

# CONNECTIONS

THE HOLY NAMES ALUMNAE NEWSLETTER



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## ***A Welcome From The New President***

Dear Alumnae of AHN,

I am honored to be writing to you as the new President of the school you love and cherish, Academy of the Holy Names. As the product of an all-boys college preparatory (St. Ignatius in San Francisco), a long-serving theology teacher in another (McQuaid Jesuit), and the recent principal of an all-girls school (Our Lady of Mercy in Rochester), I celebrate and enthusiastically extol the virtues of single-gender education.

My vocation is to contribute to a community where young people are given every opportunity to develop their talents and God-given gifts for their personal benefit and for the benefit of others. Our young people need to know that they have a purpose in this life and the adults in their lives can help them discern it. Too often girls' voices are drowned out. An all-girls school gives girls the confidence to boldly assert themselves. The quality of an AHN education prepares our students and alumnae to accomplish their ambitions toward building a better world. You, the alumnae of Holy Names, are our greatest legacy and proof of our purpose. You are building a better world right now.

In the coming months, I hope to hear your AHN stories. I am working with the Advancement team of Nora Ritinski '05 and Liz McGarry to plan alumnae events in the Capital Region, Boston, New York, and Florida. We are also conceiving online events that can help you connect with each other and the school no matter where you live.

Holy Names is more than a building; it is its mission, its traditions, its people, its stories. As I come to know this remarkable school and its people, I find myself humbled to have been entrusted with guiding its future. I am confident that with your support and the work of the great faculty and staff, the future of Academy of the Holy Names is bright.

Sincerely,



Martin Kilbridge, Ed.D



**Join us on Tuesday, September 27, 2022 at Normanside Country Club for a day of FUN, friends, and a fantastic opportunity to support Academy of the Holy Names!**



**Whether you're on the course every weekend, or haven't played a round in a while, we want to see you there!**

**7:45-8:45 AM - Registration and Breakfast**

**9:00 AM - Shotgun Tee Off**

**2:00-4:00 PM - Lunch, Cocktail Reception, and Awards**

**For more details, click [HERE](#)**

**Register To Play**

**Become A Sponsor**



## AHN Reunion



Over 100 alumnae gathered together in-person to celebrate AHN Reunion in June. It was wonderful to be able to welcome everyone back home to Holy Names, especially the milestone class years of 1970, '71 & '72 for their 50th Reunion, and the class years of 1995, '96 & '97 for their 25th.



We appreciate the alumnae who served as reunion representatives for their class years, and their reunion committees. We truly appreciate all you did to help ensure a successful event!



*A special thank you to **Roux** (Angela Teller '01 Carkner) for the wonderful catering of all Reunion events!*

[Click Here To View All Reunion Photos](#)

## A Celebration of Mary Anne Vigliante



through her teaching, guidance, and leadership, and in the process left an indelible

This year, Academy of the Holy Names celebrated the retirement of Mary Anne Vigliante, honoring her 52 years of faithful service to Holy Names as an educator, advisor and leader. She has been a living example of the mission and values of a Holy Names education, and dedicated herself to the students, families, faculty, and staff of AHN. Mary Anne has impacted generations of young women

impression on Holy Names for which our community is forever grateful for.



*At the end of year Pep Rally students surprised Ms. Vigliante by holding up cutouts of her yearbook pictures throughout the years when she walked in!*



*In honor of her 'graduation' from Holy Names after 52 years, the seniors presented Ms. Vigliante with a Golden Diploma, and officially welcomed her as a member of the Class of 2022, during the Alumnae Induction ceremony.*



*Students escorted Ms. Vigliante to the Pep Rally, each wearing an official AHN uniform from throughout the past 52 years!*



On June 5, 2022, generations of AHN alumnae, parents of alumnae, current AHN families, faculty and staff, former faculty, Sisters of the Holy Names, Trustees and Past Trustees, and friends of Holy Names had a wonderful time celebrating Mary Anne's impact on Holy Names and its students.

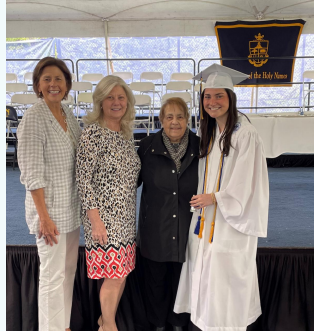
As an AHN Community, we thank Mary Anne for all she has done for, and all she has meant to, Academy of the Holy Names.

***"Mary Anne has dedicated her life to improving the lives of others. She has been a role model for generations of young women and helped mold them into bright, confident, service and goal-oriented leaders."***

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***A special thank you to [Nicole's Restaurant and Catering](#) and Margaret Carciobolo '82 for the fantastic catering service of the Mary Anne Vigliante celebration!***

## 2022 Alumnae Induction Ceremony



The Class of 2022 was inducted as AHN Alumnae on Thursday, May 26, 2022. Among those present to welcome the 44 seniors into our alumnae community were many sisters, aunts, grandmothers, and mothers who also graduated from Holy Names. The Holy Names legacy continues to envelope multiple generations of amazing women.



*Lissa Smith '77 McNaughton welcomed the Class of 2022, including her daughter Mary Quinn McNaughton, into the AHN Alumnae Community as the Induction Speaker.*

**"It was Father Sean who imparted, what I believe, is the most important message: *Esse Quam Videri* – To be rather than to seem. It's on your ring. It's on your blazer. It's on your graduation gown. It's on my ring and it was on my gray blazer. The fact that the words *Esse Quam Videri* are very subtly displayed, is not by accident. It should be the undercurrent of your life. It's a message that can carry you through life and help you make good decisions in any setting. There's a business saying that's gained popularity over the past few years that says "fake it till you make it." Don't ever fake it. People know. Be honest. Be forthright. Be truthful. Ask questions."**

**-Lissa Smith '77 McNaughton**

**We wish the class of 2022 the best of luck as they begin their college careers!**

**Caroline Amadon**  
Fairfield University

**Emily Amodeo**  
Union College

**Anamaria Banta**  
Hawaii Pacific University

**Atarah Bryant**  
Florida Gulf Coast University

**Sara Bunzey**  
Marist College

**Grace Burke**  
Siena College

**Olivia Caporale**

St. Lawrence University

**Stella Bleu Casella**

Baylor University

**Sinead Coughlin**

Siena College

**Caroline Cristalli**

Boston College

**Madeline DeNisco**

Marist College

**Eileen Desharnais**

Cornell University

**Jacklyn Dodson**

Texas Christian University

**Fiona Donlon**

Franciscan University

**Nora Dreslin**

University of Rochester

**Adrianna Drindak**

Dartmouth College

**Ursula Follert**

St. Lawrence University

**Maria Geel**

Paul Smith's College

**Ashley Graff**

Hudson Valley Community College

**Shea Hildenbrandt**

Quinnipiac University

**Emilie Hill**

Palm Beach Atlantic University

**Alena Hoffman**

Sacred Heart University

**Mary Jordan**

University of Notre Dame

**Rebecca Jorgensen**

Villanova University

**Sophia King**

St. John Fisher College

**Olivia Loder**

University of Colorado Boulder

**Madison Mackey**

Villanova University

**Mary Quinn McNaughton**

St. Bonaventure University

**Lauren Mesick**

Fordham University

**Madelyn Miles**  
James Madison University

**Maeve Nielsen**  
Pace University

**Livingston Ottman**  
University of Vermont

**Tanner Poissant**  
Connecticut College

**Kate Putnam**  
Siena College

**Lily Savage**  
St. John Fisher College

**Abigail Schlegel**  
Siena College

**Kiley Scholz**  
Syracuse University

**Caroline Serio**  
University at Albany

**Susan Smith**  
Connecticut College

**Veronica Stack**  
College of the Holy Cross

**Anna Szesnat**  
Trinity College

**Riley Taylor**  
Loyola University

**Rachel Valois**  
University of Findlay

**Elizabeth Wade**  
Providence College

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If you'd like to reach out to one of our newest alumnae-maybe one who is attending your college alma mater, or attending college in the area you live in- to help welcome them, please reach out to Liz McGarry at [emcgarry@ahns.org](mailto:emcgarry@ahns.org) and we can help connect you!





# MARK YOUR 2022-23 CALENDARS



**ACADEMY OF THE HOLY NAMES UPCOMING EVENTS**

**JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THIS YEAR'S EVENTS**

**AHN GOLF CLASSIC**

September 27, 2022

**GIVING TUESDAY**

November 29, 2022

**CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION & LIGHTING OF THE BELL TOWER**

December 8, 2022

**#ALLINFORAHN**

February 9, 2023

**SPRING GALA**

April 28, 2023

**ALUMNAE INDUCTION CEREMONY**

## THANK YOU TO OUR ALUMNAE PATRONS 2021-2022

**Rachel Christiansen Photography**, Rachel Pierce '97 Christiansen  
**Christine A. Wheat Special Events Firm, LLC**, Christine Wheat '96  
**Dipped By Dee**, Deanna Deeb '07  
**Genoa Importing Co.**, Betsy Clark '87 O'Haire Bender  
**Gracies Apparel and Accessories**, Grace Conway '96 Clark  
**Her Strength Studio**, Nora Fazioli '07 Matthew  
**Jenna's Salon, Inc.**, Jenna Luciano '03 Boyd  
**Nicole's Restaurant and Catering**, Margaret Carciobolo '82  
**Penchant for Petals**, Christine Teta '91 Foster  
**Pretty Rugged Gear**, Sheila Hogarty '83 Mendleson  
**Roux**, Angela Teller '01 Carkner  
**Simply Scout Designs**, Kailin Murphy '99 Curtin  
**Student Styles**, Alexandra Smith '07 and Jen Smith '03 Wade  
**Unified Beer Works**, Erika Anderson '91  
**Wicked Smart Apparel**, Marcie Warrell '87 VanEpps

*We enjoy being able to work with AHN alumnae businesses, and appreciate their support of our events through sponsorships, donations, raffle and auction prizes, and gifts-in-kind.*

*If you'd like to learn more about opportunities to support AHN through your business, or discuss potential opportunities for collaboration, please contact Liz McGarry at [emcgarry@ahns.org](mailto:emcgarry@ahns.org).*

## Class News & Notes

### **Maureen Dolan, Class of 1984**

Maureen has enjoyed a thirty-year career as an educator with the City School District of Albany. Currently, she's a Middle School Math Enrichment Specialist. Maureen has been blessed with two sons.

### **Shannon Flynn, Class of 1995**

Shannon is a mother of three amazing daughters - one will be attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the Fall, another will be attending Grinnell College, and my last will be a senior.

### **Rachel Pierce Christiansen, Class of 1997**

After teaching in Albany City Schools for 12 years, Rachel started a photography business. Her studio has been open for almost 10 years. She married her husband, Tim, in 2008 and they have three children.

### **Daisy Ford Paglia, Class of 1997**

Daisy graduated from Albany Law School in 2006 and works as a legal editor for the NYS court system. She and her husband have an 8-year-old daughter and an 11-year-old son.

**Shaunna Greaney Pastuszak, Class of 1997**

Shaunna teaches 8th grade social studies in the South Colonie School District.

**Lisa Agostino Phalen, Class of 1997**

Since graduating from Holy Names Lisa went on to receive her Bachelor's Degree in Biology and in Nursing. She has been working as a registered nurse at Rush University Medical center as an oncology nurse.

**Helen Smith Annely, Class of 2002**

Helen is still doing theater. She recently starred in a local production of Fun Home alongside her daughter. Helen works for Epidemiology Bureau of Immunization as a school vaccine auditor.

**Johanna Fedorow, Class of 2002**

Johanna has recently received her MSN in education. She was a front line worker in the Emergency Department at Albany Medical Center through the entire COVID-19 pandemic.

**Joanne McKeon Kemnitz, Class of 2010**

Joanne received her Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Niagara University and her Master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling Education from the College of Saint Rose. She works as a Behavior Intervention Specialist for ARC GLOW. Joanne married in 2016 and has two sons.

**Patricia Erickson, Class of 2011**

Patricia is working on her Ph.D. in epidemiology, and is completing her thesis research at the National Cancer Institute.

**Tess Diefendorf, Class of 2012**

Tess graduated from American University with a Communications degree. She went on to work as a graphic designer/digital producer at the Case Foundation for 4 years, a family foundation based in Washington, DC. In February of 2020, she made the move to NYC to work at an advertising agency. In February of this year, Tess made a permanent move to Denver, CO while still working remotely for the same agency. She's enjoying the change from city life and is grateful for all the visitors she's already had out there.

**Aislyn DiRisio, Class of 2012**

Aislyn graduated with honors from Cornell University in 2016 with a degree in biology & public health. While she was there she competed for and was the captain / coach of the figure skating team. She is now finishing up her M.D. and M.S. at Mount Sinai in New York, where she has published a number of peer reviewed articles and presented her research nationally. Aislyn recently took advantage of some free time to visit and catch up with friends around the country before beginning her position as a resident physician at UCLA's Department of Neurosurgery.



**AHN Alumnae reunite in Denver, CO**

(From L-R) Quinn Massaroni '12, Catherine Maloy '13, Aislyn DiRisio '12, Meghan McCarty '12, and Tess Diefendorf '12

**Quinn Massaroni, Class of 2012**

Quinn completed her undergraduate and graduate studies in Rhode Island (Bryant University), where she studied Politics and Law, Communications, and competed as a varsity athlete on Bryant's Division I Women's Soccer team. After completing graduate school, Quinn began her career in sustainable finance and ESG in Boston. Most recently, she relocated to Denver for a position at Janus Henderson Investors where she continues this work, focused on integrating sustainability in investment decisions.

**Meghan McCarty, Class of 2012**

Meghan graduated from the Fashion Institute of Technology in NYC with a degree in Fashion Merchandising. While at FIT, she completed a number of internships, including ones at Chanel, Barneys NY, and at the Women's Wear Daily offices in Paris. She started her career on the buying team at Christian Louboutin and worked there for 5 years. She now works at Alexander McQueen as the Women's Handbag and Accessories Buyer, traveling regularly to Europe and across the US to understand business needs, curate assortments, and maximize sales opportunities.

**Catherine Maloy, Class of 2013**

Catherine graduated from Boston College with double majors in finance and marketing, and a minor in history. During her time at BC, she also ran Division 1 cross country and track and field, and was selected as captain her senior year. Upon graduation, Catherine moved to New York City and began working as a corporate financial planner. Catherine now lives in Seattle and works for Amazon Web Services as a senior financial analyst in the Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning division.

**Amanda Pentak, Class of 2013**

Since graduating from Academy of the Holy Names Amanda went on to get her Bachelors of Science in Psychology at SUNY Oneonta, then on to The College of Saint Rose to get her Master's degree in School Counseling. Amanda lives outside of Rochester, NY and works as a full time K-2 Elementary School Counselor.

**Jessica LaPlante, Class of 2019**

Jessica is at the US Naval Academy; she was selected for midshipman 6th battalion for next semester, one of only six in the entire brigade, and in charge of 5 companies.

**Liz Wilson, Class of 2020**

Liz (left) completed a 13 week boot camp in Parris Island, SC. She then went on to graduate from Marine Core Combat Training in Camp Geiger, NC. Liz was stationed at a Navy base in Mississippi for schooling in aircraft maintenance administration, and is now stationed at the Marine Corps Air Station in Iwakuni, Japan.

*For all recent class news & notes, click [HERE](#)*



## AHN Fall Open House

**The Fall Open House is scheduled for Thursday, November 3, 2022.  
5:00-7:00 pm**

**Please encourage prospective students in your life to attend and learn  
about the benefits of a Holy Names education!**

**The Entrance/Scholarship Exam is on Saturday, November 5 at 8:30 am.**

For more information, contact Ann Rento, Admissions Director:  
[arento@ahns.org](mailto:arento@ahns.org); 518-438-7895, or visit [ahns.org/admissions](https://ahns.org/admissions)

## **STAY CONNECTED WITH HOLY NAMES!**

**Do you need to update your contact information?**

**Click [HERE](#)**

**Do you own a business that you would like us to include in our  
AHN Community Business Directory?**

**Click [HERE](#)**

**Are you interested in serving as a Class Connector?**

**Click [HERE](#) to learn more!**

**Questions?**

**Contact Elizabeth McGarry, Assistant Director of Advancement &  
Alumnae Relations**

**Academy of the Holy Names**

**[emcgarry@ahns.org](mailto:emcgarry@ahns.org) - 518-438-7895 ext. 603**

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