



REGINA DOMINICAN

# VERITAS

THE MAGAZINE OF REGINA DOMINICAN COLLEGE PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL 2021

**FEATURE:**  
**HER STORY**  
**STARTED HERE**

**CAROL ROSS BARNEY '66**  
**DESIGNS REGINA'S**  
**NEW CAMPUS**



**IN THIS ISSUE: REGINA RE-ENVISIONED • 2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

# Dear Alumnae,

## PARENTS, GUARDIANS, AND FRIENDS,

How are you?

There is so much weight in that question today. How are you doing physically, emotionally, mentally? Do your pants still fit? Mine don't. It has been a year that feels like a decade, but we are doing great!

Regina Dominican knocked it out of the park this past year. We successfully and safely opened our campus for our entire student body 5 days a week starting in mid-August of 2020 through the rest of the year with the exception of a few weeks of eLearning over the holidays. We are the only high school in the region to have done so. We had zero spread of COVID-19 on our campus. We prioritized academics and safety above all else, and it worked. The Class of 2021 earned offers of over \$14.5M in scholarship money and increased their average ACT scores even though their junior year was violently interrupted by the pandemic the prior year.

This type of success does not come easy, but it was possible because of the unwavering commitment of our hardworking faculty, staff, students and parents. Not only did we outperform every school in the area from an engagement and attendance perspective but we also still managed to keep our eyes on the prize. Work on our strategic plan was steady and focused with tremendous efforts by our faculty and staff on their professional development journeys, creating and delivering world-class college prep curriculum. Our community at large worked through uncomfortable truths of racism and bias by finding ways to combat it with love, compassion, understanding and unity like only a Dominican school can. We ended the year with a balanced budget and slight increase in our scholarship endowments as well as having record student and parent satisfaction!

Even with all of this success, we know there is much more to do. The realities of operating a private Catholic school in this modern world have not become any easier after these difficult 18 months. Many families are still reeling from the financial impacts of the pandemic, fewer people identify as Catholic in the Chicago area and the costs of running a high quality college prep high school is outpacing wage growth.

We will meet these challenges with our new strategic plan and know it will take strength of mind, body and spirit to accomplish. Part of that strategic plan includes re-envisioning our beloved campus. Alumna and world renowned architect, Carol Ross Barney '66 is working on a student-centered campus plan that leverages technology and matches the fabulous culture and pedagogy of RDHS. This plan is about more than a new building—it's a chance to right-size our space in a way that better supports our curriculum and our commitment to providing girls with an individualized education. The design process included the input of faculty, staff, students, parents, alumnae, board members, and the Adrian Dominican Sisters. Please enjoy a sneak peek at the plans in the pages that follow.

This has been a difficult time for everyone. If you ever get discouraged and concerned for our future as a nation or the world while watching the news, I have the antidote for you. See what our alumnae like Carol Ross Barney are doing, see what our students are doing, come to campus for a visit. They are learning every day how to be a part of the solution to big problems. They are learning to find joy no matter how bleak the world may seem around them. They are learning to lead and be the voice for positive



change in the world. They are learning that they can have respectful dialogue with people of differing opinions and still be friends. All of this is possible because of generous donors like you. I hope you see and feel the power of this great work in the stories that follow. We are very grateful for your support and generosity, and we look forward to partnering with you for another successful year building the future of Regina Dominican!

Love and Light,

*Elizabeth Schuster*

Elizabeth Schuster  
President





# VERITAS MAGAZINE 2021

**Veritas:** The Magazine of Regina Dominican College Preparatory High School is also the Latin term meaning "truth" which is the motto of the Dominican Order.

## OUR MISSION

Regina Dominican, a college preparatory Catholic high school for young women, sponsored by the Adrian Dominican Sisters, fosters academic excellence, truth, peace, and justice while challenging each student to develop leadership for life and respect for all races, cultures, and faiths.

## 2020-2021 LEADERSHIP

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## Features

- 4 Dr. Kassie Porreca Reflects: The Year in Review
- 6 Leadership Institute: Regina Girls Lead & Go Global
- 14 Her Story Started Here: Carol Ross Barney '66
- 16 Regina Re-Envisioned: Campus Master Plan

## School News

- 8 Celebrating the Class of 2021
- 10 Fine Arts: A Showcase of Student Talent
- 12 2020-2021 Sports Recap
- 17 Enrollment News & Important Dates
- 22 Faculty Spotlight
- 31 Calendar of Events

## Special Section

2020-2021 Annual Report

## Advancement

- 18 2020-2021 Regina Events
- 20 31st Annual Virtual Black & White Gala
- 23 Alumnae Connect
- 24 Featured Alumnae & Class Updates
- 30 In Sympathy

## Back Cover

Save the Date for the 32nd Annual Black & White Gala, Saturday, March 5, 2022—Wintrust Bank

## Connect with Us



**Facebook School News:** reginadominicanhs

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## ON THE COVER

*Carol Ross Barney '66*

*Photo Courtesy of Whitten Sabbatini*

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## DR. KASSIE PORRECA REFLECTS:

# The Year in Review

In a year when the world was turned upside down and that contained so many struggles, we had many accomplishments to be proud of here at Regina Dominican High School. The entire summer of 2020 was spent meeting with our campus reopening advisory group and keeping up to date on all the latest in COVID-19 precautions and protocols in order to build our school reopening plan and communicate it to all our parents, students, and staff.

The team effort involved everyone, and we were able to open school in person, for one hundred percent of our student body, as scheduled in August 2020—a feat that no other school, public or private, in our area was able to accomplish. We recruited a volunteer corps of parents and alumnae who worked every day to help screen and temperature check every student as they entered the building in the morning; we installed safety equipment and signage; we created new procedures for cleaning and sanitizing our environment throughout the school day; and, of course, we all wore masks all day long and maintained physical distancing at all times. We relocated classes into larger areas and spread out desks so that everyone was six feet apart.

As the new year went on, we kept a close eye on local COVID-19 rates. When students became exposed or tested positive, we developed a successful contact tracing and quarantine policy resulting in never having a single case of transmission here in school. We were proud of how our families and staff came together and lived up to our “Panther Pledge” to keep everybody in our community safe and healthy. Through the efforts of our Nurse Marti Barthel and community partners, we were able to offer vaccines for our entire staff early in February, and then to our students as soon as the vaccine was approved for them in May. Our vaccine clinics were a real accomplishment. Securing vaccines for our staff when appointments were still hard to come by so that they could feel protected from exposure to the virus while coming to

school every day made a big difference for our community. More than a few people had tears of joy, excitement, and relief in their eyes as they got their shot.

We worked hard to maintain as much normalcy as we could and to keep up with our Regina Dominican traditions all throughout the year. Masses were held outside when the weather allowed, and via Zoom when it did not. Gnimocemoh lived on with spirit days and activities that were modified to be COVID-safe. We erected tents on the athletic field to provide outdoor classroom and eating spaces,



and we learned to love enjoying our campus and fresh air. Ring Day Mass was moved up from December to October, and held outside. Convocation, commencement, and prom were all hosted outside, and by the time we ended school for the year, Illinois was just days away from full reopening. Our spirits were lifted by that joyful development.

Our staff made the immediate shift last March into remote learning, adapting to new methods of teaching and connecting with students, and that spirit of creativity and a “can-do” attitude persisted all throughout the 2020-2021 school year. Students who were quarantined or whose parents requested remote learning attended classes while the rest of the class was in-person. Regina teachers always

put students’ needs first, as they helped each other innovate the best ways to maintain our challenging curriculum throughout the pandemic. Our counselors supported students and their families through the emotional turmoil of living through this time of uncertainty, while many of them lost friends and family members to COVID-19 throughout the year.

I’m most proud of our students. Regina girls inspired me every day of this past year. Behind those masks, their smiles were still there, and their spirit was indomitable. Our students supported each other and looked out for one another all year long. Spontaneous acts of kindness sprang up: an anonymous “Regina Positivity” Instagram account posted uplifting quotes and images, and the Student Council and class leadership boards launched many projects to lift spirits, such as cooking contests and Netflix viewing parties. Our Regina Dominican students were happy and grateful that they alone among their peers were able to come to school in person every day with their whole school, and they showed it. They were even cheerful when they lined up every morning to be screened and happily adapted to wearing a mask at all times.

Through it all, we all kept an eye on each other, prayed for each other, and stood by each other. Many times throughout the year, students and staff stated, “I could not imagine getting through this pandemic without the Regina Dominican community’s support.”

Now we are looking ahead to the new school year. Believing that the worst is behind us, we are excited about being able to bring back the traditions that we missed, like gathering together as an entire school for our weekly Morning Meeting, all-school Mass in the auditorium, pep rallies, and bleachers filled with spectators during athletic events. We know that some precautions will certainly remain in place, but we know that our resilient student body and staff will take whatever comes in stride, and that together, we are a community that is committed to each other.





## REGINA DOMINICAN 2021 PRINCIPAL'S AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



The Principal's Award for Academic Excellence recognizes a graduating senior who has maintained the highest level of academic achievement during her four-year attendance at Regina Dominican. This top scholar not only represents the best in scholastic achievement, but also exemplifies excellence, leadership and service. This year's Principal's Award was proudly presented to **Anne Berg**.

## 2021 MEDALISTS



**LILA ACOTT**  
French and Music-Orchestra  
University of Dayton



**ANNE BERG**  
Physics, Spanish and  
Theology  
University of New Hampshire



**JACQUELINE FUENTES**  
Dance  
University of Iowa



**MAURA HENEGHAN**  
Biology & Social Studies  
University of Illinois at  
Urbana-Champaign



**GRACE LANGFELS**  
Theater  
University of Cincinnati



**MAEVE NEWTON**  
English  
Salve Regina University



**SOFIA RANA**  
Chemistry  
Loyola University Chicago



**KAYLA SMITH**  
Music-Choral  
Fairfield University



**FRANCESCA SPAGNOLO**  
Art  
Loyola University Chicago



**LEIA SPANIAK**  
Latin  
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical  
University-Daytona Beach



**BOWEN YIN**  
Mathematics  
University of California  
Santa Barbara

The Regina Dominican Medal is a special honor conferred on seniors for academic excellence, service and leadership within a subject area or areas. These bright young women will be continuing their education at their college or university of choice.

# REGINA GIRLS LEAD & GO GLOBAL



The Regina Dominican Leadership Institute prepares every Regina Girl to lead and make an impact. It encourages girls to think globally and challenge themselves to improve their global citizenship through service, outreach, and education. In a time where there have been numerous barriers that impact global outreach, Regina Dominican students have proved that even virtually, they can make an impact globally.

The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women is dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. The 65th session met this March. The Working Group on Girls is a partner of United Nations Women and UNICEF to support the legal and human rights of girls everywhere. On March 16, these groups hosted international conversation circles for girls from around the world to share ideas and connect with each other. The aim of the conversation circles was to amplify the voices of girls, increase girls' visibility as essential to Generation Equality, and encourage girls' participation and leadership in the political process at the local, national, and global level. Each conversation circle had its own topic ranging from peace and security to economic justice and climate, and Regina students shined as leaders in this event.

S. Durstyn Farnan, OP is the UN Representative for the Dominican Leadership Conference that is part of the Dominican Sisters Conference. S. Durstyn invited Regina to participate in these events and we embraced the opportunity! **Gabi Kerrigan '23** was part of an international group of girl delegates that created the Official United Nations Statement on the Girl that was delivered to the United Nations as part of this event. **Kirka Kallioras '22** and **Maeve Newton '21** were trained to be conversation circle facilitators and led international circles on technology and innovation for gender equality, and feminist movements, and leadership. Gabi, **Sophia Rhoda Akosah '23**, **Rebeca Marqueda '23**, and **Julia Cerimele '24** were all active participants in the circles. Each student was profoundly impacted and inspired by the experience.

“ This was an amazing opportunity that I will carry with me for a long time. I was able to connect with a girl who started an organization in India to normalize and destigmatize feminine hygiene products. We were able to exchange contact information, and I plan on starting a chapter of her organization here at Regina. ”

—REBECA MARQUEDA '23



Global Conversation Circle participants

Top (L-R): Maeve Newton '21, Rebeca Marqueda '23, Julia Cerimele '24, Sophia Rhoda Akosah '23  
Bottom (L-R): Kirka Kallioras '22, Gabriella Kerrigan '23



Then, in June, Rhoda and Julia joined a group of girl-advocates and activists from around the world that drafted a Statement on the Girl as part of the Generation Equality Forum in Paris. The letter calls for the involvement of girls in the decision-making, goal-drafting, and implementation processes at all levels of government and to highlight the reforms they want to see in the world in the next five years. As the letter stated, “Girls bear the double burden of gender and age discrimination, and it is essential for leaders and relevant actors to acknowledge our unique voices and equip us to speak for ourselves. We are the future that begins today, and we want to have a part in creating a more equal and sustainable world for ourselves.” Rhoda also created a video that was shared with the delegates!

Regina students continue to seek opportunities to participate in global discussions and create positive impact. This summer, **Latrisha Taylor '23** is participating in the Global Youth Ambassadors Leadership Summit, a joint program of Chicago Sister Cities International and the University of Illinois at Chicago. This leadership program is designed to build the next generation of global leaders through citizen diplomacy and advocacy. It is open to teenage girls, ages 14-16, from Chicago and its 29 international sister cities. For her final project, Latrisha worked with peers from Chicago, Prague, Toronto, and Gothenburg to analyze data and create a gender equity scorecard for each of their cities on the topic of girls' mental health.

Additionally, a team of Leadership Scholars comprised of **Emily Chavez '22**, **Kirka Kallioras '22**, **Tristen Norman '22**, and **Catherine Patti '22** are using the UN Working Group on Girls toolkit develop their capstone projects, which will culminate in leading their own conversation circles and facilitating these important discussions between Regina students and girls from selected schools around the world. Watch these girls inspire, act, and lead!

# LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE HIGHLIGHTS

## LEADERSHIP SCHOLARS

Leadership Scholars from the Class of 2021 completed their leadership action projects. The Regina Reads team organized a book donation drive and hosted a book fair to distribute over a thousand books to Jamieson Elementary students to prevent the summer reading slide. The Panther Packages team assembled and delivered thoughtful care packages filled with toiletries and hygiene items to the Primo Center that serves women and children in transition. Finally, the Panther Planet team developed a series of campaigns to create a more environmentally conscious student body who actively participates in actions that will better the planet. These Leadership Scholars had a tremendous impact on the community!



## JOYFUL LEARNING BADGE

Research shows that 7 in 10 girls believe they are not good enough or do not measure up in some way and 74% of girls say they are under pressure to please everyone. With these stats in mind, this year's Joyful Learning badge, recognized for a second year with a generous grant from the W.P. and H.B White Foundation, focused on helping students find joy in the journey, take risks, overcome failure, and embrace imperfection. All students participated in activities to practice a growth mindset, discover our learning strengths, celebrate our bravery, and practice joyful learning behaviors. And, almost half of all students went the extra mile to earn their badge by attending hands-on morning workshops and completing a final project that challenged them to learn a new skill and reflect on the process.

## NEW CONNECTIONS

New partnerships were established with the Nova Network, an organization uniting women's college grads, and the Women's Exchange in Winnetka that encourages intergenerational connections, learning, and relationship building. The Nova Network hosted a virtual panel for Regina's students and parents to discover more about women's colleges. And, in May, Regina National Art Honors Society students and members of the Women's Exchange attended an interactive workshop to learn about Gee's Bend quilts, discuss commonalities in our own experiences, and create our own quilt!







# Celebrating







# THE CLASS OF 2021

The Regina Dominican Class of 2021 started the school year in-person and ended their four years at Regina Dominican with the ultimate outdoor commencement ceremony! In year where traditions had to be transformed, our graduation traditions made a comeback and remained the same—we held an in-person Alumnae Induction, Convocation and Commencement. After the athletic field on campus was transformed into the ultimate celebration location, Regina Dominican seniors were able to celebrate with all of the pomp and circumstance that comes with the honor of graduating. The celebration began with the Alumnae Induction held on Friday, May 21, where Regina Dominican alums **Paula Acuna '08** and English teacher **Annie Tully '92** emphasized the importance of their Regina Dominican roots and that 701 Locust Road will always be home no matter where life's adventures take you.

The celebration continued on Friday, May 28, 2021 with Convocation, a long-standing Regina Dominican tradition where the community celebrated the

academic, athletic, philanthropic, and personal achievements of the Class of 2021. Among those awards recognized were our Medalists and Principal's Award Winner (see page 5), as well as our Athlete of the Year **Laura Strenk '21** and our Senior School Spirit Award recipient **Abigail Farmer '21**.

While some high schools in the Chicagoland area rented out larger spaces to accommodate graduation or limited in-person attendance, Regina Dominican transformed the athletic field to host the Class of 2021 Baccalaureate and Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, May 29, 2021. With family, friends, faculty, staff and Board Members filling the seats, 73 Regina Dominican Seniors were honored during their Commencement Mass led by Father Peter Wojcik, followed by the conferring of diplomas. This year's Regina Dominican Alumnae Medalist was **Bridget Geraghty '03**, and Senior **Anne Berg** represented the Class of 2021 as she gave the graduation address. Anne painted a wonderfully vibrant and beautiful picture of the Class of 2021 and their last four years at Regina Dominican.

She stated "Wherever we may go, we will carry with us the confidence, knowledge, and community that we gained here. The Crown, the Star, and the Book will always be our guideposts. So as you move forward to college, be confident in who you are, and keep your head held high. You are more capable than you know." Senior members of the Regina Dominican Chorale serenaded attendees and graduates with a beautiful rendition of "Rise Up" by Andra Day, proving once again that Regina Girls are bold, resilient and strong.

What could be a more perfect ending to such a celebration? Prom, of course! The Senior Class Leadership Board and Senior Advisors transformed the athletic field into the perfect Midsummer's Night Dream! The new graduates danced the night away under the stars at the most magical prom yet! From food trucks to crowning the Prom Queen, the Class of 2021 was able to celebrate the end of their high school years together joyously and safely.



# A Showcase of

## FINE ARTS AT REGINA DOMINICAN

In a year where the sounds of Broadway were silenced and concerts became a thing of the past, the Regina Dominican Fine Arts Department took an unexpected year and created a masterpiece of beauty, talent and creativity. From virtual concerts and interactive art galleries to hosting two on-campus viewings of the Orchesis Dance production *Metropolis* and the Spring Musical “We’re All In This Together: Regina The Musical,” Noah Pligge (Theater/Music), Alison Valadez (Dance) and Sarah McNeely (Art) guided our students through an incredible year!

Regina Dominican’s first ever Virtual Art Show debuted on January 14, 2021 and ran through Sunday, January 24, 2021. The show featured drawings, paintings, digital prints, mixed media and more from 42 students. The second virtual showcase took place from the second week of June to the end of the month. Participants were able to virtually navigate a diverse exhibit of visual masterpieces from the comforts of home.

With the Fall musical put on pause during the first semester, Noah Pligge decided to get creative and bring the stage to the big screen by writing and filming the Spring Musical “We’re All In This Together: Regina The Musical.” The premise of the musical was that it was filmed in a documentary style depicting what it is like for the students to put on a show during this pandemic. The songs are based on personal stories of certain students that are highlighted throughout in a musical revue style. The Musical shows what it is like to be a Regina Arts student. Noah Pligge explains the inspiration behind the show: “People only ever get to see the finished product of a show. Since I knew everything needed to be recorded separately, I thought it

would be fun to give an inside look at the process of putting it all together. After working with my chorale students virtually and hearing what they can do individually at home, I got the idea to showcase them. The entire process of putting a show together is truly inspiring. The emotions and thoughts you have to go through to be able to tell a story is unlike any other field. It is very personal. Using that idea, I picked some fun songs that talk about the idea of togetherness and telling each other how magical it is to create art with one another.”

From outstanding visual effects paired with the talents of our students—the virtual production of the Spring Musical will forever go down as one of the most beautiful and outstanding performances in Regina’s history.

While last year’s Orchesis Dance Company showcase “Elements” was performed without a hitch before the pandemic, this year’s performance also adopted the mode of film. The Orchesis Dance Company Showcase “Metropolis” included music and choreography that was inspired by bright lights and big cities! Student-choreographed dances were showcased and captured beautifully on film—highlighting the talents of our Regina Dominican Panthers.

Between the Spring Musical and Orchesis Showcase, one question many asked was “how will this be performed?” Regina Dominican parents fearlessly answered by generously providing our community with the ultimate outdoor viewing experience for both the musical and Orchesis Dance show—a big screen on the athletic field!

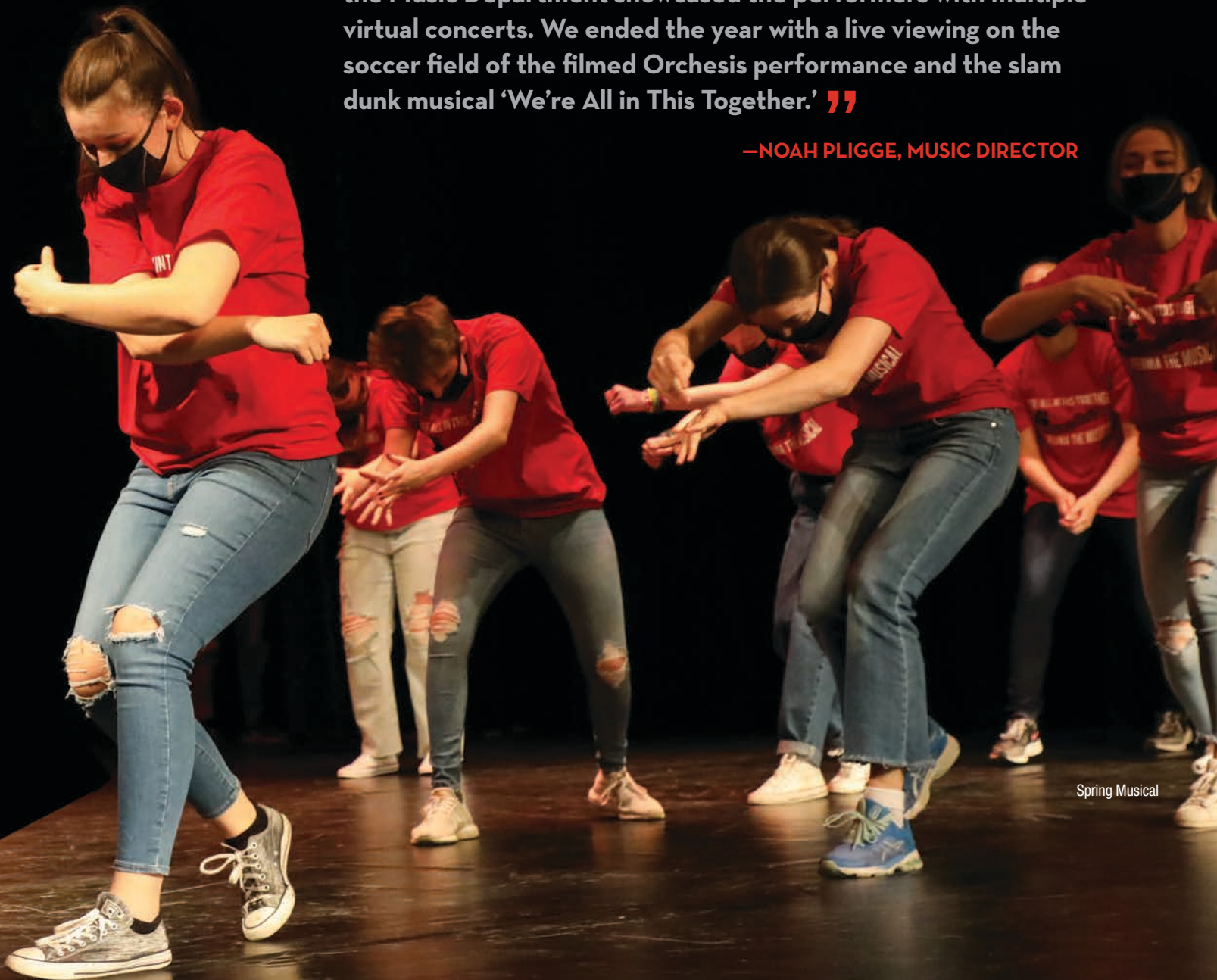




# Student Talent

“The Fine Arts Department was resilient during the 2020-2021 school year. By making a necessary pivot to virtual productions, we were able to offer the students all of the same opportunities, just not in front of a live audience. The Art Department was able to feature all the student work with two virtual art shows while the Music Department showcased the performers with multiple virtual concerts. We ended the year with a live viewing on the soccer field of the filmed Orchestis performance and the slam dunk musical ‘We’re All in This Together.’ ”

—NOAH PLIGGE, MUSIC DIRECTOR



Spring Musical



# 2020-2021 SPORTS RECAP

This year proved once again that the Panther spirit could not be suppressed—despite athletic seasons changing and students facing overlapping seasons, on the fields, courts, tracks, and lanes. From Senior Nights to State competition, our Regina Dominican Panthers proved time and time again that nothing is impossible when they come together for a common goal. Whether or not athletes hit a buzzer beating shot or picked up their third strike in a row to break a long standing school record, they stood together (at times 6 feet apart) and cheered each other on without fail.

## **ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

**Laura Strenk '21** (right) was selected as the 2020-2021 Regina Dominican Athlete of the Year. This year, Laura became one of three Regina Dominican basketball players to score 1,000 career points. Laura was a three-sport athlete excelling in tennis, basketball, and soccer. Laura will continue her athletic career playing basketball for Colorado College.







## BASKETBALL

The basketball program met the challenges of being the first sport to open up after the complete shutdown of all athletics. The team navigated one-on-one practices, advancing to group practices without contact, to finally having the ability to compete in a shortened season. The team celebrated five seniors in the one game where fans were allowed to be present. In the end, there was no tournament to compete in, but the athletes strengthened their appreciation for the game and their teammates.

## BOWLING

The pinstriking Panthers had an interesting yet successful season! With COVID-19 restrictions in place, both Varsity and Junior Varsity competed "virtually." Under the incredible leadership of Coach Virginia Biegel and first-time Coach Elizabeth Michalek, Junior Varsity placed seventh overall in the GCAC Conference and Varsity placed fifth overall in the GCAC. Junior Varsity and Varsity saw the emergence of freshmen all-star bowlers and they look forward to next season!

## ATHLETIC COMMITMENTS

- **Kaitlyn Dutkin '21**, Crew, Barry University
- **Gabby Rocha '21**, Cheerleading, Spring Hill College
- **Katie Sheehy '21**, Lacrosse, John Carroll University
- **Laura Strenk '21**, Basketball, Colorado College

## CROSS COUNTRY

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Cross Country team competed in smaller meets this year. A few season highlights were when the Panthers beat rival Resurrection twice in dual meets, and based on IHSA Regional performance, advanced onto IHSA Sectional Meet.

## GOLF

The Golf team finished their season 7-5. They placed fifth in both the GCAC Conference Tournament and Regionals out of 12 teams.

## LACROSSE

The 2021 Lacrosse Program welcomed Coach Jack Hill this season. Through his leadership and collaboration with Assistant Coach Colleen Kaferly, the team remained dedicated in an unusual season and produced five wins and two all-conference players in the GCAC. The team graduated five seniors, but is looking forward to continuing their success in the next season. Their motto was, "Hard-work. Family. Panthers."



## MCDONELL AWARD

The McDonnell Award is named in honor of former Regina Dominican Administrator Patricia "Pat" McDonnell, who retired in June 2019. This award celebrates her legacy and is presented to the athletic team with the highest grade point average during each sports season. The Tennis team won the award for the fall, while the Bowling team won for the winter and Soccer team won for the spring.

## TRACK AND FIELD

While the indoor season was put on pause, the Track & Field team excelled during the outdoor season! **Kendall Williams '23** was awarded Athlete of the Meet (White Division) at GCAC Championship meet and both Kendall (long jump) and freshman **Sara Byrne '24** (high jump) qualified for IHSA State. This year the team also had the fastest 4 x 100M team in the last 15 years! Paws Up Panthers!

## SOCCER

The soccer team finished in the top 16 in the state this season! They secured a regional championship and were sectional semi-finalists. This was the first time since 2006 they earned a spot in the sectional finals game. Regina Panthers had an all-sectional player, **Laura Strenk '21** and an all-sectional honorable mention, **Mary Storino '23**—this is awarded by the IHSSCA—and two all-conference players, **Laura Strenk '21** and **Vicky Mando '21**.



# HER STORY STARTED HERE

## CAROL ROSS BARNEY '66 DESIGNS REGINA'S NEW CAMPUS



**Carol Ross Barney '66** has made a career out of seeing the potential in everything she designs. As the eldest of eight children, she has always been a leader, but her approach to design shows that she is a visionary too. As she sets Chicago up for a sustainable next century, Carol exemplifies leadership and service that Regina has held fast to over 63 years.

As a student in the 1960s, Carol soaked up all she could in our halls and learned to tap into her creativity at a young age thanks to guidance counselor, Sister Catherine Patrick. She told Sister Catherine that she wanted to be an architect when she grew up. "She didn't even flinch at the thought of a girl pursuing a traditionally male-dominated field," said Carol. "She researched and found the best schools for architecture. I was never told no, and that was inspiring."

Carol enrolled in the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's Architecture program. After graduation, she used her time to be of service to others by joining the Peace Corps in Costa Rica where she worked on coral reef protection, restoration work, and housing. This work helped to shape her into the architect she is today. She envisions the way a project can help a community as well as foster sustainability. From the Riverwalk to CTA stations to the net-zero McDonald's flagship, Carol sees how people use an

environment and how her designs can transform the experience of interacting with these spaces.

A career highlight was being selected as the first female architect to design a federal building. Carol was tasked to create a replacement for the bombed Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City.

**"I have to tell you that going to Regina really prepared me for this job that is not often done by women."**

She explains, "After we were selected to design the new Oklahoma Federal Building, we toured the site including the parking structure that survived the blast. The building manager took us to a protected and isolated corner of the garage and in a makeshift museum, he and other survivors had saved personal items





found in the rubble. It was that moment, in that leftover place, that I understood that the new design was not only about protection, but that the new Federal Building, while a state of the art defensive design, had to rekindle a sense of community; of open and free government for all people. The new design was about trust, remembrance and above all healing.”

Drawing on her time as a student and now as a board member, Carol had many ideas about how to re-envision Regina’s campus in the new master plan. Nonetheless, she wanted to learn from all who call Regina home. She asked the experts on Regina, our students, on what could be improved from their perspective. Through an app, they provided great insights into the school. Their top two requests were moving the lockers outside the classrooms and having air conditioning throughout the building.

Remarking about the importance of this project, she said, “My favorite job and the one that has been really filling my time lately is rethinking Regina for this century and for these students.” Carol Ross Barney is uniquely positioned to be the architect of this project and we are grateful for her involvement.



Chicago Riverwalk



Chicago Riverwalk



McDonald's Chicago Flagship

## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- Founding member and first president of Chicago Women in Architecture
- American Institute of Architects (AIA) Chicago Lifetime Achievement Award
- Chicago Riverwalk
- Lincoln Park Zoo, Searle Visitor Center
- McDonald's Chicago Flagship
- Oklahoma City Federal Building



Lincoln Park Zoo, Searle Visitor Center



Oklahoma City Federal Building



Regina's New Campus





# REGINA RE-ENVISIONED: CAMPUS MASTER PLAN

After more than 60 years and over 10,000 alumnae, the time has come to design a campus that matches the dynamic, individualized educational opportunities we provide for our students.

Carol Ross Barney has thoughtfully re-envisioned each space to be a place where girls can collaborate, innovate, reflect, and grow as learners and as people. Together, we will transform the Regina experience for the young women and families we serve.

The campus features changes like:

- A student center at the front of the school comprising the spaces where students gather and collaborate, including meeting stairs, the cafeteria, and a library and learning lab.
- Developed and enhanced spaces that elevate learning at Regina Dominican—from a new chapel space where students can pray, meditate, and reflect, to arts spaces like a new dance studio and art room, and renovated music room.

- Redesigned STEM labs that will elevate our already stellar programming, as proven by the 40% of 2021 graduates who entered as STEM majors in college.
- Modernized athletic facilities that include air conditioning, a new roof and new thermal windows. We will also be updating our locker rooms, and we will create new athletic offices and team spaces as well as a new fitness center.
- Easily accessible administrative offices where students can access the school leadership and student services that define the Regina experience.
- More heightened security protocols ensuring student safety.
- A more environmentally-friendly campus, which is in lockstep with the Dominican value of sustainability.





# ENROLLMENT NEWS

This year has proven that Regina Girls are not only resilient, but they are creative, dedicated, and inclusive and put into practice the foundations of *caritas & veritas*. The Enrollment Department navigated an untraditional recruitment season due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In-person high school fairs and grade school visits went virtual and Girls Night In and the Entrance Exam were transformed to offer both in-person and virtual options for participants. These new challenges didn't stop our students from sharing their experiences as a Panther with prospective students and their families. In the midst of a global pandemic, we were able to safely and successfully host two in-person Open Houses, rebranded Shadow Days to Paws Up Pop Ins and increased the number of personalized tours. We utilized the power of social media and were inspired by our community to continue cultivating the message that Regina Girls can, will, and do succeed! Our student ambassadors welcomed prospective panthers with open arms, resulting in six new transfer students at the beginning of the second semester.

This summer, we hosted two Girls Nights In and celebrated the Panther Book Club as they met virtually and in-person through the entirety of the 2020-2021 school year. In the fall, we will welcome the Class of 2025 on campus to begin their Regina journey, we look ahead and are excited to meet new Panthers who will one day soon be members of the Class of 2026! Traditional Shadow Days have resumed and we are excited for the official launch of the Faculty/Staff Enrollment Committee whose goal is to collaborate and enhance the prospective student and family experience by showcasing all of the incredible opportunities each academic department has to offer! **Paws Up Panthers!**

## VISIT US

Regina Dominican highly encourages prospective Panthers to attend a Shadow Day, Open House, arrange a personalized tour, or join us for one of our many extracurricular events.

### 2021 SHADOW DAYS

Wednesday, September 8  
Friday, September 10  
Wednesday, September 15  
Wednesday, September 22  
Friday, September 24  
Wednesday, September 29  
Friday, October 1  
Wednesday, October 6  
Wednesday, October 20  
Wednesday, October 27  
Tuesday, November 2  
Thursday, November 4  
Wednesday, November 10  
Friday, November 12  
Tuesday, November 16  
Thursday, December 2  
Friday, December 3

### 2021 OPEN HOUSES

**Thursday, October 21, 2021**  
6 - 8 p.m.  
**Sunday, October 24, 2021**  
12 - 2 p.m.

### CLASS OF 2026 ENTRANCE EXAM

**Saturday, December 4, 2021**  
8 a.m.  
\$25 Testing Fee

*\*Students are encouraged to pre-register.*

## CONTACT US

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[eschmerler@rdpanthers.org](mailto:eschmerler@rdpanthers.org)

**Elizabeth Michalek**  
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**Veronica Arends**  
Marketing/Enrollment Coordinator  
[varends@rdpanthers.org](mailto:varends@rdpanthers.org)





# 2020-2021 REGINA EVENTS





## GOLF OUTING

The 23rd Annual Booster Club Golf Outing was a great success! The outing sold out in record time and **raised more than \$60,000!** It was a beautiful day filled with golf, food, laughter, and great raffle prizes. We thank our golfers, volunteers, and generous sponsors who made the event a huge success!

## VERITAS EVENT

Members of the Veritas Society attended Regina's Annual Veritas Event. For the first time, this event was virtual! Fr. Peter Wojcik was the liturgical celebrant. After Mass, **Bridie Daly '21** and **Kaitlyn Dutkin '21** expressed their gratitude to our generous donors for helping to make their Regina Dominican educations possible. President Elizabeth Schuster thanked Veritas Society members for

their continued support, especially during the pandemic, and updated them on the school year.

## FRIENDS OF REGINA LUNCHEON

Unfortunately, the Annual Friends of Regina Luncheon was put on hold due to the pandemic. We look forward to seeing everyone again on Wednesday, December 1, 2021 at the Glen View Club!

## CELTIC CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Annual Celtic Christmas Concert hosted by Jon and Kim King benefiting the Black & White Gala was also virtual this year. Attendees were treated to the lovely sounds of Paddy Homan, Jimmy Moore, and Ian King who performed both traditional and Irish Christmas music. The concert instilled the Christmas spirit in all who attended!

## DONOR APPRECIATION EVENT

For the second year in a row, the Donor Appreciation Event was held virtually on Thursday, May 6. **Clare Broderick '16** shared a reflection about her Regina Dominican experience. She describes, "Going to Regina really did change my life. Regina Dominican provided me the academic foundation I needed to succeed at a top 15 university. It helped me discover who I was, and it gave me lifelong friends who have supported me along the way. I can guarantee I would not be the person I am without my time at Regina." Guests then entered breakout rooms with current students for one-on-one conversations. Thank you once again to all of our generous donors. We look forward to seeing you back in person next year!



1. Kim Rose, Maureen West '79, Geralyn Sullivan '79, Clara Sullivan
2. Jim Bramblet, Dave Riggs, Marc Garrison, Jon Skelly
3. Tom Finnegan
4. Kendall Maloney '23, Maggy Shaw '23, Madison Maloney '22
5. Linda Baker Baird, Brad Baird, Susan Ramsey
6. Karen O'Shaughnessy
6. Maura Chamberlin, Lily Grillo '24, Grace McAuliffe '21
8. Scott Speidel, Kathleen Quinn '80
9. Daniel Rankin, Stephen Koenig, Matt Bevenour, Brian Lunt
10. Sam Donatucci, Dave Griffin, Tony Betti, Michael Maloney



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# REGINA DOMINICAN BLACK & WHITE GALA

## A NIGHT OF GIVING FOR GREATNESS

**Expect the unexpected!** When we gathered on March 7th, 2020, no one guessed that the next year's Black and White Gala would look so vastly different. Senior moms, **Nancy Sullivan Strenk '78** and **Meaghan McDermott Newton '86**, along with husbands David Strenk and Bob Newton, took on the difficult task of reimagining the Black & White Gala as the 2021 co-chairs. They and their intrepid committee members brought the festivities to the small screen. Alumnae, faculty and staff, parents, grandparents, graduate parents, and supporters Zoomed in from all over the country and supported the Regina Dominican mission.

The easiest part of planning for the 2021 Black and White Gala was choosing our Regina Caeli Award winners. The Regina Caeli Award is given annually to recognize outstanding members of the Regina Dominican Community for their sustaining support and constant dedication to the Mission of Regina Dominican. There was no more deserving group than the Faculty of Regina Dominican. President Elizabeth Schuster presented the award to Dr. Kassie Porreca who accepted on behalf of the faculty. Starting six days after the 2020 Black & White Gala, their teaching protocols were put through a gauntlet of daunting challenges that they handled with grace, humor, innovation, and teamwork. A most praiseworthy group, indeed.

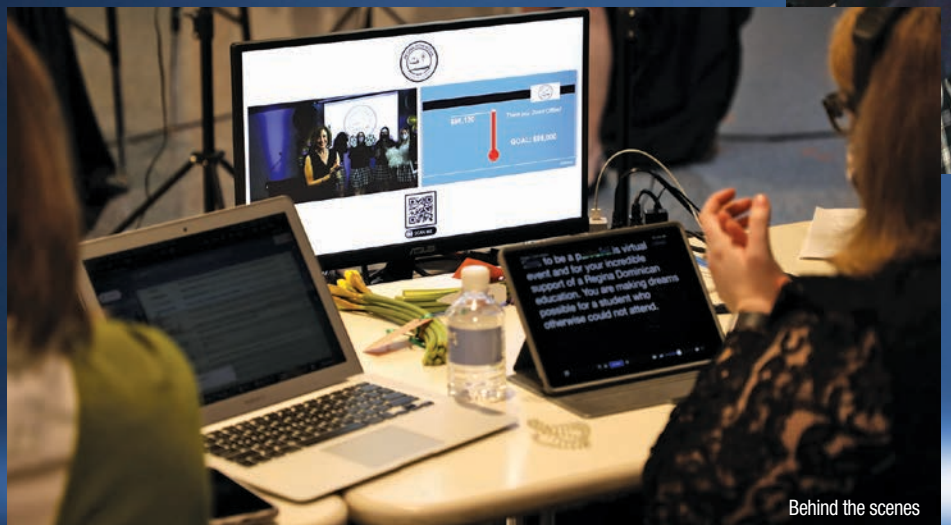
After a heart-felt thank you to our donors from senior **Shannon Blunt '21** for the financial support she has received, we watched the Scholarship Donation Thermometer soar past our goal of \$80,000 and top out at \$103,880. A special thank you to Vice President of Advancement **Joan Mulvihill Kitchie '77** for being our emcee for the evening.

The net income for Regina Dominican's 31st annual Black & White was a record setting \$382,000. These vital funds helped us through a year that required us all to expect the unexpected.

## A RECORD \$382,000 DONATED!



Elizabeth Schuster and  
Dr. Kassie Porreca



Behind the scenes



# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



Co-chairs Nancy Sullivan  
Strenk '78 and David Strenk



Co-chairs Meaghan McDermott  
Newton '86 and Bob Newton



Dr. Kassie Porreca and Regina students



Joan Mulvihill Kitchie '77



Regina students draw the winning ticket

## Angel Sponsor: \$25,000

Geralyn Sullivan '79

## Diamond Sponsors: \$10,000+

Alexandra and Ed Chouinard  
Joan '77 and Neil Kitchie  
Julie and Harry Jansen Kraemer Jr.  
Mulvihill Family Foundation  
Jane and Thomas O'Malley  
Anita and Tinsley Preston

## Platinum Sponsors: \$5,000+

Ann Macur  
Sheila Mickus  
Nancy and Michael Pins  
Lydia and Richard Porter  
Nancy '78 and David Strenk

## Gold Sponsors: \$2,500+

Martha '74 and Patrick Boudewyns  
Maura and Kedric Chamberlin  
Marybeth Cremin  
Linda Diekman and Owen MacBride  
Glenview State Bank  
Judith Hamill and Thomas Jaconetty  
ML and Ray Jast  
F. J. Kerrigan Plumbing, Co., Inc.  
Kim and Jonathan King

Jennifer and Tim McGuire  
Mary Mints '72  
Connie and David Morrison  
Jean Mulvihill  
Kathryn and John Nicolau  
Jennifer '88 and James Novy  
Jean Goodwin and Mark Rausch  
Carol Macur Rizzie '68  
Jim Rollings  
Stefani Prime  
Holly and John Tamsiea  
Katherine Wetoska '85  
Anne '84 and David White

## Silver Sponsors: \$1,000+

Academic Approach  
Cathleen '65 and Luke Allen  
Barb and Matt Bevenour  
Ann and Gerald Bjurman  
Margaret '69 and Richard Cagney  
Maura Farrell '88  
Christine Finzer '74  
Susan '74 and Michael Forester  
Maureen and Thomas French  
Laurie Baker Lawlor '74 and Dan Lawlor  
Kimberly and Daniel Leahy  
Maria and John Livaditis  
Liz and James Maloney  
Karen and Patrick McAuliffe  
Sheila and Dale Moyer  
Pia and Daniel O'Bryan  
Michelle and Victor Palumbo  
Melanie '81 and Daniel Peterson  
Jim and Agnes Quinn  
Buffy '74 and Rick Rock  
Mary Ann Chambers and Randall Romei  
Lourdes '80 and Martin Ryczek  
Martha '80 and Michael Smith  
Timothy Sweeney  
Sarah '82 and Eliseo Thorrens  
TC '69 and John Wells

## Faculty and Staff Tribute Sponsors: \$500

Diane and David Archibald  
Rae Jean and John Broderick  
Mary '83 and Frederic Donnelly  
Lisa and Kevin Flanagan  
Patricia and Richard Fuentes  
Diane Garvey and Lou Stevens  
Sheri and Stephen Gibbons  
Jean Golden '70  
Susan and Scott Hoffman  
Bill Hogan  
Barbara Holihan Cockrell '74  
and Matthew Cockrell  
Dolores and Thomas Krebs  
Mia Larena Angara  
Judith '62 and John Lynch  
Karen and Karl Schuenzel  
Catherine Hebert Simon '65  
Christine and Eric Strobel  
Dorothy Turek and George Sullivan  
Marysue and Michael Witchger





# Dear Regina Dominican Faculty and Staff,

Thank you. Thank you for everything you have been doing, and will continue to do for the Regina community. Your understanding and flexibility over the course of the pandemic has made such an impact on all grade levels at Regina. The small things you've been doing to make the transition online should not go unnoticed. From sending check-in emails and discussing mental health awareness in advisory, to adjusting the schedule to fit everyone's needs, you have impacted the students more than you know.

The academics at Regina are rigorous. However, with the help of the teachers, we were able to keep up with our schoolwork as well as our homework. Whether that be by meeting with students during "virtual office hours," giving extensions on projects, or going in-depth into whatever course material was needed, they did whatever it took to help us overcome the pandemic as a community. For example, every day before we would start our Sacraments class, Mr. Sanfilippo would take five minutes out of the class to get everyone talking and to make sure we were all doing well educationally, as well as mentally.

Throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic, Regina Dominican Panthers were encouraged to continue engaging in either a sport or club, though adjusted to fit the new policies of COVID-19. With the help of faculty, it was possible to put on performances and continue with all of the regular sports and activities. Every week, Ms. Valadez conducted Orchesis rehearsals for each individual dance (whether on Zoom or in person). The musical was also a huge success due to Mr. Pligge and Ms. Valadez working together. Family and friends had an amazing opportunity to attend a 'Night in the Field,' with all of the Regina community invited. The dedication they showed is one of the many examples of how students are treated at Regina. While some sports were impacted by the IHSA changing seasons, the student body had the ability to either stick with the sports they know or were encouraged to try something new! This would not have been possible without the understanding and encouragement of our teachers. The flexibility faculty expressed is unmatched anywhere else. We are so lucky to have the opportunity to be surrounded by such a positive and encouraging community.

Going to Regina gives you a sense of community and creates life-long friendships. Along with being such a close community comes friendship from not only fellow students, but staff members as well. I cannot count the number of trusted teachers and faculty who I can rely on to help me in any way. When you walk through Regina, you realize how special and cared for you truly are.

You can't judge a school based on how they act at the best of times. You rather have to see them struggle through challenges, and you will get a glimpse of how strong everyone can be when they stick together. Regina Dominican individuals are strong-willed, highly intelligent, critical thinkers. When presented with a challenge, they will get through it together. Behind those strong-willed, highly intelligent critical thinkers are our teachers, and we are lucky and grateful for their unwavering support.

—Margaret Clancy '23



# REGINA ALUMNAE CONNECT!

## ALUMNAE BOARD

The purpose of the Alumnae Board is to build and strengthen the Regina Dominican alumnae network and further develop relationships between alumnae and the Regina Dominican school community. The Alumnae Board plans and hosts events throughout the year. To learn more about the Alumnae Board or serving on a committee, please contact **Elizabeth McCann '09** at [emccann@rdpanthers.org](mailto:emccann@rdpanthers.org).

## REMEMBRANCE MASS

Our annual Remembrance Mass was held on Sunday, November 15. Family members, classmates, and friends joined us on Zoom. This allowed friends and family of the deceased from all over the country to join us. Fr. Wayne Watts of Saints Joseph and Francis Xavier Parish was our celebrant. The mass served as an opportunity to remember all of our deceased alumnae who passed away during the previous 12 months. Candles were lit as the names of the deceased were read. To request a memorial notice, please contact the Alumnae Office.

## TRIVIA NIGHT

Forty-three teams comprised of current parents, faculty and staff, and friends of Regina competed in our largest trivia night! This year's event was held virtually with the help of Brain Bash Sports. Congratulations to The Trouble With Angels who pulled off the win in a tough race to the finish! Thank you to all who participated, purchased raffle tickets, and donated raffle items. The event raised over \$7,000 to support the 31st Annual Black & White Gala. We look forward to seeing you all back in person with your fabulous themes and decorations in 2022!



MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS!

**REUNION  
2021**

**CELEBRATING CLASS  
YEARS ENDING IN  
0, 1, 5, AND 6**

**Saturday, October 9, 2021**

4 - 5 p.m. Reunion Mass

5 - 6 p.m. Class pictures  
and school reception

7 p.m. Individual Class Parties

**Visit the alumnae page  
at [rdpanthers.org](http://rdpanthers.org) for more  
information!**





# Class Updates



## 2021 ALUMNAE MEDALISTS



### LEADERSHIP

**Bridget Geraghty '03**

After graduating from George Washington Law School, Bridget became a successful trial attorney in the public defender's office in Richmond, VA. In 2018, she relocated

back to Chicago and started at the Uptown People's Law Center helping indigent prisoners who cannot afford an attorney during their parole hearings.



### SERVICE

**Tulin Ozdeger '90**

In 2004, Tulin and her husband, Mark Andersen, founded We Are Family [wearefamilydc.org](http://wearefamilydc.org). We Are Family is a nonprofit organization

that serves senior citizens of DC. This incredible organization provides visits, grocery deliveries and other resources to seniors in need.



### YOUNG ALUMNA

**Paula Acuna '08**

After graduating from Northwestern University, Paula received her Masters in Speech & Hearing Sciences at UIUC. Paula's most significant achievement

thus far has been starting her own private practice. Ms. Paula, SLP Bilingual Speech + Language Services was founded to meet the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse families who lack access to skilled speech services.

## CLASS OF 1966

**The Class of '66** (above left) was able to resume their Bi-Annual Luncheons. They gathered at Wilmette Golf Club's A-La-Carte Grill on Thursday, July 15, and had a great time!

## CLASS OF 1967

**Kathryn Roman Rosenthal '67** When Kathryn's grandchildren ask "What did you do during the coronavirus, Mimi?" She can say she wrote a book about it. And when they ask "Why?" She'll explain the story of COVID-19 in a way they can understand. The book was a collaboration with her daughter, Emily Kathryn Allen, which was the first book for them. Kathryn's sister, **Dr. Judith Roman-Royer '70**, served as an advisor, and fellow classmate, **Karen Bellinger Owen '67**, lent her marketing expertise. The book, *COVID The Bad Germ* can be purchased by visiting [codybearbooks.com](http://codybearbooks.com).

## CLASS OF 1972

**Deborah Tsoumas Dawson '72** (above right) attended Marquette University and double majored in Interpersonal Communication/Public Relations/Rhetorical Studies and Theology. She currently resides in Corvallis, Oregon with her husband of 26 years, Sonny Dawson. She works for Samaritan Health Services, a Christian-based Health Care System. Twelve grandchildren keep them quite busy!

## CLASS OF 1974

**Jody Borst '74** found out her daughter, Katie, was pregnant with her second baby right before the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March. She now has two beautiful grandsons, Joseph and Ethan! While working from their home the past year to help out, it's been quite the adventure helping her daughter with two under 2 years old! They are running every day! Jody decided to retire in May

to also help her 92-year-old mom and 95-year-old father, who are both healthy and strong! She thanks God every day for the wonderful values and education she received at Regina as a result of their sacrifices.

## CLASS OF 1981

### Elizabeth

**Cunningham '81**

(right) lives in Chicago with her husband, Thomas Mohr. Their sons, both musicians, live in Baltimore and Chicago. In August, she will begin her 16th year at The Chicago Academy for the Arts where she is the Director of Learning Resources. A happy, healthy family and the opportunity to be surrounded by art-making on a daily basis bring her great joy.



*Elizabeth's favorite Regina memory: "As a "commuter" student, I spent countless hours on a Scholastic Transit bus and most of those stories require more than 280 characters! I forged life-long friendships on that bus, including one with the Loyola boy who introduced me to his best friend—my husband of 36 years!"*

## CLASS OF 1986

**Hiromi Kakumoto '86** lives in Tokyo with her husband and 2 children. She is a teacher of Japanese as a second language. If visiting Tokyo, please contact Hiromi.





## CLASS OF 1989

**Christine Merle '89** (above) is fulfilling her dream as a veterinarian. Christine graduated from the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine in 1996. She returned to Chicago to practice as a small animal veterinarian before adding a Masters in Business from DePaul University in 2000. The path since then has led her to several opportunities throughout the animal health industry from university, management consulting, animal pharmaceutical sales, and marketing in both Urbana, Illinois and since 2005 in Zionsville, Indiana. She married Steve Habeck in 2004, a 1985 Loyola Academy graduate who happened to grow up and live just two blocks away from Christine in Edgebrook. Although they no longer call Chicago home—extended family such as Christine's "little" cousin, Sarah Herrmann '22, a current student at Regina—they still make Chicago a place to visit.



## CLASS OF 1991

**Anita DeCarlo '91** (above) married Keith Fifield on January 2, 2021. Maid of Honor **Gia DeCarlo '87**, **Colleen Hennelly '91**, and **Colleen Carroll '91** were there to celebrate.



## CLASS OF 1992

**Jill Bruzzini '92** (left) and her husband, Antonio, welcomed their daughter, Gianella Rosina Tabacchi, on December 18, 2020. She is named after Jill's grandma, a strong and brave woman who left Italy and sailed to America all by herself seeking her dreams. Gianella made their dreams come true and was the best gift to receive in 2020!

## CLASS OF 1994

**Jennifer Schnitzius Duringer '94** (right) is a Research Scientist and Assistant Professor at Oregon State University, where she holds a Ph.D. in Molecular Toxicology. She is also the Director of the Endophyte Service Laboratory, where she mentors students on Food Safety and Agricultural Toxicology. Her favorite teachers were Sister Pauline

in the Art Department and Mr. and Mrs. Hayes, in the Athletic and Science Departments, respectively. Jennifer and Timothy Duringer have two children, Jackson and Madeline. They reside in Brownsville, Oregon.



# Telling Stories

## MARGARET HERMES '67

Margaret recently published her latest novel in March of 2021, entitled *The Opposite of Chance*. The novel is about a 32-year-old named Betsy. Betsy is sheltered by a close-knit family, Catholic schools, college in her hometown, and a marriage at 20. After getting divorced, she sets out for a solo backpack trip in the summer of 1981. She begins to make her own decisions: about cities, hotels, and dinner entrées. The novel chronicles Betsy's travels and all of the characters she meets along the way. Finally, back home, Betsy comes to the realization that her journey is only just beginning.



Margaret has many fond memories of her time at Regina Dominican. She always felt heard and encouraged by her many Adrian Dominican teachers, specifically drama teacher S. Clare Patrick who let students take the lead on many productions. Margaret went on to Marquette University where she majored in English and Philosophy, graduating in three years. She always had dreams of being a poet, but sometimes struggled to finish her work. She met a local artist in St. Louis who suffered a similar issue finishing her art projects. The two gave each other a year to finish their projects and supported each other throughout the process. Margaret loves to see women supporting women! Although she lives in St. Louis, she still keeps in touch with many of her Regina classmates and looks forward to gathering at reunions.





# The Good Samaritan is a Reginite

## ANA MIYARES '86

Throughout her time at Regina Dominican, **Ana Miyares '86** learned about the importance of giving without any intention of receiving. Miyares is a photographer spending her time capturing people honored for their leadership and contributions to the world. Inspired by the altruism she witnessed in her daily life, she made the extraordinary decision to become a kidney donor when she turned 50. Miyares said, "I'm not independently wealthy or capable of change at that scale, but every person I ever photographed during those ceremonies inspired and led me to make the decision to donate my kidney an easy one." Kidney donation was the ultimate way to give to another without any intention of receiving anything in return. Little did Miyares know she would find fellow Reginites along the way and receive a new extended family.

After months of testing and health screenings, Miyares still knew no one who needed a kidney. As fate would turn out, her best friend knew someone in need of a kidney: the stepfather of her daughter's best friend, who was given two years to live without a transplant. It just so happened that his wife and stepdaughter were both Reginites (**Ann Carrera '97** and **Maggie Burke '21**.) Suddenly it was not a distant stranger, but someone within her world, a sign from God she thought.

In December 2019 after more testing, the two were officially a match and scheduled for the transplant for February 2020.

Also scheduled for a transplant that day was their surgical nurse and Regina alum, **Nora Davidson Trybula '95**. Miyares said of this discovery "faith kept revealing itself." Ana and her kidney recipient met briefly for the first time on the day of their surgery. Now over a year later, both are fully recovered and thriving. At this year's convocation, they met and finally were able to share a grateful hug.



Miyares spoke to Regina students at convocation about her journey to becoming a kidney donor. She said, "While going to this extreme of donating an organ may not be for everyone, everyone, each of you, has a moral and ethical responsibility to do their part to contribute in small or big ways. The smallest acts of kindness are the most heartfelt. Maybe it's helping a neighbor with yard work, visiting a nursing home to read books or play board games with residents, leaving a post-it note with a special message

to brighten someone's day, give someone an unexpected compliment, return someone's shopping cart for them."

As a photographer, Miyares has photographed for Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network. Gift of Hope works to save and enhance the lives of as many people as possible through organ and tissue donation. If you are interested in organ or tissue donation, visit their website at [giftofhope.org](http://giftofhope.org).

Below: Both families gathered on the transplant day, featuring alums Ann Carrera '97, Maggie Burke '21, and Maria Miyares O'Connor '85.







## CLASS OF 1996

**Sarah Schnitzius Cochran '96** (above) is a Medical Assistant and works at a Medical Clinic in Oregon, helping people, especially those struggling with COVID-19 issues. She enjoys spending time with her children and enjoying the great Oregon outdoors. She is currently working towards her Master's degree in Social Work. She earned her Bachelor's degree from Oregon State University in Psychology and Sociology. She fondly remembers Sister Pauline in the Art Department. Sarah and Timothy Cochran have four children, Bethany, Kai, Thomas, and Olympia. They reside in Eugene, Oregon.



## CLASS OF 1997

**Christina Batorski Peacock '97** and Steven Peacock welcomed their son, William "Liam" James Peacock, (left) on August 20, 2020.



## CLASS OF 1999

**Christine Schnitzius Bless '99** (left) is currently a stay-at-home mom and loving the opportunity to be with her family. She works from home for a mortgage lending company.

She enjoys painting and crafts and works at it in her personal time. She obtained a Bachelor's degree from Northeastern Illinois University majoring in Fine Art and minoring in Psychology. Her favorite teacher was Sister Pauline in the Art Department. Christine and Michael have two children, Addison and Ashton. They reside in Palatine, Illinois.

## CLASS OF 2002

**Kathleen McHugh Akbar, LCSW, '02** opened her therapy private practice, specializing in grief and loss. She received her Masters in Social Work

from Columbia University in 2010 and started her private practice after working as a hospice social worker supporting dying patients and their loved ones. She now lives in New Jersey with her husband, Shaan Akbar, and two boys, Zaid (age 7) and Aziz (age 5). You can find more information about her practice at [kathleenmchughakbar.com](http://kathleenmchughakbar.com).

*How has my experience at Regina influenced me professionally? "I believe my time growing in the empowering environment of Regina provided me with increased confidence in myself. While I learned how to do therapy from my professional education, opening a practice involves so much more than that—creating a business plan, learning accounting, building a website, managing social media marketing, and more. None of that is typically taught in Masters programs for counseling or social work, but my time at Regina made me into a confident woman who figured she could teach herself how to do that all and do it well, and I did."*

**Emily Rasinski Ebanks '02** (below) and her husband, Ron, welcomed their daughter, Vivia Ann Ebanks, into the world on June 8, 2020!



**Theresa Sorensen Polyak '02** (above) and her husband, Bill welcomed a little girl, Violet Jane, on August 20, 2020. Grandma **Linda Sherman Sorensen '65** is over the moon excited to welcome her first grandchild!

**Mary Spadoni '02** and her husband, Jonathan, recently welcomed their daughter, Julia Miriam Kay. They live in Astoria, New York.

## CLASS OF 2003

**Jessica Gade '03** (top right) will be competing in the Rebelle Rally in October 2021. This is a women's only 8-day off-road automotive navigation rally by maps and compass only. All



GPS-enabled devices will be confiscated at the start! The official start line is on the Hoover Dam, a historic icon of the west! The rally is an extreme challenge to find secret checkpoints, follow road books, and skilled driving. Jessica will be in charge of all things navigation and has done extensive learning on how to read maps, compass, and plotting courses. Jessica's partner and primary driver, Tasha Booth, is a field artillery specialist with the US Army. After surviving cancer in 2020, Jessica is ready for any challenge 2021 has to throw at her. Their website [twrecks134.com](http://twrecks134.com) has details on how to follow along on their journey in October.

## CLASS OF 2004

**Julie Jacobson '04**, husband Peter VanderHye, and daughter Lily (below) were very excited to welcome Benjamin (Ben) Michael to their family on April 8, 2021.



## CLASS OF 2007

**Ellen Nicolau Ernst '07** (above) and her husband, Will, welcomed a baby girl, Beatrice (Bebe) Ann Ernst this past spring.





**Lauren Ryczek Stubel '07** and her husband welcomed a son, Ford Emerson Stubel (left) on July 30, 2021. His aunts **Amelia Ryczek '12** and **Michelle Ellie Ryczek '13**

and grandma **Lourdes Vidal Ryczek '80** are all so excited for this new addition to their family!

## CLASS OF 2008

### Becca Schatz '08

(right) started in the Chicago Fire Department Academy in December 2020, and graduated in a ceremony at Navy Pier in June 2021. She is currently "Candidate Firefighter Rebecca Schatz." She is the third Schatz generation on the Chicago department after her father, William, and grandfather, Wilbur Schatz. Becca is engaged to Jeremy Miller and they will exchange vows in July 2022.



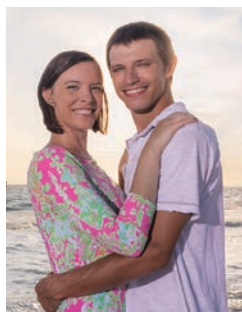
**Nicolette Roszak Ward '08** and her husband, James Ward, welcomed their first child, Luca James Ward (above), on June 29, 2021. Nicolette, James, Luca, and their dogs Wrigley and Ivy have moved out of Wrigleyville to the suburbs to start the next chapter in their lives.

## CLASS OF 2009

**Analisa Condon '09** finds it hard to believe that she has now lived in Cincinnati for 12 years, four of those as a student at Xavier University! She recently landed a dream role as the Manager of Donor Relations for Episcopal Retirement Services. In this position, Analisa can blend her passion for philanthropy, relationship building, and supporting senior services all into one! To celebrate turning 30 this year, she and her Regina BFF **Elizabeth McCann '09** took a much-needed trip to Door County, Wisconsin! If you find yourself driving through Cincinnati, come visit!

### Ashley Erickson '09

(right) got engaged to Marshall Spetsios on February 2021. Their wedding is set for February 2022 in Sarasota, Florida, and there will be two Regina alumnae standing up in the bridal party.



**Colleen Kelley '09** has been working as a medical social worker for the past year at Fresenius Kidney Care in Chicago. Colleen enjoyed having virtual happy hours with her Regina friends throughout the pandemic. Colleen is getting back into training for the Chicago Marathon in October. Colleen also has enjoyed being on the Regina Alumnae Board.



**Margie Travnik '09** married Connor Heminger in August 2020. Margie had two Regina girls by her side, **Colleen Kelley '09** and **Riley Kinsella '09** (above). Margie's mom, **MaryAnn Bredemann Travnik '73** is also a Regina alumna!

**Myrene Gallardo Wallace '09** graduated from college with a degree in graphic design. Myrene is currently working as a brand and design specialist for a manufacturing company. She married her college sweetheart, Josh Wallace, in October 2019. Two fellow Reginites, **Brittany Dorn '09** matron of honor and bridesmaid **Asha Leroy '09**, were part of their wedding. Recently, she and fellow other Reginites went to Galena, Illinois (below) for a girls' trip. They toured Ulysses S. Grant's house, took a trolley tour around town, and checked out the local brewery.



## CLASS OF 2010

**Emily Svachula Schmidt '10** welcomed her daughter, Lucy Diane Schmidt (above) on June 12th, 2021. At less than a month old, she attended her first Regina wedding of her aunt, **Aimee Svachula '11**.

## CLASS OF 2011

**Meghan Reilly '11** (below) is a third grade teacher in Wisconsin. She coaches Girls on the Run, is a part of her school's Maker Space Team, Green Space Committee, and the G&T Program. This past year she also began her own small business where she makes handmade earrings. She named her small business, Clay Örhänge (earring in Swedish), in honor of her mother and grandmother. Her love of art comes from many childhood memories learning from those two leading ladies. Follow her on Instagram @clay\_orhange or by visiting clay-orhange.square.site.





## CLASS OF 2014

**Nicole Connelly Rudolph '14** was a substitute teacher at Regina for eight weeks before she went on to teach theology at Resurrection for three years. This year, she will be doing Campus Ministry at St. Viator High School in Arlington Heights. On September 26, 2020, Nicole married Joseph Rudolph from Peoria, Illinois. Both attended Catholic grade school, high school, and college. They were married at St. Pascal Church in Chicago and are active members at Mary Seat of Wisdom in Park Ridge. Despite COVID-19, they had several Regina girls present (right) at their wedding including three bridesmaids, a personal attendant, and a guest—**Mary Heywood Jaros '14, Mary Hager '14, Niki Richards '14, Kristen O'Donnell '14, and Annette Sutcliffe '14.**



## CLASS OF 2017

**Kaitlyn Alleman '17** (right) graduated Magna Cum Laude with honors with distinction from the University of Dayton. Her honors thesis project centered on investigating the effects of a p53 mutation on glioma progression and chemotherapy resistance using tyrosine kinase inhibitors. She is beginning her first year of medical school at Chicago Medical School and plans on becoming a neurosurgeon.



**Emily Zalinski '17** (right) completed her undergraduate education at Marquette University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Exercise Physiology. Emily is currently continuing her studies at Marquette in pursuit of her Doctor of Physical Therapy Degree. This past school year, Emily received the Contemplatives in Action Student Leadership Award for her work as a Building Supervisor within Marquette University Recreational Sports. She was also awarded the Mission Award by the Exercise Science faculty for demonstrating key elements of the Marquette Ethos Statement by leading a life of faith, service, leadership, respect, and care for self and others, and demonstrating personal and professional excellence. Emily looks forward to the next two years at Marquette where she will continue captaining the Marquette Women's Ultimate

Frisbee Club Team (Moxie), continue volunteering with Marquette's Chapter of Habitat for Humanity, continuing her work with the Exercise is Medicine On Campus club, and continue treating patients at the Marquette University's pro bono physical therapy clinic.

*"Some of my favorite memories involve playing sports at Regina. Whether the memories stem from being on the court, field, track or performing to "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" theme song during a volleyball team summer lip sync battle, I met some great people and learned some valuable life lessons and skills."*



# Educating Youth in Honduras

## MARGARET BERNSTEIN '93

After graduating from Regina Dominican, Margaret continued her studies at North Carolina State University. Margaret taught in North Carolina before moving back to the Chicagoland area. Margaret's love of travel brought her to Singapore to teach at an American school and then to Costa Rica for a language study. Margaret then moved to Honduras where she met her husband. Margaret still lives in Honduras with her husband and two children. She tries to make it back to Chicago at least once a year to visit with her Regina friends and family. Margaret has many fond memories from her time at Regina Dominican and credits her Regina education for helping her to be more confident. Some of Margaret's favorite memories are the classes she had with Mr. Small and her carpool to Regina with all of her classmates from St. Joan of Arc.

Margaret is still teaching in Honduras. Her school was sadly destroyed in a hurricane, so she had to relocate to a new school. The COVID-19 pandemic was no different in Honduras. Margaret's students have been remote since March 13, 2020. During the pandemic, Margaret decided to survey her students about their challenges, funny moments, and what they felt proud of. Their responses and shared experiences in the Zoom meetings inspired Margaret to write a rap song. One of her 15-year-old students helped her with the beat and mixing in her vocals. He plays the piano beautifully and even composed his own song (called *Ausencia* by Juan Carlos on Spotify.) The craziest part is that Margaret and Juan Carlos have never even met in person! You can check out Margaret's song on her YouTube page ibemagpie.





# In Sympathy

Alumnae, family, and friends are invited to the annual Alumnae Remembrance Mass and candle lighting ceremony on Sunday, November 14, 2021. Following the Mass, a Book of Remembrance will be placed in the chapel for the month of November.

Send prayer requests to [emccann@rdpanthers.org](mailto:emccann@rdpanthers.org). All requests will be brought before the Blessed Sacrament during Adoration at the Regina Dominican chapel.

Notices below are from July 2020- July 2021.

## ALUMNAE

**Jeannie Righheimer Balsam '86**, sister of Laura Righheimer Janssen '86

**Marianne Harty Brandenburg '64**

**Eileen Byrne '75**

**Nancy Frankenberg DiMaria '65**

**Judith Ratcliffe Dworzak '66**

**Sharon Kennedy Gerlach '81**, sister of Kathleen Kennedy Tiso '80

**Kathleen Ann Dee Griffis '73**, sister of Susan Dee Krueger '76 and Marianne Dee Kanaley '77

**Patrice M. Sheahen Johannes '63**

**Mary Zayia Jones '75**, former science teacher

**Suzanne Rowe Karrer '84**

**Deborah Kory '79**, sister of Pamela Kory Peter '75

**Gail Keeney '67**, sister of Mariann Keeney Mannarelli '65

**Janet Tilley Kennedy '63**

**Shari Hanhardt Kertez '67**, sister of Candice Hanhardt '68, Sara Hanhardt '69, and Joene Hanhardt Trizna '72

**Colleen King '71**

**Kathleen Krull '70**

**Diane McDonnell Lapelle '70**, sister of Mary Lou McDonnell Carney '71, Debbie McDonnell Glemkowski '76, and Katie McDonnell Bredemann '80

**Maryann Melone Leisner '75**, sister of Leda Melone Maggio '76, and Elizabeth Melone DiSpirito '78

**Linda Tuber Misch '66**, mother of read Amy Misch Andrews '92 and Sally Misch Colpi '94

**Stephanie Mullen '00**

**Dr. Jill O'Brien '65**, sister of Dr. Judy O'Brien Heyworth '70 and aunt of Christina '09, Cathy '09, and Caroline Heyworth '09

**Karen Bellinger Owen '67**

**Daiva Paulis '88**

**Judy Finzer Ryan '71**, mother of Liz Ryan '01 and Kelly Ryan Gunderson '03, grandmother of Aster '17 and sister of Chris Finzer '74 and Sue Finzer Clark '76

**Julia Fletcher Schalk '70**, sister of Connie Fletcher '65 and aunt of Bridget Thoreson '03

**Nancy Schweitzer '67**, sister of Judy Schweitzer Hall '63

**Leslee Sawyer Solitto '67**

**Debra Russell Stone '72**

**Patricia Rumpsa Sullivan '64**, sister of Margie Rumpsa '79

**Jennifer Thomas '76**

**Pam Gdowski Van Wagenen '75**

**Nancy Kenny Verheyen '84**, sister of Kathleen Kenny Foley '91

**Sarah Comiskey Worthy '77**, sister of Jane Comiskey Sinclair '81

## FAMILY MEMBERS

**Jane Baylor**, mother of the late Marianne Howard Collings '71 and Elizabeth Howard Brandt '75

**Edward Ballatin**, father of Claire Ballatin '09

**Dorothy Banas**, mother of Mary Banas Hess '83

**Philip Becker**, father of Sarah Becker '13

**Corliss Benedict**, mother of Kristen Benedict Farrell '87

**Sande Bolan**, mother of Kelly Durham '81 and Kerry Durham '85 and grandmother of Maureen Hines '20 and Carrie Hines '23

**James Bransfield**, father of Helena Bransfield Harron '89

**Marianna O. Broeker**, mother of Christine Broeker Smith '65 and Joan Broeker Moser '68

**James Burns**, father of Camille Burns '96

**Phyllis I. Cossarek**, mother of Diane Cossarek Baker '85

**Christopher Coulon**, brother of Terese Coulon Thompson '80 and Ann Marie Coulon Cecchin '81

**Dr. Rolando de la Torre**, father of Ana de la Torre Rodriguez '79

**Paul Dentler**, father of Debbie Dentler '92

**Emily Dongo**, mother of Allison Dongo '09

**Julia Dowdle**, mother of Sheila Dowdle Steger '77

**Harold Erickson**, father of Kary Erickson '89 and grandfather of Ashley Erickson '09

**Rita FitzGibbons**, mother of Ann FitzGibbons '69 and Peg FitzGibbons Higgins '71

**Fr. Matthew Gamber S.J.**, brother of Peggy Gamber '83

**Mary Harrington**, mother of Mary Harrington Rabinak '86

**Marian Harris**, mother of Janet Harris DiMaggio '75, Kathleen Harris '77, and Julie Harris Duff '79

**Robert Hoffman**, husband of Barb Kinatader Hoffman '64

**Elaine Hogarty**, mother of Colleen Hogarty Holohan '80

**Corazon Joson**, mother of Stephanie Joson '99

**Maureen Kleiderer**, mother of Tricia Kleiderer '81 and Kristin Kleiderer '88

**Marilyn Lading**, mother of Annemarie Lading Barter '11

**William Lahey**, father of Kristin Lahey '83, Sharon Lahey Kennedy '85, and Tricia Lahey Switski '88

**Bob Lee**, brother of Corinne Lee McClintic '70

**Thomas Linkowski**, father of Laura Linkowski Turner '81 and Janice Linkowski '89

**Richard Lorenz**, father of Anne Lorenz '77

**John Lucas**, father of Mary Beth Lucas Loverdi '90 and Megan Lucas '91

**Margaret G. Magnuson**, mother of Mary Magnuson Bak '71, Laura Magnuson Miller '74, and Maggie Magnuson Stewart '81 and grandmother of Katie Bak '04

**Peter Mangione**, husband of Patricia Mullenix Mangione '67

**Harold Miller**, father of Penny Miller Robbins '92

**Thomas McCabe**, father of Mary McCabe Bedford '77 and Molly McCabe Kalsch '84

**Art McGinnis**, father of Susan McGinnis Lutz '73, Julie McGinnis McShane '75, and Maureen McGinnis '77

**Michael McGinty**, husband of Kathy Poterek McGinty '65 and father of Michelle McGinty White '99

**Margaret Dichiarinte-McGovern**, mother of Diane Dichiarinte Cook '72

**Marshal McMahon**, father of Tracy McMahon Dougherty '78

**L. Germaine McNeela**, mother of Teresa McNeela '82, Laura McNeela '86, and Jenny McNeela '87

**Marilyn Mints**, mother of Mary Mints '72 and Martha Mints Boudewyns '74 and grandmother of Liz Boudewyns Dunton '02

**Barry Mitchell**, father of Meg Mitchell Humphrey '89

**Frank Morgan**, husband of Mary Hagedorn Morgan '72

**Ed Murray**, brother of S. Nancy Murray '65, OP, Peggy Murray Crane '67, and Laura Murray Dietrich '70

**Helen Nagy**, mother of Ildiko Nagy Elmore '83

**Terry O'Brien**, father of Therese O'Brien '08

**Christel Owens**, mother of Tina Owens '82 and Dawn Owens '83

**Valsa E. Pattara**, mother of Regina Dominican President, Elizabeth Schuster

**Carmen Phillips**, mother of Yvonne Phillips Papirnik '89

**Steven Regnier**, father of Jackie Regnier '17

**Frank Romano III**, husband of Patricia Kral Romano '65, father of Elizabeth Romano Carroll '91, and brother of Carla Romano Grossmann '73, Susan Romano Hankey '76, and the late Catherine Romano '70.

**Bob Schultze**, father of Mary Schultze Leonard '89 and Barb Schultze '98 and grandfather of Clare Leonard '25

**LaVerne Simpson**, mother of Mary Simpson Purciarello '78 and Patty Simpson Majerus '79

**Florence Smith**, mother of Margaret Smith '66, Elodie Smith Bacci '70, and Patricia Smith Fischbein '76

**Carla Stone**, mother of Deanna Stone '16

**Howard Jerome Sweeney, MD**, father of the late Eileen Sweeney '69, Gail Sweeney Ghene '70, Maureen Sweeney '76, and Laura Sweeney Kelly '78, uncle of Carolyn Greene Luczak '78, Kathy Greene '80, and Sandy Greene Whaley '85, and grandfather of Madelyn Sweeney '16

**Edna Marjorie Theriault**, mother of Teresa Theriault Slade '78, Rhae Ann Theriault '79, and Jen Theriault Sollee '90

**Gregory Turley**, husband of Nancy Krzymski Turley '80

**William Webb**, father of Tracy Webb '78 and Sally Webb Hunneke '81

## FORMER FACULTY

**Marianne Boe**, former faculty member

**Ellen Cagney**, former faculty member

**Sally Grillo**, former staff member

**John Jameson**, former faculty member

**S. Marie Bride Walsh, OP**, former faculty member

*We apologize for any omissions. Please contact Elizabeth McCann '09 at [emccann@rdpanthers.org](mailto:emccann@rdpanthers.org) to add your loved one to the Remembrance Mass.*



# Calendar of Events

## SEPTEMBER

**24** Booster Club Golf Outing, Wilmette Golf Club, 12 p.m.

## OCTOBER

**9** 2021 Reunion, Regina Dominican High School, 4 p.m.

**13** Tri-M Fall Concert, Auditorium, 6:30 p.m.

**20** Veritas Society Dinner, Michigan Shores Country Club, 6:30 p.m.

**21** Open House, 6 - 8 p.m.

**24** Open House, 12 - 2 p.m.

## NOVEMBER

**12-13** Fall Musical & Art Show, 7:30 p.m.

**14** Alumnae Remembrance Mass, Cafeteria, 10 a.m.

**30** #GivingTuesday

## DECEMBER

**1** Friends of Regina Luncheon, Glen View Club, 11 a.m.

**4** Class of 2026 Entrance Exam, 8 a.m.

**10** Christmas Concert & Art Show, 7 p.m.

## JANUARY

**31** Catholic Schools Week

## FEBRUARY

**5** Trivia Night, Location TBD, 6:30 p.m.

**26** Day of Reflection

## MARCH

**3-4** Orchesis & Art Show, Auditorium, 7 p.m.

**5** Black & White Gala, Wintrust Bank, 6 p.m.

## APRIL

**9** TEDx Wilmette Event, Theater, 10 a.m - 4 p.m.

**29** St. Catherine of Siena Mass

## MAY

**5** Donor Appreciation Event

**27** Convocation—Class of 2022, 9:30 a.m.

**28** Graduation—Class of 2022, 9 a.m.

## JUNE

**7** Day of Giving

For a complete calendar, visit [rdpanthers.org](http://rdpanthers.org).







**REGINA DOMINICAN**

701 Locust Road, Wilmette, IL 60091-2217



Regina Dominican is sponsored  
by the Adrian Dominican Sisters.

**32ND ANNUAL  
REGINA DOMINICAN**

# **BLACK & WHITE** *Gala*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT**

Elizabeth McCann '09 • [emccann@rdpanthers.org](mailto:emccann@rdpanthers.org)

**SAVE THE DATE • MARCH 5, 2022 • WINTRUST BANK**