



# PATHWAYS

A Publication for the Alumnae, Parents and Friends of St. Catharine Academy

Summer 2017

## FIRST ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FOR SCA IS A GIFT OF LOVE

**H**enry Ferrero wanted to find a way to celebrate his 50th wedding anniversary which would be lasting and share the love he and his wife, Aurora Rogati Ferrero '61, have shared. He decided an endowed scholarship at St. Catharine Academy would give an everlasting gift to students while celebrating the couple's commitment to each other, education and future generations. (Read more about their story in the sidebar.)

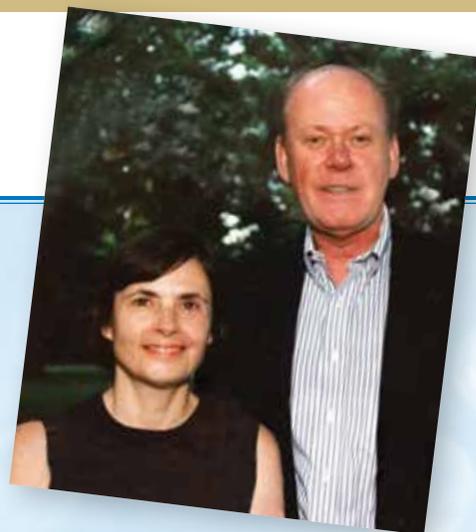
Endowed scholarships establish a lasting way to honor or memorialize a person or family. Endowment creates a permanent funding source designed to support deserving students now and into the future. The minimum amount required to establish an Endowed Scholarship is \$50,000. Additional gifts may be made, sometimes by family and friends, to increase the value of the scholarship. The principal remains intact, while the interest is used to create the scholarship award each year.

The donor works with St. Catharine's to establish the criteria for the Named Scholarship. It must work within the mission of SCA. Criteria can be unique to the gift, including academic excellence overall or in a particular subject area, leadership, service, and/or financial need.

The Aurora Rogati Ferrero '61 Scholarship is the first of its kind at SCA. It is available to St. Catharine Academy juniors/seniors who demonstrate financial need and an aptitude in mathematics and science. Students who apply will need a GPA of 90 or above in mathematics and science Regents courses in Grades 9 and 10, and must have passed the Regents. Students will also have to be in full compliance with all school regulations and attendance and punctuality policies and have a family who can demonstrate a need for funds.

Henry and Aurora said they hoped their scholarship encouraged others to consider the possibility of a Named Scholarship. "We want others to know it is possible," Aurora said. The Ferrero's gave a one-time donation of \$100,000.

To create a Named Scholarship, please contact Sr. Patricia Wolf, RSM '62.



**W**hen Henry and Aurora Ferrero discussed the Named Scholarship they affectionately finished each other's sentences and talked about wanting to create something which would truly have an impact. Henry said that the couple supported a number of causes, but felt St. Catharine's would be best for their anniversary gift.

"High school is such an important time in a young girl's life," Aurora said. A 1961 graduate of St. Catharine's credits St. Catharine's as being a continuing influence in her own life, crediting both teachers and lifelong friends. Aurora also recalls her years of teaching at St. Catharine's at the beginning of her career fondly.

Henry said the idea of the scholarship came because he wanted to mark their golden anniversary in a special way. Aurora added, "He wanted to do something meaningful. Helping fund a St. Catharine education will benefit the girls. A good education is something everyone needs."

The couple hopes that this outward symbol of their anniversary will encourage others to think about a similar gift. "We want people to realize this is something they can do," they said. "It is needed more now than ever."

When looking at the lasting effect, Henry and Aurora both talked about how an education has a lasting effect and then touches the lives of others. They concluded, "It is a gift that keeps giving." ❖



*Graduation Photos on Pages 4 & 5*





## See Life by Seeing the Horizons

Sr. Patricia Wolf, RSM '62

**“W**e have to learn to see life by seeing the horizons, not the walls that can make people afraid because they don't know what is on the other side.” These are words spoken by Pope Francis at an address to adolescents at the Vatican on June 2, 2017. He was speaking to thousands of youth in Rome to mark the close of the school year and to mark their graduation from middle school. The Q and A which followed his address was marked by the anxiety the students felt about moving on. Pope Francis offered the following advice:

*“This moment of change in life is ‘a challenge’, but in life we have to get used to this journey of leaving something behind and encountering something new.”*

*“Life is a constant ‘Good morning’ and ‘Farewell’, sometimes forever.”*

Pope Francis may well have been speaking to the Class of 2017, reading their hearts, some aching with trepidation about what lies beyond the safety and security of SCA. On page 3 you will read the poignant graduation address by student speaker and valedictorian Samantha Juncaj. Reassuring herself and her class that SCA will always be there for them, she says, “We can stay, but we can't stay.” “We may be gone but this place will remain “our own dear SCA.”

Samantha does not yet know what lies on the horizon beyond entering CUNY Hunter College Scholars Program in the fall. Yet, her closing remarks reveal her sense of shared hope and optimism, “Today we leave SCA with something we never

came with: courage to face the future awaiting us tomorrow.” On Page 6 you will read short profiles of several alumnae who graduated over the past decade, and Class Notes on Page 7 features updates on recent SCA grads. I was excited for them as I read their achievements and plans for the future. I can feel their horizons getting longer and wider.

### An Endowed Gift

When Henry Ferrero (see page 1) called me one afternoon last fall, he wanted to talk about a possibility. Henry was no stranger to me as he serves on our Audit/Finance Committee and with his wife, Aurora Rogati Ferrero '61, served on our Capital Campaign Advisory Board. The possibility he wished to discuss was the establishment of an Endowed Scholarship, named for his wife, as a special way of commemorating their 50th wedding anniversary. Aurora is pained when someone cannot afford SCA's tuition so a scholarship for a student with financial need was important to him. Because Aurora taught math at SCA, aptitude in mathematics and science also needed to be incorporated.

But these elements are not the entirety of Henry's vision. Henry and Aurora hope the creation of the Aurora Rogati Ferrero '61 Scholarship will bolster support from the wider SCA community to do the same. Where others see a wall for the future of Catholic secondary education, particularly in urban communities, the Ferreros see the horizon.

We've come to the end of the academic year and bid farewell to the Class of 2017, although I hope not forever. I am grateful for all of the blessings and gifts we have received as an SCA community. Enjoy your summer and take time to see life by looking at the horizons. ❖

#### St. Catharine Academy

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## Samantha Juncaj '17 Valedictorian Address

Four years ago, on September 9, 2013, a group of freshmen walked through the doors of SCA. We were afraid of our future, but what SCA had to offer, no one could have imagined. Who would have ever thought, on the first

day of high school, our four years were going to pass by so quickly?

Our very last moments at SCA happened without even letting us fully enjoy them. Think about it for a second. On June 10th, 2016, not even a year ago, we had our last step up day. We were so caught up in the excitement of finally being seniors and only having one year left of high school, that it flew by. And as I stand here, all I can think about is going back to our very first day, when we still had four years to enjoy high school and not get caught up in the “I can't wait until” moments. I wish we could go back to our last field day, pink out day, Thanksgiving and Christmas time, and sport events, just to fully take it in and realize then that you can't get those moments back. Four years ago, we all thought high school was going to take forever. We longed for prom and graduation, and here we are, afraid of where life will take us.

For many of us, SCA was a blessing each and every day. The building we entered in the morning changed us. It molded us. It made us the young women sitting here today. We've changed from that first day and the Administration, our teachers, faculty, and staff have witnessed it all.

### Lessons of SCA

I want to share my yearbook quote with all of you as I think represents us as a class. Morrie Schwartz once said, “So many people walk around with a meaningless life. They seem half-asleep, even when they're busy doing things they think are important. This is because they're chasing the wrong things. The way you get meaning into your life is to devote yourself to loving others, devote yourself to your community around you, and devote yourself to creating something that gives you purpose and meaning.” If there's one thing that SCA has taught us, it's that we were each put on this earth to contribute something.

In this very room, you're sitting beside future doctors, teachers, mathematicians, scientists, artists, lawyers, and one day, mothers. Our path awaits us. No matter what we end up doing, SCA has instilled in us, not only a firm education, but has given us respect, humbleness, compassion, and gratitude. And we will take these qualities wherever we go.

There may have been days where life just wasn't going your way, or days where schoolwork was just too overwhelming, but you were in the safety of home. College may soon become another home for us, but it will never be the same home we experienced here. No longer will we be able to take naps and cry in the guidance wing, sip coffee with Janice in the lunchroom, hangout with our favorite teachers before class, or stay late for games. SCA will always be here for us, but it is time for us to go. We can stay, but we can't stay.

**I** end my last speech within the walls of the Home I've known for four years with this: We are women of strength, ready to take on any challenge life throws at us; we are women pure, who do everything with heart; we are women enlightened, ready to show the world what SCA has taught us; we are women tender, always compassionate for others; we are women wise, using our experiences to grow in life. To the Class of 2017: Let's go put good into this world and always remember to remain humble and give back. Today we leave SCA with something we never came with: courage to face the future awaiting us tomorrow. We may be gone, but this place will always remain “our own dear SCA.” Congratulations Class of 2017.

# 2017



1. Bianca Lanzo '08 with sister Pricilla Almonte 2. Christine Fensore Capodanno '92 with daughter Brianna Capodanno 3. Kelly Gomez '14 with sister Rachelle Gomez 4. Suzanna Juncaj '09 with sister Samantha Juncaj 5. Donna Lewkowitz Tee '81 with daughters Nicole Tee '10 and Samantha Tee 6. Katherine Angulo '14 with sister Gabriela Angulo 7. Tashika Montalvo Sanchez '94 with daughter Simone Sanchez 8. Christine Soto '06 with sisters Jessica Santiago and Tiffany Santiago '10 9. Patricia Merolla Iovenitti '80 with niece Josette Cantatore 10. Nicole Taveras '12 with sister Angeliqve Taveras 11. Kaylaliz Acosta '10 with sister Kimberlee Acosta 12. Stephanie Delgado '06 with niece Briana Colon 13. Debra Parchen '98 with niece Bernadette Alarage 14. Jayna Hernandez '15 with sister Jillian Hernandez 15. Jessica Sepp '12 with sister Taylor Sepp 16. Rema Rodriguez '01 with niece Simone Sanchez  
Center photo (LtoR): Lisbet Barone, Rachelle Gomez, Jewels Marshall, Rebecca Cutino, Briana Colon, Heather Mendez

## Young Alumnae Profiles

Young St. Catharine alumnae are creating career paths in a variety of fields. The one constant, they say, is the foundation they received at St. Catharine's.

### Amanda Guzman '07

Amanda is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Anthropology with an emphasis in archaeology at the University of California, Berkeley. She graduated from Harvard University with honors in 2011, majoring in Anthropology with an archaeology emphasis. At Harvard, she also minored in Spanish language and Latin American Studies.

"Pouring over dusty documents in archives and examining the objects usually not on display to the public in private museum storerooms, I piece together the complicated histories of how artifact collections come to be housed in different museum institutions," Amanda explained. "I'm finishing up the data collection portion of my project and have plans to begin the terrifying, yet exciting process of writing my dissertation next fall."

Pointing to travel as a "perk" of graduate study, Amanda said, "Sitting in high school classrooms talking to friends or cramming for AP tests, I never thought I would have the unique opportunities I've had to dig archaeological sites in Latin America, live in Europe for two years, or work in museums across the country," Amanda said. "That said I think SCA was the place that I began to come into my own in areas that now critically define my academic career such as my love of writing and history." ❖

### Chinwe Abaraoha '13

Chinwe Abaraoha graduated magna cum laude from SUNY Albany with a degree in biology this past December, a semester early. Now she works full time as a medical scribe for CityMD Urgent Care while preparing for her MCAT's and medical school.

A member of two national honor societies at SCA, she also served as vice president and president of Student Government and was the captain of the soccer team. Chinwe participated in a program which explored the United Nations while at SCA, which she called "life-changing" because she now has

friends around the world.

Chinwe said the SCA community and the opportunities were what made it special. "St. Catharine's provided a nurturing environment and a place to grow as a young woman without all the distractions that young women often face growing up," Chinwe said. "I have a deep love for that place." ❖

### Tamie Le '15

As a student at SCA, Tamie was drawn to both communication arts and art classes. She says those are the courses that set her on her current path at Brooklyn College. Now a sophomore, Tamie is pursuing a degree in marketing, currently serving as the vice president of the College's Fashion Marketing Society.

"I find fashion to be a very intimate and yet public thing," Tamie said. "I took fashion design my senior year at St. Catharine's. That was a lot of fun. Ms. Ross and Ms. Riolo were really big in helping me find that passion."

As an intern, Tamie serves as a digital marketer for Goods of Conscience, a sustainable clothing company. Tamie explained that the company bridges the NYC garment industry with weavers in Guatemala. "The company only makes clothing that is needed and ordered. It is not just about making money." She also works with College Fashionista, joining with collegiate students around the world to create social media content based on trends seen on campus.

After college, Tamie wants to continue to work with a sustainable company. She concluded, "I think SCA, a school focused on mercy, further steered me into why I want a career and life dedicated to giving back, although it is not through the traditional means, like being an educator or health professional." ❖

**1959 Arlene Paolillo Donegan** was the founder of the Alcott Montessori School in 1968. Arlene is currently retired and divides her time between her homes in Yonkers and Manasquan, New Jersey.

**Barbara Cotter Morton** writes, "Enjoying retirement and spending time with family and friends. Loving time with my three year old and six month old granddaughters. I would love to hear from classmates on email or facebook."

**1961 Kathleen Flynn McAvoy** has ten grandchildren scattered across the United States, (North Dakota, Florida, Connecticut, Upstate and Pennsylvania). Kathleen is still employed at the Pennsylvania Bible Society.

**1983 Dionne P. Gaynor-Seepersad** writes, "In the spring of 2016 at the age of 50, I returned to college after a 31-year hiatus. I am currently a first-semester junior working toward a BS in Counseling at Lesley University in Cambridge, MA. Upon graduation, my goal is to go directly to graduate school to obtain an MS in Mental Health Counseling."

**2010 Leila Pena** writes that she works at Hart Howerton in New York City as an Architectural Designer. "Before I can call myself an architect, I need to take my Architect Registration exams, a series of six exams with accrued work experience." She graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture from New York Institute of Technology.

**2011 Christie Elizabeth Black** graduated on May 19, 2017 from Drexel University Medical School with a Master's Degree in Animal Science. Christie will be attending Lincoln Memorial University Veterinary School in August 2017.

**Krystal Brijlall** graduated on May 10th with her doctorate in Pharmacy from the Arnold and Marie Schwartz College of Pharmacy, Long Island University. Krystal will do her first year post graduate residency at Mt. Sinai Hospital, New York City.

**2013 Chinwe Abaraoha** graduated Magna Cum Laude from SUNY Albany in December, majoring in biology. Chinwe is now working in an urgent care center as a medical scribe while preparing to take the exam for medical school.

**Dominique Angell** graduated from UCLA in June while interning at Paramount Pictures

for the Field Marketing and Publicity Department. A political science/theory major and anthropology minor, she plans to stay in Los Angeles to work in publicity with one of the major movie studios.

**Diane Butler** graduated June 1st from CUNY Lehman College with a major in history and minor in education. In the fall she will attend graduate school at Lehman for early childhood education. At Lehman she received several awards including the Urban Female Leader of the Year. At graduation she received departmental honors and the Thomas Hunter Award from the history department.

**Kaylani Caballero** graduated in May from St. John's University with a major in psychology and a minor in speech and language pathology. She plans to attend graduate school in 2018.

**Cassie Dulac** graduated from Iona College in May as an Education Major. She will be a graduate assistant in Iona's Education Department in September 2017.

**Kiana Manon** graduated in May from Fordham University, Gabelli School of Business with a degree in marketing. She writes that she immediately landed a job working at Food Network as an Ad Sales Assistant.

**Jenil Rosario** graduated May 28th from Cornell University's School of Hotel Administration. She writes that she is relocating to Los Angeles in July to work at a start up financing company, Currency Capital, with responsibility for finance and sales. Eventually she hopes to work in the business side of the hospitality industry.

**2014 Joanna Abaraoha** reports that she is in her second year at CUNY Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education.

**Katherine Nunez** graduated from St. John's University with a degree in Criminal Justice. Katherine was on the Dean's List and was a member of the CPS Honor Society, Criminal Justice Honor Society and the SOLS Honor Society. Katherine commented that the AP Courses she took while at SCA saved her a semester at school.

**2015 Melody Pujols** writes that she is attending Pace University and is majoring in English and Political Science. Since the spring of 2016 she has been part of the Honors College at Pace University.

**2016 Jhosalie Danseco** writes that she is in the Honors Program at the College of New Rochelle majoring in biology on a pre-med track. She is working her way to a forensic certificate.

**Caitlin Paniaqua** attends CUNY John Jay. The College recently honored Caitlin with the Billie Kotlowitz Incentive Award recognizing her as a student who shows leadership qualities and will achieve great things advocating for social justice.

**Stephanie Pepdjonovic** attends Fordham University as a declared biology major on the pre-health track.

### IN MEMORIAM

Marie Guarino Cotter '59  
February 23, 2017

Jean Whelan '66  
March 7, 2017

Joanne Cinquemani  
March 18, 2017  
Mother of Anne Cinquemani Stephens '77  
and Catherine Cinquemani Orsi '82

Sharon Holder-Brown '81  
April 21, 2017

Sr. Margaret E. Costa, RSM  
(Sr. M. Bernard)  
Sister of Mary Elizabeth Costa Grigsby '63  
April 23, 2017

Sr. Mary Pius Friel, RSM '51  
(Margaret Ann Friel)  
May 24, 2017

Ann McMorrow Cronin '55  
June 9, 2017

Ann Marie Vilardo '60  
June 11, 2017  
Sister of Carole Vilardo '58

# ST. CATHARINE ACADEMY

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## Congratulations 2017 Graduates!

This graduating class has much to celebrate, for all their efforts and hard work have paid off. The students received \$16.3 million in academic scholarships and grants. The Class of 2017 has been accepted at the following colleges and universities:

|  |   |   |  |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|---|--|
| Adelphi University *                         | CUNY/Queens College                               | Manhattanville College *  | Pace University (Dyson College of Arts and Sciences)   | St. Thomas Aquinas College *  | Temple University                                |
| Barry University                             | CUNY/Queensborough Community College              | Marist College *  | Pace University (Lubin School of Business)             | St. Thomas University   | The College of Saint Rose                        |
| Berkeley College NYC Midtown Location *      | CUNY/York College                                 | Marymount Manhattan College *   | Pace University, New York City *                       | Stevens Institute of Technology                                       | The College of Westchester                       |
| California Lutheran University *             | DePauw University *                               | Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences (MCPHS) (Worcester) * | Pepperdine University                                  | SUNY/Albany   | The New School - All Divisions                   |
| Canisius College                             | Dominican College *                               | Mercy College (Bronx Campus)  | Quinnipiac University *                                | SUNY/Brockport  | The New School - Parsons School of Design *      |
| College of Mount Saint Vincent *             | Drexel University *                               | Mercy College *   | Rider University                                       | SUNY/Broome Community College   | The University of Scranton *                     |
| College of New Rochelle *                    | Fairleigh Dickinson University - Florham Campus * | Monmouth University *   | Rutgers University - Camden College of Arts & Sciences | SUNY/Buffalo State College  | University of Bridgeport *                       |
| College of the Holy Cross *                  | Farmingdale State College                         | Monroe College *  | Rutgers University - Newark                            | SUNY/ College of Technology at Canton                                 | University of California, Davis                  |
| Concordia College - New York *               | Fordham University *                              | Mount Saint Mary College *  | Sacred Heart University *                              | SUNY/Cortland   | University of Central Florida                    |
| CUNY/Baruch College                          | Hartwick College *                                | Mount St. Mary's University *   | Sage College of Albany *                               | SUNY/Fashion Institute of Technology                                  | University of Connecticut                        |
| CUNY/Borough of Manhattan Community College  | Hofstra University *                              | New England College *   | San Diego State University                             | SUNY/Genesee  | University of Hartford (School of Communication) |
| CUNY/Bronx Community College                 | Indiana State University *                        | New Jersey Institute of Technology *                                      | School of Visual Arts                                  | SUNY/New Paltz  | University of Hartford *                         |
| CUNY/Brooklyn College                        | Iona College *                                    | New York City College of Technology                                       | Seminole State College                                 | SUNY/Oneonta  | University of New Haven *                        |
| CUNY/City College of New York                | Ithaca College *                                  | New York Institute of Technology (Manhattan)                              | Seton Hall University (College of Arts & Science)      | SUNY/Oswego *   | University of San Diego                          |
| CUNY/College of Staten Island                | Johnson & Wales University (Providence) *         | New York Institute of Technology *  | Seton Hall University *                                | SUNY/Plattsburgh  | University of San Francisco *                    |
| CUNY/Fiorello H. LaGuardia Community College | La Salle University *                             | New York University (College of Arts and Science) *                       | Siena College  | SUNY/Potsdam  | Utica College                                    |
| CUNY/Hofstra Community College               | Lafayette College *                               | New York University (Tandon School of Engineering) *                      | St. John's University - Queens Campus *                | SUNY/Purchase   |  |
| CUNY/Hunter College                          | Le Moyne College *                                | Newbury College *   | St. Joseph's College - Brooklyn Campus *               | SUNY/Stony Brook University *   |  |
| CUNY/John Jay College of Criminal Justice    | Long Island University, Brooklyn *                | Niagara University *  |  | SUNY/Stony Brook University (Women in Science and Engineering - WISE) |  |
| CUNY/Lehman College                          | Long Island University, Post *                    | Nyack College   |  | SUNY/Westchester Community College                                    |  |
|  | Manhattan College *                               |   |  |   |  |

\* Scholarship(s) awarded