanis Steinmetz '47
Dorothy Kelleher Smith '50
Margaret Dooley Norris '57
Clare Hoare Cahill '58

Helen Larkin Morrissey –
sister of Kathleen Larkin Uhrig '53
Francine Scioli – SCA principal 1996-99



Senior's Dream Comes True

Guzman Chooses Harvard

At a time when the press is reporting a record number of applications to and a lower percentage of acceptances at prestigious colleges and universities throughout the country, Amanda Guzman, a senior at St. Catharine Academy, has been accepted by and will attend Harvard University. "Harvard was one of my dream schools" states Amanda, who has also been accepted at Williams and Trinity Colleges, and Binghamton University.

Opportunities to Learn

Amanda, who was first in her class at SCA, says that she wants to "make a difference" in the world. She has been very focused in her journey toward that goal, as illustrated by the activities she has chosen to participate in during her high school years.

One summer she participated in an internship with the Harlem Children's Health Project, where she helped to create a health guide for parents who had children with diabetes. She surveyed local supermarkets to ascertain what they were selling so that the health guide could provide parents with a recommended list of markets and foods for parents. But, Amanda didn't stop there.

When she heard that Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton was speaking nearby on 125th street, she made sure she was present in the crowd. After the speech, Amanda stayed behind to discuss with Senator Clinton the booklet she had just helped produce.

Amanda is currently interning at the American Museum of Natural History where she is involved in a research project concerning young people and the vote. She is surveying seniors in high school concerning their political involvement.

Future Plans

Amanda is hoping to blend her love of history and anthropology into a double major. This is just the sort of self-selected study combination that Harvard encourages and which is facilitated by its large selection of challenging course offerings. It is clear that no matter the class work or major chosen, Amanda will certainly be successful. ❖



Amanda Guzman '07.

Class of 1957 Will Gather to Remember and Rejoice

At a Golden Anniversary Luncheon, Sunday, October 28, at Noon *(details in the mail)*

Lake Isle Country Club, 660 White Plains Road, Eastchester, New York

For more information call: Patricia Melody McMahon 201-768-4888 • Nora Sharkey Murphy 914-337-8111

Or visit: www.sca1957.myevent.com

www.scahs.org



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